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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA An initial investigation into China's worst mine accident in nearly three years blames "chaotic" management for sending too many workers underground and disregarding safety measures. The blast killed 43 people. [More on p10](#)

Chinese human rights activist Chen Guangcheng will visit Taiwan next year and address the legislature, the democratic island's government-owned news agency reports. [More on p10](#)

China's premier thanks Cambodia for its support in a Southeast Asian regional bloc amid tensions between Beijing and several nations over territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The official Xinhua News Agency said Wen Jiabao told Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in a meeting yesterday that China will promote closer cooperation with Cambodia.

PAKISTANI police arrest a Muslim cleric who accused a Christian girl of blasphemy on suspicion that he planted evidence, the latest twist in a religiously charged case that has focused attention on Pakistan's harsh blasphemy laws. [More on p11](#)

JAPAN Tokyo city officials planning to buy tiny islands at the center of a longtime territorial dispute with China survey the area and take water samples in a showcase meant to send a message of ownership. [More on p11](#)

MYANMAR Hundreds of Buddhist monks stage a rally in support of the president and his proposal to send the members of a Muslim minority to another country. The rally in Mandalay is the latest indication of deep sentiment against the Rohingya after June violence with ethnic Rakhine Buddhists that left 80 people dead and tens of thousands displaced. [More on p12](#)

PHILIPPINES Police say a grenade attack on an army outpost in the southern Philippines has wounded at least 37 people who were watching a nearby circus performance.

More on last page

Youth societies criticized for public financing "lacking transparency" P5

Jenson Button wins crash-marred Belgian GP P19



Transport for the first school day unsatisfactory P4



Proportion of elderly expected to increase to 30% until 2062 P5

sinopinions

TOLERANCE IS NOT THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE TRAFFIC BURDEN

The head of the Transport Bureau Wong Wan. said the traffic situation on the first school day was not satisfactory, and thus he advised the public to take public transportation instead of driving their cars.

“According to Wong, the Bureau had arranged (for) 10 percent additional traffic trips in the peak time period. Although buses were increased, they drove slowly. Wong ascribed the low efficiency to ‘road conditions’.

“In other words, the only thing Macau residents can do is to tolerate. When the government carries out public works, there will be impacts on residents more or less. But can the authority take residents’ tolerance for granted?”

SUM UP EXPERIENCE AND IMPROVE EPIDEMIC PREVENTION

Recalling the “dengue fever outbreak in 2001 (that took place) in the city, with up to 1,400 people infected within a few months. The government invited experts to assist with the analysis of the epidemic, carried out the cleanup work and targeted communities and schools with advocacy about the epidemic.

Xia summed up that “in order to build a solid front against the disease, the Health Bureau, on the one hand, is supposed to be equipped with well-established and updated prevention strategies; but on the other hand, society also needs to have awareness of responsibility about epidemic prevention”.

macau FAQ

Where can I eat vegetarian food?

Being a vegetarian implies mastering some hurdles when it comes to Chinese restaurants. A place called “Vegetarian Farm” located at Av. Coronel Mesquita 11 brings some relief to all non-meat lovers.

FAQ@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM

Chui Sai On meets China’s Manned Space Engineering delegation

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On last Friday met the delegation of China’s Manned Space Engineering that currently organizes the “Aerospace Exhibition on China’s First Manned Space Docking”.

According to a press release issued by the government, Chui Sai On expressed thanks for the realization of this exhibition, pointing out that the population of Macau will better understand the national aerospace industry and its achieved successes.



MASR had received three aerospace delegations and held two exhibitions on this topic, which were all very welcomed by Macau’s enthusiastic citizens. According to him, these exhibitions testify to the progress and success of the national aerospace industry in its different phases.

“Aerospace Exhibition on China’s First Manned Space Docking” will also enhance “love for the homeland”. It was recalled that every year the Macau Foundation supports students in visiting the national aerospace base, enabling them to obtain more direct scientific knowledge.

The head of the China Manned Space Engineering

Office delegation, He Tiancheng, expressed his satisfaction for having realized this exhibition and said he hoped it would not only serve to deepen the knowledge of Macau’s citizens but also to stimulate exchange between Macanese and Chinese entities in the technological arena.

world times



LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL September 2

EURONEWS September 2

BBC NEWS September 2



Las Vegas Journal



Euronews



BBC News

Wynn spent three years as the de facto voice of the gaming industry’s unofficial anti-Obama coalition, a high-profile membership of two than included Las Vegas Sands Corp. Chairman Sheldon Adelson. Wynn provided the rhetoric. Adelson provided the money. (...) During a 2011 quarterly earnings conference call, Wynn labeled the President “a socialist” and said fearful business leaders were “sitting on their thumbs until he’s gone.”

Howard Stutz, “Steve Wynn, once vocally anti-Obama, goes mum”

Ann Romney called Clint Eastwood “a unique guy” after his rambling, one-sided conversation with an imaginary Barack Obama at the Republican National Convention. It appears her view is widely shared. The surprise speaker brought star power to the show as he warmed up the crowd for Mitt Romney’s presidential nomination acceptance speech.

“Eastwooding’ goes viral as celebrities lampoon Hollywood icon”

For now, both sides are trying to win the hearts and minds of Hong Kong residents. The government of Chief Executive CY Leung has been trying to assure the public the new curriculum is simply an extension of civic education and not a brainwashing exercise. But the visit of China’s newest astronauts in early August and a victory tour by the country’s gold-medal winning Olympians - within weeks of each other - made many residents suspicious.

Juliana Liu, “Hong Kong debates ‘national education’ classes”

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com SECRETARY_Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com ADDRESS_2nd Floor 62 Av. Infante D. Henrique, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84 Advertisement_advertising@macaudailytimes.com For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



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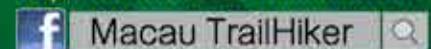
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Sudden shut down of Casinoleaks-Macau.com

Casinoleaks-Macau.com has shut down. On its website is only the information: "Casinoleaks-Macau.com is shutting down. Thank you for your interest". The website that started operations in February promised to release information on organized crime in Macau's gaming industry. It was financed and authorized by a major US trade union. The project was led by Jeff Fiedler, a four-term member of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC). The website also featured essays and profiles on major VIP room and junket operators, and about VIP gaming in Macau. In an interview with MDT, Jeff Fiedler said concerning the reaction from gaming operators, triads and Macau gaming authorities, he expected "they initially might be angry." He also is said to have "started to prove that the Macau gaming industry is hardly watertight." MDT contacted the website in order to find out the motives behind the shut down. No answers were provided until the paper went to print.

More snoozing opportunities

The eleven hotels that are currently being constructed in Macau will provide 7,320 rooms by the end of the second quarter of this year, according to the Transport Bureau (DSAT). Around 70% of these hotels are small and middle-size ones and are located in the Macau peninsula. At the end of June, the authorities were reviewing another 22 hotel projects, which are expected to provide around 17 million rooms. Five of these are planned for the Cotai area and will provide 80% of future rooms.

GCS to present results of poll on revision of press laws

The Government Information Bureau (GCS) last Friday received the final report of the deliberative polling concerning the revision of the press and radio laws. The poll aimed at obtaining the opinions of both society and the media sector. The GCS will organize a press conference in order to present the final report and the results of the analyzed opinions. The report includes meaningful analysis of the opinions obtained from several groups of society and from media professionals, as well as information about the debates of 44 groups and four question and answer sessions.

Wong Wan: Transport for the first school day "not satisfactory"

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) made special arrangements for the first school day on September 1. Bus operators were required to increase their usual trips during peak periods by 10 percent; additional traffic police were dispatched in the harder-hit areas; and temporary bus stations were set up near schools. But according to the Director of DSAT, Wong Wan, the overall traffic situation was "not satisfactory" since too many vehicles on the road caused the buses to run too slowly.

For 19 schools, the new classes started on September 1. It was reported that at peak hours, vehicles queued at Avenida do Almirante Lacerda and Avenida de Horta e Costa, and it was even crowded in areas near schools.



RENATO MARQUES

Some parents said they had expected traffic jams and therefore left home half an hour earlier, according to a TDM report.

There will be some 51 schools commencing the new term today. Wong suggested residents leaving home earlier and taking public transportation to lessen the traffic pressure. Wong stated the bureau would keep coordinating

with the three bus operators for punctual schedules and additional bus inspectors. The authority will consider deploying shuttle buses if necessary. He said the first week of the new school year is the adaptive phase and thus road traffic will be busy. "Residents can reduce their use of private cars", he suggested. As for the operating conditions of the three bridges,

Wong said the situation was good since there were not many people working on weekends.

According to MDT's earlier report, there will be more than 30 additional bus routes around school areas for one week starting on September 1. The additional buses will circulate in the morning from 7 to 9 am, and in the afternoon from 4 to 8 pm.

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Youth societies criticized for public financing “lacking transparency”

THE Macau Youth Policy (2012-2020), which has been arousing controversy ever since it was a draft document, again became the focus of public attention when the document entered the public consultation process last Friday. Outside the official venue, another fierce debate joined by officials, scholars, association heads as well as concerned residents took place yesterday. Several made the accusation that the Youth Policy lacks transparency in using public money to subsidize youth societies.

Yesterday's Macau Forum, held by TDM, focused on youth policies. Given the criticism from society blaming the Macau Youth Policy for being “too general” and “lacking specific indicators”, Yuen

Hoi Ching, the Head of the Youth Department in the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) explained that the policy was formulated referring to other countries' and regions' experience. “As far as we are concerned, not all those countries and regions set specific indicators in their youth policies”, he said. Yuen continued by illustrating the youth policy in India: “They list five indicators namely health, education, employment, happiness and social participation. In fact, four of their five indicators have been set in Macau, except for happiness”.

Prof. Vong Sou Kuan, who oversees the Educational Research Centre (ERC) of the University of Macau (UM), was invited as a guest to preside over the discus-

sion. “The policy focuses too much on young people's contribution to society and the country, which tends to have ‘social function’ yet disregards individual development. Just as what Ms. Yuen said, ‘happiness’ is more related with individual feeling. But the document lacks exactly that kind of indicator”, she commented.

The Youth Policy stated the government's intention to provide more support to youth societies. However, certain youth groups, as well as residents pointed out that, although a large amount of public money is devoted into financing youth societies for organizing events and activities, the public has no idea how the money is used. Lee Cheong Ho, President of Macau Youth Dynamics, urged

the bureau to make funded projects public. Besides this, he also suggested the two-month consultation period be extended so that more teenagers could be informed of the policy.

Some concerned residents said the policy fails to guide young people to think independently and critically, and the government might

deliver the wrong message that the only way to participate socially is to join certain youth societies.

In response to residents' questions, Yuen admitted that joining societies and associations is only one way to participate in social affairs; “the youth policy aims to allocate cohesion from different sectors of society,” she reiterated. **GY**

CONSULTATION SESSION STIRS MUCH CRITICISM

DSEJ held the first round of consultations on Youth Policy on August 31. Many participants were dissatisfied with certain pro-government societies, claiming they are not “representative” and that the authority shows partiality in financial funding

for certain youth groups. In addition, participants urged the authority to announce the funded accounts for public monitoring. There will be two special consultation sessions on September 8 and October 7. The consultation period ends on October 21.

Proportion of elderly expected to increase to 30% until 2062, says FSS report

THE report on the studies of the Social Security Fund (FSS) has been concluded.

Last year, the FSS had hired a consulting company to draw up the report in order to obtain a preview for the FSS's financial situation for the next 30, 40 and 50 years. At the same time, disposing of already existing data and according to several hypothetical scenarios, the fund conducted a simulation of 23 situations in order to evaluate the impact that different situations could cause on the FSS' financial situation.

The report leans on a population increase rate of 1.2%, on the accelerating aging of the population as well as on the accentuated increase of the proportion of the elderly aged 65 or above. According to the



report, this proportion is expected to grow from the existing 8% this year to 30% in the year 2062.

At the same time the share of the remaining active population aged between 15 and 64 is expected to drop

from this year's 80% to 60% in the year 2062. The report also covers the consequences of the increasing aging of the population that reflects an increased burden for the active population (as this generation will

have to bear the expenses of the retired). The study concludes that the monthly contribution of MOP 45 is not enough to bear the current expenses of the FSS' beneficiary services. Therefore the sustainability of

the social security scheme would be endangered without a supporting budget from the government.

The FSS reveals that in order to establish a firm and sustainable welfare model, income sources will have to be changed. At the moment, these sources depend on the mutual and equilibrated contributions made by employers, employees and the government. Subsequently, these contribution proportions for both employers and employees “will be adjusted in order to guarantee a permanent and solid development for the financing of this system.” FSS also notes that the actualization of the benefit amounts will be undertaken in due course and in compatibility with the solicitation of society. The population is

welcome to contact the FSS to request information, and to present complaints or suggestions. The report can be viewed as of today on the fund's website.

■ The monthly contribution of MOP 45 is not enough to bear the current expenses of the FSS' beneficiary services

Imports rise by 22.3% during first seven months

INFORMATION released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) mentions that in the first seven months of 2012 the total value of import merchandise increased by 22.3% to MOP40.61 billion. Merchandise trade deficit for the first seven months of 2012 amounted to MOP36.02 billion. The total value of export merchandise increased by 15.3% year-on-year to MOP4.58 billion, attributable to a 22.6% increase in re-exports (MOP3.19 billion) when domestic exports

(MOP1.39 billion) rose by 1.4%.

The total import merchandise for July 2012 amounted to MOP5.91 billion, up by 7.8% year-on-year. The merchandise trade deficit amounted to MOP5.27 billion for July 2012, according to information from DSEC. The export merchandise for July 2012 amounted to MOP639 million, up by 10.8% year-on-year, of which the value of re-exports (MOP423 million) and domestic exports (MOP216 million) increased by 15.6% and

2.3% respectively.

The export merchandise to Hong Kong (MOP2.26 billion) and mainland China (MOP741 million) in the first seven months of 2012 was principally re-exports, up by 34.8% and 10.3% year-on-year respectively; meanwhile, export merchandise to the USA (MOP302 million) and the EU (MOP210 million) was primarily domestic exports, down by 13.4% and 14.9% respectively.

In the first seven months of 2012, import merchandise from

mainland China (MOP12.90 billion) and the EU (MOP9.54 billion) expanded by 25.9% and 15.0% respectively year-on-year. Imports of Consumer goods rose by 24.9% to MOP25.00 billion, with imports of Gold jewelry (MOP4.35 billion), Watches (MOP3.06 billion) and Motorcars & motorcycles (MOP1.90 billion) increasing by 39.7%, 51.7% and 55.7% respectively. Moreover, imports of Capital goods (MOP7.41 billion) registered a year-on-year increase of

21.0%. Exports of Non-textiles (MOP3.93 billion) in the first seven months of 2012 expanded by 25.5%, of which exports of Machines & apparatus, parts & accessories thereof (MOP738 million) and Tobacco & wine (MOP465 million) surged by 121.6% and 29.4% respectively year-on-year. In the first seven months of 2012, the total value of external merchandise trade amounted to MOP45.19 billion, up by 21.5% compared with MOP37.19 billion a year earlier.

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Haydn Chen appointed UM's first vice rector

THE University of Macau (UM) appointed Prof. Haydn Chen as its first vice rector for student affairs. According to a press release issued yesterday by UM, the appointment was made "through open recruitment and strict selection".

Haydn Chen is considered a renowned expert in materials science. He received his PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from Northwestern University, one of the top universities in the world. He then taught for many years at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (ranked among the top three in the U.S.) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and became a tenured professor there. The new vice rector then conducted extensive research on materials science. He is the winner of the Humboldt Research Award and is currently a fellow of ASM-International, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, and the Japan Society for Promo-



tion of Science. He is also the principal editor of Materials Chemistry and Physics.

Before coming to Macau, Haydn Chen was administrative fellow of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at UIUC, head of the Department of Physics and Materials Science at the City University of Hong Kong, and was appointed president of Tunghai University in Taiwan in 2004. Considered to be "a fervent advocate for liberal arts education at Tunghai University, Prof. Chen was the one who established 'POYA', or 'liberal arts school' there, through which students learnt under

a nourishing education (an environment) that has knowledge and practice integrated together". According to UM, "under the liberal arts education, Tunghai University has been able to have impressive accomplishments on the fronts of student enrollment, evaluation, teaching, research and discipline and counseling services".

As the university's first vice rector for student affairs, Prof. Chen "will be responsible for devising student affairs development plans geared towards the realization of whole person education to which UM has always attached great importance, es-

pecially in recent years when the university is progressing by leaps and bounds".

The press release issued by UM notes that in recent years the university has launched several major projects, including the ongoing new campus, the undergraduate curriculum reform with focus on all-round personal educational development, the residential colleges, the Honors College, and so on. UM Rector Wei Zhao says that with the completion of the new campus, UM will transform into a residential-college university, making it necessary to formulate long-term plans now and input sufficient resources to ensure the quality of student management. Prof. Chen's academic performance and administrative experience in higher education, as well as his "broad international perspective" are expected to "form a perfect coordinate with UM's '4-in-1' pedagogical model to fulfill the university's missions, in particular the nurturing of future leaders for Macau".



Sports delegation encourages Macau Paralympic athletes

The Macau Sport Development Board (ID) sent a delegation to the Paralympic Games to support Macau's representatives. The Games started in London last Saturday. The delegation composed of Social Welfare Bureau president, Iong Kong Io, the vice-president of the ID, José Tavares and others visited the Macau athletes at the Olympic village and cheered them on to achieve their best. The delegation also met leaders of China's sports delegation, where both parties exchanged opinions about the future development of sports for disabled people. As to the Macau athletes, 9 of them will participate in two of the 20 established disciplines, starting this Tuesday. Lao Yin I will compete in the wheelchair fencing contest and Tong Hio Lam will participate in the high jump.

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China's manufacturing unexpectedly contracts as orders decline

CHINA'S manufacturing unexpectedly shrank for the first time in nine months as new orders contracted and output rose at a slower pace, signaling the slowdown in the world's second-biggest economy is deepening.

The Purchasing Managers Index fell to 49.2 in August from 50.1 in July, the National Bureau of Statistics and China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing said the day before yesterday in Beijing. Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. cut its estimate for China's full-year growth after the report.

The data increase pressure on Premier Wen Jiabao to reverse the slowdown ahead of the transfer of power to a new Communist Party leadership that begins later this year. Record unemployment in the euro area and a jobless rate stuck at more than 8 percent in the U.S. may crimp an export rebound while slumping corporate earnings, bad debts at banks and property curbs are restraining investment in China.

"The government won't want to hand over an economy in a hard landing to the next administration, so authorities are likely to become bolder with policy easing, said Liu Li-Gang, chief China economist at ANZ in Hong Kong. "They could continue to use tax relief and faster approval of infrastructure investment to instill confidence, but the most effective policy tool in the short term is to aggressively ease the reserve-requirement ratio."

Liu lowered his 2012 growth estimate to 7.8 percent from 8.2 percent and said the risks to the forecast "are biased towards the downside." He didn't give a projection for the third quarter.

The People's Bank of China cut interest rates in June and July and lowered the reserve-requirement ratio for banks three times starting in November as part of the government's efforts to support lending and boost growth. The ratio, which is now 20 percent for the biggest banks, hasn't been reduced since May.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index of stocks fell 0.3 percent on Friday to the lowest level since February 2009, capping a fourth month of losses, after declining earnings from companies including Sany Heavy Industry Co.



underscored the impact of the nation's economic slowdown.

The yuan strengthened for the fifth week, the longest winning streak since April 2011, on bets policy makers will act to revive the economy. The currency has lost about 0.9 against the U.S. dollar this year after rising 4.7 percent in 2011.

The August PMI reading was lower than the estimates of 24 of the 25 economists in a Bloomberg News survey that had a median forecast of 50.0, the dividing line between expansion and contraction. The index is based on responses from purchasing managers at 820 companies in 31 industries.

A gauge of export orders was unchanged from the previous month at 46.6, marking the third straight contraction, federation data showed. The decline in the new orders index deepened to 48.7 and a measure of output fell to 50.9.

"The index reflects continuing difficulties for the manufacturing sector and without strong supportive policies amid weak global demand, the PMI may drop further," said Hu Yifan, a Hong Kong-based economist with Haitong International Securities

Group who previously worked for the World Bank. A reduction in banks' reserve requirements "would send a positive signal to the markets to

The government won't want to hand over an economy in a hard landing to the next administration, so authorities are likely to become bolder with policy easing

Liu Li-Gang, chief China economist at ANZ, Hong Kong

boost confidence particularly now that the PMI has broken the critical mark of 50."

A separate purchasing managers index released by HSBC

Holdings Plc and Markit Economics indicated that manufacturing may have contracted for a 10th month in August, according to a preliminary reading on Aug. 23. The final number for the survey, which covers more than 420 companies and is weighted more toward smaller businesses, is due tomorrow.

The employment gauge in the day before yesterday's survey was below 50 for a third month and at the lowest level since January, while HSBC's preliminary reading showed the sixth straight contraction.

The deterioration in labor conditions "could push Beijing to step up policy easing or stimulus in supporting growth," said Lu Ting, chief China economist at Bank of America Corp. in Hong Kong. "In this year of leadership transition, employment and social stability should be of top concern to politicians," he said.

China's gross domestic product expanded 7.6 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier, the slowest pace in three years. Estimates for growth this quarter ranged from 7.4 percent to 8.3 percent in a Bloomberg News survey last month.

The difficulties in stabilizing

growth are "relatively large," the official Xinhua News Agency cited Wen as saying during an inspection tour to Guangdong province on Aug. 24 and 25. Wen called for extra measures to promote exports to meet the economic expansion target, according to Xinhua. The premier in March set a 7.5 percent growth goal for this year.

In a report late the day before yesterday, Xinhua cited Wen as saying the country needs to resolutely curb speculative property investment and that controls on the real-estate industry are still in a "critical period," indicating loosening policies won't include easing home-purchase limits.

Zhang Zhiwei, Hong Kong-based chief China economist at Nomura Holdings Inc. said he expects a cut in banks' reserve-requirement ratio in early September, probably before the release of the monthly data that will start on Sept. 9 with inflation and industrial output. The government's concern that property prices will rebound means interest rates won't be lowered, he said.

UBS AG economist Wang Tao estimates industrial output growth eased to 8.9 percent from a year earlier in August, which would be the first reading below 9 percent since May 2009.

Manufacturers' earnings are falling as the slowing economy curbs demand. Chinese industrial companies' profits declined in July by the most this year, a government report showed last Monday.

Sany Heavy, China's biggest construction-equipment maker, on Thursday posted a 13 percent decline in first-half profit on slumping demand for excavators. Eastern China-based Weichai Power Co., the world's No. 1 maker of heavy-duty engines, reported a 26 percent drop in first-half sales and a 46 percent decline in net income.

"The government doesn't want to be too aggressive with easing for fear of reigniting asset bubbles," said Song Seng Wun, an economist with CIMB Research Pte. in Singapore. "But with the whole economy losing steam, they may need to switch from a gradual acupuncture-treatment-style approach to a western medicine-based approach of taking a Panadol and hoping for the best." **Bloomberg**

MORE than 3,000 Hong Kong residents braved the rain to protest the government's plan to begin a national education program, which they say is biased toward Beijing.

Parents, students and teachers were among those gathering outside the government's new headquarters on Tim Mei Avenue the day before yesterday, the first of the school semester, demanding the curriculum be scrapped. Demonstrators said they fear the material is biased towards the Chinese Communist Party and may stifle independent thinking.

"The national education program is aimed at fostering blind patriotism among students," said Joshua Wong, a spokesman for Scholarism, an organizer of the rally. "We fear that many students will be brainwashed."

The authorities intend to extend national education classes, which aim to foster Chinese identity, to secondary schools from 2013 and phase in the lessons over three years.

The weekend's rally comes after tens of thousands of parents and students marched against the program on July 29, many clad in black and white to symbolize the contrast between right and wrong. More than 90,000 people attended the July 29 protests, according to Andrew Shum

Thousands rally in Hong Kong against national education



AP PHOTO

of the Hong Kong Christian Institute, which helped arrange the demonstrations. Police estimated that, at most, about 32,000 protesters were in the procession.

Police estimated about 3,400 people were gathered for the day before yesterday's rally at 5 p.m. local time. Three members of Scholarism, a student group, have been on a hunger strike outside the building for more than two days.

Leung Chun-ying, Hong Kong's leader who was inaugurated on

July 1, said in a July 30 statement that his government won't force the introduction of the lessons in September. The government isn't in a rush to start national education and labeling it as brainwashing would be wrong, Carrie Lam, the city's chief secretary of administration, said the day before yesterday.

There's no plan to forcibly push ahead with the program in September, Lam said, according to a TV report.

"We want our kids to know more about China, but such curriculums may teach them to confuse a country with its ruling party," said Eva Chan, of Parents' Concern Group on National Education, which helped organize the rally. "If taught like this at young ages, they may not be able to criticize the government."

Textbooks in the program may give a pro-Communist Party account of China's history and political system, according to Willy Wo-Lap Lam, an adjunct professor of history at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

One textbook explains how the Communist Party is a progressive, united and effective ruler, comparing it with the U.S. where a two-party system leads to eternal debates and gridlock, Lam said in a July 29 interview.

"The level of crudity is even worse than that of the textbooks you find in China," he said.

Hong Kong, a former British colony that in July marked 15 years since its return to Chinese rule, is

officially autonomous except for matters of national defense and diplomatic relations.

Voters head to the polls Sunday to elect members of the city's Legislative Council.

Lawmakers have challenged Leung's credibility as the financial center's leader after his home was found to have illegally built structures and his development secretary stepped down to address corruption allegations. **Bloomberg**

The level of crudity is even worse than that of the textbooks you find in China

Willy Wo-Lap Lam, adjunct professor of history, Chinese University of Hong Kong

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Report: Blind Chinese activist to visit Taiwan



Chen Guangcheng

CHINESE human rights activist Chen Guangcheng will visit Taiwan next year and address the legislature, the democratic island's government-owned news agency reported yesterday.

The Central News Agency quoted opposition lawmaker Lin Chia-lung of the Democratic Progressive Party, who was visiting Chen in New York, as saying the blind activist would visit.

Chen escaped house arrest in his Chinese village in April and fled to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, provoking a diplomatic crisis between the two countries. He was allowed to go to New York in May after negotiations between China and the United States.

Chen's prospective Taiwan visit offers a challenge to Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, who has built his administration around better relations with China, from which Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949.

China claims Taiwan as its territory and resents any

Taiwanese activity that embarrasses Beijing.

Chen's good friend and a prominent rights lawyer in Beijing, Jiang Tianyong, said he welcomed the news that Chen would visit Taiwan next year, saying China has much to learn from the island in terms of lessons in democracy and rule of law.

"We are in general interested in its legal system and democracy of course is something that every Chinese citizen wants. Taiwan may not be exactly the path China will follow in the future but it has areas that we especially could learn from," Jiang said by phone.

"It would also be good for our Taiwanese compatriots to better understand mainland China's human rights situation. I think it will have very significant benefits for both sides of the straits," Jiang said.

The Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comment while calls to the Taiwan Affairs Office rang unanswered yesterday. **AP**

Unsafe practices blamed in deadly mine blast

AN initial investigation into China's worst mine accident in nearly three years blames "chaotic" management for sending too many workers underground and disregarding safety measures, state media said yesterday. The blast killed 43 people.

The official Xinhua News Agency said that though the Xiaojiawan coal mine in southwestern Sichuan province was licensed to operate, it had been exceeding its production capacity in violation of safety standards.

Rescuers were still searching for three miners who remained trapped underground after the explosion on Wednesday afternoon in the coal-rich city of Panzhihua, but their chances of survival were slim. State media said the three workers were believed to be located at the center of the blast.

A preliminary probe found that the accident happened because production had not been stopped despite a high density of gas and that safety monitoring equi-

pment was inadequate, Xinhua said.

More miners had been sent to work underground than were allowed to, the report cited the head of the State Administration of Work Safety, Yang Dongliang, as saying.

Police have detained the mine owners, and the Sichuan government has launched a province-wide safety check on all coal mines and pledged to shut down those with safety hazards.

There were 154 miners working at the mine when the explosion occurred, and 108 survivors have been pulled to the surface.

It is China's deadliest mine accident since November 2009 when 108 people were killed in an explosion in a mine in Heilongjiang province.

Xinhua said the rescue work was dangerous because of high temperatures in the mine and dense carbon monoxide that meant only mask-wearing paramedics were able to enter the shaft.

The news agency quoted one miner, Xu

Changyong, as saying he heard the explosion and then ash started coming out of his air compressor before he scrambled out of the mine.

Of the miners who made it to the surface, 50 are suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning and seven are in critical condition, Xinhua said.

The mine is owned by Zhengjin Industry and Trade Co. Ltd. and the owners were in police custody for investigation, the Panzhihua city government said.

Coal mine accidents are common in China, where work safety rules are often ignored. Last year, 1,973 miners were killed in coal mine accidents in the country, but that was down 19 percent from the previous year as authorities continue to beef up safety measures.

The State Administration of Work Safety said recently that it planned to close more than 600 small coal mines — considered more dangerous than larger mines — this year to further reduce fatalities. **AP**

China police nab man accused of plane threat hoax



Suspect Xiong Yi (C) is sent from an airplane under escort in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province

CHINESE police have caught a man suspected of phoning an airport with a false bomb threat that grounded a domestic flight.

The Hubei provincial public security department said on its website late the day before yesterday that Xiong Yi was nabbed at a hotel in the southern city of Dongguan.

Hubei police say Xiong confessed that he made a phone call to an air-

port in nearby Shenzhen on Thursday night with an anonymous claim that explosives had been placed on a flight that was already in mid-air, bound for Shenzhen.

The flight had taken off from Xiangyang city in Hubei and the phone threat forced it to make an emergency landing in the provincial capital of Wuhan. Police inspected the aircraft and found no explosives. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Police arrest Muslim cleric suspected of framing Christian girl

Rebecca Santana, Islamabad

PAKISTANI police have arrested a Muslim cleric who accused a Christian girl of blasphemy on suspicion that he planted evidence, a police officer said yesterday, the latest twist in a religiously charged case that has focused attention on Pakistan's harsh blasphemy laws.

The case of the Christian girl accused of allegedly burning pages of a Quran has sparked controversy at home and abroad in large part because of her age and questions about her mental capacity. It also has triggered an exodus of hundreds of Christians from the neighborhood where the accused girl lived, fearful of retribution by their Muslim neighbors.

The cleric, Khalid Chishti, was arrested late the day before yesterday for allegedly planting pages of a Quran in a shopping bag containing burned papers and ash that had been carried



Pakistani Christians from a neighborhood where a girl was arrested on alleged blasphemy charges pray in a clearing of an urban forest in Islamabad

by the Christian girl, said Munir Jaffery, an investigating officer in the case.

Chishti was scheduled to appear in court later yesterday.

The girl was later accused of burning pages of the Quran, a serious offense in Pakistan that can result in life in prison.

The about-face could lead to

her being released from prison.

The girl's family and some human rights activists put the girl's age at as young as 11. A medical board who reviewed

her case determined she was around the age of 14 and said her mental capacity did not match her age, which called into question her mental state.

Critics of Pakistan's blasphemy laws say they can be used to settle vendettas or seek retribution. Many of Pakistan's minorities, including Christians, live in fear of being accused of the offense.

People accused of the crime, even those that aren't convicted, often face vigilante justice by outraged Pakistanis. A Pakistani man accused of blasphemy in July was dragged from a police station in the center of the country, beaten to death and his body set on fire.

Few are willing to tackle the explosive issue after two prominent politicians who criticized the law were murdered last year. One was killed by his own bodyguard, who then attracted adoring crowds. The Pakistani government has been largely silent on the girl's case. **AP**

Miki Toda

JAPAN

Tokyo city officials survey disputed islands

TOKYO city officials planning to buy tiny islands at the center of a longtime territorial dispute with China surveyed the area and took water samples yesterday in a showcase meant to send a message of ownership.

The boat, carrying a survey team of 25 experts and officials, as well as journalists from news organizations including The Associated Press, circled around the five uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, which are controlled by Japan but also claimed by China and Taiwan.

Waters were calm beneath clear skies for the endeavor, which city officials have said is crucial and would include measuring the water depth to build a dock at the islands, known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China. Japan's central government did not grant permission to land on the islands.

"It is an undeniable fact that the islands are Japanese territory, so our task is to see how we can best maintain that," Yoshihiko Yamada, a special adviser



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda

to the city's team, said aboard the boat.

The boat departed late the day before yesterday from Okinawa in southwestern Japan, and the

team aboard was scheduled to study the islands for about 10 hours, before heading back later yesterday.

A symbol of patriotic

pride for some people in China and Japan, the islands are near key sea lanes and are surrounded by rich fishing grounds and untapped natural re-

sources.

China's Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment on the trip, but the voyage was grabbing headlines in the Chinese media. The nationwide news broadcast on China Central Television called the survey "illegal."

Tokyo Gov. Shintaro Ishihara has raised 1.45 billion yen (\$19 million) in private donations over the last several months to buy the islands from the Japanese family that owns them.

Despite the squabbling over the islands, economic ties between China and Japan are growing. Major Japanese manufacturers such as Nissan Motor Co. and Sony Corp. are eager to get a slice of the Chinese market, while ailing companies like Sharp Corp., which makes flat panels for TVs, are wooing Chinese in-

vestment.

So Japan has much to gain by avoiding tensions with China. But Ishihara, an old-style nationalist, remains extremely popular, having been re-elected as Tokyo governor three times following a successful stint in parliament.

Seiichiro Sakamaki, who was leading the Tokyo team for the survey, stressed that the city was going to buy the islands.

"The basic point is that those who are about to buy property need to look at it," he said.

Hundreds of Chinese have staged anti-Japanese demonstrations in several of China's cities over the islands. Anti-Japanese sentiments run deep in China because of bitter memories of atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

This past week in Beijing, a man ripped the Japanese flag off a car carrying Japan's ambassador to China. Last month, Japan detained and later released 14 Hong Kong activists who landed on the islands. Japanese activists have made similar trips. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

US halts training some Afghan forces after attacks

Heidi Vogt

THE U.S. military has halted the training of Afghan government-backed militias for at least a month to give the Americans time to redo the vetting of new recruits after a string of attacks by Afghan soldiers and police on their international allies, officials said yesterday.



There have been 34 insider attacks this year — at least 12 in August alone — that have killed 45 international troops, putting intense strain on the relationship between coalition forces and the Afghans they live and work with. The shootings also have thrown doubts on one of the pillars of the U.S.-led coalition's planned withdrawal by the end of 2014 — training Afghan forces so they can take the lead for security in the country.

Lt. Col. John Harrell, a

spokesman for U.S. special operations forces in Afghanistan, said the pause in training affects about 1,000 trainees of the Afghan Local Police, a militia backed by the government in Kabul. "The training of the ALP recruits has been paused while we go through this re-vetting process, to take a look at this process to see if there's anything that we can improve," Harrell said. "It may take a month, it may take two months, we don't know." AP

MYANMAR

Monks back president's anti-Rohingya plan

HUNDREDS of Buddhist monks in Myanmar have staged a rally in support of the president and his proposal to send the members of a Muslim minority to another country.

Yesterday's rally in Mandalay is the latest indication of deep sentiment against the Rohingya minority after June violence with ethnic Rakhine Buddhists that left 80 people dead and tens of thousands displaced.

The monks held a banner saying, "Save your motherland Myanmar by supporting the president."

President Thein Sein suggested in July that Myanmar send all Rohingya to any country willing to take them, a proposal quickly opposed by the U.N. refugee agency.



Myanmar Buddhist monks stage a rally to protest against ethnic minority Rohingya Muslims and to support Myanmar President Thein Sein's

Myanmar considers the Rohingya to be illegal migrants from Bangladesh but Bangladesh also rejects them,

rendering them stateless. The U.N. estimates that 800,000 Rohingya live in Myanmar. AP

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Serradura Or Fruit Salad
Serradura Ou Salada de Fruta

Tuesday/ Terça-feira

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David Stringer, London

UK

Tutu: Bush, Blair should face trial at the Hague

NOBEL Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu called yesterday for Tony Blair and George Bush to face prosecution at the International Criminal Court for their role in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Tutu, the retired Anglican Church's archbishop of South Africa, wrote in an op-ed piece for *The Observer* newspaper that the ex-leaders of Britain and the United States should be made to "answer for their actions."

The Iraq war "has destabilized and polarized the world to a greater extent than any other conflict in history," wrote Tutu, who was awarded the Nobel prize in 1984.

"Those responsible for this suffering and loss of life should be treading the same path as some of their African and Asian peers who have been made to answer for their actions in the Hague," he added.

The Hague, Netherlands, based court is the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal and has been in operation for 10 years. So far it has launched prosecutions only in Africa, including in Sudan, Congo, Libya and Ivory Coast.

Tutu has long been a staunch



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

critic of the Iraq war, while others opposed to the conflict — including playwright Harold Pinter — have previously

called for Bush and Blair to face prosecution at the Hague.

"The then-leaders of the

U.S. and U.K. fabricated the grounds to behave like playground bullies and drive us further apart. They have driven us to the edge of a precipice where we now stand — with the specter of Syria and Iran before us," said Tutu, who last week withdrew from a conference in South Africa due to Blair's presence at the event.

While the International Criminal Court can handle cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, it does not currently have the jurisdiction to prosecute crimes of aggression. Any potential prosecution over the Iraq war would likely come under the aggression category.

The U.S. is among nations which do not recognize the International Criminal Court.

In response to Tutu, Blair said he had great respect for the archbishop's work to tackle apartheid in South Africa, but accused him of repeating

inaccurate criticisms of the Iraq war.

"To repeat the old canard that we lied about the intelligence is completely wrong as every single independent analysis of the evidence has shown," Blair said. "And to say that the fact that Saddam (deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein) massacred hundreds of thousands of his citizens is irrelevant to the morality of removing him is bizarre."

However, Blair said that "in a healthy democracy people can agree to disagree."

In Britain, a two-year long inquiry examining the buildup to the Iraq war and its conduct is yet to publish its final report. The panel took evidence from political leaders including Blair, military chiefs and intelligence officers. Two previous British studies into aspects of the war cleared Blair's government of wrongdoing. **AP**

PRESIDENT Barack Obama and his defenders will seek to convince voters at next week's Democratic Party national convention to stick with the president they know rather than gamble on someone new — a challenge since most Americans say the country is heading in the wrong direction.

Democratic loyalists will fill the stadium where Obama accepts the nomination Thursday night, but the president's target audience is the small sliver of undecided voters in battleground states who will be critical to the outcome of what polls show is a tight race with two months to go.

"This Thursday, I will offer you what I believe is a better path forward, a path that grows this economy, creates more jobs and strengthens the middle class," Obama said Saturday in Des Moines, Iowa, previewing his pitch. "And the good news is, you get to choose which path we take."

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Obama to try to make case for sticking with him



President Barack Obama

Starting tomorrow, a parade of high-profile speakers will stand on a blue-carpeted stage in Charlotte's Time Warner Cable Arena to vouch for Obama's economic agenda, which his team says is focused on the middle class: ending tax cuts for the rich and reducing the debt, while spending more on education, energy and infrastructure. Several voters — called "American Heroes" by Obama's team — also will speak at and appear in videos at the convention, putting a human face on Obama's program.

As in 2008, the campaign will use the large gathering to register voters and recruit new volunteers through text messaging and Twitter.

Aides say Obama won't

ignore the economic woes that have defined his four years in the White House. But they say he plans to focus largely on the future, and why he believes his policies will succeed in a second term. Obama isn't expected to outline any new policy proposals. Instead, he plans to make the case for continuing what he has started. And he is expected to double down on agenda items, like immigration and tax reforms, that gained little traction during his four years in office.

Working against Obama: the nation's 8.3 percent unemployment rate, sluggish economic growth and fears the economy could slip back into a recession.

There's also a general

malaise. An Associated Press-GfK poll conducted earlier this month showed 60 percent of registered voters say the country is heading in the wrong direction, while just 35 percent say it is heading in the right direction.

The convention opens Tuesday with first lady Michelle Obama, whose popularity far surpasses her husband's, as a featured speaker. San Antonio, Texas, Mayor Julian Castro also is slated for that night. He will be the first Hispanic to deliver the Democratic convention's keynote address. Their roles on the convention's opening night are part of Democrats' efforts to shore up support among women and Hispanics, two crucial voting blocs where Obama holds an advantage over Romney.

Mrs. Obama is expected to make the case that Obama is the best candidate to advocate on behalf of the middle class because he has experienced their struggles himself. **AP**

USA

'Raindrops' lyricist Hal David dies in LA at 91



Legendary songwriters Bert Bacharach, left, and Hal David pose with singer Dionne Warwick at the "Love, Sweet Love" musical tribute to Hal David on his 90th birthday in Los Angeles

Bob Thomas
and Christopher Weber, Los Angeles

HAL David was a man of simple words.

A writer by trade — and a journalist by education — David had a knack for encapsulating love, earnestness and a wry sense of humor into a melody that was just a few minutes long. "Wishin' and Hopin'," the 1960s earworm he wrote with Burt Bacharach, was a rhyming how-to for gals looking to snag a man. With a wink, it snagged a new generation of fans when it opened the 1997 Julia Roberts film "My Best Friend's Wedding."

Through theater, film and TV, David's songs transcended the time they were written to become classics. With Bacharach, he was one of the most successful songwriting

teams in modern history.

The 91-year-old, who died the day before yesterday of complications from a stroke four days earlier in Los Angeles, "always had a song in his head," said his wife, Eunice David. Even at the end, "he was always writing notes, or asking me to take a note down, so he wouldn't forget a lyric."

Bacharach and David's hits included "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head," "(They Long to Be) Close to You" and "That's What Friends Are For." Many of the top acts of their time, from Barbra Streisand to Frank Sinatra and Aretha Franklin, recorded their music.

But the collaboration for which they were best known came in 1962, when they began writing for a young singer named Dionne Warwick.

Warwick's versatile voice

could convey the emotion of David's lyrics and handle the changing patterns of Bacharach's melodies. Together the trio created a chain of hits: "Don't Make Me Over," "Walk On By," "I Say a Little Prayer," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," "Always Something There to Remind Me" (which later was a hit for the 1980s synth pop band Naked Eyes), among others.

They were a "triangle marriage that worked," Warwick wrote in her memoir, "My Life, As I See It." Bacharach was "the handsome one," and David was level-headed — a "thoughtful, gentle, sincere" man — Warwick wrote.

Ever the writer (he studied journalism at New York University), David said in a 1999 interview that he thought of songwriting as telling a narrative.

"The songs should be like

a little film, told in three or four minutes. Try to say things as simply as possible, which is probably the most difficult thing to do," he said.

The New York-based writer often flew to Los Angeles, where he and Bacharach holed up for weeks of intense songwriting. They also conferred by telephone, a method that birthed "I Say a Little Prayer."

When a song went nowhere, they stuck it in a desk drawer and left it there for months.

In a brief essay on his website, David recalled having an idea for a song for "at least

■ Bacharach and David's hits included "Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head," "(They Long to Be) Close to You" and "That's What Friends Are For."

two years before showing it to Burt."

"I was stuck," he wrote. "I kept thinking of lines like, 'Lord, we don't need planes that fly higher or faster ...' and they all seemed wrong. Why, I didn't know. But the idea stayed with me.

"Then, one day, I thought of, 'Lord, we don't need another mountain,' and all at once I knew how the lyric should be written. Things like planes and trains and cars are manmade, and things like mountains and rivers and valleys are created by someone or something we call God. There was now a oneness of idea and language instead of a conflict. It had taken me two years to put my finger on it."

And so they had another smash: "What the World Needs Now is Love."

David and Bacharach met when both worked in the Brill Building, New York's legendary Tin Pan Alley song factory where writers cranked out songs to sell to music publishers. They scored their first big hit with "Magic Moments," a million-selling record for Perry Como.

Their success transferred to film and theater, where they won an Oscar for "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" (from the movie "Butch Cas-

sidy and the Sundance Kid"), and Grammys and Tonys for the songs from the hit Broadway musical "Promises, Promises."

But the hit-making team broke up after the 1973 musical remake of "Lost Horizon." The pair and Warwick had devoted two years to the movie, which was scorned by critics and audiences. Bacharach then sequestered himself in his vacation home and refused to work.

Bacharach and David sued each other, and Warwick sued them both. The cases were settled out of court in 1979 and the three went their separate ways. They reconciled in 1992 for Warwick's recording of "Sunny Weather Lover."

David went on to collaborate successfully with other composers: John Barry with the title song of the James Bond film "Moonraker;" Albert Hammond with "To All the Girls I've Loved Before," which Julio Iglesias and Willie Nelson sang as a duet; and Henry Mancini with "The Greatest Gift" in "The Return of the Pink Panther."

David joined the board of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1974 and served as president 1980 to 1986. He was head of the Songwriters Hall of Fame from 2001 to 2011, and was chairman emeritus at his death.

"As a lyric writer, Hal was simple, concise and poetic — conveying volumes of meaning in fewest possible words and always in service to the music," ASCAP president, the songwriter Paul Williams, said in a statement. "It is no wonder that so many of his lyrics have become part of our everyday vocabulary and his songs... the backdrop of our lives."

In May, Bacharach and David received the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song during a White House tribute concert attended by President Barack Obama. David, recovering from a major stroke in March, did not attend, but his wife accepted on his behalf.

"It was thrilling," she said. "Even though he wasn't there, Hal said it was the highest honor he had ever received."

Obama noted their music is still being recorded by such artists as Alicia Keys and John Legend.

"Above all, they stayed true to themselves," Obama said. "And with an unmistakable authenticity, they captured the emotions of our daily lives — the good times, the bad times, and everything in between." AP

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what's ON

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TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)
UNTIL: September 15, 2012
VENUE: Creative Macau, G Floor,
Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

THE STORY OF A CITY
- OIL PAINTINGS BY LAI SIO KIT

TIME: Please refer to The Tasting
Room opening hours
UNTIL: September 23, 2012
VENUE: The Tasting Room, Level 3,
Crown Towers at City of Dreams
ADMISSION: Free
TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

HUANG XIAOPENG SOLO EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: September 15, 2012
VENUE: Ox Warehouse, Intersection of
Av. do Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda
ADMISSION: Free
TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

WINE MUSEUM & GRAND PRIX MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-9pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
VENUE: Tourism Activities Centre,
No. 431, Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes
ADMISSION: Free
TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108

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- OIL PAINTINGS BY NICK TAI

OPENING HOURS: 12pm-7pm
(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)
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ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Estrada da Areia Preta No. 52,
Edifício da Fabrica de Baterias N.E. National, 10th Floor
TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

Offbeat

POD OF PILOT WHALES COMES
ASHORE ON FLORIDA BEACH

More than 20 pilot whales came ashore on a South Florida beach on Saturday, triggering a daylong effort by state and national officials, nearby residents and others to save them. By evening, five pilot whales — two calves and three juveniles — had been transported to Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Institute for rehabilitation. The rest had died of natural causes or had to be humanely euthanized, said Allison Garrett, a spokeswoman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries service. "It was not possible to rehabilitate them," she told The Associated Press. The pod of 22 whales came ashore Saturday morning at Avalon Beach State Park in St. Lucie County. They ranged from calves and juveniles to adult whales. Garrett said it was unclear why the whales became stranded. "Pilot whales are very social animals," she said. "One scenario could be one of the animals was sick. They won't leave (a sick whale). They'll stay together."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News at 24H (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
19:00	Modern Music (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sport
22:10	Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
00:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeted)

cinema



CINETEATRO

RED LIGHTS_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 9.45 pm

Starring: Robert De Niro, Sigourney Weaver

Director: Rodrigo Cortés

Language: English

Duration: 113 min

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES_

ROOM 1

7.00 pm

Starring: Christian Bale, Gary Oldman

Anne Hathaway,

Director: Christopher Nolan

Language: English

Duration: 165 min

BLACK & WHITE: TFE DAWN OF ASSAULT_

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.15, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Starring: Mark Chao, Angelababy,

Huang Bo, Alex To

Director: Tsai Yueh-hsun

Language: Mandarin (English and
cantonese subtitles)

Duration: 157 min

GF*BF_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Starring: Guey Lun mei,

Joseph Chang, Rhydian Vaughan

Director: Gilles Young

Language: Mandarin (English and
cantonese subtitles)

Duration: 91 min

MACAU TOWER

23 AUG - 6 SEP

PIRANHA (3D)_

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Starring: Elisabeth Shue, Jerry O'Connell

Director: Alexandre Aja

Language: English

Duration: 88 min



this day in history

1984 TYPHOON
BATTERS PHILIPPINES

At least 1,300 people have died and hundreds more have been injured after the worst storm in living memory swept across the southern Philippines. Wind speeds of up to 185 kmh (115 mph) left a trail of destruction as Typhoon Ike hit the Surigao del Norte province in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

Officials fear that many more may have died since the storms started two days ago. Dozens are still missing and over 20,000 people are reported to be homeless. The high winds have also uprooted hundreds of coconut trees - devastating the area's staple crop.

The governor of the island, Rolando Geotina, described the trees as the "lifeline of the people" and said "it will be years before they recover." The President of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, has announced he has set aside \$4,000,000 (£3,060,000) for relief work, but has so far refused offers of outside help. This disaster follows another typhoon which hit the Philippines earlier in the year. The two storms have affected 2.4 million Filipinos.

TYPHOON FACTS

- "Typhoon" is the western Pacific name for a hurricane
- Formed by a combination of warm water, moisture and inwardly spiralling winds
- Characterized by strong winds and heavy rain
- Given names for ease of communication between forecasters
- "Super Typhoons" have winds exceeding 241 kmh (150 mph)

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

By the time the storms finished one million people had been made homeless and 4,353 people had died. Ike was the deadliest typhoon in the Philippines since World War II.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try your best not to sign up for anything new today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You need to work together with those who share your vision...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Things don't really make sense to you right now, but that's okay...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your mental and emotional energies are in perfect sync...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The people you're closest to are having a hard time dealing with reality right now...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Everyone's got an opinion today - and you need to hear them all out!

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You've got more than enough to keep yourself busy, even if it doesn't seem that way this morning.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 A mystery has your colleagues or neighbors extremely frustrated...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Today is perfect for figuring out new opportunities and running off in new directions...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your artistic side is making waves today - so get out of its way and make sure that you're able to express yourself fully!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have to take care of yourself first and foremost today - otherwise, things are sure to get weird fast!

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Your energy levels start out maxed - and don't seem to drop appreciably as the day wears on!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles in four difficulty levels: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Snares; 6- Extreme reverence; 10- Air bubble; 14- Actress Anouk; 15- majesty; 16- Top-notch; 17- Dens; 18- Ancient Athens's Temple of ...

DOWN: 1- Reckoning; 2- Gaucho's rope; 3- Not quite right; 4- For each; 5- Opening word; 6- Bottle; 7- Architect Saarinen; 8- Just ...; 9- Withstands; 10- Conflict; 11- Sarge's superior; 12- Sign up; 13- Amphetamine tablet; 22- Franklin D.'s mother; 23- Large artery; 25- Bird of prey; 28- Les ...-Unis; 29- Evening, informally; 30- Wily; 31- Not for a Scot; 32- ... roll; 34- Optimistic; 35- Spring mo.; 36- 'Hold On Tight' band; 37- D.C. VIP; 39- Ready to hit; 42- Jazz flutist Herbie; 45- Most strange; 46- Biblical birthright seller; 48- Haunt; 50- Female sibling; 51- Herring type; 52- Betel palm; 53- Unit just above a yard; 54- Composure; 55- Commerce; 56- Having auricular protuberances; 57- Brings up; 59- Incandescence; 60- Actress Skye; 65- Land in la mer;

Fri day's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi (Yellow) 28 519 519
Fire department 28 572 222
Taxi (Black) 28 939 939
PJ (Open line) 993
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Telephone - Report 1000
PSP 28 573 333
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
Customs 28 559 944
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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IACM 28 387 333
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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

Jenson Button wins crash-marred Belgian GP

Jerome Pugmire, Belgium

JENSON Button coasted to his second victory of the season at the crash-marred Belgian Grand Prix yesterday, with Formula One championship leader Fernando Alonso and Lewis Hamilton forced out after a spectacular pileup at the start. It was Button's first victory at Spa and the 14th of the British driver's career — and probably one of the easiest as he led from start to finish, oblivious to the mayhem behind him.

"This is such a special circuit, so to get a victory here from light to flag is very special," Button said. "It hasn't been an easy year for me. We're going to enjoy this for a little while longer before we head to Monza and hopefully do the same." Button triumphantly zigzagged across the track as he approached the finish line and then clapped his hands together in celebration. He then stood on his McLaren and leaned his head back as he clenched both fists.

"The car felt very good to drive and I could control the degradation of the tires. It's always easier to do that when you're leading," said Button, who climbed to sixth place overall. "It's a massive long shot to win the title, but today proves that you can claw back 25 points very quickly. There's still 63 points to make up, but anything's possible."

Defending champion Sebastian Vettel benefited from the chaos to finish second and trim Alon-



McLaren Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain crashes with Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso of Spain, during the first lap of the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix in Spa-Francorchamps

so's lead to 24 points — putting the two-time champion right back in contention. "I was reasonably confident because I know anything can happen here and you can overtake," Vettel said.

Kimi Raikkonen was third, continuing the consistent form he's shown all season long with his third straight podium and sixth overall. "My car was not the nicest to drive the whole race," Raikkonen said. "I was fighting to get the best out of it and we managed to get some key points, so that was the main thing." The crash, which was triggered by Lotus driver Romain Grosjean, also took out Mexican driver Sergio Perez, and Grosjean himself. Grosjean went for a small gap and clipped Hamilton's McLaren. That sent both cars spinning and led to Grosjean's Lotus flying

over Alonso's Ferrari, which then took out Perez's Sauber. All four drivers escaped unhurt. "I'm fine and 100 (percent) already thinking (about) Monza!" Alonso said on his Twitter page.

A visibly frustrated Hamilton briefly confronted Grosjean after the incident and tapped the side of his own helmet with his finger after getting out of his car. Grosjean's actions may be investigated as he took the dangerous option of changing direction moments after the start as he went for the gap. Following a miserable day's qualifying on Saturday, Vettel was relieved to get on the podium after starting from 10th on the grid.

"It was a crazy race, after the first corner where a few cars went off," the German driver said. "The car was quite good in the race and we

were able to pick up some pace. It was a fantastic race, great to come second." Germany's Nico Hulkenberg was fourth for Force India, ahead of Ferrari's Felipe Massa in fifth and Red Bull's Mark Webber, who had started from 12th because of a gearbox penalty. Alonso, who had picked up points in every race this season, was lucky to escape serious injury as Grosjean's Lotus went over his car and narrowly missed the Spaniard's head. Button was not affected by the crash and maintained his lead as the safety car went out onto the track and piles of smashed car parts were cleared from the track.

A veteran of 222 races, Button shrugged off the incident. He was seven seconds clear of Nico Hulkenberg after 12 laps. Michael Schumacher, chasing

his second podium position of the season in his 300th career GP, drove aggressively on the Spa circuit where he made his F1 debut 21 years ago. The 43-year-old stormed into second after 15 laps, with Vettel climbing to third as they pushed their soft tires to the limit. Schumacher proved to be a bit too aggressive, however. He almost careered into Vettel at the Bus Stop chicane as he cut across him going into the pits for a tire change. Schumacher faced a stewards' inquiry for the risky move. Vettel said it was a moment of confusion and that Schumacher should not be punished.

It was nervous in the pit lanes, too, as Heikki Kovalainen's Caterham was released too quickly and clipped an HRT entering the pit lane for a tire change. Button came in on lap 22 for his only stop, and still had a comfortable lead of 13 seconds on Vettel coming out. McLaren sounded supremely confident that the one-stop strategy would carry Button all the way, saying "Plan A is good" over the race radio and that he was "pulling away" from Raikkonen. Schumacher pitted for a second tire change with eight laps remaining. Raikkonen's Lotus team, meanwhile, ordered him to save 10 percent on KERS for the remainder of the race. With two laps remaining, Lotus then asked Raikkonen to step up the pace just to make sure of third place, to which the Finnish driver retorted bluntly, saying "well, give me more power then." **AP**

Michael Casey, Dubai

DIEGO Maradona is not done with Dubai. The Argentine football legend said yesterday that he has signed one-year contract to become a special sports adviser to the Dubai Sports Council. The announcement comes less than two months after Maradona was fired as coach for the Dubai club Al Wasl following the team's eighth-place finish in the 12-team UAE Pro League. The 51-year-old Argentine had a year left on his Al Wasl contract.

"It is a great honor for me," said Maradona, appearing in a suit and tie at a press conference at the Armani Hotel in Dubai. "I promise that I will exert every effort possible to develop the sports sector in Dubai and encourage the home-grown stars

Maradona remains in Dubai as sports 'ambassador'

to challenge the rest of the world and reflect the image of Dubai." After being fired by Al Wasl, Maradona had traveled to China and talked of his desire to coach in that fast-growing market. However, he said he turned down several offers to stay in Dubai, and that he wanted to repay the Gulf city for what it has done for him. He also said he would consider extending his yearlong contract should he be successful in his new, largely undefined role.

"I have got many offers but I would like to retire now or relax for some

time," Maradona said, without elaborating. "The offers I got were not satisfactory." Ahmad al-Sharif, the secretary general of the Dubai Sports Council, said Maradona's role would go beyond football and would aim to improve the city's sporting image as well as the performance of its athletes. The UAE won no medals at the London Olympics and has been unable to produce any top athletes in golf, tennis or athletics despite hosting many of the world's top sporting events for the past decade.

"There is no doubt that

Maradona is a successful example of what sports can do to a talented individual if he shows dedication, keeps developing his talent and represents his country with honor," al-Sharif said. "With such an international position and great talent, he can do more than anyone else can do. He can reach the new generation of talented athletes and motivate them to shine and achieve greater success." Al-Sharif called Maradona "a model" for Emirati athletes to emulate, though he did not mention anything from the foot-

ball great's sometimes troubled past or his year at Al Wasl when he often was in the headlines for disputes with rival coaches and referees rather than winning matches. After his first victory at Al Wasl, Maradona was forced to apologize after kicking the hand of fan. Another time, he was accused by a coach of being disrespectful for the way he celebrated a goal. The bearded and diamond stud-wearing Maradona once charged into the stands to confront Al Shabab fans who were taunting his partner, Ve-

ronica Ojeda, and the wives of several players. He had to be restrained by security staff.

Maradona starred on Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning team. He joined Al Wasl following his firing as the national team coach of Argentina, where he had mixed results. Before becoming coach of his home country in 2008, he coached Argentine first-division clubs Deportivo Mandiyu in 1994 and Racing Club in 1995.

His troubled past is well documented. He battled a cocaine habit even before he retired in 1997 and once fired an air gun at reporters outside his home and was threatened with jail. He also has had running feuds with several top South American footballers including Pele and Juan Roman Riquelme. **AP**

opinion

Insight
Paulo Barbosa



“NATIONAL EDUCATION”

I had the opportunity to visit the recently opened Taiwanese-owned bookstore Eslite in Hong Kong and was surprised by the frenzy around the books that I saw there. The Causeway Bay store occupies three floors and displays thousands of books of all genres. In an age where virtual bookstores rule, I was surprised by the crowd that was there browsing through the books. It was reported that this bookstore, considered one of the largest in Asia, has people queuing to enter, despite its operating 24-hours-a-day from Thursdays to Saturdays. Many of those are youngsters, devouring many of the classics of world literature and the essays that will nurture them. This makes me think that Hong Kong has a future and is building up a critical mass that will make a difference when compared to neighboring regions.

It's a good sign that the younger generation are rebels instead of conformists. It was Winston Churchill who said: "If you're young and not liberal, you have no heart. If you're old and not conservative, you have no mind." I'm not sure about Churchill's second sentence, but the first one illustrates the idealism of youth. And Hong Kong youngsters are proving to be idealists and aware regarding the introduction of "national education" at the beginning of the school year in primary schools, which happens today.

Numerous protests have been held in Hong Kong by students, their parents and other concerned citizens. They fear that besides promoting Chinese patriotism, the subject will be a form of brainwashing for children. I don't think there's a serious historian who wouldn't regard Chinese 20th century history as a turbulent period, where communist theories were rarely met in practice. There are many books paying testimony to that, and they should also be mentioned in the "national education" curriculum. Because it's one thing to be a patriot - to love the country where one was born - but it's another to be blind and ignorant.

Hong Kong's people are proving resistant to any idea of an imposed "national education". Last Saturday it was reported that thousands rallied outside the government headquarters in Admiralty. Organizers talk about 40,000 people taking part in the meeting and more protests are scheduled. A group called "Scholarism" was formed and started a 72-hour hunger strike against the subject's introduction in primary schools. Their young leader even had the chutzpah not to greet Hong Kong's chief executive Leung Chun-ying when he was stretching his hand out to him.

I wonder if the same kind of protests and public mobilization would happen in Macau if the "national education" subject were to be imposed. I don't think so, because here young people don't seem to care if they are being brainwashed or not. Many aren't concerned about bookstores and about the authors they should read. They prefer the fancy fashion stores and beauty salons. Macau youngsters are looking for a job in a casino, like their fathers. They are already conformists. The above quoted Churchill would lament that.

And what is the position of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau about "national education"? Last week, during the presentation of the new academic year, DSEJ deputy director, Luisa Sio Lai Kuok said: "National Education is indispensable to improve teaching quality. This curriculum allows students to know the history of their country." The MSAR government doesn't require the mandatory teaching of "national education," but this sentence would generate protests if said by a Hong Kong official. Here, no one complained. And that is concerning.

THE BUZZ STOWAWAY CAT FROM CHINA SAYS 'NI HAO' TO NEW HOME

A stowaway kitten who survived a three-week ocean voyage from China to California trapped in a storage container without food or water has found a new home. Los Angeles County animal control officials said Friday that the cat, which has been named Ni Hao (NEE' how) or "hello" in Chinese, will leave the

animal hospital he's called home since turning up in the U.S. last month to start life next week with a family in the LA suburb of Redondo Beach. The family has not been further identified, but officials say it was chosen from more than 80 serious candidates who applied to adopt the stowaway.

1st in Chinese action trilogy premiers in Venice

Colleen Barry, Venice

DIRECTOR Stephen Fung has incorporated comic book-style graphics and heavy metal music into "Tai Chi o," as he reaches for a younger and perhaps global audience in his new martial arts trilogy. "We wanted to do something new, something that is not what you usually see in the traditional kung fu movie," Fung said. "We wanted to break barriers. We wanted to test out the market."

"Tai Chi o," the first installment in the trilogy, made its world premiere out of competition at the Venice Film Festival this week, ahead of its late September release in China, followed by the rest of Asia. Fung already has the sequel ready for release a month later, and he's hoping strong audience response will guarantee he can make the third. The big budget Chinese production brings together the Victorian age steam energy with high octane fight scenes.

The film is set during the dawn of industrialization, but the filmmakers readily mix in high-tech modern touches, including comic book graphics, to introduce chapters and graphic overlays to map the trajectory of the martial arts moves.



Director Stephen Fung, left, and actress Angelababy Yang poses during the photo call of the movie 'Tai Chi O' at the 69th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Friday

In the film, Yang Chi, played by martial arts champion Yuan Xiaochao, is born with a rare gift for marital arts, and his mother on her deathbed urges him to pursue his potential. Yang's journey takes him to a remote village that is famed for its particularly powerful form of tai chi - but only natives are allowed to learn it. As Yang continues to run up against village resistance, a local man returns from abroad with a steam-powered locomotive - a fantastic

iron monster operated from its cavernous inside as a sort-of submarine on rails.

Tony Leung Ka Fai, 54, known for his roles in auteur films such as "The Lover," plays the village tai chi master whose job it is to defend the town from the modern intruder while protecting its martial arts tradition. "For 30 years, no director has discovered my skill in wushu (China's martial arts form). Now as I go into retirement, I had this opportunity to do a wushu film," he said. AP

Japan's Kurosawa tries to find hope in horror

JAPANESE director Kiyoshi Kurosawa's interest in the impact of death on those left behind has drawn to the horror genre, but he says he tries to leave viewers with a sense of hope. Kurosawa showed his latest project, "Penance," out of competition at the Venice Film Festival this week.

The five-part serial drama opens with the murder of a young girl, and unfolds 15 years later, after the friends who witnessed her death have grown up. Grief-stricken, the girl's mother has placed a curse that will haunt them unless they seek revenge. "I am quite interested in a death, and I wonder what is going to happen after people die, and how it will affect the living people," Kurosawa, 57, said in an interview Saturday. "I think there are so many hints hidden in horror films."

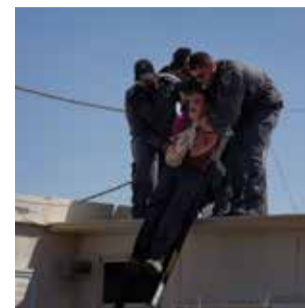
Kurosawa said that since childhood, he has always enjoyed the emotions conveyed

in a horror movie and that when he makes a film he wants to leave the audience with a sense of hope. "In a film I think frightening people can be entertaining. That is why I do this kind of movie," he said. "Penance" is based on a novel which he adapted to a screenplay. The serial nature of the drama created some fresh challenges for the director. Kurasawa said it is his first film to cover a span of time, and also his first in which the protagonist of the film's terror is a woman. "At the beginning of filming, I was worried if I can still bring some hope to the audience at the end," he said.

Kurosawa, who is not related to famed late Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa, has shown films on the Lido twice before, in 1999 with "Barren Illusion" and in 2006 with "Retribution." His film "Tokyo Sonata" won best picture in the 2009 Asian Film Awards. CB/AP

WORLD BRIEFS

SYRIA Two bombs went off near the Syrian military's joint chiefs of staff's offices in central Damascus yesterday, state television said. The explosions struck the Abu Rumaneh district of the Syrian capital, wounding four people, state TV said.



ISRAEL completed evacuation of a large unauthorized West Bank settlement outpost yesterday, culminating years of legal wrangling in a case that has become a rallying cry for hardline settler groups opposed to any withdrawal from occupied land claimed by the Palestinians. By midday, all of Migron's roughly 300 residents had left, authorities said, two days ahead of a court-ordered deadline to clear out.

ANGOLA President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' ruling party has won 74 percent of the national vote, assuring his government, in power for 33 years, another five years in power.

USA President Barack Obama and his defenders will seek to convince voters at next week's Democratic Party national convention to stick with the president they know rather than gamble on someone new - a challenge since most Americans say the country is heading in the wrong direction. More on p13

Hal David, the stylish, heartfelt lyricist who teamed with Burt Bacharach on dozens of timeless songs for movies, television and a variety of recording artists in the 1960s and beyond, dies at age 91. More on p14



The remnants of Hurricane Isaac pushed their way up the Mississippi valley, spinning off severe thunderstorms and at least four tornadoes, and some on the Gulf Coast were impatient with the pace of restoring power days after the storm dragged through the region.

UK Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu called yesterday for Tony Blair and George Bush to face prosecution at the International Criminal Court for their role in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. More on p13