



LIVING CLOSE TO ST PAUL'S RUINS

It's been a long time since the people who live near St Paul's Ruins learned to deal with the flood of tourists

▲ P4 10 YEARS AFTER UNESCO LISTING



GUIA LIGHTHOUSE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

▲ P5



CONSUMER SATISFACTION HITS RECORD HIGH

An annual survey conducted by MUST indicates that local consumer satisfaction has hit a record high

▲ P7



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



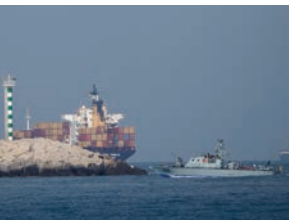
BELGIUM-CHINA China is already the No. 2 trading partner of the European Union, but EU leaders are using a summit in Brussels to call for even more trade and investment. Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang is visiting the EU to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of official ties with Beijing.

AFGHANISTAN An Afghan official says 11 soldiers were killed in an ambush by Taliban insurgents in a western province that borders Iran. *More on p13*

SYRIA Fewer than 100 Syrian rebels are currently being trained by the U.S. military to fight the Islamic State group — a tiny total for a sputtering program with a stated goal of producing 5,400 fighters a year.

ISRAEL A Palestinian held without charges by Israel for the past year is ending a 55-day hunger strike and in exchange will be released in two weeks, his wife and an advocacy group for prisoners say.

AP PHOTO



ISRAEL's navy intercepted a Swedish vessel attempting to breach a naval blockade of Gaza early yesterday and was redirecting it to an Israeli port, the military and the activists said. The military said that after exhausting all diplomatic efforts, the government ordered it to block the vessel. Israeli naval forces boarded the Marianne ship and searched it in international waters without needing to use any force, the military said.

More on backpage

Capacity of reclaimed areas increased to 162,000 people

▲ P3



Pensioners queue outside Greek banks amid withdrawal limits

▲ P8

ANALYSIS

Doctor-patient relationship has seen better days

Brook Yang

IN light of current social debates that were inflamed by a recent court conviction for medical malpractice, the monthly "Civic Roundtable" event led by scholar and civic group leader Agnes Lam has changed discussion around doctor-patient conflicts into demands for reform of the local medical system.

The event presented the perspectives of a doctor, patient, lawyer and lawmakers, where attention was drawn to the drafting of medical accident legislation, credibility of dispute



We haven't seen the government publicly take any measures to improve doctor-patient relationships

AGNES LAM

adjudication bodies, insurance for doctors, as well as society's lack of trust for medical professionals.

"We haven't seen the government publicly take any measures to improve doctor-patient relationships so far. Meanwhile, the debate on medical accident legislation is still on-

going, focusing on whether the appraisal committee should invite experts from other places to guarantee the appraisal to be fair and professional," Ms Lam told the media.

Lawyer Hong Weng Kuan added that the legal sector looks forward to the specialized new law being enacted so that

it can be used as a reference when medical disputes occur. Meanwhile, lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng, also a hospital nursing staff member, suggested that avoiding legal action through an effective conciliation center could minimize the hurt to both doctors and patients.

Chui Sai Peng indicated that Macau's current legal system has provided a certain amount of protection to medical accident victims, but citizens still lack confidence in it. He stressed that before the medical accident law is legislated, the solution to adjudicating medical incidents lies in increasing the credibility of the appeal and appraisal bodies.

As to whether problems can be solved after a law is put into place, or whether the solution requires medical system reform, Agnes Lam indicated that "in fact, there are many blanks in Macau's medical system to be filled, for example a mechanism to resolve doctor and patients' opposition."

Likewise, doctor Chu Jinge acknowledged that Macau's medical services staff lack overall experience due to the constraints of being in a smaller city. He suggested that the public need to manage their expectations where local doctors are no longer judged in the same way as they would in a high-level medical institution.

Nevertheless the legislation will not be able to solve all of the problems related to medical services as ethical questions still remain. Doctors cannot regard patients as consumers, as that goes against medical ethics. "A doctor-patient relationship is collaborative with their common enemy being the disease; they must trust each other, and the best solution is through good communication," suggested Chu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Under the current arrangements being a driver is pretty bleak financially'

Dear Editor

I refer to the article in last Wednesday's Macau Daily Times entitled "Candidates offer over MOP1 Million for Taxi Licenses". Some readers may be aware of the 33 page submission the Macau Taxi Passengers Association lodged on 23 September 2014 with the Macau Government's taxi industry public consultation process. The submission is publicly available on the MTPA's Facebook group "Macau Taxi Driver Shame". Sadly, neither the Macau Transport Bureau nor any other branch of the Macau government was polite enough to provide any form of response to our submission.

As part of the submission, we undertook a detailed analysis of the profitability of both owning a taxi and license rented out to drivers and of being a driver who ren-

ts such a taxi and license. I will not bore MDT readers with the exact numbers, which are detailed in our submission for those interested enough to look. But suffice to say that under the current arrangements being a driver is pretty bleak financially. If drivers strictly adhere to the law and never engage in the outrageous, and formerly commonplace, practice of fishing (which no longer needs defining) then a driver is looking at earning less than MOP10,000 a month for what is a pretty thankless task. And that's working 12 hours per day, 6 days per week! This is why Macau taxi drivers are so incentivized to go on fishing expeditions.

So what is the solution? Well, many things, but part of it is simple - only issue taxi licenses to legitimate bona fide taxi drivers who work a minimum of 48 hours per

week and allow the drivers to pay for their licenses in affordable monthly installments, say over five years. This way the taxi drivers can make a decent living wage without breaking the law and it removes the speculators from the industry. The speculators simply drive the cost of a license up and create a system that encourages fishing. Let them go buy some shares or property instead - their meddling in the taxi industry harms everyone in Macau!

Of course the system the MTPA proposes would need enforcement, monitoring and regulation to ensure only genuine drivers owned taxi licenses and of course there would have to be an exit-clause for unusual situations, but that doesn't mean that such a system shouldn't be implemented.

I commend the PSP and the govern-

ment for their strong enforcement of the taxi industry so far this year which has dramatically improved the situation - but the job is not yet done. Until we see the new legislation that has been promised for years but never materialized the return of the dastardly and evil practice of fishing hovers menacingly over the great city of Macau. Indeed, in recent weeks we have seen the incidence of fishing start to creep up a little.

We at the MTPA implore the government to finish the job they have started and properly clean up Macau's taxi industry once and for all.

Regards,
Andrew W Scott
President

Macau Taxi Passengers Association

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A sand supply shortage has held up the reclamation works for the region's new Zone A, which is unlikely to meet its mid-November deadline, confirmed the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário. This was revealed after an introductory meeting for the urban planning committee before the third and final public consultation on the urban planning of the five reclaimed zones that will commence today.

After three and a half years since its second consultation in 2011, the third stage of the urban planning blueprint unveiled results similar to its previous version, yet highlighting a new regional development concept. It focuses on co-development of the artificial island for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge, the zone A currently being reclaimed, the periphery of the reservoir, the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal and the Macau Peninsula's northern district lying in the vicinity of Zone A.

Becoming home to a new target of 162,000 local residents, the five areas are expected to offer a total of around 54,000 two-room residences, with 28,000 of those allocated to public housing and 4,000 private units in Zone A, 20,000 in zone C, D and E as well as 2,000 in Zone

Projected capacity of reclaimed areas rises to 162,000



B. It was expected that zone A, with 138 hectares of land, would host at least a population of 96,000. Li Canfeng, head of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, told the media that the abovementioned conceptual initiative for the city's east as a whole was to address the traffic network in that region, yet the planning specifics will only come later.

Lam Iek Chit, a member of the committee, thought that the information available in the consultation for the public was limited

and similar to past versions, saying that it might influence citizens' judgment. The authority also acknowledged the similarity of the scheme to its preceding blueprints, but cited bureaucratic procedures as the reason why it took around three years to reach the third stage. "The third one mainly focuses on the modification of Zone A, and some adjustment for Zone B's coastline according to the light rail transit. There are no major changes to other zones," said Li.

In addition, another commis-

sion member Mak Soi Kun questioned the feasibility of erecting another cross-sea passage, besides the one connecting the densely populated Zone A and Zone E, to alleviate the traffic pressure on the city's fourth passage to be built. However, two mainland urban planning experts told the media afterwards that comprehensive research conducted in 2010 for the city's entire transportation system in the coming decade saw no suggestion of a fifth passage, which can only be then introduced in the next research project. "Our planning has to be carried out based on proposition technicality. If it were done conversely, there

wouldn't be any proposition. In other words, [we have to] plan in conformity with the laws," said Zhu Rongyuan, from the China Academy of Urban Planning and Design.

The latest version of blueprint also revealed that two additional sewage treatment plants would respectively be introduced into the artificial island and zone E1, which would be far from the residential districts. Local citizens were advised to proceed to the government service centre in Areia Preta and Tap Seac's community center for detailed information on the latest urban planning blueprint before August 8. **Staff reporter**

PUBLIC CONSULTATION STARTS TODAY

THE THIRD phase of public consultation on the development of the five reclaimed land lots in new urban areas starts today. During the consultation, which will run until August 8, there will be community sessions, and information regarding the

details of the proposed development plans will be available in a government services center in Areia Preta and a community center in Tap Seac. The 40-day consultation is the final consultation period for the design of a total of 350 hectares of land.

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The St Paul's Ruins

HERITAGE | 10 YEARS AFTER UNESCO LISTING

Living close to St Paul's

IT'S been a long time since the people who live near St Paul's Ruins learned to deal with the flood of tourists. Residents adopt alternative routes and even accept the inflated prices in some of the shops close to the ruins.

Ms Chui is one of those people who avoids her own neighborhood during the day. "I like to go have a stroll in the area, but it's hard to do that with so many people around. The place is usually crowded, but we need to receive the tourists, because they are our customers. The residents prefer to go there when it's quieter," she says.

The pensioner has been living in D. Belchior Carneiro Street for the past 15 years. Her house is located behind the ruins, close to the place where dozens of buses park everyday, transporting the crowds that visit what's left of St Paul's College – considered the first Western university in East Asia – and the Mother of God Church, built in 1565.

Octogenarian Ms Chui says that she welcomes the visitors and doesn't resent the inconveniences that a large influx of people always brings: "It's very crowded here, but I like the people and it is very beautiful at night, more tranquil. I guess that the Macau residents always welcome visitors; it is not like in Hong Kong," she argues, adding that her quality of

life has improved over the past ten years.

Macau is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the induction of the city's historic center into the UNESCO's World Heritage list that happened on July 5, 2005. Some residents contacted by Lusa say that they are proud of the distinction, although they admit that it has brought about some issues. Mak is able to

Macau residents always welcome visitors; it is not like in Hong Kong

MS CHUI

cross the St Paul's Street as if there isn't anybody else on the sidewalk because he has learned almost instinctively how to walk around the tourists and not feel bothered by the crowds.

"It is difficult to cross the street, but I have gotten used to it. During public holidays there are a lot of people, but we know the less used streets," the 64 year-old former lifeguard ex-

plains.

Living at the core of the city's historical center for the past 30 years, Mak says that he is unable to elect only one favorite place, given that all the heritage sites "bring profit to the locals." Cultural tourism, together with the development of the gambling industry, has made life "increasingly better" for residents, he says.

But not all of his neighbors agree. Ms Wong, 48, isn't totally pleased with the changes she has witnessed over the past 10 years. "The change is drastic. The streets are packed and this brings problems affecting everyday life." Despite that, she admits that the tourists bring prosperity: "There is more income and the benefits surpass the obstacles."

A shop owner at D. Belchior Carneiro Street, Lam, 40, has spent almost all of his life in the neighborhood. He thinks that the "negative feelings" of the population have increased over the past ten years. "Prices have increased and the buses are crowded, the quality of life has dropped. The economical development was so fast that it is difficult for the people who earn less," he says. In spite of living close to the ruins, he says that he avoids the zone. "I don't go there, unless I'm hosting someone. In fact, there is nothing to see there, it's only rocks," he said. MDT/Lusa

UNESCO SAYS

'Positive things' resulted from world heritage listing



CARMO CORREIA/LUSA

A report on the measures taken to safeguard Macau's historic center is being evaluated by UNESCO, as positive things have resulted since the world heritage listing ten years ago, according to Feng Jing, the World Heritage Center director for the Asia-Pacific region.

"During these 10 years the heritage protection system has been enhanced. Authorities have strengthened the heritage protection laws and urban planning is better," Feng Jing told Lusa.

The director explained that the report was delivered in January by the local government and is being analyzed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). However, it will not be discussed during the 39th session of the World Heritage Center, which started on Sunday in Bonn, Germany, and will continue until July 8.

The report was presented after UNESCO advised the local government to present "a new plan" to safeguard the heritage sites, since the previous plan was deemed as "in-

sufficient to ensure efficient protection." UNESCO said at the time that two factors were affecting the heritage conservation, namely "the negative impacts of new constructions close to the heritage sites" and "an apparently inadequate management system."

Questioned by Lusa about eventual assurances given by the local authorities, a press adviser for UNESCO, Roni Amelan, said that the World Heritage Committee "asks for no assurances," since "the cooperation is based upon a compromise by the countries to preserve sites that they proposed to be enlisted in the World Heritage list."

UNESCO's World Heritage Center organizes the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau, provides advice to member states in preparation for site nominations, organizes international assistance from the World Heritage Fund upon request, and coordinates both the reporting on the condition of sites and the emergency action that is undertaken when a site is threatened. MDT/Lusa

ONE SHOT NEWS



Macau young athletes Lao Ka Cheng and Ng I Kei won silver metals in judo at the 49th International Children's Games in the 40 kg and 52 kg weight divisions respectively. The event was held in Alkmaar, the Netherlands. It drew more than 1,500 athletes between the ages of 12 and 15 worldwide, in which the Macau delegation also competed in track and field, swimming and tennis events.

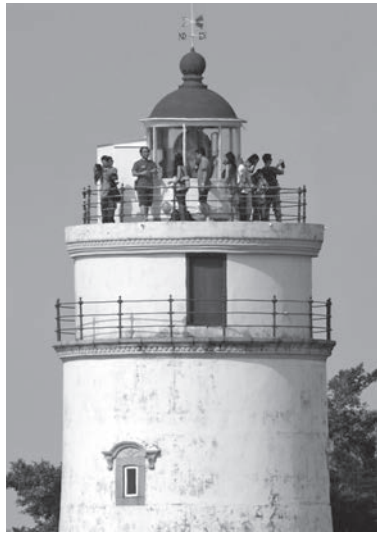
Guia Lighthouse marks 150th anniversary

Brook Yang

IT has been 150 years since the Guia Lighthouse was built in 1864 and began its operation the following year. Whilst silently witnessing the city's enormous changes from up on the Guia Hill, the lighthouse has also continued to function up until today, guiding the way for navigators and hoisting typhoon signals.

To celebrate its 150th anniversary, the Marine and Water Bureau, the Macau Post and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will launch a series of activities in July, including opening the lighthouse's interior to the public, offering free visits to marine facilities, and releasing a set of commemorative stamps.

Designed by Macau-born Portuguese artist Carlos Vicente da Rocha, the lighthouse is the oldest lighthouse on the South China coast and was once the landmark for ships entering the Pearl River before radars became popular. Today it still overlooks



The Guia Lighthouse

the city from the highest point on the Macau peninsula, and emits a rotating light that can be seen 16 nautical miles away.

In 2005, the Guia Lighthouse complex, including the Guia Fortress and the Chapel of Our Lady of Guia, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Historic Centre of Macau.

"The number of visitors have been growing; last year it re-

corded a total of 120,000 visits, which means it received roughly 10,000 visitors each month. That seems to be a huge number, but visitors can share the spaces on the fortress, the exhibition hall and the chapel; usually everyone still fits comfortably," explained the IC's cultural heritage civil engineer, Alex Chan, during a press conference yesterday.

Mr Chan revealed that the conservation process aims to integrate the entire environment and better manage the space to serve visitors. "Opening it to public visitors is precisely the way of heritage conservation; it's meaningless to keep an empty house sitting here," he stressed, adding that the bureau is also monitoring the Chapel's frescoes in order to pre-

vent them from deteriorating.

The Lighthouse's interior space - usually not open to the public - will also be open from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday as well as on future Saturdays and Sundays in July. "Every July day when it's open, it must be bustling and busy there, as citizens will be jumping for joy to see it," said the Marine and Water Bureau's representative, Ms Lao Weng U.

Ms Lao explained that the lighthouse won't be open on weekdays, as visits would disturb its personnel work routine. Furthermore, to mark the Marine and Water Bureau Day on July 18, the bureau will open some of its facilities and premises to visitors for free, including the Moorish Barracks, the Government Dockyard, the Maritime Museum, and the Fleet Base at Ilha Verde Dockyard.

Moreover, a set of two stamps will be issued by the Macao Post on July 8 for the Guia Lighthouse's anniversary, featuring the lighthouse from different angles with the fortress and chapel.

DSPA with new directors, 'insufficiencies' admitted



The government intends to spend around 200 million erecting a facility to screen construction waste following a deal inked with the Guangdong authorities over the disposal of rising local construction waste in Taishan City. The intention of the authorities came as the Environment Protection Bureau's (DSPA) new president and vice-president, Vai Hoi Ieong and Ip Kuong Lam, took post yesterday. Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, who officiated at the two officials' inauguration ceremonies, said that the works developed have been "insufficient" and the city continues to lack a sense of environmental protection.

TREE COLLAPSES AT GUIA HILL EXERCISE TRAIL

A 6-METER-tall tree beside the Guia Fitness Walk fell to the ground and hit a jogger on Saturday evening. The 42-year-old female runner sustained injuries to an eye and a foot and was sent to the hospital for treatment.

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Macau consumers' satisfaction hits record high

Brook Yang

MACAU consumers' satisfaction has hit a record high over the past nine years in regards to shopping and dining in the territory, according to an annual survey conducted by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST)'s Institute for Sustainable Development.

The Institute's director, Chan Lai Kow, told the Times that a trend has become more obvious in the past year that "middle-level retail shops, restaurants and cafés in the city tended to thrive and have more opportunities when targeting local youths and middle-class families; they are expected to continue improving customer satisfaction if they maintain a fair quality and service."

The institution's latest survey, which received 979 responses in May, suggested that local consumers' satisfaction towards shopping scored 72.7 on a scale of 100 and experienced the largest increase in nine years by 2.4 percent year-on-year. Residents' sa-



A vendor cooks food in bamboo steamer baskets at a stall in the Gongbei district of Zhuhai. Local consumers have never been more satisfied with spending in the neighboring city

tisfaction towards dining in local restaurants and hotels also saw a record upsurge of 5.7 percent, not only having recovered from the downturn in the previous year but also climbed above 70 (to 70.7) for the first time in nine years.

Meanwhile, Macau consumers have never been more satisfied with spending in the neighboring city of Zhuhai. Their satisfaction towards shopping in Zhuhai hit a record high score of 68.7 with a record rise of 6.7 percent; of that, satisfaction towards dining in

Zhuhai also rose by 3.2 percent to 67.1 – the second highest score since the study launched.

Professor Chan explained that the report looks into local consumers' satisfaction towards "quality, service and value for money" when they purchase clothing and footwear as well as when dining in Macau and compares those experiences with similar ones in Zhuhai.

He indicated that although Macau is still in the lead in local consumers' satisfaction indexes, its advantage over Zhuhai in shopping has continued to narrow over the past three years. Since the scoring difference in shopping reached the largest gap of 9.1 points in 2012, it has dropped to 4 points in this year's survey. Nevertheless, the scoring difference in dining has widened to 3.6 points, representing Macau's leading position in nine years.

"Along with the mainland's economic growth slowdown, inflation has also slowed down and been maintained as low as below 2 percent; in addition, the appreciation

of the RMB has stabilized, where Macau consumers feel that they are receiving more value for money," explained MUST associate professor Li Yan Chen.

"Zhuhai's retail sector has also advanced by opening several large shopping malls and introducing some global clothing brands that target the general public ahead of Macau," he added. The scholar suggested that for Macau to keep its lead position over its competitor it needs to continue introducing good-quality, affordable retail brands and differentiate itself by choosing different goods and brands than those available in the mainland.

As for the food and beverage sector in Macau, professor Chan Lai Kow stressed that many of Macau's merchants are middle-and-small-sized businesses, who are characterized by a tradition of friendliness. He suggested that such a good tradition must be passed on, whilst the sector considers how to improve customers' satisfaction with stable food quality and prices.

Unemployment rate slightly up for March-May

Macau's unemployment rate for March-May 2015 went up to 1.8 percent, a slight increase of 0.1 percentage point from February-April 2015, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Meanwhile, the underemployment rate remained stable at 0.3 percent. The total labor force was recorded as 405,700 and the labor force participation rate stood at 74 percent. Total employment decreased by 500 to 398,500 from February-April 2015. Analyzed by industry, employment in real estate and business activities saw a decrease. In the same period, the number of unemployed rose by 500 to 7,200, amongst which, fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job accounted for 5.9 percent, up by 0.2 percentage points. In comparison with March-May 2014, the labor force participation rate and the unemployment rate increased by 0.7 and 0.1 percentage points respectively, while the underemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage point.

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Greece imposes capital controls as risk of euro exit climbs



Elderly people, who usually get their pensions at the end of the month, wait outside a closed bank in Athens

Christos Ziotis, Paul Tugwell and Nikos Chrysoloras

GREECE shut its banks and imposed capital controls in an announcement designed to avert the collapse of its financial system, heightening the risk it will be forced out of the euro. European stocks and Greek bonds tumbled.

The measures, which were announced in the dead of night, limit daily cash withdrawals to 60 euros (USD66) and ban payments and transfers abroad. The stock market and banks will be closed at least until July 6, the day after Greeks will vote in a referendum on proposals needed to restore bailout aid.

"If you were to put a gun to my head and say 'give me a probability right now that Greece is in the euro zone in the next

few weeks,' I would tell you it's 15 percent," Mohamed El-Erian, chief economic adviser at Allianz SE, said in a Bloomberg TV interview. "There's an 85 percent probability it will be forced to leave the euro zone, not because it wants to do so but because it simply is no longer able to stay."

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who promised to return "dignity" to the people and reject additional budget cuts imposed by creditors, appealed for "calm" after weekend-long queues at ATMs and gas stations. The Euro Stoxx 50 Index fell 4.5 percent and Greek 10-year notes plunge by the most since at least 1998, driving the yield to 14.6 percent, the highest since December 2012. German bunds rallied the most since 2011, sending the 10-year yield to 0.77

percent.

The bank controls followed a weekend of turmoil that started with Tsipras's shock announcement late Friday of a July 5 referendum on austerity measures demanded by the country's creditors. People rushed to line up at ATMs and gas stations after the breakdown of aid talks late Friday and a European Central Bank decision to freeze its lifeline to Greek banks. Greece is the second euro-area country, after Cyprus in 2013, to impose capital controls.

"In the coming days, what's needed is patience and composure," Tsipras said on television. "The bank deposits of the Greek people are fully secure. The same applies to the payment of wages and pensions - they are also guaranteed." **Bloomberg**

Asian stocks fall as Greece fears spur flight to safer assets

Adam Haigh

ASIAN stocks tumbled as investors sought shelter in haven assets while they weighed a possible Greek exit from the euro zone. Shares in Shanghai sank even after the central bank cut interest rates.

Japan's Topix index dropped 2.5 percent as the yen jumped 0.8 percent against the dollar and 1.6 percent versus the euro. The MSCI Asia Pacific Index lost 2.1 percent to 144.77 as of 4:01 p.m. in Hong Kong, as more than 16 shares fell for each that rose. The Shanghai Composite Index slumped 3.3 percent, having swung from losses as great as 7.6 percent and a 2.5 percent gain.

"The key thing is that this is untested and people are selling on that uncertainty," Chad Padowitz, Melbourne-based chief investment officer at Wingate Asset Management Ltd., said by phone. "Markets have been accustomed to the can being kicked down the road indefinitely and this may be that the

buck stops here. It's a very fluid situation and it's never really been tested in this way before."

Losses across Asia were broad-based yesterday, with all 10 industry groups on the regional measure retreating. Financial and technology shares led declines. Tencent Holdings Ltd., Toyota Motor Corp. and Commonwealth Bank of Australia were among the biggest drags on the gauge.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 Index dropped 2.2 percent. Slater & Gordon Ltd. tumbled a record 25 percent after the world's first publicly-listed law firm said it identified an historical error in its U.K. reporting.

The Hang Seng Index slid 2.6 percent, its biggest loss since February 2014. New Zealand's NZX 50 Index fell 0.9 percent. South Korea's Kospi index retreated 1.4 percent, while Singapore's Straits Times Index lost 1.3 percent and India's S&P BSE Sensex Index dropped 1.4 percent. Taiwan's Taiex Index declined 2.4 percent. **Bloomberg**



A man walks near an electronic board showing the Hong Kong share index outside a local bank in Hong Kong

corporate bits

GEG HOLDS 'STARS OF THE YEAR' AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY



Galaxy Entertainment Group ("GEG") held its annual "Stars of the Year" award presentation ceremony at of Banyan Tree Macau last Wednesday to recognize 17 team members with outstanding performance and contributions to the company.

GEG Chief Operating Officer Mr. Michael Mecca, Group Director of Human Resources & Administration Ms. Eileen Lui and senior executives attended the ceremony and witnessed the 17 candidates crowned as "Stars

of the Year." GEG Vice Chairman Mr. Francis Lui, via a video broadcast, also congratulated the winners for their commitment and support to the success of the opening of Galaxy Macau Phase 2 and the Broadway Macau in May this year.

The winners were Sam Cheong, Yen Kuok, Sun Cheong, Kai Chan, Yuki Ao, Jason Wong, Candy leong Wong, Ying Gong, Honson Che, Cheng Wong, Bobby Mago, Biao Cai, Cleo Chen, Isaac Leong, Mia Leong, May Lam and Lai Hoi.

CHI LAM CRAZY HOURS LIVE IN MACAU

The Venetian Macao presents Chi Lam Crazy Hours Live in Macao which will be held at Cotai Arena on July 4.

Cantopop star Chilam Cheung made his debut in 1991 and became an overnight sensation with his collaboration with Maple Hui "A Modern Love Story." He became a screen idol in 2000 when he portrayed Man Cho in TV drama "Return of the Cuckoo." His popu-

larity increased when he sang the theme song of the show "Wishing Kwan Well."

As part of the show Cheung will take on the persona of "Captain Cool", his character from the TV show "Triumph in the Skies." He will also perform some of his biggest hits, including "Love is Dead," "Ten Fingers Interlocked" and "You're Good but I Never Cherish."



CONRAD MACAO LAUNCHES BEAR PHOTO COMPETITION



This summer, Conrad Macao, Cotai Central is inviting Facebook fans to win a luxury getaway just by uploading a photo of a Conrad bear at a famous landmark to their Facebook timeline between 25 July and 27 August. All photos must have the hashtag #TravelBear and also tag Conrad Macao Cotai Central's Facebook Page. The best photo will win a two-night stay in the Presidential Suite including breakfast.

"We know our hotel guests are world travellers so why not our Conrad bears, hence we are encouraging our guests and Facebook fans to take their bears on summer vacation with them. Just take a photo of the bear against an iconic famous backdrop from anywhere around the world and upload it to their Facebook timeline. The best photo will win a luxury stay here at Conrad Macao," said general manager, Bede Barry.

Mozambique to launch wave of privatizations

MORE than 50 percent of companies in which the Mozambican state has a stake are not considered strategic and may be privatized. The president of the state stake-holding company, Igepe Apolinário Panguene told Macauhub in Maputo that as they are not included in the government's "five-year and annual plans" or because the state's stake is "very small," more than half of the portfolio of 117 shareholdings that Igepe currently manages is being assessed as part of "a comprehensive strategy for a privatization process."

Although the sale of some companies has already started, Panguene said Igepe had faced "some difficulties related to the legislation itself," especially in cases where the State has a minority stake and partners "have preferential rights," which causes delays.

An alternative to the sale of private state interests is the sale of public shares to company managers, technicians and workers, known as



Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi (2nd L) reviews the guard of honor during the celebration for the 40th anniversary of the country's independence in the capital Maputo, June 25

the GTT group, and the Igepe 2013 annual report and accounts flagged 15 companies for this process.

The Mozambican subsidiary of construction company Soares da Costa, which recently changed its headquarters from Lisbon to Luanda, and in which the Mozambican state holds a 20 percent stake, is one of the companies referenced in this process.

Asked to comment on the apparent crisis situation the construc-

tion company is facing the President of Igepe admitted that the situation was worrying, but stressed that "what is happening out there is not what occurs in Mozambique", where the company "continues to have work and even posted profits in 2014."

This is why, he added, the process of selling stakes to the company's GTT group is still in place, and they may reject that option, which will mean the stake will be given back to the Mozambican state.

Panguene admitted that Mozambique Cellular (mCel), Mozambique Airlines (LAM), Telecomunicações de Moçambique (TDM) and Transmarítima, which are the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, were having difficulty "adapting" to the new dynamics the Mozambican market.

Giving the example of mCel, the first mobile operator in the country, the President of Igepe said the state can free itself of its 26 percent stake in the company, "although

no decision has been made," since the market situation is different nowadays, with three operators.

In terms of Mozambican airline LAM, which dominates the domestic market, and in a sector in which three new companies may start operating, Panguene stressed that the company would have to "adjust to the market and try to compete with the same weapons that others have" expecting, moreover, "a better service, more efficiency and at lower cost."

Regarding Igepe's 2014 annual report and accounts, due to be presented soon, Panguene said it would "show profits," as it did in 2013, when the institute had revenues of 68.2 million meticais, but which was a downturn of 33 percent over the previous year.

This, he explained, was due to the companies' investment policies, as was the case with Coca-Cola Sabco, Cervejas de Moçambique and Mozal that are seeking "to consolidate their position in the market."

As for new business areas, Igepe has "sought to identify partners with financial and technological capabilities," and the aim is to boost sectors such as gas and coal exploration, with ventures that "add value," for example, "energy production or derivatives such as methanol and fertilizers." **MDT/Macauhub**

Brazil and China create cooperation fund

Brazil and China decided to create the Brazil/China Cooperation Fund for Expansion of Production Capacity with a budget of USD20 billion, according to an official announcement made last Friday, 26 June 26, in Brasilia. The general secretary for Political Affairs of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, José Alfredo Graça Lima, said after the meeting of the Sino-Brazilian High-level Commission for Coordination and Cooperation (Cosban), that China would provide US\$15 billion and Brazil the remaining US\$5 billion.

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One driver explains how he's helping rip off Uber



The Uber app in Beijing

JAMES Li was unhappy with his pay as a security guard in Shanghai, so he started driving on weekends for Uber Technologies Inc. He's almost tripled his pay - in part by scamming the company.

Li, an alias since he feared retribution if his real name was made public, is taking advantage of Uber's efforts to break into the China market. The U.S. car-booking company is spending millions on free rides and driver bonuses, betting the cash will help train China drivers and market Uber services to customers.

Instead, people like Li have figured out how to cash in on Uber's largesse without giving anyone a ride. He's part of a cottage industry that has developed so drivers can use modified smartphones and software to place fake bookings and trick Uber into paying out cash for phantom trips.

While there are no reliable estimates on how prevalent the scams are, interviews with Uber drivers, equipment vendors and reviews of postings on dedicated online forums suggest at least some of the USD1 billion that Uber has pledged to spend to expand the service in China this year is being siphoned off by fake

bookings. The scams may be counted among the number of trips Uber claims in China, a figure the company said reached almost 1 million per day in a letter this month to shareholders.

Drivers use modified smartphones and software to place fake bookings and trick Uber into paying out cash for phantom trips

"That number is definitely exaggerated," Zhang Xu, an analyst at researcher Analysys International, said of Uber's trip bookings. "It is well known that Uber has the problem of false bookings."

Uber has to balance between giving out incentives to build its pool of drivers and clamping down on fraud, as it chases market leader Didi Kuaidi. The company backed by

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. dominates China's car-hailing market with 78 percent of ride bookings, versus about 11 percent for Uber, according to Analysys.

Chief Executive Officer Travis Kalanick, who is in China to lead fundraising for its operations, said in the investor letter that the country may surpass the U.S. as its biggest market before the end of this year.

Fraud accounts for less than 10 percent of bookings in China, Uber said, "much lower" than competitors and similar to other markets in the initial phase of service. Uber expects to manage fraud down to "sustainable levels below 0.5 percent in short order," according to an e-mail response from the company.

Didi Kuaidi said it has "almost no false bookings" because it has a strong anti-fraud task force and "very powerful anti-scamming system," and also because its driver incentives are much lower than other companies. Yongche.com, another ride-sharing company, didn't respond to an e-mailed request for comment.

To create a fake trip, an Uber driver has essentially two op-

tions, according to drivers interviewed by Bloomberg, who asked not to be named discussing information that may get them barred by the company.

The first is a do-it-yourself option where the driver buys a hacked smartphone that can operate with multiple phone numbers and therefore multiple Uber accounts. Drivers use one number to act as a rider and request a lift, and then accept the trip as a driver with another phone number.

A driver like Li, for example, may know that he has a legitimate fare waiting for him at the airport, but he doesn't want to make the trip there without getting paid. He could then request a trip as a rider, let the booking show up on Uber's GPS tracking software as his car heads to the airport and then get paid by Uber for taking a "customer" on the route.

The second option involves working with other scammers over the Internet. If a driver doesn't have a hacked phone, he can go into one of several invitation-only online forums and request a fake fare from professional ride-bookers. These bookers are referred to as "nurses" because they use specially tailored software to put an "injection," or location

-specific ride request near the driver.

The driver, or "patient," then makes the trip while the booker monitors remotely, confirms the journey was made and then pays Uber when the trip is complete. The nurse gets a small fee, usually about \$1.60, and the reimbursement for the fare from the patient. The driver in turn collects the fare and a driver bonus that can be three times the fare from Uber, which thinks it's building brand awareness by giving away free rides.

The drivers interviewed by Bloomberg spoke of a cat-and-mouse game with Uber and the fear of being caught. A recent software upgrade has made it more difficult to successfully game the system, they said.

"Uber takes fraud very seriously, and deactivates drivers/users permanently once caught," Huang Xue, Uber's Beijing-based spokeswoman, said in an e-mail. The company has multiple tools to detect fraudulent behavior and a dedicated team to monitor and enhance the system, she said.

A search using the keyword "Uber" on Taobao, the online marketplace operated by Alibaba, returned offerings of smartphones that are modified so bookers can pretend to be a new user each time they place an order.

For 2,500 yuan, one can buy a modified iPhone 5C on Taobao that will show unique 15-digit identity numbers to trick Uber's software into thinking they are different phones, and hence, different users. Ready-made Uber driver and rider accounts are also for sale, according to advertisements on Taobao.

"We are aware of the potential risks of Uber accounts sold by third parties on our platform, and we review our product listings on a regular basis to remove any such items," according to an e-mailed response from Taobao. "We are also aware of product listings for modified smartphones and are evaluating whether to include such products in our list of prohibited items."

For Li, the part-timer driver, the risks of getting caught are beginning to outweigh the rewards. He earned 8,000 yuan from Uber last month, compared with the 3,000 yuan salary for his full-time job. In the past month, he said he was aware of dozens of drivers who were found to have falsified trips and barred from driving for Uber.

"It is getting harder and harder to get safe shots nowadays," Li said, using the euphemism for fake bookings. "Back in the day, it was much easier because the detection measures were not as sophisticated." **Bloomberg**

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN

Cigarettes or spark suspected in fire that burned 500

INVESTIGATORS in Taiwan were focusing yesterday on the possibility that a cigarette butt or spark caused the blaze that burned more than 500 people at a weekend water park party when colored powder sprayed from the stage caught fire.

More than 400 people remained hospitalized, 200 in serious condition, city officials said. Taiwan's Central News Agency reported one death: a 20-year-old with burns to 90 percent of her body who was taken off life support with her family's consent.

Police recommended criminal charges against the organizer of Saturday's party, as well as two technicians, at the Formosa Fun Coast theme park in suburban Taipei.

"It's still not clear what happened, but there were a number of people smoking and the weather was warm," New Taipei City news department head Lin Chieh-yu said. Temperatures around greater Taipei topped 36 degrees Celsius before the party.

The three tons of colored starch-based powder bought by the organizers from Tai Won, a seller in the island's southern county of Yunlin, were flammable, said Chou Hui-fang, a representative of the seller. She said the buyer was informed about the risk of fire.

"Whether it's corn starch or flour starch, this kind of stuff, no matter how long it's been around, if it's in dense quantities and if it's hot, it can catch fire," Chou said. She said her 4-year-old company has been questioned by police and health officials but was not considered at fault.

"We didn't know what the buyers were going to do with it or how much they would use,"



Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, center, speaks to a victim injured in an accidental explosion during a music concert, as he visits a local hospital in New Taipei City

she said. "It might have been supplies for a whole year."

Taiwan Premier Mao Chi-kuo on Sunday banned use of the powder at future private events. Colored powder is often thrown on revelers during the annual Holi celebrations in India and Nepal, a Hindu festival. The powder at Saturday's party was made in Taiwan, Chou said.

The water park was ordered to close after the fire.

Taiwan police recommended charges of professional neglect and public endangerment for party organizer Lu Chung-chi, who was arrested but released on bail of 1 million Taiwan

dollars (USD32,000) bail and restricted from leaving the island, a New Taipei City police spokesman said.

Local media photos showed Lu kneeling on the ground to apologize, pledging to take full responsibility.

Police also recommended charges for the stage hardware technician and the person responsible for shooting off the powder. Each was given bail of 300,000 Taiwan dollars. Officers questioned another two involved in the event but did not recommend charges, said Yan Bo-jen, news liaison with the Luzhou Precinct of New Taipei

City Police Department.

Prosecutors have also seized the assets of the water park and of the party organizers, the city news official said.

The powder ignited along the ground, mainly burning people's lower bodies, said Wang Wei-sheng, a liaison with the New Taipei City fire department command center.

Taiwan university student Liang Sheng-kai said flaming powder hit his legs, apparently catching fire after it was sprayed from a concert stage into the front row where he was standing.

With the park's water features

More than 400 remained hospitalized, 200 in serious condition, with one death: a 20-year-old with burns to 90 pct of her body

several hundred meters away, too far to douse the fire or ease burns, people screamed and panicked to find exits as balls of fire surged from the ground, he said. He said the right and left sides of the stage were blocked.

"It was very messy and a lot of people fell over or got knocked down," said Liang, 20, who is staying in a Taipei hospital for burn treatment.

Four victims were from Hong Kong, two from mainland China and one each from Japan, Malaysia and Singapore, a New Taipei City news official said. Authorities are still checking on the nationalities of three other foreigners. More than 200 were students, Central News Agency said.

A total of 519 people were injured by the fire, according to a statement from the city government's health bureau. **AP**

Governments sign pact to create Beijing-led Asian bank

ENVOYS of governments that plan to join a Chinese-led Asian bank endorsed a structure yesterday that gives Beijing the biggest voting stake at the start but no veto power.

Each member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will receive voting shares in line with its contribution to the bank's proposed USD100 billion in capital, under the proposed structure. As the biggest donor, Beijing would get 26 percent of votes, with India in second-place

with 7.5 percent and Russia third with 5.9 percent.

Beijing's proposal for the AIIB attracted unexpectedly wide support from U.S. allies including Britain, New Zealand, France and South Korea despite U.S. opposition. Washington and its ally Japan have refrained from seeking membership.

The Beijing-based bank is part of China's efforts to gain a bigger voice in global financial regulation that is dominated by the United States and Europe.

The bank is intended to finance investments in railways, cargo ports and other trade links. The U.S. government had objected that the bank would undercut existing institutions such as the World Bank and might allow looser lending standards.

Some 57 governments have expressed interest in joining the AIIB, but not all signed yesterday's agreement. The Philippines said it and six other countries including Thailand and South Africa would not sign immediately and had until Decem-

ber to make a final decision.

"This proposal was designed to meet Asia's infrastructure development and promote Asia's connectivity and also deepen regional cooperation for the sake of development," said Chinese President Xi Jinping during a meeting with the foreign envoys in the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

"The very fact that representatives from the 57 prospective founding members are gathering in this room today is testimony to this spirit of



Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei signs the articles of the agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Beijing

solidarity, cooperation, openness and inclusiveness."

China's voting share may be diluted as more members join, Vice Finance Minister Shi Yao-bin told the official Xinhua News Agency.

"China is not deliberately seeking a veto power," said Shi, according to Xinhua.

The bank will be led by a president with a five-year term that can be extended once. Its working language will be English. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

No MERS infections reported for 2 days



No new cases of MERS were reported in South Korea for two straight days, with no deaths being added, the health ministry said yesterday. The number of MERS cases totaled 182, making no change for two days in a row, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare. It marked the first time since May 25 when no new infection was reported for the second straight day. The first case was discovered on May 20. No new deaths meant the death toll remained at 32 and the fatality rate at 17.6 percent. Two patients were discharged from hospitals as they completely recovered after being infected. Those discharged increased to 93, accounting for more than half of the total infectees. Excluding the dead and those discharged, 57 patients are still under treatment. Among them, 14 are in unstable conditions. The number of those quarantined rose from 2,562 on Sunday to 2,682 yesterday.

PAKISTAN

Cops bust armed militants planning attack, 4 killed



A Pakistani police officer says authorities have killed four militants, arrested two and seized a large cache of weapons that were meant to be used in an upcoming attack. Senior police officer Shahzad Sultan says a militant exploded a suicide vest during the raid yesterday on a house near the eastern city of Lahore, injuring nine officers. Sultan says a search turned up six suicide vests, dozens of hand grenades, assault rifles and other weapons. The raid was carried out jointly with intelligence officials. The police official said the militants were planning to target important buildings in Lahore during the current Ramadan holiday, which lasts almost three more weeks. For years, Pakistani security forces have battled insurgency originating from tribal regions near the Afghan border.

INDIA

Police investigate mob killing of school director

Police are investigating the mob killing of a school director in northern India after two of the school's students were discovered dead, officials said yesterday. The mob attacked the boarding school's director on Sunday after the bodies of two boys aged 10 and 11 were found in a nearby pond, Nalanda district police Superintendent Siddhartha Kumar Jain said. The students had disappeared a day earlier from the school grounds, and villagers accused school staff of killing them and dumping them in the pond. Autopsies later showed the boys had drowned. Local TV stations broadcast video of the man being beaten with sticks and writhing on the ground as other people watched and stomped on his chest, stomach and limbs. He died of his injuries Sunday night. When police arrived, the mob allegedly pelted them with stones and injured six officers. Police suspended an officer for failing to stop the attack in Nirpur village, about 90 kilometers southeast of Patna, the capital of Bihar state. Residents of the director's home village held angry protests after the man's death, blocking road and train traffic and setting a vehicle on fire.

AFGHANISTAN

President orders probe into NATO-led operation

AFGHANISTAN has ordered an investigation into an operation yesterday involving U.S. forces that destroyed a weapons cache in a volatile region close to the capital, sparking demonstrations that briefly closed a highway.

President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah ordered the investigation into the operation, which caused no casualties or damage but enraged local residents, who said the munitions should have been relocated away from residential areas before being destroyed.

"An investigating delegation has been sent to the area and the Resolute Support commanders have been asked for an explanation," Abdullah's deputy spokesman Javid Faisal said, referring

to NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

The NATO mission said U.S. forces had destroyed the munitions to prevent them from being used "to conduct attacks against Afghans and coalition forces."

NATO spokesman U.S. Army Col. Brian Tribus said the operation took place in Charikar, the capital of Parwan province north of Kabul. Parwan police chief Gen. Mohammad Zaman said Afghan troops also took part in the operation, which involved ground and air forces.

Zaman said local residents held a demonstration in Charikar to protest the operation. "They were complaining that if there was a weapons cache that needed destroying it should have been destroyed far away from the residen-

tial areas," he said.

Faisal said demonstrators blocked a highway and only dispersed after Abdullah spoke with local leaders.

Elsewhere, 11 Afghan soldiers were killed in a Taliban ambush on an army convoy in the western Herat province bordering Iran. The convoy was traveling to neighboring Bagdhis province on Sunday when it came under attack by a large group of insurgents, said Hesanullah Hayat, spokesman for the Herat governor.

The western region has seen increased insurgent activity since the Taliban launched their warm-weather offensive in late April. Afghan security forces have struggled to contain the violence and have seen army and police casualties soar. AP

THAILAND

Ice cream company apologizes for Facebook gay slur

A Thai ice cream company owned by Unilever has apologized for using a derogatory term for gay men in a Facebook posting marking the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex marriage, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

The post on the Facebook page of Wall's Thailand, which was quickly removed, showed black bean-flavored ice cream with the caption #LOVEWINS — the hashtag used by supporters of the court verdict. "Black beans" is a demeaning slang term for gay men that originated from a famous pedophilia case in Thailand.

The illustration, posted a day after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages, caused an online uproar in Thailand, with some commentators calling it "low" and "discriminatory."

On Twitter, some users condemning the illustration included the hashtag #RIPWallsThailand in their tweets.

Wall's Thailand replaced the post with a new picture of rainbow-colored ice cream and issued an apology on Sunday, saying they were "sorry if the post created some misunderstanding" and that they "did not mean to cause discomfort to anyone."

Unilever Thai spokeswoman Aranya Luepradid confirmed yesterday that the apology came from the company.

Wall's Thailand is part of Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods conglomerate that also makes Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

Thailand is one of the most tolerant countries in Asia for gays and a top gay tourist destination. AP

ONE SHOT NEWS



A man walks with his cycle through a water-logged street as it rains in Jammu, India. The heavy rains lashing the city brought much-needed relief from a scorching heat wave. Temperatures exceeding 40 Celsius on Sunday dropped by 3 degrees yesterday in the city. The monsoon reaches far northern Jammu and Kashmir state later than most of the nation, around July 1, according to the India Meteorological Department. It forecast scattered and isolated rainfall in the region for the rest of the week.

Ken Moritsugu, Tokyo

AVIATION

Solar Impulse plane en route to Hawaii from Japan

A solar-powered plane took off from Japan early yesterday to attempt a five-day flight over open water to Hawaii, the eighth leg of its bid to fly around the world without fuel.

Its long wings lighting up the night sky, the Solar Impulse 2 departed at 3:03 a.m. after an unscheduled, month-long stop in Japan because of unfavorable weather.

The flight to Hawaii, by far the longest of the journey so far, is risky because there are few if any places to land in an emergency.

Swiss pilot Andre Borschberg is flying solo. The plane, which started in Abu Dhabi on March 9, is powered by more than 17,000 solar cells on its wings that recharge its batteries. From Hawaii, it is to continue on to Phoenix, then hopscotch across the United States and the Atlantic to Europe, before returning to Abu Dhabi.

Borschberg originally left Nanjing, China, for Hawaii on May 31, but diverted to an airport in Nagoya in central Japan on June 1 because a cold



The Solar Impulse 2 flies over Nagoya Airport after taking off in Toyoyama, near Nagoya, central Japan

front threatened to block his way. After a wing repair, he and team members waited in Nagoya for the right conditions to depart.

The project is meant to demonstrate the potential of improved energy efficiency and clean power, though solar-powered air travel is not yet commercially practical.

Solar Impulse 2 is dependent on the right weather conditions, and organizers waited about nine hours after takeoff for the plane to pass what they called "the point of no return" before officially announcing that it was aloft.

"Now fully into the flight to Hawaii," Borschberg tweeted a little while later. "Very strong emotions as I passed the point of no return: exploration starts here." AP

AFGHANISTAN

11 soldiers killed in Taliban ambush



In this Sunday, July 31 2011 file photo, Taliban fighters hold their heavy and light weapons before surrendering them to Afghan authorities in Jalalabad, east of Kabul

A total of 18 people including 11 Afghan soldiers lost their lives as a military convoy came under attack by militants in the western province of Herat on Sunday, the Defense Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"A group of terrorists ambushed a military convoy in Karukh district, Herat province Sunday evening which triggered gun battle during which 18 people including 11 soldiers and seven militants were killed," the statement declared. Five more militants sustained injuries during the firefight.

Earlier a private television channel Tolo reported in its news bulletin that the militancy convoy was on way to neighboring Badghis province when it came under attack leaving 11 soldiers dead and injuring six others.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Herat provincial government Ehsanullah Hayat, in talks with media, confirmed the ambush on the military convoy and put the attack on the enemies of peace, a reference to the Taliban.

In another development which occurred in Herat's neighboring

Kandahar province also on Sunday, an army helicopter made a hard landing in Naw Abad locality of Maiwand district leaving two servicemen dead, an official who declined to be identified said.

However, Samim Khpalwak, the spokesman for Kandahar provincial government, confirmed the incident, adding an investigation into the case has been initiated and details will be made public after completion.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for downing the chopper, a claim utterly rejected by Khpalwak as groundless.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since April 24 when the armed outfit launched its annual spring offensive in Afghanistan, and since then hundreds of people including militants, security personnel and civilians have been killed.

Sediq Sediqi, the spokesman for Afghan Interior Ministry and Dawlat Waziri, the spokesman for Defense Ministry, at a joint press conference yesterday categorically stated that the country's security forces are capable enough of crushing the Taliban and associated militants across the country. Xinhua

PAKISTAN

Heatwave leaves 1,000 dead in Karachi

THE death toll from a heatwave in Pakistan's commercial center of Karachi and parts of southern Sindh province has passed 1,000 over the past ten days, health officials said yesterday.

Nearly 900 died over the past week only in Karachi, a city of around 20 million people, with more than 100 in interior Sindh. The majority of those who died were over the age of 50. Dozens of low-income laborers working outside were also among the victims, according to officials at government-run hospitals. Mass funerals were being held for the unclaimed bodies.

The Sindh Health department said a total of 26 more people died on Sunday as there was no let up in deaths due to heatstroke. The meteorological department continued to forecast highs of 41 Celsius yesterday. The temperature reached 45 Celsius last week.

Hundreds are still being treated in at least four government-owned and several private hospitals.

Chief Minister of Sindh province, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, says the gov't-run hospitals have so far provided medical facilities to nearly 40,000 people.

The federal and provincial governments are under fire for their inability to effectively deal with the crisis.

Power outages and water shortages in Karachi are being blamed for the high number of deaths, as people were unable to use air-conditioners or fans. Karachi has its



A Pakistani woman sits beside the bodies of heatwave victims at a hospital in Karachi

own power supply system known as "K-Electric", but it could not meet the fast growing demand for power in the summer heat. The federal government is now providing some electricity to Karachi from its system.

Officials say Pakistan currently faces a shortage of around 5,000 MW of power, with blackouts sparking violent protests in parts of the country.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is scheduled to visit the city to personally review the situation, the PM's office said.

He was earlier planned to travel to Karachi yesterday; however, the visit has been delayed and state television reported he would visit Karachi today. Xinhua

TUNISIA ATTACK

UK's Cameron promises wide, long-term response to terror

PRIME Minister David Cameron yesterday pledged a wide response to extremism, describing Britain as being united in grief over the beach massacre in Tunisia.

Fifteen Britons are confirmed dead, but officials have warned that could rise as high as 30, making it the worst terror attack on U.K. citizens since the July 7, 2005, London transport attacks that killed 52 commuters. Cameron insisted the nation would not be cowed.

"To our shock and grief we must add another word: resolve. Unshakeable resolve. We will stand up for our way of life," Cameron wrote. "So ours must be a full-spectrum response - a response at home and abroad; in the immediate aftermath and far into the future."

Some 600 British counter-terrorism police — one of the



Residents of the coastal town of Sousse in Tunisia place flowers and messages during a gathering at the scene of Friday's shooting attack

force's largest such deployments in recent years — have been deployed as part of the investigation into Friday's attack at the Imperial Marhaba Hotel in the beach resort of Sousse. Officers have also been deployed at airports to meet and support travelers and to help identify witnesses.

Home Secretary Theresa May is traveling to the north African nation for talks on the extremist threat and to offer condolences for the slain tourists. A Royal Air Force transport plane is also being deployed to bring stranded families home. Cameron told the BBC that the government is working as fast as possible to give families information.

Cameron described the Islamic State group — sometimes called ISIL — as using ancient barbarism and combining it with propaganda — using social

EUROPEAN MINISTERS PAY TRIBUTE TO THE DEAD

THE TOP security officials of Britain, France, Germany and Belgium are paying homage to the 38 people killed in Tunisia's deadliest attack, a massacre at a beach resort claimed by Islamic extremists. British Home Secretary Theresa May, French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere and Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon joined their Tunisian counterpart on the beach in front of the Imperial Marhaba hotel in the Mediterranean resort of Sousse for the tribute yesterday. Standing on the sand surrounded by security officials, they at one point put their arms on each other's shoulders.

media as its primary weapon.

"We must look at how we can work with countries like Tunisia to counter this online propaganda," he wrote. "We must also deal with it at its source, in places like Syria, Iraq and Libya, from where ISIL is peddling and plotting its death cult." AP

KUWAIT

Mosque bomber raised no red flags, transited Bahrain

Adam Schreck,

THE Saudi man who blew himself up inside a Shiite mosque in Kuwait last week flew into the country after transiting through nearby Bahrain and had no background suggesting he planned to carry out a terrorist attack, according to Gulf officials.

The details released by Saudi and Bahraini authorities paint a fuller picture of the suicide bomber in Friday's attack that killed 27 worshippers and wounded more than 200 in one of Kuwait City's most prominent Shiite mosques. A branch of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The blast — which struck within hours of deadly attacks in Tunisia and France — has rattled largely stable Kuwait. The small, oil-rich country, ruled by a Sunni monarchy and with a sizable Shiite minority, has mostly avoided the sectarian violence rocking other parts of the region.



Fahad Suleiman Abdulmohsen al-Gabbaa

Kuwaiti officials have identified the bomber as Fahad Suleiman Abdulmohsen al-Gabbaa, a Saudi man in his early twenties who landed in the country just hours before the attack.

Bahrain's Interior Ministry said yesterday that al-Gabbaa arrived in that island nation on a Gulf Air flight from the Saudi capital, Riyadh, at 10:40 p.m. Thursday. He remained in transit for two and a half hours before boarding a connecting flight to Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry said the bomber had no record

with security forces or any background indicating terrorist activities. It confirmed he left the kingdom Thursday bound for Bahrain.

An audio message accompanied by two still photos that was posted online and promoted by Twitter accounts affiliated with the Islamic State group purports to be a final message from al-Gabbaa.

A caption below the clip calls the bomber a "soldier of the caliphate" and identifies him by the nom de guerre of Abu Suleiman al-Muwahhed.

In the message, the speaker vows to pursue jihad against his enemies, particularly Shiites in Kuwait, saying "we are on the lookout for you." He also addresses Islamic State group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, telling him to "be patient and swear to God that we are with you."

IS militants consider Shiites to be heretics and are fighting Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq and Syria. AP

IRAN

Inspections focus of talks amid reports of new Obama letter

Jonathan Tirone and Kambiz Foroohar

ENVOYS negotiating a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program began a third day of talks in Vienna focused on the role of international monitors, as reports emerged of a new letter from U.S. President Barack Obama to Iranian officials.

Inspections of Iranian nuclear facilities, including military sites where past activities are suspected, have emerged as one of the last remaining logjams. On June 23, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei ruled out "unconventional" access by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, left the talks late Sunday to return for consultations in Tehran and will rejoin discussions today.

While diplomats representing some of the six nations negotiating with Iran were cautious over the weekend when asked about the likelihood of a deal in the next few days, the European Union's foreign policy chief gave an upbeat assessment.

"We are near to close the deal," Federica Mogherini said late Sunday after a meeting of foreign ministers broke up. "It is a good deal."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday met with IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano at the Palais Coburg in Vienna, where the agency has increased its presence as the sides narrow their differences. Officials have said that the self-imposed deadline for a deal is unlikely to be met.



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, right

Amid the diplomacy, the Iranian Students' News Agency reported that Khamenei had received a fifth letter from Obama earlier this month, citing senior lawmaker Mehrdad Bazarbash, who declined to say what it contained. U.S. State Department and White House officials didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Bazarbash told the Hamshahri newspaper that Obama speaks softly in private but makes threats in public. Those contradictions make Iranian leaders distrust U.S. statements, he said.

Although not formally part of the talks with the world powers at the table — China, France, Germany, Russia, the U.K. and U.S. — the IAEA will play a critical role under a deal.

Before the Islamic Republic gets full relief from global sanctions, the agency will need to finish a 12-year investigation into the possible military dimensions of its nuclear work, verify enrichment-capacity restraints have been implemented and confirm that Iran has adopted stricter monitoring rules under the so-called Additional Protocol. Bloomberg

Michael Balsamo, Malone, N.Y.

USA

Police shoot, capture 2nd escaped murderer

A three-week manhunt that began when two convicted murderers staged a brazen prison break involving stolen power tools and hacksaw blades hidden in frozen beef ended when a single police officer spotted a suspicious man on a rural road near the Canadian border.

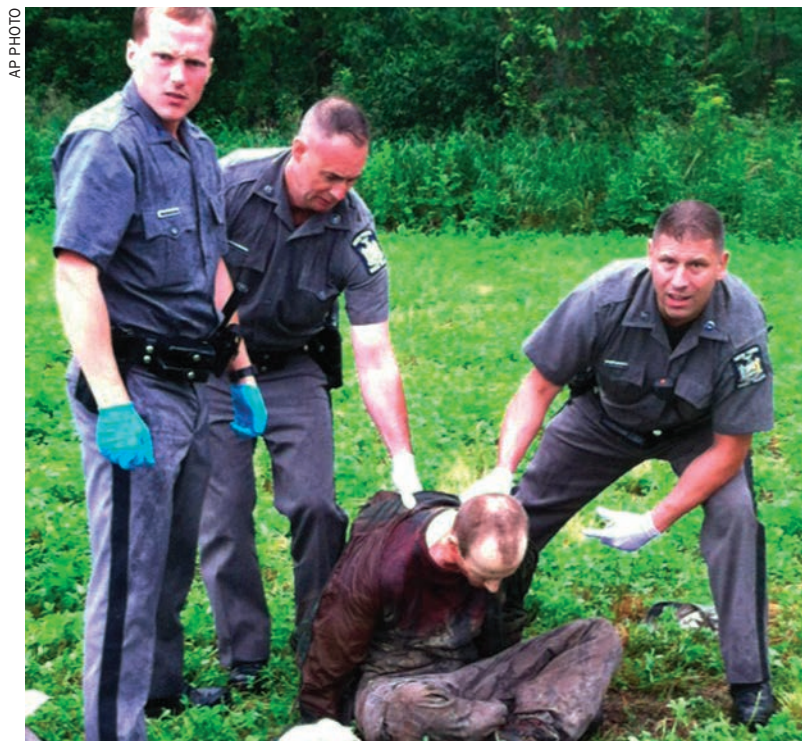
David Sweat's capture came two days after his fellow escapee, Richard Matt, was killed in a confrontation with law enforcement while holding a shotgun. Sweat was unarmed when he was shot twice Sunday (yesterday, Macau time) by Sgt. Jay Cook as he ran for some trees near the town of Constable.

Sweat was in critical condition at an Albany hospital.

"I can only assume he was going for the border," Superintendent Joseph D'Amico said.

The two prisoners had been on the loose since June 6, when they cut their way out of a maximum-security prison 48 kilometers away using power tools. Two prison workers have been charged with helping them.

Clinton correction officer Gene Palmer, charged with promoting prison contraband, tampering with physical evidence and official misconduct, was due in court yesterday. His



Police stand over David Sweat after he was shot and captured near the Canadian border

attorney has said he will plead not guilty.

Officials said Palmer gave the

two prisoners frozen hamburger meat that a prison tailor shop instructor had used to

hide the tools she smuggled to Sweat and Matt. Palmer's attorney said he had no idea the meat contained hacksaw blades, a bit and a screwdriver.

Prosecutors said the tailor shop worker, Joyce Mitchell, got close to the men while working with them and had agreed to be their getaway driver but backed out because she felt guilty for participating in the escape. Authorities also said Mitchell had discussed killing her husband as part of the plot.

Mitchell pleaded not guilty June 15 to charges including felony promoting prison contraband.

Sweat's capture ended an ordeal that sent 1,300 law enforcement officers into the thickly forested northern reaches of New York and forced residents to tolerate nerve-wracking armed checkpoints.

"The nightmare is finally over," Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared at a news conference.

D'Amico said the men may have used black pepper to throw off their scent from the dogs that were tracking them. He said Sweat's DNA was recovered from pepper shakers found at one camp.

Cuomo said many questions remained unanswered, including whether the inmates had other accomplices.

"We have already started a full investigation," he said. "But today ends with good news. These were dangerous, dangerous men."

Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie said Sweat will be charged with escape, burglary and other charges. He and Matt are suspected of breaking into some of the region's many cabins during their time on the lam.

Matt and Sweat used power tools to saw through a steel cell wall and several steel steam pipes, bashed a hole through a 0.61-meter-thick brick wall, squirmed through pipes and emerged from a manhole outside the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora.

Sweat was serving a sentence of life without parole in the killing of a sheriff's deputy in Broome County in 2002. Matt was serving 25 years to life for the killing and dismembering of his former boss. AP

AD

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what's ON



"E-GENERATION ARTISTS SERIES EXHIBITIONS:
MEOWKY WAY LEGEND BY GIGI LEE
TIME: 11am-7pm (Mondays to Saturdays)
UNTIL: July 4, 2015
VENUE: Portuguese Bookshop,
Rua de S. Domingos, 16-18
ADMISSION: Free

MACAU JOINT FASHION PERFORMANCE
- MINI EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-8pm
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holiday)
UNTIL: August 30, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47,
Rua de S. Roque, Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

HUMAN ROOTS
TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: July 2, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: IAOHIN Gallery, Rua da Tercena No.39A
ENQUIRES: (853) 2892 1908

ART OF INK
- MIO PANG FEI CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: July 5, 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

DEFORMED MUTT IS CROWNED
WORLD'S UGLIEST DOG

A 10-year-old mutt named Quasi Modo, whose spinal birth defects left her a bit hunchbacked, is the winner of this year's World's Ugliest Dog contest.

The pit bull-Dutch shepherd mix and her owner took the USD1,500 prize Friday night, besting 25 other dogs competing in the contest that applauds imperfection, organizers said.

Quasi Modo was abandoned at an animal shelter before being adopted by a veterinarian in Loxahatchee, Florida, according to her biography posted on the contest's website.

"My appearance can be a little unsettling to some (I have had grown men jump on top of their cars to get away from me because they thought I was a hyena or Tasmanian devil) but once they get to know me I win them over with my bubbly personality," her biography said.

Two Chinese crested and Chihuahua mixes named Sweepee Rambo and Frodo took the second- and third-place prizes, respectively.

An 8-year-old Chihuahua named Precious received the "spirit award," honoring a dog and owner who have overcome obstacles and/or are providing service to the community. Precious, who is blind in one eye, is trained to monitor smells related to low blood sugar levels and alert her owner, a disabled veteran, of the problem, her biography said.

The contest, held at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds in Petaluma, California, is in its 27th year.

The dogs are scored by a three-judge panel in several categories, including special or unusual attributes, personality and natural ugliness. **AP**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:45	The Illusionist (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Comedy
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

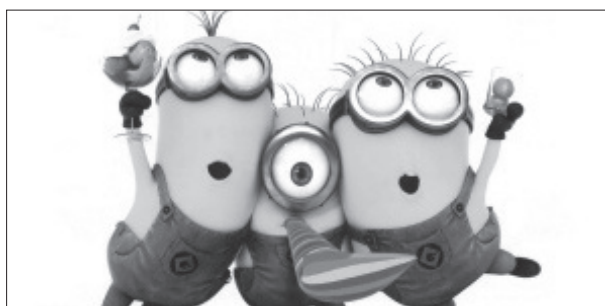
CINETEATRO

25 JUN - 2 JUL



TED 2
ROOM 1
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried, Morgan Freeman
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 115min

SPL 2: A TIME FOR CONSEQUENCES
ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15pm
(1 - 2 JUL) 2.30, 4.45
Director: Cheang Pou-soi
Starring: Tony Jaa, Wu Jing, Simon Yam, Zhang Jin, Louis Koo
Language: Cantonese/Mandarin (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 120min



MINIONS
ROOM 2
(1 - 2 JUL) 7.30 pm
Director: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 91min

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

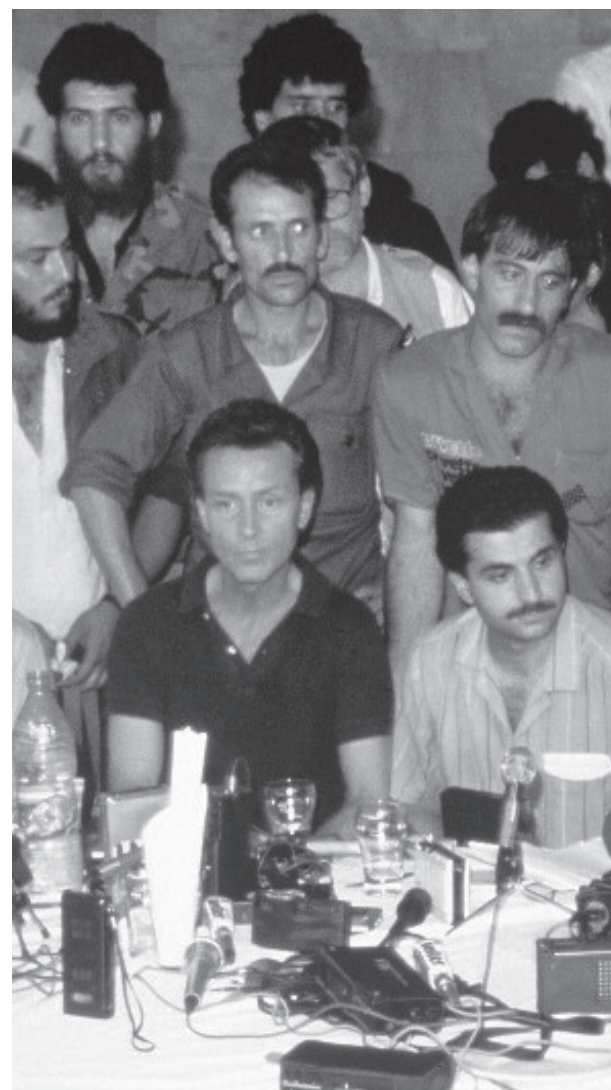
FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD
ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Starring: Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaerts
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 94min

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

1985 BEIRUT ORDEAL ENDS
FOR US HOSTAGES

All 39 Americans being held captive by the Shia Muslim Amal militia in Lebanon have been released, after almost three weeks in captivity.

Their freedom was secured after intervention by the Syrian President Hafiz al-Assad. The White House said no deal had been done with the captors.

The hostages were driven in a Red Cross convoy from Beirut to Syrian capital Damascus, 17 days after the plane they were on was hijacked by two members of the extremist Islamic Jihad group.

Most of the passengers were freed hours after the Lebanese gunmen diverted the TWA Rome - Athens flight to Beirut on 14 June, demanding the release of 766 Shia Muslims imprisoned in Israel.

But 40 Americans were forced to remain on the plane. One of their number - US Navy diver Robert Stethem - was killed on the first day of the crisis and his body dumped on the airport tarmac.

Thirty-five of the Americans were imprisoned in various Beirut safe-houses by the Amal militia for most of their ordeal, but four were being held by the radical Hezbollah group.

The freedom of these men is reported to have been obtained by President Assad, who contacted two of the most extreme Shia leaders to order their release.

The group finally left for Damascus at 15.45 after 24 hours of confusion and uncertainty about whether they would be freed.

Some of the hostages praised their treatment by the Amal militia, saying it had guaranteed the group's safety and looked after their welfare. The hostages' spokesman, Allyn Conwell, told reporters at a news conference they were all very relieved to be free.

"For anyone and everyone who has prayed for us, talked for us, waited for us or hoped for us - we thank you from the bottom of our hearts," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The hostages were safely transferred to Frankfurt and then to the US after their release. The White House said it knew the identity of the two original hijackers, but the men have never been brought to justice. The American Diplomatic Security Service is still offering a reward of \$5m (£3.17m) for information leading to their capture. The US Navy named the warship USS Stethem after the sailor killed by the gunmen during the hijack.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You're not sure if your conscious world is filtering down into your subconscious or if it's the other way around. But either way, some heavy business is making earning money that much harder. Take a long lunch.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Live with intensity, and don't let anything get in the way of loving life. If you enjoyed going up, then have fun going down. Even losing money shouldn't compromise your deep emotions.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Helping others is good for your health, and could improve your finances. So if you're just not sure how to get your life back in the black, try to be of service.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Everyone is being extra cautious and a bit indecisive. With the general mood such as it is, it's hard to find anyone willing to get involved with what they are skeptical of. Make it your job to spell things out.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Being self-centered can hurt you in more ways than one. Plotters are everywhere, and you're too wrapped up in yourself to notice. Check your wallet, then your bank account.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your emotional nature is your driving force. That means you sometimes have unrealistic goals, but the tenacity to achieve them. So block out anyone with differing views today.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
If you want changes in material possessions or living spaces, don't start by calling the movers. You have to start by changing your bank account. Getting more money moving in than out is your first challenge.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You have confidence in the market, even if it's ill founded. That kind of enthusiasm makes you magnetic, especially in times like these. Enjoy your adoring audience.

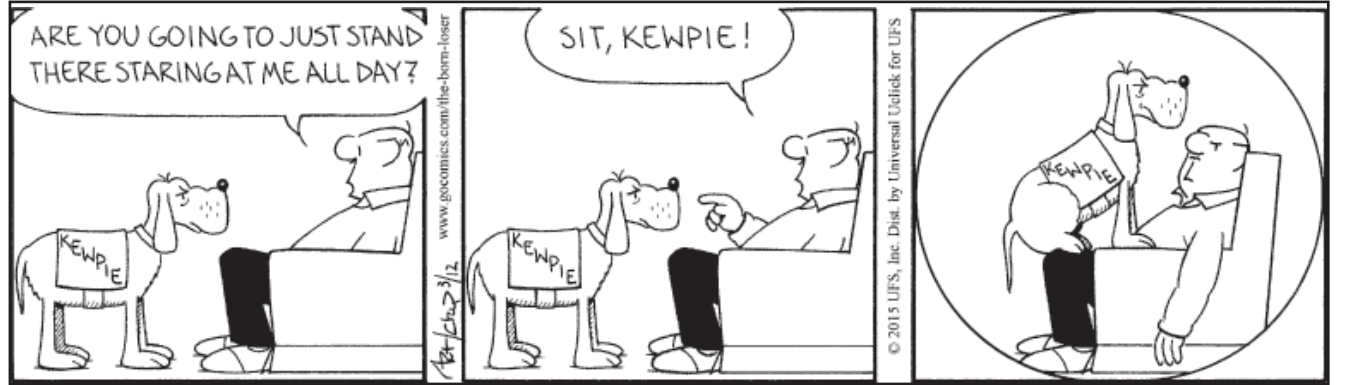
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Money is energy. Feeling moody and slow is a predictable response to your lack of funds. Let your dreams be your motivator, and jump start yourself back into the black.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Never want to lose money again? Get a grip on yourself and come up with a plan. If others can do it, then so can you. Your first step is to look at all your personal details and get organized.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You can't just will money into your bank account, but your emotions are more in charge of getting it there than you realize. Let your feelings about advancement propel your balances forward.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Everyone has to start somewhere. You may feel like you're a doormat, but that will make a great story once you've made it up the front steps and into the castle. Endure.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

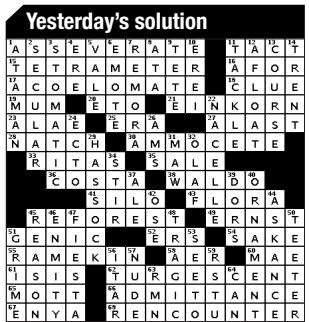
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	30	shower/cloudy
Harbin	13	26	cloudy
Tianjin	21	30	drizzle/cloudy
Urumqi	19	29	cloudy
Xi'an	21	29	drizzle/cloudy
Lhasa	14	27	cloudy
Chengdu	23	29	moderate rain
Chongqing	26	28	heavy rain
Kunming	19	29	cloudy
Nanjing	23	27	thundershower/heavy rain
Shanghai	24	34	overcast/thundershower
Wuhan	25	29	cloudy/moderate rain
Hangzhou	25	35	cloudy/thundershower
Taipei	26	35	cloudy/overcast
Guangzhou	28	35	clear
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	14	23	drizzle
Frankfurt	14	27	cloudy/clear
Paris	14	27	clear
London	12	21	clear
New York	17	24	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Capital of Yemen; 5- PC acronym; 10- In ranks; 14- Revenuers, for short; 15- Inner self (Jung); 16- Network point; 17- Frank; 18- Pertaining to the kidneys; 19- Periodic movement of the sea; 20- Renew; 23- Directional suffix; 24- Gossamer; 25- Confer; 29- Keep under restraint; 31- Martinique, e.g.; 32- ___ snail's pace; 33- Ancestor; 37- Morales of "La Bamba"; 40- Lacto-___ vegetarian; 41- Support for a broken limb; 42- System of names; 47- Hush-hush org.; 48- Ump's call; 49- Sea god; 53- Christian festival; 55- Room in a casa; 57- U-turn from SSW; 58- Coat with a metal by electrolysis; 61- Monetary unit of Thailand; 64- Oldsmobile model; 65- Mosque leader; 66- Bacchanalian cry; 67- Home and Olin; 68- Norton Sound city; 69- Obtains; 70- Off the leash; 71- ___ Scott Decision;

DOWN: 1- Kept for later; 2- Current unit; 3- "You ___ worry"; 4- Years in old Rome; 5- Cocktail; 6- Curl the lip; 7- Subfusc; 8- Actor Epps; 9- OK to vend; 10- Pot starters; 11- Lyon king; 12- Uneven?; 13- Itsy-bitsy; 21- Depilatory brand; 22- New driver, often; 26- Ciao!; 27- Western Indians; 28- Flaw, so to speak; 30- ...baked in ___; 31- ___ Rhythm; 34- Shed feathers; 35- Biologist's eggs; 36- Cake decorator; 37- Feminine suffix; 38- Slammin' Sammy; 39- Latin lesson word; 43- Yuletide; 44- Panacea; 45- Free; 46- Cut the crop; 50- Charm; 51- Wild; 52- Appeared; 54- French beans?; 55- Note taker; 56- Hand woven wall hanging; 59- Singer Laine; 60- Swedish soprano Jenny; 61- Panhandle; 62- ___ Maria; 63- In



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Hellene Gardens
Coloane
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HKD 5,292sq ft
Car Park Included
Ref: 15055437

Nova City - Central Taipa
Taipa
2,505 sq ft / HKD 19.8M
HKD 7,904sq ft
High Interior Standard
Ref: 14085412

Vila Bela
Macau
1,978sq ft / HKD 16M
HKD 8,088sq ft
Stunning Views
Ref: 15055442

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Taipa
3 Bedrooms Apartment
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Stephen Wilson, London

Discovery secures European Olympic TV rights through 2024

U.S.-BASED media giant Discovery Communications Inc. secured the European broadcast rights for four Olympics through 2024 yesterday in a landmark deal worth 1.3 billion euros (USD1.45 billion).

The parent company of the Discovery Channel and Eurosport won the rights to the games of 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2024, and also agreed to collaborate with the IOC on its new year-round Olympic Channel.

The International Olympic Committee said the deal covers all platforms, including free television, subscription and pay TV, internet and mobile phones in 50 countries across the continent.

The agreement covers the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, as well as the 2022 Winter Games and 2024 Summer Olympics. The 2022 and 2024 host cities have not yet been selected.

The deal could leave the BBC, which has held the rights in Britain to every Olympics since 1960, out of the picture after its cur-



rent deal expires in 2020. However, Discovery said it would sub-license rights in many countries, and the BBC would be a likely contender for that.

Discovery bought Eurosport, Europe's leading sports network, last year for about \$345 million. Discovery, which is based

in Silver Spring, Maryland, is the home of channels including Animal Planet, TLC and OWN.

Discovery says it has an average of 10 channels in every market in Europe and can deliver more coverage than ever before to a potential audience of 700 million people.

"This agreement ensures comprehensive coverage of the Olympic Games across Europe, including the guarantee to provide extensive free-to-air television coverage in all territories," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

Bach hailed the company's commitment to work with the IOC to develop the Olympic Channel across Europe. The channel, which was approved by the IOC in December, is scheduled for launch next April, a few months before the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The channel, projected to cost \$600 million to operate over the first seven years, is designed to promote Olympic sports 365 days a year.

"This agreement ensures that sports fans in Europe will be able to enjoy excellent coverage of the Olympic Games and Olympic sports, both during and outside games time, on

their platform of choice," Bach said. The deal covers all countries in Europe, except for Russia.

"Today is a historic day," Discovery Communications president and CEO David Zaslav said. "This new partnership is an exciting win for European sports fans as we will deliver record amounts of content across platforms." Zaslav said Discovery will sub-license a portion of the rights in numerous countries across Europe.

The BBC and France Televisions have rights through 2020. For 2022 and 2024, they would need to try to secure the rights on a sub-license deal from Discovery.

"We understand and have great respect of the Olympic programming on the BBC, French and German TV throughout Europe," Zaslav said. "We expect the BBC will have every possibility to sub-license. They can continue. It's true of

a majority of countries in Europe."

The BBC said the Olympics remains a priority for the company and it will talk to Discovery about keeping the rights after 2020.

"It is not unprecedented for sports rights to be sold on a pan-territory basis and the BBC has acquired other sports rights via sub-licensing deals with either agencies or broadcasters," the BBC said in a statement.

The Discovery deal is the latest in a series of long-term, multi-games broadcast agreements done by the IOC. Last year, NBC struck a record \$7.75 billion deal with the IOC to extend its exclusive U.S. rights through 2032. Japan, China and South Korea have signed broadcast deals through 2024.

The IOC secured \$4.1 billion in revenues from global rights deals for the current 2014-2016 cycle. **AP**

Midfielder Paulinho joins Guangzhou from Spurs

BRAZIL midfielder Paulinho has left Tottenham to join Chinese club Guangzhou Evergrande for 14 million euros (USD15.5 million), ending a frustrating two-year spell at the Premier League team.

Guangzhou said yesterday that Paulinho has signed a four-year deal. Tottenham hasn't confirmed the transfer.

The 26-year-old Paulinho joined Spurs from Corinthians in 2013, for 20 million euros (then \$26 million) — a club-record transfer fee at the time — but failed to make an impact and lost his first-team place under Mauricio Pochettino last season. Guangzhou is managed by former Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Nicky Zhu, Beijing

SONG Andong made sports history last week as the first Chinese player selected in the NHL draft. To his old coach, though, he's just a nice kid who keeps his head and shows the proper respect.

"(Song) was very clever, learnt things very fast," Fu Lei, who coached Song from 2003 to 2007, said in an interview yesterday. "Meanwhile, he was very nice and polite to his coaches and teammates."

Fu said he had no doubt Song would go far, even though the 18-year-old who goes by the name "Misha" started out playing on a smaller-than-normal rink in Beijing when his mother was trying to find him a sport.

Once his talent was spotted, his family moved to Canada and he quickly excelled when he began playing as a 10-year-old. Song was a member of the varsity team at Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, and plans to attend Philips Andover Academy in Massachusetts next year as a postgraduate student before playing college hockey.

After leaving China, Song moved from forward to defenseman, although Fu said he was a good organizer who could lead the attack from any position.

"That was great because he stays really calm during the match, so thereby can fully take the advantage," Fu said.

Former Coach recalls first Chinese NHL draft Song Andong



Andong Song, center, of China, walks in his new sweater after being chosen 172nd overall by the New York Islanders during the sixth round of the NHL hockey draft

Although relatively new to China, ice hockey has been growing quickly, especially among the country's expanding middle and upper classes. Year round, youngsters in Beijing emerge from smart new SUVs lugging their gear at one of the 20 rinks in the city as part of a youth program that boasts around 1,500 players on almost 100 teams.

The sport's promoters are hoping for another big boost if Beijing wins its bid to host the 2022

Winter Olympics. The men's and women's venues are already constructed and need just slight alternations to host international games.

Nationwide, China has about 80 full-size rinks and another 120 smaller ones, with more being added each month. In terms of viewership, the Canada-Sweden Olympic gold medal game at last year's Sochi Winter Games attracted 120 million viewers in China.

With that growth, the NHL is starting to take notice. Last season, state broadcaster CCTV showed four live NHL games per week and the Toronto Maple Leafs sent staff to Shanghai and Beijing to hold hockey camps and produce a series of specials to run with the league's games in China.

Fu said he hopes China's explosive growth will result in a professional league in the not too near distant future. If it does, it'll be built on the success of players such as Song and the youngsters who look up to them.

Six-year-old Wang Haicheng, a forward with the Beijing Hunters, said watching the live broadcast of Song being drafted Saturday as the New York Islanders' No. 172

pick had fired up his passion for the game. "I feel glad for him. And I hope I can play as good as Song Andong one day," Wang said.

Players' parents said Song's embrace by the NHL would be a huge boost for hockey in China, although they said the government provided far less support than for other sports. Like hockey parents everywhere, they decried the expense of equipment and training, but said seeing their children happy and engaged in a healthy pastime was well worth it.

"I think Song Andong is going to be a huge inspiration for hockey in China," said Hu Bin, watching his son Hu Aosen run through drills. "The more attention we have, the better the sport will grow in China."

At the draft, Song himself commented on the progress Chinese hockey has made.

"When I started playing there weren't a lot of people playing there and not much support for the game," said Song, whose brother still plays in Beijing. "But last year when I went back, it'd been like eight years since I've seen Chinese hockey, it's just been tremendous how far they've grown." **AP**

Spain and Portugal both issued weather alerts yesterday, advising residents to take extra care as temperatures soared above 40 C in some southern areas. The Iberian Peninsula was sweltering in a heat wave brought on by a mass of hot air flowing north from Africa to Europe in recent days. With the temperature in Cordoba hitting

41 degrees Celsius, Spanish authorities placed the southern city on alert due to "extreme risks" from the heat. In Portugal, a high of 37 C was recorded in the city of Beja, while the capital, Lisbon, sweltered in 35 C heat. Portugal's General Directorate for Health recommended staying out of the sun between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

opinion

World views

Marc Champion

GREEK REFERENDUM OFFER IS MORE CON THAN DEMOCRACY

The Greek parliament has approved a referendum to decide whether to accept the latest bailout terms offered by the country's creditors. It will come too late and ask the wrong question.

This is a vote that Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras should have called at least a month ago - if it were an honest effort to let the Greek people make a democratic choice on where their future lies, which it is not. As it is, the July 5 referendum will be so rushed as to be flawed in principle, and will come after the current bailout program expires. Indeed, it may come after Greece has already suffered a banking collapse.

The referendum is not, as Tsipras repeatedly claimed during his announcement, an expression of democracy in response to the "authoritarianism" of the creditors. His argument that the creditors must bend to the will of his election mandate has been preposterous from the start: In which debtor nation would voters not elect to have easier credit terms? And in what case has the International Monetary Fund or any creditor been answerable to the electorate of its client nation?

I've argued for Greece to hold a vote to clarify what its people want. It was necessary because Syriza lied during the campaign to get its representatives elected in January, by offering to end the bailout terms, keep the bailout and stay in the euro - an option that, rightly or wrongly, was never available. Rather than produce a clearer mandate, though, this proposed referendum would continue Syriza's subterfuge.

According to a draft cabinet proposal, the question on which Greeks would be asked to vote in just seven days' time would be whether they want to accept the latest offer from the country's creditors. This is a complex document that has yet to be translated into Greek and may well be void by Wednesday. It is clear from the language Tsipras used in describing that offer -- "blackmail," "humiliation," "ultimatum" - which way he wants the vote to go.

Again, just as during the election campaign, Syriza officials are not mentioning what all this would mean for Greece's place in the euro. They are maintaining the fiction that the question of accepting the bailout terms is quite separate from whether Greece defaults on its debt payments, sees its financial sector collapse and is forced to issue its own currency in one guise or another.

Not once in his address on the referendum did Tsipras mention the common currency. When the Associated Press asked Syriza cabinet minister Panagiotis Lafazanis whether the nirvana of reconstruction and progress he described as following from a "no" vote to the bailout would involve leaving the euro, he said: "It is you [the media] who pose this dilemma."

This is populist dishonesty. It may be that by this point Greece would be better off defaulting and returning to the drachma (though I doubt it). And it may be that a majority of Greeks would make the choice to go it alone, rather than continue a dysfunctional relationship with the nation's economic partners and creditors (although opinion polls suggest not). But the proposed referendum doesn't ask those questions.

Tsipras and his party want this vote to legitimize their decision to default and exit the euro, most likely after that decision has already been made, without actually telling Greeks that this is the choice they are making. It gives further weight to my suspicion that Syriza's erratic negotiating behavior for the last five months has been driven by a preference for default and exiting the euro they could not express, because the party had no mandate for it.

Greek voters should be told the honest truth about what they would be deciding on July 5, if the vote goes ahead at all after the likely chaos of the next week: a return to the bailout terms within the euro, or a default and a return to fiscal sovereignty outside it. **Bloomberg**

Las Vegas jails strained by billions in property tax giveaways

Jennifer Oldham

EVEN as Nevada's real estate values climb back from their record plunge during the recession, a decade-old property tax cap that let casinos save billions of dollars has strained municipal budgets to the point where petty thieves are being released from jail early.

In Clark County, home to Las Vegas and 72 percent of the state's residents, the tax limitation cost it USD119 million in lost revenue since 2009. That, combined with the recession meant it had to fire 1,500 municipal workers. It still can't afford to cover the daily cost of each inmate held in county jail.

"At a cost of something like \$120 a day - it was just killing us," county spokesman Erik Pappa said. "Through discussions with the local courts and others, we've worked out a system to get those numbers down and the result is we're now having to release more nonviolent, misdemeanor offenders earlier."

Five years after the end of the Great Recession, real estate values nationwide are rising with home sales on pace for their best year since 2007. Yet cities, counties and school districts aren't reaping a commensurate amount in property tax revenue because of a lag in reassessments and



People cross the street next to the Golden Gate Hotel Casino in Las Vegas

limits on real estate taxes in 41 states.

In Nevada, a 2005 law allows commercial and residential property tax bills to increase no more than 8 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

Companies like Wynn Resorts Ltd., Aria Resort & Casino and MGM Resorts International paid \$2.5 billion less in taxes in the last decade than they would have without the cap, according to county documents. Under the system, corporations received 66 percent of the abatements in fiscal 2015, while residents were given 34 percent, county data show.

Municipalities rely on property taxes for as much as a quarter of their budgets and to finance the salaries of teachers, police officers and firefighters. Across the U.S. local governments employed 490,000 fewer people in May compared with peak levels in 2008, said Lucy Dadayan, a senior policy analyst at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institu-

te of Government.

"In California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, Colorado and Oregon it's meant the provision of less quality services, particularly in the area of education," Dadayan said. "And it translates into a less qualified workforce and hence puts the nation's global economic competitiveness in jeopardy."

Nevada was the country's fastest-growing state in the past quarter-century, with more than 6,000 people a month moving in during the 2000s. That fueled a housing boom that caused prices to escalate, prompting the legislature to enact the cap.

The property tax law didn't anticipate the devastating effects of the recession, in which Nevada became the only state where the total value of single-family homes fell below the amount owed on them. Today, the assessed valuation of Clark County real estate is \$63 billion, about half what it was in fiscal 2009.

Corporations also suffered during the recession, with gambling revenue dropping by almost 20 percent in the late 2000s. The 2005 law allows companies to appeal their tax rates to the County Board of Equalization based on declines in property values or income losses, said Yolanda King, the county's chief financial officer. **Bloomberg**

THE **DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Rachen Sageamsak



Tourists take a selfie yesterday at the Wat Pho Temple in Bangkok, Thailand. The number of tourists visiting the country reached more than 12.4 million between January and May this year, up 24.72 percent year on year, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) announced.

WORLD BRIEFS

KUWAIT Authorities identify the suicide bomber behind an attack on a Shiite mosque that killed 27 people as a Saudi citizen who flew into the Gulf nation just hours before blowing himself up. **More on p14**

EGYPT A bomb attack in a busy, upscale Cairo suburb targets the convoy of Egypt's prosecutor general, a security official says.

EGYPT A court will issue its final verdict on July 30 in the re-trial of three Al-Jazeera English journalists on terrorism-related charges. Judge Hassan Farid made the announcement yesterday after defense lawyers wrapped up their arguments in a case that has captured international attention. Canadian national Mohammed Fahmy, who was Al-Jazeera's Cairo acting bureau chief, Australian journalist Peter Greste and Egyptian producer Baher Mohammed are being tried on charges of being part of a terrorist group and airing falsified footage intended to damage national security.

CHAD Residents say two blasts went off in the capital of Chad, killing at least 11 people, including five police. Souleymane Brahim said yesterday the first explosion hit N'Djamena early in the morning, followed by a second one. He said gunfire was heard after the explosions. Several residents confirmed that they saw at least 11 bodies, including five police officers.



USA The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the use of a controversial drug that has been implicated in several botched executions. The justices yesterday voted 5-4 in a case from Oklahoma that the sedative midazolam can be used in executions without violating a constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

TUNISIA Seven people are being interrogated in Tunisia's capital in the investigation into a deadly beach resort attack that killed 38 people, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation. The person close to the investigation said that four people were arrested yesterday — two in the resort town of Sousse where the attack occurred, one in the capital Tunis, and one in the restive city of Kasserine. Three others were arrested Sunday. **More on p14**