



GOV'T ANNOUNCES MOP20M DONATION TO NEPAL

The announcement was made yesterday after a meeting between the CE and the Nepalese consul to HK and Macau

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GUANGDONG PILOT FTZ INTRODUCTION

A policy-briefing seminar for Macau entrepreneurs addressed the recently inaugurated Guangdong pilot free-trade zone

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N KOREAN ONLINE SHOPPING NOT JUST A CLICK AWAY

P12 FEATURE

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA accuses the United States of meddling in its internal judicial affairs after the State Department urged Beijing to release prominent rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang who has been detained for a year without formal charges.

SINGAPORE A Singaporean teenager pleads not guilty to two charges over an online video he posted that was critical of Christianity and the nation's late founding prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew. *More on p12*

AUSTRALIA Technological advances that have reduced prices and improved efficiency of renewable energy have helped transform the politics around climate change since 2009 when an attempt to forge a global deal on reducing greenhouse gas emissions failed, the U.N. climate chief says.

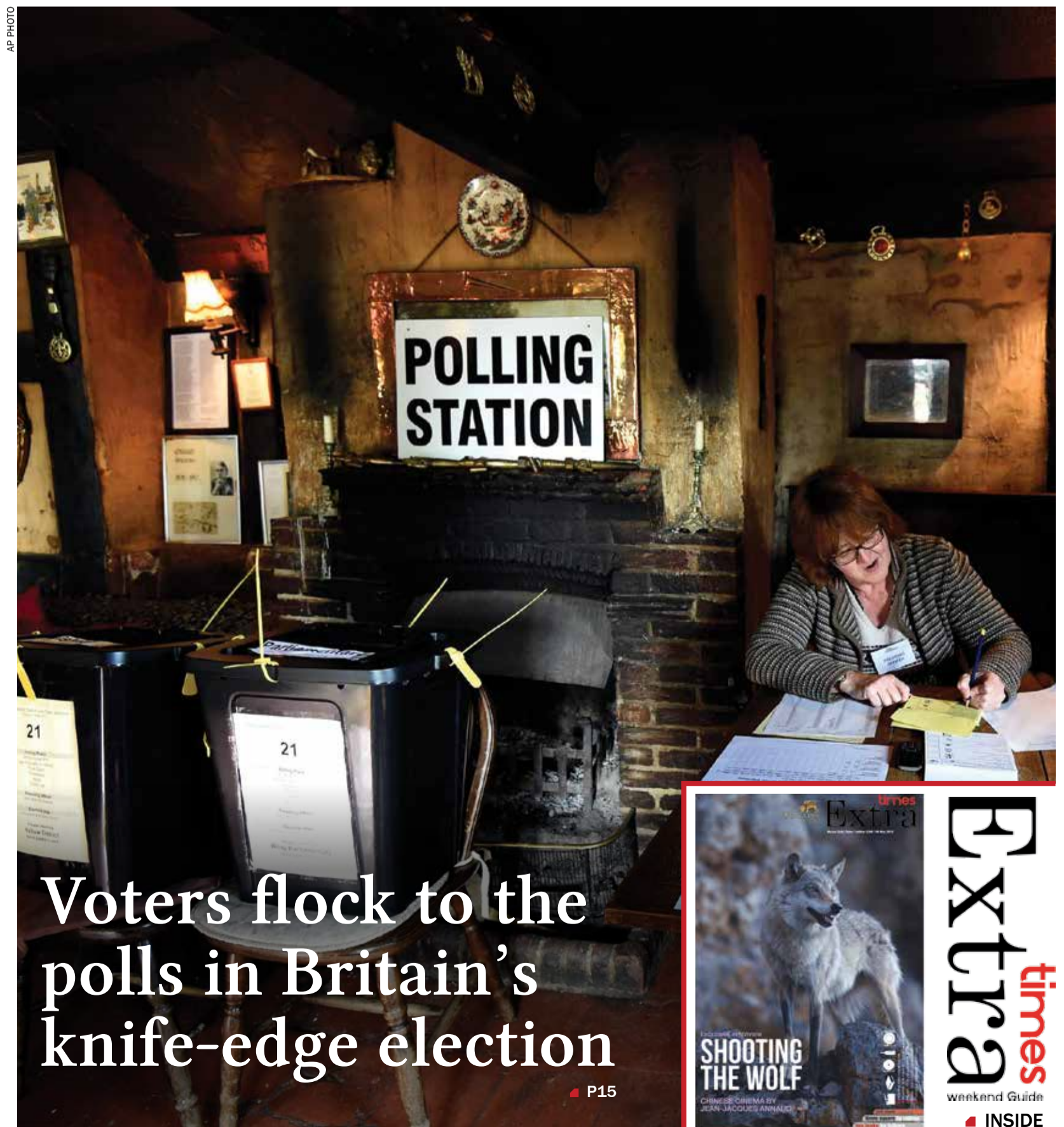
AUSTRALIA Hundreds of cheering Australians crowd around Sydney's Opera House to bid adieu to Britain's Prince Harry as he wraps up a month-long embedment with the Australian army.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA A powerful earthquake rattles Papua New Guinea, the fourth strong quake to hit the South Pacific island nation in a week. Authorities issued a local tsunami warning but lifted it shortly afterward with no reports of damage.

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Macau based Ponzi scheme goes bust

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Voters flock to the polls in Britain's knife-edge election

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Extra

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INSIDE

BULLETS OVER GAMING



editorial

Paulo Coutinho

Much has been said and written about the cap on gaming tables. Apparently nobody seems to listen to what Secretary Lionel Leong has been consistently saying: no more tables over the cap of 3 percent per year (compounded), which is calculated on the overall existing tables: 5,711 by the latest count.

Arguably casino operators don't understand the rationale behind this policy. It doesn't take a Nobel Prize in economics to recognize that the cap is insufficient to fill the casino floors opening up in the short-to-medium term. Notably, top executives from Melco Crown, Wynn and Galaxy have voiced fears for the huge investments made in their new casino-resorts on the Cotai Strip; eight in total, six of them with massive floor-areas.

If we laymen can detect this difficulty, we must take for granted that the government is well aware of the apparent incongruence.

What is the rationale then?

Casino experts agree that more tables equals more income. Governments everywhere are considering either relaxing legislation to accommodate ga-

mes of chance, dreaming of substantial tax-derived income or expanding existing casino industries. In the USA, 20 out of 50 states now allow some sort of gaming with over 1,000 commercial or tribal casinos catering to patrons. Gaming in the States produces more revenue than Hollywood and the music industry combined. Over the years, Macau has reached gaming revenues identical to those of the entire United States. And the SAR's income relies 80 percent on gaming.

Why then kill the golden goose? Why on earth would the government want to minimize the gains by curbing the number of tables, among other deterrent measures, while allowing operators to build massive properties?

Operators seem often confused if not defrauded by this policy. But they must be in state of denial. Apparently nobody heard Xi Jinping, the most powerful man on this side of paradise, declaring "war on global gambling."

"A fair number of neighboring countries have casinos, and they have set up offices in China to attract and drum up interest from Chinese citizens to go

abroad and gamble. This will also be an area that we will crack down on," the Public Security Ministry said in February.

Also: mark the word, this is part of the overall war on vice - corruption, gambling, prostitution, lavish lifestyles - to cleanse the Party that rules China. Whether a noble purpose (the official line) or a vested maneuver to secure an authoritarian power - that's not the point here.

An academic recently wrote that Xi views gambling as the opium that alienated 19th century China.

Indeed, Xi's China Dream has no gaming in it. Since he stepped into power he eradicated any and all tentative projects of exclusive areas for gambling on the mainland - his words echoed even in Taiwan, where all plans for casinos were dropped. Not that long ago, in 2010, there was a deliberation by the State Council to transform Hainan Island into a "pilot zone" to test out gaming. And the infamous "cashless casino," which was operating there in 2012, had some sort of "official" tolerance in Beijing. That's gone with the wind.

The "new normal" is here to stay. In Macau, the evolution of gaming is pretty

much spelt out in the caliber of the "eight bullet points" policy devised by Chui Sai On and Secretary Leong to evaluate gaming concessionaires ahead of the renewal of contracts that can be summarized in a brave new word: non-gaming.

If not to "eradicate" gambling, Chui's last mandate is clearly to reduce its dimension in the economy and its visibility and availability in the city. Like the gaming experts, the government also knows that more tables equals more gamblers. They just see it differently.

So, the question stands, how are operators going to get their return on (21 billion dollars) investments in Cotai without enough tables?

Those properties were designed to have 10 or 20 fold what the cap actually allows them to have. It seems to me Secretary Leong's intransigent stance is pushing the operators to do at least two main things: reduce the ratio of casino to total floor area, introducing more non-gaming activities, and move tables from the peninsula casinos (eventually forcing the shutting down of some "satellite" joints) to the new land of Cotai.

After all, it was a swamp.

VINCENT PIKET

EU-China bilateral relations have 'developed extraordinarily'

THE head of the European Union Office in Hong Kong and Macau, Vincent Piket, said that EU-China trade relations have "developed extraordinarily" over the years and have improved in areas such as the environment.

On the day that marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the EU and China, Piket said that bilateral relations have been improving quickly, drawing attention to the fact that "trade has surged, reaching over MOP1 billion per day."

The Dutch diplomat also said that the relationship between the EU and China - which is the second largest world economy - has evolved "from a predominantly trade-based relationship to a strategic partnership."

"The kind of dialogue that we have developed is extraordinary. It includes all areas of the



Vincent Piket

political sphere, from the economy to the environment, to transport, customs and media to climate changes, emission trade, research and innovation," Mr Piket noted.

The EU Office head said that one of the highlights of the past four decades has been China's membership to the World Trade Organization. This facilitated bilateral investments easier.

According to the diplomat, the next "big step" will be finalizing the negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement. "The EU internal market is open to trade and investment - that liberalization work is done - but in China there are several areas in which the [foreign] investment is not possible and that affects entrepreneurs. The negotiation regards the opening of the Chinese market to European investments within the next few years. That is crucial," Piket said.

A China-EU summit will be held next month, with issues like regional security and environment on the agenda. Regarding the latter, Vincent Piket stressed that "recent statements made by Chinese authorities are encouraging," and the EU hopes that Beijing will establish an "ambitious target" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. **MDT/Lusa**

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Gov't announces MOP20 million earthquake aid donation



Mahesh Prasad Dahal (left) meets with Chui Sai On (right)



A Nepalese policeman clears the debris at Basantapur Durbar Square in Kathmandu, Nepal

THE government announced yesterday that it will donate MOP20 million to Nepal in order to provide aid to the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck the country on April 25.

The Chief Executive Chui Sai On held a meeting yesterday with the Nepalese consul to Hong Kong and Macau, Mahesh Prasad Dahal, at the government headquarters. According to a statement issued by the CE's Office, Chui Sai On conveyed "the local government's concern and support towards the post-quake relief efforts and expressed wishes that the donation process could be concluded as soon as possible, in order to support

the victims and help rebuild the affected areas."

Mahesh Prasad Dahal went on to describe the extensive damage caused by the earthquake, which killed more than 7,750 people according to cur-

rent figures. He said that, besides the massive loss of life, the natural disaster affected Nepal's cultural heritage as it destroyed many listed buildings. The consul thanked Macau for its support and the letter of condolence issued to the Nepalese people issued by the chief executive.

As reported previously by the Times, the local government was criticized by members of the Nepalese migrant community for not responding to ongoing demands to provide support to Nepal's disaster relief operations.

On Sunday, May 3, the Government Spokesperson's Office replied, stating that after contacting several public departments, no records of a "formal written request" for financial support from the Non-Resident Nepali Association Macau had been received.

HONG KONG GOV'T HELPS WITH 50M

ON APRIL 28 the Hong Kong government applied for a supplementary provision of HKD50 million from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for making a donation to Nepal's relief effort. On April 30 it was announced that the provision had

been passed by circulation, without going through the normal procedure of an open meeting. Apart from the government's donation, several fundraising events were organized and NGOs have since opened donation accounts.

Red Cross asks for more donations

THE Macau branch of the Red Cross yesterday received MOP500,000 from gaming operator MGM Macau, culminating in a total amount of over MOP2.3 million to aid Nepal's earthquake relief efforts.

The organization's chairman, Mr Eddie Wong said the donations that have been received by the Red Cross following the natural disaster are smaller than on previous campaigns, as quoted by TDM.

According to Wong, the funds were mostly donated by individuals, whereas the organization has dispatched 20 rescue personnel to assist in the affected areas.

Also yesterday, representatives of several Nepalese security guards working at MGM China – along with the company's CEO Grant Bowie – handed over a donation to the Macau Red Cross, hoping to make a difference in Nepal for those in need.

The funds were raised in an internal fundraiser within the company, with the resolve to aid victims and helping rebuild homes and communities in Nepal.



MGM China's CEO, Grant Bowie, was joined by four Nepalese MGM security team members to hand over a donation to the Macau Red Cross

AD

Nepalese Relief Fundraiser

Sunday, 10th May 2015
at
The Roadhouse Macau
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Dynasty Wan Yu Villas
NAPE - Macau
Phone - 28752945

**All ticket sales,
Donations,
Sponsorships,
and 100% of Bar Sales
Will go to Relief effort**

Brook Yang

GUANGDONG authorities hosted a policy-briefing seminar for Macau entrepreneurs yesterday on the topic of the recently inaugurated Guangdong pilot free-trade zone (FTZ). Visiting officials introduced their preferential policy measures that are expected to deepen trade liberalization and enable regional integration.

Guangdong's vice governor, Ms Zhao Yufang, stated in the seminar that the establishment of the FTZ was the country's furthest attempt to accelerate its economic reform and deepen the mainland's economic cooperation with the SARs. Anticipating new space and new models for development to emerge in the pilot zone, she called for Macau's entrepreneurs and investors to taste the first slice of pie.

"Our FTZ will explore a deeper degree of opening up to Macau, by taking the use of CEPA [Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement] to the next level," explained the vice governor, regarding cooperation in the service industries such as in tourism, commerce, cross-border financial services and Chinese medicine. Moreover, she pledged that the pilot zone will be "pushed to its limits to achieve smooth flows of commodity, personnel, capital, and information concerning Macau."

The Guangdong Pilot FTZ consists of three areas respectively in Guangzhou's Nansha district, Shenzhen's Shekou, and Zhuhai's Hengqin island. After three to five years of reform experiment, these areas – 116.2 square kilometers in total – are expected to become the vanguard of trade liberalization and a key part of the Delta region's integration.

According to Ms Zhao, the FTZ has attracted about 10,000 enterprises and organizations to register just this year. The administrators have based their work in develop-

Local companies to get privileged free trade zone access

PAULO BARBOSA



Hengqin (pictured) is included in the Guangdong pilot FTZ

ping the FTZ on "building an international, market and legal system oriented new business environment; attaining new heights assembling modern industries; and building a new platform for close cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau."

Ms Zhao explained that the "efficient new business environment" will be built on the basis of "system innovation," where the systems managing investment and trade aim to be more liberal and convenient, the administration and policies to be more transparent, the supervision reinforced, and the system of rules in line with international stan-

dards.

As the FTZ aims to create a gathering place for modern industries, Ms Zhao predicted that Guangdong and the SARs will be able to join forces to build a logistics hub whilst strengthening ties in their seaports and airports.

In response, Chief Executive Chui Sai On recognized that the FTZ's "innovative policies" which are expected to facilitate cooperation in finance and other areas could "create better development opportunities for Macau's small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), professionals and youths."

"We hope to effectively participate in the Guangdong FTZ's

development," he declared, adding that the government will promote the FTZ's preferential policies to its officials and citizens, and set up a dedicated department to keep in close contact with its Guangdong counterparts.

Amongst the Guangdong FTZ's preferential policies, reform measures in the finance area comprise a significant part, with 50 articles, according to Mr Ni Qunhong from the province's finance authority.

Mr Ni stressed that "the most important feature that differentiates the Guangdong FTZ from Shanghai and Tianjin's is that it plays out the card

■ The Guangdong Pilot FTZ consists of three areas respectively in Guangzhou's Nansha district, Shenzhen's Shekou, and in Hengqin island

of Hong Kong and Macau in its positioning, emphasizing an integration with them." Accordingly, enterprises and investors from the SARs have higher access schemes than foreign investors to the FTZ.

Aside from an emphasis on cross-border RMB business, the FTZ encourages Macau and HK companies' to enter into service industries, such as operating audio-visual production businesses, providing international maritime shipping services, setting up medical institutions, and establishing schools for the children of overseas Chinese staff and expatriates.

"Currently, our FTZ is speeding up to put into place a series of measures for reform, innovation and opening up; and each development project is progressing steadily. I believe in the near future it definitely will become one of the areas in mainland China that has opened up the most, with the best and most dynamic business environment in terms of innovation," stated Ms Zhao.

Macau-licensed vehicles to enter Hengqin before August

THE director-general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Niu Jing, has told media that the clearance arrangement for Macau-licensed vehicles to drive in Hengqin will be announced before August.

Niu explained on the sidelines of the policy-briefing seminar promoting the Guangdong Pilot Free

Trade Zone in Macau that the border checkpoint could create a bottleneck for the increasing number of vehicle crossings, in addition to Hengqin also being a smaller area for Macau's large amount of cars.

Nevertheless, he assured media representatives that when the arrangement is announced,

it must entail a solution which promotes effective management of the issue. "If the cars will just jam up at the border port, what's the point of offering them entry?" - he asked, adding that the provincial authorities have already drafted regulations and a management plan for the measure to be implemented effectively and safely.

In addition, Niu said the Hengqin administrator has received less than ten complaints over irregularities of pre-sale apartments. He explained that the authorities would follow up a complaint not only regarding one property but all projects of the related developer. "So far, the situation is not serious," he said.



Niu Jing

FRAUD

Class actions filed against company headquartered in Macau

Catarina Pinto

SEVERAL collective actions against GetEasy, a company headquartered in Macau, are being put forward in France and Monaco after thousands of members across the world were swindled out of their money in an apparent pyramid scheme, newspaper Le Figaro reported recently.

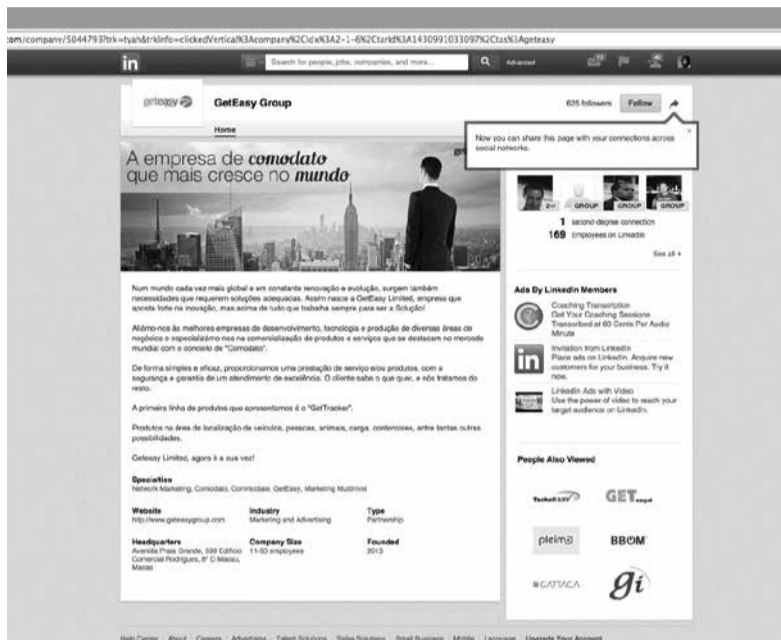
The GetEasy Group, which has offices in Macau, Portugal and Monaco, has allegedly defrauded nearly 300,000 people worldwide.

The group's LinkedIn page states that the company's headquarters are located at Avenida da Praia Grande, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues, No. 599, 8 Floor D.

In October last year, local newspaper Ponto Final and the Portuguese national television station RTP reported that the company's office in Macau was empty.

The Times learned yesterday that the office is now accommodating an enterprise called the Macau Commercial Offshore Company Limited. However, we have also learned that the office was closed and therefore it could not be confirmed whether GetEasy is still using it as its headquarters.

Established in 2013, the company appears to provide a wide range of products, from vehicle localization products such as GPS systems, "revolutionary LED bulbs," online music platforms or even a medical device which is supposed to prevent Alzheimer's disease. On top of



this, it provides members with the opportunity to achieve between 200 to 300 percent in investment returns if they convince other people to enrol in the scheme.

GetEasy has requested that potential members invest a minimum of EUR360 (around MOP3,262), while reassuring them they would get a 200 to 300 percent rate of return, annually.

However, according to newspaper Nice Matin, about 300,000 people fell victim to the scam that left them without their investments and the promised amount of returns.

After being asked about their reasons for choosing Macau for the company's headquarters, GetEasy's director of communications Pedro Mira Godinho replied to RTP journalists with a question: "And why not Macau? We could have gone to

many other places. We chose to go to Macau."

The company's first address in Macau was the AIA Tower, where many companies have virtual offices which provide them with communication and address services.

The Times spoke to a lawyer to understand whether or not it is a common occurrence for companies to establish their headquarters here and why they choose Macau.

Local lawyer Rodrigo Castro explained that sometimes the city's tax system might attract companies to establish their headquarters here.

"There are cases in which, for tax purposes, it's more convenient for companies to handle their accounting here. So they start providing services via Macau. But they still have an activity here. These are usually companies who do not require a

large structural enterprise and therefore are able to provide services across the globe, and it's not very important where they are. Of course they're then taxed here," he recalled.

"I don't know why that company GetEasy chose Macau... nowadays a company can provide services without having to be regularly and physically present in a specific place," he added.

Mr Castro stressed that companies now wish to provide services to people around the world but obviously need to choose a specific location for their headquarters.

"They have to pay taxes and have activity here but they are not required to provide most of their services here. They can be on the other side of the world providing their services. It happens everywhere in the world. But I do not hold the impression that Macau is particularly used for this," he stated.

The GetEasy case prompted an investigation by police authorities in Portugal, RTP re-

ported last year.

According to a report published by Portuguese newspaper Diário Económico last week, the country's association for consumer rights, DECO, received 120 complaints regarding GetEasy in 2014 and seven complaints during this year's first quarter.

The deputy director of the Judiciary Police in Portugal also revealed that they have received around 15 complaints. Mr Pedro do Carmo confirmed that the company is under investigation.

Last December, the Portuguese Central Bank issued an alert stating that GetEasy Limited, Tornar Fácil Limitada, Geteasy Ltd. and Absolut League Ltd. were not authorized to handle any financial operations subject to supervision by the Bank. In February, the French financial regulator Autorité des Marchés Financiers issued the same alert.

According to Le Figaro, a victim of the scam, Philippe Bailhache created a blog and has been gathering incriminating information against the Portuguese company. "Fifteen days after I registered, I came across the first incriminating elements that led me to further my research," he said.

In Portugal, GetEasy had even sponsored high-profile entertainment events like the performance by American socialite and DJ Paris Hilton last summer.

Regardless of lawsuits, the company's executives have allegedly already created a new company.

And why not Macau? We could have gone to many other places. We chose to go to Macau

PEDRO MIRA GODINHO
GETEASY REPRESENTATIVE

GAMING

Melco net revenue drops by 22 pct in Q1

MELCO Crown Entertainment Limited net revenue dropped 22 percent year-on-year to USD1,054.3 million in the first quarter of this year, the company revealed in a press release yesterday.

The decline can be attributed to lower group-wide rolling chip revenues and mass market table games revenues.

The gaming operator reported its unaudited financial results for the first quarter of 2015 yesterday. Adjusted pro-

perty EBITDA reached USD253.3 million, representing a 35 percent year-on-year decline.

Net income attributable to Melco Crown Entertainment for the first quarter reached USD60.6 million.

"I am pleased to report a solid operating and financial performance for Melco Crown Entertainment in what continues to be a challenging period in Macau," said the company's co-chairman and CEO, Lawrence Ho.



Lawrence Ho

Mr Ho assured the media that Studio City, the company's development project in Cotai due to open later this year, remains on budget and on schedule. "It signifies our company's commitment to the diversification of Macau and it highlights our ability to bring unique, market-leading attractions to Macau," he stressed.

He recalled that Studio City will provide a diverse mix of entertainment options, including a "Batman-themed mo-

tion ride, a 40,000-square-foot family entertainment center, Asia's highest Ferris wheel, a TV production studio, a 5,000-seat multi-purpose live entertainment center, a live magic show precinct and Pacha nightclub."

"With a market-leading array of premium non-gaming amenities, Melco Crown Entertainment once again received more Forbes-5 star awards than any other company in Macau. We believe this highlights City of Dreams and Altira's unique appeal to the most discerning and sophisticated customers in Macau," he noted.

IMF says Asia to lead growth in 2015 despite China slowdown



A woman is reflected on the advertisement board of a Japanese bank in Tokyo

Elaine Kurtenbach, Business Writer, Tokyo

ASIAN economies will lead world growth in 2015, expanding at a 5.6 percent pace that is level with last year, as recoveries in India and Japan help to offset the slowdown in China, the IMF said in a report yesterday.

IMF economists expressed concern, however, over the potential for weaker growth if policy makers in the region fail to follow through with needed changes, saying it was a time not for "alarm but it is a time for alert."

The IMF's regional economic outlook forecasts that growth in the Asia-Pacific area will moderate to 5.5 percent in 2016.

Asian growth fell to 5.5 percent in 2014 from 5.9 percent in 2013,

and is bound to shift lower as China's economy, the world's second largest, settles at a more sustainable level than the torrid double-digit pace of the past decade.

China's report of 7 percent growth in the first quarter of the year was in keeping with that trend.

"You cannot expect that a country can keep 10 percent growth forever," said Changyong Rhee, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department. "The current phase of growth is in line with our forecasts, but even if it's a desirable slowdown it can have a negative impact on other countries."

Rising levels of debt and potential financial market disruptions are other risks to growth, though moves by Chinese financial regulators to rein in margin trading and umbrella trusts are a positive step, he said in a news conference

that was broadcast online.

On a broader scale, the IMF report said its estimates show lower oil prices could help boost global growth by 0.3 percentage points to 0.7 percentage points in 2015. Major producers of oil and other commodities are suffering from lower exports, but for countries such as Japan, China and Thailand the lower costs are a boon both for businesses and consumers.

Growth varies widely across the region, from 8.3 percent forecast for 2015 in Myanmar, 7.5 percent for India and 6.8 percent for China to 1 percent for Japan.

Japan, the world's No. 3 economy, shows signs of recovering from a recession last year following an increase in the country's sales tax to 8 percent from 5 percent.

The IMF's report said that Japan's growth will remain modest but could improve with more aggressive measures to improve productivity through improved labor laws and corporate governance.

Despite its slowdown, China remains a main driver of global GDP expansion, accounting for a larger share of world economic growth than the rest of Asia combined, the IMF said.

Reforms intended to make the state-dominated economy more productive, with stronger domestic consumption and services, and less dependence on trade and investment are crucial for future growth, Rhee said.

Full implementation of reforms would boost overall income by 5 percent by 2020 over the economy's performance without such reforms, he said. **AP**

Alibaba 4Q revenue jumps as it sees more shoppers



Jack Ma, founder and CEO of the Alibaba Group

CHINESE e-commerce powerhouse Alibaba Group's revenue jumped 45 percent on strong mobile growth and more active buyers in the fiscal fourth quarter.

The company also yesterday named a new CEO and said it planned a hiring freeze for the fiscal year.

Sales beat expectations, and the company's shares rose 7.5 percent in premarket trading.

Alibaba went public in September to much fanfare as investors sought to tap into the rapidly growing Chinese middle-class consumer class. Its e-commerce platforms including Taobao and Tmall make up 80 percent of Chinese e-commerce.

Net income for the three months ended March 31 fell 49 percent to 2.87 million Chinese yuan (USD463 million), or \$1.12 yuan (18 cents) per share from 5.66 billion yuan, or 2.80 yuan per share, last year. Excluding one-time items, net income totaled 48 cents per share. Analysts expected 43 cents per share, according to FactSet.

Revenue rose 45 percent to 17.43 billion yuan (\$2.81 billion), from 12.03 billion yuan last year. Analysts expected \$2.72 billion.

Gross merchandise volume, or the total amount of goods sold on Alibaba's platforms, rose 40 percent from the same period last year. Annual active buyers rose 37 percent to 350 million.

The company also said Daniel Zhang, chief operating officer, will become CEO effective Sunday, replacing Jonathan Lu, who will become vice chairman.

Zhang has been at the company for eight years. He has been chief operating officer since 2013. **AP**

corporate bits

HONG KONG CANTOPOP STAR CHILAM CHEUNG TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN



One of Hong Kong's best-known actors and singers Chilam Cheung will bring his latest concert "Chi Lam Crazy Hours Live in Macao" to The Venetian's Cotai Arena on July 4. Tickets go on sale today.

During the show, Cheung will inter-

act with his fans by transforming into "Captain Cool," his character from the TV show "Triumph in the Skies." He will also perform some of his biggest hits, including "Love is Dead", "Ten Fingers Interlocked" and "You're Good but I Never Cherish".

ASIAN POKER TOUR HOLDS INAUGURAL VIETNAM EVENT

The Asian Poker Tour's inaugural event in Vietnam kicked off to a full house, and a room full of smiles as tournament players, the APT, World Gaming Group and the Ho Tram Resort Casino Vietnam made a USD6000 donation to Operation Smile which provides cleft palate surgery to needy children nationwide.

With a total of 71 buy-ins at the first No Limit Hold Em event, co-organizer Andrew W Scott, CEO of World Players Entertainment, called it the biggest turnout he had ever seen for a first event in a new venue. "We are all looking forward to the weekend when some big name players descend on Ho Tram from around the region and the world."

This is the first time that Tour-standard competitive poker has been played in Vietnam. The tournament will continue until 13 May.

SHERATON, COTAI CENTRAL WINS BEST LEISURE HOTEL AWARD

Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central received the Best Leisure Hotel of the Year in Hong Kong and Macau award at the 2015 China Travel & Meetings Industry Awards event hosted by Travel Weekly China in Shanghai.

"Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central is proud to be named Best Leisure Hotel of the Year in Hong Kong and Macau from Travel Weekly China this year," Daniella Tonetto, General Manager of Sales and Marketing for Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central and The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central said. "It is indeed an honor for our peers in the industry to recognize Sheraton Macao Hotel as the best leisure hotel in both Hong Kong and Macau. We will continue to deliver the highest standards of



service and cater to the growing needs of leisure travelers with even more exciting family offerings in future."



Connectivity Knowledge
 Connecting Macau Connecting Future

CTM always strives to offer exceptional communication network. With our digital future coming to Macau, we will bring you even more possibilities; By fostering cloud technology applications for learning and actively developing different application initiatives, learning will then be more fun and without boundary by always staying connected to knowledge.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The most important questions to ask when you are a landlord renting out a property

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

www.JMLProperty.com
info@JMLProperty.com



JULIET RISDON

If you have not seen the earlier articles on this subject, here is a brief introduction to the series. Of course you can find the articles online on the Macau Daily Times website.

Renting out a property can be both stressful and risky, especially if you are unfortunate enough to encounter a bad tenant. The trouble is, even though you own the property you are also very busy during the day and want to minimize the issues with this and any other apartment.

If you are looking for an agency to lease out your property and a property administrator to take care of it whilst it rented, it is important to do your homework and look for an established and professional company with strong systems.

The list below is in no particular order, and is intended as a starting point to help identify which questions to ask. In this final installment we look at questions 16-20

Is the tenant legally entitled to stay / work in Macau?

You want to know if the tenant has legal status in Macau. In other words, do they have the right to live here, work here or both? If the answer is neither, you could face prosecution for leasing to an illegal immigrant.

You may find that that such people are willing to pay a premium to lease the apartment, and this should be a red flag.

In the most extreme cases, property in Macau has been used in connection with prostitution and human trafficking, neither of which you would want to be associated with and both of which may send you to jail without passing 'go'!

Has the tenant been informed that they cannot sub let or advertise the property in any way?

The Tenancy Agreement may state clearly that the property cannot be sub-leased, or it may not state anything directly related to this point.

If a tenant wants to sub-lease part or all of their property, they must have written permission from the owner. This can be stated in the Tenancy Agreement or in a separate statement.

Has the tenant been informed on our rules regarding pets?

Many landlords do not allow pets, mainly because of the potential damage they can cause to an apartment and of course the difficulty of returning the apartment to the owner in the same condition it was received.

If you want to allow pets, it is better to state this in the agreement so that there are no misunderstandings.

In such circumstances, you might also want to put a clause in the agreement that they pay for a deep clean of the apartment when the tenant leaves.

How Many People Will Be Living In The Property?

With the lack of space in Macau, it is not uncommon for workers to share accommodation.

Whilst there is nothing wrong with this in principle if the landlord is informed, you want to avoid the property being used as a 'dormitory'.

We recently purchased a 600 sq ft apartment housing more than 10 people. It will make a nice home for a professional couple, but not for 5 x professional couples!

Who will deal with the lease renewal when the initial tenancy agreement ends?

The lease renewal must be tracked and handled professionally, or it will cost you money.

If a property administration company is not handling this, you will want to set up a reminder when the lease is set to expire in 6 months. At this point you should contact the tenant and ask about their intentions to either stay or leave the apartment.

If the tenant is going to stay, there are two choices, you can either renew the existing lease or create a new one;

That concludes this article on being a landlord; Next week: The most important questions you can ask when selling your property.

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PROJECT POKER
BY ROY BHASIN

Prop betting my way to better health

It's been a while. I'm happy to report that things are on the up and up. Poker has been going better, I have been exercising more and feeling better, all in all, life is good. This is in part due to a couple of prop bets I made to help give myself a little extra kick in the behind.

Both bets are made against another poker playing friend of mine. For the first one I bet that I would meditate 100 times before the end of the year. His side of the bet is to play 80 sessions of poker. Now before you say that I got the raw end of the deal - let me say that he lives in Las Vegas (so online poker isn't a great option) and that he is a very, very lazy poker player, even more than your usual lazy poker player. The bet is a draw if neither of us completes our end of the deal, and also a draw if both of us complete our ends. In order to maximize the likelihood that we both hit our targets we went big and made the bet for \$12,500. In all honesty it's very unlikely either of us will lose this bet - but if it forces us to achieve our goals then that's a success in my eyes.

The second bet we made is that I have to average 10,000 steps or more a day until the end of the year, and he has to gain 10 lbs of weight (he's

trying to bulk up). I think this one is a lot harder for both of us, and we're a lot more likely to fail. It requires more consistent work since if either of us fall far behind early on it'll be very very difficult to make up later on. This bet is for \$2,500 - I can definitely see one of us losing this bet.

So far since making the bets I have noticed a significant boost to my overall energy levels and mind clarity. Just getting out of the house more and walking/running to get my 10k steps has been so beneficial. I'd noticed that beforehand I could go days without leaving the house - glued to the computer grinding and grinding. That sort of sedentary lifestyle is really damaging to both physical and mental well-being and I'm very happy to not be stuck in that cycle any more.

I highly recommend any other poker players (or anyone, really) out there who find themselves spending most of their day sitting in a computer chair to get up and stretch your legs - set a target (10k steps is a good one IMO) and try to hit it every day. Maybe even make a prop bet of your own! It's a fun way to give you a motivational boost to improve your life, and I can definitely see more of these types of bets in my future!

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Angola may become a major world producer of coffee once again

THE Director General of the Inter-African Coffee Organization (IACO), Frederick Kawuama, said Wednesday in Luanda there was a high possibility of coffee revitalization in Angola, as it was one of the largest coffee producers before independence.

Cited by Angolan news agency Angop, Kawuama, who last Friday concluded a three-day visit to Angola, said the country has the experience necessary for recovery of the coffee sector and may be able to return to being a major power in the sector.

This visit is also due to the fact that Angola took on the presidency of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation in November 2014, in the capital of Uganda, Kampala, during the 54th Annual General Meeting of the forum, which brings together coffee producing countries from Africa.

Between the 1990/91 and



Workers inspect coffee beans

2014/15 campaigns Angola's coffee production ranged from a minimum of 13,000 60-kilogram bags in 2009/2010 and 85,000 in 1998/1999, whilst, according to the latest figures from the International Coffee Organisation, production for 2014/2015 reached 35,000 bags.

Before independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola was a major

world producer with 4 million bags or 240 tons of coffee per year, but the civil war between independence and 2002 destroyed almost all the country's coffee plantations.

The world's biggest coffee producers in 2014/2015 were Brazil, with 45.3 million bags, Vietnam with 27.5 million and Colombia with 12.5 million bags. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Anadarko Petroleum to decide on investment by early 2016

ANADARKO Petroleum will make a final decision on its investment in Mozambique by the end of this year or early next year, said the group's chief executive speaking to Reuters news agency, taking the opportunity to deny news the group planned to sell the asset.

The group controls a 26.5 percent stake in the Area 1 block of the Rovuma basin in northern Mozambique on the border with Tanzania, which has as partners Mitsui EP Mozambique Area 1 Limited (20 percent), BPRL Ventures Mozambique BV (10 percent), Videocon Mozambique Rovuma Area 1 Limited (10 percent), PTT Exploration and Production Plc (8.5 percent) and state-owned ENH (15%) during the exploration phase.

The news about a possible sale mentioned oil companies Exxon Mobil and Qatar Petroleum as potential buyers but Anadarko's chairman Al Walker said the group was working to make a final decision on the investment to be made in that block, which contains natural gas reserves estimated at 75 trillion cubic feet.

Mr Walker gave assurances that the group was trying to secure natural gas supply contracts with customers, most likely in Asia, and added that the final investment decision should be taken at the end of this year or early 2016.

Natural gas reserves discovered so far in the Rovuma basin point to the existence of more than 200 trillion cubic feet, which may put Mozambique in the top five largest natural gas exporters in the world on par with Russia, Qatar and Australia. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

Beijing tries to tap brakes on stock market boom

CHINA'S leaders are trying to tap the brakes on a stock market boom that could run out of control and disrupt economic reform plans.

After months of cheerleading for rising prices, the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily sounded a cautionary note this week, warning that stock trading is "high-risk." It said the public should "invest rationally."

China's main stock index has more than doubled since November, making its market the world's best performer.

The boom has been driven by easy credit, government encouragement for newcomers to invest and hopes the world's second-largest economy would rebound from a deepening slump. That outlook has been clouded by weaker-than-expected economic growth and trade — yet markets kept rising.

Now, Beijing is trying to nudge investors toward being more realistic without sending prices tumbling.

"The danger of the bubble bursting is huge," said market analyst Zhang Yang of Guojin Securities. "The government wants to cool the market."

Brokerages were ordered in late April to rein in lending to investors to buy stocks. That reflected concern small investors were taking dangerous risks and a fall in prices could lead to political tensions or losses for the state-owned securities industry.

Beijing keeps its financial system sealed off from global capital flows and few foreigners are allowed to invest in them. But changes in Chinese markets can affect sentiment abroad. April's announcement about margin



A bicyclist pedals past a statue of a bull in Beijing

lending triggered selling on Western exchanges.

On Tuesday, the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index declined 4 percent in what financial newspapers said might be a response to official efforts to cool investor emotions. It lost another 1.6 percent on Wednesday and 2.8 percent yesterday but still was up 34 percent over the past three months.

Yang Jing, an engineer for a Shanghai commercial real estate

company, said he put 50,000 yuan (USD8,000) into the market in March and was profitable until Tuesday's decline. After that, he said he was down 5 percent.

"If it goes down further, I will sell when I have lost 10 percent," said Yang, 27. Still, he said, "when the economy gets better, I think the market will get better again."

A deeper decline could disrupt the Communist Party's mara-

thon effort to make the state-dominated economy more productive by giving market forces and entrepreneurs a bigger role.

Until now, Beijing has used the stock market mostly to raise money for state companies such as PetroChina Ltd. or Bank of China Ltd. Reformers want to make it a tool to finance private business that creates jobs and wealth. But investors, burned by previous booms and

busts, might be scared off by a new slump at a time when economic growth is slowing.

The latest boom began after government newspapers said last summer stocks were cheap. That encouraged investors to believe Beijing wanted to see prices rise — and might prop up markets if needed.

Stocks powered upward even as first quarter economic growth fell to 7 percent, the lowest since early 2009 in the aftermath of the global crisis.

People's Daily called the latest market boom a "profitable 'golden era'" in its commentary Monday but warned about risks. It said most investors failed to make money in previous booms.

"Stocks are a high-risk investment product. This basic feature never changes," said People's Daily. It called for "calm consideration" and "fear of the market."

But some investors seem confident the government will ride to the rescue if markets plunge.

Zhou Rui, a 28-year-old researcher for a state-owned company in Shanghai, said his trading account has swelled from 30,000 yuan (\$4,800) in 2013 to several hundred thousand yuan (tens of thousands of dollars). Zhou said that while economic data have worsened, that means the government is more likely to stimulate the economy.

"I can see the government is trying to help the market," he said. AP

Zhejiang to ban rooftop Christian crosses

Didi Tang, Beijing

A Chinese province where authorities have forcibly removed hundreds of rooftop crosses from Protestant and Catholic churches has proposed a ban on any further placement of the religious symbol atop sanctuaries.

The draft, if approved, would give authorities in the eastern province of Zhejiang solid legal grounds to remove rooftop crosses.

Since early 2014, Zhejiang officials have toppled crosses from more than 400 churches, sometimes resulting in



A child peers out near a cross on a gate of the Wangfujing Catholic Church in Beijing

violent clashes with congregation members. They have said the crosses violate building codes, but critics say the rapid growth of Christian groups has

made the ruling Communist Party nervous.

"The authorities have attached great importance to this religious symbol," said Zheng Leguo, a

pastor from the province who now lives in the United States. "This means no more prominent manifestation of Christianity in the public sphere."

A draft of rules on religious structures released by government agencies this week says the crosses should be wholly affixed to a building facade and be no more than one-tenth of the facade's height. The symbol also must fit with the facade and the surroundings, the proposal says. The draft does not provide the rationale for the proposal.

Fang Shenglan, an engineer at Zhejiang Provincial Institute of Architec-

tural Design and Research who was involved with the research for the draft rules, confirmed that rooftop crosses would not be allowed under the proposed rules, but declined to explain why over the phone and did not immediately respond to a written request.

Zhu Libin, president of a semi-official Christian association in Wenzhou, in southeastern Zhejiang, declined to comment. Calls to the provincial Christian association were unanswered yesterday.

Christianity has been expanding rapidly in China since the 1980s, when Beijing loosened its con-

trols on religion.

Estimates for the number of Christians in China range from the conservative official figure of 23 million to as many as 100 million by independent scholars, raising the possibility that Christians may rival in size the 85 million members of the ruling Communist Party. The religion's tight-knit parishes, proclivity for civil society, and loyalty to God have made the ruling party edgy about its own rule.

Last August, Beijing authorities called Christian pastors and religious scholars into meetings to deliver an edict that the Christian faith must be free of foreign influence but "adapt to China," a euphemism for obeying the Communist Party. AP

New Zealander stands trial in Guangzhou on drug charges

AP PHOTO



New Zealand's Peter Gardner is escorted by policemen as he arrives at the Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court

Paul Traynor, Guangzhou

A 25-year-old New Zealander who faces a possible death sentence if convicted of smuggling methamphetamine testified yesterday that he came to China to collect what he thought was muscle-building supplements and never checked the packages before trying to depart.

Peter Gardner at times choked on his words and said he was sorry for any harm done to China and to his family because of his involvement in the case in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

His lawyer, Zhang Jie, said Gardner was tricked into being an accomplice in a smuggling scheme, and that he had never touched any of the methamphetamines that were seized by customs officials at Guangzhou Baiyun airport on Nov. 8.

Authorities have charged him with trying to smuggle more than 30 kilograms of the illegal drug out of China, which carries a possible death penalty. The trial concluded yesterday and no date was set for a verdict.

The trial in Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court was broadcast live on a court website, but Gardner's testimony in English was barely, if at all, audible. A court interpreter gave an audible translation in Chinese.

Gardner argued that he did not knowingly smuggle drugs, though he

appeared to acknowledge some wrongdoing and offered to remedy the situation by helping police identify Chinese suspects.

Gardner, who also has Australian citizenship and resided in Sydney, said he came to China to buy several kilograms of a muscle-building supplement, «but I didn't check the parcel after I got the delivery,» the translator quoted him as saying.

«The crime I committed affected my family, and I would do anything that would help me in this situation, so I'd like to help the police to identify other suspects,» the translator quoted him as saying. «And I'd like to point out the other Chinese suspects as soon as possible if police hand me photos for me to identify.»

The court was shown a security video of an exchange in which Gardner met two Chinese men in the lobby of the Hilton hotel in Guangzhou. He is seen approaching the men, exchanging a code to confirm identities and then taking possession of two Adidas-brand duffel bags.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, asked about the case at a regular briefing yesterday, said drug smuggling does «great harm to society» and the case will be handled according to law. «And we will be very cautious about using the death penalty,» she said. AP

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Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

NORTH KOREA

For most, online shopping not just a click away

ONLINE shopping has arrived in North Korea, though it's as isolated from the rest of the world as the country itself, and the vast majority of North Koreans lack the technology to use it.

The website Okryu, aimed primarily at smartphone users, offers products from North Korean companies including women's clothing, bags, shoes, medicines, cosmetics, furniture and food. Payment, in local currency only, is taken from the main North Korean debit card system.

To keep it all hermetically sealed, the site works not on the World Wide Web but on North Korea's own intranet, a self-contained version of the Internet set up and maintained strictly for domestic use. North Koreans call it the "domestic web" and it's been around for years, but not used very much, largely because very few North Koreans have personal-use computers that can go online at all.

Smartphone use, however, is growing, and Okryu's presence suggests that the government does not consider the technology to be a threat to the country's rigid social order.

While cellphones are still largely absent from the countryside, it has become common to see people using them while walking down the streets of the capital. After years in which it limited mobile phones to elites or banned them entirely, North Korea began allowing their broad use in 2008. By 2013, the number of mobile and smartphones mushroomed to about 2 million, or



A man sits in front of portraits of the late North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung, left, and Kim Jong Il, right, as he uses his smartphone in Pyongyang

■ **The website Okryu, aimed primarily at smartphone users, offers products from North Korean companies**

nearly one for every 10 North Koreans.

Last year, North Korea's mobile phone network, Koryolink, started allowing customers to use their phones to look at a very limited number of local websites — such as the ruling party newspaper, the state news agency, a TV show download site, a local university site and a science and technology site called "Hot Wind."

Okryu (pronounced ong-yu)

is managed by the General Bureau of Public Service, a government organization that oversees shops, restaurants and producers of consumer goods. Bureau official Jong Sol Hwa recently confirmed the online shopping site, announced with much pride by state media last month, is up and running.

It's impossible to say how popular the new site is or if the average North Korean shopper is even aware of it. The site's

managers haven't announced statistics about page views, unique users or sales volume.

During a demonstration for an AP Television News crew, a bureau official clicked on the site for the Kumsong Food Factory in Pyongyang and scrolled down to a pack of cream buns, which brought up a new page with that item and its price — 78 North Korean won (less than 1 U.S. dollar, depending on which exchange rate is applied), which is in line with prices at stores in Pyongyang.

The next step is to type in how many packs the user wants and tap the buy button. After hitting confirm, the purchase is finished.

How were the goods delivered? And when? Those questions weren't answered in the demonstration, though they are critical to the website's success. Foreigners — whether they are inside or outside North Korea — are barred from using the service.

North Korean shoppers may find it particularly useful that the site lists similar items together so they can compare prices. That is a luxury here because advertising is nearly non-existent and traveling to do bargain-hunting can be difficult. Evidently, the socialist country is content to inject some competition into its virtual world. **AP**

SINGAPORE

Teen pleads not guilty over online video

ASingaporean teenager pleaded not guilty yesterday to two charges over an online video he posted that was critical of Christianity and the nation's late founding prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew.

Sixteen-year-old Amos Yee Pang Sang told a packed courtroom that he would not be taking the stand to provide further evidence in the case. Prosecutors said they did not plan to bring forward any witnesses.

Yee faces two charges: intending to wound the religious feelings of Christians and transmitting an obscene image over the Internet of Lee and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. A third charge, making offensive remarks against Lee, has been stood down temporarily.

In an eight-minute clip that was posted on YouTube in March, Yee said Lee and Jesus were "both power-hungry and malicious," among other derogatory

comments mostly targeting Lee.

If found guilty, Yee could face jail time of up to three years, or an unspecified fine.

His trial was adjourned until Friday afternoon, when prosecutors and his lawyer will submit their closing arguments. The judge may issue her verdict then or next week.

According to court documents shown to The Associated Press, Yee told police that he was raised Catholic but turned atheist by mid-2013.

Yee has spent about two weeks in jail. Arrested and charged in March, he was bailed out by a stranger, then defied one of his bail conditions — refraining from posting any public material online — and jailed again.

When he re-entered custody on April 30, Yee was slapped in the face by a stranger outside court. The assailant was arrested and is likely to be charged next week. **AP**

JAPAN

Zoo apologizes for naming newborn monkey Charlotte

AJapanese zoo has apologized for naming a baby monkey Charlotte after the newborn British princess following complaints at home.

The Takasakiyama Natural Zoological Garden said yesterday it was considering re-naming the macaque. It was flooded with angry calls and emails Wednesday hours after announcing the name for its first born monkey of the year, a tradition at the city-run zoo in southern Japan.

Charlotte was the favorite in a public

ballot, receiving 59 out of 853 votes just over a month until Wednesday, when the female monkey was born.

Opponents largely said giving the princess' name to a monkey is disrespectful to British royals. According to zoo official Akira Asano, some of them said that the Japanese people would feel offended if a monkey were named after Japanese princesses.

He said the zoo has also received support for Charlotte, and the views are now largely divided.

"We deeply apologi-

ze for causing trouble to many people over the naming of the first baby (monkey)," said a statement posted on the zoo website. "We take these opinions seriously."

Asano said he was not aware of any complaints from British citizens.

Officials of the zoo and the city of Oita were still discussing what to do with the monkey's name.

The British Embassy in Tokyo declined to comment, while Japan's foreign ministry said it was not involved with the issue. **AP**

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Danica Kirka
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UK

Voters flock to the polls in Britain's knife-edge election

VOTERS were choosing a new parliament for the United Kingdom yesterday in an election that is expected to produce an ambiguous result, a period of frantic political horse-trading and a bout of national soul-searching.

Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives and Ed Miliband's Labour Party are running neck and neck, and neither looks able to win a majority of Parliament's 650 seats.

Many voters are turning elsewhere — chiefly to the separatist Scottish National Party, which will dominate north of the border, and the anti-immigrant U.K. Independence Party. UKIP is third in opinion polls but Britain's electoral system means it can win at most a handful of seats.

If no party wins outright, it may take days or weeks of negotiation to forge a workable government.

The carefully stage-ma-

naged campaign lacked impromptu drama. But television debate appearances in which the public put questions directly to the politicians made plain that many distrust promises to safeguard the economy, preserve the National Health Service from severe cutbacks and control the number of migrants from the European Union.

Cameron and Miliband were both up early to vote. The prime minister voted in his Oxfordshire constituency with his wife, Samantha, while Miliband cast his ballot alongside his wife, Justine, in northern England. Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg walked hand-in-hand with his wife Miriam to the polls in the city of Sheffield.

Voters gathered in schools, halls, pubs,



Britain's Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader David Cameron and his wife Samantha leave a voting station in Spelsbury, England, as protesters demonstrate outside

gyms and churches to make their voices heard all across this island nation of 64 million people. In the bright early-morning sunshine in London, voters cast ballots at a polling station close to Parliament as police stood guard.

Signs of the unfolding political drama were all around. The squares opposite Parliament were packed with temporary outdoor television studios, while commuters picked up newspapers urging voters to the polls.

"It's going to be important for Britain for the next five years," said Gerry McQuillan, 61, an arts administrator voting Labour. "We're coming out of economic austerity but we've got to get the right government for the next five years." AP

ISRAEL

Netanyahu forms hardline coalition before midnight deadline

Josef Federman, Jerusalem

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu completed the formation of a new coalition late Wednesday, putting him at the helm of a hardline government that appears to be set on a collision course with the U.S. and other key allies.

Netanyahu reached a deal with the nationalist Jewish Home party shortly before a midnight deadline, clinching a slim parliamentary majority and averting an embarrassing scenario that would have forced him from office. But with a government dominated by hard-liners that support increased West Bank settlement construction and oppose peace moves with the Palestinians, he could have a hard time rallying international support. Controlling just 61 of 120 parliamentary seats, the narrow coalition could also struggle to press forward with a domestic agenda.

After Netanyahu's Likud Party won March 17 elections with 30 seats, it seemed he would have a relatively easy time forming a coalition and serving a fourth term as prime minister. But the



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

six-week negotiating process, which expired at midnight, turned out to be much more difficult than anticipated as rival coalition partners and members of the Likud jockeyed for influential Cabinet ministries.

"I am sure that nobody is surprised that the negotiations continued with all the factions and nobody is surprised it ended at the time it did," Netanyahu said late Wednesday.

He vowed to install "a strong and stable government for the people of Israel" by next week, yet also hinted he would court additional partners in the near future.

"Sixty-one is a good number, and 61-plus is an even better number," he said. "But it star-

ts at 61 and we will begin. We have a lot of work ahead of us."

The coalition talks stalled this week when Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, a longtime partner of Netanyahu's, unexpectedly stepped down and announced his secular nationalist Yisrael Beitenu party was joining the opposition.

That left Netanyahu dependent on Jewish Home leader Naftali Bennett, a former aide who has a rocky relationship with Netanyahu. With Bennett driving a hard bargain, the talks stretched throughout the day and well into the night before Netanyahu called President Reuven Rivlin, as required by law, to announce the deal. AP

IRAN

Gov't releases seized cargo vessel

THE operator of a Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship seized by Iran says the vessel has been released and that the crew are all in good condition.

Rickmers Ship Management told The Associated Press in an e-mail yesterday that the MV Maersk Tigris had been released following a court order.

Iranian forces seized the vessel on April 28 after firing warning shots across its bridge as it traversed the Strait of Hormuz. It was taken to Bandar Abbas, the main port of Iran's navy, under escort by Iranian patrol boats. The seizure stems from a legal complaint by a private Iranian company.

A day after the ship was impounded, Iran's Foreign Ministry defended the move as legally valid, saying the vessel was seized based on a court decision.

Iran claimed that the Danish shipping company that chartered the ship, Maersk Line, owed money to an Iranian firm. Maersk had chartered the container ship from Singapore-based Rickmers Ship Management and

insists it carried no "special cargo" such as military equipment.

Rickmers' statement did not mention whether any money was paid and the company spokesman did not immediately return calls.

The incident came at a critical time in Iran's relations with the West, as talks on Tehran's contested nuclear program continue and frictions rise amid a U.S.-backed campaign by a Saudi-led coalition carrying out airstrikes against Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen.

Following the Maersk incident, Washington adopted a policy change, allowing any U.S.-flagged ship to be accompanied by Navy warships through the narrow strait, which includes Iranian territorial waters. Navy ships are positioned nearby and are ready to respond if needed, but they do not actually escort a vessel.

The Strait of Hormuz is the route for about a fifth of the world's oil and is only about 33 kilometers wide at its narrowest point. AP

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	In Macau
15:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News
15:50	Documentary
16:45	Theatre
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:40	Revenge S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Music
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:20	Boonie Bears
11:15	Documentary Serie
12:00	Documentary Serie
12:15	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
19:00	Contest
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:10	Comedy
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
16:10	Miscellaneous
17:00	Miscellaneous
17:45	Documentary Series
18:45	Miscellaneous
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:10	Ebola Front Line
23:00	TDM News
23:30	News
23:45	Documentary Series
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

offbeat

CHINA BLACKLISTS 4 PEOPLE FOR MISBEHAVING WHILE TRAVELING

Chinese authorities have blacklisted four people for misbehaving while traveling, as Beijing seeks to improve the image of its tourists who are visiting the world's touristy spots in increasingly large numbers but also are earning a reputation for rudeness.

China National Tourism Administration this week released a list of four tourists, including a woman who poured instant noodles soaked in hot water onto an attendant on an AirAsia flight from Bangkok and made insults and threats at the attendant.

Blacklisted people could see their travel plans affected. The rule that took effect in April allows authorities to blacklist a tourist for unruly behaviors and notify police, customs, border security, transportation agencies and credit agencies.

cinema



CINETEATRO

07 MAY - 13 MAY

THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

ROOM 1

(3D) 2.15, 7.15 pm

(2D) 4.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Joss Whedon

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



HELIOS

ROOM 2

7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk

Starring: Jacky Cheung, Nick Cheung, Shawn Yue, Ji Jin-hee

Language: Chinese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 118min



MURMUR OF THE HEARTS

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Sylvia Chang

Starring: Isabella Leong, Joseph Chang, Lawrence Ko, Lee Sinje

Language: Mandarin (Chinese/English)

Duration: 119min

MACAU TOWER

23 APR - 20 MAY

THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Joss Whedon

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



this day in history



1978 'SON OF SAM' PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDERS

The man alleged to have murdered six people in a killing spree last year has pleaded guilty to all the charges against him.

David Berkowitz became known as the 'Son of Sam' after taunting letters from him to police investigating the case were published in newspapers.

At a court in Brooklyn, New York, Berkowitz admitted all the killings which last year had residents of three New York boroughs living in fear.

The 24-year-old also admitted wounding seven people before he was arrested last August.

Berkowitz, who acquired his proficiency with guns through a three-year stint in the US army, said he had no motive other than "excitement" for carrying out the shootings.

He showed no emotion as he made the admissions which were against the advice of his lawyers.

They had wanted him to challenge a judge's ruling that he was mentally competent to enter a plea.

'The .44 Killer'

The first killing attributed to Son of Sam occurred in July 1976 when 18-year-old Donna Lauria was shot as she sat in a car with a friend in the Bronx district of New York.

However police did not realise there was a serial killer on the loose until another two people had been murdered and several more injured.

The link was not made until last March when it was found the gun used to kill Ms Lauria had also been used in the fatal shooting of 19-year-old Virginia Voskerichian.

The press initially dubbed Berkowitz "the .44 Killer" after the calibre of gun he used.

However, the Son of Sam nickname was adopted after Berkowitz used the term to describe himself in an anonymous letter to police in April 1977.

He was eventually captured after being linked to the scene of the final killing through a parking ticket issued when he left his car parked illegally.

Berkowitz quickly confessed and claimed he was ordered to kill by a neighbour's dog.

He also admitted to being behind the unsolved stabbings of several women, all of whom survived.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In June 1978 David Berkowitz was sentenced to 365 years in jail.

Over the years Berkowitz has hinted he did not work alone.

Conspiracy theorists believe Berkowitz was part of a satanic cult and that others were involved in the shootings.

He remains in prison where he has become a born-again Christian.

He has a website which he uses to declare his remorse for the killings and insist he has no interest in being freed from jail.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Conflict is in the air today — and you can come out ahead if you're willing to get deep into the argumentative weeds. You may draw on old tricks to confuse your opponents, but all is fair today.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You feel a bit out of sorts today — and others think you've lost your mind a little! It's one of those days when you need to ensure that you're doing what's right, even if it doesn't feel exactly normal.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Your amazing energy helps you start off in a million different directions at once — but you don't ever have to follow any one path all the way to the end. Just have fun and get serious tomorrow.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's all too easy to get lost in the details today — but you need to see the big picture, too! That doesn't mean you can change course or slack off, but you do need to ensure that you've got some balance in your life.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You and your people need to get together to brainstorm new ideas or to think about how to reach your goals. It could be at work or at home, but you can make progress if you convene first.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You don't mind taking care of the little details, and today brings a new batch for you to work with. This could be a big deal at work if you can get the attention of the right person or team.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your intellect is stronger than ever now. That could mean that you need to spend some time alone, deep in thought — or it could mean that you're the life of the party! Make the most of it.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You need to deal with money today — and not just your own! You may be responsible for a sizable pool of it, actually, but you know that you're up for the challenge. Do everyone proud!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You have to be more careful with people — at least one of them isn't really being honest with you, and that could mean that you've got to drag them out in the open by tonight.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your people can't be counted on today — but don't think this is permanent! You just need to remember to go it alone when possible, then reconvene tomorrow or the next day. This phase will end!

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You should break out of your shell and try to communicate with your people — many of them are waiting for you to bridge the gap. Your great social energy makes it a breeze today!

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You're of two minds today — and it may be hard for you to choose between them. That doesn't mean that you're waffling, though. You may be able to trick a friend into making hard choices for you!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8		4		1				
9		7						5
	5		8	4				
	4	1	7					
5	7			9	4			
			9	4	2			
	6	9		1				
3				7				9
8		5						3

Easy+

	5	3	2					
6	8							9
7		6	9				1	
	7		8	3				
2		1	5					8
	6		3	7				
6			4	3		5		
4							6	7
		5	1	4				

Medium

			9	5	6			
7		1	3					9
2	5			6				
	6	2		9				
8			6					3
	9			1	7			
		5		3		1		
9			2	3		4		
5	7	1						

Hard

			6		3	4		
7		1						
2								
5			2					1
	3						8	
				1				
8		3		4				
			8					
							7	

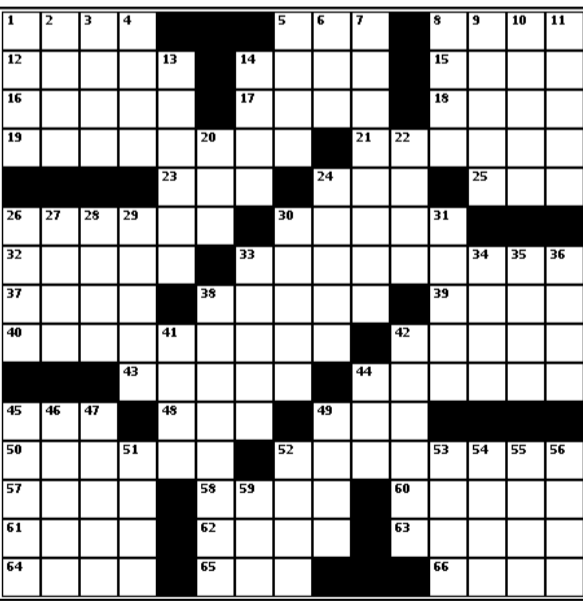
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	11	25	drizzle/clear
Harbin	2	15	cloudy/drizzle
Tianjin	12	25	shower/overcast
Urumqi	14	26	clear
Xi'an	15	28	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	4	16	shower
Chengdu	18	30	cloudy/shower
Chongqing	19	29	cloudy/clear
Kunming	13	28	clear
Nanjing	15	28	cloudy
Shanghai	17	27	cloudy
Wuhan	17	30	clear/cloudy
Hangzhou	18	29	cloudy
Taipei	24	28	overcast/drizzle
Guangzhou	24	29	thundershower
Hong Kong	25	29	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	4	16	clear
Frankfurt	10	19	drizzle
Paris	7	16	drizzle/overcast
London	4	13	overcast/drizzle
New York	14	22	moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Whole bunch; 5- Sun ___-sen; 8- Scotch go-with; 12- Risk; 14- Having a sound mind; 15- Not mint; 16- Farewell; 17- Spanish dessert; 18- This, in Tijuana; 19- View of the sea; 21- More strange; 23- Terminus; 24- The middle of summer?; 25- Before, once; 26- Thrifty; 30- Smash; 32- Movie critic Roger; 33- Flesh-eating animal; 37- Zeno of ___; 38- Wooden shoe; 39- Sale sign; 40- Resembling a reptile; 42- It's a plus; 43- Utopias; 44- Fix, as a shoe; 45- ___ favor; 48- Shoebox marking; 49- Boo follower; 50- Polar cover; 52- Inflammation of the spinal cord; 57- Singer James; 58- Holy smokes!; 60- Join forces; 61- James of "The Godfather"; 62- Increase; 63- Scornful look; 64- Border; 65- Cpl.'s superior; 66- Gilbert of "Roseanne";

DOWN: 1- Pampering places; 2- Sign over; 3- Oratorio highlight; 4- Conks out; 5- Ivy League school; 6- Santa ___; 7- Pre-war apartment; 8- Plaintiff; 9- Actor Davis; 10- Dissuade; 11- Worship; 13- Shining with light; 14- Dirty Harry's org.; 20- Director Lee; 22- Morales of "La Bamba"; 24- ___ the side of caution; 26- Prophet; 27- ___-bodied; 28- Prez's backup; 29- Hopping mad; 30- Rum cakes; 31- Russian drink; 33- Queeg's command; 34- ___ bucco; 35- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 36- Villa d'___; 38- Railway ties; 41- Impression; 42- Greek god of the winds; 44- Wade opponent; 45- Portion; 46- Group of eight; 47- Label anew; 49- Jekyll's alter ego; 51- Bamboo stem; 52- Pole; 53- Roadside stops; 54- ___ yellow ribbon...; 55- Roman road; 56- Vaccines; 59- Rocker's show;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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<p>Ocean Garden Fragrant Court Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Stunning Views of Macau HKD 33,000 / 3,053 sq ft Ref: 15030485</p>	<p>The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Luxury Residence HKD 29,800 / 2,488 sq ft Ref: 15015429</p>	<p>Tai Nin Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment Fantastic Location HKD 11,800 / 480 sq ft Ref: 15040496</p>	<p>Va Nam unit M Taipa 2 Bedroom Apartment Near Old Taipa Village HKD 12,500 / 830 sq ft Ref: 14030404</p>

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ANALYSIS

Pep Guardiola, too clever for his own good?

John Leicester, Paris

THERE is such a thing as being too clever for your own good. Pep Guardiola is undoubtedly smart, but his reluctance to water down his tactical thinking is one reason why his Bayern Munich team won't win the Champions League this year. That and because he looks out of his depth at the pinnacle in Europe without the unstoppable, match-winning force that is Lionel Messi.

Bayern playing three-on-three for 15 opening minutes against Barcelona's attacking trio of Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez in the Champions League semifinals on Wednesday night was the football equivalent of climbing into a lion's cage to impress your friends.

Either you emerge with a story for the ages — "Did I tell you about the time when ...?" — or you lose limbs. Bayern lost a leg.

Even for a renowned motivator like Guardiola and with the home advantage of their Allianz Arena, it is hard to think of convincing arguments the Bayern coach can use to hoodwink his players into thinking that their 3-0 loss at the Camp Nou can be remedied in the second leg in Munich next Tuesday.

Football neutrals should send Guardiola a "thank you" note for an opening spell so breathtakingly risky that it was tempting to wake up the kids: "Don't worry about being tired for school, you must see this."

No other contemporary manager would have dared go toe-to-toe with a trio that by the end of the night had inflated its combined total of goals this season to an otherworldly 111. The audacity was intoxicating, oxygen after so many matches of rote football from coaches lacking Guardiola's imagination. The boxing equivalent would have been if Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao had gone at each other hammer and tongs in their so-called Fight of the Century that wasn't, instead of going through the motions for



Pep Guardiola instructs his players during the CL semifinal first leg soccer match between Barcelona and Bayern Munich at the Camp Nou stadium

obscene paychecks. There was method in Guardiola's madness. By skimping with three at the back, piling bodies into the midfield and pushing players higher up the pitch, he wanted to out-Barcelona Barcelona, deprive Messi and Co. of the ball that he, when he was Barcelona's trophy-winning coach from 2008-2012, drilled them to always hold onto or quickly get back.

"Monopolize the ball and make them run" was Guardiola's succinct summary of his anti-Barcelona plan. "But we were not dominant enough."

Pragmatism can go a long way in football. The career of Jose Mourinho, the antithesis of Guardiola's idealism, demonstrates that. Winning the Champions League with two different teams — Porto and Inter Milan — is an achievement Guardiola is no closer to matching. His Champions League titles in 2009 and 2011 both came with Barcelona, with Messi.

Unlike Guardiola, Mourinho doesn't think "parking the bus," defense in numbers, winning ugly when needed, are dirty

words. One would never expect, or even want, such calculating realism from a football romantic like Guardiola. But his switch after 15 frantic minutes to a more orthodox four-man defense tacitly acknowledged the folly of allowing Messi, Neymar and Suarez so much room. That no one at Bayern made Guardiola see that before kickoff begs the question of whether he has too much power and not enough critical advice.

Had Bayern started that way, putting out fewer fires and playing with more composure than panic, it perhaps could have made better use of the opening spell. Guardiola could point out that Barcelona's goals came at the end of the match, in the 77th, 80th, and 94th minutes, not at the beginning, and that the match would have been radically altered if Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski had not scuffed wide an early chance.

Guardiola could also convincingly argue that Messi decided this match, not tactics. His second goal, bamboozling Jerome Boateng with a left-right swerve that comically floored the Bayern defender, and chipping over the world's best goalkeeper, Manuel Neuer, will be seared on the minds of Ballon d'Or voters.

They'll have little choice but to award Messi his fifth player of the year trophy unless current holder Cristiano Ronaldo does even better to get Real Madrid past Juventus in the other semifinal return leg next Wednesday.

Still, despite those mitigating circumstances, the verdict has to be that the 2013 Champions League winners have gone backward in Europe since Guardiola took charge from Jupp Heynckes. Last season, it was eventual champion Real Madrid that chewed chunks out of Guardiola's reputation with a 5-0 aggregate victory in the semifinals. Now Messi is begging the question: Can Guardiola only win in Europe when the Argentine genius is playing for him, not against him?

If he can't find an answer to that next week, then perhaps Guardiola isn't as smart as he thinks. **AP**

Manny Pacquiao has shoulder surgery

MANNY Pacquiao underwent surgery on his injured right shoulder Wednesday [US time] following his loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in boxing's richest fight ever.

Pacquiao spokesman Fred Sternburg quoted the fighter's surgeon, Dr. Neal ElAttrache of the Kerlan Jobe Orthopaedic clinic in Los Angeles, as saying he could not be "more pleased with the results" and fully expects Pacquiao to make a full recovery.

The surgery came four days after Pacquiao fought Mayweather at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas, dropping a unanimous 12-round decision. Pacquiao asked for a pain killing shot before the fight for his shoulder, but was denied by Nevada boxing officials because they weren't aware previously of the injury.

Pacquiao said he thought he could fight after suffering an injury to the shoulder three weeks ago in training. He said he hurt it worse in the fourth round, when he landed some of his best punches of the night.

Nevada boxing officials are considering disciplinary action against Pacquiao for not disclosing the injury on a form the day before the fight.

There has been a lawsuit filed in federal court in Las Vegas asking for fraud damages on behalf of people who spent money to watch the fight or bet on it. Similar suits also have been filed in federal court in Chicago and in Los Angeles Superior Court. **AP**



Pacquiao underwent surgery on his injured right shoulder

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opinion

Bizcuits
Leanda Lee



WEED FOR SALE

There are some real jokers in our community but other people who don't, can't, won't see the beyond the apparent intent. Offense taken, it's sometimes difficult to ignore – and a particular Facebook post this week was certainly difficult for many to ignore, and that's where it got interesting.

The offending advertisement in a community group page was for the sale of 'Weed' in Taipa with a picture of something reminiscent of Chinese tea in a Ziploc bag. The quality, said to be from the Netherlands, was guaranteed (if memory serves me correctly, as the Facebook posts have now been judiciously removed). Putting aside the goal of the post, – my guess is we have a provocateur rather than a criminal – the responses were an almost perfect case-study in human communication. An active Facebook member who also happens to be one of the most staunch anti-drug activists and campaigners in Macau, founder of a drug-abusers' association that runs rehabilitation units, invited to be a member of the Narcotics Control Commission of the Macau Government, Youth Drug Commission and the AIDS Prevention and Control Commission, and the Commission of the Working Group for the Execution and Follow up of the New Drug Laws of the Macau Government was the first to post, reacting as one would expect of someone of his calibre and dedication to the war against drugs: single-minded attack, "Do you know this is a criminal offense?" Then there were the incredulous responses of those taking the post at face value and believing the guy to be either ignorant or moronic. Once those who had knowledge about the poster's posting proclivities and other recent Facebook activity in the community started to comment: "Well, after all, we're illegally on-selling show tickets on-line, too!" enough hints came to light to suggest it might not be for real.

What is communicated to us is inevitably distorted by our own assumptions, which we rarely test unless for our own benefit. This is particularly so here, in Macau, where the desire for even feigned harmony and lack of conflict deters the face-to-face interaction and questioning necessary to get the facts right and clear away misunderstanding. Is it the communicator's job to ensure we communicate as intended or the receiver's job to test assumptions? We seem happier to stay ignorant convinced of our own prejudices and perspectives than test them through enquiry and potential confrontation. The dog-with-a-bad name syndrome seems harder to overcome here: it takes a certain generosity of spirit and courage to change biases against others particularly if those pre-conceptions fulfil our own purposes.

Culture and history are part of those distortions. The picture of a child holding a parasol for his teacher touched a raw nerve in China but a different nerve elsewhere. The Associated Press (MDT May 6) reported that the Baoshan district education bureau in Shanghai made a statement reminding teachers that they must "discipline themselves and care for their students." The article explained that "Chinese officials have long had the privilege of having underlings hold umbrellas to shield them from the elements, but the practice – once seen as a symbol of status – has been derided by people who see it as an act of arrogance indicative of an authoritarian regime." Without knowledge of that cultural and historical baggage we would likely view that child as having been brought up to be kind, considerate and respectful towards his elders, and indicative of a caring, positive relationship between student and teacher.

These incidents and the fog in perspective created by personality, character, circumstance, history and culture, reminded me of another such poignant occasion, which prompted a quote by Tennessee Williams: "Nobody sees anybody truly but all through the flaws of their own egos. That is the way we all see... each other in life." And thus it continues, "Vanity, fear, desire, competition – all such distortions within our own egos – condition our vision of those in relation to us. Add to those distortions to our own egos the corresponding distortions in the egos of others, and you see how cloudy the glass must become through which we look at each other."

THE CHINESE OLYMPIC TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS IN TOWN

The Chinese national table tennis team arrived in Macau yesterday for a four-day official visit. Tonight the legion of Olympic gold medalists, led by their coach Liu Guoliang, also a winner of multiple world titles, will appear at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion for an event, showing off their skills at the table tennis tables in front of a 1,500-strong audience who pre-booked their seats earlier this week. Moreover, some of the audience members will even get a chance to battle with the top athletes, such as Ma Long, Ding Ning, Li Xiaoxia and Zhang Jike. The event's

major organizers, the Macao Sport Development Board and the Sports Olympic Committee of Macau, China sought to encourage local citizens to engage in exercise to stay healthy through the rare chance to interact with the mainland athletes. The national table tennis team is set to meet students from the University of Macau tomorrow for the first time at the Hengqin campus. After that, local high school students will also get a glimpse of the top players as part of the team's visit. This is the fourth time that such a citywide visit has been held.

Sands announces transportation for non-resident workers



SANDS China announced yesterday that it will start providing "an additional, complimentary transportation service for its non-resident construction workers living in mainland China." Beginning May 11, the company will dispatch an extra fleet of shuttle buses in order to transport the workers to and from Gongbei in Zhuhai and the company's construction sites in Cotai via the Lotus Bridge.

"Sands China strictly adheres to Macau SAR government policies and

guidelines, and has been taking care of the daily commutes of its cross-border construction workers since September 2014. In line with the government's request, it has been shuttling the workers from Gongbei Border Gate to construction sites in Cotai – with a total of 90 trips offered per day – as part of its social responsibility efforts," the company stated in a press release.

The complimentary shuttles will collect the workers at Zhuhai Railway Station during peak hours and

transport them to construction sites in Cotai via the Lotus Bridge.

Sands stated in a press release that, "besides the convenience it will provide for the workers, the shuttle service has the added benefit of easing the pressure on public transportation and traffic within Macau by not allowing the workers to take public transport and having them use company shuttles for their Lotus-Cotai route.

In addition to providing transportation for construction workers, the gaming operator stressed that it currently operates team member shuttles running 16 different routes throughout the city. Those shuttles are reportedly in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with pickups as frequent as every 5 minutes during peak hours.

Following a government request, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced earlier that three gaming operators were already providing shuttle buses for non-resident construction workers in order to relieve the pressure on the public bus services.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The Macau team won 3-0 yesterday against the Maldives at the 1st Asian U-23 Women's Volleyball Championship in Pasig City, the Philippines.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPANESE authorities close part of a popular hot springs area because of fears a volcano might erupt.

JAPAN A Japanese zoo apologizes for naming a baby monkey Charlotte after the newborn British princess. More on p12



YEMEN Saudi Arabia and the United States yesterday announced a five-day, renewable cease-fire in Yemen's war to allow aid to reach millions of civilians caught in a humanitarian crisis from the conflict. But the truce is dependent on Iran-backed rebels and their allies also agreeing to stop fighting, they said.



USA The bulk collection of Americans' phone records by the government exceeds what Congress has allowed, a federal appeals court said yesterday as it asked Congress to step in and decide how best to protect national security and privacy interests. Secret NSA documents leaked in 2013 to journalists by contractor Edward Snowden revealed that the agency was collecting phone records and digital communications of millions of citizens not suspected of crimes and prompting congressional reform. Snowden remains exiled in Russia.

BURUNDI One person was killed yesterday in clashes in the Burundian capital during protests over President Pierre Nkurunziza's bid for a third term in office. Nkurunziza has said that if he is re-elected it will be his last term in office but his critics want him to drop his presidential bid, saying he has finished the two term limit allowed by law.