



MACAU-BORN ROGER LOBO DIES AT 91
Lobo was one of the most esteemed members of Hong Kong's Macanese community

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GROUPS PREPARE MAY 1 MARCH
Three local organizations intend to stage individual protests on the upcoming International Workers' Day

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S KOREA'S PM OFFERS TO RESIGN AMID SCANDAL

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

AD

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Serviço de Registo de Comércio de Tabaco (Serviço de Registo de Comércio de Tabaco)

Civil Engineering Lab staff took bribes, CCAC alleges

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Defiant Hong Kongers resist mainland embrace

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA At least seven coal miners were killed and 13 left trapped after a shaft flooded at a mine in northern China, state media reported yesterday. More than 600 rescue workers were pumping water and drilling holes from the surface in hopes of reaching those still inside the Jiangjiawan mine near the city of Datong, the reports said.

JAPAN's space agency is considering an unmanned mission to the moon by 2018 or early 2019, part of an effort to beef up aerospace technology and keep pace with China and other emerging powers. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, included the possibility of a lunar landing in the fiscal year that begins April 1, 2018, in its summary of moon exploration plans by Japan and other countries.

JAPAN-USA The U.S. and Japan need further work to resolve differences on autos and farm exports that are hindering progress toward a Pacific Rim trade deal, U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman said yesterday.

More on backpage

MGM dissident Litt says casino operator overbuilding again



The MGM Resorts International Grand Hotel & Casino stands in Las Vegas

Christopher Palmeri

JONATHAN Litt, who's pushing MGM Resorts International to put its properties into a real estate investment trust, stepped up his criticism of the casino company and accused a director of retaliating against one of his board nominees.

Litt said plans for casinos in Massachusetts, Maryland and Macau threaten MGM Resorts' solvency, just as the USD9 billion CityCenter project in Las Vegas did years ago. He said one of his four nominees to the MGM Resorts board, former Equity Office Properties executive Richard Kincaid, was pressured to leave the board of Vail Resorts Inc. by Roland Hernandez, the lead director at both companies.

"Rather than take advantage of the current favorable capital-markets environment to reduce debt, the board continues to make the same capital-allocation mistakes it made leading up to the company teetering on

bankruptcy seven years ago," Litt said in a letter to shareholders released Monday.

Litt, founder of the New York investment firm Land & Buildings Investment Management, last month called on MGM Resorts to split into a management company and a real estate investment trust. REITs can trade at higher market values because they don't pay corporate income taxes and pass the bulk of earnings on to shareholders. He also suggested MGM Resorts sell assets. The two sides face off in the board election at the casino company's annual meeting May 28 in Las Vegas.

In an April 17 interview, Litt said he feared MGM Resorts may be heading down path similar to CityCenter, citing spending on casinos being built in Springfield, Massachusetts, National Harbor, Maryland, and Macau. In a filing a day earlier, he said his group owns 3.79 million MGM Resorts shares, or less than 1 percent of the total.

"The company is embarking on another \$5 billion in deve-

lopment, but we're not going to know for three years how these projects do and their track record is not great," Litt said.

MGM Resorts, based in Las Vegas, said last month it would study Litt's proposal while asking shareholders not to support his four nominees. The company on Monday added Evercore Group LLC to its roster of advisers studying strategic initiatives, including a potential REIT conversion.

The company said on April 13 it has outperformed peers in the past one and three years and "is in a strong position today as a result of the effective implementation of the board's long-term strategic plan."

Litt "makes numerous financial, structural and tax assumptions that are unclear, unsupported or factually incorrect" and his proposals are not in the best interests of the company, MGM Resorts said. The investor called MGM Resorts a "relentless underperformer" and singled out the block-long CityCenter as one of its "poor

investment decisions."

MGM, the largest casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip, has a higher ratio of debt to cash flow than rivals Wynn Resorts Ltd. and Las Vegas Sands Corp. and trades at a lower multiple of the earnings, Litt said.

CityCenter, a casino, hotel and retail complex on the Las Vegas

“ [Litt] makes numerous financial, structural and tax assumptions that are unclear, unsupported or factually incorrect

MGM RESORTS

Strip, opened at the peak of the financial crisis in December 2009. The cost of the project and a slowdown in Las Vegas tourism led MGM Resorts to sell its Treasure Island casino and issue new shares to raise capital at the time.

MGM Resorts had about \$14 billion in long-term debt at the end of last year. The company said April 16 it converted \$1.45 billion in bonds into 78 million shares of stock. MGM said April 9 it approved a \$400 million dividend from CityCenter, which is jointly owned by the company and Dubai World, a foreign investment company.

The company also vowed to distribute 35 percent of CityCenter's excess cash flow to the owners going forward, moves Litt called "too little, too late," in his letter to shareholders.

Litt said two of his nominees to the MGM Resorts board, Matthew Hart and Kincaid, the former Vail Resorts director, sold their companies at the peak of the market eight years ago. Hart was president of Hilton Hotels Corp. until it was acquired in 2007. Kincaid was chief executive officer of Equity Office Properties Trust before its sale that same year.

Litt's shareholder letter also said Kincaid was pressured to leave the board of Colorado-based Vail Resorts after Land & Buildings began its MGM campaign. Hernandez, a former CEO of Telemundo Group, serves as lead independent director at both companies, Litt said in his letter.

Kincaid said in an April 17 interview that Vail Resorts directors told him that under company rules he should have notified them prior to becoming Land & Buildings' candidate to the MGM Resorts board. They said he would have a difficult time working with Hernandez as a result of the relationship.

Hernandez couldn't be reached for comment. Vail Resorts said its board discussions are confidential and that the company "has a set of public guidelines for its board of directors that ensure strong governance and serve the best interests of its shareholders and all directors are expected to adhere to them."

Kincaid said he didn't think his nomination to the MGM Resorts board would be an issue since Hernandez already served on both. "I think they way overstepped their boundaries," Kincaid said, referring to the Vail Resorts directors.

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CULTURE

Digital library about Macau launched

THE China Observer has launched a website focusing on Portuguese literary works about Macau and other Asian destinations written between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Sponsored by the Macau Foundation, the platform "Fontes Macau-China" ("Sources Macau-China") has made available the digitalized versions of many old books. The resources will be introduced gradually, with an intended total of 120,000 pages.

According to the China Observer, the website was made for "all the Macau population and international web users" and aspires to present Portuguese language descriptions "considered fundamental to the history of Macau and its role in the world, that was a pioneer one in the relations between East and West."

The project also comprises of a book conservation aspect, since some of the works displayed are being digitalized for the first time and can hence "be safeguarded for future generations," a China Observer statement said.

Fundação Macau, which donated MOP442,000 to finance the project, told Lusa that the new website "addresses specific themes and makes available precious data about the history of Macau, that can be used in the project 'Macau Memories' that the foundation is developing."

The website (www.fontes-macau.observatoriodachina.org) is the result of a partnership between the UCCLA - União das Cidades Capitais de Língua Portuguesa (Union of the capital Portuguese speaking cities) and the National Library of Portugal. The website was launched today (Macau time) in a ceremony held at the National Library in Lisbon. **MDT/Lusa**

CCAC

Civil Engineering Lab employees involved in bribery case

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has found that two Civil Engineering Laboratory (LEC) employees allegedly accepted bribes from an engineering company for assistance in producing false soil test reports, the anti-graft agency revealed in a press release.

According to CCAC, the two employees allegedly committed active and passive bribery as well as document forgery offenses — all regarded as illicit acts in Macau's Criminal Code. These crimes can result in imprisonment for a maximum term of three to eight years.

The case dates back to May last year when a section of a public road outside a gaming company's large-scale casino construction project caved in just a few days after the completion of road works and the reopening of the pavement section to traffic.

The gaming company then contacted the roadworks' general contractor and requested that its subcontractor follow up on the matter and present relevant soil test reports. However, CCAC found that the subcontractor was not in possession of any soil test reports at the time road works took place. This would have resulted in the section of road again being closed to traffic, in order for soil



tests to be conducted.

"To save the hassle, a senior officer surnamed Mak and an external engineering consultant surnamed Tai, from the subcontracting company, decided to submit soil test reports to the general contractor without doing the digging all over again," CCAC revealed in a press release.

An investigation launched by CCAC found that Tai offered bribes amounting to MOP40,000 to an engineer and a laboratory technician from the Civil Enginee-

ring Laboratory, who in return produced 10 fraudulent soil test reports.

These reports were later sent to the general contractor by senior officer Mak as proof of soil quality in the relevant road section.

"During the investigation some [people involved] have confessed to having accepted bribes from people within the subcontracting company and to having produced bogus test reports without actually taking samples or conducting examinations," CCAC added.

CCAC's staff found that there were noticeable cracks in the road section, which was only opened to traffic less than half a year ago. To ensure the safety of drivers and road users, CCAC notified competent authorities.

CCAC said that the case has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for further investigation.

Recently, CCAC also unveiled a bribery case involving high-ranking officials at the Marine and Water Bureau. **CP**

Free trade zones expected to open doors

Chui Sai On and members of the Macau delegation visit the Fuzhou Urban Planning Exhibition Hall in Fujian Province

WITH three new pilot free trade zones in mainland China beginning official operation yesterday, new doors are expected to open to Macau. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, said that Macau needs to carefully consider how to conduct itself cooperatively and how to improve its own laws and systems.

China has set up new free trade zones in Guangdong, Fujian and Tianjin yesterday, expecting them to boost economic reform, promote trade and facilitate investment in new areas in the hopes of moving the economy away from an unsustainable export-dependent model.

Leong, attending the inauguration in Fujian, told media that the MSAR government would investigate and better understand the respective functions of the pilot zones, and hoped to soon implement cooperative policies following closer communication with the provinces.

"These free trade zones actually have their different functions positioned in the entire national development strategy. We need to consider very carefully what the effects will be when we combine them with Macau, and how to match them with the national strategies such as the 'Belt and Road Initiatives,'" he explained.

The secretary stressed that "Macau has its own uniqueness in the cooperation with each of those free trade zones, so the most important thing is to complement each of them with [comparative] advantages." Moreover, he recognized a need to improve Macau's laws and regulations in order to successfully merge into the development of the pilot zones

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, also revealed during the inauguration ceremony in Guangdong that Macau is planning to push for cooperation in a dispute settlement mechanism with Henqin.

As for cooperation with Fujian Province, Lionel Leong revealed that specific projects would cover the fields of finance, trade, tourism, and convention and exhibition. "For example, with regard to jointly developing the tourist attractions along the Maritime Silk Road, all of these have been put on our agenda. In fact, both sides happen to hold the same view, as many of the things we proposed have coincided with their plans," he said.

Macau's platform role for the Sino-Luso trade cooperation was also highlighted during a meeting between high-level members of the two territories yesterday. Both sides are expecting their to be able to take advantage of each other's platform to seek further development.

As Macau has pledged to bring more enterprises and investment to Fujian's new free trade zone, Fujian's Governor Su Shulin said the province would mobilize enterprises to encourage development in Macau and serve as a platform to strengthen Macau's relations with Taiwan. **BY**

GAMING
Citi
Research
sees
potential
improvement

Citi Research has reported that according to its industry sources, Macau's table GGR (Gross Gaming Revenue) for the first 19 days in April reached MOP11.5bn (or MOP12.1bn, if one includes an estimated MOP570m in slot-related revenue). The total daily GGR run rate over the past week equated to MOP690m/day, higher than the run rate over the first 12 days of April (MOP606m/day) and in line with March's run rate (MOP693m/day), said the research house. Citi maintained that its April GGR forecast is unchanged at MOP18bn (-43% y-o-y), but it sees potential improvement if the run rate continues at the current level.

Unregulated junket business blamed for gaming revenue plunge

Brook Yang

IT is not mainland China's anti-graft campaign that caused Macau's gaming revenue downturn. Instead, it is the risky operation model of Macau's VIP gambling rooms that depend on the unregulated junket industry, asserted scholar Zeng Zhonglu.

The Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) professor told the audience last Monday during a Rui Cunha Foundation seminar on Macau gaming law that the disappearance of Huang Shan — a major junket operator — last April has directly caused a decline in casino rooms' funds lent to gamblers, which in turn has led to a drop in gaming revenue.

"The capital Huang Shan swept away with him accounted for about ten percent of the junket operators' yearly rolling loan funds. The bigger impact of the incident is that it has shaken other investors' confidence," he said. "Its impact on Macau's junket industry is equivalent to the Lehman Brothers' bankrupt-



cy in the US's financial market."

The scholar explained that investments in VIP rooms are only made based on relationships of trust and do not result in mortgages being taken out over property. "Huang Shan's disappearance made such trusting relationships disappear; it has put a stop to easily accessible loan funding, especially for the small and medium sized VIP rooms," he indicated, adding that the number of junket operators declined year-on-year by 16 percent following the incident.

Professor Zeng further indicated that the business of VIP rooms is crucial to Macau's ga-

ming market, but their operation model has exposed the industry to risks, resulting in a bubble.

"VIP rooms' loose loaning policy has led to many bad debts, which are estimated to be as high as HKD100billion. Therefore, the casinos' profits are not only made through gamblers, but are also directly taken from the money of investors. The forming of Macau casinos' debts was at its peak in 2012; that was also the year when junket agents disappeared the most often," he said.

Over the years, the VIP rooms have received a large amount of investment from the mainland and overseas by offering investors fixed monthly dividends. Zeng revealed that mainland investors included Zhongshan's lighting company owners, Shanxi's coal bosses and Chongqing's triad societies.

However, such investments and their practice of lending to gamblers are lacking protection and supervision, thus hindering the gaming industry's sustainable development, suggested the

scholar.

"The VIP rooms' excessive and easy lending has also led to more problem-gamblers and pathological gamblers. It has caused great harm to both their home cities and Macau. In Macau, when a problem gambler has used up all of his available funds, he can still get more loans immediately. But no one can gamble forever, whether they're a millionaire or a billionaire," he stressed.

The scholar felt that the industry regulator should have taken measures long ago, such as banning lending to local citizens, encouraging more focus on the mass floor, and establishing a system to record credit shared between casino operators.

In response to the audience's questions on how the casinos can collect their debts in the mainland or overseas, the scholar stressed that, "what's more important is to strengthen the credit investigation on junket operators and their salesmen, as well as the borrowers. The key is to lend cautiously."

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MACAU-BORN
Rogério 'Roger' Lobo, a former Hong Kong lawmaker and one of the most esteemed members of the neighboring city's Macanese community, died of cancer at the age of 91 on Saturday.

Sir Roger Lobo was born in Macau in 1923 and moved to Hong Kong at the age of 23. Lobo's contributions to the public service resulted in him being granted a knighthood. He took part in Hong Kong's Executive Council, first as an acting member and later as a full member from 1967 to 1985. Lobo also served as a lawmaker, and became a senior member of the Legislative Council between 1980 and 1985.

Lobo's achievements also include a so-called 'Lobo motion', which paved the way for a full debate of the Sino-British negotiations before Britain and China reached a final agreement on Hong Kong's future.

"The acceptability of any proposed settlement lies in whether people believe that its terms will be respected and will endure," he said at the time, adding that, "faith cannot be created by others. Trust cannot be induced by the exercise of power. And no settlement

Macau-born Roger Lobo dies at 91



Roger Lobo

which fails to engender trust can possibly preserve our stability and prosperity."

Lawmakers passed the motion unanimously six months prior to the signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

Former Hong Kong governor David Wilson recalled that Lobo "had a profound love of Hong Kong and a deep commitment to public service, demonstrated by his member-

ship in the Executive Council, his service in the Legislative Council including very important position of senior member, and many other significant roles serving the community of Hong Kong."

Former senior Legco member Lydia Dunn added, "I am deeply saddened by the news of Sir Roger Lobo's death. We were colleagues in Legco where I saw first-hand the tireless

and selfless way he worked for Hong Kong (...)"

Lobo started working at a young age, trading products from shop to shop and always following up on customer satisfaction, according to a feature story published by Macau Magazine in 1992. He first arrived in the city to study, as his father believed that English would inevitably become a vital international language.

Strengthening ties and establishing long-lasting business connections, Lobo went on to head different companies and later created the Vision 2047 Foundation alongside business leaders and former civil servants, to increase knowledge about Hong Kong in the global context.

The Macanese man, who married Hong Kong Chinese wife Margaret Mary Choa, leaves behind five daughters and five sons. His son-in-law Kenneth Morrison told the South China Morning Post that Lobo was deeply committed to Hong Kong and its people.

BNU posts net profit of MOP443.3m

BNU announced its financial results for 2014. Besides increasing cash flow by 20.5 pct and net profit by 10.1 pct, the bank registered a 29.9 pct increase in credit granted to clients. The bank posted a net profit of MOP443.3 million, up 10.1% from MOP 402.6 million in 2013. According to a press release issued by BNU, loans to retailers and SMEs were the main drivers of growth. Customer deposits recorded a drop of 6.7 pct, mainly as a result of a drop in institutional deposits. On the other hand, deposits from the retail banking sector have grown by 12.2% and SME client deposits have increased by 46.9%. "In order to differentiate our bank from the competition, we maintain a sharp focus on the quality of the delivery of services. This must be absolutely impeccable. Our customers must feel valued and appreciated at all times," commented BNU's CEO Pedro Cardoso.

GGCT issues travel warning for S Africa

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has issued a travel warning for citizens heading to or currently visiting South Africa in light of recent violent attacks against migrants. GGCT said in a statement that it will keep monitoring the latest developments and reminds Macau residents intending to travel to South Africa to closely follow the situation and assess security risks.

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Central library expected to be completed by 2019

The city's new central library, which will undergo construction at the end of this year, is expected to be completed in 2019 revealed the vice president of the cultural department, Leung Hio Ming and the head of Central Library, Tang Mei Lin. The Cultural Affairs Bureau representatives also stressed that there is an acute manpower shortage for the new library and the Taipa library currently running on a trial basis. The latter still has one area unavailable to the public due to lack of staff. However, according to the authorities, the gaps in personnel will be filled within the year. The new library will take up the old courthouse and former venue of the Judiciary Police in Praia Grande.

Initial CEM report confirms causes of power outage

The Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE) has received a preliminary report into the citywide power failure that hit the city last week. The report confirmed that the incident was due to the breakdown of a 110-kilovolt gas-insulated switchgear, the malfunctioning of which also affected four other transformer substations, namely in the districts of Areia Preta, Dona Maria, São Paulo and Porto Exterior. The report also stated that the equipment manufacturer and a professional task force have already commenced a more in-depth inspection of the causes by conducting an inspection and analysis of the site. A more detailed report will be published within a month, the statement issued by the office reads.

Three local associations to hold protests on May 1

THREE local organizations intend to stage individual protests on the upcoming International Workers' Day (May 1) to express their dissatisfaction with the government's alleged indifference about the welfare of grassroots civil servants and the city's questionable educational regime, as well as to draw the public authorities' attention to the issues plaguing gaming workers.

Macao Youth Dynamics wants to raise society's awareness of the existing education system, which they claim as being the leading cause of Macau students' inability to think critically. Winkie Kuan, the head of the association, demanded a comprehensive review of the system before the controversial national education plan comes into official discussion. The association will also request that the educational bureau lay out specific arrangements for the joint examination of four



local tertiary education institutes on that day. Another association which hopes to mobilize grassroots public workers to join the demonstration in order to voice their demands for an optimized welfare scheme for employees on external rolling

contracts, which they believe are currently out-of-date and being neglected by the government authorities. The president of the New Gaming Employees Advance Association, Chan Chi Kin, hopes to use the May 1 protest to voice casino employees' concerns that croupier po-

sitions in casinos could exclusively be limited to locals. The association also wishes that the gaming operators strengthen the equipment inside the smoking rooms to prevent smoke seeping into other gaming areas before the full smoking ban comes into force. **Staff reporter**

AD

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Hong Kong rebound leads Asian stocks higher



A man walks near an electronic board showing the Hong Kong share index outside a local bank in Hong Kong

Kelvin Chan
Markets Writer, Hong Kong

HONG Kong led Asian stocks higher yesterday as investors shook off initial pessimism over new measures by China's market regulator.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 2.1 percent to 27,666.06 and the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China added 0.9 percent to 4,253.55. Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 1 percent to 19,837.80 while South Korea's Kospi was down 0.2 percent at 2,214.99. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 climbed 0.6 percent to 5,864.90,

HONG KONG BOUNCE: Hong Kong stocks have yo-yoed as investors continue to evaluate regulatory changes for stock investors as well as monetary loosening measures, both announced by Chinese authorities over the weekend. Mainland investors seeking attractively priced stocks have been piling into the Hong Kong market, which has underperformed compared with Shanghai over the past year. On Sunday the central bank slashed the required reserve ratio for banks by 1 percentage point to stimulate lending into a slowing economy. Separately, the country's stock regulator said Saturday that

new measures to tighten up on some margin financing and encourage short selling were intended to prevent the market's development and not meant as a crackdown.

MARKET VIEW: Chinese authorities are using the new measures, especially the reserve ratio cut, to "encourage a longer, steadier rally to take place and people are just reacting to that," said Andrew Sullivan of Haitong Securities. "It does everything that China wants: it takes pressure off the housing bubble, makes people feel better off and it takes money out of the shadow banking system and puts it into stock market." **AP**

China Resources surges after selling assets to focus on beer

Billy Chan and Daryl Loo

CHINA Resources Enterprise Ltd. rose the most in more than two decades after announcing it will sell businesses including its main money-losing retail venture with Tesco Plc, and focus on the world's best-selling beer.

The stock ended 56 percent higher at HKD23.70 by the close in Hong Kong, after resuming trading from an April 8 halt.

The company will sell its non-beer assets for HK\$28 billion (USD3.6 billion) and as much as a 10 percent stake to its state-owned parent, China Resources Enterprise said in a statement to the city's stock exchange. The parent will offer HK\$12.70 a share for the stake after the disposal, it added.

China Resources Enterprise's multi-business structure "can't reflect full value," Yan Biao, a representative of the parent China Resources Holdings, said at a briefing in Hong Kong yesterday. The disposal sets a clear direction for the listed company as "China retail growth to continue face challenges."

The deal leaves China Resources Enterprise with the brewery business, producer of the world's best-selling Snow Beer and which contributed a fifth of 2014 sales and most of the profit. The company has struggled to turn around the retail unit, which caused a full-year loss as China's economy slowed and the government's anti-graft measures hurt retail sales.

China Resources Enterprises' Snow Beer brand had 23 percent of market share in China in 2013, compared with Tsingtao Brewery Co.'s 17 percent in second place, citing its own data in a presentation yesterday.

The disposal "turns the company



A worker inspects bottles of Snow Beer at a production line at the China Resources Snow Breweries in Tianjin, China

from loss-making into profit-making immediately," UOB-Kay Hian Holdings Ltd. analyst Renee Tai said, adding beer is China Resources Enterprise's crown jewel due to its "solid market share".

The retail arm, which includes hypermarkets, supermarkets and convenience stores, reported an underlying loss of HK\$1.4 billion in 2014, compared with the beer unit's HK\$761 million in profit. The sale turns China Resources Enterprise "into a beer-focused business that owns the best-selling beer brand in the world since 2008 by sales volume, unburdened from the previous conglomerate structure," it said.

The company partnered with SABMiller Plc to brew Snow Beer in 1994, and that brand became the world's biggest by volume when it overtook Bud Light in 2008, according to London-based SABMiller's website.

China Resources Enterprise operates 98 beer-making factories, able to produce 200 million hectoliters (5.3 billion gallons) a year, Chief Financial officer Frank Lai said in Hong Kong. The beer unit is set to penetrate further into China's third and fourth tier cities, according to the company.

Bloomberg

corporate bits

RESULTS OF CEM ENERGIZING TOUR FIRST QUARTER LUCKY DRAW REVEALED



CEM's Energizing Tour was first launched in 2009, and since then has attracted more than 24,000 citizens to visit Coloane Power Station. Tours include a visit to CEM's Exhibition Room featuring a display of electrical appliances over 50 years old, old equipment from CEM operational departments, information about the Company's milestones and generation process; also site

visit to major generation infrastructures and control rooms.

To encourage visitors to provide feedback on the Tour, a lucky draw was launched, with an electrical appliances cash coupon of MOP2,000 to be offered to one lucky winner every quarter. Also every quarter, one MOP300 supermarket cash coupon will be offered to the visitor who gives the best comment for improvement.

The winner of the MOP2,000 cash coupon is Ng Man Hin. Winner of the 'Best Comment' is Albert Lee, while the three winners of the Facebook energyquiz each receiving a MOP300 supermarket cash coupon are 'Chingco Tong', 'Laputalal Laputalal La' and 'Heidi Lei'.

MGM SHOWCASES THE CULINARY DELIGHTS OF CHEF MICKY MA



MGM Macau is showcasing the culinary delights of its pastry sous-chef Micky Ma, who recently represented the Chinese National Team at the bi-annual La Coupe du Monde de la Patisserie 2015 in France, widely renowned as the Olympics of the culinary world.

Fresh from his experiences in France, Chef Micky Ma has created a new pastry for the dessert menus at MGM. Taking inspiration from the Joana Vasconcelos exhibition, Chef Ma's Valkyrie-themed pastry is an abstract blend of rainbow hues and unique marble lines. Made of layers of rich hazelnut crème and crisps, the pastry is also coated with a yogurt glaze.

Chef Micky Ma states, "Pastry and art go hand-in-hand and we were inspired at MGM Macau to create a pastry that echoed Joana Vasconcelos' incredible Valkyrie Octopus. We wanted to create a pastry that had texture and depth and was glazed in such a way that each was slightly different from the next."

GEG ORGANIZES MOVIE SCREENING FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETES



Galaxy Entertainment Group ("GEG") has sponsored the "Macau Special Olympics Golf Masters Tournament" for the 4th consecutive year. GEG organized a movie screening at UA

Galaxy Cinemas for nearly a hundred Special Olympic athletes from 16 countries, to help them better prepare themselves for the upcoming Macau tour of the competition.

THE Portugal Economy Probe website, which provides information on the Portuguese economy, has a Mandarin version, revealed the site's main coordinator, Miguel Athayde Marques.

The Orient Museum in Lisbon yesterday launched the Chinese version of the website at ceremony attended by Vice-Prime Minister Paulo Portas, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Portugal, Huang Songfu, and businesspeople, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

A number of institutions in-

Site about Portuguese economy launches Mandarin version



involved in civil society about two years ago launched the Portugal Economy Probe website, which promotes Portugal's image abroad in terms of its economic reality, a project led by the former president of Euronext Lisbon, Miguel Athayde Marques.

Portugal Economy Probe

(<http://www.peprobe.com>) was designed for economic and political decision-makers and aims to "provide a service to the country in terms of its ability" to convey the reality of the Portuguese economy, noted Miguel Athayde Marques.

MDT/Macauhub

Angola wants greater cooperation from China

CHINA and Angola have maintained good cooperation in many areas but there is still much to be done together, said Monday in Jakarta the Angolan Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"China has been participating in the infrastructure building programme in Angola ... but we still need many more roads and airports, and from what I understand this is an area

where we can cooperate more," Georges Chikoti told Chinese state news agency Xinhua on the sidelines of the Asia/Africa ministerial meeting to be held on 22 and 23 April.

Chikoti stressed that Angola and China would cooperate more in energy, agriculture, trade and the development of industrial capacity, "and the two side will continue to identify projects that

can be carried out."

In Beijing, delegations from both countries analyzed the bilateral relationship during an audience granted by the Chinese deputy prime minister, Wang Yang, to the Angolan delegation led by the Minister of State and Chief of Staff, Edeltrudes Costa.

The meeting was preceded on Sunday by the first session of the Steering

Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation between Angola and the People's Republic of China, according to a statement from the Angolan embassy in China, cited by Angolan news agency Angop.

At the meeting, the Angolan delegation restated the need to consolidate the strategic partnership with China, to meet the targets set in the Angolan



Georges Chikoti

National Development Plan for 2013-2017.

Trade between Angola and China in 2014 totaled USD37.07 billion (+3.23 percent), which

resulted from Angolan sales of US\$31.09 billion (-2.67 percent) and Chinese sales of US\$5.97 billion (+50.73 percent).

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Xi picks Pakistan dam as first stop on USD40b Silk Road

Ting Shi and Natalie Obiko Pearson

CHINA picked a dam project in northern Pakistan for its first investment by a USD40 billion Silk Road infrastructure fund as President Xi Jinping looks to expand the country's influence across three continents.

The fund will become a shareholder of China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd., which will construct the Karot dam on the Jhelum river, according to a statement on the Chinese Foreign Ministry's website yesterday. The total investment will be USD1.65 billion, according to the People's Bank of China.

"We don't subscribe to the view that a country expands hegemony when it becomes powerful," Xi told Pakistani lawmakers yesterday. "Peaceful development is in China's interest and also in the interest of Asia and the world."

Xi's visit is the first by a Chinese head of state in almost a decade to Pakistan, a nation that's key to his efforts to access



Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives with his wife Peng Liyuan at Nur Khan airport in Islamabad

the Indian Ocean over land and boost trade with Europe, Africa and the Middle East. China is Pakistan's top trading partner, and they have a mutual distrust of India.

The two nations are planning \$45 billion in projects along a 3,000-kilometer corridor stretching from Xinjiang in western China to Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. The investments - \$28 billion of which were announced this week - would boost Pakistan's economic growth and provide another route for China to import oil from the Middle East.

The Karot dam will be located in Rawalpindi near the capital Islamabad. It's a "great match" between the development strategies of the two nations and a priority project in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, China's central bank said in its statement.

The 720-megawatt run-of-river dam would take about six years to build, according to project disclosure documents filed by the World Bank's International Finance Corp., which is investing \$125 million in China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd. The project would generate 75 percent of its energy during the summer months when water flow in the Jhelum river is at its highest, the documents show. **Bloomberg**

US business group urges more transparency, access

THE American Chamber of Commerce in China called yesterday for more government transparency and fairness as the confidence of U.S. companies in the country's investment climate deteriorates.

The chamber said in its annual white paper that its members wanted to see the government apply the rule of law and more fairly enforce business regulations. The report also called for better enforcement of intellectual property rights and greater access to the Chinese economy for foreign companies.

Over the past year, foreign companies operating in China have faced challenges ranging from anti-monopoly investigations to proposed rules requiring foreign tech companies to hand over proprietary software source codes.

Chamber Vice Chairman Lester Ross said a more open decision-making process could have helped the government avoid a backlash against the proposed rules, which also required banks to replace foreign-made technology with domestically-produced versions. The



Chinese men pass by a statue of a bull promoting a financial services company in Beijing

government suspended the requirement last week.

"If there had been greater transparency all along, the situation wouldn't have reached the point that it did," Ross said.

Among its recommendations, the white paper suggested the Chinese government make public internal guidelines governing the administration of companies and judicial decisions. The paper also advocated for an investment treaty between China and the U.S. that it said would open up market access in both countries.

In a chamber survey released in February, 29 percent of members surveyed said

the investment climate was deteriorating, compared with 18 percent the year before. Nearly two-thirds of members also said rule-making in China was not transparent, clear or consistent.

Still, chamber President James Zimmerman said yesterday he didn't see a general trend for more opaque decision-making.

"It's always two steps forward, one step back," Zimmerman said. "It's nothing really new. We're pleasantly surprised when there is transparency."

Some 3,800 individuals from more than 1,000 companies operating in China belong to the chamber. **AP**

Central, western regions have worst air pollution, Greenpeace says

CHINA'S central and western regions had the worst air pollution in the nation during the first quarter, according to Greenpeace East Asia.

Henan, Hubei, Hunan and Sichuan were among the 10 worst-polluted provinces in the three months ended March 31, Greenpeace said in an e-mailed statement.

The provinces are areas of the country where local governments have yet to enact stricter pollution controls.

The findings are based on the environmental organization's analysis of air quality data from 360 Chinese cities during the period. Henan and Hubei have surpassed even Hebei, which is "notorious" for its pollution, according to Greenpeace.

Fighting pollution has taken center stage as Chinese politicians confront the task of starting to clean up the smog enveloping the nation's biggest cities. President Xi Jinping has pledged an "iron hand" to protect the environment.

The government's pollution control has improved air quality modestly in certain cities such as Beijing and along the coast, Greenpeace said.



The improvements are "the only silver lining in a situation where 90 percent of cities still record levels of pollution that far exceed China's own air quality standards," said Zhang Kai, climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace East Asia.

Beijing was China's fourth-most polluted city in the first quarter, though the concentration of PM2.5 - fine particulates that pose the greatest risk to human health - improved more than 13 percent from a year ago, according to Greenpeace.

Average PM2.5 levels in the cities under study reached 66 micrograms per cubic meter, almost double the national standard of 35, it said. **Bloomberg**

Jack Chang, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Defiant residents resist mainland's embrace

ALL around Chow Tak-ye's neighborhood in the working-class edges of Hong Kong, the 26-year-old can feel the spreading influence of nearby mainland China on the prosperous, open-minded city she's always called home.

The children of mainland families now fill her neighborhood's best schools, and she's had to search for three months to find a classroom spot for her young son. Chow, who works as an accountant, and her electrician husband have to live at her in-laws' cramped apartment, as a red-hot housing market flooded with Chinese investment prices out many young buyers. Sometimes, she can't even find household goods in nearby stores, because Chinese traders buy them all up to sell at a mark-up in the adjacent mainland city of Shenzhen.

For Chow and many in this 7.2-million-person city, it all adds up to the feeling that Hong Kong is being forever changed by the 1.4-billion-strong country just a few miles to the north, where many feel life is cheaper and people are less educated.

"They're interfering with the rules of Hong Kong society," Chow said as her son played by her side during a visit to her childhood home, a two-bedroom apartment in a public housing estate.

Eighteen years after this world financial hub returned from colonial British control to Chinese rule, many say they feel more alienated and less trusting than ever of the central Chinese government and even the people visiting from across the border. That has presented leaders in Beijing with one of their biggest political headaches as they try to project a more unified, confident image abroad.

The complaints range from the small to the sweeping, from the perceived rudeness of Chinese tourists to fears that leaders in Beijing are sabotaging the freedoms and rule of law that have long distinguished Hong Kong from the rest of China. The resentment grew when Beijing issued a policy paper last year making clear the central government's power to decide the city's affairs, and when it endorsed a hard-line approach to pro-democracy activists who blocked streets in Occupy Central protests seeking electoral reforms.

Recently, scuffles have broken out along the northern border during protests over the influx of mainland shoppers, and Hong Kong continues to see the with anti-mainland tension as the city's government plans to unveil its Beijing-approved electoral reform package as early as Wednesday.

Failure to win the hearts and minds of sophisticated, cosmo-

AP PHOTO



A trader packs goods near a currency exchange shop before taking them to the mainland China, at Sheung Shui district in Hong Kong

■ **Eighteen years after HK returned from colonial British control to Chinese rule, many say they feel more alienated and less trusting than ever of the central government**

politan Hong Kong bodes ill for Beijing's plans to peacefully reunify with the self-governing island of Taiwan as well as quell divisions at home, said Mark Clifford, head of the Asia Business Council and the former editor-in-chief of the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

"There was a perception that Hong Kong would be more like the mainland," Clifford said. "There was a perception that the two places would merge. But after 150 years of British

rule, the interesting development is Hong Kong's own sense of identity.

"The policy of the Chinese government and the Hong Kong government of trying to force more integration, integration on every level, but especially economic, has created a backlash among ordinary Hong Kong people."

Warehouse supervisor Ronald Leung, 39, said he had long been apolitical about his home city until he saw firsthand the swarms of traders and outgoing cargo near the Chinese border.

Called "parallel trading" because it happens in a gray area alongside legal trade, such commerce has become an especially visible target of Hong Kongers' anger. Chinese visitors cross into the city, which has no sales tax and a reputation for authentic goods, to buy up baby formula, smartphones, luxury goods, diapers and medicine and then resell them at a profit in the mainland, warping the local economy and causing shortages.

Leung helped form the North District Parallel Imports Concern Group, one of several organizations that have staged rowdy protests targeting mainland shoppers.

Leung said seeing the stifling education system on the main-

land during his travels there is another issue that "makes me think about my life" and appreciate Hong Kong.

"If Hong Kong students get this kind of brainwashing, it's harmful for Hong Kong's future," Leung said in a mall in the city's Kowloon Bay neighborhood.

When Chinese President Jiang Zemin welcomed the city back to the motherland in 1997, some observers in the West hoped China might absorb some of Hong Kong's liberal democratic traditions.

Chinese officials granted Hong Kong political and personal freedoms and its own governing system, with the idea of slowly assimilating this Western-influenced society into the more repressive, state-controlled mainland over 50 years, after which the territory would officially lose its special status.

Much of the integration is already underway on the ground. After Chinese officials loosened visa requirements for repeat mainland visitors in 2009, the number of Chinese traveling to Hong Kong jumped from nearly 18 million a year to nearly 50 million last year. Hong Kong's stock exchange also linked up with Shanghai's last year, unleashing mainland investment that has driven

Hong Kong share prices to record levels.

More people from the mainland speaking Mandarin Chinese, as opposed to the native Cantonese, fill the classrooms of not just elementary schools but of Hong Kong's most prestigious universities, many getting their first taste of freedoms prohibited on the mainland.

After Elaine Wang came to study journalism at Hong Kong University in the middle of last year's street protests, she discovered to her surprise that text messages sent to friends back in China about the demonstrations were being censored. Still, although she said she understood the protesters' grievances, in the end, she didn't think Hong Kongers would be able to resist the mainland's enormous economic and political influence.

"Hong Kong people will just have to figure out a way to work together with the government instead of fighting it," she said.

Many older residents in Hong Kong also have come out against pro-democracy protesters, saying young residents should focus instead on working to build a middle-class life.

Li Yim-miu, a 54-year-old housewife who led a recent rally supporting the mainland shoppers, said she didn't blame them for buying safer, better-quality goods for children back home. She also said Hong Kongers should be praising the mainland government instead.

"Look at the Chinese government, don't they do a good job?" she asked. "So why would you criticize them? ... You can use reason in your criticism. You can't use chaos."

Lawyer Jason Ng, who has written two books about his home city, said the tensions come down to the widespread fear among the city's young that they won't be able to buy a home and build a future. Prices for even the cheapest apartments can run about HKD1,250 a square foot, pricing a 600-square-foot apartment at \$750,000. Hong Kong's average monthly salary comes in below \$2,000.

With such a bleak outlook, fewer people can accept the other end of Beijing's bargain, of giving up self-determination and freedoms, Ng said. Already, Hong Kong has seen press freedoms shrivel in face of economic and political pressure, with the city's press falling from 18th freest in the world in 2002 to 70th this year in an annual measure by the advocacy group Reporters Without Borders.

"If 80 percent of people are well provided for, and if 20 percent want to do Occupy Central, it would only be a very small minority of people and it wouldn't gather as much momentum," Ng said. "But it's the opposite here. Eighty percent of people are upset because 20 percent control all the wealth." AP

NEW ZEALAND

AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd pleads guilty to threatening to kill

Nick Perry, Tauranga

AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd pleaded guilty in a New Zealand court yesterday to a charge of threatening to kill a man who used to work for him. He also pleaded guilty to possessing methamphetamine and marijuana.

Rudd faces up to seven years in prison on the threatening to kill charge, although his lawyer Craig Tuck said the prosecution case boils down to an angry phone call, and he is seeking a remedy that would involve no legal consequences for Rudd.

Rudd acknowledged in a court summary of facts that he'd offered large amounts of cash, vehicles and a house to an associate after asking him to have the victim "taken out" and that he'd also directly said to the victim he was going to kill him.

The 60-year-old drummer was released on bail pending a June sentencing hearing.

Rudd arrived at the Tauranga court house in a sports car wearing sunglasses and a red tie, and didn't say anything during his brief appearance other than to enter his guilty pleas.

It's unclear whether Rudd has a future with the Australian rock band he's been part of on-and-off for almost four decades. The band intends to use Welsh drummer Chris Slade for its upcoming "Rock or Bust" album tour but hasn't said if that's a long-term arrangement.

By agreeing with prosecutors to enter the guilty pleas, Rudd avoided the need for a trial which was due to begin yesterday. Prosecutors agreed to drop a second charge of threatening to kill. Earlier, citing a lack of evidence, prosecutors had dropped a murder-

for-hire charge.

According to the court summary, the dispute began in August on the night that Rudd released his solo album, "Head Job."

Rudd threw a party at his marina restaurant, Phil's Place, to celebrate the launch. He was the toast of the town that night, and even the mayor of Tauranga attended. But as the night progressed, Rudd became concerned that security wasn't tight enough.

"The defendant was angry that the album launch did not go well," the court summary said. "As a result he sacked a number of people from his employment and professional team. This included, among other people, the victim who he was particularly angry with."

About four weeks later, Rudd called an associate, who was on vacation in Australia. Rudd told



AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd stands in the dock at a court in Tauranga

the man he wanted the victim "taken out," according to the court summary. When asked to clarify, Rudd said he wanted the victim "taken care of."

In another call, according to the court summary, Rudd offered the associate "\$200,000, a motorbike, one of his cars or a house," which the associate took to mean as payment "for carrying out his earlier request."

Two hundred thousand New Zealand dollars is equivalent to about USD153,000 U.S. dollars.


The morning after calling his associate, Rudd called the vic-

tim directly, saying "I'm going to come over and kill you," according to the court summary. He tried to call the victim again a couple of times after that but the man didn't pick up.

Rudd's defense appeared to be making the argument that only Rudd's call to the victim remained relevant because prosecutors had dropped the murder-for-hire charge.

"What we can see now was that this matter was just essentially an angry phone call," Tuck said after the hearing. "They turned up at his home, nine police officers, a dog, media..." AP

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Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Prime minister offers to resign amid scandal

SOUTH Korea's prime minister has offered to resign amid a bribery scandal just two months after he took up the country's No. 2 post, officials said yesterday, in the latest political crisis to hit President Park Geun-hye.

Lee Wan Koo has been at the center of a corruption scandal that flared after a businessman killed himself earlier this month, leaving a memo listing the names of eight high-profile figures he claimed to have bribed. Most of the eight men, including Lee, are considered as close associates of Park.

Businessman Sung Wan-jong told a local daily before his death he gave 30 million won (USD27,390) to Lee in 2013.

Lee has denied the allegation but he has seen growing calls to resign after South Korea's media have reported alleged evidence that indicates his ties with Sung. Lee's office said yesterday he conveyed his resignation offer Monday to President Park, who was in Peru on a four-nation trip.

Park described Lee's resignation offer as "very regrettable" and said she "felt the prime minister's agony," according to a statement posted on the website of the presidential Blue House.



South Korean Prime Minister Lee Wan Koo arrives at the government complex in Seoul

Park also called for a thorough investigation into the scandal, the statement said.

Chun Hye-ran, a presidential spokeswoman in Seoul, said she has not been informed whether

Park would accept the resignation offer.

The latest scandal comes as

Park struggles to deal with criticism over her government's handling of last year's ferry disaster that killed more than 300 people. Violence broke out at a Seoul rally Saturday led by relatives of the ferry victims and their supporters, leaving dozens of people injured. Park has also faced criticism over what analysts say is her poor communication with the public and lack of transparency on personnel appointments. Some of her previous prime minister and Cabinet member picks have had to withdraw from the nomination process after allegations about their ethical lapses and problematic past behavior emerged.

Lee's alleged involvement in the scandal came as a surprise as he announced a government plan in March to fight corruption in what critics say was an attempt to target associates of former President Lee Myung-bak, Park's immediate predecessor and chief rival.

Sung, who was investigated after Lee's anti-corruption campaign announcement, had complained about being betrayed by Lee and victimized, according to South Korean media.

South Korea's executive power is concentrated in the president but the prime minister leads the country if the president becomes incapacitated. **AP**

JAPAN

Abe sends offerings to controversial war shrine ahead of Xi meeting

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent religious offerings yesterday to a Tokyo shrine that honors convicted World War II leaders among its war dead, a likely signal that he won't pray there ahead of trips to an international conference and the United States.

Previous visits and offerings to the controversial Yasukuni shrine have drawn sharp rebukes from China and South Korea. Abe's last visit to Yasukuni, in December 2013, also drew criticism from Washington.

The shrine said Abe sent "masakaki" offerings, with a name card showing his name and official title. He sent similar offerings marking last year's spring and fall festivals at the shrine, which honors war criminals including wartime leader Hideki Tojo, among the 2.5 million war dead.

Abe's move comes at a



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

sensitive time as he has expressed hopes of meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping during the today-Thursdays Asia-African conference in Indonesia, where both will be among more than 100 leaders taking part. The spring festival at the shine will

end before he gets back.

He will also speak to a joint meeting of Congress, where he is expected to touch on Japan's wartime history as part of Japan-U.S. relations since.

Anything Abe says this year on history will be

closely watched as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the World War II.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Abe made the gesture as a private citizen based on his personal belief, and paid for the offerings himself. He said Abe's offerings did not represent the government's position as a whole, and brushed off concerns about any diplomatic impact.

Suga also said he still hoped Abe and Xi could meet in an informal setting on the sidelines of the conference in Indonesia, although nothing has been set.

"Because they will be attending the same conference, it would be meaningful if they can meet in a natural way," Suga told a regular news conference.

As victims of Japan's wartime aggression, neighboring countries see the shrine as a symbol of Japanese militarism. They also see visits by Ja-

panese political leaders as a sign of Japan's lack of remorse over its atrocities.

Soured relations following Abe's 2013 Yasukuni visit had kept Abe and Xi from holding talks until November, when they met during the Asia-Pacific economic conference.

MAGLEV TRAIN BREAKS OWN SPEED RECORD AT 603 KPH

A JAPANESE maglev that is the fastest passenger train in the world has broken its own speed record. Operator JR Central said the train reached 603 kilometers per hour in a test run yesterday, surpassing its previous record of 581 kph set in 2003. The train traveled for 1.8 kilometers at a speed exceeding 600 kph. Japan's high-speed rail services are among the most advanced in the world, with hundreds of trains running each day with

There have been signs of a thaw in Japan-China relations since, but Abe still has not held bilateral talks with South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

Relations between Tokyo and Beijing have also been compounded by territorial disputes over a group of Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea that are also claimed by China.

Japan's health minister, Yasuhisa Shiozaki, also sent offerings to the shrine yesterday. Dozens of lawmakers are expected to pray at the shrine today. **AP**

minimal delays. However, unlike regular shinkansen or "bullet trains" that run on steel rails, magnetic levitation trains hover above rails, suspended by powerful magnets. The Maglev Test Line, near Mount Fuji about 80 kilometers west of Tokyo, is developing technology for use on a future 410-kilometer link that will reduce travel time between Tokyo and Osaka to just over an hour. The current minimum by bullet train is nearly three hours.

EGYPT

Court sentences ousted president Morsi to 20 years in prison

Maggie Michael, Cairo

AN Egyptian criminal court yesterday sentenced ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi to 20 years in prison on charges linked to the killing of protesters in 2012, the first verdict to be issued against the country's first freely elected leader.

The conviction, which can be appealed, and muted Islamist reaction following it underscore the dramatic downfall of Morsi and Egypt's once-powerful Muslim Brotherhood group. However, Morsi escaped receiving a death sentence in the case, which Islamists derided as a "farce."

Morsi and the Brotherhood swiftly rose to power in elections after autocrat Hosni Mubarak's 2011 ouster, only to find themselves imprisoned a year later when millions protested against them for abusing power and the military overthrew the government.

But as Mubarak and members of his government increas-



Egypt's ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi sits in a soundproof glass cage inside a makeshift courtroom at Egypt's national police academy in Cairo

gly find themselves acquitted of criminal charges, Morsi and the Brotherhood are at the receiving end of heavy-handed sentences.

Yesterday's verdict sparked no immediate street protests, reflecting the toll of a heavy security crackdown on any show of dissent — either by Islamists or secular-leaning activists.

During the hearing, Judge Ahmed Youssef issued his verdict as Morsi and other defendants in the case — mostly Brotherhood leaders — stood in a soundproof glass cage inside a makeshift courtroom at Egypt's national police academy. Seven of the accused were tried in absentia.

In addition to Morsi, 12 Brotherhood leaders and Islamist supporters, including Mohamed el-Beltagy and Essam el-Erian, also were sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Youssef dropped murder charges involved in the case and said the sentences were linked to the "show of force" and unlawful detention asso-

ciated with the case.

The case stems from violence outside the presidential palace in December 2012. Morsi's supporters attacked opposition protesters demanding that Morsi call off a referendum on an Islamist-drafted constitution. Clashes developed into deadly confrontations overnight that killed at least 10 people.

In a statement, Amnesty International called the case flawed and full of loopholes, while describing the trial as "sham."

"Convicting Mohammed Morsi, despite fundamental flaws in the legal process and what seems to be at best flimsy evidence produced in court under a gag order, utterly undermines this verdict," said Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui, Amnesty's deputy Middle East and North Africa director.

Morsi's questioning took place without his lawyers present during his detention in an undisclosed location for four months following his ouster in July 2013.

Amnesty said Morsi's legal team was only able to access case files days before the trial began. It also documented irregularities, such as where abuses of his supporters — not his opponents — were the only evidence documented. The court also ignored what Amnesty said were deaths among Morsi's supporters during the same protests. **AP**

SOUTH AFRICA

Hundreds leave after anti-immigrant violence

Christopher Torchia, Johannesburg

WORRIED about their safety, hundreds of African immigrants headed out of South Africa in buses on Monday following deadly attacks on foreign-owned shops.

South Africa's anti-immigrant attacks, in which seven people have been killed this month, have angered many across the continent. South African diplomats in at least two other African countries reported threats of reprisal attacks because of the violence at home.

The outbreak of violence in South Africa against immigrants has tarnished the reputation of a country that has one of the biggest economies on the continent and has been a destination for people seeking opportunity and an escape from turbulence elsewhere in Africa. South Africa was also dubbed the "rainbow

nation" for its relatively peaceful transition to democracy after the end of white racist rule in 1994.

Now the government is struggling to contain negative fallout from attacks on immigrants in some areas of Durban and Johannesburg that killed seven people since the end of March. Activists in some African countries organized protests and called for a boycott of South African goods, as South Africa is a powerful trading partner in the region.

Kenmare Resources, a Dublin-based company, said it temporarily repatriated its 62 South African workers at a titanium mine in Mozambique after "reciprocal unrest" there that stemmed from the South African violence. The mine's total workforce is nearly 1,400.

The South African government should be "less reactive and more proactive" in dealing with tensions over immigrants and

the country should "be a bit more humble" about its aspirations as a continental leader, said Prof. Chris Landsberg, an African diplomacy and foreign policy expert at the University of Johannesburg.

"We are in denial," Landsberg said.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, an influential figure among the Zulu ethnic group in South Africa, condemned the attacks in a speech Monday at a Durban sports stadium. His remarks followed allegations that he provoked some violence with reported comments in which he said foreigners should go home.

President Jacob Zuma postponed a ceremony, scheduled for next week, in which the country's highest official honor is bestowed on South Africans and foreigners who have contributed to South Africa, his office said. The event will be postponed so South Africa can mourn the victims of the



Foreign nationals queue for food at a temporary refugee camp, east of Johannesburg

anti-immigrant violence, including three South Africans and four foreigners, it said.

In Malawi, Information Minister Kondwani Nankhumwa said six buses carrying 390 Malawians from Durban were heading to Malawi and five more buses carrying Malawians were expected to leave the city yesterday. About 3,200 Malawians sought refuge

in temporary camps, he said.

Those killed in anti-immigrant unrest included two Malawians, according to Malawi's government.

About 400 Zimbabweans were also heading home from South Africa, said Isaac Moyo, Zimbabwe's ambassador to South Africa. They traveled in six buses and a truck, Moyo said, according

to Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper.

Louis Lulu Mnguni, South Africa's top diplomat in Nigeria, said his Lagos mission has warned South African citizens in Nigeria "to exercise vigilance and limit their movements" following threats of reprisal attacks.

Similarly, security was increased at the South African High Commission in Accra, Ghana after telephoned threats, said Lulama Xingwana, the high commissioner.

The attacks in South Africa stem from a perception that immigrants, many from other African countries, are taking jobs at the expense of South Africans in a country with high unemployment. Many people have entered South Africa illegally, though the government has said a large number of immigrants are working legally and contributing to economic development. **AP**

Trisha Thomas and Nicole Winfield,
Catania

MIGRATION

Prosecutors build case against traffickers as EU mulls plan

ITALIAN prosecutors yesterday began building their case against the traffickers responsible for the drowning of as many as 950 migrants in the Mediterranean, as European Union leaders mulled a new plan to undermine smugglers' finances and their most precious assets — their vessels.

Overnight yesterday, prosecutors boarded the rescue ship that brought the 27 survivors of the weekend disaster to Sicily and arrested the Tunisian captain and a Syrian crew member of the smuggler ship that capsized. They are accused of favoring illegal immigration and the captain was also accused of reckless homicide and causing a shipwreck.

Catania prosecutors said the capsizing was due to two factors: The smuggler captain, Mohammed Ali Malek, 27, by mistake rammed his boat into the Portuguese-flagged cargo ship that had come to its rescue. In addition, the migrants themselves then moved around on the overcrowded boat, which was already unbalanced from the collision, making it capsize.

The survivors were brought yesterday to a migrant holding center in Catania and were "very



Survivors of the boat that overturned off the coasts of Libya Saturday, disembark from Italian Coast Guard ship Bruno Gregoretti, at Catania Harbor, Italy

tired, very shocked, silent," according to Flavio Di Giacomo of the International Organization for Migration.

Yesterday, Catania prosecutor Giovanni Salvi's office stressed that none of the crew aboard the Portuguese-flagged King Jacob is under investigation in the disaster, that the crew members did their job in coming to the rescue of a ship in distress and that their activities "in no way contributed

to the deadly event."

The coast guard, meanwhile, reported that it saved some 638 migrants in six different rescue operations on Monday alone. Yesterday, a further 446 people were rescued from a leaking migrant ship about 130 kilometers south of the Calabrian coast.

The weekend deaths have jolted the European Union into taking action, with Italy demanding that it not be left alone to shoulder

the burden of rescues and that the EU focus on preventing the boats from leaving Libya in the first place.

Ahead of an emergency EU summit tomorrow, EU foreign and interior ministers approved a 10-point plan at a meeting in Luxembourg that calls for the beefing-up and expansion of the current EU border patrol mission, and embarking on a "systematic effort to capture and destroy" smuggler boats.

The smugglers use a variety of boats for their crossings, from rubber Zodiac-type boats to wooden fishing vessels and even old cargo ships. They are always overcrowded to maximize the revenue of the smugglers, who charge between 1,000 and 1,500 euros (dollars) for the crossing from Libya, where most trafficking operations originate.

The EU plan calls for closer law-enforcement coordination to trace smugglers' revenue sources, which prosecutors have

said often evade traditional bank transfers in favor of informal Arab hawala networks, in which migrants' relatives in Europe pay local brokers for each leg of the journey.

Italy had launched a robust and expensive search-and-rescue mission in 2013 after some 366 migrants drowned off the island of Lampedusa. The politically unpopular Mare Nostrum operation ended last year, and the EU's Frontex border patrol mission took charge. But its limited mandate and resources have prevented it from being effective in saving lives.

The EU plan also calls for member states to ensure all migrants are fingerprinted. As it is, many migrants merely pass through Italy without being fingerprinted or applying for asylum here, preferring instead to pay smugglers to get them to northern Europe where they apply for asylum and have better job opportunities. **AP**

AD



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what's ON



YUEJU OPERA

TIME: 7:30pm

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Kam Pek Community Centre,

No. 483, Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

LANGUAGE: Cantonese

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 3000

CHINESE OPERA – GUANGZHOU RED BEAN

CANTONESE OPERA TROUPE

TIME: 7:45pm

ADMISSION: MOP60, MOP100, MOP150,

MOP200, MOP280

VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre

LANGUAGE: Cantonese

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2878 7701

FLORES DA PRIMAVERA ~ INK, OIL AND PASTEL

PAINTINGS BY MARCO SZETO

TIME: 10am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 30, 2015

VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store and art

gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A,

Edifício San Chak, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

THIS IS WHERE I WILL ALWAYS BE

- WORKS BY NUNO SANTIAGO

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery/ Avenida do Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida, 95

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

TEA CULTURE HOUSE

TIME: 9am-7pm daily

(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House,

Lou Lim Ioc Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

THE PAST – MASTERS OF MACAU:

AN EXHIBITION OF POETRY, CALLIGRAPHY,

PAINTING AND SEAL-CARVING 2015

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: July 19, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

EGYPT COURT SENTENCES BELLY
DANCER FOR 'INSULTING' FLAG

Egyptian court has sentenced a popular Armenian belly dancer to six months in prison for "insulting the Egyptian flag" after she allegedly wore a tight dress in its red, white and black color scheme.

The court in Agouza, west of Cairo, said this week that Sofinar Gourian, known popularly as "Safinaz," was fined 15,000 pounds (almost USD2,000) and paid another 10,000 pounds bail pending appeal. The case had been initiated by a private complaint.

Insulting the flag was made illegal by decree under Egyptian President Adly Mansour who ruled for a year after the army overthrew an elected but divisive Islamist president in 2013.

Gourian, who lives in Egypt, had argued that she did not insult the flag intentionally and as a foreigner was less aware of Egyptian laws.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:20	Non-Daily Port. News
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Behind The Balacavas
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Documentary Serie

cinema

CINETEATRO

16 APR - 22 APR



FAST AND FURIOUS 7_

ROOM 1

(2D) 2:15, 4.45, 9.45 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: James Wan

Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min



CHILD 44_

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Daniel Espinosa

Starring: Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min



THE WATER DIVINER_

ROOM 3

2.00, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Russell Crowe

Starring: Jai Courtney, Russell Crowe, Olga Kurylenko

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min

MACAU TOWER

09 APR - 22 APR

FURIOUS 7_

ROOM 3

2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: James Wan

Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min

this day in history



1971 HAITIAN DICTATOR DIES

Haiti's ruler, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, has died after 14 years in power.

President Duvalier, who declared himself "president for life" in 1964, died at the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince.

He is believed to have been seriously ill for some time - his ailments included prostate cancer, heart trouble and diabetes.

During his time as Haiti's absolute ruler Mr Duvalier, 64, survived at least six assassination attempts.

A doctor by profession, Francois Duvalier was elected as president in 1956.

He then set about consolidating his power by means of force and playing on the superstitious nature of many Haitians.

He destroyed the power of the Roman Catholic Church by expelling its archbishop in 1969 and encouraging the pagan cult of voodoo.

His safety was ensured by his personal militia, the feared Tontons Macoutes - Haitian slang for "bogeymen".

President Duvalier made sure the Tontons Macoutes vastly outnumbered the Haitian army, reducing the chance of a successful coup.

He was as superstitious as many of those he ruled and, in later years, would only venture outside the presidential palace on the 22nd of each month.

He believed that on the 22nd he was guarded by his voodoo spirits and organised many significant events of his life for that date.

He was delighted when US President John F Kennedy, on whom he had placed a curse, was assassinated on 22 November 1963 - a fact which enhanced the reputation of his alleged voodoo powers.

President Duvalier is believed to have left orders for his death to be announced on the 22nd although it is thought he may have died several days ago.

He is expected to be succeeded by his son Jean-Claude, known as "Baby Doc".

The 20-year-old student was publicly declared his father's heir last year.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Jean-Claude Duvalier succeeded his father but fled Haiti in 1986 in the wake of mounting popular discontent.

A period of instability followed with two presidents ousted by military coups in 1988 and 1991.

In 1993 the UN imposed sanctions on Haiti after the military regime rejected an agreement to allow Jean-Bertrand Aristide to resume his role as president.

Mr Aristide was finally reinstated in 1994 after US forces entered Haiti to oversee a transition to civilian government.

In February 2004 US forces were back in Haiti, this time to airlift President Aristide out of the country after rebels had taken over most of the country. Boniface Alexandre, chief justice at the country's Supreme Court, was sworn in as interim president.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Imagine how hard it was to move your couch into your house, and how easy it was to decide to get a new one. Tighter times mean you won't be making those kinds of decisions as lightly. Enjoy the energy that frees up.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Relax, you'll never lose your appeal, even if you lose the profits. Just that thought alone is worth all the tea in China, but you won't be able to cash it in for much more than romance.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You have what it takes to ride out the current financial situation, even if you don't know it yet. Hidden obstacles require hidden strengths. The problem is not knocking your shins into them before you pull out the big guns.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 People still need a little socializing, even if they can't afford it. If you always wanted to throw a dinner party, the time has never been better. You can do it on the cheap if you stick to a theme, the crazier the idea, the better.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Wouldn't it be fun to watch all the showoffs go down in flames? Life isn't that cut and dry, though. Even imagining it sets you up for your downfall, so hope the world's bank accounts are healthy instead.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You are in good company, in more ways than one. Plenty of people are taking this opportunity to do some soul searching. You can be less deep than that if you want to, but the least you should do is some research.

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22 The bank account and your waistline are doing an awkward duet again. The more one shrinks, the more the other one grows. You know which is which, so get a grip on it.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Tight times are making tempers flare. Be extra careful around people who are naturally greedy, even in good times. The last thing you want to drag with you into the new financial era is a feud.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have a good idea of the big picture, and of your place in it. It's a good time to assess both. No matter what gestalt you come up with, do know that you can deal with this.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Everyone is being economical, and that brings on one of life's best Catch-22's: the deep discount. Just keep holding out on spending your hard earned money because prices are only going to keep heading south.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The dust bowl produced more than stories from the past. It made lessons to learn from, even for today's climate. The old relatives who told them may be long gone, so take a trip to the library.

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Is the pen mightier than the sword, or one and the same? Your bank statements used to be like love letters, but now they're like a knife through the heart. Leave them unopened, Pisces.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World locations, including temperature ranges and conditions.

CROSSWORDS

CROSSWORD clues: ACROSS: 1- Fr. holy women; 5- Cattle call; 8- Stable staple; 12- War, to Sherman; 13- Fungal infection; 15- Winter Palace resident; 16- Writer Bombeck; 17- Rubber gasket; 18- Greek peak; 19- Inhibiting ovulation; 22- Curvy letter; 23- Hosp. sections; 24- Consumes; 26- Layers; 29- Cherry red; 31- Ultimate; 32- "Casablanca" actor; 34- Take exception; 36- Architect Saarinen; 38- Brewer's need; 40- Shrivelled, without moisture; 41- Monetary unit of Poland; 43- Closes in on; 45- Sign of approval; 46- Moon of Jupiter; 48- Perches; 50- Full of energy; 51- Summer shade; 52- Yeah, right!; 54- Diligent; 61- ___ about; 63- Rich cake; 64- Story; 65- Burden of proof; 66- "Enigma Variations" composer; 67- Burn slightly; 68- Etta of old comics; 69- Law in La Paz; 70- Search thoroughly; DOWN: 1- Queens stadium; 2- Sea swallow; 3- Ticklish Muppet; 4- Drivel; 5- Paul Sorvino's daughter; 6- Put a lid ___; 7- Vintner's prefix; 8- Siouan speaker; 9- Appraisal; 10- Soviet news service; 11- Sp. ladies; 13- Russian novelist; 14- Jibe; 20- River to the Caspian; 21- American football measure; 25- Connections; 26- Stone marker; 27- In every part; 28- Sports stadium; 29- Actor Romero; 30- Continental cash; 31- Pince-___; 33- Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"; 35- Roulette bet; 37- Other, in Oaxaca; 39- Horse, at times; 42- Mediator; 44- Go sky-high; 47- Florence's ___ Vecchio; 49- Pilfer; 52- Captain ___; 53- Diarist Frank; 55- Child's toy; 56- Implore; 57- Remain; 58- Pearl Harbor's island; 59- ___ Bator, Mongolia; 60- Spanish muralist; 62- Queue after Q



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PJ (Open line) 993
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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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JML Property logo and branding with the text '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.



Lelisa Desisa, of Ethiopia, crosses the finish line to win the Boston Marathon



Caroline Rotich, of Kenya, lifts her trophy after winning the women's division of the Boston Marathon

ATHLETICS

Desisa wins 119th Boston Marathon; Rotich takes women's race

Jimmy Golen
Sports Writer, Boston

LELISA Desisa ran through the rain to earn a second Boston Marathon victory and his first chance to enjoy it.

The 25-year-old Ethiopian broke the tape again on Boylston Street as the world's most prestigious marathon tried to return to its routine two years after Desisa's first Boston win was overshadowed by the twin explosions at the finish line.

"Lelisa did not get to have the kind of victory celebration that a champion of the Boston Marathon should have," Boston Athletic Association spokesman Jack Fleming said, interrupting the post-race news conference to place the champions' trophy at Desisa's side. "Lelisa, we want you to get your due today."

Desisa won the 2013 race just hours before two bombs killed three people and wounded 260 others, turning what should be the pinnacle of any distance runner's career into an afterthought. On

Monday, he finished in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 17 seconds to claim a golden olive wreath, the \$150,000 first prize and a winner's medal to replace the one he donated to the city in memory of the victims.

"This medal, I think, is for me," said Desisa, who waved to the crowd as he sprinted past the bomb sites. "I took off my hat and started waving my hands because I love the Boston people."

Kenya's Caroline Rotich won the women's race, beating Mare Dibaba in a shoulder-to-shoulder sprint down Boylston to win by 4 seconds on a cold and rainy day that thinned the crowds but didn't lessen their enthusiasm for the city's signature sporting event.

"I got to the last corner and I saw the finish line tape and I thought, 'This is it, I'm not going to let it go,'" said Rotich, who won in 2:24:55 to collect \$150,000 and give Kenya its fifth straight women's champion. "I was like, 'No, not today.' And I kept going."

Buzunesh Deba finished third a year after she came in second to Rita Jeptoo, who has been suspended after testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs. Desiree Linden was fourth and fellow U.S. Olympian Shalane Flanagan finishing ninth.

Desisa was in the men's lead pack for the entire race, pulling away to beat countryman Yemane Adhane Tsegay by 31 seconds in the first 1-2 finish for Ethiopia in the race's history. Kenya's Wilson Chebet was third, another 34 seconds back.

Dathan Ritzenhein of Rockford, Michigan, was the first American, in seventh. Meb Keflezighi finished eighth a year after his victory — the first for an American man since 1983 — gave the city a tangible symbol of its comeback.

"I was crying on Boylston Street, because it was bringing up memories, good and bad," said Keflezighi, who wrote the names of the bombing victims on his race bib last year. "People were cheering like crazy,

saying 'U-S-A!' I was chanting with them."

The 2004 Olympic silver medalist, who will turn 40 next month, was among the leaders until the 35-kilometer mark, when he took a drink of water that went down the wrong way. He had to stop five times to vomit.

"The crowd was phenomenal," he said. "I'd stop for a few seconds and they'd scream, 'Keep going!'"

With many of the runners wearing long sleeves and gloves to fight off the cold, Linden led for much of the women's race. But she fell off the pace in the final miles as Rotich and a pair of Ethiopians pulled away.

After Deba fell behind at the final turn onto Boylston Street, Rotich and Dibaba ran together for the final quarter-mile, switching places before Rotich kicked into the lead for her first Boston title.

American Tatyana McFadden won her third straight women's wheelchair race, and Marcel Hug won his first

men's title earlier Monday. Ernst Van Dyk, the most decorated Boston Marathon competitor in history, finished second in his attempt to win the race for an 11th time.

Security was visible but not intrusive for the second running since the bombings. State and local police, some riding bicycles and others on all-terrain vehicles, were supplemented by National Guard soldiers who walked alongside the road, applauding passing runners and occasionally reaching across the temporary fencing to high-five fans.

Officials were preparing for a crowd of 1 million spectators stretched along the route.

Like Desisa, they were looking for something to celebrate.

"Last year was important to have a better ending than that day in 2013, and to support Boston," said Ramona Turner, who came from Winnipeg, Canada, to watch her husband run for the third year in a row. "This year, I'm here for the party." AP

Anne-Marie Garcia, Havana

THE PIPELINE

How baseball-mad Cuba develops top-tier talent

YASIEL Puig, Jose Abreu and other Cuban baseball players arriving in the major leagues in recent years all come from the same pipeline: state-run academies that produce hundreds of players in the baseball-mad island.

While major league teams have academies where they groom their own prospects in other talent-rich Latin American countries like the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, players in Cuba are hand-picked by the government in elementary school and developed to feed its national team and dozens of national and regional leagues.

"I started when I was 6," said Yasmany Tomas, a slugger who fled Cuba in 2014 and signed a USD68.5 million contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks. "We have very good coaches from an early age, and that helps athletes to have good careers."

As more Cuban talent leaves the country, that nation's academies have become a sort of unintended farm system for big league teams, which scout the players mostly during international tournaments with the national team.

"The level of amateur baseball in Cuba is much better than in our (Latin American) countries," said Junior Noboa, the Diamondbacks vice president for Latin America, who is from the Dominican Republic. "Their sports programs are much more organized than ours, there's no doubt about it."

Kids are recruited at 6 and 7 years old by physical education teachers in school intramural tournaments. Those who show a knack for the game are assigned to special sports schools in



Arizona Diamondbacks' Yasmany Tomas, left, watches the flight of a fly ball to right field as Cincinnati Reds catcher Devin Mesoraco, right, looks on during the second inning of a spring training baseball game in Goodyear, Ariz.

each city before turning nine.

Later, the most talented players are sent to the 15 special baseball schools in the country, one in each province. Cuba also has similar schools for other sports like track and field and soccer.

National-team level prospects

are selected at 15 to study and train at the National Baseball Academy in Havana, where they remain for the next eight years and get a sports degree.

"Every athlete who is a prospect in their respective sport, to continue in that sport has to get a degree," said Tomas. "Once

you finish your career, you continue linked to the sport."

Those who don't make the cut at any point continue in local academies, where they study and train with hopes of eventually reaching the national academy and making the national team. Cuba plays in inter-

national tournaments in every age category from under-12 to under-23, and last year won the under-15 world championship.

Baseball is the national sport in Cuba, where kids dream of playing for the national team or, increasingly, major league clubs. Former President Fidel Castro is a fervent fan of the game, and it is said in his pre-Revolution years he was a decent right-handed pitcher.

The sport was brought to the island in 1864 century by Cuban students returning from the U.S., and the island quickly became a baseball hotbed. Castro outlawed all professional sports in 1962, but baseball continued to thrive in the state-run schools.

Nowadays, there are local, regional and national tournaments in each of five age groups, plus the Cuban league, called Serie Nacional (National Series) with 16 teams, one for each province plus the special district of Isla de la Juventud.

Cuba has a similar structure for all major sports, following the age categories established by each international federation.

Sports are a mandatory course in all schools, and this structure has helped the island of 11 million people excel internationally in boxing, track and field, wrestling, volleyball and other sports, with dozens of Olympic and world champions. **AP**

BASEBALL

White Sox rally for 4-3 victory over Indians

MELKY Cabrera capped Chicago's four-run ninth inning with an RBI single off Cody Allen to send the White Sox to a 4-3 victory over the Cleveland Indians yesterday (Macau time).

Six consecutive batters reached safely before Cabrera drove a fastball into left-center for the game-ending hit. Alexei Ramirez doubled home two runs and Gordon Beckham had a tying RBI single.

David Robertson (1-0) worked a perfect ninth for his first win with the White Sox. Allen (0-2) recorded just one out in his first blown save in four chances.



Chicago White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers misplays the throw from center fielder Adam Eaton to allow Detroit Tigers' Rajai Davis to score from third on a single by Miguel Cabrera during the first inning of a baseball game, in Detroit

Chicago had managed just four hits before the big finish.

Boston's Justin Masterson benefited from five unearned runs as the Red Sox beat the Baltimore

Orioles 7-1 in a soggy Patriots' Day game shortened to six-and-a-half innings by rain.

The first pitch was thrown at 11:04 a.m. under cloudy skies on the

Massachusetts holiday after Boston Marathon runners already were on the course that passes close by Fenway Park. Rain began falling steadily in the fourth and intensified, and the game was called after a 1-hour, 42-minute wait.

With the score tied at 1-1, Boston scored four runs in the third when Chen Wei-yin (0-1) walked four and made an error, and third baseman Manny Machado committed another error.

In Pittsburgh, Kris Bryant turned his tie-breaking two-run double into a homer with some heads-up baserunning as the star rookie had three hits and three RBIs to

lead the Chicago Cubs past the Pirates 5-2.

Bryant's double off Arquimedes Caminero (0-1) hit off the base of the left-center field fence in the seventh inning and snapped a 1-all tie. He advanced to third base on the throw home, and raced across the plate when catcher Francisco Cervelli missed the throw for an error.

The Detroit Tigers edged the New York Yankees 2-1 after J.D. Martinez and Yoenis Cespedes hit consecutive RBI singles in the seventh inning, and Joba Chamberlain got Jacoby Ellsbury to hit into a crucial double play in the eighth.

CC Sabathia (0-3) faced

the minimum number of hitters through the first six innings, but with two out and a man on second in the seventh inning, the Yankees intentionally walked Victor Martinez. J.D. Martinez followed with a sharp single that shortstop Didi Gregorius was unable to keep in the infield, and Cespedes' single scored Martinez.

In other games, Edinson Volquez dodged trouble for seven innings as the Kansas City Royals scored two runs on wild pitches before pounding the stumbling Minnesota Twins 7-1, the Cincinnati Reds downed the Milwaukee Brewers 6-1, the San Diego Padres trounced the Colorado Rockies 14-3, the Oakland Athletics defeated the Los Angeles Angels 6-3 and the Houston Astros were 7-5 winners over the Seattle Mariners. **AP**

opinion

Word Views

William Pesek, Bloomberg

ASIA'S GROWING CHINA PROBLEM

Asia has a China problem. Beijing has just initiated its biggest cut in bank reserve requirements since 2008, a move that underscores just how worried it is about its economy. But the cut is also a stark wake-up call for neighbors that have gotten used to riding China's boom. For years, China's steady growth served as a welcome antidote to an otherwise gloomy global scene. Now even China is sputtering in ways that should worry officials from Seoul to Jakarta.

The People's Bank of China betrayed a sense of heightened anxiety this week. Normally, the central bank tweaks the amount of cash lenders must set aside as reserves by 50 basis points, at most. Slashing it by 1 percentage point leaves little doubt that, amid a collapse in the price of commodities like iron ore (down 30 percent this year), China is decelerating faster than President Xi Jinping had expected.

What's more, the contradictory signals coming out of Beijing suggest policy makers are at odds over how to respond. The PBOC's cut – which will allow banks to add USD194 billion of new lending to the economy – came two days after the China Securities and Regulatory Commission clamped down on margin trading to curb froth in the stock market. Even as Beijing has been warning its 1.3 billion people not to bet too heavily on stocks, it has been loosening rules to allow investors to open as many as 20 trading accounts.

That latter policy should be particularly worrying for anyone hoping the Chinese economy will avoid an outright crash. "When a stock market doubles in six months," quips investor Patrick Chovanec of Silvercrest Asset Management, "you usually take away the punchbowl – not China."

China's economic policymakers, who are attempting a managed slowdown on an unprecedented scale, probably feel they lack other options. Since 2008, they had relied on huge infrastructure projects and thriving real estate markets to put a floor under weakening growth. But those sectors are now wildly overcapacity. And that has forced Xi and PBOC chief Zhou Xiaochuan to depend almost entirely on inducing a stock market rally.

Whether that's a sustainable strategy is another question, of course. Economic policy that's overly reliant on the stock market, says economist Adam Slater of Oxford Economics, "raises the risk of serious negative feedback effects, for example from bad loans, banking sector problems and a flight of foreign capital."

What's clear is that any economic collapse in China would immediately be felt across the continent. China's \$9.2 trillion economy is by far Asia's biggest – nearly twice the size of Japan's – and it is the region's main trading partner.

China's downshift is already unmasking Asia's underlying cracks. After a decade of stellar performance the region is expanding no faster than in the early 2000s. "Risks in emerging markets – half of global GDP – have in our view clearly increased," says Slater. Now, Slater says, developing-economy growth, excluding China, will be only about 2 percent this year "with risks still to the downside."

Asia needs a growth plan that relies less on China and more on domestic demand. It's hard to craft uniform prescriptions for such a large and diverse region, but, at risk of generalizing, Asia's developing economies should start by lowering trade barriers; reducing red tape; attacking corruption; improving infrastructure; and reducing taxes on regionally-made goods to increase exports and, in turn, wages.

"Asia has had an easy ride for many years, initially enjoying the fruits of reforms implemented much earlier and then seeing its run extended by an extraordinary monetary stimulus," warns HSBC economist Frederic Neumann. "This, however, led to a neglect of further reforms, with easy gains dispelling any sense of urgency to sustain progress with politically painful policy decisions."

It's hard to exaggerate how devastating a Chinese crash would be for Asia. Even an orderly deceleration of China's economy will likely prove a crisis. But perhaps that won't be a bad thing for a region that has long delayed standing on its own.

THE BUZZ COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO URGE FIFA RE-VOTE ON WORLD CUP IN QATAR

European lawmakers are likely to urge FIFA to re-vote on awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe says it will discuss the issue Thursday. FIFA President Sepp Blatter stands for re-election on May 29.

The debate follows a report to the 47-nation Council of Europe in January raising concerns

about "illegal payments" to help Qatar secure hosting rights.

The report relied on The Sunday Times evidence of emails sent by former FIFA official Mohamed bin Hammam.

The British newspaper reported last June that Bin Hammam's cash payments totaling USD5 million to soccer officials worldwide helped build support for Qatar's bid.



GAMING ALERT

Mohegan Sun heats up S Korea casino competition with USD5b proposal

THE operator of the U.S. Mohegan Sun casino has partnered with South Korea's largest airport in a proposal for a USD5 billion casino resort, putting its hat in the ring for one of two gaming licenses set to be decided on this year, Reuters reported yesterday.

South Korea has become one of Asia's fastest growing casino markets with gaming companies lured by a 42 percent jump in the number of Chinese tourists to a record 6 million last year.

According to the agency dispatch, the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority and Incheon International Airport said their proposed resort would be developed on the grounds of the gateway airport to Seoul, which serves more than 45 million visitors annually.

Mohegan Sun would spend about \$1.6 billion on the first stage of the resort by 2020. The resort, due to be completed in 2040, would include a foreigners-only casino with 250 gaming tables, a 1,000-room hotel, an arena for up to 20,000 people and an amusement park, the companies said, cited by Reuters.

The South Korea government has said it will decide on "around two" new gaming licenses by the end of this year. The new casinos would be aimed at catering to foreign visitors as Seoul bars locals from entering all but one of its 17 casinos and has no plans to change its policy.

Also competing for a license are Hong Kong's Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Ltd with a proposal for a \$2.6

billion resort, which would be near Incheon airport too, and Philippines' Bloomberly Resorts Corp which has plans to invest \$1 billion in a casino complex.

Bloomberly, which has not said where the new casino would be, has bought an island off the coast of Incheon and bought an existing casino in Jeju Island. If it decides to build the integrated casino resort in Jeju it would not need a new license.

Most of South Korea's current casinos are tiny by the standards of Macau or Las Vegas. Casino resorts include one being built by South Korea's Paradise Co Ltd and Japan's Sega Sammy Holdings Inc and another under construction by Caesars Entertainment Corp and Lippo Ltd. Both will also be near the airport.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Gold fest. An Indian customer, reflected in a mirror, tries a gold necklace at a jewelry shop in Allahabad, India, yesterday. Tuesday marked the Hindu festival "Akshay Tritiya" considered auspicious for buying gold among other things.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA-VIETNAM The United Nations refugee agency said yesterday that it had raised concerns with Australian authorities that a boatload of Vietnamese asylum seekers had their refugee applications rejected at sea before the Australian navy secretly returned them to Vietnam. The 46 Vietnamese were offloaded from an Australian navy ship at the port city of Vung Tau last Friday, local Australian media reports said.



AUSTRALIA A fierce storm lashing Australia's southeast destroyed homes, left dozens stranded in swirling floodwaters and may have led to the deaths of three people, officials said yesterday. The storm, which has been pounding Sydney and other parts of New South Wales state since Monday, has dumped more than 30 cm of rain in some areas, with wind gusts more than 100 kilometers per hour.



INDONESIA An Indonesian court found an American couple guilty of premeditated murder and sentenced them to prison yesterday in the killing of the woman's mother on the resort island of Bali. The Denpasar District Court sentenced Tommy Schaefer to 18 years in prison and Heather Mack to 10 years for intentionally killing Sheila von Wiese-Mack while vacationing last August. The badly battered body was found stuffed in a suitcase inside the trunk of a taxi at the St. Regis Bali Resort.

GERMANY Former Auschwitz "accountant" Oskar Groening goes on trial on 300,000 counts of accessory to murder. The case is the first to test a line of German legal reasoning which has unleashed an 11th hour wave of new investigations.

YEMEN Saudi-led airstrikes target weapons caches held by Iran-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen's capital, as tensions rise at sea as the United States sends an aircraft carrier to the region to prepare to block Iran's access.