



MINIMUM WAGE APPROVED

The AL passed a bill last Friday guaranteeing local cleaners and security guards a minimum wage

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FRANCHISE EXPO CONCLUDES

This year's expo maintained a similar size of exhibitors with 165 brands from 11 countries and regions

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GREECE VOTES ON HIGH-STAKES BAILOUT REFERENDUM

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A shoe factory collapsed in eastern China during a weekend shift, killing at least 11 people and injuring more than 30, officials said yesterday. Three other people were missing in the collapse Saturday afternoon in the Zhejiang province city of Wenling, and nine people escaped. Rescuers pulled 42 people from the rubble and sent them to a hospital, where nine of them died, the Wenling city government said on its microblog. They pulled two bodies from the wreckage yesterday. The cause of the accident is under investigation.



AP PHOTO

CHINA A magnitude 6.5 earthquake that shook China's far-western region of Xinjiang killed three people, injured 71 and collapsed thousands of houses, officials said Saturday. The quake hit Pishan county in the Hotan region of Xinjiang early Friday. Earlier reports on state media said that six people had died, but by Saturday the China Earthquake Administration gave the tally as three killed and 71 injured.

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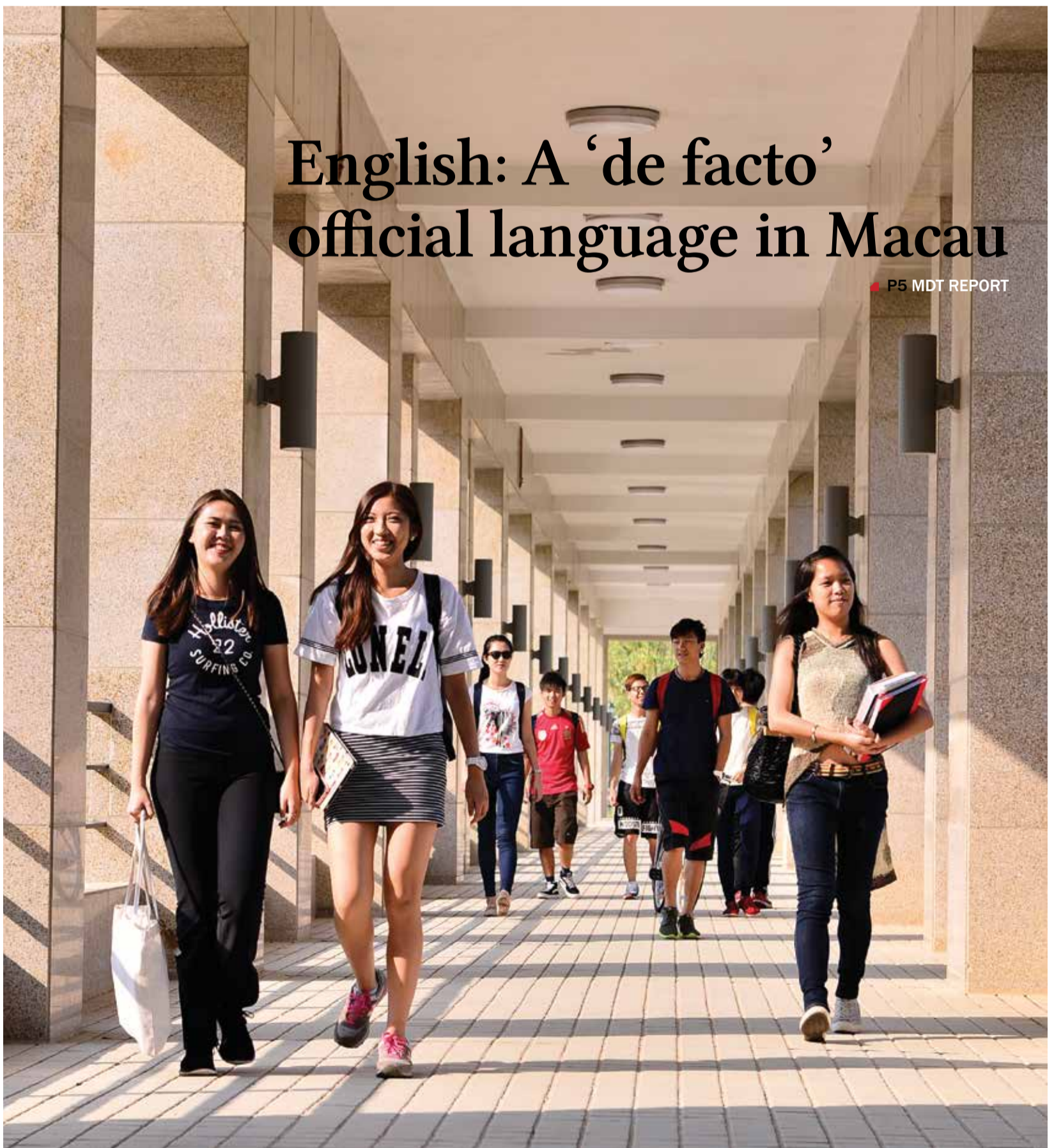
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AL PLENARY

Minimum wage for cleaning and security staff approved

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) passed a bill last Friday guaranteeing local cleaners and security guards a minimum wage, effective at the start of 2016. However, the regulation applies exclusively to employees hired by property management service suppliers or those working in residential buildings.

Workers employed by proprietors of buildings for commercial or industrial purposes are not among the beneficiaries of the law, which stipulates that employees in the two fields are entitled to an hourly wage of MOP30, a daily wage of MOP240 or a monthly wage of MOP6,240. Those workers are among employees from other sectors who will only enjoy the entitlement after 2018, as the authorities have pledged to make the regulation universal in the territory within three years after it has first come into force. At the AL it was also announced that reviews on the upcoming minimum wage law will only take place one year following its implementation.

Some of the bill articles igni-

We need to ask one question: will the law prevail over the government?

AU KAM SAN



ted debate between lawmakers and the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong, as others cast doubts on the deliberate adoption of the phrase “for residential purpose”, a discriminative statement at which directly-elected policymaker Song Pek Kei lashed out.

“As you know, our urban properties are composed of industrial and commercial buildings and those for residential use. There are several sorts. But now there’s only ‘residential use’ while the other types are not included,” said Song. “Why are the employees hired by those who self-manage

their industrial buildings out of the regulation? It’s a matter of equality as they’re all property owners.”

“Commercial buildings and industrial buildings in general don’t require property management firms to hire security guards and cleaners for them. Therefore, we had this change to the article [in the final text],” said the secretary. Another official subsequently disclosed that the specific addition was made after discussion with the legislature’s advisory body to avoid creating other legal definitions for the term “employer.”

Local employers, as the minimum wage law stipulates in its third article, are required to pay MOP30 per hour to part-time staff employed on a daily basis for overtime work. Contrarily, those hired on a monthly basis only receive MOP26 per hour for extra work, which the two directly-elected lawmakers Au Kam San and Kwan Tsui Hang criticized as “unfair” and “unreasonable.” According to the pair, companies are more likely to prefer monthly employment as the disparity of the different payments was significantly wider, given the existing labor

relations law’s stipulated calculation of wage payment for working overtime.

Au said: “Although we could formulate the minimum law wage like this, but not however when it obviously contradicts the labor relations law. We need to ask one question: do the laws prevail over the government?”

Kwan’s enquiries echoed his remarks, saying the content of the new law suggested “misconceptions” for society. “Regardless of daily, hourly

An estimated 4,650 workers will be subject to the new rules

or monthly pay, their employment stability is different. We can’t compare them as apples to apples,” the Secretary Lionel Leong said in response to the criticism, stressing that full-time employees were usually entitled to other perks and benefits at work. Furthermore, the accompanying officials added that the residential building-oriented law has always been stated in the consensus reached with five non-government organizations over the past year.

Apparently the authorities’ answers failed to satisfy critical lawmakers. Kwan Tsui Hang continued: “Monthly employees only get MOP26 per hour for extra work. Is it fair? Does the government think it’s fair?”

According to the government’s estimate, only 4,650 employees will be entitled to the benefits of the new regulation while another 13,200 staff members’ salaries are still below the minimum wage. **Staff reporter**

Concerns over plots excluded from recovery list

FOUR lawmakers demanded explanations for the 16 idle land plots that have been excluded from the government’s recovery list during Friday’s AL plenary session.

Lei Cheng I urged the authorities to publicize all documents dating back to the land concessions of 2008, particularly those written in Portuguese before the city’s handover, as the relevant informa-

tion is usually inaccessible to the public.

Pereira Coutinho suggested that the government should set up a website where information on the budgets for different land concessions and related information could be published. Only then, he believes, will the authorities improve on “accountability” and “transparency.” According to his suggestions, citizens could be allowed to

access the information they are interested in and thus oversee the government’s handling of land allocation.

Another lawmaker, Leong Veng Chai, slammed the administration for deliberately withholding its move to relinquish the swathes of land. He also blasted the government’s failure to penalize the officials responsible for the failed revocation of the concessions.

Later, Ng Kuok Cheong once again called for explanations from Lau Si Io and Secretary Raimundo do Rosário, as well as the former head of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau Jaime Carrión, and the current one, Li Canfeng. He urged the government to come clean on the matter, as he suspected a transfer of interest between the authorities and the land developers. **Staff reporter**

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Sulu Sou launches book on May protest

The president of New Macau Association, Sulu Sou, has launched his new book on last year's massive demonstration against a bill granting lavish pensions and compensations to the Chief Executive and outgoing major officials. The book "Do you remember the withdraw?" (English translation) was launched yesterday afternoon to much controversy, as the manuscript was allegedly confiscated by the Gongbei Customs. The mainland authorities denied the accusation.

USJ rector to step down after new campus opens



Peter Stilwell will step down as rector of the University of Saint Joseph next year after the opening of its new campus. In an interview broadcast by

Radio Macau, Stilwell said he plans to retire and begin writing his memoirs. Stilwell will be 70 next year. The inauguration of the university's new campus in Ilha Verde is scheduled for the second half of 2016. The rector said that the university's administrative services will begin moving this November.

TRANSPORT

Airport with 6.6 pct more passengers in first half year

THE Macau International Airport (MIA) handled over 2.78 million passengers up until June 30, an increase of 6.6 percentage points compared to the same period of last year. Over 27,000 aircraft movements were recorded, a 6.9 pct growth compared to last year.

According to a press release issued by MIA, the average daily passenger traffic at the local airport in June 2015 reached 15,000. More than 450,000



passengers were registered throughout the month, an increase of 3.9 pct compared to the same period of 2014.

Regarding passenger marke-

ts, MIA stresses there was a positive growth in the first half of the year. Though the Korean market recorded decline by the outbreak of the Middle

East Respiratory Syndrome, passenger numbers of South and North East Asia still recorded a growth of 18.8 pct while Taiwanese routes recorded a slower growth by 0.6 pct, and mainland Chinese routes recorded a slight drop by 1.3 pct in passenger volume.

In order to provide more holiday destination options for travelers, some airlines will add more frequent flights during the summer holidays. Charter flights to the Japanese city of Okinawa are expected to enrich travel options for passengers. MIA also highlighted that Jetstar Pacific Airlines plans to launch a service between Ho Chi Minh and Macau in August this year. Other new routes are said to be in the works.

Science and Technology Week ongoing

THE "Science and Technology Week 2015 and the Achievements Exhibition of Science Popularization," sponsored by the Science and Technology Council, opened on Friday.

Themed "Science and Perception - Revealing the Mysteries of Cognition," this year's edition attracted 34 participating institutions from both the mainland and Macau.

The event includes three parts: "Science

and Perception - An Exhibition Revealing the Mysteries of Cognition," "Achievements Exhibition of Science Popularization" and science seminars.

"Science and Perception - An Exhibition Revealing the Mysteries of Cognition" teaches visitors about the formation mechanism and the limitations of human perception and cognition from multiple perspectives by revealing perceptual illusions and misconceptions in the process of thinking

and sensing through interactive games, quizzes and apps.

"Achievements Exhibition of Science Popularization" shows the findings of 52 science projects conducted by 21 local schools and associations in various fields including chemistry, physics, biology, engineering, computer science and robotics. 14 workshops, scientific knowledge contests and robot control competitions will also be held.

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Catarina Pinto

USE OF ENGLISH IN MACAU

A 'de facto' official language

THE English language, one of the most widely spoken languages across the globe, does not have an institutional status in Macau, but its use both within government departments and across various sectors of society appears to have been growing.

On board a bus speeding through the local streets, one often hears a woman's voice announcing each stop in four languages: Cantonese, Portuguese, Mandarin and English. It's not surprising either that many citizens use English to communicate within government departments, or for business purposes.

University of Macau associate professor of English, Andrew Moody, says: "Public announcements, signage, broadcasts, and services all suggest that the increase in the amount of English [spoken] in the territory is widespread throughout many sectors of society."

Data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) from the 2006 By-census shows that 1.5 percent of the residential population reported the use of English as their usual language, while in 2011 that number rose by 2.3 percent.

Professor Moody told the Times in an email interview that looking into the total number of English users is perhaps even more informative. While in 2006, 16.6 percent of the population claimed to use English, that percentage rose to 21.1 percent in 2011, representing a 40 percent increase in the total number of people who claim to know English.

Meanwhile, Macau's population grew by 10 percent in those years.

The UM professor wrote an essay, published in 2008, titled "Macau English: Status, functions and forms." In the paper, he argues that although English has no institutional status in Macau, it is, in practice, 'a de facto' official language of the territory.

"When I see government announcements, documents, forms and broadcasts supplied to residents in Chinese, Portuguese and English, this suggests that the language already has an official status," the professor recalled.

"When educational institutions are regulated to offer English as a second language instruction or English-medium of instruction," he explains, "this suggests that the language has an official status."

The same conclusion can be reached, he suggests, when commercial institutions also use English as "a lingua franca."

The professor says that he has not changed his position about the status of English: "I would simply argue that we should



recognize 'de facto' official status as well as 'de jure' [when a language is official by an act of law]."

The increase in the amount of English [spoken] in the territory is widespread throughout many sectors of society

University of Macau professor Kit Kelen says that in the 15 years that he has been teaching creative writing and literature here, he has observed that interest in English among students has always been strong.

"The fact that there are more

mainland students means that the University of Macau is becoming a regional center for English-language learning and some related activities – especially literature, creative writing, poetry and translation," he added.

Comparing Macau's situation to Hong Kong, he acknowledged that English in the neighboring SAR is at times resented as the language of the colonial oppressor, whereas, in Macau, English "has no administrative baggage" and is used when needed.

However, there's room for improvement, especially within the tourism industry.

"A lot more could be done to get the tourism industry and related industries better geared up for English use. Taxis are the obvious case. Everyone knows how bad the taxis are in Macau," he says.

"Of course, there are some lovely exceptions, but it's because they are overwhelmingly so bad that there's a name and shame Facebook page about Macau taxis – with almost 5,000 mem-

bers when there are only 700 taxis or so in Macau," Professor Kelen adds.

He believes that there are simple and practical things that the government could do "to lift the city's game in terms of being an English-language-friendly destination." In addition, he suggests that universities could be playing a helpful role to make it happen.

Professor Kelen says that it's important to preserve Portuguese, Cantonese and traditional Chinese characters, too. "It's important to promote and preserve all of the cultures and literatures of Macau. One of the best ways of doing this is by making them also available in English – the language of the world!"

The Government Information Bureau (GCS) said that although English is not an official language, the government has observed an increase in demand for information to be provided in English, specifically addressing growing communities who do not speak any of Macau's official languages.

GCS points out that the government has been publishing a large part of its Policy Address in English since 2000. Furthermore, in addition to information in Chinese and Portuguese, the authorities also release statements in English on relevant topics, particularly regarding the Policy Address, public health, and other matters that might be of interest to foreign media.

In the first quarter of this year, 260 press releases were issued in English. In 2014, there were a total of 883 press releases and statements in English. Out of 22 speeches issued through GCS, the Chief Executive delivered seven speeches in English.

The bureau admits, however, that government officials might not always release their speeches via GCS.

In a reply via email, GCS says that, in recent years, it has hired more staff to manage information in English and handle a greater workload.

"In addition to meet[ing] the developments of Macau and the needs of the English-language users, quite a number of government departments' websites have the English version providing information about the services and news of related departments," said the office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice.

Although acknowledging that it is difficult to speculate on what motives drive the government's desire to provide a considerable amount of information in English, Professor Moody believes "that the motivation is not to make the information communicative," since more than 90 percent of the population actually speaks Cantonese.

He recalls that English has often been associated with education, particularly higher education. It has, therefore, been associated with values like "competent administration" or "effective governance."

"The appearance of government information in English symbolically suggests that the information is of somewhat higher quality, or that the delivery of information is more competent," although it doesn't mean that information provided in English is actually better.

In Macau and often in other countries, the amount of government information provided in their official languages and in English varies considerably.

Professor Moody concluded by saying, "The presence of English in Macau – as with many other places worldwide – suggests that the communicator has an international outlook."

Official use of English 'neglected' in HK

THE government of the neighboring SAR has been accused of neglecting the use of English in communicating with the public and the media, instead favoring Chinese language, the South China Morning Post reported last month.

The report recalled that the policy of ministers penning Chinese-only blogs is a regular practice, with no English translations being provided, even though their blogs reflect upon important policy ideas.

In addition, ministers are more often delivering public speeches and issuing statements in Chinese. Follow-up questions are rarely provided in English, according to the report.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying made 61 public speeches in Chinese over the 12 months leading up to the end of May. He delivered 28 speeches in English over the same period.

City Party lawmaker Claudia Mo Man-ching stressed that there was a clear problem, which the government was refusing to acknowledge. "I have a feeling that the government is trying to shut down the use of English, in order to emphasize the fact that Hong Kong is a mainland city, and that English is just a second language for Hong Kongers," she said, adding: "This is not right, since English shares an equal status with Chinese."

THE Women's General Association of Macau delivered a petition with 12,000 signatures to the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs (CPCS) last week, appealing for the current 65 days of statutory maternity leave allowance (where the employee has been em-

Women's Association petitions for 90-day maternity leave

ployed for more than one year in the company) to be increased to 90 days. The association petitioned

for improved welfare for pregnant women working in the private sector, bringing the sector in line with the conditions of those working in the public sector. Furthermore, it urged the government to raise the

der whether salaries paid during maternity leave should be borne by the government or employers.

The association also conducted a survey according to which 85 percent of the respondents want the government to increase paid maternity leave from the current 56 to 90 days.

3017 residents were surveyed, most of whom were women. Wong Kit Cheng, vice president of the Women's Association, told TDM: "We are submitting the results to the authorities (Labour Affairs Bureau) as well as to the CPCS Standing Committee, so that when they amend the Labor Relations Law in the future, they consider the public's opinions. Most respondents also want the government to introduce a paternity leave as well as to implement 90 days of paid maternity leave, just like various other countries in the world."

ONE SHOT NEWS



For every one of the past seven years, students from the local Alliance Française branch have been awarded grants to study in France over the summer. The 2015 grants amount to EUR1,500 (MOP13,300) each and give the laureates the opportunity to study the French language at the Alliance Française in Nice over a period of two weeks in August. On Saturday, last year's laureates shared their experience with this year's batch during a lunch at the Sofitel Hotel.

Most respondents also want the gov't to introduce a paternity leave

compensation granted, and penalties issued, in cases of unreasonable dismissal of pregnant women.

The group also urged CPCS to implement a five-day paid paternity leave for men. The association further suggested that the government should consi-

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Brook Yang

MICE

Franchisors call for more business matching sessions

WITH a broad range of franchisors expecting the annual Macau Franchise Expo (MFE) to be a platform to expand their business in the region, some newcomers suggested that the fair did not live up to its full potential.

This year's expo maintained a similar size of exhibitors with 165 brands from 11 countries and regions as far as the Middle East and Europe. According to the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the three-day event – which concluded on Sunday at the Venetian Macao – attracted over 14,500 visits of trade visitors and organized over 1,000 business-matching sessions that saw 12 contracts signed on site.

One of the featured exhibitors, Japan's Oita Prefectural Government, organized a delegation of seven suppliers with over thirty tourism, agricultural and sideline products. However, the delegation found the turnover of visitors, especially corporate buyers, did not meet expectations.

"We want to come here to open a new market in Macau, but it's a little bit disappointing because there were few people attending this franchise expo. But we were still able to make some appoint-



ments with hotels and food companies in Macau and other countries," Mr Masanori Hirakawa, vice director of the Oita Prefectural Government's Commerce and Service Promotion Division, told the Times yesterday, during the expo's final days.

Although the booths were well patronized by individual guests, Mr Hirakawa suggested "more business talks" between original

suppliers and local hotels, supermarkets and department stores to improve the overall experience.

"I checked the website of FME, it says about 20,000 visitors come to this franchise event, but I'm not sure such a number of visitors did come to this event. (...) We want to make contracts with these companies in Macau, that's why we want to meet their buyers," he indicated, adding

that only two hotels have approached the exhibitors.

On the other side of the exhibition hall, the manager of a set of booths displaying traditional Chinese paintings told the Times "they [were] greatly disappointed as not many visitors came to the booths or to the expo."

"We brought two top Chinese painters who won awards in national exhibitions, but they didn't receive much interest here; in three days we didn't sell a single painting," said Mr Fu Fengcai from Fujian Province, stressing that these artistic collectibles had received warm responses in European expos.

Nevertheless, some exhibitors were satisfied with the results as they recognized the MFE's platform role. "We didn't realize that Macau could host such an international fair until we came here," said Mr Tiger Wu, vice president of Taiwan's Sun Spark Co., who came hoping to explore local franchisees of a franchised café

brand. "Our exhibitors not only contacted local guests but guests from the mainland and even countries like Malaysia and Italy. We thank the organizer for this chance and the event was well-organized," he concluded.

A British consultancy brokerage called H2F also told the Times that the long-haul trip to Macau, where they searched for local clients and partners, was worthwhile. "The show's quite small but we have some good results. Visitors may be a little bit low, but the quality's good; you also have international visitors," said Mr Rod Hindmarsh, adding that he was satisfied with coming into contact with local and other exhibitors from Asia.

The veteran consultant suggested that Macau's small businesses could potentially take on a wider audience, particularly the popular bakery products. "Something that's so unique to China could be suddenly unique to the rest of the world," he stressed.

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Menelaos Hadjicostis
and Elena Becatoros, Athens

Yes or no? Greeks vote on high-stakes bailout referendum

GREEKS were voting yesterday in a referendum on their nation's financial future, with opinion polls showing that residents were evenly split on whether to accept creditors' demands for more austerity in return for rescue loans or defiantly reject the deal.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was gambling the future of his 5-month-old left-wing government on the hastily called poll — insisting that a “no” vote would strengthen his hand to negotiate a better deal with creditors while a “yes” result would mean capitulating to their harsh demands.

The opposition accuses Tsipras of jeopardizing the country's membership in the 19-nation club that uses the euro and says a “yes” vote is about keeping the common currency.

While voters headed to polling stations, large lines once again formed at ATM machines. Worried Greeks were still withdrawing their daily limit of 60 euros (USD67) — part of the banking restrictions imposed last Monday in an attempt to halt a bank run following Tsipras' call for a referendum.

“Today, democracy is defeating fear ... I am very optimistic,” Tsipras said after voting in in central Athens, surrounded by dozens of journalists.

Tsipras' high-stakes standoff with lenders — the European Union and the International Monetary Fund — resulted in Greece defaulting on its debts last week and shutting down its banks to avoid their collapse. The debt-racked nation also lost access to billions of euros after an existing bailout deal expired.

The sense of urgency was palpable all week as Greeks struggled to decipher a convoluted referendum question while being bombarded with frenzied



Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, right, casts his vote at a polling station in Athens

Opinion polls showed people evenly split on whether to accept creditors' proposals for more austerity

messages of possible impending doom.

Nikolaos Papadopoulos, a voter in Athens, said he cast a “yes” ballot.

“I believe in a democracy, in a

united Europe, in a world with a good economy. And I want us all to work together to move forward and not to be retrogressive,” he said.

But another Athens voter, Ioannis Nikolaou, disagreed.

“I voted for Tsipras and want to vote ‘no’ because I’ve lived in Europe and know what rights Europeans and Greeks have ... they don’t have the same rights,” he said.

Polls published Friday showed the two sides in a dead heat and that an overwhelming majority of people questioned — about 75 percent — wanted Greece to remain in the euro currency.

“Today, we Greeks decide on the fate of our country,” con-

servative opposition leader Antonis Samaras said as he voted. “We vote ‘yes’ to Greece. We vote ‘yes’ to Europe.”

Yale University political science professor Stathis Kalyvas said the Greek government will face daunting challenges no matter which way the vote goes.

If the “no” side wins, Kalyvas said other eurozone countries could refuse to negotiate a better deal for Greece because of their distrust of Tsipras.

A “yes” win won’t mean a road to the negotiating table strewn with roses either, but would likely usher in a new government with a shot at negotiating an improved deal, Kalyvas said.

He said if the EU wants to keep Greece in the eurozone, it will have to come up with “a very generous plan” since the cost of the crisis has shot up to unanticipated levels.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble agreed, telling the daily Bild paper that future negotiations between Greece and its creditors will be “very difficult” because the country's economic situation has worsened dramatically in recent weeks.

Greek Finance Minister Yianis Varoufakis, meanwhile, launched a salvo at other euro nations. He accused them of holding out on a bailout deal to allow Greece's bank coffers to run dry so they could force Greece to accept what he called a humiliating deal.

Writing in the daily Kathimerini, Varoufakis said accepting creditors' terms would be a “permanent condemnation” while rejecting them would offer the “only prospect for recovery.”

Varoufakis says banks will reopen tomorrow whatever the referendum's outcome. But that's unlikely to happen unless the European Central Bank agrees to increase credit to Greek banks.

Deputy Prime Minister Yianis Dragasakis, meanwhile, denied media reports that he would be picked to lead anew “grand coalition” government after the vote.

“The country has a prime minister who will have an even stronger popular mandate and support. I will serve this mandate,” he said. **AP**

corporate bits

BROADWAY MACAU RELEASES ROCK POWER



Rock stars and pop bands from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, including Sodagreen, Zhao Chuan, vocalist Zhang Wei and heartthrob boy band Mr. gave a summer concert last Saturday night filled with

powerful performances at the Broadway Theatre.

Rock Star Zhao Chuan delivered the songs “I am ugly but I am gentle” and “I am a little bird” during the concert opening. The vocalist Zhang Wei showed his talent by performing “The High Song” and “Crazy Baby”, followed by Hong Kong popular band - Mr. playing “Black enthusiast” and “If I were Eason Chan”. The Taiwanese Pop band Sodagreen demonstrated the charm of soft rock by “A little love song”, “I miss you so” and “Enjoy Loneliness”. According to a press release issued by Galaxy's Broadway Macau, the last song “Come home soon” earned a standing ovation and cries for another encore.

WYNN SUPPORTS MACAU HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY'S WELFARE SHOP

On Saturday Wynn Macau donated MOP300,000 to Macau Holy House of Mercy (SCMM)'s Welfare Shop Project to finance the distribution of food hampers to 340 underprivileged families.

Mr. Ian Michael Coughlan, President of Wynn Macau, presented the check to Mr. António José de Freitas, President of SCMM. Also present at the ceremony were Ms. Ng Sio Lai, President of the General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macau, Mr. Chiang Chong Sek, President of the Macau Federation of Trade Unions, Ms. Katharine Liu, Vice President of Commu-



Lau, Director of Human Resources of Wynn Macau.

Around 30 Wynn volunteers took part in the food hamper distribution, handing out hampers containing basic food and daily necessities. In addition, this year Wynn Macau has also tailor-made a shopping trolley to hold the food hamper items and a gift umbrella for the convenience of the beneficiaries.

ARTISTIC SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN FOR KIDS AT MGM

MGM Macau is launching two special creative activities, a Creative Cookie Decoration Class and Face Painting Workshop, to inspire children's artistic talents in July and August respectively.

Using cookies as a canvas, the one-hour Creative Cookie Decoration Class will be held every Saturday in July for kids aged between 3 and 12, at the Platinum Terrace of the Grande Praça. It's the place where children can also be inspired by the art installation now on display - “Valkyrie Octopus” designed by world-renowned contemporary Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos. During the classes, kids can decorate cookies using chocolate condiments and colored

icing on shortbread cookies under the guidance of MGM's pastry team.

Throughout August, MGM has also invited a professional face painting master to lead the Face Painting Workshop every weekend. Kids can choose to have their faces painted on by the master with a selection of patterns, or they can opt to draw their own unique face or body painting masterpieces.





As investors flee China rout, bargain hunters turn to Hong Kong

Ye Xie and Aleksandra Gjorgievska

BARGAIN hunters looking to take advantage of a Chinese stock market rout that's wiped out USD2.4 trillion in value since mid-June are casting their lots outside the mainland.

BlackRock Inc.'s \$8.1 billion ETF tracking Hong Kong-listed Chinese companies lured \$588 million last month, the second biggest inflow since December 2012. At the same time, investors pulled a record \$337 million from the largest U.S. ETF investing in their mainland-listed equivalents.

While the Shanghai Composite Index's 24 percent slump from its June 12 peak has sent investors fleeing, Hong Kong-listed securities, known as H-shares, are less vulnerable to the unwinding of leverage bets that's helping fuel the rout, while their cheaper valuations provide better protection from further market slumps. Dual-listed companies are trading more than 20 percent cheaper in Hong Kong than on the mainland, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

"Investors are starting to see H-shares as representing good value relative to the excessive valuations of those other stocks," Allan Conway, head of emerging market equities at Schroder Investment Manage-

ment Ltd. in London, said by phone. "There will be some switching because of the valuation gap."

The Shanghai benchmark posted the largest three-week decline since 1997 as government measures, including relaxing margin-trading rules and cutting transaction fees, failed to shore up confidence and keep leveraged traders from selling holdings to pay back the money they borrowed to buy shares. A five-fold surge in margin debt had helped propel the gauge up more than 150 percent in the 12 months through June 12.

While H-shares lagged in the run-up, they have fared better during the selloff. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index has declined 8.6 percent in the past three weeks, trimming gains over the past year to 22 percent.

Even after the recent out-performance, Hong Kong-listed stocks are still trading at a 22 percent discount to their mainland counterparts, known as A-shares. They were at par as recently as in November.

"Investors feel safer investing in H-shares," Clem Miller, an investment strategist at Wilmington Trust, which manages \$20 billion, said by phone from Baltimore. The mainland market reflects "the whole fear-and-greed cycle," he said. **Bloomberg**

ADVERTORIAL

MGM MACAU



Helping to Create a Better Tomorrow Today

Do you know that there are countless easy ways that we can save energy at home and reduce our impacts on the environment? Some useful tips include:

- Setting the air-conditioner temperature between 22.5°C-24.5°C;
- Replacing indoor and outdoor lighting with energy-efficient alternatives, such as LED lighting;
- Using the washing machine when you have collected a full load (if you must wash a partial load, use the economy or half load setting);
- Unplug your appliances and electronics when you're not using them.

These are among many tips that will help you to not only save energy and protect the environment, but also help to reduce your energy bills. In this spirit, MGM MACAU has recently initiated its very own energy saving campaign to help inspire and engage our employees to save energy.



MGM Energy Saving Week

In June, we launched **MGM Energy Saving Week**. Throughout the week, we held a series of fun activities for our team members to help raise awareness of how we can be mindful about our energy consumption, both at home and at work to enjoy cleaner air and a healthier environment.

The highlight activities included:

- An **employee energy saving roadshow** which invited team members to come and play fun games and win prizes centered on energy saving concepts;
- An **"Energy Saving at Home"** seminar, given by the Macau electricity company, Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), with useful tips on how to reduce energy consumption at home (whilst also reducing our bills!);
- A **low carbon menu** offered at our employee dining room highlighting ways to buy produce to reduce associated transport pollution and select foods that require less energy to produce them;
- **Casual Wear Day**, encouraging non-uniformed staff to wear lighter clothing, emphasizing that in summer we don't need to keep the air-conditioning at full strength to keep cool; and
- An **energy tour of MGM** to show employees' first-hand how we're saving energy behind the scenes.

To raise awareness of the importance of switching off:

- **We turned off one of our employee escalators**, encouraging all to take the stairs and highlighting that in just one day we avoided the pollution caused from the fuel of 8 days' worth of driving; and
- **We also joined Macau government's initiative to switch off our external lighting in unison for 1 hour**, recognizing that we need to join together to combat the impacts of climate change and protect the environment.

Saving energy is part of what we do

Since 2008, we have reduced our energy consumption by 24% through initiatives such as replacing our lighting with energy efficient alternatives, and making our hot water system and air-conditioning chiller plant more energy-efficient. We recently unveiled our new energy data management system which allows all employees to access real time energy consumption to help us better understand our impacts and areas for improvement.

Awarded for our green efforts

Macau Green Hotel Award – In recognition of efforts, MGM received the gold award at the Macau Green Hotel Award on June 11, one of just three hotels in Macau to receive the highest achievement which was presented by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) and co-organized by the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO). The Award recognizes MGM Macau's high standards of environmental management.

Energy Saving Contest Awards – We are also proud to have been named Hotels Group C Champion for our total energy savings in 2012 and 2013 by the CEM Energy Saving Contest, also receiving the Energy Saving Concept Prize Award in 2012 and 2014, which specifically recognizes our energy saving measures and management.



UNESCO recognition of Tusi sites cheered

The Tusi sites, which offer a glimpse into the ancient chieftain system that governed ethnic minorities in southwest China for eight centuries, have entered UNESCO's world heritage list.

Three Tusi sites - the ruins of Hailongtun castle in Guizhou Province; the Tangya Tusi city in Hubei Province; and the Yongshun old Tusi city in Hunan Province - were added to the World Cultural Heritage List on Saturday during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn, Germany.

A Tusi was a tribal leader appointed as an imperial official by the central government in ancient China. The Tusi system was a political system adopted by feudal Chinese emperors to govern ethnic minority regions.

"The three sites are in areas where different ethnic groups and cultures coexisted," said Fu Jing, an expert with the China Architecture Design and Research Group. "They show the diversified culture and history of ancient China."

The chieftains ruled Tangya Tusi city in Hubei Province, central China, for 460 years. Statues, a cemetery and an ornately decorated memorial archway are still standing.

Yongshun Tusi city in central Hunan Province has a history dating back more than 600 years. Lying on the bank of a river, it has a temple, ances-



A Tangya Tusi site in central China's Hubei Province

tral house, cemeteries and a memorial archway. Even its complicated sewage network still works.

Lots of Tujia (a local ethnic group) in Yongshun flocked to the streets on Saturday afternoon wearing their traditional attire to celebrate the inscription.

Experts said the Yongshun old Tusi city can provide important evidence for research on Tujia culture, and relations between the ancient central government and the local minority groups.

Zhu Changxiang, 74, a resident of the village where Yongshun old Tusi city is loca-

ted, told Xinhua that she was proud of her hometown. The inscription of Tusi sites will help expose the world to the Tujia, she said.

"The Tusi system helped to unify the administration, as the Tusi could keep their army and sovereignty if they submitted themselves to the rule

of the emperor," said Li Ping, deputy director of Tujia-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Xiangxi, Hunan Province, which administers Yongshun.

Luo Weiqing, from Jishou University in Xiangxi, said the Tusi system was a model for preserving cultural diversity in a unified multi-ethnic country.

To better protect the old Tusi city and help more people understand the local culture, the local government is building a park and museum, which will open in September.

Hailongtun castle in Zunyi, Guizhou Province, was built in 1257. To protect Hailongtun, the Zunyi government has allocated about 300 million yuan (USD48.36 million) to relocate residents and improve the site.

"We will continue to improve protection and renovation work," said Guo Zhengyong, director of the Huichuan district government in Zunyi City, where the castle is located. "Experts will be invited to do research in a bid to ensure the safety of the cultural relics and rationally develop the site," Guo said.

UNESCO has acknowledged 1,007 World Heritage properties across the globe, 779 cultural sites, 197 natural sites and 31 mixed sites. With the inscription of the Tusi sites, China now has 48 such sites, just below Italy. **Xinhua**

Hillary Clinton accuses Beijing of hacking

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton accused China on Saturday of stealing commercial secrets and "huge amounts of government information," and of trying to "hack into everything that doesn't move in America," Reuters reported.

According to an article by Amanda Becker, Clinton's language on China appeared to be far stronger than that usually used by President Barack Obama's Democratic administration.

Speaking at a campaign event in New Hampshire, Clinton said she wanted to see China's peaceful rise.

"But we also have to be fully vigilant, China's military is growing very quickly, they're establishing military installations that again threaten countries we have treaties with, like the Philippines because they are building on contested property," the news agency quoted Clinton as saying.

"They're also trying to hack into everything that doesn't move in America. Stealing commercial secrets ... from defense contractors, stealing huge amounts of government information, all looking for an advantage," she said.

Clinton is the front-runner to win the



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton

Democratic nomination for the November 2016 presidential election.

Asked about the remarks by Reuters, a White House official declined to comment.

In the most recent case involving suspicions of Chinese hacking, Obama administration officials have said China is the top suspect in the massive hacking of a U.S. government agency that compromised the personnel records of at least 4.2 million current and former government workers.

China has denied hacking into the computers of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the story added.

Korean institute chief falls to death after deadly bus trip

The head of a South Korean institute that organized a tour of China by local officials that ended in a deadly bus crash fell to his death from a hotel early yesterday in northeastern China, state media reported.

Choi Doo Yeong had traveled to China to deal with the aftermath of Wednesday's accident in which a bus plunged from a highway bridge with 28 people aboard, killing the Chinese driver plus 10 South Koreans who had been studying at the state-run Local Government Officials Development Institute.

The official Xinhua News agency cited local authorities in the Jilin Province city of Ji'an as confirming that Choi, the head of



the Suwon-based institute, had fallen to his death. Police received the report of his fall at 3:13 a.m., Xinhua said.

The South Korean news agency Yonhap cited south Korean officials as saying Choi had felt a heavy sense of responsibility for the accident and that it was unclear whether the fall was an accident

or a suicide.

The 10 South Koreans were part of a 140-person delegation on a tour of historic sites in China, including places where Korean independence fighters helped resist Japanese colonial rule before the end of World War II.

Also yesterday, Ji'an officials announced that they had determined speeding was to blame for the bus crash.

The city government said that the bus was on a mountain road with a speed limit of 40 kilometers per hour, but that the 39-year-old driver was driving at speeds up to twice as fast. The city says tests ruled out the possibility he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. **AP**

Companies to create USD19b fund to support plunging stock market

MORE than two dozen companies in China are postponing initial public offerings and security companies are pledging more than USD19 billion for a fund to stabilize the country's free-falling stock market.

The 28 companies, which had obtained permission from China's securities watchdog for IPOs planned in Shanghai and Shenzhen, said they would postpone them due to recent market fluctuations and refund money already paid, the official Xinhua News agency announced late Saturday. That followed reports that regulators were asking companies to postpone the IPOs. The move was ordered at a meeting of the State Council, China's cabinet, and will be enforced by the China Securities Regulatory Commission, the financial magazine *Caijing* reported on its website on Saturday, without saying how it obtained the information or how long the planned freeze would last.

Twenty-one Chinese securities companies, in a joint statement released Saturday, said they would pledge no less than 120 billion yuan (\$19.33 billion) to invest in Chinese stocks and funds. The securities companies also said they would

AP PHOTO



Chinese stock investors

continue to invest in the market as long as the Shanghai Composite index, the Chinese equivalent of the Standard & Poor's 500 index, remains below 4,500. It closed at 3,686 on Friday.

The statement was posted on the website of the Securities Association of China.

The Chinese stock market has been in free-fall for three weeks, losing 28 percent of its value since June 12. Despite the plunge, the market is up 79 percent in the last year. The drop has wiped out several trillion dollars in market value in a matter of weeks.

Even though China is the world's second-largest economy, the Chinese stock market remains largely isolated. Foreign investors can only indirectly participate in the market through funds or through specialized brokerage services. Unlike the U.S. and European markets

where institutional investors play a major role, the Chinese stock market is dominated by individual investors.

For months, state-owned media had encouraged ordinary Chinese to load up on shares. Many Chinese individual investors borrowed heavily to buy stocks — taking out so-called margin loans. And the rising stock prices encouraged companies to raise money by issuing shares and to use the proceeds to pay down debt.

In the first half of the year, the Shanghai stock market led the world in initial public offerings: 78 companies issued shares in Shanghai, raising \$16.6 billion, according to a study by the accounting firm EY. Hong Kong was No. 2 with 31 deals that raised \$16 billion. Shenzhen was No. 5 with 112 deals that raised \$7 billion.

The People's Daily, the official newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party, urged investors to stay calm. Moves to stabilize the market take time to transmit, the paper said on Weibo, China's Twitter-like microblogging site. "During this process, investors should have confidence and patience, instead of losing their minds and not knowing what to do amid anxiety and panic," it said. **AP/Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou delivers a keynote speech during a parade marking the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, at the military base in Hsinchu, northern Taiwan

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN marched out thousands of troops and displayed its most modern military hardware Saturday to spotlight an old but often forgotten claim that its forces, not the Chinese Communists, led the campaign that routed imperial Japan

from China 70 years ago. The military staged an unusually large two-hour parade of homegrown missiles, Apache attack helicopters and a mountain bike team designed for stealth missions, followed by awards for aged World War II veterans in their attire from the 1940s.

TAIWAN

Taipei stands up to Beijing with World War II military parade

China and Taiwan split during civil war in 1949 and today's China — more militarily and economically powerful than Taiwan — claims that the Chinese Communists had directed the resistance against the Japanese. Mainland officials have argued that the Communists' advice and fighting skills were crucial to the victory.

Taiwan's Nationalist Party ruled all of China when Japan invaded parts of the country from 1931, forming a central stage of the Asian World War II theater. In one attack, the Japanese massacred between 40,000 and 300,000 Chinese in what has become known as the Nanjing Massacre.

Officials in Taiwan say that the Communist forces had a minor role in fighting the Japanese alongside the Republic of China troops, and that during China's eight-year resistance against Japan they were mainly building up their own ranks and fighting a civil war they would eventually win.

"The war of resistance was led by the Republic of China and Chairman Chiang Kai-shek was the force behind it," Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou said in a speech after the parade, referring to the old Nationalist government's strongman. "No one is allowed to distort that."

After losing the civil war, the Nationalists re-

based in Taiwan in the late 1940s, and their constitutional Republic of China government has governed the western Pacific island since then.

China's Communists also claim sovereignty over Taiwan and insist that the two sides eventually reunify, though opinion polls on the island show most Taiwanese prefer self-rule.

Taiwan's effort to cast the war in its favor comes as it seeks to avoid being eclipsed internationally by China, which has eight times more diplomatic allies.

"It's because the rest of the world is ignoring the Republic of China, so they want their contribution to be well recognized," said

Kweibo Huang, associate professor of diplomacy at National Chengchi University in Taipei. "At least there's a domestic outcome, which is that everyone in Taiwan shares awareness as a nation or a sovereign state."

China will offer a three-day public holiday in September to mark the war anniversary, and the official Xinhua news agency says the government will hold its first World War II memorial parade that month.

Beijing had invited Taiwan representatives, but the island government said in April that officials would be banned by law and that any private citizens should attend with caution. **AP**

MALAYSIA

PM Razak faces risk of criminal charges over fund

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Najib Razak is facing the risk of criminal charges over allegations that hundreds of millions of dollars were funneled from an indebted state fund to his personal bank accounts, the first time a Malaysian leader has faced criminal allegations.

The attorney general confirmed late Saturday that he has received documents from an official investigation that made the link between Najib and the investment fund 1MDB. The existence of the documents was first reported by the Asian Wall Street Journal on Friday, showing some USD700 million were wired from entities linked to the fund into Najib's accounts.

The documents sent to the attorney general pave the way for possible criminal charges.

It is one of the worst political crises for Najib, who has come under increasing criticism over his



In this May 11 file photo, Najib Razak addresses delegates during his speech at the ruling party United Malays National Organization's (UMNO) anniversary celebration in Kuala Lumpur

leadership. He has denied taking any money for personal gains.

"It's damning and disastrous for Najib," said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, who heads the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs think-tank.

"This is really uncharted territory in Malaysian politics. For the

first time ever, we are seeing a prime minister facing the possibility of a criminal charge," he said.

1MDB, set up by Najib in 2009 to develop new industries, has accumulated 42 billion ringgit (\$11.1 billion) in debt after its energy ventures abroad faltered. Critics, led by former Prime Mi-

nister Mahathir Mohamad, have voiced concerns about 1MDB's massive debt and alleged lack of transparency.

The Wall Street Journal report said five deposits were made into Najib's accounts and that the two largest transactions, worth \$620 million and \$61 million, were done in March 2013 ahead of general elections.

Najib slammed the report as part of a "political sabotage" by Mahathir to remove him. Mahathir, who stepped down in 2003 after 22 years in power but has remained an influential political figure, has been leading calls for Najib to step down.

1MDB said it has never provided any funds to Najib.

Attorney General Abdul Gani Patail, however, said a task force investigating 1MDB for alleged impropriety has given him papers "including documents related to allegations of fund transfer into the account of the prime minister."

Abdul Gani said the task force raided offices of three companies linked to 1MDB that were allegedly involved in the fund transfer. He didn't give further details on the documents or say what actions would be taken.

The Star English-language newspaper said on its website that Najib would file a lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal tomorrow. An aide to the prime minister said Najib would make a statement later yesterday, but didn't give details.

Najib's deputy, Muhyiddin Yassin, said the allegations must be investigated because they tarnish Najib's credibility and integrity. Opposition lawmakers have said Najib should go on leave and also declare his assets.

"Even if nothing comes up from the investigation, the damage to Najib's reputation has been done. The pressure for him to step down will increase," said Wan Saiful, the head of the think-tank.

Najib, the son of a former prime minister, took over the premiership in 2009. He has fought criticism over his management of the economy, and being implicated in the murder of a Mongolian model nine years ago. Najib has said he had nothing to do with the model, and two security officers linked to Najib at the time were found guilty of her murder. **AP**

AD

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WORKING LUNCHEON

**Off-Plan Property Sale in Macau:
New Legal Framework in Practice**

Macau Law 7/2013 enacted on 1st June 2013 introduced for the first time a detailed framework of rules for the sale of properties off-plan.

Two years on, the conclusion is clear that this Law has had a major impact of Macau's property market and has changed it for the good.

Dr Carlos Simoes of DSL Lawyers,
a leading Macau counsel and renowned expert in this field, will review the main features of Law 7/2013, how it works, and evaluate how and why it changed the Macau property market.

Tuesday, 14th July
12.30 pm to start at 1 pm – 2 pm
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Grant Peck, Hanoi

VIETNAM

US, wooing Hanoi, readies red carpet for communist chief

VIETNAMESE Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong doesn't hold an official government post, but it's not surprising that he'll meet with President Barack Obama on his visit to the United States this week. He is the de-facto top leader of his country.

More telling is one of Trong's other engagements — a dinner reception hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, bastion of American free enterprise. Economic imperatives drove the U.S. and Vietnam to normalize postwar relations 20 years ago, and they remain a major incentive to boost ties.

Trong called his trip tomorrow "a historic visit." He said he expects Obama to make his first visit to Vietnam later this year, though the White House has not confirmed the trip.

U.S. officials are eager to take relations with Vietnam — currently friendly but hardly intimate — to a new level. Vietnam could be a linchpin in Obama's "pivot" toward Asia, playing a strong geopolitical and economic role. As a front-line country nervous about Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea, Vietnam also would not mind the U.S. directing at least a little hard talk at Beijing.

"We believe that as one of the world's leading major powers and a member of the (U.N. Security Council), the U.S. has a great interest and responsibility in maintaining peace and stability in the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific," Trong said Friday in a written response to questions submitted by The Associated Press.

In careful diplomatic language, he said he hoped "that the U.S. will continue to have appropriate voice and actions to contribute to peaceful se-



AP PHOTO
Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong

In Washington's view, however, wooing a hard-line skeptic such as the 71-year-old Trong is key to achieving the two countries' goals.

While Trong's trip is a sign of how far the U.S.-Vietnam relationship has come in the 40 years since the end of the war, that doesn't mean an alliance is in the works, said Walter Lohman, director of the Asian Studies Center at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

"They want to have eggs in the American basket to balance off what they've got in the Chinese basket, all in the service of Vietnam's interest and strategic vision," he said. **AP**

ttlement of disputes in the (South China Sea) in accordance with international law in order to ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and the world."

U.S. ambitions to remain a Pacific power hinge in large part on projecting its power by drawing a line with China.

Popular sentiment in Vietnam is generally hostile toward China's assertive maritime territorial claims, but the country's leaders are loath to antagonize their much bigger neighbor. The practical perils of proximity are one matter, but more doctrinaire communists such as Trong are uneasy about casting their lot with the democratic West instead of their old communist kin in Beijing.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Japan, Mekong states seek closer ties amid spats

Jie Ma

JAPAN and five countries bordering the South China Sea pledged to uphold freedom of navigation and overflight amid rising tensions over China's build-up of reefs in disputed waters.

Japan and the so-called Mekong region nations called for swift agreement on a code of conduct, reiterating their concern over "recent developments" that they said may undermine the region's stability in a joint statement issued Saturday. Separately, the government in Tokyo will provide 750 billion yen (USD6.1 billion) over three years to develop infrastructure and conserve the environment.

"Both sides reaffirmed the importance of deepening their cooperation on maritime security and maritime safety in the region," the statement

showed. The Mekong countries comprise Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Japan has been signaling its support for countries around the South China Sea, a region that's estimated to host more than \$5 trillion of shipping each year and provides about 10 percent of the world's fishing catch. Japan in June conducted military drills with the Philippines near the Spratly Islands, where China has created more than 2,000 acres of land in waters also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The U.S. has sought to ease tensions, with Defense Secretary Ashton Carter urging "renewed diplomacy." There's no military solution to the South China Sea disputes, he told defense ministers and military chiefs at a Singapore conference on May 30. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Fatal fire on airtight bullet train exposes lapses

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

A fatal fire on Japan's bullet train, started by a man who self-immolated last week, has revealed blind spots in a system renowned for its speed, punctuality and safety record.

Riding the Shinkansen feels like being in an airplane: at 300 kilometers per hour, it goes so fast in an out of tunnels that it must be airtight. Windows cannot be opened, and doors open only when the train fully stops, which takes several minutes.

Yet, in a country with strict gun control and low



AP PHOTO
In this June 30 file photo, a passenger, left, talks with a station employee on a platform after getting off a high-speed bullet train where a man set himself of fire, at Odawara station, west of Tokyo

crime rate, security is lax — no identification or baggage checks required.

On Tuesday, Haruo Hayashizaki, a 71-year-old retiree, poured a flamma-

ble liquid over himself and lit it while riding a bullet train heading to Osaka from Tokyo. He died on the spot, and smoke filled the coach, choking a fema-

le passenger to death.

It was the first fire in the train's 50-year history. Experts say it was a wake-up call to something more disastrous, potentially a terrorist attack, and it's time to step up risk management ahead of the G-7 summit in Japan next year and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"The incident took advantage of the blind spots on the Shinkansen," said Seiji Abe, an expert on transportation safety at Kansai University in Osaka. "Fire caused by malicious intentions was not anticipated, and provisions to keep out hazar-

dous materials were not in place."

So far, authorities haven't found any mishandling by the train operator, but the initial investigation and witness accounts have raised questions, including how quickly crew members grasped the situation and whether there should be a better way to clear smoke from the hermetically sealed cars.

A passenger pushed an emergency button, but unlike some newer models, this train was not equipped with an emergency intercom, said Tomoyuki Sano, a spokesman for Central Japan Railway Co., which

operates the Tokyo-Osaka segment of the bullet train.

Satoru Sone, an expert on railway safety at Kogakuin University in Tokyo, said that the power should never be turned off, because ventilation is crucial to getting smoke out. He also said an emergency button with an intercom should be installed.

"In Japan, everyone is so complacent about safety while on a train, unlike overseas," he said, noting that trains elsewhere have been targeted by terrorists and are often less reliable, so smoke resulting from mechanical troubles is not uncommon. **AP**

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For Rent



One Central Tower 7 Penthouse Macau

(Ref: 15040492)
2,403sq. ft. HKD 50,000

Unique opportunity to live in an exclusive penthouse. Located in the One Central complex, this property offers stunning views across the South China Sea towards Penha Hill. This penthouse is considered to be one of the few true luxury properties on the Macau peninsula.



Hellene Gardens Designer Style Coloane

(Ref: 1505506)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 20,000

Renovated to a high standard. Large open plan living & dining area. TV nook within living area (possible to convert to 3 bedroom). Two double bedrooms. Two bathrooms (one with bath & shower). Open plan modern kitchen. Balcony area enlarged, with bi fold doors. Parking space included.



Iau Lei Garden, Taipa

(Ref: 1505503)
1,100sq. ft. HKD 13,900

3 bedroom / 2 bathroom family apartment.

Open views across Taipa. Convenient location.

Bright and well appointed property. Excellent value for money.



One Grantai, Unit Y Taipa

(Ref: 1505508)
2,158sq. ft. HKD 22,000

Luxury High floor unfurnished apartment with 3 bedrooms + maids room. Large open planned living/dining area with balcony and beautiful green views. Fully fitted large kitchen. 3 bathrooms with 2 being en suite. Great Location with easy reach of all Macau's major transport links. Fantastic club house facilities including gym, children's play areas, karaoke, reading rooms and much more.



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens Coloane

(Ref: 1505501)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 20,000

Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with access to the roof terrace and double parking space. Stylish open plan kitchen with all appliances has views across pool towards the beach. The living/dining area is spacious & bright with white ceramic floor tiles. Available from End of July 2015



Sheung Va Hin Macau

(Ref: 15030474)
880sq. ft. HKD 12,800

Fully furnished 2 bedroom walk up apartment. Open kitchen.

Newly renovated.

Close to Keang Wu hospital, school, bus stop, cinema, restaurants, banks, viewing by appointment.



Houston Court, Coloane Village

(Ref: 1505502)
800sq. ft. HKD 14,400

Stunning One Bedroom Apartment. Well appointment property in Coloane village. Views across the water to China. One king size bedroom with built in storage. Good size en suite toilet & shower room. Furnished & upgraded last month (painted throughout. Air con gased & serviced, new bathroom fittings). Modern open plan kitchen & living area. Small private outdoor area.



Va Fu, Old Taipa Village Taipa

(Ref: 15050511)
800sq. ft. HKD 12,500

Spacious and bright furnished apartment. This apartment has one bedroom with free standing storage, one modern bathroom and one small closed balcony for laundry.

Open plan living/dining area. Very centrally located, within minutes of cafes, shops, banks, restaurants and supermarkets. Bus stop across the road. Fifteen minute walk from Cotai area.

For Sale



Roof Top Apartment Macau

(Ref: 14095414)
799sq. ft. HKD 4.99M
Rate: HKD 6,250ft.

Renovated 5 years ago. Modern open plan kitchen. Good size double bedroom on main floor. Separate bathroom on main floor. Wooden staircase to upper floor (open area: good for bedroom, office, studio or entertainment area). Great size private terrace. Viewings over looking Government Offices. Rare chance to buy a view. Viewings by appointment only.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



Vila Bela Macau

(Ref: 15055442)
1,978 sq. ft. HKD 16M
Rate: HKD 8,088sq ft

Situated in Macau on the quiet secluded street of Praia Grande. Stunning views across the tree lined road to the Sai Wan bridge. An exclusive property; 5 floors serviced by one lift, two apartments per floor. Renovated in 2000, with one design change making one bedroom larger by closing one bathroom and extending the bedroom. The apartment now has four double bedrooms, two bathrooms, built in cabinets in the master & another double bedroom.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Hellene Gardens 3 Bedroom Apartment & Car Park

(Ref: 15055437)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 8.8M
Rate: HKD 5,292sq ft

Property Features & Benefits. Lovely renovated apartment for sale in Bauhinia Court. Completely renovated in 2011, this apartment needs no further work. Bright kitchen with views over the swimming pool and further onto Hac Sa Beach. Fitted white/stainless steel cabinets, grey speckled Corian worktop and black gloss tile splashback gives the kitchen a modern high tech feel.



Nova City - Central Taipa

(Ref: 14085412)
2,505sq. ft. HKD 19.8M
Rate: HKD7,904sq ft

Located in the premier block No 5 this apartment is stunning. With the original owner occupying the apartment the interior standard is very high. 4 double bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 toilet. Well equipped western style kitchen. Parking Space HKD1,800,000

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(English Speaker)
T: (853) 6610 2371
Lorraine@JMLProperty.com

PARADES, fireworks, naturalization ceremonies, eating contests and music ushered in the Fourth of July as the United States marked 239 years as an independent nation on Saturday.

Speaking in Washington, President Barack Obama said U.S. service members make it possible to enjoy the “incredible blessings” in the greatest country on earth. He said “freedom is not free” but is paid for by all the men and women of the military, including those who blanketed the White House South Lawn for a concert in their honor by Bruno Mars.

Obama spoke minutes before the annual Fourth of July fireworks lit up the night sky over the National Mall. He was accompanied by Michelle Obama.

Heavy rain that soaked Washington all day forced the White House to cancel its annual Fourth of July picnic for members of the military and their families.

Meanwhile in New York, hundreds of thousands of people braved tight security along the city’s East River to watch the annual Macy’s Fourth of July fireworks display.

Minneapolis resident Joe Cunningham said Saturday’s fireworks show was “awesome” and lived up to his family’s expectations.

USA

Parades, hot dogs, cold beer: America celebrates July 4



The Empire State Building, left, is illuminated as fireworks explode over the East River in front of the Manhattan skyline

Macy’s said the 25-minute show featured more than 50,000 shells set off from five

barges on the river. Independence Day wouldn’t have been complete without the

quintessential American hot dog. Matt Stonie devoured 62 wieners and buns in 10 minutes

to upset Joey “Jaws” Chestnut in the annual hot dog eating contest at Nathan’s Famous in Coney Island, breaking Chestnut’s bid for a ninth straight victory. Stonie beat Chestnut by two wieners. Both were from San Jose, California. The third-place finisher ate 35 hot dogs.

Naturalization ceremonies big and small were also held across the U.S. The director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ Baltimore district administered the oath of allegiance to 40 people from 27 countries during a ceremony at The Engineers Club in Baltimore.

In Plymouth, Vermont, 20 people became U.S. citizens at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. The great-granddaughter of President and Mrs. Coolidge sang the national anthem.

Officials say over 4,000 new citizens were welcomed in more than 50 naturalization ceremonies across the country from July 1 through July 4. **AP**

ECUADOR

On his native turf, Pope Francis touches on cherished issues

Frank Bajak and Nicole Winfield, Quito

HISTORY’S first Latin American pope was returning to Spanish-speaking South America for the first time yesterday, bringing a message of solidarity with the region’s poor, who were expected to turn out in droves to welcome their native son home.

“The pope of the poor” chose to visit Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay specifically because they are among the poorest and most marginal nations of a region that claims 40 percent of the world’s Catholics. He’s skipping his homeland of Argentina, at least partly to avoid papal entanglement in this year’s presidential election.

The trip starts in Ecuador, where falling world prices for oil and minerals threaten to fray the

social safety net woven by President Rafael Correa, who has been buffeted for nearly a month by the most serious anti-government street protests of his more than eight years in power.

Francis is likely to raise environmental concerns with Correa and the leader of Bolivia — who have promoted mining and oil drilling in wilderness areas — given his recent encyclical on the need to protect nature and the poor who suffer most when it is exploited.

In that document, Francis called for a new development model that rejects today’s profit-at-all cost mentality in favor of a Christian view of economic progress that respects human rights, safeguards the planet and involves all sectors of society, the poor and marginalized included.

In a video message on

the eve of his departure, Francis said he wanted to bring a message of hope and joy to all “especially the neediest, the elderly, the sick, those in prison and the poor and all those who are victims of this ‘throwaway culture.’”

Francis’ stops include a violent Bolivian prison, a flood-prone Paraguayan shantytown and a meeting with Bolivian trash pickers, the sort of people he ministered to in the slums of Buenos Aires as archbishop.

Crowds are expected to be huge. While the countries themselves are tiny compared to regional powerhouses like Brazil and Argentina, they are fervently Catholic: 79 percent of the population is Catholic in Ecuador, 77 percent in Bolivia and a whopping 89 percent in Paraguay, according to the Pew Research Center. **AP**

SYRIA

Deadly strikes by US led coalition targeting IS in Raqqa

Zeina Karam, Beirut

U.S.-LED coalition aircraft unleashed a series of airstrikes targeting the Islamic State group’s stronghold of Raqqa in eastern Syria, killing at least 10 militants and wounding many others, the coalition and the group said yesterday.

At least 16 airstrikes were reported late Saturday and early yesterday, triggering successive explosions that shook the city and created panic among residents, activists said. The U.S.-led coalition often targets IS-held towns and cities in Syria, but the overnight strikes on Raqqa were rare in their intensity.

In a statement issued early yesterday, the coalition said it had conducted 16 airstrikes throughout Raqqa, destroying vital IS-controlled structures and transit routes in Syria.

“The significant airstrikes tonight were executed to deny Daesh the ability to move military capabilities throughout Syria and into Iraq,” said coalition spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Gilleran, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

“This was one of the largest deliberate engagements we have conducted

to date in Syria, and it will have debilitating effects on Daesh’s ability to move” from Raqqa.

Raqqa is the de facto capital of the so-called Islamic caliphate declared a year ago by the Islamic State group in territories it controls in Iraq and Syria.

An IS-affiliated militant website confirmed the strikes on the center of the city, saying 10 people were killed and dozens wounded. It also published purported photos of dead victims, including two of young boys suggesting they were civilians.

A Raqqa-based anti-IS activist network reported eight civilians were killed by the coalition airstrikes, including a 10-year-old child. The report could not be independently confirmed.

The network, called Raqqa is Being Silently Slaughtered, said at least one airstrike targeted a group of IS members in the city center. Another targeted an IS checkpoint while a third destroyed large parts of an IS-held brick factory in the city.

The coalition regularly targets the Islamic State group, which controls about a third of Iraq and Syria. **AP**

what's ON



PANTONE 0022 M – PAINTING EXHIBITION BY JOÃO JORGE MAGALHÃES

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 18, 2015

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2015—CHINESE PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY CATEGORY

TIME: 10am-8pm

UNTIL: August 2, 2015

VENUE: Old Court Building

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat

GERMAN AUTHORITIES SEIZE TANK, OTHER WWII WEAPONS IN RAID



A World War II-era Panther tank is prepared for transportation from a residential property in Heikendorf, northern Germany

Authorities seized a 45-ton Panther tank, a flak cannon and multiple other World War II-era military weapons in a raid on a 78-year-old collector's home in northern Germany, prosecutors said Friday.

Kiel prosecutor Birgit Hess said the collector, whose name she would not release for privacy reasons, is being investigated for possibly violating German weapons laws but remains free while the probe is ongoing.

In the search Wednesday and Thursday investigators also seized a torpedo and multiple other military items in addition to the Panzer V "Panther" tank and the 88mm flak gun, Hess told The Associated Press. German military engineers were called in to haul the tank out of the underground garage of the house in Kitzberg, near Kiel.

The collector's attorney, Peter Gramsch, told the dpa news agency all the items were properly demilitarized and registered.

Hess said that she did not know whether the main gun on the tank could fire, but it didn't appear to be properly registered and an independent expert said it wasn't properly demilitarized.

The collector came to authorities' attention in an investigation into black market Nazi-era art that in May turned up two massive bronze horse statues that once stood in front of Adolf Hitler's chancellery. Those were in the possession of another man, who maintains he is the rightful owner.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:00	The Illusionist (Repeated)
18:50	Non Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

03 JUL - 8 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

TERMINATOR: GENISYS
ROOM 2
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30pm
(3D) 7.15
Director: Alan Taylor
Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 120min

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
(4 - 5 JUL) 2.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Thomas Vinterberg
Starring: Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaerts
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 94min

MINIONS
ROOM 3
(4 - 5 JUL) 4.45, 7.30 pm
Director: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 91min

MACAU TOWER

02 JUL - 15 JUL

TERMINATOR: GENISYS
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Alan Taylor
Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 125min



this day in history



2005 LONDON BEATS PARIS TO 2012 GAMES

The 2012 Olympic Games will be held in London, the International Olympic Committee has announced. London won a two-way fight with Paris by 54 votes to 50 at the IOC meeting in Singapore, after bids from Moscow, New York and Madrid were eliminated. Prime Minister Tony Blair called the win "a momentous day" for Britain.

Paris had been favorites throughout the campaign but London's hopes were raised after an impressive presentation by Lord Coe, the bid chairman. IOC president Jacques Rogge made the dramatic announcement at 1249 BST. It will be the first time the Olympics has been held in Britain since 1948.

Coe said: "This is just the most fantastic opportunity to do everything we ever dreamed of in British sport." The Queen, in a message to Coe, said: "I send my warmest congratulations to you and every member of the London 2012 team for winning the bid for the UK. "It's a really outstanding achievement to beat such a highly competitive field."

News of London's victory delighted flag-waving supporters who had gathered in Trafalgar Square and Stratford in the East End of London, where the new Olympic park will be built.

Shares of British construction companies soared, while mortgage lenders predicted house prices in the capital would rocket. But raindrops began falling on disappointed Parisians outside the Hotel de Ville in the French capital shortly after the result. Mr Blair had helped London's late momentum with a whistlestop 48-hour visit to Singapore, before flying back for the G8 summit in Scotland.

Breaking off from the meeting of world leaders, he said of London: "Many reckon it is the greatest capital city in the world and the Olympics will help keep it that way."

Rogge had correctly forecast a cliffhanger vote, and offered his congratulations to the winners. "We knew the two bids were very, very close. Well done, London. It will be a superb Games and will strengthen the Olympics," he said.

An hour after the decision, London's bid leaders were greeted by warm applause as they signed the official contract to stage the Games. All five bidding cities gave final 45-minute presentations to the IOC members before the vote began.

The electronic ballot started at 1126 BST. Moscow, New York and Madrid were eliminated from the race in the first, second and third rounds of voting. The final round of voting finished at about 1145 BST, with the committee reconvening at 1230 BST for the official announcement.

Rogge revealed the winner, after a nerve-racking wait, at 1249 BST. Wednesday's decision brings to an end the 18-month race to win the host contract for the 2012 Games. And it was the most keenly-fought bidding contest in recent years.

Paris was considered the front-runner for much of the campaign, and was highly rated in the initial evaluation and also by the inspectors after their visits earlier in the year. But it was widely recognized that bid leader Lord Coe, a high-profile personality within the IOC and other governing bodies, hauled London closer to the French capital as the vote approached.

Madrid was seen as a consistent but not outstanding candidate, while New York's bid was dogged by problems over their proposed stadium, and Moscow was always seen as the rank outsider.

Once attention moved to Singapore, the bidding cities called on political and sporting heavyweights to champion their causes. And the spotlight inevitably focused on Paris and London in the days leading up to the vote. The two cities had President Chirac and Prime Minister Blair respectively in their corners.

Mr Chirac actually took part in the French capital's final presentation on Wednesday, while Mr Blair opted to lobby alongside the London bid team in Singapore before flying back to Britain to host the G8 summit.

London also called on England captain David Beckham and a galaxy of Olympic and Paralympic medalists as ambassadors, while footballers Laurent Blanc and Zinedine Zidane were among those backing the Paris bid.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Olympics took place in London, United Kingdom and to a lesser extent across the country from 25 July to 12 August 2012. The first event, the group stage in women's football began on 25 July at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, followed by the opening ceremonies on 27 July. More than 10,000 athletes from 204 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) participated.

The Games received widespread acclaim for their organization, with the volunteers, the British military and public enthusiasm praised particularly highly. The opening ceremony, directed by Danny Boyle, received widespread acclaim throughout the world, particular praise from the British public and a minority of widely ranging criticisms from some social media sites. During the Games, Michael Phelps became the most decorated Olympic athlete of all time, winning his 22nd medal. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei entered female athletes for the first time, so that every currently eligible country has sent a female competitor to at least one Olympic Games. Women's boxing was included for the first time, thus the Games became the first at which every sport had female competitors.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your ability to think for yourself is a real asset even on terrible days...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your deeper brain is engaged with reality in a new way today - so make sure that you're giving yourself all the time you need to figure stuff out...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It is much harder to convince others you're right today - so make sure that you're not just preaching at them or ranting. Lay the groundwork for a more persuasive case tomorrow or next week.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need help - but you are also the best person for the job. Spend some time on self-care and see if your friends or colleagues can handle their own issues for twenty-four hours.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your energy levels are still incredibly high, so you should be able to tackle almost any challenge that comes your way. You may have a hard time unwinding when all is said and done.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Push yourself to tackle that one big problem that everyone else seems happy to ignore. It can be hard to be the one who takes responsibility, but it should also be rewarding in the long run.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're generally considered pretty good at expressing yourself, but on a day like today, you should find that you're outdoing yourself. Things are looking up, so let people know how stoked you are!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You are not easily persuadable, but today, someone finds a way to bypass your skepticism. It may take some effort to shake off this beguiling new person, but it is certainly worthwhile.

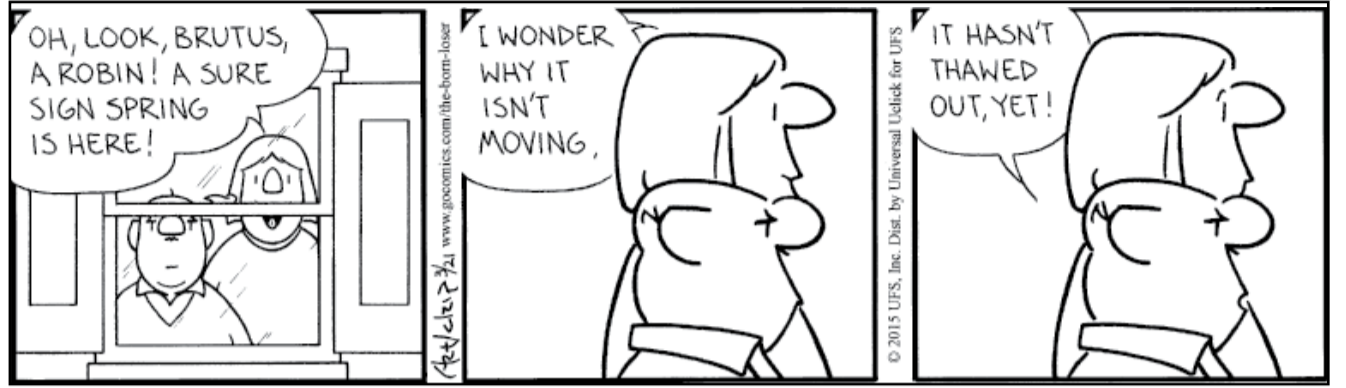
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Someone confesses their admiration for you, and you may find that you are feeling the same way in return. This could lead to a romantic connection, or it may be something even more important to you.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can be intensely idealistic when the time is right, and today brings a new situation that demands it. Try not to push too hard if you meet resistance - you need allies, after all!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your network can never have too many connections - so get out there and meet new people! Your social energy is humming along, and you should be even more attractive than usual. Have fun!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It may be best to keep mum today - it's too easy to let cats out of bags without meaning to do so. A close friend pesters you for more information, so try to hide from them for one more day.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

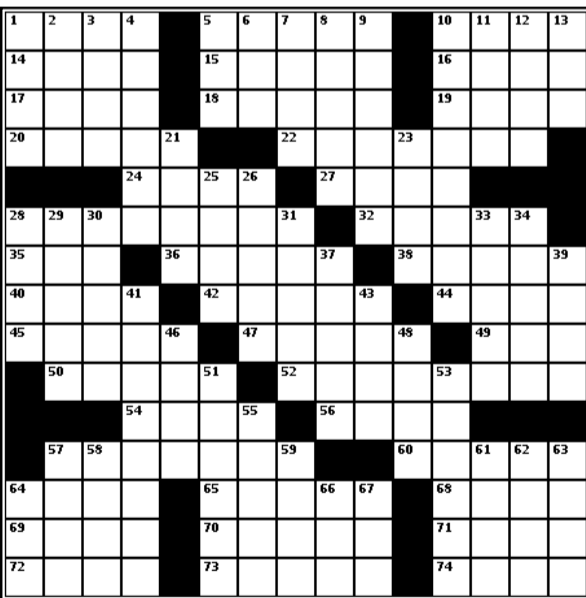
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- European capital; 5- Flies high; 10- Blood fluids; 14- Fleshy fruit; 15- ... who lived in ...; 16- On top of; 17- First name in jazz; 18- Map lines; 19- Johnny Bench's team; 20- Civil rights org.; 22- Occasionally; 24- Gripped; 27- Vintner's prefix; 28- Owner of an upscale inn; 32- Large motor vehicle; 35- Police blotter abbr.; 36- Organic compound; 38- Boredom; 40- "The Haj" novelist; 42- Tending to a definite end; 44- Libel, e.g.; 45- Knight's weapon; 47- Nouveau ...; 49- Boy king; 50- Sharp pain; 52- Polite behavior; 54- Passed-down knowledge; 56- Med. care providers; 57- Shave; 60- Later, dude!; 64- Obi-Wan portrayer; 65- Chip dip; 68- Ruffian; 69- Ill temper; 70- Short gaiters; 71- Deodorant brand; 72- Damon of "Good Will Hunting"; 73- Shouts; 74- Singer Brickell;

DOWN: 1- Amenable; 2- Actress Ward; 3- Refrain syllables; 4- Mountain spinach; 5- Mediterranean isl.; 6- Barcelona bear; 7- Starbuck's boss; 8- Cowboy display; 9- Stanza of six lines; 10- Overcome; 11- Fencing weapon; 12- Fishing gear; 13- Ques. response; 21- Soccer great; 23- Memo heading; 25- Catalog; 26- Dissuade; 28- Drag; 29- Gumbo pods; 30- Spoil; 31- Museum piece; 33- Benjamin; 34- Monetary unit of Turkey; 37- Big name in copiers; 39- ___-bitty; 41- Namely; 43- Pal; 46- Chemical compound; 48- Love personified; 51- Like an infamous knoll?; 53- African fly; 55- Military camp; 57- Charles Lamb's pen name; 58- Hide; 59- Airline to Israel; 61- Israel's Barak; 62- Cosmonaut Gagarin; 63- Author James; 64- 1972 treaty subj.; 66- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 67- Chucklehead;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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Nova City - Central Taipa Taipa 2,505 sq ft / HKD 19.8M
Houston Court, Coloane Village Coloane 1 Bedroom Apartment Recently Upgraded HKD 14,400 / 800 sq ft

Vila Bela Macau 1,978sq ft / HKD 16M
CHUN LEONG Taipa Car Park Space Car Park for Rent HKD 1,700 / 00 sq ft

Designer Apartment Macau 849 sq ft / HKD 5.04M
One Grantai, Unit Y Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment Beautiful Green Views HKD 22,000 / 2,158 sq ft

Hellene Gardens Coloane 1,663 sq ft. / HKD 8.8M
Iau Lei Garden Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment Views across Taipa HKD 13,900 / 1,100 sq ft

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Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications



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Chile beats Argentina 4-1 on penalties to win Copa America

Vicente L. Panetta, Santiago

THE wait is finally over for Chile. The title drought continues for Argentina. Goalkeeper Claudio Bravo made a save and striker Alexis Sanchez converted the winning penalty as the hosts defeated Argentina 4-1 in a shootout after a 0-0 draw in the Copa America final on Saturday, finally winning its first major tournament.

The result extended Argentina's 22-year title drought, and Lionel Messi will continue to hear criticism for his lackluster play with the national team when it needs him the most.

Bravo stopped Ever Baneza's low shot by diving to his left to make the save and, earlier, Gonzalo Higuain also missed for Argentina, sending his shot over the crossbar.

The Chileans made all of their penalties, and captain Bravo lifted the nation's first ever trophy in front of President Michelle Bachelet and nearly 50,000 Chileans who packed the Estadio Nacional, frantically waving Chile's red, blue and white flags.

The title rewarded the nation's best generation of players after years of disappointments in the South American tournament and at World Cups. The victory secures Chile a spot in the Confederations Cup for the first time.

"This is a dream, this team



Alexis Sanchez lifts the trophy

deserved a victory like this," said midfielder Arturo Vidal, one of the leaders of this golden generation. "The Chilean people needed this triumph, needed something so beautiful as being crowned America's champion.

"Today it was an incredible step forward for us, this generation deserved it," the Juventus midfielder said. Chile hadn't made it to a final in 28 years, when it lost to Uruguay in the Copa America in Argentina. It finished runner-up four times, including at home in 1955. Its best result at a World Cup was a third-place finish at home in 1962, and last year it reached the round of 16, being eliminated by host Brazil on penalties.

"We had to leave this negative history behind us," said Barcelona goalkeeper Bravo, Chile's most experienced player all-time with nearly 100 caps. "This is a privileged generation. We had to take advantage of it."

Argentina's disappointment comes less than a year since the 1-0 loss to Germany in the World Cup final. Argentina lost consecutive Copa America finals to Brazil in 2004 and 2007, and in the 2011 tournament at home, Messi and his teammates didn't make it past the quarterfinals.

"We will just keep trying," said Argentina coach Gerardo Martino, who four years ago lost the Copa America final while managing the Pa-

raguayan national team. "We will keep trying with these same players that today are crying in the locker room."

Saturday's defeat came exactly 22 years after Argentina won its last title at the 1993 Copa America, when Messi was only a kid. Since then, it has failed in seven Copa Americas and six World Cups, with Messi playing in five of those tournaments.

"We did everything we could but again it wasn't meant to be," said Javier Mascherano, Messi's teammate at Barcelona. "It's incredibly painful, and we know it's only going to get harder from now on."

Messi struggled throughout the match on Saturday and was never a factor, looking nothing like the star that he usually is with Barcelona.

It was an even final from the start, with the teams creating few scoring chances. Chile controlled possession during most of the second half and came closer than Argentina to getting on the board.

Sanchez had one of the game's best opportunities in the 82nd, but his close-range shot missed wide.

Argentina's greatest chance came in the last play of regulation in a breakaway that started with Messi near midfield, but Higuain hit the outside of the net after a dangerous cross into the area.

In extra time, it was Sanchez who almost scored in a counterattack after Javier Mascherano misplayed a ball near midfield, but his right-footed shot missed the target.

In the shootout, Matias Fernandez, Vidal and Charles Aranguiz all netted for Chile, while Messi scored Argentina's lone goal in the team's first attempt.

Sanchez's winner was a soft shot into the middle of the net as Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero dived to his left, igniting a frantic celebration by his teammates and the fans on the stands. **AP**

England defeats Germany 1-0 in extra time to finish 3rd

Days after a gut-wrenching loss, England finished its deepest run in the Women's World Cup with an uplifting victory. No last-minute heartbreak this time around. Just a solid all-around performance for Steph Houghton and company. Houghton's nifty legwork prevented an own goal and Fara Williams scored on a penalty kick in the 108th minute, leading England to a 1-0 victory over top-ranked Germany in the third-place game Saturday.

Hamilton wins British GP after thrilling race



Lewis Hamilton seized back control of the British Grand Prix after being overtaken on the first corner to win his fifth race of the season yesterday and strengthen his Formula One title defense. A Mercedes one-two was just as forecast — with Nico Rosberg completing a ninth consecutive double podium for the team — but a thrilling rain-affected race defied gloomy paddock talk about the predictability of the sport. Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari was third.

Fiji hammer Micronesia 38-0

Pacific Games organizers say Fiji broke the record for the biggest win in international football with a 38-0 victory yesterday over the Federated States of Micronesia. Fiji led 21-0 lead at halftime. Antonio Tuivuna scored 10 goals for Fiji, which like other teams in the event is being represented by an under-23 side. Organizers said the result broke the 2001 record when Australia beat American Samoa 31-0 in an Oceania confederation qualifier for the 2002 World Cup, although it was not clear if the record would be recognized by FIFA because it involved an under-age tournament. Micronesia lost its first match 30-0 to Tahiti.

AD

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opinion

Insight
 Paulo Barbosa



TWISTS AND TURNS OF THE SMOKING REGULATION

The Executive Council concluded its revision on Macau's Tobacco Prevention and Control Law last week, proposing a full smoking ban in casinos.

The move, made against the will of the gaming operators, was followed by at least two statements published on the Government's Information Bureau online platform, which attempted to explain the reasoning behind the decision.

The first one cited the Health Bureau director, who stated that the negative impact on the economy is only a "forecast" and a "hypothetical question." He also explained that the decision to abolish smoking lounges inside the casinos protects non-smokers from the harm of passive smoking.

The second statement, titled "full smoking ban in casinos ensures the health of both residents and tourists," (an obvious overstatement) cites Alexis Tam, who said "the government led by Chui Sai On intends to ensure the health of the locals, and thus assumes a firm stance regarding the full smoking ban in casinos."

It just so happens that this "firm stance" is relatively new and coincides with a crackdown on smoking in the Chinese mainland. Anti-smoking regulations have been shifting over the past few years, and casinos claim to have spent over MOP1 billion adapting to those regulations and building smoking lounges.

The permissiveness of smoking in casinos seems to have gone from 100 to 0 real quick. Since 2012, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Law has banned smoking in most indoor spaces, but back then, casinos were an exception to the rule. One year later, a partial smoking ban came into effect on mass gaming floors in 2013, which allowed casinos to allocate no more than 50 percent of their gaming area to smokers. A full smoking ban on mass gaming floors was then implemented on October 6 last year, and operators were required to build smoking lounges. Smoking is still allowed in VIP areas today.

One question arises when looking at these shifting regulations: If the government is so concerned with the effects of passive smoking, why did it mislead the gaming operators to set up expensive equipment last year? Why is Alexis Tam bringing up World Health Organization studies and saying that "passive smoking contains 250 health-threatening substances, 69 of them carcinogens?" Wasn't that a problem three years ago, when smoking regulations were introduced and casinos were exempted from them?

The Times visited the smoking lounges of three gaming operators (Sands China, Melco Crown Entertainment and MGM China) in order to understand how these smoking lounges are run. In a report published last Monday, 29 June, we explained how the concessionaires spent millions on setting up specially engineered smoking rooms and on improving the overall ventilation systems across their properties.

The results are smoking lounges equipped with an independent ventilation system and the kind of technology usually used in hospital operating theatres. Those smoking rooms do not contaminate the rest of the property (there's almost no mixed air) and the smoking air is extracted and vented outside.

The impact of the smoking rooms on the health of casino workers seems to be minimal. Only smokers are affected, but that's their choice. It's hard to imagine something more ridiculous than a moralist government in Macau.

If the government is genuinely concerned with the health of both residents and tourists (as I believe it is) it should, for example, invest in green transportation and curb the usage of private cars, the fumes of which can almost choke children on the busiest streets (that's half of the city nowadays).

And if authorities want to show evidence that the lounges damage public health, please show scientific data. It's not enough to have the Health Bureau director claiming that the impact of the measure on gaming revenue is "hypothetical." Operators have made their studies already.

The abovementioned MDT report describes how the locations of smoking lounges have been carefully planned. "Where the smokers are in the casinos, we certainly saw the revenue move to around the smoking rooms," said MGM's Mel Hansen. If that wasn't the case, operators wouldn't invest so much in smoking rooms.

THE BUZZ GIRL KILLED AFTER BEING STRUCK BY JUMPING STURGEON

A 5-year-old Florida girl riding in a boat has died after a sturgeon leaped from the Suwannee River and struck her. Wildlife officials said Jaylon Rippey died after being struck Thursday night. Her mother and 9-year-old brother were also injured and taken to a Gainesville hospital. Their condition was not known. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission said this is the first fatality recorded from a sturgeon strike on the Suwannee River. Four people have been injured by jumping sturgeon this year. The fish are known for leaping more than 2.13 meters above the water. They can grow up to 2.4 meters long and weigh up to 90 kilograms and can cause serious injuries.

SINGAPORE

Botanical Gardens declared World Heritage Site



The Singapore Botanical Gardens

The Singapore Botanical Gardens is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site after it was inscribed at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn, Germany, local TV Channel NewsAsia reported Saturday.

The decision was met with cheers from a jubilant Singapore delegation, led by Culture, Community and Youth Minister Lawrence Wong. The 156-year-old Singapore attraction joins more than 1,000 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in some 160

countries. It is the third Botanical Gardens to be listed as a World Heritage Site after Kew Gardens in England and the Padua Gardens in Italy and Singapore's first World Heritage Site.

The inscription comes almost five years after a feasibility study by the authorities found that the Botanical Gardens is Singapore's best candidate to achieve UNESCO World Heritage status. Singapore officially submitted the gardens' nomination dossier to UNESCO in Ja-

nuary last year.

In September last year, a technical assessor from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) visited the Gardens. In May, ICOMOS recommended the gardens to be inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, saying it is an "exceptional example of a British tropical colonial Botanical garden in Southeast Asia".

Still, the final decision was made by the 21-member UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Before he left for Bonn, Minister Wong said he was optimistic about the bid, adding that the World Heritage status would strengthen conservation efforts at the gardens. The Botanical Gardens spans 74-hectares and includes the National Orchid Garden which has over 1,000 orchid species and 2,000 hybrids on display. **MDT/Xinhua**

CHINA

Air pollution better in first half of 2015

Asmoggy sky, improved during the first six months of 2015, the city government said. The concentration of PM 2.5 — tiny airborne particles that are particularly harmful to human health — dropped by 15.2 percent from a year earlier to an average of 77.7 micrograms per cubic meter during the first half of the year, the government said, citing data from the municipal environment protection bureau.

However, that level remains considerably hi-

gher than the 10 micrograms per cubic meter annual average considered safe by the World Health Organization.

The city government said the amounts of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and PM 10 particles also decreased.

Chinese officials have vowed to clean up Beijing's foul air. Authorities have closed some polluting factories in the region, stepped up law enforcement of polluting industries and limited carbon emissions. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	45-65 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

NIGERIA A woman suicide bomber blew up in the midst of a crowded evangelical Christian church service in northeast Nigeria yesterday and killed at least five people, witnesses said. It is the latest bombing in a string of attacks blamed on Islamic extremist group Boko Haram that's killed some 200 people in the past week.

IRAN U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif are locked in negotiation with just two days left before their latest deadline for a comprehensive nuclear pact. Kerry and Zarif met for 1 1/2 hours yesterday morning in Vienna before a short break. By early afternoon, they were in discussions again. World powers and Iran are hoping to clinch a deal by tomorrow, setting a decade of restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and granting Iran significant relief from international sanctions.

BRAZIL-USA The U.S. National Security Agency monitored the phone numbers of top Brazilian officials, WikiLeaks said, less than a week after President Dilma Rousseff visited the U.S. to mend relations derailed by earlier spying accusations. The 29 phone numbers selected for "intensive interception" included those of Rousseff aides, members of Brazil's finance ministry, diplomats and even the satellite phone on Rousseff's private jet, WikiLeaks said in a report titled "Bugging Brazil" posted on Saturday.

UK Britain's Princess Charlotte, the nine-week-old baby of Prince William and his wife Kate, is set to be christened at a church on Queen Elizabeth II's country estate. The queen, her husband Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Kate's family were to be among guests attending the event yesterday at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, near England's eastern coast. The church is where Charlotte's late grandmother, Princess Diana, was christened in 1961.

HAWAII A plane powered by the sun's rays has landed in Hawaii after a record-breaking five-day journey across the Pacific Ocean from Japan. Pilot Andre Borschberg and his single-seat solar aircraft arrived Friday at Kalaheo, a small airport outside Honolulu after taking off from Nagoya about 120 hours ago. His team says his trip broke the record for the world's longest nonstop solo flight. The late U.S. adventurer Steve Fossett set the previous record of 76 hours.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Cheong Kam Ka



A staff member stamps a Na Tcha figure on an arm of a resident during a ceremony to pray for good fortune at Na Tcha Temple in Macau, July 2.