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The Global Tourism Economy Forum, set to take place from October 12 to 14, was introduced yesterday

P7



CULTURAL FUND BENEFICIARIES ANNOUNCED
73 out of the total 86 applicants eligible for the Cultural and Creative Industries Fund last year were entitled to the official subsidy

P7

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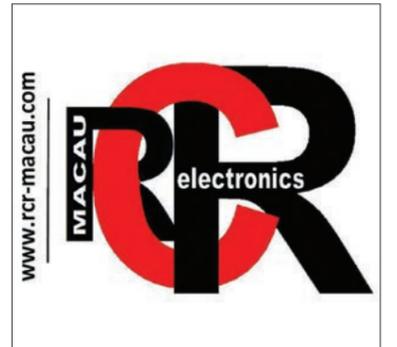
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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA The last of the Yangtze River shipwreck victims was cremated Tuesday morning in Jianli county, Hubei Province, where the tragedy took place, the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) announced yesterday. All the 2,347 relatives who had traveled to Hubei after the cruise ship disaster have now returned home, with the final few leaving yesterday morning, the MCA said.

CHINA Beijing and its surrounding areas will draft a regional plan for air pollution prevention and treatment. The blueprint, assigned to the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, will set goals for regional air quality by 2030, said Li Lixin, an official with the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, at an air pollution treatment seminar on Tuesday.



USA-CHINA The agency that allowed hackers linked to China to steal private information about nearly every U.S. government employee — and detailed personal histories of military and intelligence workers with security clearances — failed for years to take basic steps to secure its computer networks, officials acknowledged to Congress on Tuesday. China denies involvement in the cyberattack, and no evidence has been aired publicly proving Chinese involvement although the government says it has "moderate confidence" China was involved.

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Macanese diaspora gathers to 'keep culture alive'

P5 MDT REPORT



Scholar says gov't needs 'to carefully strike a balance' on smoking ban

P3 ANALYSIS

A need for urban casino integration

CASINOS in cities should be working to increasingly connect with their surrounding, so that their visitor pull can spur urban revival, Global Market Advisors partner Andrew Klebanow stated in his white paper "Casinos and the City."

While in downtown Macau casinos have successfully been integrated with their surroundings, the Cotai strip remains relatively unfriendly for pedestrians, who find it difficult to walk from one casino to another, noted Muhammad Cohen in Forbes.



A casino can have a greater, positive impact than other forms of urban regeneration at a much lower cost to the city

ANDREW KLEBANOW

Mr Klebanow recalled, for instance, Galaxy Macau's design, as the property is surrounded by a perimeter of luxurious landscaping and walkways. It is relatively close to Taipa village, but is separated from the Island's historic center by Estrada da Baía de Nossa Sra. da Esperança.

"The vast majority of patrons arrive by bus at the property's bus depot or by taxi or private vehicle at one of the three hotels' porte-cocheres or VIP entrances. A visitor seeking to lea-

ve the casino by foot can do so, but the walk can be imposing," Mr Klebanow acknowledged.

Mr Klebanow dubs them as "island casinos", a set of one-stop resort destinations, comprising shopping, gaming, hotels, restaurants, retail and entertainment within the same property. The concept, he recalled, boomed in North America in the 20th century.

Although casino resorts in both America and Macau have contributed greatly to increase in government tax revenue, and

boosted job creation, they have been living physically apart from the city where they're located, he stressed.

Furthermore, he acknowledged that they have failed to stimulate urban regeneration in areas adjacent to the properties. "The Boardwalk casinos of Atlantic City (...) contributed to their further isolation from the boardwalk tourism zone in large part because of their physical designs," he concluded.

Nevertheless, Mr Klebanow sees casinos as a potential tool

for urban redevelopment, as they attract people every single day. "Properly planned and executed, a casino can have a greater, positive impact than other forms of urban regeneration at a much lower cost to the city."

He added that as future casinos are developed within urban environments, operators and governments "must develop realistic expectations of what a casino can bring to the community, aside from jobs and tax revenue."

In Macau, a new wave of Cotai resorts is taking shape and these will offer more opportunities for people to travel by foot, noted Muhammad Cohen in an article in Forbes.

Sands China's Parisian will be linked to the Venetian complex, which is already linked by footbridge to Sands Cotai Central. A few steps away is Melco Crown's City of Dreams. Meanwhile, a pedestrian crosswalk is under construction at the Istmo roundabout. Galaxy Macau recently opened its phase II and now offers a ground-level entertainment street, which also pledges to sell local products. **CP**

SCHOLAR

Beijing's 'clear message' to Macau

Brook Yang

BEIJING'S concern over national economic security has been a prominent factor that's long been neglected in the discussions of Macau's casino industry development, suggests scholar Sonny Lo.

The scholar believes that the continuous plunge in Macau's gaming revenue is a phenomenon that could have been anticipated, as China is "deeply concerned about possible money flow from China to foreign countries through Macau casinos."

Furthermore, he feels that Beijing sent "a very clear message" when the Ministry of Tourism set up a joint working committee with the MSAR government earlier this



Sonny Lo

month to accelerate the city's transformation into a world tourism and leisure center.

"Macau's casino capitalism – using casinos to simulate economic growth – has entered a new stage in which Beijing's political and economic role in the casino industry is becoming far more prominent than ever before," Sonny Lo explained to the Times,

on the sidelines of a recent lecture given at the Macau Ricci Institute. The scholar, heading the Hong Kong Institute of Education's Department of Social Sciences, elaborated to the audience about Macau's economic situation and political discontent. "Beijing sees the city as excessively dependent on the casino economy, and as a potential menace to China's economic national security," he said, adding that local citizens' gradual awakening towards civil society hasn't, but may eventually, also add serious challenges to the local government.

In that regard he suggested, "the Macau government has to accelerate its concrete measures for economic diversification."

LABOR RIGHTS

DSAL promotes rules for hiring students for summer jobs

THE Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has reminded employers to abide by the law when hiring minors for summer jobs. According to the Labor Relations Law, employers can hire a student as young as 14 years old during school summer holidays, but need to obtain a medical certificate, parental consent and sign a written contract before the job starts.

The bureau explained that the required documents are to prove that the younger workers possess both the physical and mental ability to perform the relevant duties and that their parents permit such work.

Nevertheless, the employer is not required to submit these documents to the DSAL when hiring for summer jobs, but is required to do so when hiring for permanent positions, in which case they must submit the paperwork within 15 days of signing the contract. Moreover, when hiring a permanent worker below the age of 16, the employer is requested to

apply for the DSAL's approval in advance, so that the agency can consult the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau.

Regarding work arrangements, whether for permanent or summer jobs, employers are not allowed to ask minors to work overtime or to work between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. In addition, minors cannot be employed for household work, or work in billiard rooms, bowling alleys, fitness gyms, karaoke lounges, video game centres and Internet cafés, nor in any venues that underage people are not allowed to enter.

Moreover, minors cannot be offered jobs that are listed in the Chief Executive's special approval list, such as electric arc welding, flame cutting, sandblasting, and works involving explosive physical or chemical factors.

If found to be breaching the law, the employer could be fined up to MOP50,000 for each hired minor. **BY**

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Catarina Pinto

AS Macau's gaming operators join forces to voice their concerns about the full smoking ban, the government should strike a balance between evaluating the interests of employees and of casino companies, according to scholar Carlos Siu Lam of the Gaming Teaching and Research Center at Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM).

The six gaming operators commissioned a study on the full smoking ban from the international audit firm KPMG, and announced part of its fin-

The gov't will enforce the full smoking ban but with a kind of leniency for VIP rooms

LARRY SO

dings on Tuesday.

According to the results of the survey, 66 percent of surveyed casino employees agree that the current smoking lounges should be kept.

Mr Lam told the Times that, "With the six gaming operators joining forces to voice their concerns, I think this would encourage the government to carefully consider its smoking policy."

"On the other hand, with the repeated requests raised by the unions of gaming employees regarding their health, I think that the government would need to carefully strike a balance between these two forces," he added.

The scholar acknowledged that in light of the downturn in gaming revenue – which continued to drop for the 12th straight month in May – industry leaders continue to raise concerns about possible repercussions if a full smoking ban is to be implemented.

Casino operators invested considerable sums of money into the establishment of lounges on mass gaming floors last year. They have also been required to improve ventilation systems.

Melco Crown Entertainment, for instance, said that the total cost of the smoking lounges reached over MOP30 million. The casino operator said it invested also over MOP150 million on ventilation systems.

Since the mass gaming floor smoking ban came into effect in October last year, Melco Crown Entertainment built 17 independent smoking lounges on its casino floors. "Both air-condi-



A man smokes a cigarette as he walks past stores in Macau

Scholar: Gov't needs 'to carefully strike a balance' on smoking ban

Both air-conditioning and ventilation systems for the smoking lounges are independent from non-smoking area

MELCO CROWN

tioning and ventilation systems for the smoking lounges are independent from non-smoking area to ensure no contamination to the surrounding area," the company said in an email.

Sands China said that, due to company policy, they are unable to disclose financial figures. The operator stressed, however, that, "Feedback from employees and customers on the establishment of our smoking lounges has been largely positive."

"Since the gaming floor smoking ban came into effect on October 6, 2014, the company has built independent smoking lounges on our casino floors throughout different properties; all these approved

smoking lounges have been in operation since late 2014, and they are all properly ventilated," said Ms Winnie Wong, Sands China's VP of Corporate Communications and Community Affairs.

Last January, the Health Bureau announced its plans to implement a full smoking ban in casinos, including VIP rooms. Under this ban, the current smoking lounges on mass gaming floors would be forced to close.

The survey, which was commissioned by the six gaming operators to be conducted by KPMG, showed that out of nearly 34,000 surveyed employees from the six casino operators, 66 percent supported keeping the current smoking lounges.

Furthermore, 47 percent of VIP customers and 31 percent of mass-market customers shared concerns that a full smoking ban could have a detrimental impact on Macau's economy, particularly in the area of unemployment.

Social commentator and scholar Larry So told the Times that he believes that, "The government will enforce the full smoking ban but with a kind of leniency for VIP rooms."

He does not believe that the Macau government will back down in its desire to introduce a full smoking ban in casinos. "I

believe they will require casinos to close down smoking lounges [under this ban] but they will allow them some time to do that. I mean, this would most likely be one or two years more to actually implement the new policy," he added.

The company [Sands] has built independent smoking lounges on our casino floors throughout different properties

WINNIE WONG

Both scholars chose not to provide additional comments on the results of the recent survey, as a full survey report has not yet been made public.

Melco Crown, Venetian and Wynn Macau told the Times that, "Due to contractual obligations, we are unable to share the full report at this time."

"The press release [issued on Tuesday] provides the summary of the key findings on our report. The operators collectively agreed to share these findings with the community at large so that all concerned parties recognize that there is strong support to retain properly ventilated smoking lounges, and that a full smoking ban could have a negative impact on Macau's wider economy," it added.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On said on Tuesday that he saw no direct link between the smoking ban in casinos and the recent decline in gaming revenue.

The Government Information Bureau (GCS) stressed in a statement that amendments to the current Tobacco Prevention and Control Law will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly to be discussed later this month.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, also reiterated on Tuesday the government's intention to move forward with the full smoking ban in casinos.

"The government said it would introduce the [amended] bill within the first half of this year. I can guarantee that the bill will be introduced [for discussion] by the end of this month. Without smoking lounges. Nothing changes, the government always [stands] firm," he stated.

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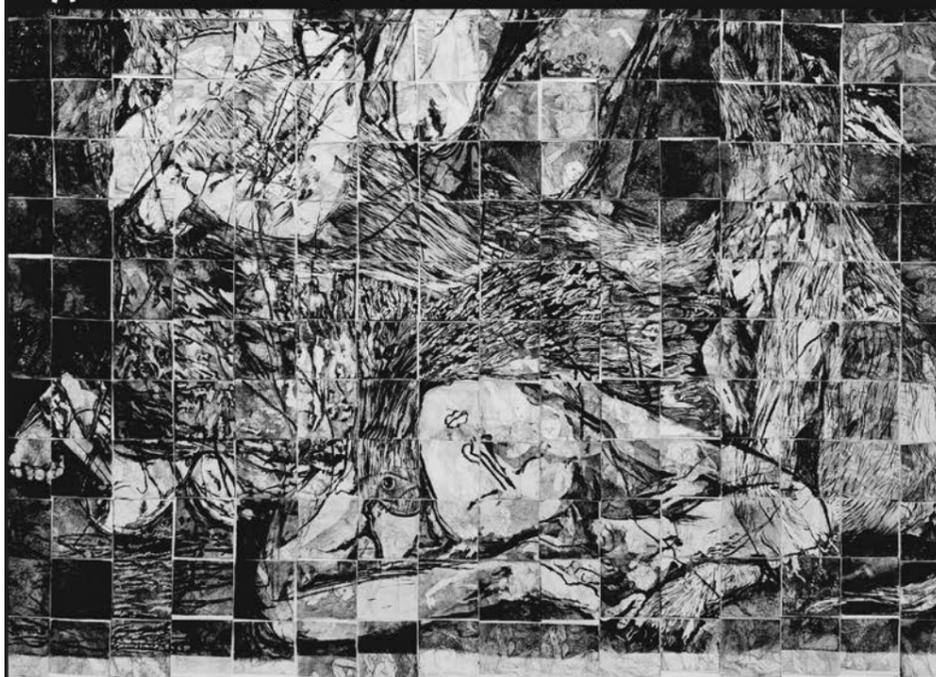
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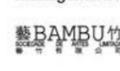
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Catarina Pinto

A group of 41 Macanese youngsters living abroad are gathering in Macau for the third Macanese Community Youth Meeting taking place here between today and next Tuesday.

Although almost all were born outside the territory, the members of the young Macanese diaspora said they feel a sense of belonging and an urge to keep their families' culture alive.

Anamaria Judee Puska, who's joining the event for the first time, has had the chance to visit Hong Kong, where her parents grew up, for the first time too.

"I think it's very important to know who you are but more importantly before you do that you need to know where you came from. It's very important to me to see where my parents grew up; the culture, the lifestyle, and the things that they talk about and bring that into my family in the States," she told the Times.

Anamaria comes from San Francisco, California, where she's a member of Lusitano Club USA. Her parents are both Macanese and lived in Hong Kong before emigrating to the United States.

"It's very different from the States, but we took the tram to Victoria Peak and went up to where my parents lived. I felt this overwhelming sense of... I don't know how to explain it. It felt amazing to see this is where my parents grew up," she added.

Anamaria is looking to have a better understanding of her culture and the Macanese people by participating in the event, particularly because she feels that it is hard to explain back home what the Macanese culture is all about.

Another young Macanese born and raised in America, Miguel Villaram, said that his family's culture is fairly alive back home thanks to his grandmother's cooking. "She loves to cook curry and she loves to cook Minchi, just all those traditional dishes. That reminds me of the Maca-

RENATO MARQUES



Anamaria Judee Puska



Gil Manhão

Young Macanese gather to 'keep culture alive'

It's very important to me to see where my parents grew up; the culture, the lifestyle, and the things that they talk about

ANAMARIA JUDEE PUSKA

notice the city's development in recent years when compared to the memories of Macau that his mother retains.

"My mother has told me about her childhood here and I can see the development and the changes going on there. It's more fitted to the youth and [the event] will be more fun and interactive," he concluded.

Participating in the event for the second time, Gil Manhão, acknowledged that, "it's important to keep this alive because when you talk to someone and you say you're from Macau or that you're Macanese, it's just important to keep the culture alive."

Also born and raised in the San Francisco area, Gil acknowledged that not many people in the US know about Macau and the Macanese culture. Therefore, young Macanese are committed to making an effort "to keep some of the culture alive because that could soon die,

for example the cooking."

"Not many people know about our culture. It's part of my heritage so it's fun to be here and exchange ideas with the other

Not many people know about our culture. It's part of my heritage so it's fun to be here

GIL MANHÃO

young Macanese. Identity wise... it's kind of hard, because a lot of people do not know what we are," he acknowledged.

Iana Paes d'Assumpção Vital is one of the youngest Macanese

to have been appointed president of a House of Macau (Casa de Macau). She leads the House of Macau in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Iana was in Macau last year for another Macanese meeting. Since then, she has taken over the helm of House of Macau in Rio de Janeiro, as she believes that these associations should give young Macanese an opportunity to thrive.

"If we don't start providing young people with the opportunity to lead, the possibility that some of the Houses of Macau might close is high, because most members are already quite old," she recalled.

The third Macanese Community Youth Meeting is organized by the Young Macanese Association and the Council of the Macanese Communities.

Most young Macanese participating in the event come from the United States, Portugal, Australia, Brazil and Canada.

Duarte Alves, president of the Young Macanese Association, stated that young Macanese "feel a strong connection with Macau but they want to learn more about the city." He concluded by saying that, "people know Macau as a gambling hub but the event gives them an opportunity to know that there's more to Macau than gaming."

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Brook Yang

THE Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF) will take place from October 12 to 14, aiming to address cultural tourism while establishing collaborative links with Latin American countries.

Hosted by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, this year's forum is expected to facilitate an international dialogue on the theme of "One Belt One Road – Unleashing New Dynamics of Cultural Tourism." Apart from the featured Chinese province of Zhejiang, members of the Pacific Alliance – Mexico, Peru, Chile and Colombia – will join as featured partner countries. Tourism ministers from Cambodia and South Korea will also be present.

Helena de Senna Fernandes, the Director of the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO), stressed in a press conference yesterday that these Pacific Alliance countries "possess world heritage that embodies significant universal values, like Macau does. Therefore, we hope to further extend the forum's influence by establishing strategic collaboration with these Latin American countries."

As a prelude to the forum, Pansy Ho, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of the GTEF, led a delegation of influential entrepreneurs from mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau to visit the Pacific Alliance countries in early June. The delegation met with Ministers of Tourism and Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the Pacific Alliance countries and attended business networking events. This experience allowed delegates to gain insights into the regions' investment landscapes, tourism resources and market potential, while encouraging

Tourism Forum focused on ties with Latin America



them to share their experiences in catering to the evolving trends and consumption patterns of Chinese tourists.

"GTEF started the Chinese entrepreneurs' business mission

in 2013, aiming at extending its benefit beyond the Forum period. Today, the business mission has become a crucial element that continues to inspire exchanges and cooperation

between China and other countries," she said.

At the forum, invited tourism ministers – among them, the ministers from Cambodia and South Korea – will examine

the forerunner role that tourism plays in the monumental cross-regional cooperation initiative of "One Belt One Road." In addition, industry leaders will share their insights in special sessions such as "Understanding Chinese Consumers' Behavior," "Exploring the Full Dimension of Cultural Tourism – Cultural Heritage and Creative Living Culture" and "Driving Cultural Awareness through Social Media."

Moreover, the World Tourism Organization and the GTE Research Center will present their second Joint Annual Report on Asia Tourism Trends, which will provide an in-depth analysis of the latest developments in the continent's tourism industry, enabling decision-makers to keep their fingers on the pulse of the market.

Pansy Ho: Full smoking ban worries all concessionaires

THE Executive Director of MGM China, Pansy Ho, says the government's push for a full smoking ban within casino premises worries all six of the gaming concessionaires, as they fear losing a big chunk of their VIP gamblers.

The administration's intention to ban smoking on all gaming floors including the retention of smoking lounges in the VIP areas has drawn operators' dissenting views. Ms Ho, speaking on the sidelines of the Global Tourism Economy Forum press conference yesterday, argued that retaining smoking rooms is not conflicting with the intent of protecting employees' health, as long as the premises are equipped with good ventilation.

The government has submitted a full smoking ban proposal to the Legislative Assembly. In response, Ms Ho reiterated that smoking lounges with an independent ventilation system would be just as effective and could safeguard the interests of the industry.

"We have previously suggested that there are other measures much more effective which, not implying a total smoking ban, would have the same advantages. For example, the installation of smoking rooms with independent ventilation. That is an idea to which we are all receptive. If those rooms have high quality and independent ventilation, we think that the worker's health

concerns would cease to exist", she said.

A survey on the smoking ban's impact released a day before says that among the 34,000 gaming workers who responded, two out of three agreed with the retention of smoking rooms. It also suggested a considerable portion of VIP customers could seek other gaming destinations if a full smoking ban is implemented.

Commenting on the survey result, Ms Ho said the casino employees were surveyed anonymously, thus were put under no pressure when choosing answers to the questions. "The survey has been released, that's why we think it is what it is – the information," she said.

Sacked cultural fund member's relative among beneficiaries

ONLY 73 out of the total 86 applicants eligible for the Cultural and Creative Industries Fund last year were entitled to the official subsidy. While the overall amount of the fund is approximately MOP100 million, individual grants vary between MOP40,000 and more than MOP8 million.

A company owned by a relative of a dismissed executive member of the fund, Chao Son U, was also among the fund recipients.

During a media conference held yesterday, the official results were released. Leong Heng Teng, the president of the administrative committee



Leong Heng Teng

responsible for managing the fund, clarified that the authorities' final decision on allocating the subsidies was legitimate, in spite of public concerns over the standards of the project review process undertaken by the committee.

"All our examinations,

approvals and deals are made according to the existing laws and regulations. The incident, I believe, has been clarified after [CCAC's] probe result," he explained. "Actually, all the projects [were approved] through legal procedures. We treated every single case without discrimination in the reviews."

Nonetheless, Leong refused to identify the company in connection to the disgraced official on the list of fund receivers, saying that he would not comment on inquiries related to "individuals."

The administrative committee had revealed that thirteen subsidy qualifiers might have yielded their

entitlements due to personal reasons, as some of them found the conditions and terms outlined in the contracts unfavorable to their projects. Currently, only half of them have officially announced their refusals for the funds to be granted.

Currently, only 50 project owners have officially expressed their willingness to take the grant. Of the seven platform-providing grantees willing to open a total of 110 long-term workspaces to the public in the future, a center to promote local brands (澳門原創品牌孵化中心有限公司) and a center for integrated cultural and creative services

(澳門文創綜合服務中心有限公司) received the highest amounts of funding: close to MOP9 million and around MOP8.3 million respectively. These two projects aimed to foster the local creative scene.

On the other hand, it was reported that another 66 firms, which were to receive their individual amounts in annual instalments, had an average business operation length of 5.88 years. The highest subsidy amount, totaling around MOP3 million, was allocated to the Equipment Company Master (萬訊行綜合設備有限公司).

Aside from individual subsidies, the government also granted interest-free

loans to four local companies through the fund, three of which obtained an average amount of around MOP5 million.

Among the four categories highlighted in the government's initiative, the committee's statistics indicate that the area of art collection has the fewest projects, accounting for four percent of the entire cultural and creative sector.

Regardless of the industries of the recipients, the committee authorities claimed that all of them had a "broader vision" and "clear goals" in developing their businesses, which made them "potential enterprises." **Staff reporter**

Greek leader takes tough stance on bailout despite warnings

Derek Gatopoulos, Athens

GREEK Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras says demands by the country's rescue lenders to slash pensions are "incomprehensible" and warned that a failure in bailout talks would hurt all of Europe.

His comments were made as the country's central bank warned of "dramatic" economic consequences of not reaching a deal this week, and a day before a meeting of eurozone finance ministers.

Creditors had until last week pegged today's meeting as a key date by which a breakthrough in the talks would have to be reached. Those expectations have faded this week, however, as both sides remain at odds over what reforms Greece should make to get more loans.

Concerns are growing that a deal might not be reached before June 30, when Greece's bailout program expires and the country is scheduled to make a 1.6 billion euro (USD1.8 billion) debt repayment to the International Monetary Fund.

"If Europe insists in this incomprehensible option — if its political leadership insists — then they must bear the cost of developments that will not be beneficial for anyone on Europe," Tsipras said after meeting yesterday with Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann.

"The Greek government does



Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras

not wish this. It wants an honorable compromise."

Tsipras' five-month-old left-wing government wants new terms for its bailout program after previous administrations imposed draconian spending cuts and tax increases for five years. Those austerity measures helped reduce the public deficit but ravaged the economy and made most Greeks poorer.

Faymann said a deal would likely involve a further extension of the current bailout program, adding that he did not personally support any further "cross-the-board" pay cuts.

Greece has officially fallen back into a mild recession and market concerns are growing about a default. That is evident in a rise in its sovereign borrowing rates — the interest rate on the country's 2-year

bond surged Wednesday to above 30 percent.

Issuing its annual report, Greece's central bank warned that the country would face an exit from the euro bloc and even the European Union if it fails to reach a deal with bailout creditors.

The Bank of Greece said that Greeks would face a "deep recession (and) a dramatic decline in income levels" without an agreement.

"Failure to reach an agreement would ... mark the beginning of a painful course that would lead initially to a Greek default and ultimately to the country's exit from the euro area and — most likely — from the European Union," the central bank statement said.

It warned the renewed recession could be difficult to emerge from. **AP**

Survey finds HK more expensive for expats

HONG Kong climbed one place from last year to become the world's second most expensive place for expats, according to the research results released yesterday by Mercer consulting group.

Asian cities like Singapore, Shanghai, Beijing and Seoul also were also in the shortlist of expensive places, said the consulting firm in its annual Cost of Living Survey.

The survey compares the cost of more than 200 items in 207 cities, including housing, food, transport and entertainment.

According to the survey, ci-

ties in Asia account for half of the top costliest expat destinations while mainland cities account for nine of the top 30 on the list due to the strengthening of the Chinese currency.

Tokyo, ranked the most expensive city for expats in 2012, fell four places from last year to number 11 due to a slump in the Japanese currency after a massive easing program by its central bank.

Leading the rankings was the Angolan capital Luanda, which retained its top spot due to the high price of imported goods and security services used by many foreigners. **Xinhua**

Bocom shares surge after state council approves reform plan

BANK of Communications Co., China's fifth-largest lender, said the State Council approved a sweeping reform plan that includes potential changes in its ownership. Its shares rallied.

While the government will remain the controlling shareholder in Bocom — which is part-owned by HSBC Holdings Plc — the bank will explore adding private capital and giving strategic investors a more effective role, it said in a stock exchange statement on Tuesday. The lender also plans stock incentives for employees and management, the statement showed.

Shares of Bocom rose 2.1 percent in Hong Kong as of 10:01 a.m. yesterday and rallied as much as 7.4 percent in Shanghai.

China's government aims for a more market-driven financial industry to aid economic growth. Lenders such as Bank of China Ltd. and China Construction Bank Corp. will echo Bocom's plan, leading to long-term gains in share prices, Ma Kunpeng, an analyst with Sinolink Securities Co., said in a note on Tuesday.

Shanghai-based Bocom said in July that it was studying plans to "deepen" mixed ownership and improve corporate governance. In August, then Vice President Qian Wenhui said that reforms will cover ownership structure, management and human resources.

As of March, the finance ministry owned 26.5 percent of Bocom and HSBC held 18.7 percent. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM SPONSORS FILMING OF 'FINDING MR. RIGHT' SEQUEL



MGM Macau is exclusively sponsoring the filming of the "Finding Mr. Right" sequel in Macau, as one of the many initiatives to support cultural development and exchanges. The romantic comedy is written and directed by Chinese movie director Xue Xiaolu, with Chinese actors Tang Wei as the female lead and Wu Xubo as the male lead.

In addition to sponsoring the filming of the "Finding Mr. Right" sequel, MGM will be hosting a sharing session with Director Xue, with the objective of

creating an opportunity for local filmmaking amateurs and enthusiasts to gain insights and tips from the award-winning movie director.

Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "We are thrilled to have Director Xue Xiaolu featuring Macau and MGM in her upcoming movie. We believe that the success of this movie will help to showcase the diverse leisure offerings of our city. While the movie and cultural creative industries continue to grow, we hope that hosting a sharing session with Director Xue will give our local talents inspirations and encouragement, which in turn will help to further develop the industries."

44TH FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT HARD ROCK HOTEL

Hard Rock Hotel at City of Dreams recently celebrated the 44th Hard Rock Founder's Day on June 14. The Hard Rock lobby turned into a huge party featuring dance shows with retro music and 70s grooves, the decade when Hard Rock was founded. Guests put on accessories and posed in the photo booth, celebrating Hard

Rock's birthday.

On June 6 Hard Rock Hotel also organized a voluntary elderly visit. Around 20 staff visited Our Lady of Mercy Home for the Elderly and prepared games, dancing and singing performances for the elders to show their care and concern through the occasion of the brand's anniversary celebrations.



SANDS CHINA HOLDS 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Sands China Ltd. held its 2015 Annual General Meeting yesterday at The Venetian Macao, passing all proposed resolutions, including the declaration of a final dividend of HKD1 per share.

In addition, shareholders received the audited consolidated financial statements of the company and the reports of the directors and auditors for the year ended December 31, 2014. During the meeting, shareholders re-elected Sheldon Adelson to the Board of Directors as ex-

cutive director, Michael Leven as non-executive director, and David Turnbull and Victor Hoog Antink as independent non-executive directors. Professional services firm Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu were re-appointed as auditors.

Sands China Ltd. has filed a public announcement confirming the poll results of the Annual General Meeting on the websites of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited and the company at www.hkexnews.hk and www.sandschinaltd.com respectively.

PORTUGAL

Contract for TAP sale to be signed on 24 June



THE contract for the sale of the TAP – Portugal airline group to the Gateway consortium will be signed on 24 June, the Portuguese Economy Minister said in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The Gateway consortium, made up of the owners of Portuguese transport group Barraqueiro, Humberto Pedrosa, and Brazilian airline Azul, David Neeleman, will take on 61 percent of the TAP, SGPS group, spending a minimum of 354 million euros, which may increase to 488 million euros.

The contract due to be signed next week is subject to the approvals of regula-

tors both of Portugal and the European Union, and there is therefore no target date for completion of the deal.

On signing the contract, the consortium will deliver 2 million euros to Portuguese state holding company Par-pública, of the 10 million euros that the consortium is due to pay the Portuguese State at this stage.

This deal does not include a 5 percent stake in the group that has been set aside for employees and another 34 percent that the Portuguese government decided to keep in state hands for the meantime. **MDT/Macauhub**

Guinea-Bissau is world's largest 'per capita' cashew producer

GUINEA-BISSAU has become the world's largest producer of cashew nuts "per capita" as a result of an annual production of over 200,000 tons, the economist and consultant to the Guinean government, Eduardo Fernandes said Monday.

The economist was speaking at a seminar on business opportunities in Guinea-Bissau, held in the Portuguese town of Sintra, organized by the Association of Solidarity and Support for the Guinean Community in Portugal.

Fernandes warned, however, that cashew nuts cannot be the only product to sustain the economy of Guinea-Bissau, "because it makes the country vulnerable to sudden market fluctuations" and therefore invited Portuguese businessmen to invest in his country.

Fernandes explained in detail the economic plan that the Guinea-Bissau government presented at the Brussels round table for the next decade and identified four areas of priority investment – agriculture/agri-industry, fisheries, tourism



and mining.

Speaking about the agricultural sector the consultant said that Guinea-Bissau needed to start introducing value in the chain of production of cashew nuts, including through both primary and secondary processing, rather than exporting cashew nuts in their raw state to India.

With regard to fisheries, Fernandes said the Guinea-Bissau government wanted to set up a fishing fleet, either nationally

and in partnership, to replace the current system which is limited to the sale of fishing licenses to foreign ship-owners.

The Guinean embassy attaché in Portugal, Mbala Fernandes stressed the "political stability" that Guinea-Bissau had achieved, the "confidence of international creditors" as shown at the donor meeting last March, which provided aid of 1.3 billion euros and "close relations between Portuguese and Guineans." **MDT/Macauhub**

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Mainland doctors: What we need is respect and understanding



FRUSTRATION, misunderstanding and dissatisfaction are the new characteristics of doctor-patient relations in China, often resulting in violence.

To Doctor Qin in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, that tension brought burns to 34 percent of his body, and will probably lead to permanent disfigurement.

Qin, 54, with the radiotherapy department of the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi Medical University, was attacked on Tuesday morning, when a patient poured gasoline on him in a hospital lift and lit it, according to local police.

Qin is currently in intensive care, and doctors say his condition does not look good.

Even after he is out of danger, the burns will definitely disfigure him, said Tang Weizhong, deputy head of the hospital.

"He said to me in pain, 'What have I done to deserve this?'" said Tang. "Qin is a good and well respected doctor. He shouldn't have gone through this ordeal."

The incident sent shockwaves throughout the hospital, with many angry staff contacting Tang to express their anger and fear.

"Doctors are feeling increasingly insecure after all these incidents," Tang said.

Police said that the suspect, sur-

named Wang, had received treatment in Qin's department three years ago after being diagnosed with nasopharyngeal cancer.

Only a week ago, a man named Zhang attacked a nurse on duty at the First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University with a knife.

While doctors are fretting over their troubled relationship with patients, the patients also have their grievances, having long complained about the difficulty of seeing doctors and obtaining proper treatment.

Guo Yufen, a public health official in northwest China's Gansu Province, said that one of underlying reasons is uneven distribution of medical resources.

Patients flood into big hospitals where quality medical equipment and good doctors converge, which inevitably slashes consultation times and mars doctor-patient communication, creating problem-prone medical relationships, said Guo.

The dissatisfaction has fueled resentment in both doctors and the sick. According to the National Health and Family Planning Commission, there were 115,000 medical disputes in 2014.

As urgency for change mounts, authorities at various levels are struggling to assuage public ire, although the results have been

less than satisfactory.

In a poll published in May by the Chinese Medical Doctor Association, some 13 percent of the 12,600 doctors said they were physically assaulted by their patients last year, with nearly 60 percent having been verbally abused. Sixty percent of doctors said they have low job satisfaction, and 64 percent do not want their children to become doctors.

Tang Weizhong wants the public to adopt a better attitude toward medical staff, adding that not all patients are easily cured, but that does not mean doctors do not want to save lives. He added that patients should have "reasonable expectations" for doctors.

"We are not just doctors, we are also people," Tang said. "And respect and understanding are what we, as human beings, need." *Xinhua*

13%

The percentage of doctors physically assaulted by their patients last year

2 more officers fall in military anti-graft drive

CHINA'S military has referred two ranking officers to prosecutors amid a continuing crackdown on corruption in the armed forces.

Kou Tie and Liu Zhanqi were placed under investigation in November and their cases forwarded to prosecutors last month, the Defense Ministry said in a brief notice yesterday.

Kou had been head of the provincial military command in Heilongjiang in China's northeast, while Liu had been transportation chief for the paramilitary People's Armed Police, a sprawling body with broad responsibilities for internal security, disaster relief and other duties.

Military investigations have focused on embezzlement and bribery in the housing construction and logistics divisions, where generous funding and lax supervision have created ample opportunities for corruption.

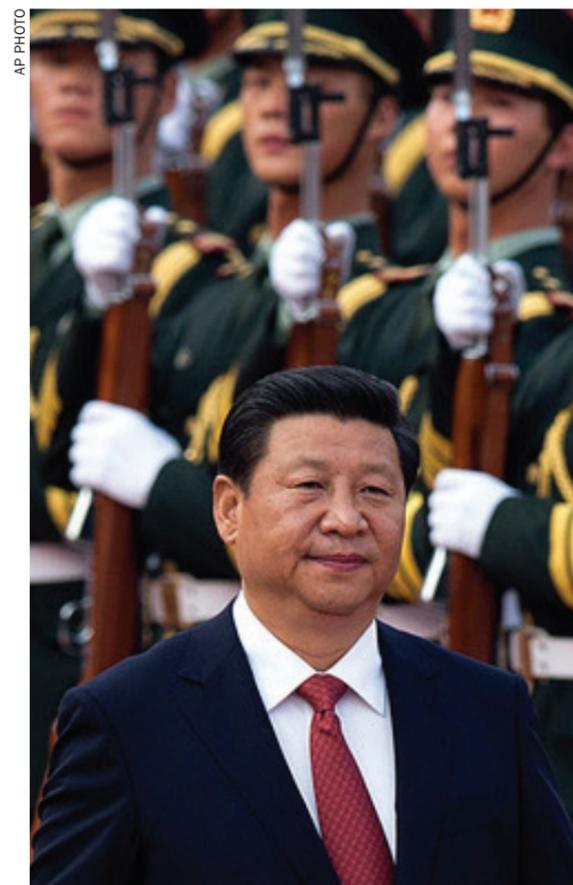
That has accompanied a new emphasis on welfare for the 2.3 million-member armed forces, with a substantial chunk of the annual double-digit percentage increases in defense spending going to salaries, benefits and other welfare for the troops.

Along with the selling of ranks and positions, the diversion of military funds into private hands is believed to have dealt a strong negative effect on morale, discipline and combat preparedness in the world's largest standing military.

The campaign against military corruption kicked off with an investigation into the People's Liberation Army's former head of logistics, Lt. Gen. Gu Junshan, who allegedly amassed a jaw-dropping fortune through embezzlement, kickbacks and the selling of favors.

Gu has yet to go to trial, while the military's former second-highest ranking general, Xu Caihou, died of cancer in March while under investigation on suspicion of taking bribes and brokering promotions.

President Xi Jinping, who is also head of the armed forces, has made the crackdown on military corruption a centerpiece of his sweeping drive against graft in the government and ruling Communist Party. **AP**



HONG KONG

Democrats hold ranks as Beijing backed vote plan debated

Natasha Khan

HONG Kong pro-democracy lawmakers vowed to block a China-backed plan for the city's first direct leadership election as the proposal neared a pivotal vote in the legislature.

After almost six hours of debate yesterday, none of the Legislative Council's 27 pan-democratic lawmakers expressed support for the government's proposal for the citywide election in 2017. Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying needs at least four votes from opposition lawmakers, who criticize provisions requiring candidate-screening by a panel of elites - many loyal to the Chinese government in Beijing.

"It's very clear that we will retain the blocking votes that we need," said Lee Cheuk-yan, leader of the city's Labor Party. "While it's sad that we won't be able to get democracy this time around, I think the Hong Kong people should be proud that we have the freedom for the local government to say no to the central authorities."

The debate follows months of political tumult in the Asian financial center after the National People's Congress outlined plans for the election and thousands of student protesters seized city streets last September. While the occupation plunged Hong Kong into the worst political crisis since its return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, demonstrators failed to convince the Communist Party to allow fully free elections.

Democratic lawmakers have so far remained united against the measure and members on both sides have predicted its defeat. All 16 pan-democrats who spoke on



the bill yesterday indicated opposition, while nine pro-establishment lawmakers expressed support, according to a Cable TV tally. A vote could come as soon as today.

Chief Secretary Carrie Lam, Leung's No. 2, opened debate by urging lawmakers to pass the bill. "No matter what the results of the vote are, today's legislative council meeting will have a far-reaching historical significance in the political development of Hong Kong," Lam said. "What you choose today will determine whether five million people will have right to vote."

The city remains divided, with 44.2 percent supporting the measure as of June 13, and 40.9 percent opposing it, according to a daily tracking poll conducted by three local universities.

Advocates from both sides gathered outside the Legislative Council yesterday, waving

banners and shouting slogans. Pro-government protesters - some wearing T-shirts bearing consecutive numbers - waved banners saying, "Support political reform," and "Protect universal suffrage."

Crowds swelled into the hundreds as city residents and finished work and the day's debate drew to a close. Opponents of the proposal shouted slogans calling for greater democracy and criticizing the Communist Party.

"Of course I want to wholeheartedly believe that the pan-dems won't go back on their vows, but who knows what will happen," said Cherry Ko, 24, who works in marketing and supported last year's protests. "That's why all those who promised they'd be back need to be here - to make sure they stay the course."

Those who support the proposal argue it would give the

city the most democracy possible under a "One Country, Two Systems" framework that ensures China has final sway over who holds the city's top post.

The plan's defeat risks increasing tensions with Beijing and deepening a divide in the local legislature that has stalled bills and delayed this year's budget by six weeks. Passing it could trigger further unrest with some leaders of last year's protests pledging a return to the streets.

In Beijing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Lu Kang indicated the framework handed down last August could be modified after approval. "In the long run, it can be perfected in practice according to Hong Kong's actual situation, including social development and the formation of social consensus," Lu said at a regular news briefing. **Bloomberg**

Boss of state securities firm removed in graft probe

The chairman of a state-owned Chinese securities firm has been fired after investigators found he padded his expenses and spent public money to publish his poetry, the country's top discipline body said yesterday.

The announcement appeared to reflect an effort by Beijing to show a marathon anti-corruption crackdown still was under way after a former member of the Communist Party's ruling inner circle was sentenced last week to life in prison.

Long Zenglai was dismissed as chairman and party chief of China Investment Securities, according to the ruling party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The amounts of money Long was accused of misusing were modest by the standards of Chinese graft cases.

The commission statement said he overbilled the firm 159,100 yuan (USD25,600) for banquets and spent 34,389 yuan (\$5,500) of public money on golf and 17,921 yuan (\$2,900) to publish his poetry.

Last week, a former member of the party's Standing Committee, Zhou Yongkang, was sentenced to life in prison on charges he took 130 million yuan (\$21 million) in bribes and caused 1.4 billion yuan (\$229 million) in losses of public money.

The firing of Long also reflects the impact of the anti-graft crackdown beyond the oil and gas industry, which has been hit hardest and where Zhou had his power base. A string of executives and former executives of state-owned energy companies have been detained.

China Investment Securities is owned by China Central Huijin Investment Ltd., which is controlled by the Ministry of Finance and holds the state's shares in the country's major banks, insurance companies and securities firms. **AP**

Police kill ethnic Uighur man in train station drama

CHINESE police say they fatally shot a man from the country's Uighur ethnic group after he tried to attack travelers at a train station with a cement block, reviving memories of recent violence between the ethnic minority and China's majority Han.

Railway police in the northern city of Xi'an said a police officer repeatedly warned the man before shooting him

as he attacked travelers buying tickets at the city's railway station at about 6 a.m. yesterday.

A brief message on the force's microblog said the man died in hospital from his injuries and that normal order had been restored at the station.

No other details were given and it was not clear if anyone else had been injured in the incident.

Ethnic tensions between Muslim Uighurs and Han have periodically erupted into violence in recent years, leaving hundreds dead. Last year, a group of Uighurs armed with knives killed 31 people at a train station in the southwestern city of Kunming.

China has blamed the violence on terrorists inspired by global jihadi propaganda seeking to overthrow Chi-

nese rule in their northwestern homeland of Xinjiang.

Uighur activists say an influx of Han migrants into Xinjiang has led to economic marginalization of the native population, and complain of heavy-handed restrictions on religious and cultural observances. Yesterday's attack came the day before the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. **AP**



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INDONESIA

Migrants say they witnessed Australian payment to boat crew

Ninie Karmini and Stephen Wright, Jakarta

TWO migrants said they witnessed an Australian official hand cash to the crew of a people-smuggling boat to take its passengers back to Indonesia.

The allegation of payments to people-smugglers has strained relations between Indonesia and Australia, which has a policy of turning back all migrants who arrive by boat. Migrants escaping poverty or oppression use Indonesia as a transit point for the perilous journey in often barely seaworthy vessels to Australia.

Earlier this month, police in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province reported that the boat's captain and five crew members, who are detained on remote Rote island, had about USD30,000 in cash. The group said they were paid to return the 65 migrants to Indonesia after being intercepted by an Australian navy ship on May 20.

One of the migrants in an interview broadcast yesterday on



Migrants who were rescued by Acehese fishermen are assisted by local residents to board a truck that is taking them to a hospital upon arrival in Simpang Tiga, Aceh province, Indonesia

Indonesian television said he saw U.S. dollars wrapped in plastic handed over to at least four members of the crew by an Australian official.

"They don't want to help us. They want the crew to turn us back to Indonesia with that money," said the man, a Bangladeshi identified as Ainul by

MetroTV. Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott has sidestepped questions about the incident but has said Australian authori-

ties are being "incredibly creative" in their response to human trafficking.

A second man identified as Sri Lankan by the Indonesian broadcaster said the handover of money was visible to anyone on the boat.

"They asked the crew to bring us back to Indonesia with that money," he said. "It was not small money, everybody saw it."

On Tuesday, Indonesia's Vice President Jusuf Kalla said if Australia is paying people smugglers it would amount to "bribery." He said the Indonesian government is seeking clarification from Canberra.

Australia's boat stance has reduced the numbers of migrants attempting to reach its shores by sea and is popular with the Australian public, giving the conservative ruling party a rare policy triumph.

Both of the interviewed men spoke Indonesian with varying fluency. Migrants often spend several years in Malaysia or Indonesia, which have related languages, before attempting to reach Australia. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

UN: Spread of MERS in isn't global emergency

Maria Cheng Medical Writer, London

THE World Health Organization says the spread of a mysterious virus from the Middle East to South Korea doesn't merit being declared a global emergency despite infecting more than 160 people in the biggest outbreak outside the Arabian peninsula.

In a statement yesterday, the U.N. health agency called the epidemic "a wake-up call" and warned all countries to prepare for potential outbreaks of the Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS.

WHO acknowledged there were still fundamental gaps in its understanding of the disease nearly three years after MERS was first identified.

"We really don't understand the situation very well," said Dr. Keiji



A student has her temperature checked as a precaution against MERS at Gwanghui Elementary School in Seoul

Fukuda, a WHO Assistant Director-General, noting it was unclear if the disease could be spread by people without symptoms or what environmental factors might speed transmission.

Fukuda said camels are the only known animal reservoir for the disease, although there could be others. He added there was no proof MERS had mutated into a more dangerous form in South Korea, where 20 people have now died.

Overall worldwide, 458 people have died from MERS since 2012.

WHO recommends that people avoid contact with camels, not drink camel milk or urine and only eat camel meat that has been well-cooked.

MERS appear to be spread among people in respiratory droplets such as by coughing, although infections have mostly occurred in those who had close contact with MERS patients. More than two dozen countries

have reported cases, including the U.S., Britain, France and Germany.

Some experts lamented that little had changed in WHO's ability to respond to outbreaks since last year's devastating Ebola outbreak in West Africa which left more than 11,000 dead still hasn't been contained.

"I don't understand why they have not prioritized developing a camel vaccine to stop transmission from young camels to humans," said Michael Osterholm, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Minnesota.

"If MERS shows up in the inner cities of one of the developing world megacities, like Lagos or Kinshasa, we will be in real trouble," he said. "We know there will be future outbreaks if MERS isn't stopped in the Middle East, but we are not very close to doing that now." **AP**

NORTH KOREA

Gov't admits it has been hit by worst drought in 100 years

Kim Tong-hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea says it has been hit by its worst drought in a century, resulting in extensive damage to agriculture. The official Korean Central News Agency said the drought has caused about 30 percent of its rice paddies to dry up. Rice plants normally need to be partially submerged in water during the early summer.

"Water level of reservoirs stands at the lowest, while rivers and streams (are) getting dry," it said in a report Tuesday.

An official from South Korea's Unification Ministry, who asked not to be identified because of office rules, said precipitation in North Korea was abnormally low in May. Its production of rice and potatoes could

decline by as much as 20 percent compared to average years if the shortage of rainfall extends to early July, he said. The official couldn't confirm North Korea's claim that it was experiencing its worst drought in a century.

KCNA said other crops were being planted in paddy fields in an attempt to reduce the agricultural shortfall.

North Korea suffered a devastating famine during the 1990s that is believed to have killed hundreds of thousands of people. The famine is also believed to have loosened the authoritarian state's control over the economy by damaging its public food distribution system and paving the way for private economic activity in unofficial markets. **AP**

SYRIA

'Elephant' rocket shelling kills 18



Syria's state news agency and opposition activists say shelling in and around the capital has killed at least 18 people. Syria's state-run SANA news agency says two shells struck Arnous Park in Damascus late Tuesday as many people were out shopping ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, expected to begin today. It says the shells killed nine people and wounded 13. The shelling came after government forces fired rockets into the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Douma. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said yesterday that the government fired Iranian-made "elephant" rockets on Douma, killing nine people, including two children and six women. Government forces and opposition fighters have exchanged shelling the past. Airstrikes, artillery and rockets have destroyed wide areas of the Damascus suburbs in recent months.

NIGERIA

Bombs found at Boko Haram camp kill 63



A sack of home-made bombs discovered at an abandoned Boko Haram camp exploded, killing 63 people in northeast Nigeria, civilian self-defense fighters said yesterday. Haruna Bukar, a witness to the blast, said the local militia was patrolling the area when they discovered the camp and found the bag of metal objects, which they carried to the nearby town of Monguno. As residents gathered around to examine the bag, it exploded, said Bukar. Scores of people have been killed this month in suicide and other bombings carried out by Nigeria's homegrown extremists using these kinds of improvised explosive devices. Boko Haram took control of a large swath of northeast Nigeria until a multinational force this year forced them out of towns and villages. Nigeria's military says the extremists are now confined to the Sambisa Forest.

GEORGIA

Runaway tiger kills man in Tbilisi after flood damages zoo



A Sunday, June 14, file photo of people assisting a hippopotamus that has been shot with a tranquilizer dart after it escaped from a flooded zoo in Tbilisi

Misha Dzhindzhikhashvili, Tbilisi

A tiger that broke loose after severe flooding at the Tbilisi Zoo mauled a man to death yesterday before being shot by police.

The Interior Ministry in the former Soviet republic of Georgia said the tiger was hiding at an abandoned factory that had been turned into a construction market when he attacked the man yesterday. The victim later died of his wounds at a hospital.

"We entered the depot and,

suddenly, a white tiger rushed out of an adjacent room and attacked one of the workers, jumping at his throat and mauling him," colleague Alexander Shavbulashvili told The Associated Press. "We broke the window of another room to flee, and the sound of breaking glass must have scared it and it ran away."

Police commandos rushed to the site and killed the tiger.

"It was a white tiger," Interior Minister Vakhtang Gomelauri told the AP. "We wanted to sedate it, but it was very aggressive and we

had to liquidate it."

An earlier ministry report that the tiger also wounded another man was incorrect. Zoo spokeswoman Khatia Basilashvili couldn't immediately offer any details about the dead tiger.

The Georgian government yesterday harshly criticized zoo officials for failing to provide reliable information. On Tuesday, zoo officials said all eight lions, seven tigers and at least two of the zoo's three jaguars were killed in the flooding in Georgia's capital.

The flooding, triggered

by torrential rains over the weekend, killed at least 19 people, destroyed houses and tore up roads. Six people remain missing.

The zoo said yesterday that one of its 17 penguins was found alive by Georgian border guards in the Kura River near the border with Azerbaijan, 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of the capital. Eight other penguins had been found alive earlier.

Zoo officials say less than half of the zoo's 600 inhabitants have survived the flooding. AP

USA

Shark attack survivor: Fish was 'biting up my left arm'

A teen who lost an arm after a shark attack in North Carolina says he felt the big fish before he saw it and didn't realize what it was until it was "biting up my left arm."

"We were just playing around in the waves, and I felt a hit on my left calf," 16-year-old Hunter Treschl said in a videotaped interview released Tuesday night (yesterday, Macau time) by the New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he is being treated. "I thought it felt like a big fish, and I started moving away. And then the shark bit my arm — off."

Treschl said he was able to make it on to the beach in Oak Island, North Caro-

lina, with the help of a cousin who had been in the water with him. He said one of the people who ran to his aid had a belt with him that he used as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding, while others "were all helping me kind of stay calm until the ambulance got there."

Asked if he ever saw the shark, Treschl said he first felt it hit his left leg before it hit his arm.

"That was the first time I saw it, when it was biting up my left arm," he said in the videotape.

The Colorado teen said he is going to try to live a normal life despite the loss of his dominant hand.

A little more than an hour before the shark attacked Treschl and about 3 kilometers away Sunday, a 12-year-old Asheboro girl, Kiersten Yow, lost her left arm below the elbow and suffered a leg injury when a shark bit her.

Yow was in stable condition Tuesday at N.C. Children's Hospital at the University of North Carolina, according to a statement from her parents, Brian and Laurie Yow. AP



Emergency responders assist a teenage girl at the scene of a shark attack in Oak Island, N.C., Sunday, June 14

Kristin J. Bender and Martha Mendoza, Berkeley

USA

6 balcony collapse victims had entire lives ahead of them

A group of Irish and Irish-American young men and women were enjoying their last blast summer in California before cracking down with college and careers, a rite of passage tens of thousands from the Emerald Isle have taken over the past five decades.

At a 21st birthday party early Tuesday morning, a fifth floor balcony broke loose from a stucco apartment house, tossing 13 people about 50 feet onto the pavement and stealing those adventures. Six people were killed and seven seriously injured.

“For many of my countrymen this is a favorite experience and to have this happen at the start of the season has left us frozen in shock,” said Ireland’s San Francisco-based Consul General Philip Grant.

“My heart breaks for the parents,” said Prime Minister Enda Kenny from Dublin.

Word of the tragedy spread quickly back to Ireland, and phone lines lit up as panicked parents called to check on their kids throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

The dead were identified as Ashley Donohoe, 22, of Rohnert



Workers remove part of a fourth floor balcony that fell onto the balcony below at the Library Gardens apartment complex in Berkeley, Calif.

Park, California, and Ireland’s Olivia Burke, Eoghan Culligan, Niccolai Schuster, Lorcan Miller and Eimear Walsh. The Irish students attended various colleges in Dublin.

Sam McCarthy, 21, who was not at the party, said his mother, who called at 4 a.m., was reassured to know he and the fraternity houseful of 30 co-ed

Irish and American roommates was safe.

McCarthy said he was shocked by the news, and had come for a fun, independent summer.

“I thought it would be a cool experience,” said McCarthy, who works at Bay City Bike Rentals and Tours in San Francisco.

Police had received a com-

plaint about a loud party in the apartment about an hour before the mishap but were still on a different call when the metal-rail balcony gave way just after 12:30 a.m. It landed on the fourth-floor balcony just beneath it, leaving the pavement strewn with rubble and the red plastic cups that are standard at college parties.

The U.S. government’s J-1 program brings 100,000 college students to the country every year, many of them landing jobs at resorts, summer camps and other attractions. The San Francisco Bay area is especially popular with Irish students, about 700 of whom are working and playing here this summer, according to Ireland’s Philip Grant. Many work at Fisherman’s Wharf and other tourist sites.

Sinead Loftus, 21, who attends Trinity College Dublin, said Berkeley is “the Irish hub.” In fact, she said, “I’ve heard people

complain there are too many people from Ireland here.”

Investigators will look at such things as whether the balcony was built to code, whether it was overloaded and whether rain or other weather weakened it, said Kevin Moore, chairman of the structural standards committee of the Structural Engineers Association of California.

Berkeley officials said the building code at the time of construction required the balcony hold at least 60 pounds per square foot. That requirement has since been raised to 100 pounds.

Engineering crews inspected jagged broken beams of wood sticking from the building, marking where the balcony had snapped off. Pieces of wood came away, falling to the ground as the engineers touched them.

City inspectors barred use of the building’s other balconies during the investigation. AP

AD

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what's ON

MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Multi-function Hall, Handover Gifts Museum of Macao
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM
TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)
VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

Offbeat

VIETNAMESE PLAYER'S MISTAKE LEADS TO WINNING POKER PRIZE

Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas



Christian Pham celebrates

It's one thing to outlast hundreds or thousands of poker players to win one of the World Series of Poker's 68 events and the Las Vegas tournament's coveted gold bracelet.

It's another thing entirely to win a game you've never played before. Christian Pham, a Vietnamese immigrant living in St. Paul, Minnesota, did exactly that Thursday, rising to the top of 219 players, including a few poker icons. By accident.

The 40-year-old professional poker player said he intended to play no-limit Texas Hold 'em but instead inadvertently signed up for a different game happening the same day: so-called no-limit deuce-to-seven draw lowball. The cost? A USD1,500 buy-in.

"It's a totally different game. Different mindset. Different strategies," said Shawn Harris, Pham's dealer at the final table. Essentially, the goal is to have the lowest poker hand, no straights or flushes, and if a player ends up with a pair, it's better if it's a pair of twos. Players can also draw cards.

The event was just one of 68, all offering a chance at a golden bracelet prize, happening in Las Vegas at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino throughout the 51-day World Series of Poker that started on May 27 and culminates with the closely watched Main Event.

Pham said he didn't realize his mistake until he was dealt five cards instead of the usual two. He panicked, then observed, leaning on helpful players who advised him what beat what.

"At first you suspect an act, but if it was, it was very good," said Chris Mecklin who was sitting next to Pham when the game's newbie realized he had made a mistake. He didn't know it would be a fortuitous one.

Mecklin said it became clear that Pham was an experienced player, just not in this game. When he won a hand with the best set of cards one can get in the game — a two, three, four, five and seven — he said Pham seemed confused that he happened to be holding the most desired combination of cards.

The next day, Mecklin signed into WSOP.com to check on the game's results.

"Imagine my surprise when I see the photo of the chip leader!" he said in an email.

Pham said the guidance from his fellow players at the table helped, and he studied up the night in between. In the end, he said it was his tournament acumen for when and how much to bet and manage his chips that got him to the top.

On Friday, he was \$81,314 richer and held up his gold bracelet, and stood on stage as tournament organizers and players stood for the playing of Vietnam's national anthem. Every winner of the tournament's 68 events gets to hear his or her anthem of choice.

Pham moved 15 years ago from Vietnam to Minnesota, where he delivered newspapers. He played his first cash poker game in 2008 and later won second place in a local tournament along with several thousand dollars.

He didn't think of poker as a way to make a living, though, and gave it up until 2012.

Then he won a \$200 satellite tournament in 2014 that sent him to Caesars Palace in Vegas for the World Series of Poker's circuit main event where he won the gold ring and \$214,332. "After that, I thought this game might be very good to me," he said. **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	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

18 JUN - 24 JUN

JURASSIC WORLD

ROOM 1
 (2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
 (3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Colin Trevorrow
 Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 124min



SPL 2: A TIME FOR CONSEQUENCES

ROOM 2
 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
 Director: Cheang Pou-soi
 Starring: Tony Jaa, Wu Jing, Simon Yam, Zhang Jin, Louis Koo
 Language: Cantonese/Mandarin (Cantonese/English)
 Duration: 120min



THE LAST FIVE YEARS

ROOM 3
 2.15, 4.00, 7.45, 9.30 pm
 Director: Richard LaGravenese
 Starring: Anna Kendrick, Jeremy Jordan
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 94min

SAN ANDREAS

ROOM 3
 7.30 pm
 Director: Brad Peyton
 Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino, Alexandra Daddario
 Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)
 Duration: 114min

MACAU TOWER

04 JUN - 01 JUL

JURASSIC WORLD
 (3D) 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
 Director: Colin Trevorrow
 Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 124min

this day in history



1999 ANTI-CAPITALISM DEMO TURNS VIOLENT

Police and protesters have clashed at a demonstration against capitalism in the center of London's financial district. The rally was timed to coincide with the start of a summit of the world's richest countries in Germany.

More than 4,000 people took to the streets of London in protest at the burden of debt owed by the world's poorest countries to the Group of Eight nations. They were joined by about 300 cyclists, who disrupted traffic by riding slowly into the city centre, carrying banners.

But what began as a peaceful gathering became violent after a small crowd of demonstrators began attacking buildings and smashing windows. Some protesters vented their anger on the Liffe Building, which forms part of the London Stock Exchange.

One group managed to break into the building but a safety shield was activated, preventing them from reaching the trading floor. Police said they were attacked with stones and bottles. One woman was taken to hospital with suspected concussion and a broken leg after she was hit by a police van.

At least 42 protesters and four police officers have been injured. A number of arrests have been made and the violence is now said to be largely under control. A massive clear-up operation will shortly be underway, as well as an investigation into the violence.

The London rally had been timed to coincide with other protests around the world. German police were expecting up to 100,000 demonstrators to protest in Cologne, where the summit was being held, and call for the debt of the world's poorest countries to be cancelled.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On the day 16 people were arrested for offences including criminal damage and assault. One website sympathetic to the activists' aims described the event as a protest against "an economy that puts money, growth and the 'free market' above everything else, leading to poverty, the Third World Debt and environmental destruction."

In the House of Commons Home Secretary Jack Straw condemned the "deplorable outbreak of public disorder and violence." Billed as a Carnival Against Capitalism, the City of London protest marked the first in a series of major anti-capitalist demonstrations in central London.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
When it comes to communicating, keep things short and sweet. Don't get into the details or elaborate on the bottom line. They'll be different by tomorrow - things are changing that rapidly.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Don't plan any long-term stuff based on conversation alone. Look at things extra closely before you commit. It's your future, and the other side of the desk is ultimately nothing more than a salesman.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
There's no much movement, at least not much in the right direction. But don't be stumped. Getting ideas generated is a start, and don't worry for now about follow through.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You feel overwhelmed by your person situation, but don't miss the point of all the agony. It's referred to as a correction for a reason, and you're but a small part in the process.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Intellectualizing at a party won't exactly impress your friends. Restrict after hours activities to socializing. But during business hours, and with like-minded people, you can come up with some real gems.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Cold, hard logic stinks. But the facts are the facts, and you need to stick to them. Go over your accounts with a find-toothed comb, and adjust your spending habits accordingly.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
As the slices of pie get smaller and smaller, it gets harder and harder to find enough to share, much less someone to share it with. Focus on your innermost self instead when wondering what you have to offer.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Be extra careful in business. With everyone feeling the pinch, the temptation is there to cut corners - yours. Don't let yourself be shorted.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Keep busy! You know what they say about a rolling stone. Your temptation is to curl up in a ball and cry, but there's enough going on to cover your budget, even if it won't make you rich.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Everyone is cutting corners and discarding the extras in their lives. When it comes to employees, decisions can be painful. Start with the flighty and unreliable if you have to start somewhere.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
The only way to check for accuracy is if you're in the news yourself. It's not all doom and gloom for everyone. Count yourself among the lucky ones, because you'll have a good day, and probably even a profitable one.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
One look at your bank account can make you feel overwhelmed. Be careful how you console yourself. Poetry would be good right about now. Other forms of comfort? A bit risky.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	20	31	cloudy
Harbin	19	31	thundershower/cloudy
Tianjin	22	29	thundershower/cloudy
Urumqi	14	24	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	22	32	cloudy
Lhasa	13	25	cloudy/overcast
Chengdu	22	32	cloudy
Chongqing	22	29	shower/overcast
Kunming	18	26	cloudy/shower
Nanjing	18	28	overcast/cloudy
Shanghai	21	25	drizzle
Wuhan	20	28	heavy rain/cloudy
Hangzhou	21	23	heavy rain to rainstorm
Taipei	26	35	clear/cloudy
Guangzhou	27	35	clear
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy

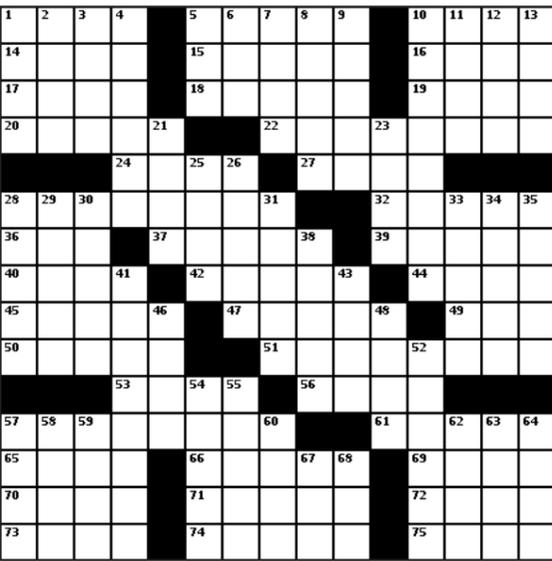
WORLD

Moscow	10	23	cloudy/clear
Frankfurt	12	22	clear/drizzle
Paris	13	25	clear/drizzle
London	12	23	drizzle/clear
New York	17	26	clear/drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Speaker of baseball; 5- Quick-witted; 10- Hullabaloo; 14- The life of Riley; 15- Severity; 16- Seine feeder; 17- Movierating org.; 18- Legree's creator; 19- Bone: Prefix; 20- White-and-black bearlike mammal; 22- Freezing; 24- "The Plague" setting; 27- Workers' rights org.; 28- Dangerous catch; 32- Oohed and ___; 36- Compass dir.; 37- Capital city of Yemen; 39- Grassy plain; 40- French 101 verb; 42- Iraqi port; 44- Waterfall; 45- ActorBurton; 47- 18th letter of the Greek alphabet; 49- Reason for overtime; 50- Lock; 51- Consist of; 53- Spot on the tube; 56- Ripped; 57- The north half of a northbound horse, e.g.; 61- Curl the lip; 65- ___ about (roughly); 66- 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby; 69- Bond classic; 70- Prosperity; 71- Verdi work; 72- Sponsorship; 73- Disney dog; 74- ___-foot oil; 75- Got on;

DOWN: 1- Office fill-in; 2- ___ Nui (Easter Island); 3- This ___ outrage!; 4- Privateer; 5- AARP members; 6- Strike; 7- Awestruck; 8- Aftermath; 9- Shampoo brand; 10- Soccer; 11- Actress Vima; 12- Apropos of; 13- Hammer end; 21- Pinball paths; 23- Shrinking sea of Asia; 25- Speedy steed; 26- Grandmas; 28- Proposed, perhaps; 29- Part of ICBM; 30- Impertinence; 31- No-frills; 33- Port-au Prince is its capital; 34- Bandleader Skinnay ___; 35- Gift recipient; 38- Slang; 41- Like some winds; 43- Shot, briefly; 46- Invitation request; 48- Auto loan figs.; 52- Pay as due; 54- Homerun king Hank; 55- Hang loosely; 57- Chicken, e.g.; 58- Fit for service; 59- Way to go; 60- Take ___ Train; 62- So; 63- Author Bagnold; 64- Wine choice; 67- Illustrative craft; 68- "Deck the Halls" syllables



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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
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Coloane
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HKD 14,400 / 800 sq ft
Ref: 1505502

Chun Fok Village, Wai Heng Kok
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HKD 6,928sq ft
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Ref: 15015431

Hellene Gardens
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HKD 20,000 / 1,663 sq ft
Ref: 1505506

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GOLF | ANALYSIS

Tiger's story is getting old, yet he keeps repeating it

Tim Dahlberg, Washington

THE questions come less often, largely because the story is getting old. Or maybe it's just that no one really believes anymore, even Tiger Woods himself.

The downfall of the greatest player of his time can be measured in any number of ways, whether it's his current ranking of 195th in the world or the 85 Woods shot just a few weeks ago in a Memorial tournament he has won five times.

One of the most telling, though, may have come on Tuesday from the youngest player in the U.S. Open, a 15-year-old from Texas named Cole Hammer, who said his first memory of watching golf on television was watching Woods pump his fist after forcing a playoff he would eventually win at Torrey Pines.

It's been seven long years since Woods won that Open, and now even the bookies in Las Vegas can't make the odds long enough on his chances of winning this one. He's a 50-1 pick, and the bettors who once put money on him to win every tournament now look elsewhere to make their money.

That's not going to stop Fox from showing his every shot on Thursday in a primetime telecast for which the network paid big money at a time Woods was still relevant. Woods still moves the popularity needle, even if he no longer moves with the



Tiger Woods walks past the flag as he practices

confidence of a player who once expected to win every time he teed it up.

What has changed is we watch him not to win, but to see when he crashes. And on a quirky golf course that features trains rumbling through on a regular basis, Woods is a train wreck waiting to happen.

He talked on Tuesday about making progress, said he was getting his game into shape to

win the 15th major of his career. He reminded reporters that he's won three U.S. Opens, as if that should be enough to automatically elevate him to contender status.

But progress for Woods these days is no longer measured by getting closer to where he once was. It's trying to get farther away from where he is — a player who shockingly still can't figure out how to do the funda-

mental things on the golf course he used to take for granted.

Yes, Woods came back to make the cut at the Masters after embarrassing himself with wild play and amateurish chips in his first two tournaments of the season. But, no, he wasn't in contention on Sunday, as he claimed. Woods was 10 shots behind with as much chance of catching Jordan Spieth as the young Hammer has of winning

here at Chambers Bay.

Even more startling is that since returning from a layoff to fix his chipping woes, Woods has finished a collective 57 shots behind the winner in the three tournaments he has played.

"When you look at how I played at Phoenix and Torrey Pines, I'm sure most people thought I was probably crazy to think I could probably win the Masters," Woods said. "But I really felt like I could. I had a chance, I just didn't get it done."

So Woods remains in denial, which may be the only way he can bring himself to play anymore. Young players with steadier nerves have passed him by, but don't expect him to acknowledge it.

He's approaching his 40th birthday in December, a time in every athlete's life where things are not nearly as easy as they once were.

While Woods insists his problems are all due to swing changes, others aren't so sure. He split with girlfriend Lindsey Vonn after the Masters, and is helping raise two kids with his ex-wife. Clearly, his life is more complicated than it was when Woods was a young bachelor in his prime.

But mostly he suffers from comparisons with what he's done before. And Woods was so great during a 12-year span that he can never meet those expectations again.

"We're just waiting for him to come back and win those tournaments like it was nothing, hunt down people like he was playing a Wednesday tournament at the country club," Jason Day said. "But will we see it? I'm not sure."

Not this week, we won't. And the way Woods continues to search for his game, maybe not ever. **AP**

Matt Richens, Christchurch

FOOTBALL | U20 WORLD CUP

Brazil builds confidence with semifinal win

A dominant performance full of goals was exactly what Brazil's under-20 football side needed ahead of Saturday's final. The five-time champions thrashed Senegal 5-0 yesterday to go into the championship match against Serbia on a high.

Brazil sneaked past Uruguay in the round of 16, then Portugal in the quarterfinal — both via penalty shootouts after 0-0 draws — and questions were starting to be asked about its attack.

They were well and truly answered yesterday as they scored twice in the opening seven minutes and extended its lead to 3-0 before the 20-minute mark.

Marcos Guilherme scored twice while Boschilla and Jorge also had goals



Leo Pereira, right, celebrates with teammate Jean Carlos after scoring a goal during their U20 football World Cup match against North Korea

for Brazil which opened the scoring via an own goal.

"It was really important for us," coach Rogerio Micale said. "We were creating chances, as we

did against Uruguay and against Portugal a little bit less. We were creating, but not scoring. (Against Senegal) we were really effective in front of goal and that's why we scored

many goals. And that's really good for us because it gives us confidence to the final."

Micale said the transition between his defenders and attackers was perfect, and it would give them a much-needed confidence boost for the final.

While the Brazilian attacking flair returned, it is the side's defense which has been the biggest help to get Brazil to its ninth under-20 final.

Brazilian goalkeeper Jean has not retrieved the ball out of the back of his net since the eighth minute of the team's second game against Hungary.

Brazil has now gone 502

minutes — more than eight hours — without conceding. The defense is organized but it's not just the back four working hard, Micale said.

"Our system is working perfectly," he said. "Our style starts with our

forwards, we all defend. That's why we have such a strong defense. All the team, from the front to the back is working for the defense. When we can't score goals it keeps us in the game, and now we score goals too." **AP**

SERBIA ADVANCES TO UNDER-20 WORLD CUP FINAL

SERBIA IS through to Saturday's Under-20 World Cup final against Brazil after beating 10-man Mali 2-1 after extra time at North Harbour Stadium yesterday. Milos Veljkovic's header found Ivan Saponjic, who

noddled the ball past Mali goalkeeper Djigui Diarra to give the Serbians a 2-1 lead with 20 minutes of extra time to play. Serbia previously won the under-20 title competing as Yugoslavia in 1987.

Graham Dunbar, Bern

Swiss AG: 53 possible money-laundering cases in FIFA probe

BANKS in Switzerland have reported 53 possible acts of money-laundering in the investigation of FIFA's 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding contests, the country's attorney-general said yesterday.

Michael Lauber said the "suspicious bank relations" were filed to comply with Switzerland's regulations against money laundering.

The federal prosecutor described a "huge and complex" case which targets "criminal mismanagement and money-laundering" in the bidding contests which sent the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tournament to Qatar.

Lauber is prepared for either country to be stripped of the hosting rights if new evidence proves wrongdoing.

"I don't mind if this has some collateral (damage) somewhere else," he said, addressing the media for the first time since the Swiss investigation into FIFA was announced three weeks ago.

Lauber said he "does not exclude" interviewing FIFA President Sepp Blatter and secretary-general Jerome Valcke in the future, though they are not currently under suspicion.

Blatter is also a target of a separate investigation of bribery and racketeering led by U.S. federal agencies, who are working with Swiss authorities.

The American case alleged that senior FIFA voters received USD10 million in bribes to support South Africa's successful bid for the 2010 World Cup. Valcke has been linked to transferring the money from a FIFA account on behalf of South African officials. Lauber would not be drawn on whether the South African case was also within the scope of his investigation.

FIFA began the 2018 and 2022 case by filing a criminal complaint against "persons unknown" last November. "This is a dynamic process," Lauber said. "It could really go everywhere and that is why

AP PHOTO



Swiss attorney general Michael Lauber speaks during a press conference in Bern

I don't want to tell you which direction I put my focus."

Football's world governing body sent Lauber a 430-page investigation report submitted last September by FIFA's former ethics prosecutor, Michael Garcia.

The former U.S. Attorney

I have coercive measures and I am independent

LAUBER

from the Southern District of New York led a team which spent two years investigating the World Cup bidding contests, which included nine candidates from 11 countries.

However, Garcia could not compel some FIFA voters to meet with him and did not have subpoena powers to gather key evidence. Russian officials failed to provide much evidence, and claimed computers used by bid staffers were leased and later destroyed.

"I have coercive measures and I am independent," Lauber said at a news conference called after his re-election by federal authorities for a four-

year mandate.

Lauber's team sought to speak in Zurich last month with 10 current and former FIFA executive committee members who took part in the December 2010 hosting votes.

FIFA was thrown into crisis on May 27 with dual raids in Zurich on a luxury downtown hotel and its own headquarters two days before its presidential election.

Two FIFA vice presidents, Jeffrey Webb of the Cayman Islands and Eugenio Figueredo of Uruguay, were among seven football officials arrested by Swiss police acting on an American request. They face extra-

dition to the U.S.

On the same day, data and documents were seized at FIFA's offices for the Swiss case. More evidence was collected from FIFA last week.

Lauber said Wednesday that his task force is analyzing nine terabytes of data.

The Swiss case started much later than the American investigation, which began in 2011. Four men, including former FIFA executive committee member Chuck Blazer, entered guilty pleas which were unsealed last month and 14 have been indicted.

Lauber's office described FIFA as the damaged and injured party, though the case could yet implicate the football body's senior officials and elected executive committee members.

Some FIFA officials did not cooperate with Garcia, while others who left after the 2010 vote when implicated in corruption refused to be interviewed.

Garcia resigned from FIFA last December in protest at Blatter's leadership and claiming that his report was misrepresented by FIFA ethics judge Joachim Eckert.

Eckert's report said most candidates, including Russia and Qatar, broke FIFA's bidding rules but the wrongdoing did not influence the voting outcome. Russia won a four-candidate contest in a second round of voting. Qatar beat the U.S. 14-8 in the final round of a five-candidate contest.

The Blatter-led executive committee used Eckert's summary and subsequent independent legal advice — sought by FIFA audit and compliance panel chairman Domenico Scala — to confirm Russia and Qatar as World Cup hosts last December.

However, Scala has said the hosting votes can be reopened if new evidence of misconduct emerges, even if the tournament in Russia is less than three years away.

"I don't care about the timetable of FIFA," Lauber said. "I care very much about my own timetable which I can't disclose." **AP**

Capello on the brink with Russian football in crisis

James Ellingworth

EVEN if FIFA scandals were not placing Russia's right to host the 2018 World Cup under scrutiny, Russian football would still be in crisis. National team coach Fabio Capello is on the brink of being fired, the national football federation is leaderless and fans are turning away from the game, with Premier League attendances dropping to levels last seen in the chaotic and poverty-stricken 1990s.

On Sunday in Moscow, exactly three years before the first game of the Wor-

ld Cup, Russia slumped to a 1-0 defeat to Austria. The World Cup host has just two wins from its last 10 games — one against tiny Liechtenstein, the other awarded by default when a match was abandoned due to crowd trouble. Its last competitive goal was scored eight months ago.

Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko has said Capello could be fired this month, but that is not quick enough for two fans who have started an online campaign to oust him by unusual means — they are collecting money online to buy out his contract.

"We think that anyone who isn't indifferent to the fate of football in Russia has been deeply disappointed by our national team's performances recently," write Anton Danilkovich and Vladislav Shunaev. "We've all had our souls spat on."

The crowdfunding bid, entitled "Fabio, go home," received wide media coverage in Russia on Tuesday within hours of its launch, though it's not clear how much has actually been raised.

The reason for the fundraising is a generous contract extension handed to Capello last year, reportedly worth 7 million euros (USD7.9 million) a year

with a clause specifying over 21 million euros (\$23.5 million) in compensation if he is fired. With the Russian Football Union deeply in debt and losing money, it is hard to see how it could afford to fire Capello, so the fans have decided to do it themselves.

Mutko, the sports minister and chairman of the World Cup organizing committee, has said he expects a decision on Capello's future by July 10 at the latest, but signaled some support for the beleaguered Italian. "I'm not a fan of blaming everything on departing coaches," he told the R-Sport agency on Tuesday. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Mark Gilbert

GREECE'S TREMORS SPREAD TOWARD SPAIN AND ITALY

One reason European Union officials are allowing Greece to toddle dangerously close to the cliff top of exiting the euro is their oft-asserted belief that the situation is ring-fenced. A Greek default or departure from the single currency would be its own affair, the argument goes, without spillover effects. But that's turning out to be not quite as true as Europe's leaders would like to have us all believe.

With the European Commission discussing what Valdis Dombrovskis, vice president for euro policy, euphemistically calls "less favorable scenarios," investors are betting on contagion. And by driving Spanish and Italian yields higher, at the same time as U.S. and German levels decline, they're suggesting that complacency over Greece's exit may be misplaced at best.

It's not just financial markets that are taking fright at the brinkmanship between Greece and its lenders.

With the common-currency project at risk of unraveling, the real economy is also having a conniption. Figures today show German confidence slumped for a third month in June to its lowest level since November, and was significantly weaker than economists had forecast.

It's possible the current contagion could reverse no matter which way the Greek crisis gets resolved. It may turn out that it's the uncertainty that's rattling investors, and that they're indifferent to whether Greece stays in the euro or goes, so long as there's some finality to the outcome. "We are pretty much waiting for almost any outcome to buy," Luca Paolini, who helps oversee about USD460 billion as chief strategist at Pictet Asset Management, told Bloomberg reporters Inyoung Hwang and Sofia Horta e Costa.

"If there is a Grexit or a default, there will be a final selloff, which will be a good entry point for us. The fundamentals of QE and earnings growth would then reassert themselves."

Greece contributes less than 2 percent of the euro region's gross domestic product, and European banks have slashed their exposures to Greek assets in recent years - hence the argument that a car crash involving Athens might leave bystanders uncathed.

That's dangerous thinking, though, since its departure would pose an existential threat to the euro. European Union Economic and Monetary Commissioner Pierre Moscovici obliquely characterized the risk that dare not speak its name, when he said on Tuesday that: "I'm attached to two characteristics of the euro. The first one is integrity and the second one is irreversibility. To me, the euro is more than a fixed-rate zone. It's more than that; it's really a single currency."

By abandoning the currency, Greece would disprove the "irreversibility" part of the equation, which would fatally wound the "single-currency-not-just-currency-pegs" conclusion. And that, in turn, could induce traders to try to force more euro members to quit the club the next time there's a whiff of economic trouble on the periphery of the continent. That's the risk that the euro's guardians are taking as they flirt with Greece's exit. **Bloomberg**

THE BUZZ DELIVERY BY DRONE IN 30 MINUTES

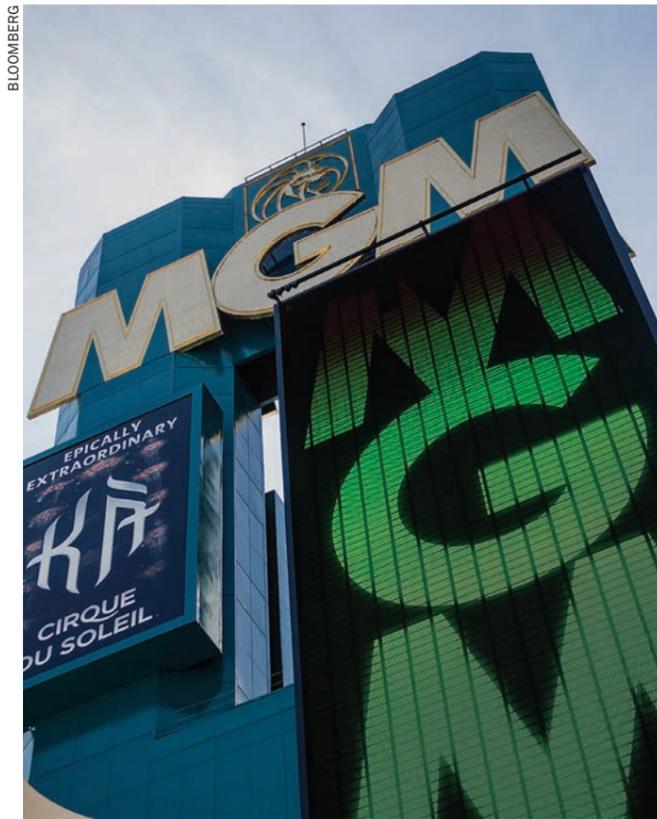
Online U.S. retail giant Amazon says it is developing the technology to use drones to deliver packages in 30 minutes or less, a broad expansion of unmanned flight that is raising concerns about safety, security and privacy. Using commercial drones to quickly deliver packages is probably years away. But when government re-

gulations catch up with emerging technologies, Amazon says it could revolutionize the way people shop for items they need quickly.

Amazon vice president Paul Misener told a House committee yesterday the federal government needs to speed up rules that regulate the use of commercial drones.

GAMING

Kerkorian's will orders sale of USD1.75b MGM stake



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

Anthony Palazzo and Anousha Sakoui

KIRK Kerkorian's will directs his Tracinda Corp. holding company to sell the estate's 16 percent stake in MGM Resorts International, the casino company he founded.

The stock, valued at about USD1.75 billion, should be sold in an orderly way by the executor of Kerkorian's will,

according to a filing Tuesday by Beverly Hills, California-based Tracinda. Anthony Mandekic, a Tracinda executive who is also a director of MGM, will begin those sales after he is seated as the executor of Kerkorian's will, according to the filing.

"Tracinda continues to believe there is substantial value in the assets of MGM Resorts and that the company is a good long-term

investment," it said.

There's no deadline for the sales, a spokesman for Tracinda said in an e-mail.

MGM Resorts said Tuesday that Kerkorian died on June 15 at the age of 98.

The company traces its roots to 1973, when Kerkorian built the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas. Today, MGM Resorts is the biggest operator of casinos on the Las Vegas Strip. Its properties include the Bellagio, Mandalay Bay and Mirage. The company also has a publicly traded unit in China with a presence in Macau.

Kerkorian, born in Fresno, California to Armenian immigrants, was the controlling shareholder in MGM Resorts until 2009, when he cut his stake to 37 percent from 54 percent. He named Tracinda and his Lincy Foundation after his two adult daughters, Tracy and Linda. **Bloomberg**

MGM Resorts is the biggest operator of casinos on the Las Vegas Strip

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



A balcony collapsed yesterday at Rua Ferreira do Amaral, located within close proximity to the Tap Seac pavilion. The debris fell over parked vehicles. No one was injured.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

CAMBODIA Cambodian police have arrested a French national, Bernard Louis Francois, 55, on suspicion of sexually abusing 13 underage boys, the National Police's website reported yesterday. The suspect was arrested on Monday in southern Kandal province following complaints by the parents of two victims, the website said, citing Lieutenant Colonel Lao Lin, chief of the Juvenile Protection Bureau of the National Police's Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department.



TURKEY Suleyman Demirel, Turkey's former president who has died at age 90, dominated his nation's politics for much of the past half-century, serving seven terms as prime minister and surviving two coups in a time of rapid development and sometimes violent turmoil. Demirel died at 2:05 a.m. yesterday at Ankara's Guven Hospital of heart failure and a respiratory tract infection, doctors said in an announcement broadcast on Turkish television.

YEMEN Saudi-led airstrikes hit a convoy of civilians fleeing the fighting in southern Yemen, killing at least 31 people, medical officials say, making it among the deadliest single attacks since the air campaign against Shiite rebels and their allies began nearly three months ago.

CUBA-USA Six months after presidents Raul Castro and Barack Obama declared they were moving toward normalization after a half-century of hostility, the embassies in their countries have not been reopened, showing just how slowly change comes to Cuba.



UK The BBC says its hit automotive TV show "Top Gear" will return to the airwaves with a new host replacing scandal-tainted Jeremy Clarkson. The broadcaster says radio and TV personality Chris Evans has signed a three-year deal to lead a new lineup for the show, which has won a huge following with its mix of car tips, driving stunts and jokey banter.