



CCAC INVESTIGATION CRITICIZED

Employees of the Cultural Industries Fund claim that Chao Son U pressured them to provide favorable testimonies

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MIO PANG FEI ON SHOW AT VENICE

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XI JINPING MARKS CLOSER TIES WITH RUSSIA

Xi Jinping was the most prominent leader to attend the Victory Day military parade through Moscow's Red Square

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May 2015

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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Ten workers were killed after a retaining wall under construction suddenly collapsed in the eastern province of Shandong, authorities said yesterday. Six people were killed on the spot, and four others died in the hospital, according to a statement posted on the Lanling municipal government's website. Three others were in stable condition.



CHINA A plane operated by Chinese domestic carrier Joyair veered off a runway upon landing in the southeastern city of Fuzhou yesterday, and five people suffered minor injuries, the airline said. Joyair said it was investigating the cause of the accident and apologized to the 45 passengers and seven crew members on board, according to a statement posted on its website.

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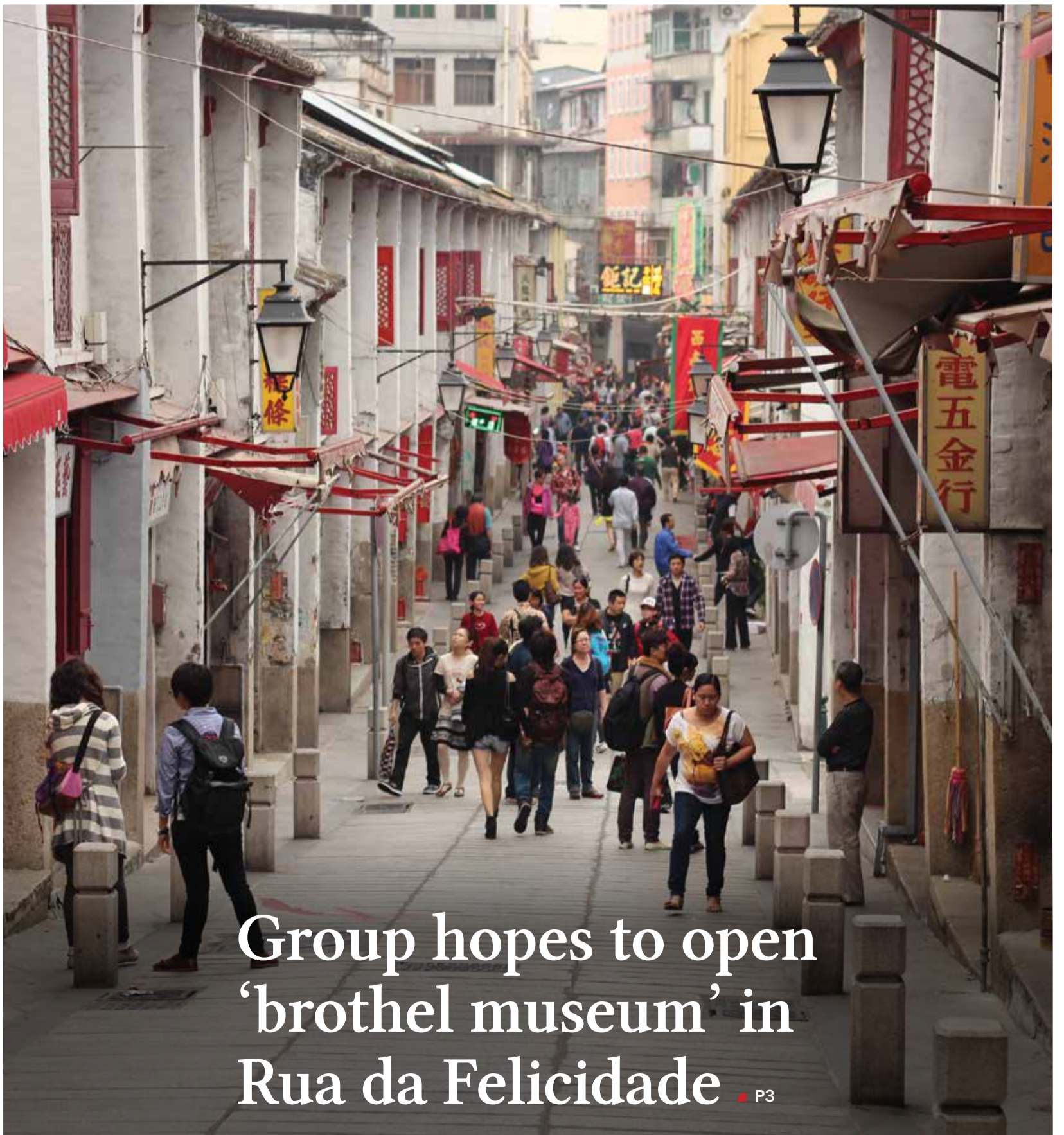
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CCAC

Cultural industries fund employees raise criticism over investigation

A group of seven employees of Macau's Cultural Industries Fund have claimed that former member Chao Son U pressured them to provide favorable testimonies during an investigation launched by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) following suspicions of illegal practices linked to a subsidy granting case.

CCAC had launched a probe to investigate whether Chao Son U, former member of the cultural industries fund administrative committee, had committed any crime in granting a subsidy to a company owned by his direct family members. Mr Chao was later sacked.

Macau's anti-graft agency decided last week to shelve the case, announcing that it had found no evidence to prove that Mr Chao had engaged in

RENATO MARQUES



The CCAC believes that the issues [raised by employees] have already been clarified

CCAC

any illegal practices related to the granting process.

Last week a group of seven cultural industries fund employees held a press conference criticizing CCAC's handling of the case. According to local media, the employees are claiming that Mr Chao instructed them on how to reply to questions posed during an inquiry laun-

ched by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture's cabinet.

Furthermore, they also claim that after replying to questions posed by the Secretary's office, Mr Chao met with the employees to gather details on the contents of their talks. Newspaper *Hoje Macau* reported that the employees have even suggested that they were pressured

to reply to the Secretary's office questions under Mr Chao's guidance, because "he held a higher [job] position."

The employees also stated that the CCAC probe into the case was "too simplified."

"The CCAC believes that the issues [mentioned by the employees] have already been clarified and thoroughly considered in the inquiry carried out by the Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, and during the supplementary investigation conducted by CCAC," the anti-graft agency said in a statement.

CCAC recalled that both the Secretary's inquiry and their own probe showed that Mr Chao had requested to be excused from the subsidy-granting assessment process for the company owned by his relatives. "No acts able to affect the assessment and approval that could result in illicit gains have been found," CCAC said.

"The CCAC also believes there

is no evidence proving that the then-member has committed any illegal or irregular actions in the relevant assessment and approval process," it added.

Moreover, Macau's anti-graft agency said that it also investigated the possibility of employees being pressured to provide favorable testimonies, but found "no reliable evidence" of wrongdoing. "According to the inquiry's findings and supplementary investigation, over 20 staff members of the fund, all except one, said in their written statements that the then-member of the fund had not exerted pressure," CCAC recalled.

The body reiterated that it found no evidence of illegal or irregular activity committed by Mr Chao, and therefore decided to shelve the case. It also stated that the probe was conducted over a short period of time, in order to ensure the interests of those involved and also due to local media's coverage of the case.

"Whenever there is sufficient evidence of involvement in illegal acts, an in-depth investigation and appropriate follow-up measures should be put in place. Meanwhile, the principles of 'legality' and 'giving the benefit of the doubt to a suspect' [in dubio pro reo] shall also be strictly followed under the current legal system in order to ensure citizens' fundamental rights," CCAC recalled. **CP**

DAVINA CHU TO JOIN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES FUND

FORMER MACAU Grand Prix official Davina Chu will replace sacked Cultural Industries Fund administrative committee member Chao Son U, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture told TDM on Friday. "I'm not going to comment on the CCAC report. Before [Davina Chu] was a board member of the tourism services. I think Davina is the right person for the job as a new member of the Cultural Industries Fund," he stated.

Parents call for residency for mainland adult children

A group of residents visited the Identification Bureau last week petitioning for their over-age children in the mainland to be granted Macau residency so that they can enter Macau to reunite with and take care of their aging parents.

The representatives from the Association of Macau Permanent Resi-

dent Parents of Non-beneficial Children cited the bureau representative, who told them that their opinion would be conveyed in a report to the Chief Executive and the Secretary for Administration and Justice.

The association head, Xu Songjiang, told TDM that they were satisfied with the meeting, regar-

ding it as "a good beginning." Xu also cited the bureau official, who said that the CE and the Secretary would also find time to receive the parents.

The leader said that no replies had been given since the bureau delivered their appeals previously, and that the CE had promised during

last year's election campaign that he would convey their appeals to the Central Government.

In response, the Identification Bureau issued a statement yesterday reaffirming that the Central Government's policy for mainland residents entering Macau to permanently reside has not changed, and approval

on these residents' residence applications for their "adult children" cannot violate regulations in the mainland.

The bureau also indicated that their children residing in the mainland can apply to enter Macau for residence at the Public Security Authority's mainland Immigration Department

if their parents who are residing in Hong Kong or Macau are old and weak and can only be looked after by them.

"There are strict regulations on mainland residents entering Macau for residence. Relatives of Macau residents in the mainland must make the application in the mainland. Only those who are qualified will be permitted to reside in Macau," stressed the bureau.

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Group hopes to open 'brothel museum' in Rua da Felicidade

AN association for the employees of local restaurants and bakeries has joined forces with the Oral History Association of Macau, seeking to revamp its current site in an alley close to Rua da Felicidade. The promoters want to turn the site into a cultural and creative complex in order to popularize the former history of the street.

Their initial blueprint was revealed at a press briefing over the weekend. The complex would feature a "brothel museum," since Rua da Felicidade was formerly Macau's local prostitution hub. A café and a cultural and creative store would also be built inside the two-storey building, specifically located at an alley off the street called Beco da Felicidade, commonly known as "Alley of Bliss" among the Chinese community.

Laura Lee, the president of the history association announced at a press briefing that the entire revitalization scheme would need financial support



from the government, as it is expected to cost at least MOP1 million. The first phase of the complex, the café, is expected to be available to the public this September, with the remaining facilities to follow in phases.

"We have divided our plan into three parts. First is the construction of a brothel museum, a coffee shop and a cul-

tural creative shop. [Our current location] is going to be turned into a coffee shop and we want to organize some art performances here. The room next to here is going to be built as a brothel museum," said Lee.

Since the beginning of 1950, the abovementioned Chinese style 3,000 square foot build-

ing was reserved for the labor union's conferences and leisure activities, as well as accommodation. It underwent a facelift by the Cultural Affairs Bureau in 2012 in an effort to preserve the historical streetscape.

Both associations hope to enhance the city's cultural image with more diversified facilities in that area. **Staff reporter**

Former Macau champion dies in stabbing

Brazilian jockey Fausto Durso, a former champion in Macau, has died after suffering stab wounds in an altercation outside his parents' home in Brazil. Durso, 39, rode in Dubai, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Korea before moving to Macau in 2004, where he claimed the jockeys' title twice in 2007 and 2008. According to the Racing Post, he rode over 1,300 winners in Brazil and Macau, with one of his biggest successes in the 2010 Hong Kong-Macau Trophy (local Group 3).

Health Bureau offers flu vaccine to local seniors



The Health Bureau started offering free anti-H3N2 vaccinations to local seniors today, aiming to prevent possible infections among the elderly population in the approaching summer. According to the department's press release issued yesterday, service users of any age from local residential care units and rehabilitation centres, as well as seniors aged over 75, will be the first group to receive the limited 10,000 vaccine injections. The bureau will assign medical personnel to the above units to conduct collective vaccination sessions, while eligible seniors have been advised to take the vaccine on their own at their respective health centers. The authorities urged local eligible seniors to take the injection before the beginning of June as the vaccination will only take effect after two to three weeks.

Credit card circulation up 1.9 pct



The number of personal credit cards in circulation reached 846,825 at the end of March, up by 1.9 percent over a quarter earlier, according to data released by the Monetary Authority of Macau. At the end of March, credit card credit limits granted by banks reached MOP18.3 billion, up by 5.4 percent from the end of December. For the first quarter of 2015, credit card turnover decreased 5.7 percent quarter-to-quarter to MOP4.3 billion. Cash advance turnover reached MOP217.3 million, accounting for 5 percent of total credit turnover.

DRUG PREVENTION

Scholar advises migrant parents to stay alert



Suzette Munoz-Agcaoili speaks during yesterday's seminar

FILIPINO parents working abroad have to pay extra attention to the parenting of their teenage children, who are at risk of becoming engaged in various sorts of hazardous behaviours back home warned Suzette Munoz-Agcaoili, a scholar from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) at a parent-targeted talk yesterday afternoon at the centre of Radiance for Christ Ministries International.

According to the Filipino scholar, drug and alcohol abuse, gambling addiction and early intercourse with multiple sexual partners are common issues facing teenagers. These behaviors are probably unknown to their migrant parents.

The scholar said that the Internet now gives teenagers easy accesses to information that might lead to unhealthy behaviors. "As you know there's Internet, cyber sex, so many things on the

Internet the parents cannot even see," Suzette Munoz-Agcaoili argued.

"If you empowered your children, they'd know what's right and wrong in terms of moral development, so even though they're exposed to the outside, they'd know it's illegal and not right, [and won't] do it," said the scholar, adding that a person's value set is most likely to form at home.

She also suggested that parents stay positive in communicating with their children and try to gain respect from them to consolidate their bonding, which would make it easier to be involved in their children's daily lives.

The talk held yesterday was the second in a series of activities under the Be Cool Project, organized by the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau. **Staff reporter**

CRIME

Two men arrested for selling cannabis online

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested two people for selling marijuana on a social networking site. The two suspects are Polish and Nigerian nationals, both of whom hold Macau residence cards.

The case caught the attention of Facebook users in Macau after a post was uploaded to the "Macau Online Market" page, stating: "Weed (cannabis) for sale in Taipa. 300 MOP per gram bag (will make 5-10 joints). Excellent quality from the Netherlands - satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. Discount on bulk buys. Please PM :)" The post was accompanied by a picture of a bag of marijuana.

The post was deleted shortly after, but not before generating several deprecating comments. The author of the post was anonymously interviewed by newspaper Ponto Final, stating that the sale was not a joke: "I'm really selling, although people think it's a joke." He also said that he was not concerned with the local police: "They have thousands of traffic tickets to do and Filipino passports to inspect," he said.

According to the PJ, both suspects were believed to have commenced operations one week ago, and have made two or three deals in the meantime.

ARTS

Mio Pang Fei on show at Venice

THE opening ceremony of artist Mio Pang Fei's Venice Biennale debut took place at the Macau-China Pavilion in the presence of VIP guests, including members of the Committee of Cultural Industries and a delegation of local artists. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau of Macau (IACM) chairman Alex Vong, the president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Ung Vai Meng, and the featured artist Mio Pang Fei delivered speeches.

The 'Path and Adventure' is designed to convey narrative of a Chinese painter, who decided to embark on an adventure and explore the future of oriental painting during the Cultural Revolution. Destined to be tormented, physically and mentally, on his secret and devout quest and experiments, he confronted inner doubts and faced grave personal risk of demise in his artistic pursuits, which ran counter to the dominant Maoist ideology.

The featured 18 paintings and installations are exhibited in three sections: The Special Era, Shui Hu Series, and the Path of Neo-Orientalism. The exhibit showcases Mio Pang Fei's exper-



imentalist paintings from the Cultural Revolution, as well as his achievements from his decades-long research and practice of Neo-Orientalism; an artistic approach transcending national borders and embracing concepts of Western art to reconstruct an Eastern aesthetic.

In his speech, Alex Vong said, "Mio Pang Fei is a pioneer in Macau's contemporary art scene."

Ung Vai Meng commented: "Over a long period in the 20th century, Chinese artists were confronted with much more complex and harder adversities

than their Western counterparts. Mio tried hard to explore Western modern painting – then criticized by the regime. However, he insisted on continuing his studies and experiments, and later opted to study the fusion of traditional Chinese art with modern Western painting schools."

The exhibition is co-organised by IACM, the Macau Museum of Art and the IC. According to a press release, it presents "a unique artistic landscape of Macau characteristics" to a global audience.

'Sagres' photo album to be launched tomorrow

MACAU-BASED journalist and essayist Joaquim Magalhães de Castro will present the photo album "Sagres – Our Barge" at the Portuguese Consulate tomorrow at 6.30 p.m.

Built in Hamburg in 1937, the tall ship Sagres was added to the Portuguese Navy fleet in 1962, and has since become a symbol of Portugal.

The vessel has been used as a sailing school ship, complementing the technical and academic components taught in the Naval School. The ship has made several trips around the world. The

trilingual book (Portuguese, English and Chinese) depicts aspects of the two trips made by Joaquim Castro aboard the Sagres.

"This photo album is intended to be a reliable and emotional record of intensive day-to-day life on board, played by the various members of a fantastic and very supportive crew with whom I studied. It is also a tribute to those who welcomed me so well. I boarded the Sagres as a stranger and left the ship as a member of a strong, loyal and caring family," says the author in the book's introduction.



Joaquim Magalhães de Castro

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EXHIBITION

Resources waiting to be explored in deepest regions of the ocean

Catarina Pinto

WHAT could we find in the deepest and most mysterious parts of our oceans? A glimpse into deep-sea life is now on display at the Macau Science Center, in an exhibition hosted in partnership with the University of St Joseph (USJ).

"The Earth's Last Frontier Exhibition – Mysteries of the Deep Sea," which was inaugurated on Friday, is on display until May 31. A series of lectures on deep sea research and exploration were held on Friday and Saturday.

Fernando Barriga, professor of Geology from the University of Lisbon's Faculty of Sciences, gave a lecture on "Resources in the deep ocean: myth or reality?" Speaking on the sidelines of Friday's inauguration ceremony, Mr Barriga told the Times that a lot of resources have yet to be explored within the deep sea, many of which will probably remain unknown.

In the deepest regions of the ocean there are several resources: "Metals that are probably the most well-known and that are in a better position to be explored first. Then there are energy resources and living resources," the professor said.

"Animals living there are not dependent on sunlight. These are new ecosystems that we



Fernando Barriga (1st left) watches a child using an underwater research device

did not know of before and that live on energy coming from the deep sea."

Professor Ágata Dias, who teaches Geology at the University of Saint Joseph, introduced the speakers on Friday and explained how humankind started looking into what lies in the deepest oceans. "There were many space expeditions and many expeditions on earth but we forgot the ocean," said Ágata.

According to Ágata, oceanographers are now looking to explore deep-sea life around the world.

Nevertheless, the technical challenges of sending manned or unmanned submersibles into the deep sea means that a large portion of the

planet's sea floor remains unknown, according to a BBC report published last year.

Professor Liu Feng, secretary general of China's Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association, gave a lecture on Saturday focusing specifically on China's commitment to explore the deep sea, in particular citing the Jiaolong submarine and its latest discoveries.

The set of four public lectures also included Professor Aldino Campos, who introduced the use of the ROV Luso in Portugal. The device allows researchers to study the deep sea under Portugal's sovereignty.

Mr Campos is also the head of the Portuguese Task Group for the Extension of the Continental Shelf, which submitted a proposal to the United Nations in 2009 for the extension of the country's legal continental shelf. He told the Times that the assessment of Portugal's proposal will start within the year.

If the proposal sees a green light it means that Portugal will be able to further explore its deep sea, covering a much wider area than they are currently able to access.

"Of course our knowledge of this area is still rather small... we are talking about an area that is the same size of India and is underwater. So with the current technology, it is not possible to gain a comprehensive idea of everything that can be found there," he acknowledged.

"There are resources there that [could be advantageous], but we still have to conduct further studies. This is a very long-term project. Everything related to the sea [requires] a long study process," he concluded.

"The Earth's Last Frontier Exhibition" is on display at Macau Science Center's lobby exhibition gallery until May 31.

STATISTICS

Construction workers' wages rise slightly in Q1

The average daily wage of construction workers was MOP726 in the first quarter of 2015, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Wages rose at a slower pace of 1.8 pct quarter-to-quarter, a factor that DSEC attributes to "less intense activity for some major construction projects in Cotai that are nearing completion." As a result, the average daily wage of local construction workers decreased by 2.1 pct to MOP935, while that of non-resident construction workers rose slightly by 1.2 pct to MOP614. Regarding construction materials, the average price of concrete increased by 6.4 pct quarter-to-quarter to MOP745 per cubic meter in the first quarter of 2015; the average price of spiral and round reinforcing steel bars was MOP4,687 per ton, down by 1.8 pct. Meanwhile, the price index of construction materials for residential buildings, 131.4 in the first quarter of 2015, increased by 1.3 pct quarter-to-quarter.

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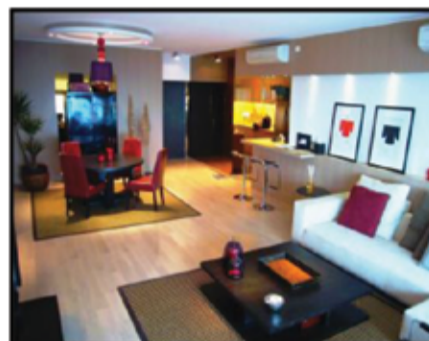
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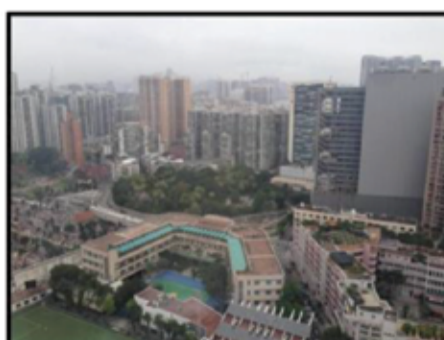


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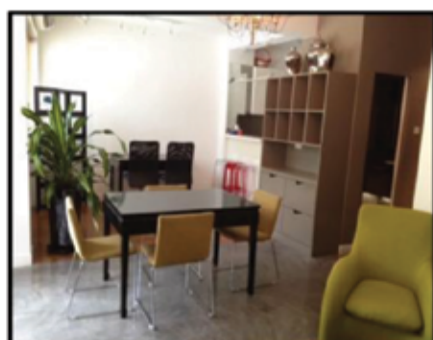


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Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

KIM Sbarcea knew exactly what she wanted. She typed “Tiffany Elsa Peretti mesh earrings” into Google and chanced upon a pair of the USD450 earrings for — deal of deals! — \$32.

The website, called tiffany-outletsale.com, looked legit. She hit the buy button.

In that instant, Sbarcea’s money was sucked from her house in Christchurch, New Zealand, into the global counterfeiting market, where Chinese banks have emerged as key conduits in an illegal industry estimated to be worth \$1.8 trillion this year.

At least three prominent Chinese banks serve as safe havens for counterfeiters, who use them to process credit card payments or move their money around the globe, The Associated Press has found. A review of hundreds of pages of court documents — along with interviews with lawyers, investigators, government officials and industry groups — shows that a lack of legal cooperation between the West and China is allowing counterfeiters to use Chinese banks as financial shelters.

Five lawsuits filed in the United States against counterfeiters reveal a pattern: Counterfeiters sold fakes online in the U.S., using credit cards or PayPal. Then, records show, they transferred millions to accounts at two of China’s largest, state-owned banks — the Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China — as well as China Merchants Bank.

The banks do not dispute that the accused counterfeiters held accounts, but refuse to comply with U.S. court orders to freeze funds or disclose information about accounts in China, saying that would violate bank secrecy laws. The banks said they are committed to fighting counterfeiting, have broken no laws,



Customers look at products in a shop selling refurbished or second-hand items from brands such as Gucci, Chanel and Cartier at the Silk Street market in Beijing

AP EXCLUSIVE

Chinese banks a haven for web counterfeits

and are caught in a jurisdictional dispute between China and the United States.

In a 2013 letter, the Chinese Embassy in Washington complained to the U.S. State Department about subpoenas served “time and again” on Chinese banks. The embassy wrote that demands to freeze assets and disclose information about accounts in China amounted to “wrongful acts that disrespect China’s sovereignty and laws.” Chinese regulators later warned the issue could “undermine” Chinese-American relations.

In one of two lawsuits, Tiffany & Co. seeks \$58.5 million in

damages in a New York federal court from an online counterfeiting ring that spans three continents. Tiffany said it traced PayPal transfers to Bank of China, ICBC and China Merchants Bank accounts, and also found that the Bank of China was processing credit card payments for one defendant. A Latvian bank handed over details about the illicit money flows, but the Bank of China refused to cooperate, U.S. court documents show.

Gucci is seeking \$12 million in damages in a New York federal court from a counterfeiting ring it said sold millions worth of fake handbags and wallets to

U.S. consumers. Using records provided by JPMorganChase, Gucci traced \$530,000 in transfers from counterfeiters in the United States to Bank of China accounts. But the Bank of China refused to freeze those funds for Gucci. Instead, it secretly froze over \$890,000 of the accused counterfeiters’ money to cover its own legal costs, Chinese court documents show.

The other two lawsuits were filed by the U.S. Justice Department, which traced millions in online sales of counterfeit sports jerseys to Bank of China and ICBC.

“We have to find better ways of gathering evidence,” said

Mark Cohen, a former intellectual property attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

More than 90 percent of the banks used by online counterfeiters to process credit card payments are Chinese, according to the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition, a non-profit industry group whose members include Apple Inc., Procter & Gamble and Tiffany & Co.

The coalition said it has helped shut down over 4,900 accounts used to process payments for 200,000 websites selling counterfeit goods since 2012. IACC records of account closures show the Bank of China and two other state-controlled banking giants — the Bank of Communications and the Agricultural Bank of China — processing payments for counterfeiters.

The only legal ways to get information about Chinese bank accounts are to file a lawsuit in China or make a request through the Hague Convention. Critics dismiss both as too cumbersome.

The Bank of China said the U.S. lawsuits had put it in an “impossible position,” caught between “U.S. court orders that compel BOC to freeze, turn over or disclose information about bank accounts in China, and Chinese law, which requires the bank not to freeze or turn over accounts in China.”

Gucci and Tiffany declined to comment on the ongoing litigation. AP

USD1.8tn

The estimated worth of the counterfeiting industry

corporate bits

MGM SPONSORS DOCUMENTARY “THE MEANING OF LIFE” FILMING IN THE CITY

MGM Macau has recently sponsored the documentary filming of “The Meaning of Life” by acclaimed Portuguese director Miguel Gonçalves Mendes, who is best known for his documentary “José e Pilar” talking about the relationship of Nobel Prize winner of literature José Saramago with his wife Pilar del Rio, which was also a Portuguese submission for a nomination for the 2011 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

“The Meaning of Life” tells the real story of a young Brazilian man Giovane, who decides to take a trip around the world searching for the meaning of life after discovering he has a rare disease. The purpose of this documentary is to portray Giovane’s 8-month global journey



experiencing different climates, landscapes, religions, foods, costumes, and cultures. The documentary also reveals the shared history between Macau and Portugal to portray Portuguese Heritage in the East and set several scenes in MGM Macau such as the Grande Praça, the Main Hotel Lobby, the VIP Hotel Lobby and some of its restaurants.

SANDS CHINA WELCOMES CHINESE NATIONAL PING-PONG TEAM

Sands China Ltd. has been hosting members of the Chinese national Ping-Pong team during their visit to Macau which began last Thursday and ends today. World table tennis champions Ma Long and Ding Ning are among the athletes participating in a series of sports and community events organized by the Sports and Olympic Committee of Macau and the Macau Sport Development Board, and supported by Sands China Ltd. As part of the visit, Sands China hosted a welcome dinner for the team Saturday at Conrad Macao, Cotai Central.

“Sands China is honored to host these members

of the Chinese national Ping-Pong team,” said Ben Toh, executive vice president, chief financial officer and executive director for Sands China Ltd. “We bring the world’s most talented individuals from the worlds of sport, music, film and more to Macau. This is part of our company’s strategy to focus the attention of the world on our city.”



GRAND HYATT MACAU EMPLOYEES VISIT ASILO SANTA MARIA NURSING HOME



Grand Hyatt Macau employees visited the local Asilo Santa Maria Nursing Home last Thursday to spend an afternoon with the elderly residents. The annual Mother’s Day visit to the all-female Asilo Santa Maria Nursing Home is part of Grand Hyatt Macau’s corporate social responsibility program.

Led by General Manager Mr Paul Kwok, a team of Grand Hyatt Macau colleagues and in-

ternship trainees served a Mother’s Day lunch to the nursing home residents. Grand Hyatt Macau’s F&B team specially prepared the menu.

While the elderly residents enjoyed the lunch, Grand Hyatt Macau internship trainees played the guitar, sang Mandarin and Cantonese songs and chatted with them. Healthy food pack gifts were also presented to each of the ladies.

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Portuguese firms help rebuilding Fogo Island

PORTUGUESE construction companies Armando Cunha and Monte Adriano have been awarded a contract to refurbish 110 houses built after the volcanic eruption in 1995 on the Fogo Island, Cape Verde, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

The contract, worth 304 million escudos (USD3.08 million), was signed in São Filipe and covering repairs on 70 homes in Monte Grande (Armando Cunha) and 40 in Achada Furna (Monte Adriano), in the south of the island, which were never used by the population affected by the volcano 20 years ago.

The houses are intended to accommodate families from Chã das Caldeiras – the plateau that includes several of the island’s several volcanic cones, and where around 1,500 people lived before being displaced by another volcanic eruption that affected Fogo from 23 November 2014 to 8



February this year.

The lead-time for the work is eight months for repairs in Monte Grande and six months in Achada Furna.

The volcanic eruption, one of three recorded in the last 63 years – 1951 and 1995 – des-

troys Portela and Bangaeira, a hamlet on the islet of Losna, an extensive agricultural area that also includes economic infrastructure, social and tourist sites, with losses estimated by the government at about US\$50 million. **MDT/Macauhub**

Turkish Airlines will connect Istanbul and Maputo

TURKISH Airlines will start flying to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, at the end of October from Istanbul three times a week, the Turkish company said in a statement cited by Mozambican news agency AIM.

The flights from Istanbul to Maputo will leave shortly after midnight on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and return on the evening of the same day. They will make a one-hour stopover in the South African city of Johannesburg.

The airline intends to offer tickets at very competitive prices. For example, a round trip from London-Maputo, via Istanbul, is expected to cost about USD790, which is a cheaper rate than is offered by Ethiopian Airlines and Kenya Airways, for example.

Currently, several airlines offer flights to Maputo, including TAP Air Portugal, Qatar Airways and South African Airways, although only TAP offers a direct connection to Europe via Lisbon, on a code-sharing basis with Mozambican airline LAM. **MDT/Macauhub**



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US official: Beijing's island building now totals 2,000 acres

Lolita C. Baldor, Washington

CHINA'S rapidly expanding campaign to construct artificial islands, potentially for military use or airstrips, now totals about 800 hectares and could far outstrip that amount as the year goes on, a senior defense official said Friday.

The new estimate, disclosed for the first time, comes as the Pentagon released its annual report on China's military power. The report warns that while the intent of Beijing's construction in contested islands in the South China Sea intent is unclear, five emerging outposts could be used for surveillance systems, harbors, an airfield and logistical support.

The wide-ranging report also details Chinese government-backed cyberattacks against the U.S. government to collect intelligence and steal high-tech data from defense programs to support China's industry. And it warns that China now "boasts the most dynamic space program in the world today."

The document also repeats persistent U.S. concerns about China's growing capacity to project military power beyond its borders, with continued investments in new missiles, ships and aircraft as well as cyber, space and electronic warfare. That military modernization, the report said, "has the potential to reduce core



This combination photo of satellite images taken on Feb. 6, 2015, top, and March 23, 2015, bottom, by Airbus Defence and Space, and distributed by IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, shows an airstrip on Fiery Cross Reef in a disputed section of the South China Sea

U.S. military technological advantages."

For the first time, however, the report describes the "extensive" land reclamation at five outposts in the Spratly Islands, adding that at four of the sites the work has shifted to mainly development and construction.

The report says China had reclaimed about 200 hectares as of late last December, underscoring the dramatic increase in the past four months. The de-

fense official said the construction has been methodical and continuous since December. The official was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

According to the report, China's government says the projects "are mainly for improving the living and working conditions of those stationed on the islands. However, most analysts outside China believe that Chi-

na is attempting to change facts on the ground by improving its defense infrastructure in the South China Sea."

Chinese officials have defended the land reclamation by saying it is Beijing's territory, adding that the buildings and infrastructure are for public service use and to support fishermen. It accuses the Philippines, Vietnam and others of carrying out their own building work on other islands.

The Obama administration says land reclamation risks exacerbating tensions in the South China Sea, where China and five other claimants contest sovereignty of tiny islands and reefs. Last summer, the U.S. called for a moratorium on construction work by the various claimants, but China has only doubled down.

U.S. officials are concerned China's activities could be a prelude to enforcing a possible air defense identification zone over the South China Sea, similar to one it declared over disputed Japanese-held islands in the East China Sea in 2013.

Although it is unclear what will ultimately be built on these expanded outposts, the report says, "China will be able to use them as persistent civil-military bases of operation to enhance its presence significantly in disputed areas."

China's reclamation program dwarfs that of any other nation and has inflamed tensions in the region. Last month, the Philippines urged its fellow Southeast Asian countries to take immediate steps to halt the building, warning that failure to do so will allow Beijing to take "de facto control" of the area.

According to the defense official, Vietnam has reclaimed about 25 hectares of land since 2009. The report said Taiwan began a "modest land reclamation effort" on Itu Aba Island last year, and has reclaimed about 2 hectares near the island's airstrip. There are reports that Taiwan is building a USD100 million port near the airstrip that could accommodate naval frigates and coast guard cutters, the Pentagon said. AP

Security bill calls for protecting 'cyber sovereignty'

Huang Zhe and Ting Shi

CHINA intends to build a national cyber safety net as part of a sweeping security bill being considered by the country's top lawmaking body.

The provision on "cyber sovereignty" was added to the second draft of the security law, which also stressed the need to safeguard the security of "industries and key areas important to the national economy," according to a text of the document posted Wednesday on the website of the National People's Congress. The new proposal, which was reviewed last month by the body's Standing Committee, also adds language about protecting the country from risks to the financial system.

Chinese President Xi



Jinping is seeking to shore up security as the Communist Party faces an increasingly complex series of challenges at home and abroad. The National People's Congress in December began deliberating a new national se-

curity law to replace one from 1993 that was more narrowly focused on preventing spying.

The bill includes economic, financial, food, culture, environment, and energy matters into the realm of national securi-

ty and emphasizes the importance of upholding Communist Party rule. The latest draft stresses the need for "cultural security" and improving socialist education to prevent the "infiltration of unhealthy culture."

The language conflicts with efforts to create a multicultural society, said Zhan Zhongle, a law professor at Peking University. "Cultural security should not be a legal term, because it contradicts cultural integration which is a universally accepted idea," Zhan said.

The proposal has been released for public consideration until June 5.

The new passages on cybersecurity fit with a broad national strategy, reported by Bloomberg News in December, to purge most foreign technology from banks, state-owned enterprises and the military by 2020. Chinese regulators suspended the implementation of the guidelines for banks, a person familiar with the matter said last month, after trade groups

from Europe, Japan and the U.S. protested.

The proposal also for the first time highlighted the responsibilities of Chinese territories such as Hong Kong and Macau in ensuring national security. "Safeguarding China's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity is the joint obligation of all Chinese people including the ones in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan," it said.

The addition comes after the Occupy Central pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong last year that closed off key business districts for more than two months.

"The draft law makes a specific point of Hong Kong because what happened last year has caused concern among the leadership," Zhan said.

Bloomberg

MOST of the 68 world leaders invited on Saturday by Russian president Vladimir Putin to attend the 70th anniversary of the end of history's bloodiest war declined. Yet among the 27 heads of state who did agree to join the Russian leader in watching the tanks roll included Xi Jinping, who sent soldiers to participate in the event for the first time.

U.S. President Barack Obama, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande all refused Putin's invite, instead backing the sanctions that severed Russia from the global financial system after Putin annexed Crimea from Ukraine last March, helping tip the economy into a recession.

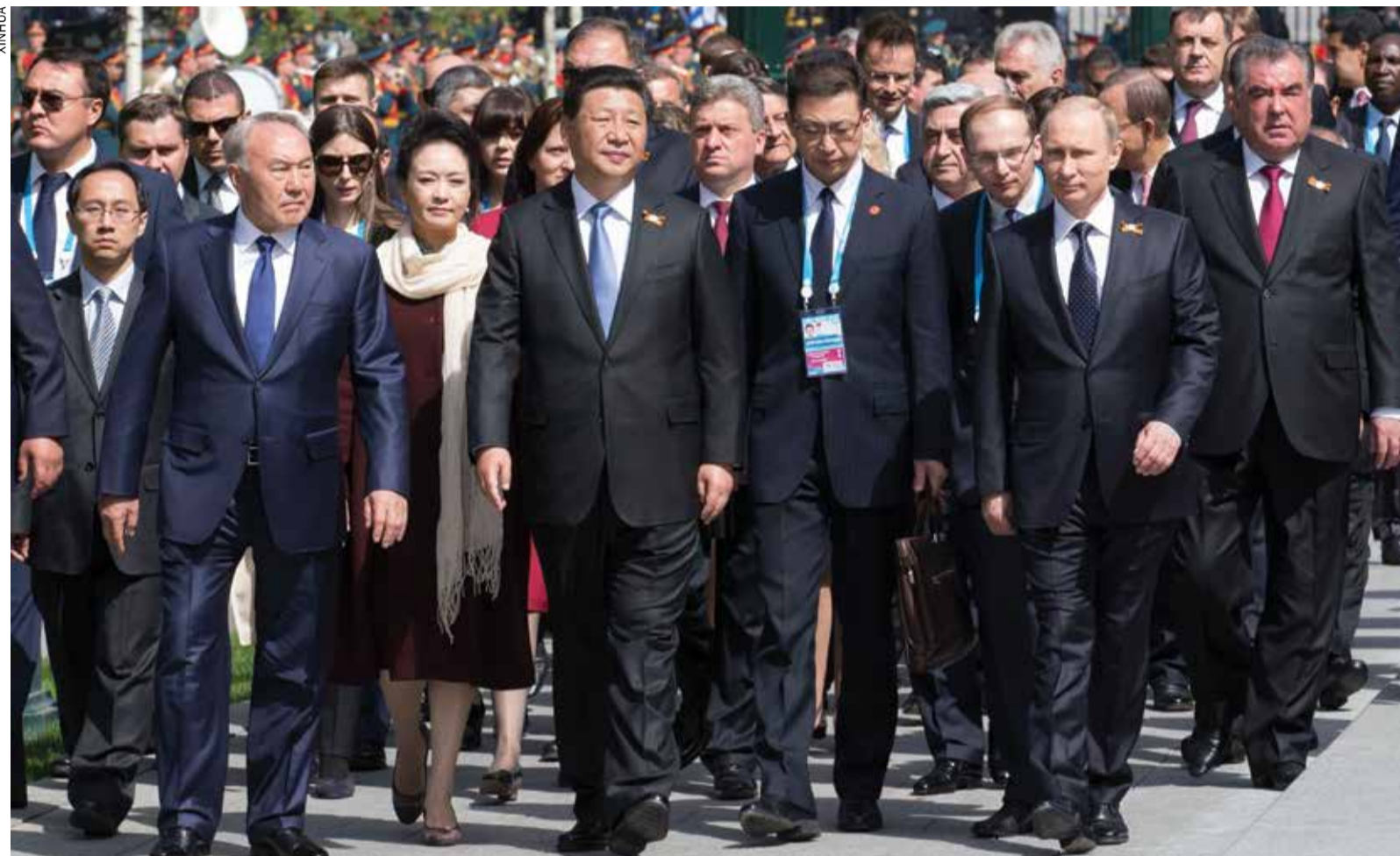
The Chinese leader met Putin Friday in the Kremlin, where they oversaw the signing of a number of agreements in areas ranging from regional economic ties to investment and transport projects.

Putin said at the start of the meeting that China and the Soviet Union shared the common experience of suffering the heaviest losses in World War II. Xi replied that when this victory is celebrated it's not "for hating some states" but to "establish peace on this planet together."

Xi is keen to exercise China's growing international clout and secure access to natural resources for the largest economy after the U.S. His visit to Moscow is one of a series of planned political and military events designed to show that U.S. and European leaders haven't completely isolated Putin.

"For all the language about a new authoritarian alliance, a new friendship, new levels of strategic partnership, this is

Xi marks closer ties with Russia as world leaders snub Putin's victory parade



still very much a relationship of convenience," said Bobo Lo, author of the book "Russia and the New World Disorder," scheduled to be published in June.

Russia has strengthened its pivot to Asia by signing energy

cooperation deals with China during Xi's visit to Moscow.

"The energy sphere is key to our relations", Russian President Vladimir Putin said at media briefing after the meeting with the Chinese delegation, adding that "formida-

ble results" have been achieved.

GAO Gazprom, Russia's natural-gas exporter, and state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. extended their strategic partnership for five years and agreed on conditions for gas

supplies from West Siberia via the Altai pipeline.

Russia aims to strengthen ties with China after relations with the EU, its key gas customer, soured over the conflict in Ukraine. **Bloomberg**



Customers walk past a display of shoes at a shopping mall in Beijing

FOR the third time in six months, China's central bank is cutting interest rates to spur the country's sluggish economy by giving state-owned financial institutes more flexibility in setting rates.

Citing "downward economic pressures," the People's Bank of China said yesterday that it would cut the rate on a one-year loan by commercial banks by 0.25

percentage point to 5.1 percent. The interest rate paid on a one-year deposit was lowered by 0.25 point to 2.25 percent.

The rate cut reflects the Communist leadership's growing urgency about reversing a deepening slump that threatens to cause a politically dangerous spike in unemployment.

Policy makers took the step after reports in re-

Central bank cuts rates for 3rd time in 6 months to boost economy

cent days showed inflation remains subdued and exports and imports both slid in April - underscoring the economy's continuing struggle to match Premier Li Keqiang's 2015 growth target of about 7 percent. With capital flowing abroad and local governments embroiled in a complex debt cleanup, officials are turning to cheaper borrowing costs to help bolster lending.

"Economic growth is weaker than expected, and inflation is low," said Xu Gao, the chief economist with Everbright Securities Co. in Beijing. "In fact, the rate cut is very mild with just a quarter

of a percentage point, and the PBOC may have to cut interest rates again quite soon."

In a gathering of the Communist Party's Politburo April 30, President Xi Jinping and his colleagues vowed to step up targeted measures to counter downward pressure on the economy. One area that has benefited from stimulus is China's stock market, with the Shanghai Composite Index soaring since early March.

The leadership is juggling the need to keep growth from slipping too far with plans to press ahead with structural reforms to the economy re-

ducing the role of investment and enhancing that of private companies, the services sector and consumer spending.

One step officials have been reluctant to take is letting the yuan depreciate along with the currencies of other emerging markets in the past year, as the U.S. Federal Reserve prepares to raise interest rates. While a cheaper exchange rate may help export competitiveness, one concern is that it could unwind long-term bets on yuan gains and spur further capital flight.

China is battling a property slump, excess industrial capacity, local-

government debt and capital outflows, with the economy expanding at the slowest pace since 2009 in the first quarter. Consumer prices in April rose at half the pace the government is targeting for 2015, data showed Saturday.

The latest rate reduction adds to its own easing and that of at least 30 countries that have loosened monetary policy this year as lower commodity prices give room to stimulate.

The cuts are expected to reduce financial costs for state companies and are a signal to state-owned banks to boost lending. **AP/Bloomberg**

A powerful typhoon slammed into the northeastern tip of the Philippines yesterday, as about 2,500 residents in two provinces huddled in shelters following warnings by officials to evacuate coastal and mountainous villages.

Typhoon Noul, packing winds of 185 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 220 kph, made landfall in Cagayan province's coastal town of Santa Ana late yesterday afternoon and was moving northwest at 17 kph, the government's weather bureau said.

Around 2,500 residents were evacuated to safer grounds in Cagayan and Isabela provinces, and no casualties or damage were immediately reported, said Norma Talosig, the civil defense regional director. "Hopefully it brings only rain because we need rain," she said.

Public works personnel were using chain saws to clear roads of fallen trees in Cagayan's Gonzaga town, DZMM radio reported. Some towns in the province were without power.

Forecasters warned of 1.6-meter-high storm surges in Santa Ana, which also includes Palaui Island, with a population of about 30,000 people.

They said the typhoon was expected to weaken after hit-

PHILIPPINES

Typhoon slams into northern tip; 2,500 evacuated



Strong waves hit a Filipino man yesterday as he retrieves rubber slippers along Manila Bay

ting land, and to move faster as it rides strong surrounding winds. It is forecast to blow out of the country tomorrow morning and head toward southern Japan.

About 300 people who had

fled to shelters near Mount Bulusan, southeast of Manila, returned home yesterday after the typhoon moved northward, sparing the province mudslides involving volcanic debris, said Joric dela Rosa,

a civil defense worker in the region.

The coast guard suspended ferry services in areas affected by the typhoon, stranding more than 5,000 passengers.

About 20 storms and

typhoons hit the Philippines each year. The strongest on record to make landfall, Typhoon Haiyan, devastated the central Philippines in November 2013, claiming more than 7,300 lives. **AP**

INDONESIA

500 Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar wash to shore

Margie Mason, Jakarta

BOATS carrying about 500 members of Myanmar's long-persecuted Rohingya Muslim community washed to shore in western Indonesia yesterday, with some of the people in need of medical attention, a migration official and a human rights advocate said.

The men, women and children arrived on two separate boats, one carrying around 430 people and the other 70, said Steve Hamilton, deputy chief of mission at the International Organization for Migration in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital.

Teams were racing to Mantang Puntong in Aceh province, where the boats landed, Hamilton said.

Rohingya Muslims have for decades suffered from state-sanctioned discrimination in Myanmar.

Attacks on the religious minority by Buddhist mobs in the last three years have sparked one of the biggest exoduses of boat people since the Vietnam War, sending 100,000 people fleeing, according to Chris



In this June 13, 2012, file photo, a Rohingya Muslim man who fled Myanmar to Bangladesh to escape religious violence, cries as he pleads from a boat after he and others were intercepted by Bangladeshi border authorities

Lewa, director of the Arakan Project, which has monitored the movements of Rohingya for more than a decade.

Lewa confirmed that nearly 500 Rohingya landed in Indonesia early yesterday.

Some were apparently weak due to lack of food and water, she said.

Though their first stop has in the past been Thailand, where the Rohingya waited in jungle camps while brokers collected hefty "ransoms" from family members before allowing them to continue their journeys onward, tactics have changed

in recent months.

They are now being held on boats at sea, Lewa said, estimating that 7,000 to 8,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants are currently parked in the Malacca Straits, unable to disembark because of crackdowns on trafficking networks in Thailand and Malaysia, their primary destination.

Tightly confined, and with limited access to food and clean water, Lewa said she worries that the migrants' health is steadily deteriorating. Dozens of deaths have been reported in the last few months. **AP**

NORTH KOREA

Ballistic missile test greets US diplomatic overture

Matthew Pennington, Washington

NORTH Korea greeted a U.S. diplomatic overture with a fresh show of force, seemingly testing the Obama administration's resolve for new nuclear talks.

After three years of diplomatic deadlock, the U.S. appears open to preliminary discussions to assess North Korea's intentions and the prospects of ridding the country of nuclear weapons.

Then came Saturday's claim that North Korea successfully test-fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine. Not long after that announcement, South Korean officials said the North fired three anti-ship cruise missiles into the sea off its east coast.

The State Department said launches using ballistic missile technology are "a clear violation" of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Washington urged North Korea "to refrain from actions that further raise tensions in the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its international commitments and obligations."

Just this past week, a Sou-



South Korean men pass by a TV showing images of North Korea's ballistic missile test

th Korean envoy had visited Washington and Beijing as countries involved in long-stalled aid-for-disarmament negotiations with the North mulled their diplomatic options.

Even before the latest flexing of the North's military might, U.S. officials said the North had not shown it was seriously interested in re-engaging on the nuclear issue.

Former senior U.S. official Victor Cha, an expert on North Korea, said he wasn't sure whether the latest test "will create an impetus for talks or kill it."

"It shows that North Korea's missile capabilities are advancing at a clip that is concerning, if not alarming," he said. **AP**

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Danica Kirka and Jill Lawless,
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UK

Cameron leads Conservatives to unexpected election triumph

AFTER years of sharing power, David Cameron pulled off an unexpected election triumph that gave the Conservative prime minister a second term with an outright majority Friday and dealt a stinging defeat to his three main rivals.

Standing before the glistening black door of 10 Downing Street, Cameron pledged to govern as the party of “one nation, one United Kingdom.” But he faces a fractured Britain — divided by rich and poor, by separatist gains in Scotland and by doubts over its place in the European Union.

The election ushers in a new era in British politics, with veteran lawmakers ousted by a public that made clear it had lost trust in its political leaders. The victors included a 20-year-old Scottish nationalist who beat out a senior Labour Party leader in Scotland.

It was also unexpected. Polls had predicted a dead heat — a result that would have meant days of haggling to form a new government. Queen Elizabeth II was out of town at her castle in Windsor, and needed to rush back to London for the traditional meeting at Buckingham Palace in which the victor offers to form a government.

By the time Cameron met the monarch all three of his major rivals had resigned: Ed Miliband of the Labour Party, Nick Clegg of the Liberal Democrats and Nigel Farage of the U.K. Independence Party.

For the losers, Cameron offered sympathy. “Elections can be bruising clashes of ideas and arguments, and a lot of people who believe profoundly in public service have seen that service cut short,” he said.

The surprising outcome merely underscored how much things have changed — that there is now a new unpredictability in British politics. The idea of two big parties squabbling over the spoils is over. There are new players — and some are very young. Some don’t even want a United Kingdom at all.

“For the new government, it is not possible to carry on business as usual,” said Murray Pittcock, a professor at the University of Glasgow. “Such a course is not a sustainable or good course to ensure the survival of the UK.”

With the Conservatives winning an outright majority in the 650-seat House of Commons, the result looked to be far better for Cameron than even his own party had foreseen. With all the votes counted, the Conservatives had 331 seats to Labour’s 232.

But the new ruling class inherits a country divided by negative campaigning and infighting about the future. Fought largely

BLOOMBERG



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha wave from the steps of 10 Downing Street in London

■ Cameron faces a fractured Britain — divided by rich and poor, separatist gains in Scotland and doubts over its place in the EU

over the economy, the race revolved around the question of whether the Conservative-led government charted the right course through the aftermath of the 2008 economic crisis, the worst recession since the 1930s. Cameron argued his party needed time to cement its successes after five years of bud-

get cuts designed to shrink the deficit and bolster growth. His primary opponent, Miliband, focused the debate on inequality, saying the recovery hadn’t trickled down to the poorest in this nation of 64 million.

Heaping further pressure on the working poor has been an influx of thousands of migrants from the European Union, particularly from the former eastern bloc countries that joined the 28-nation free-trade zone over the past decade. The influx has changed Britain, straining schools, hospitals and other public services.

Cameron’s promise to hold a referendum and win concessions from the EU plainly resonated with voters worried that the country was losing its grip on its borders.

The result, and Britain’s unease with the EU, will strengthen Cameron’s hand in talks with

EU leaders in Brussels, who are mindful of the power that Britain’s banks and financial service industries bring to the bloc. The referendum has been promised by the end of 2017 — but Cameron has only pledged to hold it, not support it.

Still, his majority, however surprising, is small. His own party is divided on the issue of Britain leaving the EU. Many senior business leaders are vociferously opposed, as is Scotland. It won’t be simple — and it all needs to be done without trampling the economic recovery.

“The pound surged against the euro and the dollar on news of a Conservative victory because the markets value continuity and fiscal austerity,” said Peter Urwin, co-author of “It’s the Economy, Stupid: Economics for Voters.” “But the increased risk ... will be the long-term

economic hangover facing the country following this election result.”

Labour took a beating in Scotland, mostly from energized Scottish nationalists who pulled off a landslide that gave the Scottish National Party 56 of the 59 seats.

The vote represents “a clear voice for an end to austerity, better public services and more progressive politics at Westminster,” SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon told the BBC.

It also greatly strengthens a party that wants to split from the country all together.

“The Scottish lion has roared this morning across the country,” said former SNP leader Alex Salmond, who was elected in the constituency of Gordon.

The most symbolic win belonged to Mhairi Black, the 20-year-old university student who defeated Labour Party heavyweight Douglas Alexander to become the youngest British lawmaker since 1667. The win underscored the extent of the Scottish National Party’s triumph — and Scotland’s rejection of Labour, the party that long counted the north as its base.

“The people of Scotland are speaking, and it is time for their voice to be heard at Westminster,” Black said.

One of the big losers of the day was Farage, who resigned after losing his race. His U.K. Independence Party came in third in the popular vote, but won only one seat — a casualty of an electoral system in which the candidate with the highest number of votes in each area wins, even if he or she does not gain a majority of votes cast.

Since UKIP’s support is spread geographically across the country — rather than in any single area — it could be runner-up in many places but gain hardly a foothold in Parliament.

That discrepancy was another factor in the push for change — one that won’t be solved any time soon. At a time when people are frustrated, and want to know why leaders keep failing to deliver, anything can happen.

“As for a new political class ... Labour may want to skip a generation,” said Tim Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London. “It’s also going to have to come up with some fresh ideas that keep its core supporters on board at the same time as reaching out to floating voters who don’t trust it with their money.” **AP**

CUBA

Castro's daughter sponsors blessing of gay couples

Andrea Rodriguez, Havana

THE daughter of Cuban President Raul Castro sponsored a blessing ceremony Saturday for gay couples on an island where gay marriage remains illegal.

Nearly two dozen gay couples held hands or embraced, some crying, as Protestant clergymen from the U.S. and Canada blessed them as part of official ceremonies leading up to the Global Day against Homophobia on May 17.

Castro's daughter Mariela heads Cuba's Center for Sex Education, which has been pushing for gay rights in a country with a history of persecuting homosexuals.

While she was careful not to call Saturday's ceremony a wedding, the event had most of the trappings of matrimony.

Luis Enrique Mederos and his partner for 14 years, Alain Morales, approached clergyman including Troy Perry, foun-



Members of Cuba's LGBT community take part in a gay pride parade in Havana

der of Los Angeles' gay-friendly Metropolitan Community Church, and held hands beneath a canopy while the pastors blessed their relationship.

"Luis, I give you my life," Mo-

rales said, as the crowd of 300 applauded and cheered.

"It's a step to strengthen our relationship because we're both religious, believers," said Mederos, a 47-year-old gra-

phic designer. He said he saw the ceremony as an important step toward the eventual legalization of gay marriage in Cuba.

"It's a dream for the Cuban gay and transgender community that one day it won't be just a symbolic and we can get married, because we're also part of this changing world," he said, embracing Morales, 38.

Uruguay, Argentina and a string of U.S. states, along with several in Mexico, have legalized gay marriage or civil unions.

Homosexuals were hounded and persecuted during much of the presidency of Fidel Castro. After handing power to his brother Raul, the elder Castro said he regretted his treatment of gays, and Cuba has been granting increasing rights to gays in recent years.

Mariela Castro, who is the most visible gay rights advocate on the island, uses her position as a member of Cuba's ru-

ling family to push for reforms. Last year, as a member of parliament, she voted against a workers' rights bill that she felt didn't go far enough to prevent discrimination against people with HIV or with unconventional gender identities.

It was an unprecedented action in an assembly that uniformly votes unanimously in favor of government proposals.

Castro did not attend the blessing ceremony, but headed a colorful gay rights march by more than 1,000 people along one of Havana's main streets.

The event came a day before another manifestation of changed times in Cuba: Raul Castro's visit with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

The church and the Cuban government were in a state of open hostility in the years after the 1959 revolution that put Fidel Castro in power. But a thaw began in the 1990s. Cuba removed a constitutional clause declaring the country an atheist state, Pope John Paul II paid a momentous visit in 1998, Pope Benedict XVI visited in 2012, and Cuba made Good Friday an official holiday.

Raul Castro was expected to discuss both diplomatic talks with the U.S. and the pope's planned September visit to Cuba during his meeting with the pontiff yesterday. **AP**

AD



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what's ON

LI CHENG HSUN X HUANG PO HSUN
GROUP EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: June 30 (Closed on May 25)

VENUE: Flugent ART Gallery, Rua S. Paulo 54-58B

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 3429

GALLERY COLLECTION

TIME: 9am-6pm (Mondays to Fridays)

UNTIL: June 30, 2015 (Closed on May 25)

VENUE: Macpro Gallery, Avenida da Praia Grande,

no.417-425, Centro Comercial Praia Grande, 2°

andar, Macau (nearby the Old Court)

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7828

POST POMBALINO IT, DRAWING EXHIBITION
BY JOÃO SANTA-RITA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Monday)

12pm-8pm (Tuesday-Sunday)

UNTIL: May 20, 2015

VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery, Calçada da

Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

MACAU POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

DESIGN STUDENTS EXHIBITION

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: May 20, 2015

VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre

Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily

(Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat

HOME OWNERSHIP MAKES PEOPLE
HAPPY: STUDY

Home ownership contributes to people's happiness, said a study by the University of Hohenheim last week. For this study, researchers at the University of Hohenheim interviewed 2,788 people in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg and 1,442 people in the rest of Germany on the topic of home ownership and happiness.

As the results showed, nearly two-thirds of home owners in Germany indicate that home ownership make them happier. "And even with their living environment, home owners are significantly more satisfied than tenants," said Prof. Dr. Frank Brettschneider, the leader of the study.

The study also showed that 36 percent of renters think they would be happier if they owned a home. Scientists have identified a total of seven lucky dimensions, one of which is the field of housing. "Basic needs such as health and financial security, partnership or professional are indeed expected to be even more important than the residential situation," explained Brettschneider, "but it is also of enormous importance for the happiness feeling."

However, damage to the house dims the happiness, and the greatest happiness damper for the most respondents is their children's moving out, said the study. **Xinhua**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:30	Non Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:30	RTPi Live

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

2.30, 4.45, 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

1956 GOLD COAST TO GET
INDEPENDENCE

The Gold Coast is to become the first black African nation to be granted independence from Britain.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Colonial Secretary Alan Lennox-Boyd said the Gold Coast will be allowed to govern itself within the Commonwealth provided a general election is held in the country.

The new West African state will incorporate the Gold Coast, Ashanti, the Northern Territories and Togoland, which recently voted to integrate with the Gold Coast. He set the target date for independence at 6 March, 1957.

The fledgling state will be named Ghana after an ancient West African kingdom which flourished from 300AD to 1100AD. Ghana will be the first black African nation to become independent from Britain, but there are fears of internal fighting between various tribes in the region over a new constitution. For this reason, the minister is insisting on elections for a new legislature that will then be asked to approve self-governance.

The finance minister of the Gold Coast, Mr Gbedemah, welcomed Mr Lennox-Boyd's announcement today and in an interview with the BBC made assurances that elections would be held soon.

"I know enough to be able to say that the prime minister [Kwame Nkrumah] has been planning that if an election will be the only solution to the present situation then he will go to the country as soon as possible," he said.

The Gold Coast has been a British colony since 1901. After World War I part of the German colony of Togoland was mandated to the British, who linked it administratively with the Gold Coast colony.

In the Gold Coast, nationalist activity intensified after World War II. Kwame Nkrumah of the Convention People's Party (CPP) emerged as the leading nationalist figure.

In 1951, Britain granted a new constitution, which had been drawn up by Africans, and general elections were held. The CPP won and Mr Nkrumah became prime minister.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Like its neighbors, Ghana's post-independence history has been one of political and economic decline. Despite being rich in mineral resources, and endowed with a good education system and efficient civil service, Ghana fell victim to corruption and mismanagement soon after independence in 1957.

In 1966, its first president and pan-African hero, Kwame Nkrumah, was deposed in a coup. In 1981, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings staged a second coup. The country began to move towards economic stability and democracy.

In April 1992 a constitution allowing for a multiparty system was approved in a referendum, ushering in a period of democracy.

In 1994-95 land disputes in the north erupted into ethnic violence resulting in the deaths of 1,000 people and the displacement of a further 150,000.

Since 1957 independence has been granted to almost all Britain's former colonies, and most have chosen to remain within the Commonwealth.

YOUR STARS

Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You may wrap yourself up in old memories or objects today — shopping for antiques, poring over old photo albums or just lost in reverie. It's a good time for just hanging out and reminiscing.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your amazing personal energy helps you pull off a major coup: proving your loyalty to someone who doubts you, without having to get your hands dirty. It's a big win, so be sure to enjoy it.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Today is all about secrets — can you count on yourself? It's one of those days when you may be better off avoiding the people who need to be kept in the dark, but how long can that last?

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You may not notice it right away, but people are paying more attention to you and your ideas. It's a really good time to brainstorm and to share your most private thoughts with the group.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 A supervisor (at work or anywhere else) is causing some problems for you today, but you should be able to get them to see reason soon. Your life is better with that person in it, though it may not feel like it.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your energy is still flowing forcefully — and you can get quite a lot done if you put your mind to it. See if your people are ready for whatever you've got planned. If not, shake things up!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're facing a food-related challenge, like a potential allergy or a lifestyle change. It should be positive once you resolve it, but it could be really tough to make it through the first few steps.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Do you know the meaning of the word 'compromise'? Your left brain might, but the rest of you would rather dominate or run away. Get that side back in line with your best interests.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You need to force yourself into something like discipline today — otherwise, you're never going to get anything done, and then tomorrow will just be more of the same. Do what you must.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're in the middle of something big and fun and wonderful — and you should just relax and let it wash over you. Things are good for now, and it's not the time to work yourself to death.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You dig up an old picture or email or other reminder of a past event that triggers a wave of enlightenment within you. It may be too late to change the past, but you can certainly change today's behavior.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Art makes you whole, and on a day like today, you need to soak up more than usual. You feel good, but something deep within you is driving you to experience life as others see it.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Like the Sabin vaccine; 5- Compensate; 10- Earth sci.; 14- Mower brand; 15- "Amadeus" director Foman; 16- Don't look at me!; 17- Dutch name of The Hague; 18- Boise's state; 19- Mend with rows of stitches; 20- Encourage; 22- Aztec god of rain; 24- Pigsty; 25- Marine mammal, secure something; 26- Finally; 29- Air craft; 33- Put up; 34- Long Island town; 35- Eur. carrier; 36- [Oh, well]; 37- Sir ___ Newton was an English mathematician; 38- Typeface; 39- ___-Wan Kenobi was a character in "Star Wars"; 40- Thick slices; 41- de Leon; 42- Produced from hydrocarbons; 44- One who enters a freeway?; 45- Novelist Bagnold; 46- Oliver Twist's request; 47- Give, as homework; 50- Jovial; 54- Spanish dessert; 55- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 57- I could ___ horse!; 58- Few and far between; 59- Winkle removers; 60- From the U.S.; 61- "Metamorphoses" poet; 62- Wise ones; 63- Writing table;

Friday's solution crossword puzzle grid with the words filled in. Includes a list of words used in the puzzle.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, listing various properties for sale and rent in Macau, including Bauhinia Court, Designer Apartment, Manhattan Penthouse Unit, and others.



A couple of billboard ads of Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao hang on a tall building along a busy avenue known as EDSA at suburban Mandaluyong city, east of Manila

Oliver Teves, Manila

MANNY Pacquiao lost his biggest fight in the ring, but that won't stop him from plotting a bigger comeback — in the political arena that is.

In a country where elections are also entertainment and political programs secondary, candidates often win because of star power and money.

Pacquiao, who earned more than USD100 million despite losing the Fight of the Century against Floyd Mayweather Jr., certainly has that working for him.

But can he overcome his poor record as an incumbent congressman, his humble origins and lack of political savvy to win a Senate seat, or even higher office?

Having established himself as a local politician, the natural path for the 36-year-old Pacquiao would be the 24-seat Senate, a national position, which has been used as a springboard for vice president or president. His most ardent supporters say he can be a future president.

The Bible-quoting boxer, who by law cannot run for president before turning 40, has said his "thoughts on the presidency... are merely aspirational." His first presidential race would be in 2022.

That could be harder than defeating Mayweather, but he can take comfort in the thought that Filipinos love the underdog. His rags-to-riches story — rising from extreme poverty to becoming the wealthiest

Boxing loss could be Pacquiao's political win

Philippine congressman — has captured the imagination of the millions in his Southeast Asian nation.

Pacquiao the underdog played well at home after it was disclosed that even with his shoulder injured he still fought aggressively against Mayweather, said political analyst and public administration professor Prospero de Vera.

■ Pacquiao's first presidential race would be in 2022

He said the way Pacquiao lost the fight "actually enhances his political viability" and could help him win as senator in elections next year.

But the higher the office Pacquiao seeks, the fiercer the competition and the closer the public scrutiny he will face.

Two popular athletes have been elected to the Senate in the last 30 years. One had first served as a city councilor, the other was a businessman and sportsman before running for

the upper house. Both worked full time as legislators, unlike Pacquiao.

But, winning an election "most of the time is not connected with being prepared for the job," de Vera said.

So far, Pacquiao doesn't have much to show as one of 292 representatives in the lower house — he hasn't successfully sponsored a single bill and is a top absentee in the chamber over the past five years.

Many Filipinos see Pacquiao's loss as his cue to retire from boxing. For them, Pacquiao has already sealed his legacy not just as one of the world's greatest boxers but also as a source of national pride. Others want him to also withdraw from politics and enjoy the fruits of his 20-year boxing career.

Yet others don't believe he will retire anytime soon from boxing or politics. For one thing, his fight winnings are too big to ignore.

Pacquiao, who according to Forbes was worth \$82 million before the latest fight, is often approached for financial support by individual constituents or even entire villages for anything from a community

basketball court to funding for fiestas and scholarships. He also shoulders the expenses of his large entourage of relatives, friends and an assortment of hangers-on.

"I think he is not yet ready to retire," said Raul Martinez, mayor of Pacquiao's hometown of Kiamba and his wedding godfather. "Not everything is in place yet. He has so many commitments that if you sum up (his money), it won't be enough."

Doling out benefits and building a patronage network is a Filipino politician's staple.

Pacquiao gives at least 50,000 pesos (\$1,125) to each of the 144 villages in his impoverished southern Sarangani province and over 500,000 pesos (\$11,285) to each of its seven municipalities every year just for fiestas — like celebrations of local patron saints. He also pays professional fees for showbiz personalities he invites to appear at the parties, Martinez said.

Martinez said he will try to persuade Pacquiao to run in next year's election for governor instead of senator for practical reasons — he will most likely be unopposed and he

can save a lot more money on a local election compared to a national campaign for a Senate seat, where he is also expected to contribute to the campaigns of provincial governors and thousands of municipal officials whose support he will seek to win votes.

Some fans still want a rematch because they felt cheated by the lackluster Pacquiao-Mayweather bout, which boxing analyst Ed Tolentino calls the "Fiasco of the Century."

Tolentino said that pending investigations by Nevada authorities into whether there was fraud or "other shenanigans" in the bout, "the rematch is as good as dead."

Pacquiao lost by unanimous decision after 12 rounds. He said he thought he won despite his injured right shoulder. He is facing several damage suits in the United States for alleged fraud in connection with the injury from people who spent money to watch or bet on the fight.

"When the injury had not yet been disclosed, people were blaming Floyd Mayweather for the lackluster fight because he resorted to hit-and-run tactics, but now people are blaming Manny Pacquiao for robbing them of the 'fight of the century,'" Tolentino said.

He said, however, that Pacquiao can still retire without soiling his record as a champion. "I do not believe that his legacy will be defined by the performance in the Mayweather fight," he said. **AP**

Power-packed race gives Penske 1st Grand Prix win at Indy

Michael Marot, Indianapolis

WILL Power came to Indianapolis chasing more than a double. He wants a clean sweep. After Saturday, the defending IndyCar champion is halfway home.

Power led 65 of 82 laps in the Grand Prix of Indianapolis, holding off Graham Rahal for his first win of the season and first at the famed Brickyard.

The Australian finished 1.5023 seconds ahead of Rahal and more than 7 seconds in front of Team Penske teammate Juan Pablo Montoya and can now focus on winning the Indianapolis 500 pole next weekend and the May 24 race.

"It's absolutely possible (to win all four)," the Australian said after becoming IndyCar's fifth winner in five races this season. "You have to think that, because it is. It's possible. I'm going to try to do everything to make that happen."

There's not much time to celebrate.

Teams and track workers will scramble to make the transition from road-course racing to oval racing in roughly 42 hours. Practice for the 500 begins today.

If anybody is capable of taking all four this month, it could be Power, who finished second, seventh, 20th and fourth in this season's first three races. He's already won two poles this season and is now second in the points behind Montoya.

The next goal is to add to Roger Penske's record numbers — 16 wins and 18 poles in IndyCar starts at the speedway after taking both for the first time on the speedway's 2.439-mile, 14-turn road course.



Graham Rahal steers his car during the Grand Prix of Indianapolis auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Power knows he has a good chance, too, after Penske's cars were the fastest in the first test of the new oval aero kits last weekend. And they have the dominant Chevrolet engines, which have won all five poles this season, four of the first five races and claimed eight of the top 10 spots Saturday.

Practice for the 500 begins today

"It was exactly the race we asked for," Power said. "No yellows. Very straightforward. Knew we would be in good shape. Had a very good car, good stops."

But Honda finally appears to be closing the gap.

Rahal took advantage of a five-car crash in the first turn of

the 82-lap race to jump from 17th to sixth, steadily moved through the field into second and continually pressured Power. It's the second straight runner-up finish for Rahal, whose father, 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby, says his son is racing at his best.

"It's not that this person you see driving today isn't the same guy that drove last year," the younger Rahal said. "But the car I drove today is better than what I've had. I've been able to attack a lot harder."

The only other Honda driver to finish in the top 10 was Japan's Takuma Sato, who was ninth for A.J. Foyt Racing.

France's Sebastien Bourdais and American Charlie Kimball rounded out the top five. Defending race winner Simon Pagenaud, the French driver who is in his first season with Penske's team, retired after 57

laps because of mechanical problems and wound up last in the 25-car field.

While Power made the race look relatively easy, only surrendering the lead when he pitted, other drivers had bumpier rides.

Three-time 500 winner Helio Castroneves, a Brazilian, got caught in the opening lap melee in his 300th career start. He still managed to finish sixth at his favorite venue.

Rahal, an American, and Montoya, of Colombia, both complained Josef Newgarden prevented them from getting a clean run at Power for almost 20 laps. Newgarden finished a lap down after getting collected in the only major crash of the day but still collected enough points to remain seventh in the standings.

"You get 10, 12 car lengths back, you can feel the air," Rahal

said. "I was five car lengths back for five or six laps in a row on his tail. You know, it was like I didn't exist. That's pretty frustrating, but it worked out fine."

Now Power and Penske can focus on their next goal — getting their third win at Indy next weekend.

"I came in this month determined to have a good month. I haven't had that for so long," Power said. "It's working out. It's just awesome to win at this place."

Notes: After last year's big first-lap crash, series officials decided to use a rolling start rather than a standing start, to a rolling start. ... Baseball Hall of Famer Robin Yount attended Saturday's race as a guest of the Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing team. ... Sean Rayhall raced to his first career Indy Lights victory, finishing 4.9438 seconds ahead of R.C. Enerson. **AP**

Study reveals gay discrimination in sports

ONE in four gay men said they had received verbal threats of harm or had been bullied while participating in sports, and around 80 percent of people said they had witnessed such discrimination, according to a survey of 9,500 respondents.

The findings were contained in 'Out on the Fields', released yesterday, which officials said was the first international study and the largest conducted on discrimination against gay, lesbian and bisexual participants in sports.

The study, which also canvassed heterosexual respondents, surveyed nearly 3,000 people in Australia, 2,025 in the United States and 1,780 in Britain.

The study was also conducted in Canada, New Zealand and Ireland.

It was initiated by organizers of the Bingham Cup, a gay rugby tournament held in Sydney last year.

The results from the on-line study were reviewed by seven academics from six universities, including Victoria University in Australia, Penn State University and the University of Massachusetts in the United States, Brunel University in Britain and the University of Winnipeg and Laval University in Canada.

The study also showed one in four gay men did not play youth team sports because of negative experiences in

school physical education classes, or because they feared they would be rejected because of their sexuality.

It said 46 percent of all participants and 54 percent of gay men believe LGB people are "not accepted at all" or only "accepted a little" in sporting culture.

And 84 percent of gay men and 82 percent of lesbians in the study said they had received verbal slurs.

The study was open to anyone, although heterosexual participants were given fewer questions than lesbian, gay and bisexual participants. About 2,500 of the respondents were heterosexual.

In the United States, 55 percent of

the 2,025 respondents were gay men. The U.S. ranked highest for discrimination in some areas, with 54 percent of participants there saying lesbian, gay and bisexual people in sports were accepted only slightly or not at all.

Openly gay former Wales rugby star Gareth Thomas said "this massive international study has cast a very bright and much-needed light" on the issue.

Former Australia rugby captain John Eales said that "as a father I was really disappointed to hear how widespread homophobia is in some parts of sport, especially the PE classes and spectator stands where so many kids learn how to behave." **AP**

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

As the dust settles in the aftermath of the unpredictable May Day civil and industrial actions, at least partly, Macau dares to read the new trends coming out of the all-gaming 2015 Labor Day demonstrations. 13 casino workers' trade unions of a sort took to the streets. And pardon the hyperbolic style.

First of all, we have to highlight the shift of the pro-democracy New Macau Association, from its double persona of senior legislators and new generation management to a more social agenda. Legislative Assembly veteran lawmakers, Ng Kwok Cheong and Au Kam San, and the NMA political leadership of Sulu Sou and Jason Chao adjusted themselves to the local new normal. Ng is now calling explicitly for a freeze, not a ban, indeed, of the universal suffrage as the basic framework for the development of MSAR's political system, and further ado on the pro-democracy path; Au Kam San is no longer shy about refusing any reference, intrusion, or contamination from Hong Kong's political drive spilling to the other side of the Pearl River Delta. The NMA's youth wing, that is to say the new leadership of the pro-democracy side, goes even further, given its profile in Macau's political activism these recent years. Local [political] star Jason Chao, apparently seasoned by a tour of initiation, admits he is ready to let go of the "explosive" issues to follow a more social agenda; for instance, the promotion of a sexual harassment bill.

We believe this shift to a neutral agenda to be not only realpolitik inspired, but also a decisive bet, putting aside the conceptual antagonism between conservatives and democrats. This way, he brings the political interchange to a common language, and operates from within normal-speak, which allows NMA to challenge and spin the raw authoritative conservative arguments. For example, we refer to the never ending reference to science and the never fulfilled idea of the maxim 'there is always room for improvement'.

However, what is important NOW is that the democrats are granting the government all the time and space it needs to handle the pains of the decreasing gaming sector, from each and every angle, and at the same time NMA is giving a political sign that the narrative built around any threat from the unsettling effects of the local pro-democracy movement is now void. And from now on there cannot be an excuse to insist on old school antics to protect old and new money.

Fortunately, the Secretary for Finance and Economy, Lionel Leong, was called to bring the casino industry to a soft landing in-between the rise and too-big-to-fail libretto of the gaming sector. And this is an understatement.

Whether we call it new normal, or something other, the adjustment is happening as the terms of the so-called mid-term evaluation or review are disclosed. Now, all parties know that there are no instructions from Beijing regarding the three concessionaires and three sub-concessionaires evaluation; that this process is not linked to a hypothetical seventh licence; that the non-gaming and social responsibility issues are the deciding factors. Now, everybody knows.

What we do not know is the ratio between the redemptive powers of the mass market as a mitigating factor of the 20 billion new normal and the actual potential of the first class new projects to increase the number of visitors belonging to that class of spenders. But as we all know, this industry challenges our perceptions of fact and fiction.

THE BUZZ SEVERAL PEOPLE KILLED IN SWITZERLAND SHOOTING

Police said yesterday that they found several people dead after shots were heard in a town in northern Switzerland. Residents heard shots in the town of Wuerenlingen shortly after 11 p.m. Saturday night, police said. Officers then found "several" dead people lying outside and in a house in a residential area, they said in a

statement.

All the dead were adults. Police said that they are working to identify them and that the circumstances of and possible motive for the shooting remain unclear.

Wuerenlingen is a town of some 4,500 people northwest of Zurich, near the German border.

NEPAL

Portuguese travelers turn into aid agency after quake



A villager puts a floral garland around Portuguese backpacker Pedro Queiros, in black, with Lourenco Macedo Santos standing beside him on the outskirts of Kathmandu

Johnson Lai, Nepal

THEY arrived in Nepal as backpackers a day before a deadly earthquake that flattened large swaths of this impoverished Himalayan nation. In the days since the disaster, they've transformed themselves into a two-man amateur aid agency.

Using funds pledged through a Facebook appeal, Pedro Queiros and Lourenco Macedo Santos are taking food and bedding to needy Nepalis made homeless by the magnitude-7.8 earthquake that struck outside Kathmandu shortly before noon on Apr. 25.

In a country where dozens of the world's biggest aid agencies are now active, the two Portuguese men, both in their mid-30s, say their work shows there is room for ordinary people to make a difference. So far they estimate

they've helped around 15,000 people.

Earlier this week, they arrived at the devastated village of Ichangu Narayan near Kathmandu, where anxious residents lined up to receive supply bundles, including rice, oil and other staples, designed to feed a family for about 15 days.

Amid the wrecked buildings of the tiny farming village, the atmosphere was almost festive as sacks of food were distributed to representatives of the village's 130 families.

"These people are grateful to you all. Thank you," headman N.K. Prasai told the two men.

They started small until Queiros posted an appeal and his bank details on his Facebook page. Since then, thousands of euros (dollars) have poured in from ordinary Portuguese moved by the suffering of tens of thousands of Nepalis.

The money helped them to move beyond scraping together a little rice and bananas for a few individuals. Now they're closer to a small grassroots organization, hiring taxis to cart sacks of food to some of the worst-hit villages.

They estimate they've spent around 10,000 euros (USD11,360) on supplies so far.

When the earth first shook, their impulse was to leave Nepal but they couldn't get on a plane. And they saw snaking lines of people lining up for food.

"We made a difference," said Santos. "We couldn't turn our backs to the people because we could do something for them. We had the money. We had two arms and one brain so we choose to stay."

The men are aware that some may think they are hucksters, using a tragedy to make money. They say they are keeping all the receipts of the money they've spent.

"If there's any kind of suspicion about the money, I can guarantee you that nothing is going to happen," said Queiros. "We're going to make detailed reports about what we collect, about what we spend and we are doing that on a daily basis".

"We are ambassadors for Portugal," Queiros added. "We're going to make them proud." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Billy H.C. Kwok/Bloomberg



A tourist, left, uses binoculars to look at the view from Victoria Peak as commercial and residential buildings stand in the distance in Hong Kong.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

MACEDONIA Fighting between police forces and members of an armed group has continued for a second day in the northern Macedonian town of Kumanovo. Local TV channels Alfa and 24 Vesti yesterday reported that another police officer has died due to severe injuries sustained in the fighting, increasing the death toll of officers to six. At least another 30 were injured in an exchange of fire between special police forces and an armed group that started in the town on Saturday.

TURKEY Kenan Evren, leader of Turkey's 1980 military coup and former president dies at 97.

SPAIN A military transport plane crashed near Seville airport in southwestern Spain on Saturday, killing four crew members and injuring two seriously, officials said. The crash of the Airbus A400M, that was undergoing flight trials at the airport, raised questions about the security of the new, propeller-driven transport aircraft.



YEMEN's Shiite rebels and their allies in the country's splintered armed forces said Sunday they would accept a five-day humanitarian cease-fire to allow aid to reach civilians after more than a month of daily Saudi-led airstrikes. The cease-fire, scheduled to begin Tuesday, would help ease the suffering of civilians in the Arab world's poorest country who increasingly lack food, fuel and medicine since the bombing campaign began March 26.

LIBERIA is now free of Ebola after going 42 days — twice the maximum incubation period for the deadly disease — without any new cases, the World Health Organization announced Saturday.

IRAQ Forty inmates in a prison in northeastern Iraq, including some convicted of terrorism charges, escaped amid a riot that killed at least six police officers and 30 prisoners, authorities said Saturday.