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CHALLENGES
ACTORS**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA's top disciplinary watchdog is investigating Xi Xiaoming, a vice president of the country's top court, as the ruling Communist Party presses ahead with a nationwide graft crackdown now in its third year. Xi is suspected of "severe discipline and law violations," China's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a short statement on its website Sunday night.

CHINA A warehouse containing fireworks exploded in northern China, killing 15 people, a local authority said yesterday. The explosion Sunday morning happened in Ningjin county in Hebei province, which borders Beijing, and also left two other people seriously injured, according to the microblog of the county's propaganda office.

INDONESIA Bali's airport was open yesterday after being closed for much of the past three days, with authorities monitoring ash from a nearby volcano that continues to erupt about every two hours. The wind is now blowing ash from Mount Raung to the south, away from Bali, Syamsul Huda, a spokesman at Indonesia's meteorological agency, said yesterday.

JAPAN-THAILAND Japanese prosecutors decide not to press charges against a former Bangkok police chief over a loaded gun found in his checked luggage.

INDIA-ITALY India's top court allows an Italian marine to stay in his country for another six months on medical leave before he and a fellow marine face trial in New Delhi for fatally shooting two Indian fishermen in 2012.

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THE Broadway musical 'Ghost,' based on the 1990 hit movie starring Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore, will take center stage at Macau's Cultural Center (CCM) next month. Ahead of a run comprising eight shows, kicking off on August 4, the Times interviewed the Coventry-born actor Liam Doyle and the X Factor finalist Lucie Jones, both of whom are leading stars in the musical production.

The actors stress that playing the roles in a less conventional manner is key, since there's always the risk of being compared to the iconic roles of Sam Wheat and Molly Jensen as played by Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore in the film version.

"I think it's impossible not to be compared to Patrick Swayze because he is the person who originated in the role. I like to think that I bring something new to the role whilst still giving the audience everything that they already expect," said Doyle, who entered the spotlight at the age of 18, playing Troy Bolton in High School Musical 2 after winning a television contest. "I have always been interested in the performing arts. My family used to take me to London to see shows once a year and I always loved it. I never thought that I'd do it as a profession though."

"I love the role of Molly, it is an amazing acting opportunity for me and a huge learning curve. I am very different to Demi Moore, she is an amazing actress and has given me a great

ARTS

'Ghost' leading actors take on challenging roles



Liam Doyle



Lucie Jones

path to follow as Molly but I get to fill in all the personal details. It's amazing!" said Jones. "For me, the best part is at end of the show when Molly's ideas about life and death are completely challenged and you see her question everything and start to believe. It's amazing too."

In aspiring to shine in the musical theatre scene since childhood, the 24-year-old singer garnered attention in 2009 on

the X Factor stage with her enthralling voice before also pursuing modeling and emceeing opportunities.

Without going through similar hardships, could someone empathise with Molly Jensen, who loses her lover in the romantic thriller? Upon being asked how she managed to fully immerse herself into the role, Jones acknowledged that initially it was a difficult task to step into the shoes of Molly.

"It is a hard thing to do, imagining your partner passing away. I have read lots of stories of people who have experienced losing their loved ones and how they dealt it. I have also been to see a psychic to have my fortune told," she said.

Meanwhile, despite having vast experience in playing in a number of romantic musicals, Doyle described the challenging play as "on the next level," which he still found enjoyable.

"It's emotionally draining every night and it can be quite hard to come down from after the show. It's the most challenging role I've ever played and I'm loving every second of it," he said, also joking that his favorite part about the musical was being able to walk through a solid door every night in the show, which features ingenious special effects.

It's the most challenging role I've ever played and I'm loving every second of it

LIAM DOYLE

After such an overwhelming and action-packed Asian tour, with Macau as the last second stop, the pair seems to be open to any possibility that will arise in their careers.

"Who knows what's next for me? That's the life of an actor. You can be playing in front of 2500 people one night and be back working behind the next. I quite enjoy that though," Doyle said.

"I love this show and I hope to continue playing Molly in the future. Who knows what else will happen? I would love to come back to China," Jones remarked. **Staff reporter**

STATISTICS

Mortgage lending drops 38.4 percent year-on-year

NEW approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) declined in May, according to statistics that were released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau. With regards to outstanding balances, RMLs and CRELs both witnessed increases. Throughout the month of May, new RMLs approved by local banks decreased by 14.5 percent month-to-month to MOP3.7 billion. Of this percentage, 96.3 percent was extended to residents. In terms of value, new RMLs allocated to residents and non-residen-

ts decreased by 13 percent and 41.8 percent respectively. When compared with the same period in 2014, new approvals of RMLs witnessed a decrease of 38.4 percent.

The Monetary Authority of Macau statistics also mention that new CRELs dropped by 55.4 percent month-to-month to MOP4.1 billion, of which 88.4 percent was granted to residents. In terms of value, new CRELs to residents and non-residents decreased by 53.6 percent and 65.6 percent respectively. New approvals of CRELs dropped by 26.4 percent per annum.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, attended the opening ceremony of the 11th Military Summer Camp for Macau Young Students, held yesterday in Zhuhai at the military base of the PLA Macau Garrison.

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CASINO operators surged in Hong Kong yesterday following the statements made by Alexis Tam on the sidelines of Friday's Legislative Assembly plenary debate. The secretary told journalists he is unsure whether the government will or will not take a step back on the smoking ban bill. He said that authorities remain open to proposals by the gaming industry. "We look forward to the gaming industry proposals. I can't say much here. How can I deny them if I haven't read them? We must be objective. I can't say anything since I have to see what their suggestions are."

MGM China jumped 6.9 percent at the close of the Hong Kong trading session, as Wynn Macau rallied 5.6 percent and Sands China valued 4.7 percent. Galaxy Entertainment Group gained 3.9 percent and SJM stock has gained 1.7 percent. Melco Crown Entertainment stock valued at the Nasdaq index.

Benjamin Collett, Hong Kong-based head of Asian equities at Sunrise Brokers LLP, commented on the non-confirmed possibility that the government may soften

Stocks surge after hint casinos may retain smoking rooms



A smoking lounge at the City of Dreams casino-resort

the anti-smoking regulations and allow casinos to keep the airport-style smoking lounges that are currently allowed on mass gaming floors.

"It's a squeeze, a bear-market squeeze, so anything can trigger it," he told Bloomberg. According to him, Alexis Tam's statements indicate "a softening of the government's stance, and that's positive enough to make you reduce your short position."

Gross gaming revenue fell 36 percent in June from a year earlier to its lowest level in more than four years. High-stakes gamblers would look to reduce their trips to Macau by 17 percent and cut their length of stay after the smoking ban is implemented, Deutsche Bank AG said in a June 29 report, citing a third-party report commissioned by the city's six casino operators. **MDT/Agencies**

Q&A PETER PHILLIPS
ICOMOS VICE PRESIDENT

'It's really important to map the whole place'

THE vice-president of ICOMOS Peter Phillips recognized the local government's efforts to keep the region's culture alive over the past decade. However, given the rapid development from the growing population, the conservation architect based in Sydney argues that the entire city must be mapped in order to determine the impact of development on heritage sites. Mr Phillips attended a seminar to mark the ten years after the listing of Macau's historical center as a UNESCO World Heritage site. On the sidelines of the event, he was interviewed by a group of local journalists. Here are excerpts of what he said:



Peter Phillips

- How does the government strike a balance between heritage preservation and reclaimed land under the rapid development?

- The right way is to look at what you have now and what needs to be done to protect that. When you resist the different values of a place and the components that make up the values, you should also be looking at the tolerance of those components for change. In other words, could we change

these components and still retain the values? If so, how could we change and how much? So if we're talking about view, for example, how much of that view could we compromise and still not lose the important connections between places? When you get an answer from statistics, you look at it to see how much it would vary if you change one variable. That's kind of the analysis you need to do. Once you've done that, you can identify the less significant places, where development won't have too much of an impact on heritage.

- How should the heritage sites, which are excluded from the government's protection list yet highly valued by the public, be treated?

- There's always difficulty. It goes back in a way to the old approach to the heritage, which was to look at what I call monuments and size. Like there are plums in the pudding, so the individual sweet bits and the rest of the pudding don't matter, but the whole of the pudding does. It's not just the plums or sweet bits in between. It's like what I said that it's really important to map out the whole place.

- Did you have the opportunity to visit Macau during your current stay? What is your impression on the local heritage conservation efforts?

- I walked around Macau yesterday [Saturday] afternoon, and I could see that some of the buildings have good relationships with the historic buildings, some not so good. So what you do in the mapping process is that you make a judgment about whether or not they're contributing. Over time, you try preserve the ones that add to the quality and change the ones that don't improve the quality. **Staff reporter**

HERITAGE | 10 YEARS AFTER UNESCO LISTING

'Authenticity and integrity' of Macau at stake



The Guia Lighthouse

SOUTH Korean scholar Hae Un Rii has criticized the fact that the Guia Lighthouse has lost visibility when seen from the sea. "Macau has changed a lot with the newly reclaimed land, where high-rises have been built. That is good in a certain way, but it is not so good from the heritage conservation perspective", she explained on the sidelines of an academic seminar to mark the ten-year anniversary of the inscription of Macau's historical center as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Dongguk University scholar provided the example of the Guia Lighthouse as one of the places where "[urban] integrity has been lost," a fact that should prompt an evaluation of "the authenticity and integrity of future developments in Macau."

Hae Un Rii pointed out that more promotional efforts must be made in order to change the city's image as a destination exclusively for gambling. "Visitors think that Macau is a place to gamble and are unaware of the fact that 25 of its monuments are listed as World Heritage sites. They only visit some places, like the St Paul's Ruins or the Senado Square. That should be changed in the future," the scholar said. **MDT/Lusa**

AL PLENARY

Lawmakers slam government over maids' qualifications

Catarina Pinto

FOREIGN domestic helpers' lack of professional qualifications is troublesome according to several Legislative Assembly lawmakers, who raised further criticism over the performance of employment agencies in yesterday's plenary meeting.

Two spoken enquiries by lawmakers Mak Soi Kun and Lei Cheng I triggered further debate, as several legislators urged the government to better supervise the work of employment agencies, through which domestic helpers are often hired.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, pledged to soon discuss professional training opportunities for domestic helpers with government representatives from their home countries.

In his enquiry, lawmaker Mak Soi Kun recalled that until March this year there were 22,112 domestic helpers in Macau, 106 of which come from mainland China, with the majority from the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar. The quality of their work, he said, varies and that has an impact on residents' lives.

He recalled that only the 106 domestic helpers from China hold professional qualifications. Therefore, he raised doubts over the qualifications of the remaining domestic helpers, which make up the majority.

"These domestic helpers have to go through an employment agency. Some of them only speak a few words of Cantonese



and do not know how to cook. Many of our elders can only eat traditional Chinese food," he stressed.

Wong Kit Cheng also reiterated that the government is not doing enough for over 22,000 domestic helpers currently working here.

"Adding to the fact that they do not hold any professional qualifications, there's also the health issue. They come to Macau with health problems and employment agencies then say that this is the employer's responsibility," she recalled.

"There's not enough protection for these domestic helpers or for their employers," Wong added. Likewise Zheng Anting

also called for further measures protecting both employee and employer. "Domestic helpers from other nationalities can simply jump on a plane and start working for a Macau family. There's no information on their background and on any problems they've experienced back home," he warned.

Mr Zheng added asked the government if a scheme could be put in place to protect local families. On the other hand, he also called for measures to protect domestic helpers in case of abuse.

Other legislators questioned whether the local government is failing to better supervise domestic helpers' work. Kwan Tsui Hang queried: "Why do so

many employers have problems with domestic helpers? The government does not supervise (...) the government could introduce more supervising mechanisms; it cannot allow domestic helpers to come to Macau without knowing about their health conditions or their criminal record."

"It's very irresponsible to continue [hiring domestic helpers] using current procedures," she added.

The secretary recalled that the authorities are reviewing legislation on employment agencies and the law regulating the recruitment of foreign workers. He said that law revision will allow employers to have more

information on their domestic helpers prior to hiring them.

Furthermore, he acknowledged that domestic helpers will have to meet further requirements, including holding a certificate as proof that they have undergone training.

The director of the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL), Wong Chi Hong, acknowledged that domestic helpers coming to Macau should already hold professional training.

He added that upon revising current legislation employment agencies would also be under closer control. "We have listed all prohibited acts regarding employment agencies, such as keeping domestic helpers' documents or charging further fees. In case they breach the law, we might force the agency to close down or take away their license to operate," he stated.

The DSAL director did not provide any calendar for the introduction of amendments to the law regulating employment agencies and the law governing the recruitment of foreign workers.

A spoken enquiry by Lei Cheng I during yesterday's Legislative Assembly session also raised concerns over discrepancies between salaries offered to locals and foreign workers. She claimed that employers, particularly within the construction sector, see an advantage in hiring non-locals as they accept lower wages.

The lawmaker recalled that equal pay between residents and foreign employees is a principle stipulated in Macau's law.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, reiterated that the government complies with the law, adding that the Human Resources Office continues to assess whether companies have been complying with the minimum wage stipulated for construction workers.

Li Canfeng acknowledges Taipa Central Park irregularities

THE director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Li Canfeng, has apologized over irregularities related to the Taipa Central Park development project, recently unveiled by a Commission of Audit (CA) report.

The issue raised further discussion at yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting following an enquiry delivered by Ho Ion Sang.

"I have to apologize for the careless development of the project. We have set up a working group, which has included legal advisers and finan-

cial services bureau employees, to further assess these issues. We also have to see whether this type of problem has occurred in other public works' development projects," he told lawmakers.

The Commission of Audit slammed DSSOPT last May over the management of Taipa Central Park's construction. The CA found that the construction project did not meet its intended standards nor the deadlines that had initially been laid out.

The Commission also found flaws in construction supervision and the

execution of works, which led to delays and a "waste of resources," jeopardizing the safety of potential park users.

Lawmakers questioned DSSOPT and the Secretary for Transport and Public Works over irregularities and the waste of public resources on several major public works.

Melinda Chan asked whether the administration is still awarding tenders for public works to companies proposing lower budgets.

Several lawmakers asked the government to blacklist companies who fail to comply with their

contractual obligations.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, recalled that for instance the Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) has 79 employees dealing with dozens of public works. "Could I guarantee that there will be no problem with any of these public works? Impossible!" he conceded.

The Secretary concluded by saying that one of the major problems in public works is not only an overrun budget but also a failure to meet deadlines. "We will step by step solve this issue," he promised.



Taipa Central Park

Catarina Pinto

CASINOS IN COLOANE

Gov't willing to legislate on casino location

THE government is willing to review legislation which introduces a ban on casino construction within specific areas of the city, namely Coloane, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, informed lawmakers yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting.

"If society believes there should be no casinos in certain areas, then aside from the administrative procedures currently in place, we might have to make amendments to the law," Mr Leong reiterated.

Responding to Au Kam San's spoken enquiry regarding the development of hotel projects in Seac Pai Van, including the Louis XIII hotel resort, Mr Leong recalled yet again that, "so far none of the gaming concessionaires have requested [authorization to operate gaming tables] following the construction of the hotel Louis XIII."

According to the enquiry put forward by lawmaker Au, the owners of two hotel projects that are under development in Coloane had previously shown interest in building casinos on their properties.

But the secretary reiterated that for any hotel to operate gaming tables, a gaming concessionaire would be required to file a request



The Hac Sa beach in Coloane

with the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ).

The matter raised further debate as lawmakers asked the Secretary to elaborate on the government's intentions regarding the potential construction of casinos on Coloane Island.

The lawmaker highlighted the Louis XIII hotel resort as an example when questioning the administration on whether or not it will allow casino construction

in Seac Pai Van, which currently holds a local population of approximately 60,000.

Mr Leong acknowledged that Macau's law does not stipulate that casinos cannot be built on specific areas, and therefore he cannot guarantee that casinos will not eventually be built on Coloane Island.

Furthermore, he stated that if in the near future a request to operate gaming tables at any hotel in

Coloane is filed, the government will take into consideration several matters, and will listen to the opinions of the public.

"There's no rule in our law stating that the construction of casinos is banned in certain areas. But we are open to society's opinions, and if society thinks we need to review legislation to include a ban on casino construction in certain areas,

the government is open to such a possibility," he conceded.

Ng Kuok Cheong insisted on learning more about the Louis XIII hotel that is currently under construction in Seac Pai Van. "Could you ensure Seac Pai Van residents that there will be no casino there? Now that gaming revenue is down and we are no longer experiencing an economic boom, we cannot allow the uncontrolled development of the gaming sector," he acknowledged.

Ng added that authorities should clarify that casinos cannot be built without restrictions, and that game betting centers should not be located within residential areas. He concluded by saying that, "the law does not stipulate this but the government could introduce such policies."

'MADE IN MACAU' PRODUCTS IN CASINOS

THE GOVERNMENT is pondering the inclusion of two new rules in gaming concession contracts, ensuring that gaming operators will forge further business ties with local brands and enterprises, revealed the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong.

Following a spoken enquiry delivered by lawmakers Kou Hoi In and Chui Sai Peng urging the government to protect "Made in Macau" products, the Secretary recalled that this year's Policy Address already foresees meas-

ures to help Macau to diversify its economy and to protect local brands. He added that gaming operators have responded positively to this matter, and have pledged to cooperate with respective government policies.

"The government will ponder whether to include new rules on gaming concessions' contracts when looking to create further business opportunities for Macau companies, and ensuring that gaming operators comply with their social responsibility," he concluded.

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Customs said to be ready to enforce tobacco law

MACAU Customs are ready to enforce the new legislation concerning tobacco taxes, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak announced yesterday. The changes were approved last week at the Legislative Assembly and will be implemented starting today. Under the new rules, taxes will be raised significantly to at least 70 percent of tobacco retail prices and visitors will only be allowed to carry 19 cigarettes when

entering Macau.

According to Wong Sio Chak, Macau Customs are preparing a set of measures to safeguard the effective enforcement of the law, which will include random inspections for residents and tourists at the borders in order to avoid counterfeiting.

Separately, the secretary commented on a case of two policemen who were caught sleeping while on duty. The case was reported by citizens

and a picture of two agents sleeping in a police car was uploaded to a social media website by the group Macau Concealers. Wong Sio Chak confirmed that the incidents did occur and that this places the image of the police force at stake, as well as that of the public security. He said that no negligent act will be permitted and that he gives "extreme relevance" to the case. A disciplinary inquiry to access responsibility has been initiated. **PB**

CRIME

Mainlander falls for gaming house investment hoax

A local casino manager is accused of having swindled HKD12 million out of a mainland businessman. It was reported that the suspect initially invited the victim to open a VIP room, but used the victim's funds to gamble, resulting in an alleged loss of all of the money.

The hoax came to light after it was reported to the Judiciary Police (PJ) by the victim on June 10, three months after he realized that his investment deposit was at risk. The mainlander met the 36-year-old suspect through a mutual friend in January. After being urged to finance a junket business, the victim signed a HKD20 million contract. He told the police that the casino manager claimed

to have an extensive client source that could help develop their business.

To further gain the trust of his victim, the suspect brought him to a "VIP room" situated in Cotai and offered him HKD8 million (from the sum he paid before) with which to gamble in March. After losing the money the victim requested more, but was refused by the suspect, who claimed that all the cash had already been used to finance the casino. His rejection subsequently alarmed the victim.

According to the PJ representative, the suspect was later proven to have not owned any gaming house in the region. He was arrested at the airport on Sunday when he attempted to leave the territory.

MAN ABOUT TO BE REPATRIATED ATTACKS POLICE OFFICERS

A MALAYSIAN man who had been denied entry into Macau faces prosecution on three charges yesterday after he assaulted local police officers last Thursday at the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal while waiting to be repatriated to his own country. The 30-year-old suspect was said to have suddenly

lost his temper and jumped on one of the officers as they attempted to contain him, holding his leg in a body lock. The policemen finally managed to gain control of the man, who has been prohibited from entering the SAR region since 2012 after having committed a violent act.

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Greece reaches deal with creditors, avoids euro exit

AFTER months of acrimony, Greece finally clinched a bailout agreement with its European creditors yesterday that will, if implemented, secure the country's place in the euro and avoid financial collapse.

The terms of the deal, however, will be painful both for Greeks and their radical left-led government, which since its election in January had vowed to stand up to the creditors and reject the budget cuts they have been demanding.

Before it can get 85 billion euros (USD95.07 billion) in bailout cash and support for its banks to reopen, the Greek government will have to pass a raft of austerity measures that include sales tax increases, reforms to pensions, and labor market reforms.

Greece will be on a tight timetable to implement its reforms — a reflection of how little its creditors trust the government to honor a deal. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras infuriated his European partners last month when he called for a popular vote against economic reforms the creditors has proposed.

The Greek people voted against those proposals, but will be horrified to see that they now face even tougher measures.

Both sides acknowledged the bitterness that marked their negotiations and kept them negotiating nine hours past a Sunday midnight deadline.

"Trust needs to be rebuilt," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel, adding that with the deal, "Greece has a chance to return to the path of growth."

In a first step toward getting its bailout loans, the Greek government has to pass a set of measures into law by tomorrow.

Measures include an increase in the sales tax and reform



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras arrives for a meeting of eurozone heads of state at the EU Council building in Brussels

of the pension system. In later weeks, Greece will have to open to competition industries that have long been protected, such as the energy sector. Labor laws will be made more flexible.

If it meets these requirements, Greece will get a three-year rescue program and a commitment to restructure its debt, which is unsustainably high at around 320 billion euros, or around 180 percent of annual GDP.

Tsipras argues that because of these concessions yesterday's deal is, despite the tough austerity, actually better for Greece than the proposals Greeks voted down just a week ago.

"We managed to avoid the most extreme measures," Tsipras said. "Greece will fight to

return to growth and to reclaim its lost sovereignty."

He said he had managed to avoid a demand by some creditors to transfer Greek assets abroad as a form of collateral and to avoid the collapse of the banking sector.

Greeks seemed mainly relieved that the country was not facing financial collapse.

Kostas Lambos, a pensioner, said things would be "difficult in the beginning" but people had to understand the severity of the situation.

"This was a necessary step for the country to emerge from the dead ends that had been created in the last few years," he said.

Greece's banks, which have

been shut for two weeks, were still closed yesterday and limits remained on cash withdrawals. Without a deal, they faced the prospect of collapse within days as they are steadily drained of money.

When the banks will be able to reopen will depend on whether the European Central Bank decides to increase emergency credit to Greek banks now that a bailout deal with Greece has been clinched in principle. It was unclear whether the ECB would make such a decision yesterday or after Greece passes its first batch of reforms.

French President Francois Hollande said the Greek parliament would convene within hours to adopt the reforms

called for in the plan and he celebrated Greece's continued membership in the euro.

Losing Greece, he said, would have been akin to losing "the heart of our civilization."

Other European officials were less emotive.

"The Greeks have to show they're credible, show that they mean it," said Jeroen Dijsselbloem, president of the euro-group of eurozone finance ministers and a longtime critic of the Tsipras government.

The creditors said they would help Greece in the short term deal with its debt repayments since any bailout agreement was not imminent. Greece will need help making a 4.2 billion euro debt repayment on July 20. It is also in arrears on about 1.5 billion euros owed to the International Monetary Fund since June 30.

If the talks had failed, Greece could have faced bankruptcy and a possible exit from the euro, the European single currency that the country has been a part of since 2002. No country has ever left the joint currency, which launched in 1999, and there is no mechanism in place for one to do so. AP

85b euros

The size of the new Greek bailout

corporate bits

DAVID BECKHAM FILMING WITH KEVIN HART FOR NEW H&M CAMPAIGN



H&M has confirmed that David Beckham has been filming with comedian Kevin Hart for a new H&M cam-

paign. The campaign is for the Modern Essentials Selected by David Beckham range, and will be released

later in the year. David and Kevin filmed a two-day shoot in New York City earlier last week.

FOUR SANDS RESTAURANTS WIN AT 2015 CHINA WINE LIST WINE AWARDS

Four restaurants at Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao have been presented with awards at the 2015 China Wine List Awards. Canton, North and Portofino at The Venetian Macao and Conrad Macao's signature restaurant Dynasty 8 at Sands Cotai Central received accolades at the annual awards that recognize the best wine lists in China.


Canton, The Venetian Macao's signature Cantonese restaurant, was awarded "Three Wine Glasses" for its wine list which works well with a broad spectrum of Chinese dishes. While Portofino, North and Dynasty 8 each received "Two Wine Glasses".

"We are very pleased that our wine lists have once again been recognized by the China Wine List Awards," said



Charles Newland, Senior Vice President of Food and Beverage and Director of Paiza Operations for Venetian Macau Limited. "We take great pride in offering our guests the best

possible service we can, and that includes having wine lists that are as diverse as they are extensive. These awards are testament to our continuing efforts to this end."




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Sino-Portuguese partnerships are 'success story'

THE "strategic partnership" of power company EDP – Energias de Portugal and China Three Gorges Group (CTG) is "a success story" for the Portuguese economy, the President of the Supervisory Board of EDP said Friday in Beijing.

"There is no significant Chinese investor that thinks of investing in Portugal that does not look to the example of EDP, as the result is extremely positive," Eduardo Catroga told Portuguese news agency Lusa.

Catroga also said that "for its scale and impact," the 2.7 billion euros that CTG paid for a 21.35 percent stake in EDP became "a flagship of Chinese investment in Portugal and in Europe."

Catroga, a former Finance Minister also said that China Three Gorges taking a stake in EDP, agreed in December 2011, occurred at a time when "no one wanted to finance the Portuguese economy, when Portugal had no regular access to international financial markets."

The President of the General Supervisory Board of EDP also said that the two groups are negotiating with Peru's government to build a dam in the country, the first joint project outside the traditional markets of both companies.

"It's a medium-sized dam and the concession contract will be signed this year," added Catroga, noting that it will also be the first venture of a company incorporated in equal shares by EDP and CTG to "develop projects in the regions where we have no investments." **Staff reporter**

Standard & Poor's lowers Mozambique's credit rating

STANDARD & Poor's has lowered its credit rating on Mozambique from "B" to "B-" on the grounds that restructuring of a state-endorsed loan to Mozambican tuna company Ematum indicates the imminent bankruptcy of the company, the credit agency reported.

According to analysts at S & P, the problem is not limited to Ematum and is rather an example of the situation in Mozambique in general, stating that "the financial difficulties of Ematum, established in 2013, raise major questions about the governance model in Mozambique and government management of public sector debt."

The issue is focused on a loan taken out in 2013 in the European market with a State guarantee, and on which the Minister of Economy and Finance, Adria-



People attend the celebration for the 40th anniversary of the Mozambique's independence in the capital Maputo, June 25

no Maleiane confirmed that the state would be paying about USD500 million, after the company took on the remaining US\$350 million.

The accounts of Ematum, published in May, show a

company facing difficulties, having lost almost US\$25 million in 2014, which should have influenced the government's decision to try to restructure part of the company's debt whose pay-

ment is up to the State, the minister claimed that seven years is a short period to pay US\$500 million, "even with a grace period of two years."

The minister also referred to the "higher interest rate" – Libor plus 6.5 percentage points – and announced he was "trying to negotiate a longer payment period and lower interest rate," an initiative which, he said, deserved the agreement "of partners, including the International Monetary Fund."

Besides revising the rating on Mozambique's long-term sovereign debt downwards, S&P also placed the country on credit watch, which is usually a sign of further downgrades.

This is the second time this year that S&P has lowered the country's credit rating, as in February it lowered the rating from "B +" to "B". **MDT/Macauhub**

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U.S. calls on Party to free detained human rights lawyers



A protester wears a mask of Chinese President Xi Jinping during a protest calling for the release of Chinese journalist Gao Yu, Hong Kong publisher Yao Wentian and Chinese lawyer Pu Zhiqiang, outside the Chinese liaison office in Hong Kong, Sunday, May 11, 2014

Ting Shi

THE U.S. State Department urged China to release human rights advocates detained by Communist Party authorities in recent days and accused of conspiring to “create social chaos.”

State Department spokesman John Kirby expressed U.S. alarm at the detentions, which Chinese state media said were meant to break a “rights-defense” movement suspected of instigating protests to manipulate opinion and influence court rulings. The crackdown comes days after China’s parliament passed a sweeping national security law vowing to “defend the people’s democratic dictatorship” and preserve “social tranquility.”

“We are deeply concerned that the broad scope of the new national security law is being used as a legal facade to commit human rights abuses,” Kirby said in statement issued Sunday night in Washington. “We strongly urge China to respect the rights of all of its citizens and to release all those who have recently been detained for seeking to protect the rights of Chinese citizens.”

The detentions are the latest move to squelch dissent under President Xi Jinping, who has since taking power in 2012 assumed personal control over an overhaul of China’s national security apparatus. Lawyers have been under particular pressure, with authorities indicting rights advocate Pu Zhiqiang for “picking quarrels and

causing trouble” despite U.S. objections to his yearlong detention.

Among those targeted in the latest crackdown are Fengrui Law Firm director Zhou Shifeng and at least five others affiliated with the Beijing-based firm, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The lawyers are accused of “disrupting public order and seeking profits by illegally hiring protesters and swaying court decisions in the name of defending justice and public interests,” Xinhua said, citing a statement by the Ministry of Public Security. The group worked with petitioners to organize more than 40 public incidents since July 2012, including protests over a fatal police shooting in the northeastern Heilongjiang province in May, the report said.

More than 50 human rights lawyers and activists had been targeted as of Saturday, Amnesty International said.

Representatives for the Fengrui Law Firm couldn’t be reached for comment. The firm’s website has been shut down and its phone number was no longer listed.

“To a large extent, this seems like a politically motivated purge,” William Nee, a China researcher at Amnesty International, said, adding that the “sensitive cases” cited by authorities was a euphemism for ones the government doesn’t support. “They used social media and peaceful protesting as advocacy tools to help improve their chances of getting favora-

ble outcomes for their clients.”

China passed its new security law at a time of growing anxiety for the Communist Party, which is grappling with slowing growth, market turmoil, ethnic unrest and territorial disputes with the country’s neighbors.

Wu Hailong, China’s permanent representative to the United Nations’ Geneva office, defended the law as necessary to protect the country from severe threats, Xinhua reported Sunday. Provisions asserting the rights and freedom of citizens showed that the law was “people-centered and human rights-oriented,” Xinhua quoted Wu as saying, citing a written response from Wu to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’Ad Al-Husseini.

Zeid said last week that the “extraordinarily broad” and vaguely worded law “left the door wide open to further restrictions of the rights and freedoms of Chinese citizens.”

The lawyers “confessed” to receiving financial support from overseas, Xinhua said, echoing the Communist Party’s oft-leveled charge of foreign meddling in China’s affairs. GuanCha.cn, a state-backed, Shanghai-based news site, cited links between the firm and U.S. Representative Chris Smith, of New Jersey, the Republican chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees global human rights.

Smith issued a statement after the first sweeps were reported last week, saying he had met some of the lawyers held and that he condemned their detention. **Bloomberg**

Tibetan lama Tenzin Delek Rinpoche dies in prison

Louise Watt, Beijing

TIBETAN lama Tenzin Delek Rinpoche has died in prison 13 years into serving a sentence for what human rights groups say were false charges that he was involved in a bombing in a public park. He was 65.

Relatives were informed of the death Sunday, New York-based Students for a Free Tibet said yesterday. Police in Sichuan province in southwestern China confirmed the death but declined to give further details.

Tenzin Delek was arrested in 2002 in relation to an April 3, 2002, blast in Chengdu city that injured three people. He was sentenced to death on charges of separatism a few months later. His death sentence was commuted to life in prison in 2005, and later to 20 years’ imprisonment. He continued to maintain his innocence.

He was being held in a prison in Dazhu county in Sichuan province, which borders the Tibetan region.

A woman from the Public Security Bureau in Dazhu confirmed that Tenzin Delek died Sunday. She refused to identify herself.

Students for a Free Tibet said his family members had been informed by police in Chengdu city, the capital of Sichuan province, on Sunday, but were not told how he died.

Last year, they had applied for medical parole for him on the grounds that he suffered from a heart condi-

tion, high blood pressure, dizzy spells and problems with his legs that had caused him to fall on a number of occasions.

Born in 1950 in a Tibetan area of Sichuan, Tenzin Delek stayed in India from 1982 to 1987 to study under the Dalai Lama.

During that time, the Dalai Lama recognized Tenzin Delek as a tulku, or a reincarnated lama.

In 1987 he returned to China, where he worked to establish monasteries, health clinics, small schools and orphanages, rising in prominence.

Human rights groups have said his relationship with Chinese officials took a turn for the worse when he rolled back attempts to clear forests and because of his support for the Dalai Lama, who is considered a separatist by the government.

His family has called for authorities to release his body.

“Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was an innocent monk who suffered over 13 years of unjust imprisonment, torture and abuse in a Chinese prison for simply advocating for the rights and well-being of his people and for expressing his devotion to His Holiness the Dalai Lama,” his India-based cousin, Geshe Nyima, said in a statement released by Students for a Free Tibet.

“The Chinese government must immediately release his body so that our family and community may perform the last Buddhist religious rites,” the statement said. **AP**



Exiled Tibetans hold a banner demanding the release of a Tibetan Buddhist leader Tenzin Delek Rinpoche during a protest in Dharmasala, India, on April 7, 2014

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

Gov't accuses trading firms of manipulating stocks

AUTHORITIES accused securities firms of manipulating stock prices during China's market plunge and launched a crackdown yesterday against unlicensed companies that financed speculative trading.

The moves appeared to be aimed at deflecting blame from the ruling Communist Party for trillions of dollars in investor losses as China's market benchmark plummeted 30 percent over the past month.

They came as drastic official efforts over the past two weeks including a ban on sales by executives and big shareholders appeared to at least temporarily stop the decline that wiped out USD3.8 trillion in investor wealth.

Yesterday, the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index closed up 2.4 percent for its third straight daily gain but still was 23 percent below its June 12 peak.

Investigators have found "evidence to suspect that individual trading companies are illegally manipulating securities and futures exchanges," the police ministry said late Sunday. Its one-sentence statement said a criminal investigation was underway but gave no details of which firms were targeted.

Yesterday, the securities regulator ordered brokerages to sever ties with unlicensed companies that lend money to finance trading.

The regulator also accused brokerages of improperly allowing customers to trade without giving their real names or to subdivide accounts to allow others to use them to trade.

The stock market boom began last year after the state press said shares were cheap,



Chinese investors chat while monitoring stock prices at a brokerage house in Beijing

which led investors to believe Beijing would intervene to prop up prices if needed. The collapse came after changes in banking regulations made investors suspect Beijing might withdraw its support. Regulators also tightened controls on lending to finance trading.

Novice investors who rushed into the market near the peak have suffered heavy losses, souring sentiment toward stock investment.

The price collapse could frustrate Communist Party plans to encourage the public to buy stocks and to raise money for state

companies to pay off debts and become more competitive.

More than 1,000 of the 2,802 companies traded on the mainland's exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen also have suspended trading in their shares following the plunge in prices. That has left small investors locked into shares that some are under pressure to sell to repay loans.

"It remains to be seen how the market holds up once all the artificial impediments to selling are withdrawn," said Carl B. Weinberg of High Frequency Economics in a report.

Official media have blamed the market slide on short-selling, rumors and misconduct, possibly by foreign investors.

Yesterday, the securities regulator ordered brokerages to sever ties with unlicensed companies it said were providing loans to finance trading and were given access to customers in violation of regulations.

That was "to the detriment of the legitimate rights and interests of investors, seriously disrupting the stock market order," the statement said. "As the market has stabilized, these illegal phenomena appear to have momentum to make a comeback that might again jeopardize the smooth operation of the stock market."

A joint Communist Party-Cabinet body that oversees the Internet ordered websites to remove advertisements from unlicensed companies offering loans for share trading. **AP**

EXPORTS RISE IN ANOTHER SIGN OF STABILIZING ECONOMY

CHINA'S EXPORTS rose for the first time in four months in June, providing fresh evidence that growth is stabilizing ahead of gross domestic product data this week. Overseas shipments rose 2.1 percent from a year earlier in yuan value, the customs administration said in Beijing yesterday, exceeding the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey for 1.2 percent growth. Imports dropped 6.7 percent, narrowing from the fall of

18.1 percent previously reported in May, leaving a trade surplus of 284.2 billion yuan (USD45.8 billion). The improvement in exports provides a cushion for an economy weighed by a slump in investment growth that is putting Premier Li Keqiang's 2015 growth target of about 7 percent at risk. As monetary easing and fiscal stimulus stabilize demand, a stronger export sector may help prevent China's slowdown from deepening.

3 Uighurs get 6 years over terrorism in Indonesia

Achmad Ibrahim, Jakarta

AN Indonesian court yesterday sentenced three members of China's ethnic Uighur minority community to six years in prison after finding them guilty of conspiring with Indonesian militants, including a fugitive who is on the nation's most-wanted list.

A panel of judges at the North Jakarta District Court ruled that Ahmet Mahmud, 20, Abdulbasit Tuzer, 24, and 28-year-old Abdullah — who also goes by Altinci Bayyram — guilty of violating the nation's anti-terrorism



Suspected Islamic militants, from left to right, Abdulbasit Tuzer, Ahmet Mahmud and Abdullah, also known as Altinci Bayyram, sit on the defendant's chairs during their trial hearing at North Jakarta District Court

and immigration laws.

The men were arrested in September, along with another Uighur named Ahmet Bozoglan and three Indonesian men, while they allegedly were trying to meet Indonesia's most-wanted militant, Abu Wardah Santoso, in Central Sulawesi province.

Santoso, the leader of a group called the East Indonesia Mujahideen, is accused of killing several Indonesian policemen and has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. Indonesia has outlawed membership in the group.

Presiding Judge Kun

Marioso said the panel of three judges found the defendants had conspired with a Santoso-led terrorist group in Poso in Central Sulawesi and used fake Turkish passports. Poso was the site of violence between Christians and Muslims in 2001 and 2002 in which more than 1,000 people died.

The defendants were also ordered to pay USD7,535 each or spend six additional months in custody.

Bozoglan and the three Indonesian men are being tried separately, with verdicts expected later this month.

Indonesian authorities initially thought the four Uighurs were from Turkey, which has linguistic and ethnic ties with the Uighur homeland of Xinjiang, in northwestern China.

Starting in around 2009, groups of Uighurs have traveled across Southeast Asia from China hoping to reach Turkey to claim asylum from what they say persecution by Chinese authorities.

China has alleged that members of the Muslim Uighur minority have in the past joined the Islamic State group and returned home to engage in terrorist plots. **AP**

CAMBODIA

Ruling party approves controversial NGO bill



Protesters carrying a "No" sign with stickers that read: "Say No! Union, Association and NGO Laws" march towards the National Assembly in Phnom Penh

Sopheng Cheang and Ted Andersen, Phnom Penh

CAMBODIA'S ruling party lawmakers approved a controversial draft law yesterday that critics say gives authorities sweeping powers to crack down on civil society groups that challenge the government.

Riot police set up a barricade around the National Assembly and opposition party lawmakers boycotted the vote entirely.

The Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations tightly regulates all non-governmental organizations in the country and grants the government sweeping powers to clamp down on civil society activities it deems to be a threat to national security.

A final draft of the bill has not been released to the public, another aspect that has drawn criticism. But according to a copy obtained from lawmakers, it states that local and foreign non-governmental organizations must register with the government, and that all NGOs must be politically neutral. It also gives the government unchecked power to block registrations and dissolve groups in the name of national security.

The law is the first of four in the pipeline that critics say are designed to further restrict social freedoms in Cambodia, which has been ruled since 1985 by Prime Minister Hun Sen, an autocrat with little tolerance for dissent.

The opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party issued a statement ahead of the session saying it "deeply regretted" that the bill did not include its input or any input from the non-go-

vernmental groups it aims to restrict. The opposition's 55 lawmakers boycotted yesterday's debate.

All 68 lawmakers from the ruling Cambodian People's Party voted unanimously to adopt the bill, an expected outcome in the 123-seat lower house, where a simple majority was enough for the vote to pass. The bill still needs to clear the Senate before becoming law, a step considered a formality in Cambodia.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution last week calling on the Cambodian government to withdraw the vote, warning that USD700 million in development aid could hang in the balance, and Amnesty International has condemned the law as repressive.

"This will create an atmosphere of intimidation and self-censorship among NGOs who will realize that the Cambodian government will be able to shut them down at any time," said Phil Robertson, the deputy Asian director of Human Rights Watch.

The U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, William Todd, also criticized the lack of transparency, urging ruling party lawmakers to publicly release a copy of the draft law to allow a full public debate. In 2014, the U.S. gave roughly \$75 million in aid to Cambodia.

Other laws in the pipeline are the Trade Union Law, which would restrict labor union strikes; a cybercrime law that could criminalize online communications deemed to undermine the government; and a telecommunications law that would allow the government to monitor online communication and mandate information on its critics from Internet service providers. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Police probe conspiracy to topple PM Razak over 1MDB funds

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIAN police said yesterday they are investigating the leak of confidential documents that allegedly show millions of dollars were funneled to Prime Minister Najib Razak's account, an explosive disclosure that has shaken the ruling coalition in power since 1957 to the core.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said the leak of the documents, allegedly from a Malaysian government investigation into state investment fund 1MDB, could constitute as "economic sabotage" against

the country and be part of a conspiracy to topple Najib.

Police "have not eliminated the possibility of a conspiracy to subvert Malaysia's democratic process and topple the prime minister," Khalid said in a statement.

Najib has not disputed the existence of the accounts or the receipt of the funds. He has only said that he has never used government funds for personal gains, and called the allegations a political sabotage. Najib has also rejected repeated calls by the opposition and civil society groups to go on leave

while the investigation is going on.

Many senior members of his United Malays National Organization party have backed him, at least publicly.

Khalid said all members of the taskforce investigating 1MDB, including central bank personnel, will be questioned to identify who leaked the documents and whether the documents are genuine or have been doctored.

The country's attorney general confirmed earlier this month that he had received documents from investigators that linked Najib and 1MDB.

The existence of the do-

cuments, which allegedly show USD700 million was wired from entities linked to 1MDB into Najib's accounts, were first reported by The Wall Street Journal. The newspaper said five deposits were made into Najib's accounts and that the two largest transactions, worth \$620 million and \$61 million occurred in March 2013 ahead of a general election.

The documents sent to the attorney general pave the way for possible criminal charges, and have embroiled Najib in the biggest crisis of his political career.

If charged, Najib wou-



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak

ld be the first Malaysian prime minister to face a criminal prosecution.

His ruling National Front coalition has been in power since independence from Britain in

1957. However, support for the coalition has eroded in the last two general elections. In 2013, it won the polls but lost the popular vote for the first time. **AP**



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NORTH KOREA

Media confirms purging of defense chief

NORTH Korea has officially confirmed the purging of its defense chief two months after Seoul's spy service said he had been executed for disloyalty to leader Kim Jong Un, a South Korean official said yesterday.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers in May that People's Armed Forces Minister Hyon Yong Chol was killed by anti-aircraft gunfire for talking back to Kim, complaining about his policies and sleeping during a meeting.

The North's state media has since not mentioned Hyon or his disappearance. But over the weekend, the country's official Korean Central News Agency named army general Pak Yong Sik as the armed forces minister in a dispatch about a meeting with a Lao military delegation.

South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-Hee told reporters yesterday that this confirmed Hyon's re-



This July 18 2012 file photo shows Vice Marshal Hyon Yong Chol applauding during a meeting announcing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's new title of marshal, in Pyongyang

placement and purging.

Since taking power upon the death of his dictator father Kim Jong Il in December 2011, Kim has orchestrated a series of executions, purgings and personnel reshuffles in what outside analysts say is an attempt to bolster his grip on power. Some experts say repeated bloody power shifts indicate the young leader is still struggling to establish himself.

South Korean officials say 70 North Korean officials have been executed since Kim's inauguration. The most notable execution before Hyon's happened in 2013 when Kim had his uncle and No. 2, Jang Song Thaek, executed for alleged treason.

Pak, known as a top official at the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, is considered one of Kim's closest associates and is among the officials who have accompanied Kim on various public activities mentioned in state media. AP

JAPAN

Nintendo President Satoru Iwata dies of tumor

Yuri Kageyama, Business Writer, Tokyo

SATORU Iwata, who led Japanese video game company Nintendo Co. through years of growth with its Pokemon and Super Mario franchises, died on the weekend of a bile duct tumor, the company said yesterday. He was 55.

There was an outpouring of sorrow on Twitter for Iwata as a person who carved out an entertainment legacy. Fans thanked him for childhood memories and for bringing families together.

"He didn't just create technology. He created a whole culture," said Nobuyuki Hayashi, a consultant and technology expert. "It wasn't just a consumer product that he had delivered. He brought to people something that's eternal, what people remember from when they were kids. He was special."

Iwata, president from 2002, died Saturday in a Kyoto University hospital. He had not been seen recently at game events, such as E3 in Los Angeles, where he was usually a participant.

Iwata led Nintendo's development into a global company, with its hit Wii home console and DS handheld, and also through its recent woes caused by the popularity of smartphones.

His replacement was not immediately announced, but the company said star game designer Shigeru Miyamoto will remain in the leadership team along with Genyo Takeda, who is also in the game development field.

Iwata had been poised to lead Nin-



Satoru Iwata, President and CEO of Nintendo Co. Ltd.

tendo through another stage after it recently did an about-face and said it will start making games for smartphones, meaning that Super Mario the plumber would soon start arriving on cellphones and tablets.

The falloff in appetite for game machines in the past few years was partly because people are increasingly playing games or doing social media and other activities on smartphones. Nintendo has repeatedly had to lower prices on gadgets to woo buyers.

Until the recent shift in strategy, company officials including Iwata had repeatedly rejected the idea of developing games for mobile devices, a market that they brushed off for years as irrelevant.

In March, Nintendo announced an alliance with Japanese mobile game company DeNA Co. to develop games for mobile devices.

The company returned to profit in the fiscal year ended March 2015 after several years of losses. AP

AFGHANISTAN

Car bombing kills at least 26 civilians near former CIA base

Rahim Faiez, Kabul

A suicide car bombing near a military base in eastern Afghanistan that once hosted CIA employees killed at least 26 people Sunday, local officials said, the latest insurgent attack after foreign forces ended their combat mission there.

The bombing hit a checkpoint manned by members of the Khost Provincial Force, an Afghan unit that guards Camp Chapman, said Youqib Khan, the deputy police chief in Khost province. It wasn't immediately clear whether the bomber was trying to get onto the base or what led to his attack, Khan said. A U.S. defense official said Chapman is an Afghan base with some American special operations forces there.

A local hospital received the bodies of at least 26 Afghan civilians, mostly women and children including eight members of a



Afghan security forces inspect the site of a suicide attack that targeted a NATO convoy in Kabul

single family, said Dr. Hedayatullah Hamedi, the province's health director. He said the blast wounded nine civilians.

"The explosion was so loud and strong that almost all of the city of Khost was shaken by the blast," provincial police chief Gen. Faizullah Ghyrat said.

A statement issued by the Khost provincial governor's office offered different casualty numbers, saying that

33 people were killed — 27 civilians, including 12 children, and six members of the Afghan security forces.

Another 12 members of the Afghan security forces were injured, according to the statement. The discrepancy in the casualty numbers could not immediately be reconciled.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast in the city of Khost, near Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan. Since U.S. and NATO troops ended their combat mission at the end of last year, local troops have been taking the brunt of attacks by the Taliban and other insurgent groups. AP

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

Talks hit final stage but deal remains elusive

AP PHOTO



Tents of TV crews stand in front of Coburg where closed-door nuclear talks with Iran continue in Vienna

Matthew Lee and George Jahn, Vienna

DISPUTES over attempts to probe Tehran's alleged work on nuclear weapons unexpectedly persisted at Iran nuclear talks yesterday, diplomats said, threatening plans to wrap up a deal by midnight — the latest in a series of deadlines for the negotiations.

The diplomats said at least two other issues still needed final agreement — Iran's demand for a lifting of a U.N. arms embargo and its insistence that any U.N. Security Council resolution approving the nuclear deal be written in a way that stops describing Iran's nuclear activities as illegal. They demanded anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the negotiations.

With a temporary deal set to expire at midnight yesterday Vienna time (early today, Macau time), diplomats said they hoped to complete and announce a final agreement before day's end. But they warned there was no guarantee, and some said the talks could stretch into today despite there being little appetite for what would be a fourth extension of the interim agreement since the current round began on June 27.

Grim-faced foreign ministers from the countries negotiating with Iran declined to answer questions about another possible extension as they gathered for a group meeting at the 19th Century palace that has been hosting the talks.

"Definitely I believe there should not be an extension in the talks. But we can work to reach a result as far as it is necessary," Iranian Foreign Minister

Mohammad Javad Zarif said in remarks carried by Iran's official IRNA newsagency.

Beyond placing long-term limits on Iran's present nuclear program, the United States wants to ensure that the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency has wide-ranging authority to investigate the nuclear arms allegations after nearly a decade of being essentially stalemated.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Abbas Aragchi, told reporters in Vienna that the talks are at their "final breather moments (but) certain issues still remain." He said he could not guarantee an agreement would be reached either yesterday or today.

In Brussels, French President Francois Hollande said the sides are near agreement but "a gap" remains. **AP**

MEXICO

Escape by top drug lord a strong blow to government

Alberto Arce and Christopher Sherman, Mexico City

THE capture of drug lord Joaquin Guzman was the crowning achievement of President Enrique Pena Nieto's government in its war against drug cartels, a beacon of success amid domestic woes. That makes the bold escape by "El Chapo" from a maximum security prison all the more devastating.

A widespread manhunt that included highway checkpoints, stepped up border security and closure of an international airport failed to turn up any trace of Guzman by yesterday, more than 24

AP PHOTO



A poster displayed at a Chicago Crime Commission news conference in Chicago, shows Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman

hours after he got away.

Widely considered the world's richest and most powerful drug trafficker before his capture last year, Guzman slipped down a shaft from his prison cell's shower area late Saturday and disappeared into a sophisticated 1.5 kilometer-long tunnel with ventilation, lighting and a motorcycle apparently used to move dirt.

"All the accolades that Mexico has received in their counter-drug efforts will be erased by this one event" if Guzman is not recaptured, said Michael S. Vigil, a retired U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration chief of international operations.

More than anything else, the escape undermined Mexico's assertion it can deal with top drug lords at home and doesn't need to extradite them to the U.S. The national pride that appeared to motivate Pena Nieto's administration to prosecute drug lords like Guzman through its own court system has now turned into a national embarrassment.

"This is regrettable, very bad, because it without doubt affects the image of Mexico in the world," Mexican Sen. Luis Miguel Barbosa told journalists in Paris yesterday. He was part of a delegation traveling with the Mexican president to the French capital.

"You have to completely renew the Mexican prison system. The arrest of all warders and managers is not enough," he said. "This happened due to collaboration from within the jail at the highest level." **AP**

FRANCE

Paris police: 18 freed, gunmen at large after store robbery

AP PHOTO



A group of gunmen broke into a discount clothing store near Paris yesterday, trapping 18 people inside for hours before fleeing and prompting a manhunt throughout the area, police said. All 18 people were safely evacuated from the Primark store in a shopping center in the town of Villeneuve-la-Garenne, according to a regional police official. She said police are now pursuing the assailants. Police surrounded the sprawling shopping center and cordoned off the neighborhood, adjacent to the Seine River about 10 kilometers north of central Paris. The assailants entered the store around 6:30 a.m. yesterday in what police believe was an attempted robbery, another police official said. Several people were already inside, primarily employees. The officials weren't authorized to be publicly named. Officers from a special police unit entered the store, and a few officers emerged later accompanying women reported to be store employees, according to images broadcast on BFM television. There was no immediate sign of a political or other motive for the robbery.

RUSSIA

23 dead, 19 injured in military barracks collapse

AP PHOTO



The ceiling of a Russian military barracks collapsed in Siberia yesterday, causing four stories to crumble and killing 23 young men trapped inside. Rescuers searched for hours for victims trapped under the debris of an airborne troops training center in Omsk following the collapse that occurred in the early hours of the morning. Nineteen people were injured. Authorities sent 10 seriously injured victims to Moscow for treatment while the Kremlin offered condolences to the families of the deceased. The defense ministry wouldn't speculate on the cause of the accident but the footage and video from the scene showed an entire section of the building lying in ruins. Ministry spokesman Gen.-Maj. Igor Konashenkov said the building was renovated in 2013 but he insisted that could not have caused the collapse.

what's ON



HEY, LISTEN- WORKS BY SANDY-LEONG SIN U

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: August 9, 2015

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

"SAUDADE" ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours, daily

VENUE: L2 Showcase / MGM MACAU, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau

ADMISSION: free

GUIDED TOURS: 12pm-9om (Mondays to Fridays);

11am to 9:00 pm (Saturdays and Sundays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

MACAU JOINT FASHION PERFORMANCE

- MINI EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-8pm

(Closed on Mondays, open on public holiday)

UNTIL: August 30, 2015

ADMISSION: Free

ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47,

Rua de S. Roque, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

CUBA TOUCH

- INSIGHT INTO THE DAILY LIVES IN CUBA

TIME: 10am-6:30pm

UNTIL: July 20, 2015

VENUE: Dare to Dream Gallery, Calçada Da Barra

No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif. San Chak, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

HISTORICAL PAINTINGS OF MACAU

IN THE 19TH CENTURY

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

Offbeat

US VET FINDS 62 HAIR BANDS, 8 PAIRS OF UNDERWEAR INSIDE DOG

This hungry U.S. Labrador has some unusual taste buds. A Pennsylvania veterinarian retrieved 62 hair bands, eight pairs of underwear and a bandage from the dog's stomach during exploratory surgery.

The head technician at Good Shepherd's Veterinary Hospital told a local TV station that the black Lab named Tiki wasn't responding to medicine for vomiting, diarrhea and a loss of appetite, and X-rays showed a mass in its stomach.

Last week's surgery lasted two hours, and the vet and his technician were shocked at the items that were pulled out.

The dog's owner, Sara Weiss, says Tiki once swallowed a plastic foam dart, but that passed through the dog's system naturally.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:50	The Illusionist (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports
19:45	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Comedy
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

09 Jul - 15 Jul



MINIONS

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.45 pm

Director: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 91min

TED 2

ROOM 1

7.30 pm

Director: Seth MacFarlane

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 115min

POLTERGEIST

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.15, 6.00, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.45 pm

Director: Gil Kenan

Starring: Sam Rockwell, Rosemarie DeWitt,

Kennedi Clements

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min

TED 2

ROOM 2

4.00 pm

Director: Seth MacFarlane

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 115min

TERMINATOR: GENISYS

ROOM 3

(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

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



1989 PARIS IN 200-YEAR-OLD REVOLUTIONARY FERVOUR

About 500 people have been involved in scuffles in the Place de la Bastille in Paris.

Hundreds of thousands of revellers took to the streets of the French capital last night to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille.

Most people enjoyed the carnival atmosphere in the city but a group of trouble-makers fought amongst themselves, harassed foreign TV crews and threw stones at the police as they tried to restore order.

Last night was the official opening of the concert hall, Opera Bastille, which has been built on the site of the Bastille prison - where the French Revolution began in 1789.

Celebrations carried on into the small hours of this morning in the biggest street party since France was liberated after World War II.

There was traffic chaos as people danced in the streets, wearing the red, white and blue of the revolutionary tricolour and letting off fireworks.

As well as the traditional military march down the Champs Elysees this morning, the bicentennial anniversary has been marked by a spectacular parade of dancers, musicians and floats from around the world this evening.

Heads of state from 40 countries and a global television audience of 500m watched the procession - devised and organised by Jean-Paul Goude - down the Champs Elysees to the Place de la Concorde.

Costing £8m, the Marseillaise procession was based on the theme of the rights of Man and world music. It culminated in a powerful rendition of the French national anthem - the Marseillaise - by opera singer Jessye Norman.

Some world leaders were in the city for the G7 World Economic Summit opened by President Mitterand at the Louvre pyramid in the afternoon.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Bastille was constructed as a royal fortress in the 14th Century.

It symbolised untouchable royal power and extravagance to an impoverished populace.

Encouraged by local politicians and radical new philosophies, Parisians targeted the two royal strongholds in the city in uprisings beginning on 12 July 1789.

They seized guns from the barracks at Les Invalides and stormed the Bastille to release the prisoners there and execute their jailers.

The events of 14 July were limited but they symbolised the beginning of a break from the traditional order.

Ten years of bloody revolution followed which included a radical new constitution and the execution of King Louis XVI and his self-indulgent wife Marie Antoinette.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Patience and perseverance are your most valuable assets. All of your hard work will pay off some day, but not in the form of a big house and lots of possessions. But if they help motivate you, then visualize away.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Don't feel torn. You have a practical side and an artistic side. You may wonder how one can relate to the other, but you don't have to choose between the two. The profits run right down the middle.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Don't kick yourself if building up your accounts is going slower than you hoped. You won't make significant money until you start putting your hidden strength to good use.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You may not get rich any time soon, but you can start socking away if you focus on the domestic front. More money just won't be coming in any time soon, so in the meant time, cut what you're spending.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Look on the bright side. Maybe the powers that be are looking out for you after all. If you're the type to overindulge, then having less at your disposal is actually a blessing.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Saving money and travel -- sorry, not compatible. Cutting corners and eating out? Not likely, but possible. Find an unusual dinner spot and take things from there.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Saving money and travel -- sorry, not compatible. Cutting corners and eating out? Not likely, but possible. Find an unusual dinner spot and take things from there.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Making money is one of life's challenges, not one of life's contests. Don't compare yourself to others, even if it seems like human nature to do so. Keeping up with the Jones' is passe.

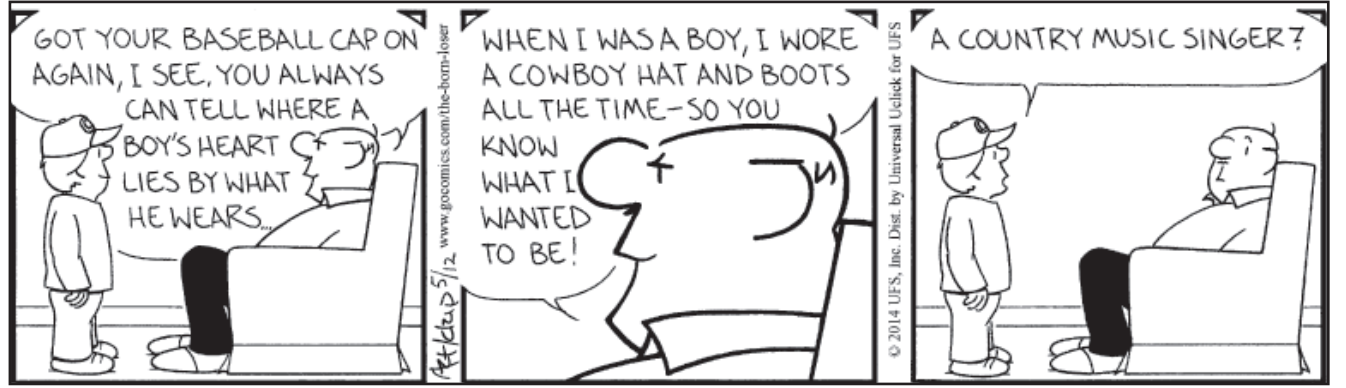
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Finances are tight, but it's nothing you can't deal. Write down everything you spend, then analyze the list. Pay close attention to the small details; that's where your savings are hiding.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Integrity, perseverance, duty -- blah, blah, blah. You just want satisfaction the shallow way, by spending fast money. But you have to be economical, so you're forced to be deep, instead.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
If you ever wondered how older relatives got the way they are, take a look in the mirror. You're getting a bit eccentric yourself, and this is only year one. Get a grip before it's too late.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
You'll get an important communication. You're waiting for hard numbers, but what you'll get will be words, and soft ones. Making poetry is the equivalent of lemonade.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
--	-----	-----	-----------

CHINA

Beijing	26	37	thundershower
Harbin	19	28	cloudy
Tianjin	28	37	cloudy/thundershower
Urumqi	20	33	clear
Xi'an	24	30	overcast/shower
Lhasa	12	23	drizzle/shower
Chengdu	21	27	moderate rain/overcast
Chongqing	26	30	overcast/heavy rain
Kunming	19	27	cloudy/shower
Nanjing	24	34	cloudy
Shanghai	25	34	cloudy
Wuhan	26	34	cloudy/drizzle
Hangzhou	25	35	clear/cloudy
Taipei	25	32	overcast/drizzle
Guangzhou	27	36	clear
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy

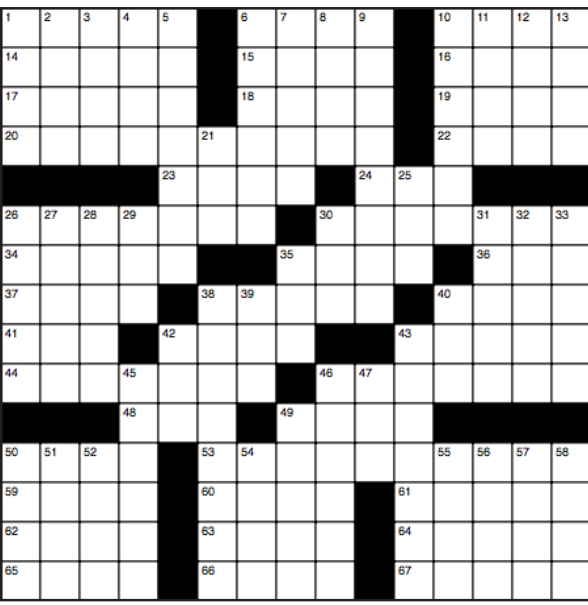
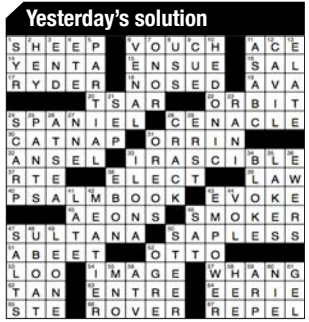
WORLD

Moscow	11	20	cloudy/overcast
Frankfurt	14	22	drizzle
Paris	17	28	cloudy/drizzle
London	16	24	drizzle
New York	23	29	cloudy/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Red as ___; 6- Genie's home; 10- Oscar ___ Renta; 14- Chew vigorously; 15- From a distance; 16- Beasts of burden; 17- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 18- Adduce; 19- Annika Sorenstam's org.; 20- Morphological; 22- Defeat; 23- Welles role; 24- Botanist Gray; 26- Oakland's county; 30- Where junk may be held; 34- Man of many words?; 35- Painter Mondriaan; 36- Conk; 37- Sports figure; 38- Play groups; 40- ___ and crafts; 41- "Lord, is ___?"; Matthew; 42- Big lugs; 43- Student of Socrates; 44- Melodious; 46- Person who rows; 48- Some NFL linemen; 49- Singer Murray; 50- Japanese wrestling; 53- Bring about; 59- Isaac's eldest; 60- Civil disturbance; 61- Actress Burstyn; 62- Aardvark's prey; 63- ___ pronounce you...; 64- Three-masted ship of the Mediterranean; 65- Manuscript enc.; 66- This, in Tijuana; 67- Poke fun at;

DOWN: 1- Book after Joel; 2- Push with the head; 3- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 4- Beige cousin; 5- Dense growth of shrubs; 6- Cavity; 7- Blazing; 8- ___ Hat; 9- Chief priests; 10- Basic monetary unit; 11- Public exhibition; 12- Race parts; 13- Literary collections; 21- Wlee bit; 25- Drunkard; 26- Bears the ictus; 27- Numbers game; 28- One more time; 29- Assembled; 30- Take a load off; 31- James Garfield's middle name; 32- Must, informally; 33- Big name in printers; 35- Ltr. addenda; 38- Chat; 39- CIO's partner; 40- Gore and more; 42- Frequently, in verse; 43- Excuse; 45- Complain; 46- Ring combo; 47- Mandela's grip.; 49- In progress; 50- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 51- Annapolis sch.; 52- Wrestling surfaces; 54- Fish appendages; 55- Peter Fonda role; 56- Jessica of "Dark Angel"; 57- Golf pegs, northern English river; 58- Suffix with exist



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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Old Taipa Village Taipa
Taipa
1,000 sq ft / HKD 6.5M
HKD 6,500sq ft
Near Lady of Carmel Church
Ref: 15035434

Va Fu, Old Taipa Village
Taipa
1 Bedroom Apartment
Very Centrally Located
HKD 12,500 / 800 sq ft
Ref: 15050511

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

CHUN LEONG
Taipa
Car Park Space
Car Park for Rent
HKD 1,700 / 00 sq ft
Ref: 1505051

Designer Apartment
Macau
849 sq ft / HKD 5.033M
HKD 5,929sq ft
Overlooking St Pauls
Ref: 14105421

One Grantai, Unit Y
Taipa
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Beautiful Green Views
HKD 22,000 / 2,158 sq ft
Ref: 1505508

Hellene Gardens
Coloane
1,663 sq ft. / HKD 8.8M
HKD 5,292sq ft
Car Park Included
Ref: 15055437

Retail Spaces in Mong Ha
Macau
Retail Shops
Use as Restaurant etc
HKD 200,000 / 9,539 sq ft
Ref: 15020472



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* about the picture may be different from Macau specifications



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CYCLING

Tour leader Froome confident heading to Pyrenees mountains

Jerome Pugmire

RACE leader Chris Froome heads to the first mountain stages of the Tour de France in confident mood — and with an unexpected main rival.

The British rider, seeking his second Tour win after his dominant victory in 2013, safely kept the yellow jersey after his Team SKY finished one second behind American rider Tejay van Garderen's BMC in Sunday's team time trial, the ninth stage of a crash-marred race.

Van Garderen is 12 seconds behind Froome in second place, putting him ahead of Nairo Quintana of Colombia, the 2013 Tour runner-up and the Giro d'Italia winner in 2014, as well as two-time Tour winner Alberto Contador of Spain and defending Tour champion Vincenzo Nibali of Italy.

The 26-year-old van Garderen has never finished higher than fifth at the Tour, but is so far riding like a contender.

"Those guys have that tag of 'Fab Four' which is getting a bit irritating," van Garderen said. "All those guys in the top four have won Grand Tours ... It doesn't mean I'm intimidated by them ... I'm not afraid to beat them."

The most disappointing of the 'Fab Four' has so far been Nibali, who cracked in a short climb at the end of Saturday's eighth stage and lost more time in



Britain's Christopher Froome

Sunday's TTT when his Astana team finished fifth, behind Contador's Tinkoff-Saxo and Quintana's Movistar.

"I thought (Nibali) was going to be the one guy from the main contenders who would gain time in this first phase of the race," the 30-year-old Froome said. "I am surprised."

Contador, who entered the Tour on the back of his second Giro d'Italia win and seventh Grand Tour title, is in fifth place — 1 minute, 3 seconds behind Froome — while Quintana is 1:59 behind in ninth and Nibali

sits 2:22 behind in 13th spot.

"It's one thing not to lose any time to your rivals but it's another to gain time on them," Froome said. "The pressure's certainly not on my shoulders."

Following yesterday's rest day, today's 10th stage snakes up the Pyrenees mountains.

There is only one significant climb, right at the end. But it is a notable one — 15.3 kilometers up La Pierre-Saint-Martin, a mountain resort hosting a stage for the first time. The ascent is classed as Hors Catégorie (Beyond Classification) — the

rating given to the toughest climbs.

Wednesday's 11th stage features a climb up the Category 1 Col d'Aspin and then an HC trek up Col du Tourmalet, a famed Tour climb.

A few riders might crack on Thursday's 12th stage: featuring two Cat. 1 climbs and an HC up Plateau de Beille to top things off.

Froome has identified van Garderen, second behind him at last month's Criterium du Dauphine race, as his main Tour rival.

"(The Pyrenees) will be the test who is fit enough to win the Tour and the Alps will (show) who has enough stamina to get to the end," van Garderen said. "With the way I was climbing at the Dauphine, compared to Froome, I think I'm pretty close."

Before Sunday's 9th stage, van Garderen was 13 seconds behind Froome in third place, meaning his BMC team — world champions in the discipline — needed to win the TTT by 14 seconds for the American rider to take the yellow jersey.

The 22 teams started the TTT within five minutes of each other over a 28-kilometer trek that ended with a short and sharp hill of 1.7 kilometers (1.1 miles). Teams have to get five riders over the line with the overall time credited to the fifth rider to finish.

BMC's team featured four ri-

ders from the team that won last year's worlds: van Garderen, Rohan Dennis, Daniel Oss and Manuel Quinziato. The Australian rider Dennis won the Tour's opening individual time trial in a record average speed.

At the Criterium du Dauphine, BMC won the team time trial with Froome's Team Sky placing sixth, 35 seconds behind — but on a less challenging course.

Thousands of fans, many waving the black-and-white flag of the Brittany region, packed the undulating route. Starting in Vannes and rolling past Chateau de L'Hermine, a resplendent castle residence for Dukes of Burgundy between the 14th and 16th century, it ended in Plumelec.

BMC and Sky were level at the first time check, Sky one second ahead at the next.

Wearing a tailor-made yellow skin suit, Froome hammered down on the pedals as his team reached speeds of 70 kph approaching the final climb. But then they lost time.

Belgian rider Greg Van Avermaet — a BMC rider — is third overall behind Froome, 27 seconds behind, while Slovak sprinter Peter Sagan is fourth, 38 behind.

But neither is a contender for the Tour win.

"Right now, the biggest threat is Tejay van Garderen," Froome said. **AP**

NEW Zealand Football says it will appeal the decision of the Oceania Football Confederation to disqualify its under-23 team from the regional Olympic qualifying tournament for fielding an ineligible player.

The Oceania disciplinary committee ruled on Sunday that New Zealand should be ejected from the tournament final in Papua New Guinea for playing an ineligible player in a 2-0 semifinal win over Vanuatu.

Vanuatu was awarded the match and went on to play Fiji in Sunday's final, losing 4-3 on penalties. Fiji will now represent the Oceania region at next year's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

New Zealand Football said yesterday it will

FOOTBALL

New Zealand to appeal disqualification from Oly qualifier

appeal the ruling that found South Africa-born defender Deklan Wynne was not eligible to play for New Zealand in the semifinal.

The Oceania disciplinary committee upheld a protest from Vanuatu, lodged immediately after the semifinal, that Wynne did not meet eligibility criteria.

Wynne played for New Zealand at last month's FIFA Under-20 World Cup and has played twice for New Zealand's senior national team. But FIFA rules state that in

order to be eligible to do so he would have to have been born in New Zealand, have a New Zealand parent or grandparent or have lived in New Zealand for five years from the age of 18.

Wynne has lived in New Zealand for five years but, aged 20, does not meet any of those criteria. It is unclear why questions about his eligibility haven't previously been raised or why New Zealand Football failed to recognize his eligibility might be disputed.

New Zealand could

have applied for dispensation on Wynne's behalf under FIFA rules which allow a player under the age of 21 to switch national allegiance.

New Zealand Football will now challenge the substance and process of the decision against Wynne in the hope of keeping alive its hopes of playing at next year's games. The Olympic qualifying tournament is the only avenue through which it can qualify for Rio de Janeiro and New Zealand was the Oceania representative at both the 2008 and 2012

games.

New Zealand Football chief executive Andy Martin said his organization had received confirmation from the Pacific Games council that all of its players were eligible.

However, it seems unlikely the council was the appropriate body to rule on any questions of eligibility around players taking part in a FIFA tournament.

"New Zealand Football has acted in good faith at all times and we would have expected any

issues on player eligibility to have been raised in advance, through the process we were given, so that they could have been dealt with properly in a timely fashion," Martin said in a statement.

"Our lawyers are working on the appeal currently and are reviewing both the process followed and the OFC Disciplinary Committee's interpretation of the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and how this has been applied in similar cases." **AP**

opinion

World Views

Mark Gilbert, Bloomberg

GREECE BLINKS

After months of deadlines that turned out not to matter and final demands that weren't met, the threat of a one-way ticket from the euro seems to have finally persuaded Greece to capitulate to its creditors. For all of France's diplomatic scrambling last week to help Greece craft a settlement, it also turned out that there's really only one voice that matters in Europe – and it speaks from Berlin. Once Germany raised the possibility that Greece could be unceremoniously ejected from the common currency project, the situation quickly became binary for Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Now, it looks as if he'll have to sell his electorate an even more demanding deal than the nation's voters recently rejected.

"The most important currency got lost, and this is trust," was how German Chancellor Angela Merkel summed things up as she entered 17 hours of negotiations in Brussels. Back in Athens, the Greek government responded with its usual hysterics. Germany is "destroying" Europe for the third time in a century, said Nikos Filis, the parliamentary spokesman for the governing Syriza party. "What's happening to Greece at the negotiations is waterboarding."

That kind of language helps explain why Merkel ran out of patience with Greece. By demanding that Tsipras hand over assets worth as much as 50 billion euros (USD56 billion) to an independent fund that could sell them off – anyone want to buy a Greek island? – Greece's lenders are effectively obliging the government to cede sovereignty in return for more money. That's harsh, but understandable; in return for billions of euros in additional aid, the nation's creditors have the right to demand intrusive oversight on the progress of economic reforms.

Greece needs 22 billion euros to pay its bills just through the end of August, according to Maltese Finance Minister Edward Scicluna. That includes the 3.5 billion euros Greece is scheduled to repay the European Central Bank on July 20 and 10 billion euros for its banks. "The Greeks have finally understood that unless they get an injection of cash they are faced with a doomsday scenario," Scicluna said at the weekend prior to the deal being reached.

The highest priority now is to replenish the nation's financial system so its banks can reopen. Capital controls in Cyprus lasted two years; ideally, with the support of the ECB, Athens will move faster than that.

This deal, of course, could still unravel. Cutting pension spending and increasing taxes will be deeply unpopular domestically; and while Tsipras said he's won a debt-rescheduling program, Merkel is still ruling out an outright reduction in the burden. Now, the Greek parliament might balk. The Greek people, meantime, must wonder what the wrangling of the past five months has achieved, and why the austerity they just voted down is back with a vengeance.

"Trust has to be rebuilt, the Greek authorities have to take on responsibility for what they agreed to politically here," Merkel said in the wake of yesterday's deal. If Tsipras backslides on the economic reforms he's now agreed to, Germany will be swift to reach for the euro-ejector button. For now, let's hope the deal sticks.

THE BUZZ MICROSOFT TO LAUNCH WINDOWS 10 ON JULY 29

The upgraded operating system will allow users to switch seamlessly between personal computers, tablets, smartphones and other gadgets. Windows 10 is intended to give apps a similar feel on all devices and comes with a new Web browser integrated with Cortana, the company's voice-activated answer to Apple's Siri.

Microsoft Corp. say yesterday that Windows 10 will be available as a free upgrade for a limited time for anyone whose devices use Windows 8/8.1 or 7, which are previous versions of the software.

Shares of the Redmond, Washington-based company added 24 cents to USD44.85 in Monday premarket trading.

WHO'S TRUMP?

Miss Oklahoma wins Miss USA contest



Miss Oklahoma Olivia Jordan is crowned Miss USA

Oklahoma was crowned Miss USA yesterday (Macau time), wearing a hot pink strapless dress as she deftly fielded the interview portion of the competition by saying the country needed to improve race relations to beat out 50 other contestants.

After weeks of controversy generated by pageant co-owner Donald Trump's critical comments about Mexican immigrants, the pageant passed with no mention of the real estate mogul who was not in attendance.

Instead, the focus was on women like Jordan and others who'd worked hard to get to the stage.

The 26-year-old winner was followed by first runner-up Ylianna Guerra, 22, of Texas, and second runner-up Anea Garcia, 20, of Rhode Island. They were followed by 25-year-old Miss Nevada Brittany McGown as third runner-up and then Miss Maryland Mame Adjei, 23,

rounding out the top five.

Jordan, who takes over from 2014 winner Nia Sanchez of Nevada, was a standout during the interview segment when each contestant was asked two questions and given 30 seconds to answer each. When asked what the next big issue is that the U.S. needs to tackle, she said it was race relations.

"We have not solved this issue," Jordan said. "We really need to work on being an accepting society."

During the second interview question about which woman should be put on the new USD10 bill, she initially said she wished television star Oprah Winfrey was eligible before ending by suggesting Harriet Tubman, a former slave who led other escaped slaves to freedom.

Asked afterward by The Associated Press about the Trump controversy, Jordan responded: "We have freedom of speech in this country, and immigration is cer-

tainly an important issue."

She added, "This organization is not one person. It's definitely not just me. It's a family. This organization celebrates diversity, and I think that was clear on the stage tonight, and I look forward to spreading a message of love and diversity and acceptance."

The annual contest, generally known for its dazzling dresses and sexy swimsuits, was this year under an uncomfortable spotlight due to comments made by Trump, the pageant's co-owner.

Trump slammed Mexican immigrants during his announcement that he was running for president. That led to widespread fallout against his business dealings, including the pageant.

Broadcasters, including NBC and Univision, dropped the pageant and a slew of celebrities lined up to perform, judge and host dropped out just as the pageant was kicking into high gear in Baton Rouge.

Pageant organizers rushed to fill the gap so the show could go on. Satellite and cable channel Reelz television stepped in to air the show, while assuring people that Trump would not benefit financially. It was also streamed live on the pageant's website. And former Miss USA and Miss Universe winners were recruited as judges. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Thomas Lovelock, Pool Photo via AP



Wimbledon Champions Novak Djokovic of Serbia, left, and Serena Williams of the US, dance on stage at the Wimbledon Champions dinner, at the Guildhall, London, Sunday.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	40-60 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN A suicide car bombing near a military base in eastern Afghanistan that once hosted CIA employees kills at least 26 people, the latest insurgent attack after foreign forces ended their combat mission there. [More on p14](#)

MALAYSIAN police say they are investigating the leak of confidential documents that allegedly show millions of dollars were funneled to Prime Minister Najib Razak's account, an explosive disclosure that has shaken the ruling coalition in power since 1957 to the core. [More on p12](#)



ROMANIA Prosecutors indicted Prime Minister Victor Ponta yesterday as part of a wide-ranging corruption investigation and seized his assets, putting further pressure on him to resign. Prosecutors said Ponta has been indicted on charges including tax evasion, money laundering, conflict of interest and making false statements while he was working as a lawyer in 2007 and 2008. At the time, Ponta was a lawmaker. He denies wrongdoing.



JORDAN UNESCO declares a spot on the Jordanian side of the Jordan river, long believed to be the place where Jesus was baptized, as a World Heritage site – drawing cheers from Jordan's struggling tourism industry while raising eyebrows among some experts.

HUNGARY's military has begun building a fence on the country's southern border with Serbia, meant to stem the unprecedented flow of migrants. State news wire MTI says work on the fence started yesterday morning on the outskirts of the town of Morahalom, where a bulldozer was preparing the ground for construction. Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto had said earlier the 4-meter high fence would be built in the eight to 10 areas "most exposed to the immigration pressure."