



BNU MARKS 113TH ANNIVERSARY

In an interview with the Times, BNU's CEO, Pedro Cardoso, speaks of the bank's role in Macau

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NEW INFO ON IDLE LAND PARCELS

The gov't disclosed information yesterday on the 16 idle land plots that were excluded from the recovery list

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GREECE DEFENDS REFORMS PROMISED TO CREDITORS

Greece has proposed measures worth USD9 billion, including increases to company and consumer taxes

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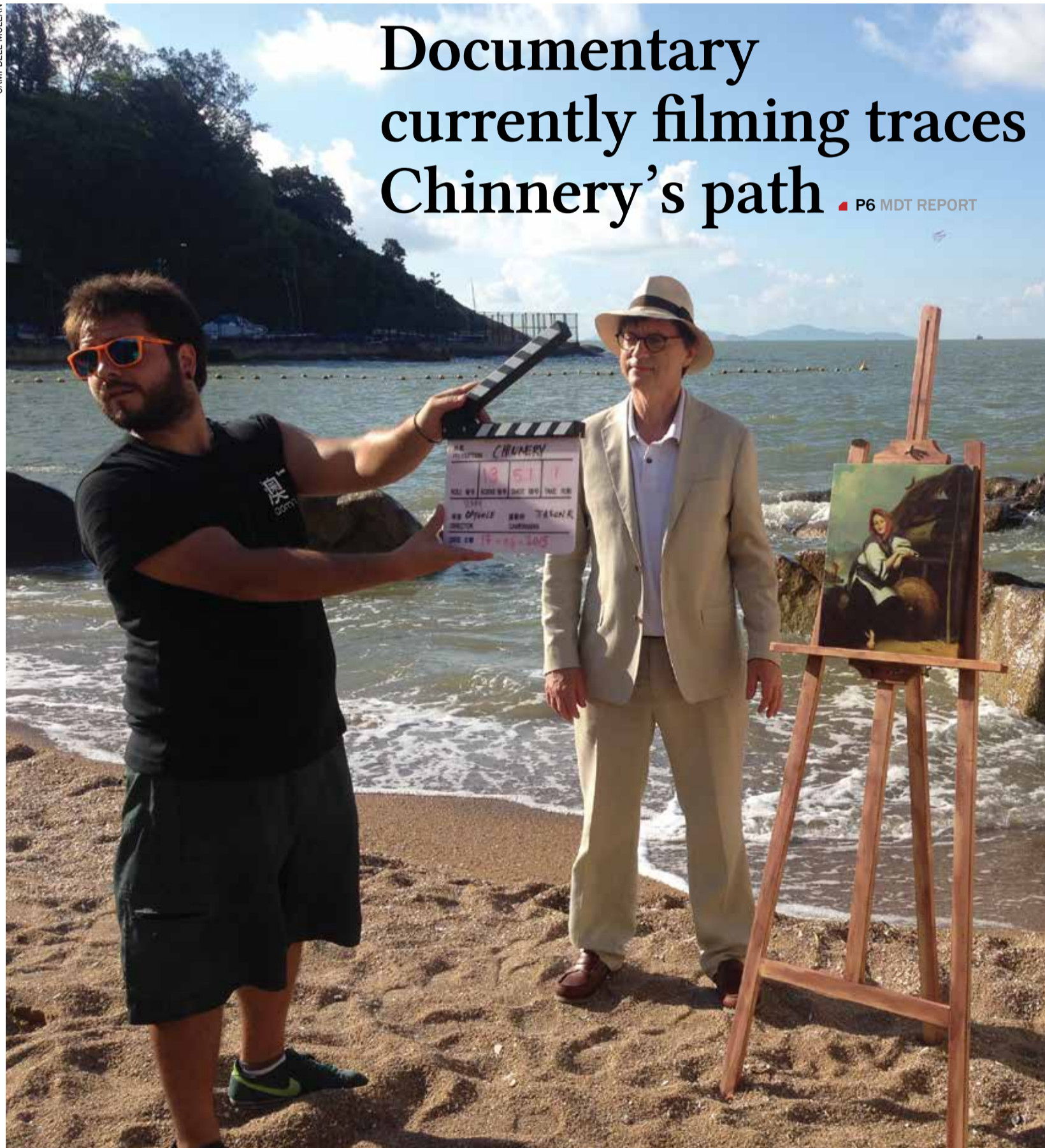
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Highest taxi license bidding reaches over 1 million

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Documentary currently filming traces Chinnery's path

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CAMPBELL, MCLEAN

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN-PHILIPPINES A tiny military exercise in the Philippines this week may presage something much bigger: the entry of Japan into the tussle for control of the South China Sea. A Japanese surveillance plane and about 20 troops conducted the first of two days of joint training with the Philippine navy yesterday off the coast of Palawan, a strategically important island not far from contested islands claimed by several countries including China and the Philippines.

JAPAN Heckled by local residents opposed to the presence of U.S. bases, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe joins about 5,000 people including the U.S. ambassador in a memorial service marking the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, one of the bloodiest conflicts of World War II. **More on p13**

JAPAN A strong earthquake struck off an island chain south of Tokyo yesterday, but officials said there was no danger of a tsunami.

More on backpage

TRANSPORT

Candidates offer over MOP1 million for taxi licenses

THE highest bid for the latest batch of ordinary taxi licenses reached MOP1,051,888, with the lowest at MOP868,008. The bids were revealed as part of the public tender process held yesterday morning at the Macau Polytechnic Institute's Multi-sport Pavilion.

With a floor price set at MOP200,000 for a single license, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) spent around three and a half hours opening and revealing the submitted bids one by one for a total of 200 grants that are valid for eight years.

The government received 2,172 bids in 2013 and almost a thousand bids in 2014, yet this year the number fell to only 643. Luís Correia Gageiro, deputy vice-head of the Bureau, told media after the tender that the rising repair and maintenance costs for taxis have scared away potential bidders.

Furthermore, Gageiro mentioned that he holds reserva-



tions about the prospect of the transport industry due to the current "complex circumstances on the road."

Before the results of the tender were announced, the Times learnt from some bidders that successful purchasers could turn the license grant into a lucrative investment, as

a license can be rented out for MOP20,000 each month, and it was expected that the lessor might enjoy a profit of roughly MOP2 million before the license lapsed.

However, Chong, a cab driver, who was also among the crowd of spectators, told the Times that he would not stand a chance in

the speculator-dominated tender, which the bureau said was less fierce than previous years.

"The groups of speculators even forked out an amount over MOP1 million... Not even a chance. The real taxi drivers are gradually being eliminated [from the tender process]," said the nearly 60-year old.

However, the authorities are currently uncertain of the level of speculation in the tender process. "At the moment it's hard to say whether the [license grants] are used for investment or personal use. In the future we will study whether bidders are also taxi driving-license holders and I believe there will be a certain ratio between them," said the deputy vice-head. "Frankly, if you lack specific knowledge of the industry you're going to work in, the investment won't turn out to be successful."

All of the five objections raised against the result were proven invalid following an internal discussion after the bids were read.

Currently the city has approximately 13,000 taxi driving-license holders in total. As Luís Gageiro recalled, the authorities are planning to launch two additional examinations in October and November to tackle the long list of examinees waiting to sit their qualification exams.

Another round of bidding for 100 special taxi licenses is on the horizon, yet further specifics on whether this bid will be exclusively for companies are yet to be released, aside from the operation format being similar to that of the already ousted "yellow taxis." **Staff reporter**

'Broken Tooth Koi' said to open VIP room in casino

60-YEAR-OLD Wan Kuok-koi, one of the most infamous and feared triad leaders before the city's handover, opened a VIP gambling room in Macau last week, as reported by Hong Kong's Next Media.

Also known as "Broken Tooth Koi", the former crime boss was released in December 2012 from Macau prison after completing a 14-year sentence for loan-sharking, money laundering and heading a criminal organization. He was once known as the imposing "dragon head" of the dreaded 14K Triad Society during the Portuguese administration, and reached the peak of his power in the 1990s, a



Wan Kuok-koi, center, known as Broken Tooth Koi, walks out of Coloane Prison, Dec. 1, 2012

time where bloody gang fights and crimes often broke out in the streets.

The Next Media report stated that many gaming and other business practitioners had been avoi-

ding Wan Kuok-koi since his release from prison: none of them dared to be linked to him, as they were unsure of the Central Government's attitude towards him as a

result of his previous high profile.

Amid the industry downturn due to a twelve-month plunge in gaming revenue, it is estimated that over half the city's VIP gambling rooms have been wound up. "Bold enough to open a VIP room in gaming industry's 'ice age,' 'Broken Tooth Koi' is showing his ability to succeed where others fail," said Next Media, calling the former crime boss "good at playing in the face of adversity."

The report added that "Broken Tooth Koi" is not only gearing up to retain control over the gaming industry, but has also allegedly been granted a seat in a regional body of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] in the mainland. He is also said to be planning a celebration feast at the Grand Hyatt hotel in October. **BY**

EDUCATION

Gov't increases education subsidies

THE government has increased the value of subsidies granted to schools under the free education scheme and reduced tuition fees for Macau residents by 8 and 6 percent respectively, according to two notices published in the government's Official Gazette (BO).

The total amount of subsidies granted to schools will be updated accordingly for the upcoming school year and will take effect after September 1.

This update to the subsidies includes grants provided to private primary and secondary schools under the city's free education program, as well as to students who attend private schools that are not operating under the scheme.

For classrooms comprising of 25 to 35 students, the government will be granting an annual subsidy ranging from MOP880,000 to MOP971,000. For secondary school classrooms, the new annual subsidy will range from MOP1.18 million and MOP1.34 million.

Subsidies provided to students enrolled in private schools which are not under the free education scheme will be granted at annual rates of MOP17,800 (kindergarten); MOP19,800 (primary school); and MOP22,000 (secondary school). **MDT/Lusa**

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Authorities confirm pullout from Korean University Games

THE Sport Development Board confirmed yesterday that, given the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak in South Korea, Macau has officially pulled out of next month's World University Games (Universiade) due to the government's concerns about the possible impact on the participants' health. The announcement confirms the Times' report on Monday, which stated that at least a part of the local delegation would not be attending the games, which are to be held from July 3 to 14 in Gwangju, South Korea.

"After considering the athletes' health, we have decided not to attend the games," confirmed the General Assembly President of the Macau Universitarian Sports Association, Ryo Lou Kit Long, in a telephone interview. The association was organizing the delegation to the sporting event. "We have also issued a letter to the games committee there with the Macau Sport Development Board's understanding and consent," he revealed.



A teacher checks the temperature of Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon (1st right) at an elementary school in Seoul. The MERS scare has resulted in the withdrawal of the Macau delegation to the Universiade

The organizer added that it contacted the coaches involved in the team about a week ago, who confirmed their participation in eight categories of the Universiade for the past six months.

After the Tourism Crisis Management Office raised the travel alert level, as he said, many local athletes proactively approached the authorities, asking about a possible cancellation before verbal notifications were offered to

them to explain the withdrawal. "Many sportsmen told us that they're quite concerned about the situation in Korea," he said, adding that the government was eager to join the games before their internal risk analysis on the trip.

Swimming, diving, athletics, badminton, table tennis, judo, taekwondo and fencing were supposedly the categories in which around 60 delegates were scheduled to compete.

The MERS virus scared not only the athletes but also their families, as the president said they also received messages from the students' parents.

"Some parents were also worried [and asked] if this time the authorities should not deploy any team," said Lou.

Despite the worrying situation in Korea, some of the athletes still expressed their desire to attend the biennial event. Yet the organizer said that the decision to withdraw was made after "considering different sides", as the trip was "a collective activity" to represent Macau abroad. **Staff reporter**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

4G licenses granted to four operators

THE government has recently granted the new fourth generation (4G) mobile network licenses to four telecommunication companies, namely CTM, China Telecom, Smartone and Hutchinson. The eight-year contracts with the operators were published yesterday in the government's Official Gazette (BO).

The four telecommunications companies are required to start providing 4G data services within the next year.

CTM is planning to invest a total of MOP485 million in the development of its 4G services by 2018. The company intends to make an initial investment of MOP260.8 million next year, and forecasts a 95 percent coverage rate within the first year.

China Telecom estimates to invest MOP345 million between 2016 and 2018. In the first year, the telecommunications giant plans to devote MOP126 million to the installation of its 4G network. The company is looking to build its network with a guaranteed 50 percent coverage for this year. It's planning to ensure citywide coverage in 2016.

Smartone will be investing MOP60 million between 2016 and 2018. The company has planned a MOP25 million initial investment this year.

Finally, Hutchinson intends to invest a total of MOP239 million between this year and 2018. About MOP91 million will be spent this year.

According to information released by the Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation (DSRT) in March when it announced the four bid-winning companies, the assessment criteria covered technical capacity, investment amount, the company's financial conditions, plans for network coverage, tariff schemes, mobile data protection and safeguard measures against malfunction.

The 4G operators will be paying five percent of their gross revenue to the government, an amount similar to the 3G service operators. **CP**

Macau Daily Times contest

Disney **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** at The Venetian Macao

Question for readers:
Which countries is the Beauty and the Beast tour visiting aside from Macau?

Please email the answers to:
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Along with your name and contact details.

Tickets-Giveaway
Four sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 4 days (Tuesday to Friday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP480 for a total prize value of MOP3,840.



Disney Theatrical Productions, NETWORKS and Broadway Entertainment Group are delighted to announce that, in celebration of Disney's Beauty and the Beast's 20th anniversary on the stage, the show is visiting Macao for the very first time as part of the forthcoming International tour. The English-language production is playing at The Venetian Theatre of The Venetian Macao from June 13 to July 26, 2015 as part of a tour which also visits Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia. This is another Broadway musical that Sands China Ltd. has brought to Macao. Based on the 1991 Academy-Award winning animated feature film, Disney's Beauty and the Beast premiered on Broadway in 1994, where it was nominated for nine prestigious Tony Awards and ran for 13 years. It still ranks as one of the longest-running and highest-grossing Broadway shows of all time. Since its debut, the title's visibility and success have expanded globally with subsequent productions produced around the world. Since licensing of the title began in 2004, there have been productions in 22 countries, seen by more than 35 million people, translated into 8 different languages with over 28 thousand performances - equivalent to a run of 67 years, generating over \$1.7B in revenue.

Q&A PEDRO CARDOSO
CEO OF BNU

'Our strategy is mainly to follow our customer base'

Catarina Pinto

BNU Macau is marking its 113th anniversary with an exhibition reflecting upon its past, present and future. "A New Century with You" inaugurates today at the Official Residence of the Portuguese Consul-General, and will remain on display until July 31.

In an interview with the Times, BNU's CEO, Pedro Cardoso, spoke of the bank's role in Macau, asserting that BNU is the most competitive bank in terms of online transactions. The financial institution recently applied to open a branch on Hengqin Island and intends to follow its customer base doing business in China rather than looking for new clients. The bank is also looking to further its role in the cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Macau Daily Times – BNU Macau is organizing an exhibition titled "A New Century with You." What will this exhibition entail?

Pedro Cardoso – The exhibition is a way to celebrate our 113th anniversary in Macau. Our bank was established here in 1902. Although it has a lot of insightful information about our past, which we are very proud of, this exhibition will reflect more upon the present and future of the bank in Macau. And that's why we called it "A New Century with You." The exhibition has been divided into four sections. The first is dedicated to BNU as a note-issuing bank. Soon we will have 23 notes, the majority issued in Macau. We will also have free coins issued by BNU, the first since 1952. In the second part we present BNU as a commercial bank, and display very old objects, like typewriters, calculators, and check stamps. The third part will be focusing on our corporate social responsibility activities. BNU has been supporting several causes other than banking, namely education, cultural and sports activities, as well as charitable organizations. The fourth part will focus on Macau as a platform for cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. BNU has a unique position in this area; it is part of the CGD [Caixa



Pedro Cardoso

Geral de Depósitos] banking group, which has a presence in seven Portuguese-speaking countries.

MDT – How does BNU see its role as a note-issuing bank in Macau?

PC – It's above all a big responsibility. We are one of the two note-issuing banks in Macau. We have held this role for many years now and above all we feel that this mission has been successfully accomplished. There aren't a lot of issues in Macau about our role as a note-issuing bank and we believe we have been fulfilling this mission with a high level of efficiency and effectiveness as well.

MDT – How has BNU's client base evolved over recent years?

PC – BNU's number of customers just surpassed 210,000 here in Macau. The large majority are local citizens. Only a relatively small percentage of our customers are from western countries. Customers that have selected Portuguese as their main language of communication with BNU account for just four percent of our total customers. Almost all of the remaining customers have chosen Chinese, although

some selected English. With the development of Macau's gaming industry we have also significantly increased the number of our expat customers. We have a very close relationship with the tourism and gaming sectors in Macau. A large number of gaming and hospitality companies' staff are our customers, and this includes not only local citizens but some expatriate customers too.

MDT – In what way has the bank had to change its services and products to serve that expanded customer base?

PC – BNU has been deepening its marketing approach through segmentation. Although Macau is not a big city, we have been segmenting the market because we believe that not all of our customers want the same thing. They are different. So we have divided the market into five big groups of customers: retail customers; private banking for a more restricted number of clients; then in terms of corporate customers we have allocated three groups. The first is SMEs business, which has been the main driver of BNU's growth in the last few years. The second includes

larger companies in Macau like utility and construction companies. The third group is related to the gaming and hospitality industry. Then we can develop products and services specifically for these different segments.

MDT – Has there been an increase in the number of bank transfers, for instance to Portugal, given that the euro is now worth less?

PC – No. What we have noticed in terms of bank transfers is a very big increase in local bank transfers. This is because our bank exempts local transfers [from fees] if they are performed via our online banking system. So we are the most competitive bank in Macau in terms of local transfers done through the Internet. So in that area we have noticed a tremendous increase. Compared to the period prior to that exemption, I would say that bank transfers have almost doubled.

MDT – Regarding the relationship with CGD – Fidelidade, the Portuguese state-owned banking insurance company, has been acquired by Fuson, a Shanghai-based conglomerate. Are there any similar acquisitions planned?

PC – Fidelidade has been our insurance partner for many years and even after that sale it continues to be our only insurance partner. We value this partnership. We have a lot of projects together with Fidelidade to develop our banking insurance business here in Macau. It's a well-known fact that Portugal has been one of the most important destinations for Chinese investment. And it's known that in some

“We are the most competitive bank in Macau in terms of local transfers done through the Internet

PEDRO CARDOSO

[business] operations in Portugal, some of the main interested parties are Chinese companies. So this seems to be a trend that will continue in the future.

MDT – What are the bank's current plans to expand into China?

PC – BNU has just applied to banking authorities to establish a branch in Hengqin Island. We expect to be operational by the second half of 2016. Our main strategy is to follow our customer base. A significant number of our customers have investments in mainland China, and in particular in Guangdong province. We believe that the development of Hengqin will bring more investments from Macau residents into mainland China. So our strategy is mainly to follow our customer base, rather than to look for new customers in China.

MDT – What role has BNU been playing in Macau's position as a platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries?

PC – BNU already plays a very active role in that sense. Some years ago we established an international desk at BNU to further develop relations with our banking partners in those countries. And information is the key to success, so we have a specialized team to obtain information and investigate new investment opportunities for those countries in China or vice-versa. We have been referring good business opportunities to our banking partners in those countries and in China. We frequently materialize important transactions in this way.

MDT – Do you foresee more business transactions as Macau's role as a platform further develops?

PC – With the establishment of China's 'one belt one road' policy we have seen more and more cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, not only in Portugal but also in African countries, for instance. So we are feeling quite positive in terms of business potential in that area.

MDT – BNU has a strong partnership with MasterCard. Are there any other similar partnerships in the pipeline?

PC – We work with the main credit card associations, and we expect that very soon we will be launching a new product with one of them. It will be an innovative product. We will disclose further details on this matter before the end of this year.

Alexis Tam condemns violence towards elderly

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has condemned a recent case of violence against a physically handicapped elderly woman.

A video clip showing a woman violently slapping her handicapped mother while she sits quietly in her wheelchair surfaced on the Internet last weekend. The video has sparked outrage both here and in Hong Kong, where it was shared multiple times through social media.

Mr Tam announced that the government is now providing support to the affected family. He added that he has already instructed the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) to increase their supervision of carers while also further promoting their services within the community.

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of the AL Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs, Mr Tam said that he vehemently condemns the daughter's attitude, stressing that no matter the pressure a person is under, it does not justify hitting a



family member.

"I felt extremely sad when I saw the video clip. This should not happen. We have a lot of elderly people in our society. Usually each family has an elder at home that they need to look after, sometimes with a chronic disease. But that's not an excuse to hit an elder. This is our principle," he reiterated.

Mr Tam added that, "for us Chi-

nese, family should live peacefully and in harmony. But in this case it is believed that the daughter was under pressure and that's why she hit her mother. I can't seem to understand this."

On Sunday, IAS attributed the cause of the abuse to the tremendous stress the daughter was under as she was caring not only for her mother but also an intellectually disabled brother and her elderly father.

The Secretary acknowledged that, "we can do better given that we have a department providing support specifically to families."

Mr Tam said that the Social Welfare Bureau's department could do more and provide more services. In addition, he recalled that the bureau is still lacking in promotional initiatives, "as many citizens do not know that certain services and support mechanisms already exist."

Mr Tam yesterday confirmed that the case has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). The woman may be prosecuted for the crime of harming bodily integrity. **CP**

Inflation up 5.5 pct year-on-year

The Composite CPI for May 2015 has increased by 4.93 percent year-on-year to 105.39, up from the 4.51 pct growth in April 2015. According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the increase is attributable to higher rents for residential buildings and the rising cost of eating out. In comparison to May 2014, a notable increase has been observed in the price indexes of the following categories: Housing & Fuels (+9.93 pct); Health (+6.02 pct); Household Goods & Furnishings (+5.43 pct) and Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+5.16 pct) on account of rising rents, dearer charges for eating out and out-patient services, and higher wages for domestic helpers. Contrastingly, the price index of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (-2.07 pct) showed a marked decrease. The CPI-A (105.59) and CPI-B (103.74) increased by 5.42 percent and 3.89 pct respectively year-on-year. For the 12 months preceding May 2015, the average Composite CPI increased by 5.52 pct from the previous period.

Fewer tourists, more same-day visits



In the first five months of 2015, visitor arrivals totaled 12,508,218, down by 2.7 percent year-on-year, with same-day tourists rising by 1 percent to 6,967,731 (55.7 pct of the total). Visitors from mainland China (8,349,603) and Hong Kong (2,631,363) decreased

by 3.1 pct and 0.7 pct respectively year-on-year, while those from Taiwan (385,225) and the Republic of Korea (262,157) increased by 1.4 pct and 16 pct. Moreover, long-haul tourists from the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom recorded a year-on-year decrease. Regarding modes of transport, arrivals by land totaled 1,384,263, down by 2.4 pct year-on-year; visitors entering through the Border Gate accounted for 88.2 pct of the total, at 1,220,627, down by 4 pct, while those arriving via the Cotai Checkpoint rose by 13.4 pct to 161,294. Visitor arrivals by sea increased by 5.8 pct while arrivals by air also increased by 1.4 pct year-on-year to 172,976.

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Brook Yang

ART

WALKING in Macau's meandering alleys and backstreets, Patrick Conner often found himself surrounded by typical scenes that 19th Century British painter George Chinnery would stop and draw.

The London-based scholar and gallery director spent over a week filming in town as the presenter of a documentary that traces Chinnery's footsteps. He narrates at the historical A-Ma Temple and St. Paul Ruins, on the beach in Coloane and a fishing boat in the Inner Harbor, taking audience back in time to the different locations that appeared in Chinnery's watercolors and sketches.

"It's a great combination of wonderful locations and wonderful art," Mr Conner told the Times on the sidelines of shooting a scene at the Macau Museum of Art last Friday.

"Chinnery is a man who really lends himself to a film, because he had a very interesting life, he's a brilliant artist who everybody can appreciate. And Macau is a wonderful place for him to live, so it's almost surprising that a documentary film hasn't been made about him before," the scholar said, talking about the artist who lived for 27 years in Macau until his death in 1852, and who was

CAMPBELL MCLEAN



subsequently buried at the Old Protestant Cemetery.

Among many Western artists who visited the Orient, Chinnery was known as the only one to live in China up to that date. His paintings inspired a school of Cantonese export painters at the time, and he left Macau a legacy of documenting everyday life.

"What he's specialized in doing is painting portraits, landscapes and oils, but what people really remember are the

little drawings in pencil, pen and ink of everyday scenes of blacksmiths, fishermen, boat people, or vendors, porters, sharpeners: Chinese people doing their everyday activities," explained Mr Conner.

As Chinnery immersed himself in all kinds of daily rituals and conveyed his obsession on sketchbooks and canvases, the documentary team decided to include as many locations as possible to showcase "a more modern interpretation of what

Chinnery saw all the time."

"Of course some of the locations where Chinnery went no longer exist or they are unrecognizable, but the wonderful thing about Macau is the old historical center is so well preserved. You can still walk the way Chinnery walked and see some of the things that he saw," said the scholar.

The filming team has been getting up before sunrise to catch the "magical hour" when

It's almost surprising that a documentary film hasn't been made about him [Chinnery] before

PATRICK CONNER

the light creates watercolors in reality, as Chinnery was said to often draw up to ten to twelve sketches before breakfast.

Producer of the documentary, Campbell McLean, also explained that the film is not to put George Chinnery on a pedestal as an English artist, but to "highlight a Chinese way of life" through his artworks.

"These are beautiful depictions of a way of life and he was here to capture that, not just the urban landscape. Without him, we wouldn't have been able to see what it was like," he said.

Mr McLean, a New Zealand native living in Macau, sees a keen interest in exploring stories of Macau's culture and history and promoting them to a wider audience. The turbulent times Chinnery lived in caught his attention, as it was "a very critical time in Macau's history" throughout the first Opium War and the establishment of a British colony in Hong Kong.

"We saw an opportunity to tell a very important story about Macau. The city has a great history, and this is a story that has appealed to a global audience; it's a key story in relation to Macau's art history," he said, adding that the one-hour long documentary is expected to be released on TDM and CCTV-9 as well as British and US broadcasters by year-end.

ENTERTAINMENT

São João festival returns this weekend to St Lazarus

THE Portuguese "São João Festival" cultural celebration is returning this weekend to the St Lazarus neighborhood, organizers have stated in a press release.

On Saturday and Sunday, traditional delicacies and drinks will be available from various booths set up around the neighborhood's main street.



Grilled sardines are one of the festival's most popular dishes.

Organizers said that this year the fiesta will again feature traditional products from Fundão, a town in central Portugal, in particular their famous cherries, which have recently become popular for use in various recipes, from pastries to savory dishes.

The São João Festival is a Portuguese catholic celebration in honor of St. John the Baptist. It is widely celebrated in Porto, a city in the north of Portugal.

Local bands will also be performing during the two-day event.

The festivities in Macau are being jointly organized by five local groups,

namely the Macanese Association; House of Portugal (Casa de Portugal); the Pensioners' Association (APOMAC); the Association for Macanese Education; the International Institute of Macau; and the Portuguese School of Macau. The Macau Foundation and the Tourist Office are also sponsoring the event.

Organizers said last year that more and more Chinese people have been participating in the festivities. **CP**

AD



Recruitment

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YOUTH MEETING

Bringing a part of the city back home

OVERSEAS-BASED Macanese youth expressed their collective gratitude yesterday to the organizers of the third edition of the Macanese Community Youth Meeting on the last night of their trip to the city.

“I am sure that the representatives of Macau who are living overseas will bring a little part of the city back home with them. Macau will always stay in their hearts and I believe they will keep promoting the city in their own countries,” addressed Duarte Alves to members of the Macanese diaspora at the closing ceremony held at the Macau Tower.

Afterwards, representatives from the Casas de Macau (Houses of Macau) around the globe shared their feelings about the seven-day event, in which they were exposed to the cultural side of the city. During the weekend, they experienced the excitement of the city’s annual dragon boat races and attended a Por-



tuguese folk dance event.

However, the stormy weather over the past few days spoiled the group’s opportunity to row dragon boats on the Nam Van Lake on Monday.

Asked what impressed them most during their excursion to the mainland, Erin Ozorio from Toronto told the Times that she was struck by the significance of Chinese culture in the city.

“We basically visited lots of tourist sites, a couple of temples, general

post offices, we’ve got to know the city that way,” she said, “China was really good, we also went to quite a few museums to learn about the history and especially their ‘democracy.’ I’ve also tried a bunch of the traditional cuisines.”

Almost all of the representatives from the worldwide Macau houses present at the dinner last night told the audience that their trip to Macau helped them to identify their cultural roots. **Staff reporter**

Gov’t discloses info on 16 idle land parcels

THE government disclosed information yesterday on the 16 idle land plots that were excluded from the recovery list. With six parcels located in the peninsula and the rest in Taipa, Cotai and Coloane, these plots cover a size of nearly 370,000 square meters in total.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, told the media after a meeting with the Legislative Assembly’s Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs yesterday that the list of these 16 plots would be released by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) today, specifying the plot location, size, leaseholder and land premium but not the reasons why they were excluded from government’s retrieval.

Head of the Follow-up Committee, lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, revealed that the government eventually identified that the idle lots’ development delay or lack of utilization was not attributed to the leaseholders. The reasons are rather that “the government couldn’t provide the drawing of urban planning conditions [for the area], delay to reply to the leaseholder’s project proposal, or [the leaseholder] didn’t thoroughly implement administrative formalities for the building project,” he said.

Five of these parcels of land – covering a total of 162,948 square meters – were planned for hotel projects, including a plot to build a theme park in Cotai and an area to build movie facilities at Studio City. Seven plots were intended to build residential, commercial and office buildings respectively, including areas near the Macau Jockey Club. In addition, four plots were for industrial purposes, including a parcel for logistics in the Pac On area and one reserved for a yacht marina in Cotai. **BY**

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Elena Becatoros, Athens

GREECE'S economic reforms plan includes "harsh" measures the government would not have proposed had it had a choice, a spokesman said yesterday.

The country this week offered a series of measures, including multiple tax increases, to persuade its creditors to release bailout funds and keep the country from defaulting on its debts as soon as next week.

The creditors, which include other eurozone states and the International Monetary Fund, have demanded reforms that will ensure Greece's economy can become sustainable and will not slip back into the bad habits of overspending that led it into its financial crisis.

But Athens has argued they are needlessly harsh for the broader economy, which has suffered a depression and has shrunk by a quarter in the last five years.

After a series of meetings in Brussels Monday, European creditors said the new proposals offer a good basis to break a four-month deadlock and reach an agreement this week.

Ministers needed to make "one last push" to finalize the deal, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said yesterday. Eurozone finance ministers are due to meet again this evening ahead of a European leaders' summit that starts tomorrow.

Sapin said Greece had made new proposals. "These are tangible elements we can work with in an efficient way to reach an agreement," he said.

"Now we have to finish the work, verify the figures, verify the measures. We need one last push (Wednesday) night so that the heads of state can sign off on the agreement. That is the time frame that seems most reasonable and that we can achieve."

The IMF sounded less optimistic, with its head, Christine

Greece: We had no choice but to propose 'harsh' reforms



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras leaves after an EU summit in Brussels

European creditors said the new proposals offer a good basis to break a four-month deadlock

Lagarde, saying Monday night that the suggestions were "still short of everything that we expected."

Hopes that a deal was at hand boosted markets for a second

day. The Stoxx 50 index of European shares was up 1.3 percent, adding to the previous day's big gains of 4.1 percent. In Athens, the stock exchange was up 3.7 percent in early afternoon trading, after closing up 9 percent on Monday.

Helping sentiment was the news that the European Central Bank had increased the amount of emergency liquidity it allows Greek lenders to draw on. It is the fourth time in a week it does so, in an effort to help the banks withstand a rise in cash withdrawals from worried Greeks.

Depositors pulled an estimated 4 billion euros (USD4.5 billion) out of banks last week

ahead of the Brussels meetings.

Greece's proposal includes up to 8 billion euros worth of measures, including increases to consumer taxes, extra taxes on individual incomes of more than 50,000 euros per year and more taxes on companies.

"There is full comprehension that there are measures in the proposal that are harsh, and they are measures that under different circumstances, if it was up to us there was no way we would have taken," government spokesman Gabriel Sakellaris told private Greek television station Antenna.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' radical left Syriza party won January elections on promises of

repealing the harsh austerity measures successive governments have imposed in return for bailouts worth 240 billion euros since May 2010.

But with creditors withholding the final 7.2 billion in rescue loans and state coffers running dry in Greece, Tsipras has been forced to backtrack on many pledges in the hope of securing a deal that will prevent a default on Greece's debts and a messy exit from Europe's joint currency. Greece faces a 1.6 billion euro repayment to the IMF on June 30, which it cannot afford.

Sakellaris noted that the proposed measures seek to increase taxes on those with higher incomes rather than on low-income families, salaried employees and pensioners.

But Tsipras might face problems getting all of the government's lawmakers, which include members of a smaller nationalist party, to sign off on the deal when it is brought to parliament.

Despite possible losses from the governing coalition, the deal is likely to pass with votes in favor from opposition parties.

Still, significant dissent from within government ranks would be a blow to Tsipras and is likely to lead to early elections.

"Each person will assume their own responsibilities" during a vote, Sakellaris said.

"Clearly a government that doesn't have the confidence of its deputies can't stand up. But I don't think we'll get to this point," the spokesman said, adding that "the only choice in this case would be a recourse to the polls and to the Greek people." **AP**

corporate bits

WING LEI AWARDED "TOP RESTAURANT IN MACAU" AT HURUN PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS



Wynn Macau's Chinese restaurant Wing Lei has been awarded the "Top Restaurant in Macau" accolade at the recent 2015 Hurun Presidential Awards ceremony held in

Shanghai. Wing Lei was the only restaurant in Macau recognized in the category.

"The award is a tribute to the ongoing commitment made by Wynn Macau team mem-

bers to delivering exceptional dining experiences to our guests," said Ian Michael Coughlan, President of Wynn Macau. "It recognizes our service and quality excellence in the China market."

In addition to the most recent accolade, Wing Lei is also a Michelin-starred and Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star restaurant. Under the helm of Executive Chef Chan Tak Kwong, who has been with the restaurant since it first opened in 2006, Wing Lei upholds Cantonese cooking traditions, offering classic dishes prepared with fresh ingredients.

At the ceremony, Encore suites were also being awarded "Top Executive Suite in Macau", making Wynn Macau the only hotel in Macau receiving two Hurun Presidential awards.

MGM has endeavored to bring in international artistic spectacles and experiences to the city. According to the operator, the "Joana Vasconcelos at MGM Macau" art exhibition has received a "tremendous response" since opening in March, and the hotel has invited governmental departments, local associations and institutions for guided tours, to bring art closer for everyone's enjoyment.

The Social Welfare Bureau has supported the exhibition by sharing information with its affiliates and members, and arranging visits to the hotel for their members. Mr. long Kong lo, President of the Social Welfare Bureau, led a tour of over 30 members with the Macau Deaf Association for a guided art tour of MGM,

MGM WELCOMES SOCIAL WELFARE BUREAU AND DEAF ASSOCIATION WITH GUIDED ART TOUR



which included the Valkyrie Octopus, and other art pieces on display throughout the property.

MGM will continue to of-

fer art experiences for locals and tourists alike. The "Joana Vasconcelos at MGM Macau" art exhibition is open until October 31.

WorldFish develops East Timor fisheries sector



INTERNATIONAL organisation WorldFish will run a support program funded by Norway to develop the fisheries sector in East Timor, under an agreement signed with the Timorese Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Over the next two years WorldFish will run the first phase of a program costing an estimated USD1.2 million financed by Norway.

The program is considered by the Timorese government to be an "important step in the improvement of information on fisheries, exploration of the country's fishing

potential and the development of a fishing strategy for Timor-Leste."

Later on there will be additional investment in the project, which was signed by Henning Johansen of the Norwegian embassy and by Marcos da Cruz, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

WorldFish, headquartered in the state of Penang, Malaysia and established in 1975, works in Africa, Asia and the Pacific on more than 160 projects to combat poverty and hunger through fisheries and aquaculture. **MDT/Macauhub**

THE terms of loans granted to Angola by China have been improved, the Angolan Finance Ministry said in a statement adding that it had not requested a moratorium on repayments.

The ministry was referring to news published during the official five-day visit of the President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, to China, which ended on 13 June, during which he negotiated an increase in China's financial support to Angola.

The details of this agreement are still unknown and media reports said Angola had requested a two-year moratorium on debt repayments of financial support obtained after the end of civil war in 2002 from Chinese entities.

In a statement cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa, which is the first official information on the agreements with China, the Finance Ministry gave assurances that reports published in the press "are not true."

The statement said the Angolan ministers who were part of the entourage of José Eduardo dos Santos with their Chinese counterparts analysed "ways to expand fiscal capacity" and to proceed with the implementation of Angola's National Develop-



Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos presents a wreath to the Monument to the People's Heroes at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing, June 12

ANGOLA

China improves repayment terms

ment Plan, "without compromising the current debt portfolio given the current situation of low oil prices in the international market."

After discussions between dos Santos and the President

of China, Xi Jinping, China announced it would help Angola financially to "overcome difficulties" created by the collapse of oil prices and the resulting "reduction in government revenue." **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



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Xi to roll out made-in-China weaponry for WWII victory parade

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping will use a World War II victory parade to showcase new weapons systems, a Chinese general said, amid growing regional concern about the country's military reach.

The Tiananmen Square pageant on Sept. 3 marking the 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender will feature domestically made military hardware, Major General Qu Rui said yesterday at a briefing in Beijing. Much of the equipment will make its public debut at the event to be presided over by Xi, Qu said without elaborating.

The People's Liberation Army will use the parade to highlight a modernization push that the U.S. Defense Department said last month was producing an arsenal with "the potential to reduce core U.S. military technological advantages." The country's growing naval might in particular has helped spur the region's largest military buildup in decades around the disputed East China Sea and South China Sea.

China became the world's



Participants march during a grand parade in Beijing to mark the 60th anniversary of China

third-largest exporter of arms after the U.S. and Russia in the five-year period ending

last year, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

China has invited foreign troops to attend the parade, Qu said, without specifying

which nations would be represented. Observers say some foreign participants may face a difficult choice between offending Beijing by not taking part or taking part and appearing to endorse China's growing military. Last month, Xi joined Russian President Vladimir Putin for a similar military parade in Moscow's Red Square marking the defeat of Nazi Germany. Absent from the event were Western leaders including U.S. President Barack Obama.

China is promoting its participation in the war like never before, part of Xi's drive to stir patriotism and place China at the top table of international diplomacy.

Surviving Nationalist veterans will be invited to the commemorations, Qu said, adding that they had "played an important role" in the war.

China has declared Sept. 3 a national holiday amid party efforts to focus attention on Japan's wartime legacy. Japan signed a formal surrender on Sept. 2, 1945, which China celebrated the following day.

Bloomberg/AP

US to raise breach of government records at talks

Matthew Pennington, Washington

THE United States began annual security talks with China on Monday, and an official said it plans to raise directly the breach of a federal government server that resulted in the theft of personnel and security clearance records of millions of employees and contractors.

China has openly denied involvement in the break-in. Obama administration officials have said they are increasingly confident that China's government, not criminal hackers, were responsible.

U.S. and Chinese officials are discussing thorny issues including cybersecurity, maritime security, military relations, missile defense, nuclear policy and space security. The discussions, led by Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Chinese counterpart, Executive Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui, involve

both civilian and military officials.

It is a prelude to two days of Cabinet-level discussions on security and economy that started yesterday, billed as an opportunity to boost cooperation on global challenges like climate change and countering pandemics, while addressing their disagreements, also including China's island building in the disputed South China Sea.

A senior State Department official described Monday's talks at the department as candid. The official was not authorized to speak on the record in briefing reporters about the deliberations, which follow revelations about the massive breach of data at the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM. Information on as many as 14 million current and former U.S. federal employees and contractors, including military and intelligence personnel was stolen. The U.S. has publicly provided



Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui

no direct evidence proving China was responsible. "Certainly the issue will be addressed in pretty direct terms with the Chinese," the official said.

But the U.S. is still stopping short of publicly blaming the breach on China. State Department spokesman John Kirby said it remains under investigation by the FBI and there's been no official allegation on who was responsible. But investigators say the evidence points to the work of a government, not criminal hackers. **AP**

Beijing says snow is no problem for 2022 Winter Olympic bid

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

BEIJING is driving home assurances that providing plenty of good quality snow for the skiing events won't be a problem if it wins the right to host the 2022 Winter Olympics.

With a little more than a month left before the games are awarded, the bid committee yesterday assembled a panel of ski industry experts to talk up the conditions in the winter sports center at Chongli where cross country, freestyle and other skiing events would be held.

Beijing's competitor for the games, the Kazakh city of Almaty, has presented itself as the candidate that offers true winter conditions with plenty of natural snow. While China's bid relies heavily on man-made snow, veteran resort designer Wei Qinghua said the area's cold, dry winters are well suited to grooming and maintaining world-class slopes.

"There's absolutely no problem with the water supply for snow making," said Wei, who has worked on two of Chongli's biggest resorts, Genting and Wanlong, that would host Olympic events.

The deputy general manager of the Genting resort, Song Zhiyong, said Chongli's long skiing season and unique microclimate more than made up for a lack of heavy powder. Recent years have seen it attract members of the Japanese and South Korean national ski teams who used to travel all the way to Europe to train, Song said.

Man-made snow is now standard in competition to ensure firm, smooth slopes, although images of barren fields and hills surrounding the outdoor venues in China may lack appeal for broadcasters.

Beijing, which hosted the 2008 Olympics, is seeking to become the first city to host both summer and winter games. The IOC will select the host city on July 31 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Beijing had been considered the front runner, but that status was dented earlier this month during presentations to the IOC in which Almaty hammered home the message that it is a winter sports city with plenty of mountains and natural snow.

While Chongli gets up to 1 meter of snow each winter, Beijing's reliance on man-made snow is seen by some as a drawback. **AP**

Rodney Muhumuza, Kampala

THE last time men posing as immigration officials showed up at Wei Kun's shoe store in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, the Chinese trader forked out USD1,000 in bribes to prevent his business from being shuttered.

"I have many, many problems. It's very difficult to make money here," Kun said as he waited for customers inside his shoe store.

Yet Kun's perseverance in the face of such obstacles, including the rising hostility toward local merchants, is a measure of how profitable it is for Chinese merchants to run small businesses in Uganda — and the rest of Africa. Over the past 10 years, Chinese industrial giants have invested billions across Africa, and there has been an accompanying explosion of petty retailers opening small shops from Senegal in the west to Algeria in the north, Zimbabwe in the south and Uganda in the east.

China's direct investment in sub-Saharan Africa jumped from practically nothing in 2002 to \$18.2 billion in 2012. According to the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in Africa, there are about a million Chinese living in Africa, mostly engaged in commercial work.

Inexpensive Chinese goods have long been popular in Africa, and in the last decade Chinese merchants have started eliminating the middle man and setting up retail outlets of their own — much to local merchants' chagrin.

"The price undercutting will chase us out of the market," said Issa Sekitto, spokesman for the Kampala City Traders Association, which counts 400,000 formal members.

"Because the Chinese are importing directly from home, they can also afford to bring in junk," he said, accusing them of importing inferior goods — which the Chinese

Mainland retail spreads in Uganda amid local jealousy



A Chinese shoe-seller sits by his wares at a shoe shop in Kampala, Uganda

deny.

Local officials estimate there are thousands of these so-called briefcase investors in Uganda — a pejorative term playing off the government's desire to bring in major international money.

The Chinese merchants' inexpensive products — such as \$1 plastic, slip-on shoes — are finding a ready market in a city where most put affordability first.

Trader Leo Jian says he and his fellow merchants sell what the market wants.

"China has the best shoes but it also has the fake ones. But Uganda needs cheap, cheap things, and cheap things can also be seen as fake."

The traders are increasingly everywhere, in supermarkets,

furniture shops, photo studios, and massage parlors, but mostly in run-down shopping centers in which Ugandan and Chinese operate side by side. They are also starting to bring in their own people for the manual labor that used to employ Ugandans, Sekitto said.

Ugandan trader Arafat Jalai buys much of the stock for his suitcase shop from the Chinese — even as he competes with a Chinese-owned store across from his own.

"They should not be here trading. They should have factories. Otherwise they should be sent back home," he said.

Many other local merchants would like to see them deported or restricted to just large business ventures. In Zimbabwe, there was even a law in 2013 to reserve re-

tail outlets for locals but it hasn't stopped the spread of Chinese merchants there either.

In 2011, riots broke out in Kampala that largely targeted the city's foreign merchants — echoing the 1972 expulsion of the country's Indian middle class by dictator Idi Amin.

Frank Ssebowa of the Uganda Investment Authority maintains that there is room for both Chinese and Ugandan merchants. He dismisses complaints by some locals.

"If they didn't have what clients want, would the Chinese be in that business?" he said. "The Ugandans who are grumbling are lazy types. They don't want competition ... bitterness and envy will always be there."

Most of the Chinese merchants, like Kun and his shoe store, keep a low profile. They avoid involving police in any disputes with employees or rivals. Kun said that in the last four months since he set up his shoe store in one Kampala's many noisy, poorly-ventilated shopping centers, he has paid some \$8,000 in fees and bribes to keep his place open.

Chinese industrial giants have invested billions across Africa, and there has been an accompanying explosion of petty retailers

Ugandan immigration officials routinely deport groups of Chinese citizens found operating without valid work permits — which are often difficult to obtain.

Perspective traders must provide evidence of \$100,000 in planned investment, language skills and obtain the necessary trade licenses — or pay off the right people.

"To get anything done you need money," said Maya Fang, a Chinese woman who sells furniture in Kampala. **AP**

Report: Factory activity stabilizing but still weak

Kelvin Chan,
Business Writer, Hong Kong

CHINESE factory activity showed signs of stabilization but remained weak overall in June as it contracted for a fourth straight month, leaving the door open for further stimulus, according to a report yesterday.

The preliminary version of HSBC purchasing managers' index rose to a three-month high of 49.6 for the month from 49.2 in May. The monthly survey of factory purchasing managers is based on a 100-point scale with numbers above 50 indicating expansion.



Workers package keyboards at the Logitech International SA factory in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province

Manufacturing output held steady as new orders and purchasing activity in China's massive manufacturing sector, which employs tens of millions of workers, rose slightly

from the month before.

"On the other hand, manufacturers continued to cut their staff numbers, with the latest reduction the sharpest in over six years," said Annabel Fi-

dides, an economist at Markit, which conducted the survey. "This suggests that companies have relatively muted growth expectations as demand conditions both at home

and abroad remain relatively subdued."

The results indicate that momentum in China's factories is slowing in the current quarter, which Fiddes said "suggests that authorities in Beijing may step up efforts to stimulate growth and job creation" in the world's second-biggest economy for the second half of the year.

China's economic growth fell to 7 percent in the January-March period, the slowest quarterly pace since the end of the global financial crisis in 2009. Policymakers in Beijing have already launched several rounds of stimu-

lus, including cutting interest rates three times in six months and slashing bank reserve requirement ratios to free up money for lending, as they try to keep growth on track for an annual target of 7 percent.

Growth is slowing as China's communist leaders try to wean the economy off of overreliance on trade and industrial investment in favor of a more self-sustaining model based on domestic consumption.

HSBC's survey is based on 85 to 90 percent of responses from more than 420 factories. The final report is due July 1. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Major heat wave in Karachi kills over 400

Adil Jawad, Karachi

A scorching heat wave across southern Pakistan's city of Karachi has killed more than 400 people, authorities said yesterday, as morgues overflowed with the dead and overwhelmed hospitals struggled to aid those clinging to life.

Temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius began scorching the port city of Karachi over the weekend. Hours-long power outages, typical in Pakistan, also struck the city, leaving fans and air conditioners inoperable as the majority of people in this Muslim country abstain from food or water during the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

The power outages also affected the sporadic water supply in the city, where those who can afford it rely on tankers of water being delivered to their homes. Some men cooled themselves off yesterday under the pouring water of a broken water pipe.

Most of the dead are the elderly,



A Pakistani man sits beside the lifeless body of his relative who died from a heatstroke, at a morgue in Karachi

said Seemi Jamali, a spokeswoman for Karachi's Jinnah Hospital. Hundreds more are being treated for heat-related ailments, including fever and dehydration and stomach-related illnesses, she said. Mortuaries were running out of space, with local television stations showing bodies stacked inside of cold storage rooms of morgues.

Provincial Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah ordered schools and public offices closed yesterday until the heat wave ends.

Meteorologist Abdur Rauf called the heat wave the worst in at least a decade to strike Pakistan. He said expected monsoon rains in the coming days likely will bring relief to the area. AP

NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang sentences 2 S Koreans to life on spying charges

NORTH Korea's Supreme Court yesterday sentenced two South Koreans to life in prison with labor after finding them guilty of spying for Seoul.

Kim Kuk-gi and Choe Chung-gil were convicted of state subversion and, under North Korean law, their sentences are final and cannot be appealed.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said prosecutors had sought the death penalty. State media earlier said the two were detained last year for allegedly collecting confidential state information and attempting to spread a "bourgeois lifestyle and culture" in the North at the order of South Korea's spy agency and the U.S.

Analysts saw the sentences as retaliation against South Korea for the opening yesterday of a U.N. office in Seoul tasked with monitoring human rights in North Korea. The North has repeatedly called the office a grave provocation.

South Korea's Unification

Ministry expressed regret over the verdicts and urged North Korea to immediately release the men. South Korean officials have denied that the two men were involved in espionage.

Analysts say past detentions of South Koreans and Americans on spying charges were attempts by the impoverished North to wrest outside concessions. But yesterday's sentences may have been connected to the opening in Seoul of the U.N. office.

"North Korea thinks South Korea is applying pressure on Pyongyang with the U.N. office so it's responding by (sentencing) these South Korean nationals," said analyst Cheong Seong-chang at the private Sejong Institute think tank in South Korea.

South Korean officials said Monday that North Korea cited the new U.N. human rights office last week when it announced a decision to boycott next month's University Games in South Korea. AP

AD

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SOUTH KOREA

Samsung heir apologizes for MERS spread at company hospital

Youkyung Lee
Business Writer, Seoul

THE heir of the Samsung business empire bowed deep in apology yesterday as criticism mounted over a Samsung hospital's role in spreading Middle East respiratory syndrome in South Korea.

Lee Jae-yong, 47, apologized to MERS victims and patients in his first public speech since taking over the Samsung Foundation last month. He succeeded his ailing father in leading the charity foundation that owns the Samsung Medical Center.

Out of 175 MERS patients in South Korea, 85 were patients, relatives, staff or visitors at the Samsung hospital in Seoul. One of the MERS patients was a Samsung contract worker who was not quarantined

and continued to work at the hospital until confirmed to have the disease.

Samsung Medical Center, one of the largest hospitals in South Korea, draws patients from around the country. The hospital stopped receiving patients last week.

"Our Samsung Medical Center could not stop the infection and the spread of MERS, causing so much pain and worry for the public," Lee said in a rare public speech that was televised nationwide on his 47th birthday. "I bow my head to apologize."

The MERS outbreak has killed 27 people since May.

In an editorial last week, South Korea's largest daily newspaper Chosun Ilbo called for an investigation into possible ties between authorities and Samsung Medical Center, asking

why health officials did not step in early to oversee the hospital's response to the disease.

The spread of MERS through Samsung Medical Center is a major embarrassment for Lee who is expected to inherit South Korea's largest business group from his father.

Market watchers believe that Lee, vice chairman at Samsung Electronics Co. but not on the company's board, has yet to prove his ability to lead a conglomerate that does business in consumer electronics, shipbuilding, insurance, construction and amusement parks.

His father Lee Kun-hee, 73, chairman at Samsung Electronics Co., has been hospitalized at Samsung Medical Center since suffering a heart attack in May last year. **AP**



Lee Jae-yong, vice president of Samsung Electronics Co., bows in apology during a press conference at the company's headquarters in Seoul

Famous novelist admits to plagiarizing Japanese author

Kim Tong-hyung, Seoul

ONE of South Korea's most influential writers admitted yesterday to plagiarizing a well-known Japanese author in a short story she published almost a decade ago.

Shin Kyung-sook, 52, said in an interview with the Kyunghyang Shinmun newspaper that she will ask her publisher to remove the story "Legend" from future editions of a compilation of short stories published in 1996.

Shin won the 2011 Man Asian Literary Prize for her internationally-acclaimed novel "Please Look After Mom." The plagiarism accusations have shocked South Korea's literature scene, where she has been one of the few commercially proven authors in a country that increasingly reads fewer books.

A fellow South Korean novelist said last week that a passage in "Legend" was similar to the writing in "Patriotism," a 1961 short story by Japanese author Yukio Mishima. Others later agreed. Both passages describe the sexual awakening of a young couple.



South Korean novelist Shin Kyung-sook

Shin's publisher initially denied the allegations, saying that the author informed the company that she had never read "Patriotism."

In the interview with the newspaper, Shin maintained that she doesn't remember reading "Patriotism," but added that she no longer feels certain about her memory.

"After comparing the sentences from Yukio Mishima's Patriotism and Legend several

times, I now think that (my accusers) were right to raise the issue of plagiarism," she said.

"I offer a sincere apology to the literary figures who raised the issue, all the people around me and, most of all, to the many readers of my stories."

Shin said she would take time off for self-reflection, but stressed that she will continue to write stories. Shin didn't respond to calls by The Associated Press for comment. **AP**

JAPAN

Abe heckled at 70th anniversary of Battle of Okinawa

HECKLED by local residents, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe joined about 5,000 people including the U.S. ambassador in a memorial service marking the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, one of the bloodiest conflicts of World War II.

Resentment over the continuing presence of U.S. bases in Okinawa, a chain of islands at the southern tip of the Japanese archipelago, was evident during the ceremony held to remember more than 200,000 people, many of them civilians, who died in the fighting near the war's end.

As Abe approached the podium, voices from the crowd could be heard shouting, "What are you doing here?" and "Go home!"

The main island of Okinawa is home to about half of the 50,000 American troops in Japan. Residents have frequently complained about crime, noise and other issues related to the U.S. bases.

Okinawa's governor, Takeshi Onaga, a strong opponent of a plan to move

a U.S. Marine air station to another part of the main island, took the opportunity to reiterate his demand that the base be moved out of Okinawa.

In his remarks, Abe acknowledged Okinawa's sacrifices both as a battlefield and in the decades since.

"We hope to continue to do our best to lighten the burden of the U.S. military bases on the Okinawans," Abe said. But he indicated the government would go ahead with its plan to keep the base in Okinawa.

Those attending the memorial, including U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, observed a moment of silence at the Peace Memorial Park.

Even today, wartime remains and unexploded bombs are found underground and at construction sites, said Naeko Teruya, a representative of bereaved families.

"Seventy years since the war has ended, we still feel that the war hasn't truly ended," she said. "We continue to find the scars of war in Okinawa today." **AP**

SYRIA

Kurds take town, base near Islamic State stronghold

Bassem Mroue, Beirut

SYRIAN Kurdish fighters and their allies yesterday captured a town once held by the Islamic State group, inching closer to the main IS stronghold in Syria and the de facto capital of the militants' self-proclaimed caliphate.

The capture of the town of Ein Issa — hours after the Kurdish troops took the nearby Brigade 93 military base — further squeezes the IS extremists, especially after they lost a major supply line when the Kurds captured the town of Tal Abyad on the Turkish border last week.

The advance put the Kurdish guerrilla within about 50 kilometers of the Islamic State's stronghold of Raqqa. But even with the aid of U.S.-led airstrikes, battling even closer to Raqqa the could prove costly for the Kurds and allied Syrian rebel factions.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Kurdish activist Mustafa Bali said



Kurdish fighters of the YPG sit on their pickup in the town of Ein Eissa, north of Raqqa city

Kurdish fighters from the People's Protection Units, or YPG, captured the military base on Monday night.

Later yesterday, the Observatory

and YPG spokesman Redur Khalil said Kurdish fighters and their allies took over the nearby town of Ein Issa, the last major residential area north of Raqqa, which the Islamic State group considers the capital of its self-declared "caliphate" or Islamic state that spans across Syria and Iraq.

"Ein Issa and dozens of villages around it are under our control," Khalil said over the telephone. He said the next task is to enforce and protect these areas because they know that the IS will strike back.

The Observatory said the YPG and its allies are also trying to gain control of a highway linking the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest, with the northeastern city of Hassakeh.

It remained unclear whether the Kurds will try and push farther toward Raqqa. Also, despite the recent Kurdish gains, the Islamic State militants still have another supply line from Turkey, this one running through northwestern Syria to Raqqa. **AP**

RWANDA

General arrested in the UK on Spain's behalf

ARwandan military general was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport and will appear in court later this week, British police said yesterday, prompting an angry response from Rwandan leaders.

Police said the warrant for Emmanuel Karezi Karake, head of Rwanda's intelligence and security service, was made on behalf of authorities in Spain. Karake, a close ally of Rwandan President Paul Kagame, was one of 40 members of the Rwandan military indicted in 2008 on charges of terrorism and genocide by Spanish national Court Judge Fernando Andreu.

Spanish magistrates have used the principle of universal jurisdiction several times to go after current or former government leaders or terrorism suspects, even indicting Osama bin Laden over the

Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But extraditions and convictions have been rare.

On Twitter, Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo called the arrest "an outrage," adding "Western solidarity in demeaning Africans is unacceptable."

Police said Karake was arrested Saturday, had a brief hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court that day and will be back in court on Thursday. A spokesman for Spain's National Court said it was now up to British authorities to decide whether or not to extradite Karake. He spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with court policy.

Andreu began considering the Rwanda case in 2005 after a complaint was filed by an African human rights group. Others indicted include James Kabarebe, now the defense minister in Rwanda. **AP**

AD

SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC



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Protesters hold signs in front of the Confederate flag during a rally to take down the flag at the South Carolina Statehouse



A Confederate flag flies next to the Alabama Confederate Memorial

Seanna Adcox, Jeffrey Collins
and Meg Kinnard, Charleston

USA

Lawmakers' changing tone on flag follows 15 years of refusal

FOR 15 years, South Carolina lawmakers refused to consider removing the Confederate flag from Statehouse grounds, insisting renewing the debate would unnecessarily expose divisive wounds.

But opinions changed within five days of the massacre of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston, as a growing tide of Republicans joined the call to remove the battle flag from a Confederate monument in front of the Statehouse and put it in a museum.

On Monday, Gov. Nikki Haley did what a previous Republican governor found to be political suicide. She not only called for the flag's removal but pledged to call legislators back to Columbia if they don't deal with it in a special session in the next few weeks. Just hours before they return to work, a rally to bring the flag down will be held outside the Statehouse.

Haley's announcement came days after authorities charged Dylann Storm Roof, 21, with murder. The white man appeared in photos holding Confederate flags and burning or desecrating U.S. flags, and purportedly wrote of fomenting racial violence.

The Confederate battle flag represented the southern states that in 1861-65 tried to secede during the U.S. civil war, which erupted because northern states wanted to abolish slavery and southern states wanted to keep the practice. Since then, the flag has turned into a divisive symbol, repre-

senting racism to many, southern pride to others.

The flag was placed atop the Statehouse dome in the 1960s as an official protest of the civil rights movement. After mass protests, it was moved to the grounds in 2000, as part of a compromise between a group of black lawmakers and the Republicans who have controlled South Carolina for a quarter-century.

That deal has kept it flying high since the shooting, even as state and U.S. flags were lowered to honor the victims.

Haley has for years deflected questions about the flag. But she said Monday she was moved by the outpouring of love and forgiveness that followed the "true hate" of the crime. She noted her entire family attended Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal on Sunday, when the church reopened its doors.

"My children saw what true faith looks like. My children saw that true hate can never, never triumph over true love. My children saw the heart and soul of South Carolina start to mend," she said.

She stressed that, for many South Carolinians, the flag still represents noble traditions of heritage and duty, but for many others, it is a "deeply offensive symbol of a brutally

oppressive past."

"The hate-filled murderer who massacred our brothers and sisters in Charleston has a sick and twisted view of the flag. In no way does he reflect the people in our state who respect and, in many ways, revere it," she said.

The governor's declarations sparked action in other arenas as well Monday: Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn called for the Confederate emblem to be removed from the state flag, becoming the first top-tier Republican to do so.

In Tennessee, both Democrats and Republicans called for

The flag got appropriated by hate groups. We can't put it in a public place where it can give any oxygen to hate-filled people

JOSEPH P. RILEY JR.
CHARLESTON MAYOR

the removal of a bust of Confederate general and early Ku Klux Klan leader Nathan Bedford Forrest from an alcove outside the Senate's chambers.

And Wal-Mart announced Monday that it is removing any items from its store shelves and website that feature the Confederate flag.

Removing the flag in South Carolina won't be easy, despite the shifting sentiment.

Legislators were set to return to Columbia yesterday for what was supposed to be the end of a limited special session to approve a state budget. Just adding the flag to the agenda will take two-thirds approval by both chambers.

While those standing behind Haley included state and federal Republican officeholders, the top Republican leaders of the Legislature were absent.

But state Republican Chairman Matt Moore said the Republican legislative leaders he's talked with are committed to the flag coming down.

"I think both parties are united that it should be done. The legislative process will obviously be a challenge given the rules of both chambers, but with enough political will anything can be done," he said.

The last governor who called for the flag's removal, Republi-

can David Beasley, was hounded out of office in 1998 by the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The group's influence also doomed his front-running Senate campaign for the seat won by Republican Jim DeMint.

"Do not associate the cowardly actions of a racist to our Confederate Banner," the group's South Carolina commander, Leland Summers, said in a statement. "There is absolutely no link between The Charleston Massacre and The Confederate Memorial Banner. Don't try to create one."

The governor's announcement came as civil rights groups planned days of marches and protests against the Confederate flag that Roof embraced.

"The flag got appropriated by hate groups. We can't put it in a public place where it can give any oxygen to hate-filled people," said Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr., a Democrat.

The White House said President Barack Obama respects the state of South Carolina's authority to decide the issue, but believes the flag belongs in a museum. Obama knew Emanuel's slain senior pastor, state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, personally, and plans to deliver his eulogy in Charleston on Friday. **AP**

what's ON



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

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

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

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

Offbeat

60 PIZZA-MAKERS CREATE NEARLY MILE-LONG 'PIE' IN MILAN



The wait was on the long side for the pizza - 18 hours - but this was an extraordinary pie: 1.59545 kilometers, or nearly a mile long. More than 60 of Italy's best pizza-makers worked through the night to create the pizza at Milan's world fair, Expo 2015. Their toil was rewarded with a proclamation by Guinness World Records judge Saturday that it was the world's longest pizza. Expo organizers said the record-setting pie, made with 1.5 tons of mozzarella and 2 tons of tomato sauce, weighed some 5 tons in all. The creation topped the record of a 1.1415-kilometer-long pizza made in Spain. Fair-goers could eat slices of the Milan pizza for free. Slices of long, rectangular pizzas with various toppings are a popular street food in Italy.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	The Illusionist (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	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



1983 US ASTRONAUT SALLY RIDE RETURNS

America's first woman in space has returned safely to Earth in the Challenger space shuttle after a successful six-day flight. Sally Ride, aged 32, captured the media's attention over the weeks leading up to blast-off on 19 June as the public realized history was in the making.

Ms Ride, a former tennis champion, decided to become an astronaut in 1977 after she saw a Nasa advertisement in the campus newsletter while studying English and physics.

She was one of more than 1,000 women and almost 7,000 men to apply for just 35 places on the 1978 training program and it was there that she met her husband, fellow astronaut Steve Hawley.

Before blast-off last week, flight commander Robert Crippen said she had been chosen to fly purely on her skills and not for her gender. As flight engineer, Ms Ride's main tasks were to monitor the controls and make sure nothing went wrong on ascent and descent.

Up in space she also had to control a 50ft retractable arm - which she helped to design - to retrieve a satellite package of experiments. It was the first time a satellite had been grabbed from space and paves the way for repairing satellites in orbit.

"She is flying with us because she is the very best person for the job. There is no man I would rather have in her place," he said. This was also the first time the shuttle carried five crew members, instead of the usual three. Along with Sally Ride and Robert Crippen were Rick Hauck, John Fabian and Dr Norman Thagard.

Ms Ride is the third woman to travel into space. Today she received a telegram congratulating her achievement from the world's first female cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova.

America's first female in space would have received a much larger public welcome today had it not been for poor visibility that forced Challenger to change its point of arrival.

The crew of STS-7 were due to complete their mission at Cape Canaveral, in Florida. But cloud cover meant a change of plan and a landing at Edwards Air Force base in California, some 3,000 miles away.

Nasa had hoped for a Florida landing to reduce the expense and time taken to transport the shuttle back to Cape Canaveral for its next mission.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Two years later, tragedy struck when the Challenger space shuttle exploded on 28 January 1986, killing all on board including Christa McAuliffe, who was to be the first school-teacher in space.

Sally Ride is the only person to have worked on investigations into both the Challenger and Columbia shuttle disasters. She remained an astronaut until 1987, when she resigned from Nasa and took up an academic post at Stanford University. Two years later she moved to the University of California in San Diego to become professor of physics and director of the California Space Institute. She has written several children's books about space exploration.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 An accident this morning turns out to be more humorous than dangerous...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your endearing nature is making life extra sweet today - and not just for you!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Some days you run with the bulls, but on days like today you just have to sit down and pay the bills.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The small stuff is more important than ever - so make sure that you've got some time and attention for each individual cell in the spreadsheet...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You'd rather shut your door and get some thinking done than spend any time brainstorming or chattering with colleagues or family members.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your mental energy is perfect for today's work or play - everything makes sense the first time. Try not to shake things up too much for those who don't share your amazing talents, though.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your listening skills are legendary, and today gives you a golden opportunity to make the most of them. A close friend or colleague has a delicate issue that needs your attention, but not your intervention.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The big picture is not really part of your plan today - so make sure that you're able to focus on the small stuff. You can get quite a lot done as long as you're nose-deep in data!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You may have a harder time than usual dealing with bosses, teachers or other authority figures. Don't badger them, though - you should just do what you can to avoid confrontations.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can get more done than ever today - so get to work! It may not even feel like work as you cross off all sorts of tasks from your list, and your great energy keeps you smiling all day long.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 People are not fully forthcoming today - so make sure that you're paying close attention. You can rely on close friends and family members, as usual, but most others deserve some scrutiny.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your critical thinking is enhanced today - but it may be just a wee bit too much for some people. If someone seems fragile to you, try your best to save your most intense criticism for another day.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

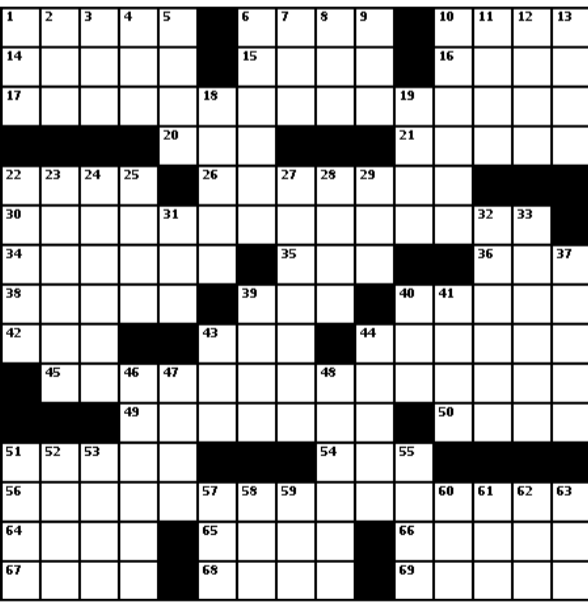
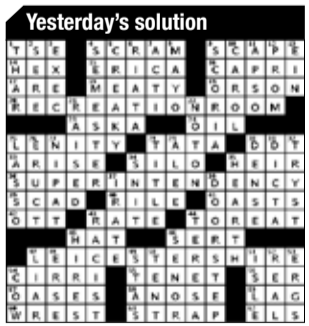
WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Steamed; 6- Fixes, as a fight; 10- Rudiments; 14- Belief involving sorcery; 15- Bhutan's continent; 16- Cad; 17- Describe fully; 20- Passbook abbr.; 21- Like some cereals; 22- Wyoming resource; 26- Pale gray-green; 30- Haphazard; 34- It had a part in the Bible; 35- Runner Sebastian; 36- Magician's prop; 38- Eyelashes; 39- Not 'neath; 40- Like most sumo wrestlers; 42- Citrus cooler; 43- ___X; 44- Fideles; 45- The "A" in MBA; 49- Sue in a court of law; 50- IRS IDs; 51- Mikhail's wife; 54- Aunt Polly's nephew; 56- Reserved; 64- Prophet; 65- Ascended, flower; 66- Japanese American; 67- French summers; 68- ___ Rabbit; 69- Arabian republic;

DOWN: 1- Summer Games org.; 2- Baseball stat; 3- ___ Lingus; 4- Tic-___ toe; 5- Israel's Barak; 6- Machine for scraping sugarcane; 7- Believer's suffix; 8- Actress Scala; 9- ___ Clemente; 10- Richards of "Jurassic Park"; 11- Fishing vessel, perhaps; 12- Precious; 13- In the public eye; 18- Birthplace of Muhammad; 19- Animated character; 22- About; 23- Iroquois tribe; 24- Confused; 25- Actress Verna; 27- Official permit; 28- Love god; 29- Casino cube; 31- Ocean; 32- Essay; 33- Singer Sheena; 37- Mall frequenters; 39- Trompe l'___; 40- Name of a feudal Japanese clan; 41- Wagers; 43- Econ. yardstick; 44- Passion; 46- Money-grubbers; 47- Shi'ite leader; 48- Shred; 51- Trick; 52- Work without ___; 53- ___ fixe; 55- Umpteen; 57- Regalia item; 58- Neither's partner; 59- Compass pt.; 60- Bind; 61- Doctrine; 62- Neckline shape; 63- German article;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications



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Allez Paris: French capital launches bid for 2024 Olympics

DECLARING they have learned from their past mistakes and failures, French officials launched a bid yesterday to bring the Olympics to Paris in 2024 — 100 years after the games were last held in the city.

Paris became the fourth city to enter the 2024 race and, with a bid team led by athletes and sports officials rather than politicians, believes it has found a winning formula after a string of stinging defeats.

“We’ve learned our lessons,” bid CEO Etienne Thobois said. “This time around, this is about winning.”

The Paris bid, which had been in the works for months, was formally announced at the headquarters of the French Olympic Committee in a ceremony attended by dozens of leading French athletes in a packed hall.

“We believe that this bid and our goal to host the 2024 Games will excite, unite and enthuse the people of Paris, our entire nation and lovers of Olympic and Paralympic sport all over the world,” said bid chairman Bernard Lapasset, surrounded by current and past Olympians shouting “Allez Paris!”

The French capital joins Boston,



Hamburg and Rome as declared bidders. The Budapest city council voted yesterday to support a bid, but the project still needs approval from the Hungarian government and parliament.

The deadline for submission of bids is Sept. 15. The International Olympic Committee will select the host city in 2017.

The French sports daily L’Equipe proclaimed on its front page: “Paris En Tete,” or Paris out in front. That was supported by British bookmaker William Hill, which listed Paris as the 5-4 favorite, ahead of Boston and Hamburg.

Paris was also considered the favo-

rite in the race for the 2012 Olympics, only to lose out to London in a close vote. Paris also failed in bids for the 1992 and 2008 Games.

French officials were criticized for their perceived arrogance in previous bids. This time, they have opted for a more cautious and sports-driven approach, leaving government officials in a supporting role and making sure all the political hurdles were cleared before going forward.

The new bid is led by Lapasset, head of the International Rugby Union, and Tony Estanguet, a three-time Olympic canoeing gold medalist and an IOC athlete member. **AP**

Norwegians release mockumentary assailing stereotypes

SEVERAL Norwegian players teamed with Norway’s national TV broadcaster NRK to produce a “mockumentary” addressing sexist stereotypes and critics who say the women’s game is no match to the men’s.

During the four-minute video, Scandinavian players — in mock seriousness — reveal to an “interviewer” how much they struggle at football.

Midfielder Emilie Have acknowledges how she sometimes forgets to use her feet and instead tends to pick up the ball.

Goalkeeper Ingrid Hjelmseth complains the goal is too large, and says it would be easier with two keepers or, better still, three.

“We suck, plain and simple,” veteran defender Trine Ronning says in the Norwegian-language film, which features English subtitles.

The Norwegians pretend to send FIFA suggestions on how to improve the women’s game. Their proposals include smaller pitches, lighter balls and having players throw the ball off free kicks.

They even produce a letter from FIFA President Sepp Blatter, who sums up his “response” to the proposals by writing: “HAHAHA these suggestions made my day. LOL.” Posted to YouTube on June 15, the video has attracted nearly 270,000 hits.

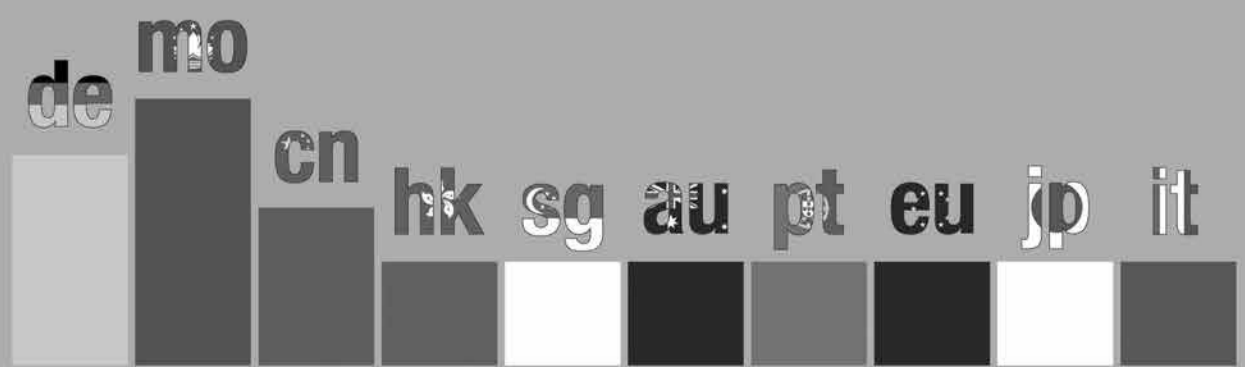
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10.88 Pages Per Visit

MacauDaily Times

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

opinion

Artifacts

Vanessa Moore



To 'Om' or Not to 'Om'?

Apart from being the longest day of the year, last Sunday was also special for another reason. It was the first ever UN international day of yoga. Promoted enthusiastically worldwide and supported by 177 countries, the day was the brainchild of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who viewed it as a demonstration of the country's cultural soft power.

While Modi's aim was to promote peace and harmony through the several-thousand year old practice, many were worried that it was a bid by Hindus to spread Hinduism. As a result, to placate Muslims, the "sun salutation" exercise was cut from Delhi's Sunday morning mass routine, together with the Hindu "Om" chant.

While it's true that yoga is rooted in Hinduism and carries religious associations in India, for most of the world the religious aspect plays a negligible role is what's often seen primarily as a form of physical exercise. Yoga as we know it today is only about 100 years old and was re-invented in the West, so much of what is taught nowadays is actually an evolution. From yoga centres in LA to gyms in London, most of the exercises are now an Americanised offshoot of the original.

The problem with yoga is that while it's often seen as a spiritual practice, it's not always necessarily the case. The business of yoga is also an intensely commercial one with a multibillion-dollar industry. On the other side of it, most western yoga clichés are pretty awful - hippies, chanting and creepy new age cults - and it's hard to navigate between the two. Despite its paradoxes, yoga can be beneficial to anybody, regardless of age or abilities. But unlike India's Muslim objectors, am I right in thinking that you don't have to embrace the spiritual side if you don't want to?

In a documentary I recently watched called "Enlighten up", filmmaker Kate Churchill tries to address precisely this question by finding a yoga novice and charting his progress over several months to see if the change is more than purely physical. Kate immerses guinea pig journalist Nick in yoga, and follows him around the world visiting gurus, celebrities and teachers. As Nick investigates yoga, the more contradictions he discovers, and in the end he ultimately strays from the plan.

Like Nick and most yoga students, when I started it was purely for the physical. Having been through two cycles of physiotherapy for my back and shoulder, it was actually my physio who recommended I try it. As someone who regularly goes to the gym, physical and mental fitness are pretty high up on my list, so yoga ticks both those boxes for me. And what I've found is while the chanting may not be for everyone, the sweating and the work out definitely are.

So is yoga always more than just a workout? Although it's seen as a path to realizing the higher self, there are definitely secondary benefits on the way that are more than purely physical in terms of mental and emotional wellbeing. Yoga is a catalyst for change and can be seen from its use in schools, prisons and other social settings to help alleviate suffering.

Yet most great yogis maintain that yoga is both a spiritual and a physical practice. Yoga goes far beyond the mat and is a way of life. But personally I think you can choose to take whichever side you want to from it. Like most sports or hobbies, for most people, we won't ever become experts, but we can choose to partake in varying degrees and to varying extents. For those so inclined though, there's definitely room to take it to a deeper level.

With yoga, like a good curry, what you get in India and what you get in the West are two totally different things. While you can enjoy your westernized chicken korma, if you choose, you also have the option of digging deeper and discovering what an authentic masala dhsa or a biriyani is. Taking yoga metaphorically, you can likewise choose how far to ride and when to get off.

As for me, unlike the guy in the film, eight years later I'm still doing yoga. While I now do the chanting and occasionally meditate, I haven't become a Hindu and I'm not about to join some new age cult anytime soon. Like anything in life, it's all about choices. And luckily we're all free to bend like pretzels and then perhaps a little more happily, go back to our day jobs after.

THE BUZZ FACEBOOK NOW WORTH MORE THAN WAL-MART

Facebook is now bigger than Wal-Mart, at least when it comes to its value on the stock market. The world's biggest online social network knocked the world's largest retailer out of the top 10 list of the highest-valued companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index on Monday and the gap widened yesterday.

Facebook Inc. was valued at USD242.7 billion

as of late morning trading, its share price up more than 2 percent at \$86.59. Wal-Mart Stores Inc., meanwhile, was valued at \$233.8 billion, its stock price down 21 cents at \$72.58. Facebook has been on a roll this past year, its shares up about 32 percent in the past year compared with just 8.2 percent for the S&P 500 index. Its quarterly results have consistently surpassed expectations.

SINGAPORE

Authorities send teenage blogger Amos Yee to mental institute

TEEENAGE blogger Amos Yee will be remanded for two weeks at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) for an assessment on his suitability for a mandatory treatment order (MTO), after it was found that he could have autism spectrum disorder, the Singapore-based Today newspaper reported.

According to the daily, Yee's lawyer Alfred Dodwell also submitted to the court an undertaking by the sixteen-year-old to privatize his offending postings on social media and not repost or circulate them.

Yee was convicted on two charges over an online video he posted that was critical of Christianity and the nation's late founding prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, after a two-day trial last month.

The teenager has been remanded in Changi Prison since June 2 for an assessment on whether he is suitable for reformatory training, after he rejected the option of probation, according to Today.

Yesterday the court heard



Amos Yee

that Yee was deemed physically and mentally suitable for reformatory training, but the newspaper stated that District Judge Jasvinder Kaur noted the report indicated a possibility of him suffering from autism spectrum disorder. She called for an assessment of his suitability for an MTO.

Under Singapore law, an MTO requires an offender suffering from psychiatric conditions to undergo treatment in lieu of imprisonment. According to the paper, neither the prosecution nor the defense objected to the district judge's call for an assessment of the teenager's suitability. Deputy Public Prosecutor Hay Hung Chun told the court that the prosecution had suggested in two previous occasions he be "assessed by the relevant experts".

Mr Dodwell, as quoted by Today, said later: "Amos did not object to being assessed, and so we did not challenge it in court."

Yesterday, the United Nations Human Rights Office for South-east Asia called on Singapore's government to review Yee's conviction, and asked that prosecutors drop their demand for reformatory training.

Among those in the fully packed courtroom yesterday were the blogger's parents and civil activist Teo Soh Lung.

His mother, Ms Mary Toh, donned a white T-shirt with a #FreeAmosYee message showing a picture of the teenager in a yellow banana submarine.

Speaking to the media after the brief hearing yesterday, his father, Mr Alphonsus Yee, noted that there was speculation online about Amos' mental health. But Mr Yee added that previous medical check-ups had not revealed that his son might have any disorder.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

S KOREA The heir of the Samsung business empire bows deeply in apology as criticism mounts over a Samsung hospital's role in spreading Middle East respiratory syndrome in South Korea. *More on p13*

AFGHANISTAN A new offensive against the Afghan government and people is being compounded by "an unprecedented convergence" of Taliban insurgents, more than 7,000 foreign fighters, and violent groups including the Islamic State, Afghanistan's U.N. ambassador says.

NEW ZEALAND All of New Zealand's international and domestic flights are temporarily grounded by the failure of a nationwide radar system.

AUSTRALIA Reports that an Australian terrorist, notorious for holding up the severed heads of Syrian victims, has been killed fighting in Iraq have raised the potential for his young family to be repatriated from the Middle East, Australia's foreign minister says. Australian intelligence agencies were attempting to verify the recent deaths of Australians Khaled Sharrouf and Mohamed Elomar in the Islamic State-held city of Mosul in Iraq, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said.

INDIA The Indian nun who replaced Mother Theresa as head of the Missionaries of Charity dies at age 81.



USA Items recovered from a remote hunting cabin have been sent to labs for DNA testing to determine if they are linked to a pair of convicted killers who escaped from a nearby prison more than two weeks ago, authorities said as searchers converged on a wooded area in the hamlet in far northern New York.

USA A plane registered to Oscar-winning "Titanic" composer James Horner has crashed in Southern California, but the identity of the one person who died has not been released. Jay Cooper, an attorney for Horner, said the plane was one of several owned by the 61-year-old composer, and that no one has heard from him since the crash.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Rouelle Umali



People gather around the new Chinatown Friendship Arch during its unveiling yesterday in Manila, the Philippines.