



CASINO STOCKS FALL AS ANALYSTS CUT FORECASTS

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EUROPEAN-STYLE ANTIQUE CLOCK STORE OPENS
Macau's first antique gallery specializing in European clocks opened at the Fisherman's Wharf

P7 MDT REPORT



DEADLY MERS OUTBREAK MAY HAVE PEAKED
S Korea believes its MERS outbreak may have peaked. Macau group tours to the country were canceled

P5,13

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CCAC exposes cases involving law enforcers

P2 CORRUPTION

WORLD BRIEFS

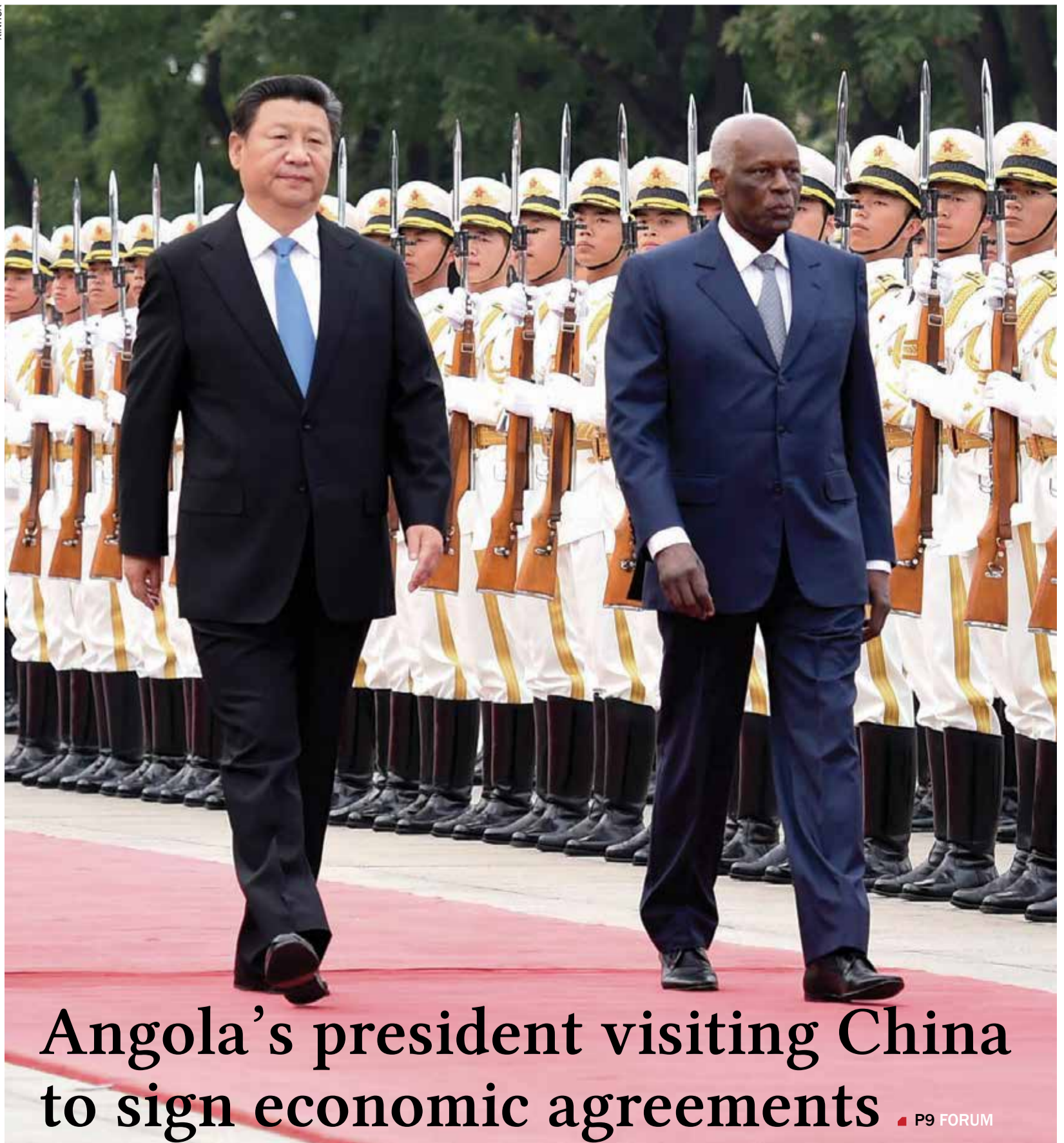
JAPAN Two former Japanese political leaders known for their key apologies over Japan's World War II atrocities say Prime Minister Shinzo Abe should not water down their words when he marks the war's 70th anniversary.

INDIA Police arrested the New Delhi state law minister for allegedly holding a fake degree in law and registering as an attorney.

GUAM The lesbian couple who sued to overturn a gay-marriage ban is put to the front of the line as Guam becomes the first U.S. territory to recognize gay marriage. Deasia Johnson of Killeen, Texas and Nikki Dismuke of New Orleans became the first gay couple to be legally married in a U.S. territory.

UKRAINIAN officials say that a major blaze has engulfed a fuel depot near the capital, leaving one man dead and injuring several others. The Emergency Situations Ministry says firefighters are focusing on trying to prevent the fire from spreading to a nearby military unit. Senior officials have rushed to the area to coordinate efforts to combat the blaze.

More on backpage



Angola's president visiting China to sign economic agreements

P9 FORUM

CCAC

Bribery and forgery cases involving law enforcers exposed



Macau Prison entrance

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has released allegations that a Macau Prison (EPM) guard took bribes from an inmate to smuggle various prohibited items into the prison, including luxury products such as expensive watches and wine.

The case appears to be related to a similar incident reported in March, involving an EPM chief officer who was taken into custody after CCAC found that he had been accepting bribes from the same inmate.

Yesterday, CCAC said in a statement that it launched an operation a few days ago, which resulted in the prison guard being taken into custody. He was found to be carrying items that he was planning to deliver to the prison. Other items were seized at his home and at a shop he runs.

CCAC added that all of the people involved in the case have allegedly committed several crimes, namely the offering and accepting of bribes.

The correctional officer was suspended with immediate effect and is not allowed to leave Macau.

According to CCAC, the guard involved was responsible for monitoring inmates and ensuring security and order within prison cells.

The inmate offered bribes to the officer through a visitor, including luxurious food, ginseng, deer antlers, prestigious wines, branded cosmetics, travel tickets, hotel accommodation, and even a promise of providing him with a well-paid job abroad.

"In return, the prison guard repeatedly smuggled prohibited items

such as food, seasoning, tea leaves, pharmaceuticals, religious ornaments, branded sports shoes, and luxurious watches into the prison for the inmate's enjoyment," CCAC said.

During the investigation, the prison guard conceded that he had accepted bribes from the inmate in exchange for smuggling various items into the prison on several occasions.

The Macau Prison issued a statement yesterday stating that it is paying close attention to the case and is actively cooperating with CCAC. EPM added that it will launch an internal probe into the case.

EPM stressed that it will continue to improve the education programs of prison staff in order to promote integrity and ethics.

Meanwhile, CCAC yesterday revealed another case of forgery – this time by a Public Security Police Force agent who is accused of forging work attendance sheets.

CCAC found that, between 2010 and 2014, the sergeant repeatedly came into work late and left early. At times, he left work for more than two hours while he should have been on duty. Furthermore, he also left Macau due to personal matters during regular or extra working hours.

He then forged his attendance record sheets in an attempt to deceive his superior and make him believe that the agent had carried out all his duties during the designated schedule.

The case has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation. **CP**

ENTERTAINMENT

Int'l fireworks contest kicks off in September

THIS year's Macau International Fireworks Display Contest is scheduled to take place on September 5, 12, 19, 27 and October 1 on the promenade in front of the Macau Tower. The Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) has announced that ten competing teams will brighten up the city's night skyline with spectacular fireworks.

The annual event, currently in its 27th year, is known as one of the most stunning events on Macau's calendar, attracting many well-known fireworks companies from across the globe. The organizer, MGTO, recognized that it attracts visitors from a variety of places, all flocking into town for the fireworks show every year.

During a press conference this week, MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes unveiled the highlights of this year's program, such as performances by teams from France and Austria during



RENATO MARQUES

the Mid-Autumn Festival and World Tourism Day (September 27), and a celebration of the Chinese National Day (October 1) by teams from mainland China and Australia.

The lineup also includes teams from Malaysia, Portugal, Finland, Taiwan, Korea, and Italy. Among these teams, Malaysia and Finland are new to the contest, and the companies from Italy and France will make their debut in Macau.

"Overall the teams demonstrate competitive experience and are ready to bring myriad spectacular displays for both residents and visitors," stated the organizer.

The other six teams participated in the contest in

Macau before, and some of them ranked among the top positions. Dancing Fireworks from mainland China won the second prize in the contest in 2013. The company is also experienced in creating fireworks shows for different mega-events, including the opening and closing ceremonies of 2008 Beijing Olympics and the opening ceremony of the Shanghai World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China.

This year, MGTO is again requesting that the teams choreograph their firework displays to both music and laser light projections to enhance the audience's experience with a more spectacular light and sound elements.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASE

Associations lambast court on newspaper's front page

THE Macao Daily News (Ou Mun Yat Po) published a "solemn statement" occupying its entire front page yesterday, which was jointly issued by 11 local medical societies slamming a recent court verdict over a decade-long lawsuit in a medical malpractice case.

Since the conclusion of the case, which resulted in the conviction of two doctors at the Kiang Wu Hospital for their "negligence in failing to identify the cause of an infant's severe abdominal pain, which thus delayed treatment", a number of local medical associations – including two headed by lawmaker Fong Chi Keong and Chan Iek Lap – have published their opposition to the

court's decision in the local press for the sixth time.

Lawmaker Fong Chi Keong responded to the media earlier last week, explaining that "illness and death are inevitable, and there's no reason to expect someone to leave hospital fiercely alive and kicking after treatment." As a major shareholder in hospital and funeral parlor services, Fong also shocked citizens by saying: "Will the sick definitely be cured? [If so,] then nobody will be sent to the funeral parlor."

According to the associations' latest statement the conviction of the two doctors is "the darkest day" in Macau's medical sector. It stressed that the medical practitioners are not "si-

lent lambs," and that their "forbearance and compromise has received extremely unfair treatment in return." "If such a confusing verdict is acceptable, then nothing else could be unacceptable," it stated.

The successive statements criticizing the verdict have, on the other hand, raised eyebrows in society, as some have voiced concerns over the traditional associations' challenging and pressuring of judicial independence, whilst others have questioned whether those associations are misusing public funds. Some citizens have responded to the statements on social networks, saying "it was indeed the darkest day, but in terms of the respect for justice." **BY**

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sauttedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com

DESIGN EDITOR João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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GAMING

Casino stocks fall as analysts cut forecasts



Stephanie Wong

MACAU'S casino stocks tumbled after several analysts slashed their forecasts for June gambling revenue in the world's largest gambling hub. Analysts said overnight that June's casino revenue will be below their initial estimates because of weaker-than-expected figures in the first week of the month.

Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. is leading a decline in casino stocks in Hong Kong trading, down 5.1 percent to HKD50.85, the biggest loss in three months. Wynn Macau Ltd. lost 4.5 percent, Galaxy Enter-

tainment Group Ltd. dropped 3.7 percent and the Macau unit of Las Vegas Sands Corp. fell 1.7 percent.

"Our channel checks indicate that last week's industry revenues were meaningfully hurt by the bad luck

The key thing now is to see a basic level of stabilization

TIM CRAIGHEAD

factor almost across the board," DS Kim, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co., wrote in a note. "Such a disappointing start to the month suggests downside risk to our current gross gaming revenue forecast." The bad luck factor means the house won less.

The forecast cuts added to the negative sentiment already felt in the Macau casino industry as casinos there saw a yearlong losing streak and the city's economic output tumbled 24.5 percent in the first half, more than Greece and Ukraine ever did. More than USD25 billion in market value of Macau's six casino operators has been wiped out so far this year.

If gaming demand fails to improve in the coming weeks, "the downside could become more significant, which could ignite a meaningful de-rating for the sector," said Kim, who had predicted a decline of 30 percent to 32 percent this month.

Tim Craighead, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, said casino revenue might stabilize as summer holiday travel starts to pick up. "The key thing now is to see a basic level of stabilization and then we'll be in for another battle later in the year," with China's economic stimulus and the property market beginning to recover again, as well as a new casino opening later this year going up against a possible extension of the casinos' smoking ban to VIP rooms, Craighead said. **Bloomberg**

Junkets planning to fire staff

Two local VIP gaming service operators are allegedly preparing to shut down their VIP rooms as a result of the gaming industry's year-long slump. According to the Forefront of Macau Gaming union, Neptune GD Group is planning to dismiss around 300 of its employees at the end of this month. The gaming association claims that some of its members have been pressured to voluntarily resign by their employers.

David Group, which already closed three VIP rooms in January, is said to be continuing its shut-down spree in the near future.

The Forefront of Macau Gaming's vice-president, Lei Kuok Keong, said that aside from the sharp reduction in staff welfare, many junket employers have slumped. Meanwhile, he said, some others have streamlined their operations by closing unnecessary gaming rooms in casinos due to the shrinking VIP market.

PSP CURBS LOANSHARKING

THE PUBLIC Security Police (PSP) carried out an anti-crime patrol in major casinos and their surrounding areas in NAPE last Saturday. A total of 89 suspects engaging in loansharking were intercepted through the operation and taken back to the police station for further questioning.

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HEALTH | MERS SCARE

Tour groups to South Korea canceled

MACAU group tours to South Korea that were booked for this month have been cancelled by travel agencies, as reported cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in South Korea continue to rise, according to a Radio Macau report.

The president of the Association of Macau Tourist Agents, Wu Keng Kuong, said that seven group tours have been canceled, affecting the travel plans of about 100 people.

Mr Wu further clarified with regard to bookings for July and August, that some travel agencies are allowing customers to delay their bookings for a period of up to six months. They are also allowing clients to change their travel destinations, although doing this might involve further fees.

Meanwhile, the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) yesterday advised Macau residents not to travel to South Korea unless absolutely necessary.

On Monday, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced that it would be raising its MERS response level from a "standard alert" to a "high-level alert," thus suggesting that residents should avoid traveling to South Korea.

"Macau residents who intend to travel to South Korea, or are currently traveling in South Korea, should follow the recommendations of the Health Bureau and avoid visiting medical institutions, or having

PAULO BARBOSA



The Bukchon neighborhood of Seoul, South Korea

contact with local medical staff; be aware of personal hygiene by washing your hands frequently and wearing a mask in public areas," GGCT said in a statement yesterday.

Information collected through the Macau travel industry shows that there was one Macau tour group, comprising four people, in South Korea this week. They were expected

to return home yesterday.

GGCT said that, as of this point, it has received 38 requests for information regarding MERS.

SSM raised their MERS response from a standard alert to a high-level alert on Monday evening, as the virus outbreak in South Korea was identified as placing neighboring regions at greater risk.

"High" is the second alert level in a four-level scale. A high-level alert requires healthcare professionals and citizens seeking treatment at local public healthcare facilities to wear masks. SSM has also suggested that private hospitals and clinics follow the same rule.

South Korea confirmed a seventh death from the MERS infection yesterday. Another

eight new cases were also reported, bringing the total number of infected people to 95.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong has issued a red alert warning against travel to South Korea. This is the second-highest level, under which people are advised to "avoid non-essential travel to Korea, including leisure travel."

MERS symptoms include fever, cough, breathing difficulties, and in some cases diarrhea, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The virus can also cause pneumonia and kidney failure.

If needed, Macau residents can call the 24-hour Tourism Hotline on +853 28333000 or the Health Bureau hotline on +853 28700800 for further information. **CP**

SUSPECTED CASE TESTS NEGATIVE

ANOTHER SUSPECTED case of MERS has tested negative, according to the Health Bureau. SSM said in a statement yesterday that on Monday night a 23-year-old Korean woman was brought to Kiang Wu Medical Center in Taipa, presenting MERS-like symptoms, such as a high fever, vomiting, coughing and trouble breathing. The woman had recently traveled to South Korea. Lab analysis showed that she tested negative for MERS.

THE saying "one is never too old to learn" is a highly appropriate way to describe yesterday's Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) graduation ceremony, where around 90 local seniors received their certificates acknowledging their four years of hard work.

IPM's Seniors Academy was established in 1999, and is dedicated to realizing life-long education for the elderly in the city. Last year, the academy offered a wide range of subjects that attracted 592 applications, but only just over 130 of those applicants were admitted to the school after a lottery draw.

Among all of the graduates aged over 55 from the academy's 16th cohort, Chan Ping Chuen and Pang Dai Muoi, aged 81 and 85 respectively, were the oldest students. However, the octogenarians' age did not deter them from

EDUCATION

IPM Seniors Academy students graduate with sense of fulfillment



participating in what they regarded as a fulfilling endeavor. Yesterday's graduation was their second, which is not unusual, as most of the students opt to return to the academy to continue their study after graduation.

"I have learnt a lot new of new things. There were no computer subjects in the past, nor digital photography. I didn't know much back then. I have not only acquired a lot of new knowledge, but also made lots of new friends.

And I have also participated in many activities," said Chan Ping Chuen, who advocated that people should continue exploring their interests

I have not only acquired a lot of new knowledge, but also made lots of new friends

SENIOR GRADUATE

and learning new things until they physically cannot continue to do so.

Starting with information technology before moving into Chinese literature, while at the same time being fully engaged in the Chinese musical instrument the erhu, Chan recounted his learning experience at the Academy, also saying that he braved all difficulties in order to broaden his knowledge.

As a grandmother of three great grandchildren, Pang admitted that she has completed almost all the courses offered by the academy over the past eight years. Even so, she still wishes to further

brush up on her English, despite having lived in Canada for a substantial period of time.

She felt appreciative of the higher education institute for opening the school for seniors, where she could accomplish something that was unattainable in her youth.

"I needed to take care of my family when I was young. There weren't many chances for me to learn as well," said the mature student, who then joked that seniors should keep themselves up to date with the ever-evolving new technology.

The Director of the Seniors Academy, Dr Lam Wan Mei, told the media before the ceremony that the government's yearly education subsidy of MOP6,000 per person indeed helped to cover much of the students' tuition costs, as many choose to pay through the grant. **Staff reporter**

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European-style antique clock store opens, eyeing Asian market

Catarina Pinto

MACAU'S first antique gallery specializing in European clocks opened on Monday at Fisherman's Wharf, with the owners hoping to capture the attention of an increasingly "romantic" Asian market.

Sergey Rylov, owner and restaurateur, acknowledged that while the European public is accustomed to this type of product, the Asian market is still developing. He believes that the Asian audience is looking at art differently now, and has started looking for romantic items and artworks.

Although targeting a VIP customer, as prices of the clocks available at the gallery range from HKD10,000 to HKD50 million, Mr Rylov stressed that the general public is welcome to visit the store to contemplate art, and learn more about clock restoration work.

In addition, he said he'd be happy to develop educational projects in cooperation with local schools, through which students could learn about the history behind these clocks and their restoration process.



Sergey Rylov

"We are thinking of organizing lectures about the clocks' history. We are also aiming at bringing a cultural side to it. We would like to hold exhibitions in educational institutions," he said.

One of the oldest clocks in the store, he said, comes from the bedroom of a French queen and was made in 1565 by a clock master in Germany. The piece is not for sale.

The clocks, which are made of wood, bronze and even gold, were made in France, Austria and Germany.

As Chinese president Xi Jinping expands his anti-graft campaign, sales of luxury goods have declined. Mr Rylov acknowledged that, "From a financial point of view, this could affect us," but "the anti-corruption campaign doesn't mean that people will stop loving art. People will not look at art differently," he added.

Mr Rylov was born in Russia and lived for about 20 years in the Czech Republic. He moved to Macau with his family, as he "always loved Asia." He also believes that "people are more open and friendlier here."

David Chow, CEO of Macau Legend Development Ltd., which manages Fisherman's Wharf, said that the "Antique Gallery" is something new to the Macau market: "This is a different kind of market. People who love this kind of antique aren't gamblers." He concluded by saying, "I already have a few items in my hotels from France. If we have this gallery here, we don't need to go and buy it there anymore – we have a connection here."

Over 3,000 fines issued over smoking ban breaches

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has issued a total of 3,077 fines to citizens found breaching the smoking ban between January 1 and May 31.

SSM said that it had undertaken 119,367 inspection operations to monitor different indoor spaces where smoking is illegal. Most offenders are male (2,858), with female offenders only representing 7.1 percent of the total (219). The majority of fines were issued to Macau residents (60 percent), while tourists accounted for 34.4 percent of the fines and 146 cases relate to non-resident workers.

Most offenses were recorded in internet cafes (17 percent), followed by gaming arcades (13.4 percent) and shops or malls (13.3 percent). Last month, most offenses were recorded in the Tap Seac area.

SSM said that, since January, only 2,351 offenders (75.8 percent) had paid their fines.

The bureau also revealed that 177 people were caught smoking in prohibited areas in local casinos between January and May. Among these offenders, 143 were tourists and 34 were Macau residents.

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Traders work on the trading floor of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in Hong Kong

Hong Kong to combat fat fingers with stock limits

Eduard Gismatullin

HONG Kong's markets regulator will back a plan to stop fat fingers and rogue algorithms from causing erroneous swings in the city's biggest stocks.

The Securities and Futures Commission will support Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd.'s proposal to prevent individual equities from moving more than 10 percent within a five-minute period. Under the planned change to HKEx's rules, any order that causes a stock to climb or drop more than 10 percent will be rejected, and a cooling-off period will begin.

The exchange operator outlined its idea, which it calls a volatility-control mechanism, in a January consultation paper and plans to publish responses to that document before the end of June. Swings in Hong Kong shares have come under greater scrutiny in the past month amid

rapid tumbles in Hanergy Thin Film Power Group Ltd. and Goldin Financial Holdings Ltd.

"Broadly we are supportive" of HKEx's proposal, Ashley Alder, the Securities and Futures Commission's chief executive officer, said in an interview in Hong Kong. "The volatility-control mechanism is more about fat-finger issues, algos going wrong and other types of mistakes."

When a stock suddenly spikes or slides, errors are sometimes to blame. These could be typographical mistakes known as fat-finger trades, or computer algorithms that make poor choices when executing a transaction. Many blame a stream of orders at the wrong price for causing the precipitous May 2010 plunge in U.S. shares that came to be known as the flash crash.

If multiple stocks or futures contracts become extremely volatile at the same time, the whole market can convulse. The absence of a second flash crash in the

U.S. is attributed by some to the introduction of curbs similar to those proposed for Hong Kong.

HKEx, which has distinct morning and afternoon sessions, proposes to monitor every stock in the Hang Seng Index and Hang Seng China Enterprises Index, along with futures contracts based on the two benchmarks. The rule changes propose a maximum of two cooling-off periods per session with no trading breaks in the final 15 minutes of each session.

"The objective is to prevent major trading incidents such as the flash-crash incident in the U.S. market, and preserve market integrity," Lorraine Chan, a spokeswoman at the bourse, wrote in an e-mail. "The volatility-control mechanism is not designed to control the ups and downs of individual stocks."

HKEx has also called for daily closing auctions to be reintroduced for equities as early as next year. **Bloomberg**

HSBC slashes jobs as it shifts focus back to Asian roots

Pan Pylas, London

HSBBC Holdings, Europe's largest bank by market value, will cut up to 25,000 jobs around the world to reduce costs and shift its center of gravity back toward the fast-growing Asian economies where it started operations 150 years ago.

The bank, which is currently based in London, said yesterday it is "undertaking a significant reshaping of its business portfolio" and "redeploying resources to capture expected future growth opportunities."

Though it has not yet decided whether to move its headquarters, the bank's statement shows clearly where it thinks its commercial future lies — China and the Asia-Pacific region.

As well as having an already sizeable presence across Asia, HSBC has historic ties to the region. It was founded in Hong Kong in 1865 when the city was a British colony in order to finance growing trade between China and Europe, much of it involving opium. Its original name, later shortened to HSBC, says it all: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

"The world is increasingly connected, with Asia expected to show high growth and become the center of global trade over the next decade," said Stuart Gulliver, HSBC's chief executive. "We recognize that the world has changed and we need to change with it."

HSBC, which has operations in over 70 countries and around 51 million customers, said it intends to sell its operations in Turkey and Brazil, a move that will see its workforce reduce by around another 25,000. Although planning to dispose of its operation in Brazil, HSBC said it plans to maintain a presence in that country to serve large corporate clients in their international dealings.

Overall, HSBC aims to cut costs by \$4.5 billion to \$5.0 billion by the end of 2017 and reduce the number of full-time employees by around 10 percent, equivalent to between 22,000 and 25,000.

A large chunk of those lost jobs will be in Britain, where up to 8,000 jobs could go. The bank hopes many of the cuts will come from attrition, by not filling posts that are vacated. **AP**

corporate bits

"IK" YANG LIAN HUI RETURNS TO THE VENETIAN IN WORLD TITLE FIGHT



Undeclared No. 2 world-rated junior welterweight contender "IK" Yang Lian Hui of China will get his first world title shot in a homecoming fight when he battles Cesar "El Distinto" Cuenca of Argentina for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior welterweight world championship, Saturday, July 18, at 5:30 p.m. at The Venetian's Cotai Arena.

The "Victory at The Venetian"

boxing event will also feature IBF lightweight world champion Mickey "The Spirit" Bey, Jr. of the United States, defending his title against Denis "Genghis Khan" Shafikov of Russia. The undercard card will feature former five-division world champion and 2012 Fighter of the Year Nonito "Filipino Flash" Donaire of the Philippines against Anthony Settout of France, popular un-

defeated contenders Rex "The Wonder Kid" Tso and "The Macao Kid" Kuok Kun Ng and 2012 U.S. Olympian and undefeated lightweight contender Jose Ramirez in separate bouts.

Promoted by Top Rank and presented by The Venetian Macao and Lander Real Estate, in association with Tecate and SECA, tickets to Victory at The Venetian are on sale now.

"Sands China is thrilled to host yet another boxing event at the Cotai Arena this July," said Dave Horton, global chief marketing officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp & Sands China Ltd. "We are delighted to see 'IK' Yang Lian Hui to fight for his world title at The Venetian Macao in the upcoming fight, and this would be another must-see boxing event for his fans and boxing enthusiasts."

At Hotel Royal's Fado restaurant, Portuguese Executive Chef Luis Americo is presenting two a-la-carte specials exclusively for dad's day, including Lobster with coriander butter sauce, sautéed vegetables and olive oil bread crumbs and The Ibérico - Slow cooked cheek, grilled secreto and braised neck with apple mousse,

FATHER'S DAY DINING AT HOTEL ROYAL

baked polenta, sautéed green peas and carrot. This menu is only available on June 20 and June 21.

Meanwhile, for Chinese food, Catalpa Garden Shanghaiese Restaurant's master chef has created a Father's Day set menu including his picks of

Shanghai dishes, such as Braised beche-de-mer with shrimp roe, Mandarin fish with pine nuts in sweet and sour sauce, Fried prawn with brown sauce, and Steamed black glutinous rice with mashed red bean. The set menu is available from June 17 to June 21.



Angola's president visiting China to sign economic agreements

ANGOLA and China will negotiate "a new financial package to tackle the difficulties" created by the fall in global oil prices, said the Angolan ambassador in Beijing, cited by Angolan news agency Angop.

In a meeting with Angolan journalists before the arrival in Beijing of president José Eduardo dos Santos, the diplomat, João Garcia Bires



Xi Jinping (left, front) yesterday held a welcoming ceremony for Jose Eduardo dos Santos before their talks in Beijing

THREE DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS

THE TWO leaders began three days of discussions yesterday to sign accords in financial, agriculture, education and energy fields, Angop said, citing Foreign Affairs Minister Georges Chikoti. They also will discuss ways to ease visa red tape and to open an Angolan consulate in Guangzhou due to the volume of business between the two countries, Angop said.

stressed "the leading role" of China in the reconstruction of the country and hoped that Beijing "continues to be a strategic partner in this difficult phase for Angola."

The report from Angolan news agency Angop did not give an amount for the new "financial package" nor did it specify if it would be implemented as a loan or by opening lines of credit, as has happened in the last decade.

On Monday in Beijing, Eduardo dos Santos started his first visit to China in almost seven years, accompanied by five ministers, including the Ministers of Transport (Augusto Tomás), Trade (Rosa Pacavira) and Energy and Water (João Baptista Borges).

"Several cooperation agreements" will be signed during the visit, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said last week, without giving any further details. **MDT/Macauhub**

PORTUGAL

Thai Group offers 82.5 million euros for hotel chain

THE Minor hotel group of Thailand has offered 82.5 million euros to buy the Hotéis Tivoli hotel chain, whilst also taking on "all current liabilities," which in December 2014 amounted to 69.2 million euros, according to Portuguese financial daily Diário Económico.

The 822 creditors of Hotéis Tivoli are owed a recognized total of 176 million euros. In the Special Revitalization Process (PER) approved by lenders, cited by the newspaper, it is noted that the offer from the Minor group is "far superior" to the independent evaluation by an international consultant, which calculated a value of approximately 68 million euros.

Earlier this year, the Thai group that owns and manages a network of 126 hotels, which operates brands such as Four Seasons, Anantara and St Regis, invested nearly 160 million euros in the purchase of property where it operates four hotel units of the Tivoli brand: Lisboa, Vilamoura marina, marina of Portimão and Carvoeiro.

On 22 May, the PER was approved by "a large majority of creditors," as reported by the company. At the time CEO, Alexandre Solleiro, said "the plan ensures the sustainability and the future development of the brand and Tivoli business, safeguarding the best interests of creditors, business partners and employees of Tivoli Hotels and Resorts." **MDT/Macauhub**

AD

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Macau SAR Government urges citizens to be on 'high alert' for MERS

In response to the development of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Republic of Korea, the Macau SAR Government has raised its response level from 'alert' to 'high alert', and is fully prepared to deal with any possible diagnosed cases. The Government urges citizens not to panic, and advises citizens to:

- Avoid travelling to Republic of Korea for the time being; if inevitable, avoid visiting local medical institutions or having contact with local medical personnel;
- Maintain personal hygiene, including washing hands frequently and wearing a face mask in crowded places.

Stringent infection control measures are enforced immediately for hospitals, educational institutions and social service facilities:

- Everyone entering the medical units subordinate to the Health Bureau is required to wear a face mask; the same measures are required for Kiang Wu Hospital and suggested for other medical institutions;
- The visiting hours for Conde de São Januário General Hospital will be shortened as: from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.;
- Medical personnel are required to strictly follow the infection control measures in medical institutions;
- Public and educational institutions, as well as social service facilities, are required to observe the guidelines of the Health Bureau, and to reinforce the infection control measures for schools, child care institutions, elderly homes and disabled homes in particular.

Frontline medical personnel are required to:

- Stay vigilant, especially to people coming from or having visited Republic of Korea or the Middle East;
- Report suspected cases immediately, and adopt relevant infection control measures.

Citizens should pay attention to the following when traveling to the Middle East or Republic of Korea:

- Maintain food and personal hygiene, avoid visiting local hospitals or having contact with patients, and pay attention to the situation of the disease;
- Avoid contact with animals, especially camels, and do not go to farms;
- Do not consume food or drinks that are not handled appropriately, such as camel milk;
- Consult a doctor immediately if feeling unwell after returning from a trip, and provide the doctor with details of the travel history.

Hotline of the Health Bureau: **28 700800** <http://www.ssm.gov.mo/csr>

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

LI Haitao, a 24-year-old employee at a steel trading company, did no research last June before he joined a stampede of novice investors into China's surging stock market.

He paid for his risk-taking.

"I went in blind," said Li, who works in the southern province of Hunan. "I already have suffered some losses, but luckily not much."

Many new investors piling into China's stock market, which has more than doubled in less than a year, are like Li: Rookies with little information whose enthusiasm for risky speculative trading is fueling rising concern they might be hurt when the boom cools.

"It's very common that investors do not even know what the companies in which they invest do. They do not care," said Zhang Chi, a securities analyst in Shanghai and former financial columnist for several newspapers. "I am worried about them."

In contrast to the United States, Europe or Japan, where many people invest through mutual funds, most Chinese investors buy stocks directly, sometimes in companies whose names they cannot remember.

Financial literacy is limited in a society where the mainland's first communist-era stock exchange opened in Shanghai only in 1990. Brokerages offer classes in trading but a culture of commentators who preach the gospel of low-risk, long-term investing has yet to develop. Many small investors rely on rumors or tips from friends in a market rife with complaints of insider trading and fraud. Reports say the China Household Finance Survey, which is conducted by Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, found nearly 6 percent of new investors were illiterate, a quarter finished only elementary school and more than third left the education system at junior high school level.

"I bought shares almost without basis, blindly," said a 54-year-old woman who would give only her surname, Huang, and was sitting at a desk in a room set aside by a Beijing brokerage for frequent traders. She said she has been investing since 2000 and is up 20 to 30 percent in the latest boom.

"It's unnecessary to learn too much about stocks," said Huang.

Why? Huang echoes a common sentiment in a heavily regulated economy in which stock prices are driven more by policy changes than by economic fundamentals: the stock market in China is obviously manipulated by government, so if you are to make losses, it is fated and has nothing to



A customer walks past an electronic stock board at a security firm in Shanghai

Small investors flying blind in latest market boom

with whether you know more or not."

The latest boom began after the state press said last summer stocks were cheap. Investors took that to mean Beijing wanted prices to rise — and might prop up markets if needed.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index has soared 150 percent over the past year, though it has suffered stomach-churning drops along the way, most recently a 6.5 percent plunge May 28.

The ruling Communist Party wants to develop China's stock markets as a tool to help make the state-dominated economy more efficient but its leaders appear to be getting uneasy the latest boom might run out of control.

State media have gradually begun to urge caution. But that comes after months of cheerleading for higher prices and encouraging the public to buy.

The party newspaper People's Daily in a May 4 commentary declared the latest boom a "profitable golden era." TV stations in Shanghai and other cities broadcast as many as three programs a day with commentators talking about the latest market moves.

"I believe all I need to do is watch news and commen-

tary on TV, discuss it with my friends, look at the history of China's stock market and try to get a better idea of what the general landscape of China's economy is," said Huang Jingru, who at 80 is a 12-year veteran of the markets.

■ Rookies with little information whose enthusiasm for risky trading is fueling concern they might be hurt when the boom cools

Each morning, armed with the day's financial newspapers and a mason jar of tea, she sits in a Beijing brokerage and hunts the latest stock tip.

"Today's paper highlighted heavy and military industries, so I'll pay more attention to stocks in these industries," said Huang.

Many of the new investors were born in the 1990s. That might make them too young to

remember China's last market boom in 2007. It was followed by a price collapse that saw the benchmark index nosedive 70 percent over the following year.

In 2010, the state-owned China Securities Investor Protection Funds, which insures against possible losses due to fraud or a broker going bankrupt, produced an educational 40-episode TV series, "Uncle Niu's Story in the stock market." The story follows Uncle Niu, Chinese for "Bull," a play on the bull market, as he makes and loses money, highlighting principles of sensible investing.

New investors are often encouraged by stories of stock market-driven wealth gains for China's elite.

Boosted by surging asset prices, China created a new billionaire almost every week in the first quarter of this year, according to a survey by Swiss bank UBS.

Huang said she has doubled her money since late 2014 but acknowledged that after the 2007 bubble burst, she lost 70 percent of her investment.

"I didn't have much experience and knowledge about investment," she said.

Regulators have taken steps to try to insulate the state-ow-

ned financial industry from a possible downturn. In April, brokerages were told to rein in lending to investors to buy stocks in an apparent move to limit losses if speculators go bust.

The People's Daily commentary May 4 noted that few investors made money in past booms — an acknowledgement that the profits go to state-owned brokerages and other big traders. It called on the public to "invest rationally."

But those warnings are so mild that new investors are still piling into the markets.

Investors opened a record 4.428 million new trading in the week ended May 29, according to the China Securities Depository and Clearing Co. That is several times the peak for new accounts during the 2007 boom.

"I'm ready to invest in the stock market, mostly inspired by my friends," said a 60-year-old woman who was visiting a brokerage in Beijing and would give only her surname, Zhang.

"I have no plans or the energy to learn all the ABCs of investment," said Zhang as she watched share prices change on a wall-size monitor. "So, basically, I'll just look around and see whether this blind cat can catch a mouse." AP

Louise Watt, Beijing

RULES making it easier to file lawsuits in China have led to a new concern over frivolous claims, such as one in which a man says actress Zhao Wei stared at him too intensely through his TV set.

The regulations making it more difficult for courts to reject lawsuits took effect May 1, leading to an increase in cases nationwide last month of 29 percent compared with same period last year, to just over 1 million cases, according to the Supreme People's Court.

The registration system requires courts to accept legitimate lawsuits when they are filed or clearly state the reasons for rejecting them, and citizens have the right to appeal the decisions.

"Previously, it was difficult for administrative cases, such as people suing governments, to be accepted," said Li Heping, a Beijing lawyer.

In announcing the registration system, the official Xinhua News Agency said: "Authorities are determined to put an end to obstructive behavior by courts and officials meddling in cases."

The change has led to Shanghai Pudong New District Court receiving a case against Zhao, the court's litigation service hotline confirmed. The

Man sues actress over her intense stare in TV show



Chinese actress Zhao Wei

court official, who declined to identify himself, refused to say whether the court had accepted the case.

Zhao is one of China's biggest and richest movie stars, and starred in director John Woo's "Red Cliff."

Reports say the lawsuit filed by a Shanghai man involves the prime-time TV show "Tiger Mom" which debuted in May and centers on a couple's differing approach to raising their daughter. Zhao plays the big-eyed mother who relentlessly pushes her daughter's development, while the father wants his child to have more freedom.

The Legal Daily said the plaintiff was alleging Zhao's stare caused him "spiritual damage."

Gan Wen, deputy head of a case-filing chamber under the Supreme Court, said at a news conference yesterday that the Zhao case was an example of citizens abusing their right to file lawsuits.

"It's not necessary to waste our judicial resources on cases like these," Gan said. **AP**

Gov't plans national park system to protect few unspoilt areas, FT says

CHINA plans to introduce a national parks system in a move that could help address administrative problems that have so far plagued attempts to protect the country's few remaining natural areas, the Financial Times reported on Monday.

According to an article by Lucy Hornby, China's far-flung preserves have helped spur an appreciation for wilderness among new middle-class car owners, who delight in long road trips. The country lacks legislation or a system like the National Parks Service in the US that could help maintain the parks, and juggle the balance between protecting the natural environment and promoting tourism.

China has formally designated about 18 per cent of its land as "protected" in some manner, more than most countries. But it spends less per acre of protected land than either Thailand or Nepal, the FT detailed.



Scenery of Qianjiazhai in Zhenyuan County of Pu'er City, southwest China's Yunnan Province

Worse, horror stories about the state of the preserved areas abound, from the forest preserve turned into a golf course to the decision by now-disgraced politician Bo Xilai to redraw the boundaries of a fish protection reserve to accommodate yet another dam outside Chongqing. In 2009 a poacher killed and ate the last tiger in a preserve for the animals along the border with Laos.

"There are a lot of areas where they just draw a line on a map but no real system is set up," said Rose Niu, director of conservation programs at the Paul

son Institute in Chicago, as quoted by the paper. The institute on Monday signed an agreement with China's top planning agency, the National Reform and Development Commission, to advise on a national system of parks and protected areas.

Creating a national system could help with budgets, currently borne by cash-strapped local governments. Park employees at one sprawling preserve in Qinghai were expected to pay for their own motorcycle fuel, Ms Niu said.

The problems are not simply budgetary. Local officials may see a park

as hindering their ability to meet economic growth targets, while local communities find their grazing and farming interrupted.

The emphasis on gross domestic product leads governments at all levels to promote mass tourism to Chinese parks but bus tours and giant hotels have strained protected areas' fragile ecosystems. "Under China's current conditions if a park becomes a tourism development zone it's a disaster," Ms Niu told the FT.

That phenomenon is on display at Jiuzhaigou, the remote and beautiful mountain valley in Sichuan province that has become known for its crowds. During the autumn National Day holidays in 2013, a 400-bus jam developed on the roads leading to Jiuzhaigou and tourists had to walk for hours in the dark to get out. Paramilitary units were deployed to control angry crowds seeking refunds.

5 killed, including 2 police, in mass rural shooting

Five people were killed, including two police officers, in a shooting yesterday in rural northern China, police said. The early morning shooting in Hebei province's Suning county marked a rare incidence of gun crime in China, where private ownership of firearms is illegal. The gunman, 40-year-old Liu Shuangrui, who was among those killed, had suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, according to a statement from the police department in the surrounding municipality of Cangzhou. Liu turned a double-barreled shotgun on his neighbors, killing two, before police arrived at the scene, the statement said. Two officers were then shot to death, including the political commissar of the county police department, before Liu was shot and killed, it said. Two other police officers were among five people injured in the shooting.

3D printing helps separate conjoined twins

With the help of 3D printing technology, doctors in Shanghai yesterday successfully separated three-month-old twin sisters who were conjoined at the hip. The twins, born in Ganzhou City, Jiangxi Province, were connected by soft tissues at the hip and lower spine. They have mostly separate digestive systems but share one lower bowel. After a five-hour operation in the Children's Hospital of Fudan University in Shanghai, the twins were separated. Chief surgeon Zheng Shan said they used 3D printing to build two models simulating the structure of the babies' connected parts, which helped them carry out simulated surgery when making plans for the procedure. Since the year 2000, the hospital has successfully separated seven pairs of conjoined twins.



Filipino environmental activists march towards the Chinese Consulate in suburban Makati, south of Manila, Philippines on Monday, May 11 as they protest against the continued building of infrastructures along a disputed group of islands known as the Spratlys in the South China Sea

PHILIPPINES

Court orders 9 jailed Chinese fishermen freed

Teresa Cerojano, Manila

A Philippine court has ordered the release of nine Chinese fishermen who served a year in prison for poaching and taking hundreds of

endangered giant sea turtles from a disputed South China Sea shoal, a court staffer said yesterday.

Judge Ambrosio de Luna of the regional trial court in western Palawan province orde-

red jail officials to release the fishermen to the immigration bureau because all have served their prison sentence of 6 months for each of the two crimes and the prosecution did not object, acting clerk of

court Lourdes Dadule said.

Dadule said de Luna granted the motion for release filed by the fishermen's lawyer, which is required despite the men serving out their sentence. She said it will be up to the immigration bureau to arrange for the fishermen's deportation.

Acting Palawan provincial jail warden Alejo P. Acosta said the men were temporarily still in his custody as of yesterday because the immigration office in Palawan has no facility to hold them while they wait for the Chinese consul who will accompany them

on their flight out of Palawan.

The fishermen were arrested in May 6, 2014, at Half Moon Shoal and their boat and catch of 555 endangered sea turtles were seized. The arrests sparked another spat between China and the Philippines in the increasingly volatile South China Sea.

In November, de Luna found them guilty of violating the country's fisheries code, ordering them to pay a fine of \$100,000 each for poaching in Philippine waters plus 120,000 pesos (USD2,666) each for taking wildlife.

The fishermen could not pay the fines so instead served a 6-month prison term for each of the two crimes, as provided by law when a convict could not pay the fine imposed. Time spent detained since their arrest was counted.

China had pressed the Philippines to release the fishermen and their boat, saying they were taken in Chinese waters. Beijing warned Manila not to take any "provocative actions so as to avoid further damage to bilateral relations."

The Philippines says the Chinese were arrested in its exclusive economic zone.

The shoal, called Banyue Reef in China, is claimed by Beijing as part of the Nansha island chain, known internationally as the Spratly Islands. The Spratlys are claimed in whole or part by China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei. AP

PAKISTAN

Execution of youth suspect stayed for 4th time

Adil Jawad, Karachi

A death-row prisoner whose family says was just 14 years old when he was convicted of killing a 7-year-old has had his execution stayed for a fourth time, authorities said yesterday.

Liaquat Khoso, an official at Karachi Central Jail, said the order to stay Shafqat Hussain's execution was received from the country's Supreme Court just hours before Hussain was scheduled to hang.

Authorities said the execution was halted after Hussain's conviction was challenged anew in the Supreme Court and an urgent hearing by a three-judge panel headed by the Chief Justice was set.

Hussain was to be executed in connection with the 2004 killing of a seven-year-old. His family and lawyers have said he was only 14 at the time of the alleged crime and that he was tortured into confession.

Hussain's lawyers were not available to comment on what new grounds they presented to argue that charges should be dropped. Officials stayed Hussain's execution three

previous times after intense public outcry and condemnation from human rights groups.

Hussain's is the most high-profile execution case since the government lifted a moratorium on the death penalty.

In January, Minister of the Interior Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said he was postponing the execution to allow officials to investigate Hussain's age. Yesterday, speaking to parliament, the minister said earlier police and jail reports had put his age at 23 or 25 at the time of the arrest but said officials were still trying to determine his age.

The government has sharply increased its use of the death penalty. Earlier this week, Pakistan hung 12 prisoners in a single day — the largest group since the moratorium was lifted.

Human rights groups say Pakistan has about 8,000 people on death row and have heavily criticized the government for bringing back executions, saying the legal system often uses torture to elicit confessions and does little to protect defendants. AP

NEPAL

Political agreement paves the way for eight states, new constitution

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

NEPAL'S main political parties have reached agreements on several disputed issues that could lead to the drafting of a much-delayed constitution in the Himalayan nation.

The agreement was signed by leaders of the four main political parties after hours of negotiations at Prime Minister Sushil Koirala's residence.

The agreement says Nepal would have eight federal states. A special commission will be formed to decide on the exact borders of the states, while their names will be decided by the state assemblies when they are elected.

Partisan political fighting has delayed an agreement on the constitution, which was initially su-

posed to have been drafted by 2010.

The parties were unable to agree on the number of states, their formation and their names. Some of the political parties had insisted that the states had to be based on the ethnic groups represented in the area while others wanted them based on geographical terrain.

An attempt by the governing parties earlier this year to present a draft of the constitution at the constituent assembly ended in a violent protest inside the assembly hall, where opposition members broke chairs and desks, and threw microphones and shoes at the speaker. The protest spilled into street protests and a nationwide general strike.

The latest agreement was signed by United Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the main

opposition party.

The four parties that signed the agreement have many more votes than the two-thirds of a majority in the 601-seat assembly that are needed to approve the draft.

A constitution was supposed to have been written by the Constituent Assembly that was elected in 2008 following the end of a 10-year Maoist insurgency and the overthrow of the centuries-old monarchy. But the assembly was riven by infighting and never finished its work. The current assembly was chosen in 2013, but has faced the same problem.

Since the country was hit by earthquakes in April and May that killed more than 8,700 people, both the government and opposition have been under pressure to resolve the constitution crisis. AP

SOUTH KOREA

Gov't says its deadly MERS outbreak may have peaked

Hyung-jin Kim and
Kim Tong-hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Korea believes its MERS virus outbreak may have peaked, and experts say the next several days will be critical to determining whether the government's belated efforts have successfully stymied a disease that has killed seven people and infected nearly 100 in the country.

The biggest outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome outside the region where it was first seen in 2012 was introduced to South Korea last month by a 68-year-old man who had traveled to Saudi Arabia and other nearby countries.

When he got sick after his return to South Korea, he visited several hospitals and clinics, where dozens of other patients and hospital workers were infected before officials found he had MERS. Gradually, the government began isolating victims and quarantining those who'd had contact with them.

There has been widespread fear here of the poorly understood disease, which has no vaccine and as much as a 40 percent mortality rate. There also had been growing criticism over failures by health workers and the government to initially recognize and quickly contain the disease.

Nearly 3,000 people have been placed in isolation and 2,200 schools closed in South Korea. Although MERS spreads through close contact with sick people, not through the air, many people here have avoided going to crowded places like baseball parks and movie theaters. Travel agencies report a sharp increase in the number of foreigners canceling plans to visit South Korea.

The outbreak, however, has so far been contained in hospitals and there's no evidence, the U.N. health agency says, of "sustained transmission in the community."

Authorities say the first MERS patient didn't reveal his Saudi Arabia trip to doctors until he arrived at the Seoul-based Samsung Medical Center after being treated at three other hospitals, including St. Mary's Hospital in Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul. Samsung and St. Mary's have seen most of the country's infections.

The initial patient's wife,

AP PHOTO



South Korean elementary school students wear masks as a precaution against the MERS virus as they sanitize their hands at an elementary school in Busan

who was the country's second MERS case and is now out of the hospital, recently told a local TV station that her husband didn't intend to hide information about his travels, but simply had trouble talking to doctors because of his high fever.

HK has issued a red travel warning for Korea, the second highest of three levels, and advised against unnecessary travel

Because the virus' incubation period is estimated at five to six days on average, extending up to about two weeks, experts believe there won't be any more cases directly infected by the first patient. The Health Ministry said that no more MERS cases have originated

from St. Mary's Hospital.

There are still concerns about Samsung Medical Center, where at least 37 people have been infected, although fewer cases have been reported there in recent days.

The initial patient was eventually isolated on May 20 after doctors at Samsung, where the man ended up, suspected he had MERS and alerted the government, which moved him to a government-run facility. But a week later, another so-called "super-spreader" — a man who'd been infected by the initial patient at St. Mary's Hospital — checked into an overcrowded Samsung Medical Center, where he was forced to stay for several days in the emergency room. He spread the disease among doctors, visitors and other patients there, according to health officials.

The maximum incubation period for those infected by the second "super-spreader" ends around this Friday, experts said, which raises hopes that the outbreak could weaken soon.

"I cautiously predict (MERS) will peak today" and be stabilized in the next few days, Health Minister Moon Hyung

-pyo told lawmakers Monday.

The prospects for the virus weakening this week depend on whether there are many people who have evaded government quarantine measures and infected other people in various places, said Jacob Lee, an infectious disease expert at Kangnam Sacred Heart Hospital in Seoul.

World Health Organization experts arrived in South Korea on Monday to investigate the outbreak.

There are concerns that South Korea's economy could suffer as tourism and business travel drop because of MERS fears.

Hong Kong has issued a red travel warning for South Korea, the second highest of three levels, and advised residents against unnecessary travel there. Hong Kong has been hypersensitive to infectious diseases since the outbreak of SARS in 2003, which killed hundreds of people.

MERS has mostly been centered in Saudi Arabia. It belongs to the family of coronaviruses that includes the common cold and SARS, and can cause fever, breathing problems, pneumonia and kidney failure. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

19 hurt after pickup truck slams into cafe

Nineteen people were hurt after a pickup truck smashed into a cafe in northern Australia yesterday, sparking a fire that engulfed the building, police said. Officials were trying to figure out what caused the driver to veer off the road and into the Serves You Right Cafe in Ravenshoe, south of Cairns in Queensland state. The crash caused a gas bottle at the cafe to explode, setting off a fire, Queensland police spokesman Todd Saunders said. Three people suffering serious injuries were airlifted to a hospital in Cairns, Saunders said. The others were being treated at local hospitals. The driver was among those who were hurt. Queensland Ambulance Service Assistant Commissioner Rod Sheather said patients were being treated for a "varying degree of burns." Kate Lewis, who works in a supermarket across from the cafe, described the scene as horrific. "We just heard a massive sonic boom and went running out and saw the cafe on fire and lots of burned people," she told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

INDIA

Police kill 12 Maoist rebels in eastern stronghold

Police killed at least 12 Maoist rebels in a clash early yesterday in one of their strongholds in eastern India. The police attacked the rebels as they were on their way to extort money from several mining contractors in Palamau district in Jharkhand state, said police Inspector-General S.N. Pradhan. Pradhan said the police recovered 12 bodies and eight automatic guns in a forested area, nearly 300 kilometers south of Patna, the capital of neighboring Bihar state. He said there were no police casualties. In April last year, Maoist rebels ambushed a police vehicle in the same region in Jharkhand state and killed six police officers during voting in India's national elections. The rebels, who have been fighting for more than three decades demanding land and jobs for tenant farmers and the poor, say they are inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong. They are considered India's biggest internal security threat, operate in 20 of India's 28 states and have thousands of fighters.

USA

Protests follow video of officer pointing gun at bikini-clad black teenager

David Warren, McKinney, Tx.

HUNDREDS of demonstrators marched Monday night (yesterday, Macau time) to the pool where a white police officer pinned a black teenage girl to the ground and pulled a gun on others over the weekend. The protesters carried signs that included the phrases, "My skin color is not a crime."

Some community activists in McKinney, an affluent, predominantly white Dallas suburb, have accused Eric Casebolt, a 41-year-old officer, of racism in an incident caught on video that quickly drew national attention. Others urged calm until the facts are investigated.

According to neighbors, a woman who lives in the community reserved the pool for a party, said Benét Embry, a black local radio personality who witnessed Friday's incident. About 130 people, mostly kids, showed up. At one point, several kids began jumping over the fence to get in and were causing a disturbance, Embry said, and a couple of fights broke out.

"This was a teenage party that got out of hand," Embry said. Police said some of the young people did not live in the area and did not have permission to be at the pool.



A silent protestor lays in the grass in a manner similar to the 14-year-old African-American girl who was pinned to the ground by a police officer outside a swimming pool

In the video captured by a teenager, the girl in a bikini repeatedly cries out, "Call my momma!" as Casebolt pins her to the ground, only moments after drawing his handgun on other black teens.

"On your face!" he yelled at the girl, amid screaming from a crowd of onlookers.

Casebolt has been placed on administrative leave. In a statement, the police department said the video "raised concerns

that are being investigated."

The girl said Casebolt told her to walk away but forced her down after "he thought we were saying rude stuff to him," according to an interview she gave to television station KDFW.

"He grabbed me, twisted my arm on my back and shoved me in the grass and started pulling the back of my braids," Dajerria Becton, 15, said. "I was telling him to get off me because my back was hurting bad."

"I understand how he was feeling, everybody surrounding him," she said. "I don't think he should have pulled a gun out on 15-year-old kids."

Brandon Brooks, the teen who recorded the video, told KDFW that tensions rose after a white woman and a black teenager had an altercation. He said the white woman told the teen "to go back to Section 8 housing," a reference to federal housing aid given to low-income families.

Brooks said the officer was "out of line" and that he felt compelled to keep filming when Casebolt pulled out his gun.

"At that point, my heart did drop and I was scared that someone was going to get shot and possibly killed," he said.

McKinney Mayor Brian Loughmiller said city officials plan to meet with community leaders. "We really need to come together as a community," the mayor said.

Most people were released, except for one man arrested for interference with the duties of a police officer and evading arrest, police said. **AP**

Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL Ban Ki-moon's latest list of parties that kill or injure children in armed conflict does not include Israel — as some U.N. officials had recommended — but the U.N. chief strongly criticized Israel for the "unprecedented and unacceptable" scale of its violence against young people.

Ban said in a report circulated Monday (early yesterday in Macau) that the thousands of Palestinian casualties raise "grave concerns" about Israel's compliance with international law, including requirements that any military actions must distinguish between combatants and civilians, be proportional, and avoid excessive use of force.

U.N. officials said the U.N. special envoy for children in armed con-

ISRAEL

Gov't isn't on UN list of parties that kill or injure kids



Palestinian children walk in the rubble of a destroyed house a day after an Israeli strike, in the town of Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip

flict, Leila Zerrougui, had recommended that both Israel and Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, be placed on the list of parties that recruit, use, kill, maim or commit acts

of sexual violence against children. But the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the recommendation was not public, said there were differences of opi-

nion among those on the ground on whether Israel should be listed — a key reason why it wasn't and neither was Hamas.

Ban said in the annual report to the U.N. Security Council and the General Assembly that 2014 saw a dramatic increase in violence against children in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — at least 561 youngsters killed and 4,271 injured, almost all Palestinians and the vast majority during last summer's war in Gaza. It cites 4 Israeli youngsters killed and 22 injured.

The annual list is significant because it names and shames governments and insurgent groups that

violate children's rights in conflicts. The Security Council resolution that established the list in August 2009 states the council's intention "to take action" — including possible sanctions — against repeat violators of international laws protecting children in armed conflicts.

This year, the list includes groups in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Five government forces are also listed.

The secretary-general said that in the Israel-Pa-

lestine conflict as well as the Central African Republic, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan and Syria, "children were affected to a degree which is an affront to our common humanity."

The report said the number of Palestinian children killed, 557, was the third-highest in 2014, after Afghanistan with 710 child killings and Iraq with 679 — but ahead of Syria with 368. The number of schools damaged or destroyed — at least 543 — was the highest anywhere, it said.

Israel maintains its actions in Gaza were in response to rocket attacks on southern Israel, and were never aimed at children.

Philippe Bolopion, U.N. director for Human Rights Watch, called Ban's decision "a blow to U.N. efforts to better protect children," adding that "political pressure seems to have prevailed." **AP**



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what's ON



PATH AND ADVENTURE
— WORKS BY MIO PANG FEI
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: November 22, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

SHIWAN CERAMICS EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: July 19, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

TEA CULTURE HOUSE
TIME: 9am-7pm daily
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House, Lou Lim Ioc
Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

**19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL
PAINTINGS — MAM COLLECTION**
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

RETURN TO THE ORIGIN
— RESTORING MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: August 3, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

MUSEUM SLEUTHS SHOW PAINTING
IS A REMBRANDT

Rembrandt's "Saul and David" after restoration

After a CSI-style investigation, the Mauritshuis museum in The Hague has declared that one of its star paintings really is by Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn.

Researchers used advanced X-ray techniques to peer through

several coats of paint that had been applied during previous restorations of "Saul and David" and establish that the original pigments were the same as those Rembrandt used in the 17th century.

A former director of the museum in The Hague bought the painting more than a century ago, but in the late 1960s doubt was cast on who actually painted the Biblical scene.

Now newly re-attributed to Rembrandt, the painstakingly restored canvas is the centerpiece of an exhibition opening tomorrow that shows how the museum unraveled the mystery of who painted "Saul and David." AP

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	The Illusionist (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

04 JUN - 10 JUN



SAN ANDREAS
ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.30 pm
Director: Brad Peyton
Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino,
Alexandra Daddario
Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 114min

PITCH PERFECT 2
ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Elizabeth Banks
Starring: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 141min

TOMORROWLAND
ROOM 2
7.15 pm
Director: Brad Bird
Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 130min



DANNY COLLINS
ROOM 3
2.15, 4.00, 5.50, 9.30 pm
Director: Dan Fogelman
Starring: Al Pacino, Annette Bening, Christopher Plummer
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 106min

DRAGON BALL Z: RESURRECTION "F"
ROOM 3
7.45 pm
Director: Tadayoshi Yamamuro
Starring: Ji-tae Yu, Yūsuke Iseya, Ye-ryeon Cha
Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 93 min

MACAU TOWER

04 JUN - 10 JUN

TOMORROWLAND
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Brad Bird
Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 130min

this day in history

1999 NATO CALLS OFF AIR WAR
ON KOSOVO

Nato has called off its 11-week air war against Kosovo following the beginning of the withdrawal of Serb troops. Secretary General Javier Solana announced a halt to the 79-day bombing campaign three hours after the first Serb convoys were seen leaving the province.

The Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic finally agreed to the pull out last night after first winning a concession from Nato for extra time to complete the withdrawal. Thousands of Nato troops are now preparing to enter the Yugoslav province.

Lieutenant General Sir Michael Jackson, Nato commander for Kosovo, has refused to confirm when the first soldiers will arrive - but troops have already been moved close to the Kosovo border.

Belgrade now has 11 days to move its 40,000 security forces out of Kosovo. First reports say 150 Yugoslav army trucks, armored vehicles and cars carrying soldiers and anti-aircraft weapons have crossed the border into Serbia.

The air war began on 24 March after Mr Milosevic refused to sign an international peace plan for Kosovo which called for the withdrawal of Yugoslav security forces.

Violence against the minority ethnic Albanians had been growing, leading to a steady stream of refugees fleeing their homes. Within days of the first air strikes reports of atrocities and forced evictions by Serb forces on Kosovo Albanians sent the number of refugees soaring.

It is estimated about one million Albanians have left Kosovo in the past 15 months. US President Bill Clinton last night referred to the "brutal systematic effort" by the Belgrade regime to remove the ethnic Albanians.

He said: "In the past few months we have seen some of the worst inhumanity in our lifetime. But we have also seen the bravery of troops, the resolve of our democracy, the decency of our people and the courage and determination of the people of Kosovo."

As news of the Serb withdrawal spread through the refugee camps, most Kosovars appeared eager to return home. Aid agencies hope to spread their return over several months.

Under the terms of the ceasefire agreement the Yugoslav forces are to suspend hostilities immediately. A detailed plan has been drawn up for their withdrawal - which includes the removal of mines and unexploded bombs on their way. The biggest task facing the Nato peacekeeping force is to begin rebuilding Kosovo. War crimes investigators will also head into Kosovo hunting for evidence of massacres, ethnic cleansing and torture.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The vast majority of refugees returned home within the first year - but fearing reprisals some 200,000 Kosovo Serbs left the province. Violence continued between Albanians and Serbs. Estimates of the number killed varied greatly, but it certainly ran into the hundreds in the first year after the ceasefire.

The separatist Kosovo Liberation Army was disbanded and transformed into a civil defense force - but the Kosovo Protection Corps has been blamed for many appalling attacks on Serbs.

War crimes investigators uncovered many mass graves and consistent accounts of killings, atrocities and forced expulsions.

Former President Slobodan Milosevic and four senior members of his government have been charged with war crimes. Mr Milosevic's trial began in 2002 and ended when he died in 2006.

Several rounds of UN-mediated talks have been held, without any significant breakthrough. The UN wants to find a solution for Kosovo's disputed status by the end of 2006.

The state union of Serbia and Montenegro is all that remains of the federation of six republics that made up former Yugoslavia - but in a referendum on 21 May 2006, Montenegro narrowly voted for independence from Serbia.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Honesty is the best policy — and you can't help but indulge the truth!

Taurus April 20-May 20 This is not the right time to take risks — you've got to make sure that you're standing firm and taking life one step at a time.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your smarts are on display once again — but nobody seems to be jealous! Let your powers of deduction impress the masses and amuse your friends.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're torn between two romantic — or other — options, and you feel somewhat stressed out as a result. Try to back off from the situation to let your subconscious mind get a crack at it!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your energy is helping you to have great fun — and those nearby can't help but pick up on your great vibe! Things may look a little weird at first, but then your ideas really start to take off.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A tense situation needs a quick solution — and you've got it! In fact, you should be able to show that angry friend or customer why they're wrong without making them feel like a big, dumb jerk.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Can you keep all the balls in the air today? It takes a good eye and terrific balance, but those are both talents you're well known for. Stay busy and see if you can impress someone new.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Something you buy without thinking too hard turns out to be a mistake — but it's one you can recover from! If nothing else, you should at least learn a valuable lesson about mindfulness.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You need to lift someone's spirits today — and it's easier than you may think. Try not to worry too much about how to go about it, as the details are not as important as the goal.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You don't feel confident today — but persevere! You don't need to believe in your success to achieve it today. That may feel paradoxical, but put your faith in your confusion.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your friends are starting to ask questions, but you don't have to answer quite yet. Just smile knowingly and make them guess. You've got all the cards, so see what comes of it in the end.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your authority is in question — so it's time to bolster it seriously! Your energy is a little off today, but that just means that you need to redouble your efforts to ensure your vision comes to life.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

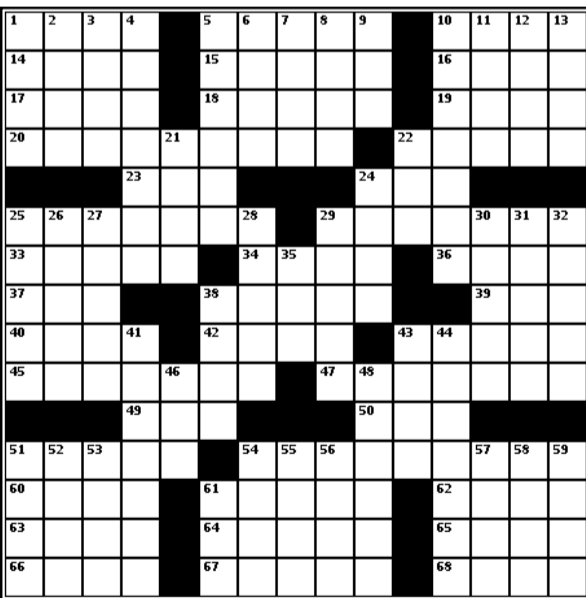
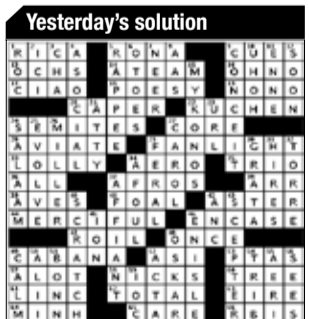
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Broadway opener; 5- Portion out; 10- Snack; 14- Arrest; 15- Connect with; 16- Court org.; 17- Narrate; 18- Plant anew; 19- Thicken; 20- Concerns; 22- Slant; 23- Astronaut Grissom; 24- Minute; 25- Spicy; 29- Russian metal urn; 33- Old hat; 34- Concordes, e.g.; 36- Cape Canaveral org.; 37- DDE's predecessor; 38- Camera setting; 39- High hit; 40- Spy Aldrich; 42- Houston hockey player; 43- Small yeast-raised pancake; 45- Shoot-'em-up; 47- Out-of-date; 49- Wolfed down; 50- Calendar abbr.; 51- Judicial rulings; 54- Luggage; 60- Calvary letters; 61- Relish; 62- Second letter of the Greek alphabet; 63- Actor Stoltz; 64- Coeur d'...; ID; 65- Slat; 66- Ball belles; 67- Put an end to; 68- Airline to Israel;

DOWN: 1- Dissenter; 2- Capital of Calvados; 3- Slant; 4- Forbidden by law; 5- Still; 6- Untruths, tells falsehoods; 7- In case; 8- Western Indians; 9- Pull; 10- Proton or neutron; 11- Christiania, today; 12- Cease; 13- Abhor; 21- Mysterious character; 22- Religious sch.; 24- Stinging insect; 25- Balderdash; 26- "Who's there?" response; 27- Actress Phoebe; 28- German industrial city; 29- Tolerated; 30- Bona fide; 31- All together; 32- Violently intense; 35- Orch. section; 38- Payment for travel; 41- Science of bodies at rest; 43- Univ. hotshot; 44- Lovesome; 46- Athenian vowel; 48- Main dish; 51- Conked out; 52- As to; 53- Child's bed; 54- Shopaholic's delight; 55- Optic layer; 56- Charged particles; 57- Authenticating mark; 58- James of jazz; 59- Comedian Mort; 61- Cul-de-...;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
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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
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Customs 28 559 944
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Hamza Hendawi

HOOLIGANISM

Egypt court sentences 11 to death over 2012 football riot

AN Egyptian criminal court from the Mediterranean city of Port Said yesterday sentenced 11 people to death over a 2012 football riot that killed more than 70 people and injured hundreds in what was Egypt's worst football disaster to date and one of the world's deadliest.

The verdict, read by presiding judge Mohammed el-Said, came at the end of the retrial of 73 defendants in a case that sparked deadly riots in 2013 in Port Said, prompting then-President Mohamed Morsi to declare a state of emergency in the city.

The court also sentenced 40 defendants to up to 15 years in prison and acquitted the rest. The verdicts can be appealed. The hearings in the case, including the sentencing yesterday, were held in Cairo, not in Port Said, for security reasons.

The earlier trial ended in March 2013, when 21 defendants were sentenced to death, while others received jail terms that ranged from one to 25 years in prison. Twenty-eight were acquitted. The rulings were appealed and a retrial was ordered by Egypt's Court of Cassation in February last year.

The February 2012 riot began at the end of a league match in Port Said between Cairo's Al-Ahly, Egypt's most successful club, and home side Al-Masry. The riot, Egypt's worst and among the world's deadliest, led to the temporary suspension of Egypt's top flight football league. The league later resumed, but with matches played in empty stadiums.

The first Egyptian Premier League game in which fans were allowed back into the stadiums was played in February this year, but that occasion was also marred by the death of 22 fans in a stampede outside the grounds. The stampede followed the use of tear gas by police to stop what authorities at the time said was an attempt by fans to storm the



Families and supporters of the Al-Ahly club hold up a poster with the photos of victims as they await the verdict

The 2012 riot killed over 70 people and injured hundreds in Egypt's worst football disaster

military-owned stadium in a suburb east of Cairo.

In the Feb. 2, 2012, Port Said incident, Al-Masry fans attacked Al-Ahly supporters with knives, clubs and rocks after the match. Witnesses and sur-

vivors described victims falling from the bleachers as they tried to escape. Hundreds of others fled into an exit passage, only to be crushed against a locked gate with their rivals attacking from behind.

At one point, the stadium lights went out, plunging it into darkness. The match's TV sportscaster explained that authorities shut them off to "calm the situation."

Among those sentenced were Port Said's police chief and another senior police officer, both receiving five-year jail sentences. Al-Masry's executive director Mohsen Shettah and a stadium official in charge of the lighting were also sen-

tenced to five years in prison.

Most of the victims of the 2012 riot belonged to Al-Ahly's "Ultras," an association of hard-core fans who have long been at sharp odds with the nation's highly militarized police, taunting them with offensive slogans during matches and fighting them in street battles. Hard-core fans of other clubs also identify themselves by variations on the Ultras name.

Ultras members have been credited with playing a major role in the 18-day popular uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011, as well as subsequent street clashes with police.

They were among the chief defenders of Tahrir Square, the uprising's epicenter in central Cairo, when Mubarak loyalists charged protesters on Feb. 2, 2011, one of the deadliest days of the uprising.

Yesterday's verdict followed a court ruling last month that banned the Ultras belonging to Al-Ahly and other sports clubs over charges that the groups are involved in terrorism.

Judge el-Said yesterday said the various Ultras associations have been led astray by individuals with "ulterior" motives, filling their heads with ideas like sacrificing their lives for their clubs as a duty. **AP**

CORRUPTION

FIFA suspect Burzaco turns himself in to Italian police

Daniella Matar, Milan

AN Argentine businessman who was indicted by U.S. authorities in connection to the FIFA corruption case turned himself in to Italian police.

Bolzano police official Giuseppe Tricarico told

The Associated Press that Alejandro Burzaco turned himself yesterday morning. He was with an Italian and Spanish-speaking lawyer.

Tricarico said Burzaco is currently in a jail cell pending a hearing later Tuesday on whether to confirm the arrest, as is

procedure in Italy.

Burzaco escaped arrest in the dawn raids on a luxury Swiss hotel on May 27. He was spotted shortly afterward eating breakfast at the hotel.

He was named on Interpol's most wanted list last Wednesday, along with five other men with

ties to FIFA.

Burzaco and Hugo and Mariano Jinkis, also from Argentina, were named in a U.S. indictment saying they bribed soccer officials in exchange for the media and commercial rights to international tournaments.

AP PHOTO



An undated portrait of Alejandro Burzaco

Burzaco, who is the president of sports marketing company Torneos

y Competencias, and the Jinkis' merged their companies to form part of Datisa, which obtained the exclusive worldwide rights to the 2015, 2019 and 2023 Copa America tournaments as well as the 2016 centenary edition of the South American championship.

The indictment states that Datisa agreed to pay USD110 million in bribes to Jeffrey Webb, Eugenio Figueredo, Rafael Esquivel, Jose Maria Marin, Nicolas Leoz and several other soccer officials for the rights. **AP**

opinion

Artifacts

Vanessa Moore



SECRECY ON THE YANGTZE

It could be the title of an Agatha Christie novel since this tragic tale includes all the classic elements of a murder mystery – death, intrigue and secrecy. But before I get to the macabre denouement, here's a prequel to set the scene.

About this time seven years ago, back in the summer of 2008 when I was still a student in Hong Kong, a classmate and I decided to travel overland from Hong Kong to Beijing via train, bus and boat. Part of the trip involved a three-day cruise on the Yangtze as part of a no-frills voyage from Chongqing to Yichang. Being students, we opted for the cheapest tour, taking an all-Chinese-speaking excursion with a mainland company. As two of only four foreigners on a behemoth of a four-story vessel floating leisurely downriver, I'm pretty sure my trip was comparable to the one most of the elderly package tourists on the ill-fated Eastern Star experienced last week. Except nothing went wrong on mine. Well, actually, it almost did.

On the second night of the voyage, just before we reached the Three Gorges dam, what came to be known as the 2008 earthquake struck Wenchuan in neighbouring Sichuan province. However, sleeping peacefully in our cramped quarters that May night, we felt nothing as the ship made its way slowly down the mighty waterway. Which is why, coming back to today's riverboat tragedy, I find it almost hard to believe that last Monday's calamity was put exclusively down to bad weather. Only 14 of the 456 people aboard the vessel survived after the sinking following what has been described as a freak tornado that struck during a heavy storm. So far, that's the only 'fact' released by the authorities. However on a busy stretch of river normally teeming with tourist cruisers and shipping traffic, why was the Eastern Star the only one affected?

Moreover, only fourteen people survived the late-evening capsizing by swimming overboard. To me that seems somewhat suspicious. Mainland media outlets also didn't help matters by characteristically playing down the death toll, giving significantly understated approximations all of last week even as the chances of finding any survivors faded. Interestingly, seven of those who swam away were crewmembers, bringing to mind last year's ferry sinking of the Sewol in Korea, where the captain and crew abandoned ship at the expense of the 304 schoolchildren left inside who drowned.

Last week the captain and chief engineer were placed in police custody for questioning, yet there's been no information about the launch of any inquiry into their conduct. Surely this would be the most logical place to start? The ship's operator, Chongqing Eastern Shipping Corp., apologized to families and said the company is cooperating with investigators. A preliminary investigation found the ship was not overloaded and had enough life jackets on board, the SCMP reported on Sunday. But some relatives say they believe authorities haven't focused enough on the possibility of human error.

More than a week has passed and details are still few and far between with nothing about the progress of the on-going investigation released or who's overseeing it. Understandably many of the relatives are frustrated over this shortage of information, and the police are still tightly controlling access to the disaster site. Although Beijing has guaranteed there wouldn't be a cover-up, the grief-stricken kin are hardly convinced. Reuters reported on Friday that one relative burst into a just-concluded news conference, publicly accusing the government of treating its people like enemies. And I'm tempted to agree.

Whether communist or capitalist, any administration has to be accountable to its own citizens. As those of us dealing with the news know full well, China has a culture of secrecy surrounding practically anything. When disasters happen, this general lack of transparency is especially prevalent, from withholding name lists of victims to secrecy surrounding any kind of outbreak – take the initial denial of SARS as a case in point. With officials trained to never tell the whole truth if they can help it, lying and a culture of evasion are routine.

Lack of transparency conversely (or helpfully?) means mysteries are buried instead of solved. But real life isn't a thriller novel and the government would be wise to remember that. The Yangtze tragedy should serve as a warning that you can't just wipe out hundreds of lives and assume no one will want to know why.

THE PROSECUTOR IN CHARLES MANSON TRIAL DIES AT 80

Vincent Bugliosi, a prosecutor who parlayed his handling of the Charles Manson murder trial into a career as a bestselling author, has died, his son said Monday night. He was 80 years old. As an author, Bugliosi was best known for "Helter Skelter," which was his account of the Manson Family and the killings of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six others by followers of the cult leader, Charles Manson.

Bugliosi had prosecuted Manson and his female followers, winning convictions in one of America's most sensational trials. He was an unknown LA attorney on Aug. 9, 1969, when the bodies of Tate, the beautiful actress wife of director Roman Polanski, and four others were discovered butchered by unknown assailants who left bloody scrawlings on the door of her elegant home.

San Francisco considers health warning on soda ads

Janie Har, San Francisco

SAN Francisco officials are deciding whether to impose a warning on ads for sugary soda pop, and both supporters and opponents say the city would be the first in the nation to do it.

The "Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Warning Ordinance" would require health warnings on advertising within city limits – on billboards, walls, the sides of cabs and buses.

The Board of Supervisors was expected to vote yesterday [U.S. time] on a trio of measures to curb soda consumption, just seven months after voters killed a proposed tax on sweetened beverages at the ballot.

Liquid sugar is the new tobacco, as far as public health advocates are concerned. Berkeley approved a soda tax last year, the first in the country to do so. Davis, a college town, is requiring restaurants to serve milk and water as the default drink for children's meals.

"This is a very important step forward in terms of setting strong public policy around the need to reduce consumption of sugary drinks; they are making people sick, they're helping



Soft drinks for sale at K & D Market in San Francisco

fuel the explosion of Type 2 diabetes and other health problems in adults and in children," said Scott Wiener, one of three San Francisco supervisors pushing the legislation.

About 32 percent of children and teens in San Francisco are overweight or obese, according to a 2012 study by the California Center for Public Health Advocacy and the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

Roger Salazar, a spokesman for CalBev, the state's beverage association, said, "It's unfortunate the Board of Supervisors is choosing the politically expedient route of scapegoating instead of finding a genuine and comprehensive solution to the complex issues of obesity and diabetes."

One proposal before the

supervisors would prohibit soda ads on city-owned property, much like San Francisco does with tobacco and alcohol. Another would prohibit city funds from being used to buy soda.

The label for billboards and other ads would read: "WARNING: Drinking beverages with added sugar(s) contributes to obesity, diabetes, and tooth decay. This is a message from the City and County of San Francisco." Soda cans and bottles would not carry the warning.

Ryan Brooks, spokesman for Outfront Media, said it's not fair to single out billboards while exempting newspapers and magazines. The company has about 300 billboards and wall spaces that would be affected.

"It's all these people who are telling me how to live my life and raise my children. I make that decision, not a bunch of elected officials," he says. "Let's fix the homeless issue, let's fix potholes before you start telling me how to live my life."

Mayor Ed Lee hasn't taken a position on the three proposals but said through a spokeswoman that he is open to educating people through warning labels on advertisements. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The visit of Li Jinzao, the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) director, to the Mandarin's House was guided by the head of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ung Vai Meng.

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

WORLD BRIEFS

FRANCE-GERMANY The first remains of victims from the Germanwings crash were set to be flown from France to Germany yesterday, about 11 weeks after the disaster that killed all 150 people onboard. Dozens of victims' relatives from the March 24 crash in the French Alps have been awaiting the return of the remains. In the first repatriation, 44 coffins were expected to be flown from Marseille to Duesseldorf, Germany.



USA Albert Woodfox, the last of three high-profile Louisiana prisoners known as the "Angola Three," could walk free within days after a federal judge ordered state officials to release him immediately. He has been in solitary confinement or isolation for 43 years. U.S. District Judge James Brady said Monday that the 68-year-old former Black Panther Party prison leader should be granted immediate freedom and not be tried again in the death of a prison guard stabbed to death during prison upheavals in 1972.

SPAIN The father of an Ivory Coast boy caught being smuggled into Spain in a suitcase last month has been freed on bail, allowing the family to be reunited. A court ordered Ali Ouattara freed Monday hours after his 8-year-old son was allowed leave a youth center where he was cared for after being discovered May 7 by border police in Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta. The boy had been hidden in a suitcase carried by a Moroccan woman not related to the family.

GREECE Officials say they have made new proposals aimed to strike a quick deal with bailout creditors and unlock vitally needed rescue funds.

MEXICO Despite widespread disillusionment, Mexicans have given the ruling party coalition a majority in Congress that will allow President Enrique Pena Nieto to forge ahead with his reform agenda without compromising with opponents.

USA President Barack Obama says he has no alternate plan if the Supreme Court invalidates a key benefit of his health care law.