



INCREASE IN GAMING-RELATED CRIME

Gaming-related crimes, cybercrimes and burglary cases continue to rise, said the Judiciary Police director

P2



FRANCE-MACAU RELATIONS 'STRONGER THAN EVER'

P3



GUIDED VISITS TO HERITAGE SITES

The Cultural Affairs Bureau is running a series of guided visits through Macau's cultural heritage sites

P6 10 YEARS AFTER UNESCO LISTING

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

TIBET Chinese authorities have refused to release the body of a Tibetan lama who died in a Chinese prison, prompting a sit-in outside the prison by more than 100 Tibetans, a pro-Tibet rights group says. *More on p11*

S KOREA More than 60 South Koreans, including two former navy chiefs of staff, are indicted in an investigation into corruption associated with numerous defense procurement projects.

S KOREA A Samsung company removes cartoons attacking a U.S. hedge fund's founder as a ravenous, big-beaked vulture after Jewish organizations protested similar smears in South Korea's media. The fund, Elliott, is opposing a takeover deal between Samsung companies that critics say will ensure Samsung's founding family retains outsized influence over the conglomerate.

THAILAND's prime minister yesterday told farmers to stop using water in agriculture to save it for public consumption, as the capital remained spared from the worst drought in decades.

USA-JAPAN A major Japanese corporation will offer a landmark apology this weekend for using U.S. prisoners of war for forced labor during World War II, according to the group that is hosting the event. A senior executive of Mitsubishi Materials Corp. will apologize to 94-year-old James Murphy, of Santa Maria, California, and relatives of other former POWs who toiled at plants its predecessor company operated in Japan during the conflict.

NEPAL's government is urging other countries to lift travel advisories that discourage their citizens from visiting the Himalayan nation following a devastating earthquake in April that killed thousands of people.

More on backpage



Parents of sick baby faced with huge hospital bills

P5 MDT REPORT



Protests rage as Japan's security bills look to expand military role

P12

THERE has been an increase in gaming-related crimes, namely illegal detention and loan-sharking in casinos, revealed Chau Wai Kuong, director of the Judiciary Police (PJ), yesterday morning at the police headquarters during an event to mark the 55th anniversary of the institution.

Describing domestic security as stable, Chau said that "criminality has been reduced, but the gaming-related crimes, cybercrimes and burglary cases have continued to increase."

The PJ head pointed out that an increase has also been recorded in cases of youth delinquency. He likewise noted that foreign criminals in the region have surged by 76 percent, from

PJ records increase in gaming-related crime



The PJ director Chau Wai Kuong (left) guides visitors – including the Secretary Wong Sio Chak – through a photo exhibition depicting the police activities

62 to 109 in the first five months of the year, in comparison to the number recorded during the equivalent period last year. Yet the total number of crimes recorded in that period is similar year-on-year with 1,390 perpetrators prosecuted.

PJ recorded remarkable declines in the number of cases recorded in many other categories, with drug trafficking cases falling by 38 percent, organized crime dropping by 30 percent, incidents of theft reduced by 18 percent and robbery cases down by 28 percent.

Chau stressed that local citizens' vigilance against phone and Internet scams has remained low.

In a bid to elevate personnel morale and recognize outstanding PJ officers, officials from local and mainland security forces conferred certificates on 14 PJ officers from different departments during the function. They subsequently proceeded to visit a temporary gallery showcasing prize-winning pictures by local journalists, which

captured "positive images" of the PJ authorities through members of the PJ's own eyes.

According to data provided by the authorities, the number of solved cases reached 961, 4.8 percent higher than last year's figure. The PJ authorities also claimed that their scientific approaches have come a long way in dealing with crimes assisted by technology.

In recent years, society has been calling for tighter penalties for those caught driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, an opinion with which the former prosecutor general of the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) Ho Chio Meng also expressed his agreement last year.

Responding to the long-debated topic that was broached at the end of the visit, incumbent MP head Ip Son Sang echoed his predecessor's remarks, but added that a possible revision of the related regulation would only come after a social consensus has been met.

"In judiciary practice, we believe driving under the influence of drugs

NO POLITICS IN SIN FONG CASE, IP SAYS

THE PUBLIC has accused the MP of pressing politically-motivated charges against seven arrested Sin Fong Garden residents, as they were only notified of the prosecution roughly one year after their alleged offences. The MP head, Ip Son Sang, brushed off the allegations, stating that their limited workforce was the reason for their delayed decision in what he described as a "regretful case". "As Macau is a law-governed society, on one hand we very much understand the occupants' concerns. However on that day they were indeed occupying the public road, so I believe the office just fulfilled its duties to make the indictments," he said, also stressing that the freedom to express appeals should not compromise the rule of law.

and alcohol should be severely punished in our stance, as it might bring serious consequences to victims, their families and to society," agreed Ip. However, he conceded that such a revision to the law required agreement from different sides, especially the criminal investigation departments. **Staff reporter**

TYPES OF SERIOUS CRIME

	JAN TO MAY 2014	JAN TO MAY 2015
Homicide	1	0
Illegal Detention	25	103
Abduction	0	0
Extortion	41	30
Arson	7	11
Usury (non-gaming)	2	0
Loan Sharking	71	108
Crime Syndicate-related	4	6
Drug Trafficking	51	35
Theft	726	624
Robbery	44	39

BOXING

Rex Tso and Ng Kuok Kun visit Fuhong Society's Happy Market

PROFESSIONAL boxers from Hong Kong and Macau, Rex Tso and Ng Kuok Kun, have visited the Fuhong Society of Macau's Happy Market ahead of their upcoming fights at a boxing event that will take place this Saturday at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena.

The Fuhong Society of Macau is a non-profit organization founded by a group of volunteers to serve the needs of Macau's mentally handicapped community. Happy Market is a social enterprise that collec-

ts and restores first and second-hand goods for reselling and donating to the underprivileged, as well as transforming discarded materials into creative products to promote recycling and conservation. The initiative aims to provide employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities, and also serves as a platform to showcase and sell handmade artwork by Fuhong members.

A Fuhong representative gave the fighters an introduction to Happy Market

and presented some of its members' artwork. Tso and Ng then learned how to make handicrafts during a workshop led by some Fuhong members.

Yesterday's visit was organized by the Sands China Community Academy, which hosts community outreach initiatives. "It was wonderful to have Rex and KK [Ng] come visit us and spend time with our members," said Jennifer Chau, director of the Fuhong Society of Macau, as cited in a press release issued by Sands China. "They're



both very genuine people and that comes through in their interactions; our members really enjoyed working with them on the handicrafts today."

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FRENCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

'Our partnership is stronger than ever'

Paulo Barbosa

DIPLOMATIC relations between France and China have never been so good, the French Consul General in Hong Kong and Macau claimed yesterday. A reception to celebrate the French National Day, which is also known as "Bastille Day," was held yesterday at Sofitel Macau.

Speaking at the reception, Arnaud Barthelemy highlighted that this was the fifth and final time he would be officiating at a French National Day celebration in Macau. "In the last five years, we have accomplished a lot. Our partnership is stronger than ever. Macau plays a significant role in bringing France and China together," he said.

Opting to address the audience in English, the consul general praised the work of the France Macau Business Association, which he considered "a key institution to strengthen the role of France in Macau," together with Alliance Française and the Sofitel Hotel.

As on previous occasions, the French consul pointed out that France is currently the third-biggest supplier to the MSAR, after mainland China and Hong Kong. According to Mr Barthelemy, France can help the region to achieve the goal of economic diversification,



Arnaud Barthelemy (center) awards Ung Vai Meng (left) with the status of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic

but bilateral relations between the two regions go well beyond trade.

Macau plays a significant role in bringing France and China together

ARNAUD BARTHELEMY
FRENCH CONSUL IN HK AND MACAU

Talking to an audience packed with local figures related to the cultural sector, the consul praised Macau "as a city of culture, heritage and education," adding that many joint art events have been organized here.

He recalled that the exhibition "Masterpieces of Painting from French National Museums" was held last year at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM) to mark the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between France and China. This year, the main art event that France is bring-

ing to Macau is a selection of 17 sets of video installations created by French artist Robert Cahen, considered a pioneer of international video art. Titled "Traverse," the exhibition is being showcased at MAM until September.

Representing the chief executive, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, mentioned that "Tourism can promote cultural exchanges," before adding that "more and more brands from France have actively participated in trade fairs

in Macau."

To close the ceremony, the president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ung Vai Meng, was awarded the title of "Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters" by the French Republic. In a brief trilingual speech (Chinese, Portuguese and French, a language that he has been learning at the Alliance Française), the artist and bureau head pledged to continue to contribute to the cultural exchanges between Macau and France.

As a token of gratitude, Ung greeted the members of the audience with eight sketches of French urban landscapes, created during his visits to France, where he holidays every two years.

FRENCH LONG VACATIONS

ARNAUD BARTHELEMY

has estimated that there are currently some 300 French citizens living in Macau, and joked that many of them did not attend the function at Sofitel since they are probably still enjoying a summer break from work. "They are not all here because French citizens like to take long vacations, but when they are not on holiday they are very active," he said, generating chuckles from the audience.

JLL foresees a stable property market before year-end

THE property market in the region is expected to progress steadily in the second half of the year despite the plummeting gaming revenue, according to analysts at the local branch of Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated, who urged investors to rest cautiously optimistic.

During the company's mid-year review yesterday afternoon, associate

director Alvin Mak forecast that the impending wave of Cotai resorts and casinos would more than likely buoy the residential market, as the region will be bracing itself for a massive legion of immigrant employees.

"Will the city's pessimistic situation linger? We don't think so, as the Cotai

Strip's construction is in full swing; the future sees six major projects, with the Galaxy Phase Two already implemented. The other five will reach completion in the coming two or three years. They will bring with them over 17,700 rooms, 2,800 gaming tables and 2.4 million square feet of retail space," said Mak, adding that some prospective Hengqin flat-buyers have abandoned their plans and returned to look for apartments in Macau.

The transaction volume of residential units in the first five months of this year saw a year-on-year drop of 36.5 percent. However, Jeff Wong, director of capital markets at Jones Lang LaSalle (Macau), said the market prospects remain good.

"We expect the imported labor force to continue increasing, which will provide a solid support for the rental market. As for the luxury market, there will be much more pressure on it, especially those [buildings] located near the casinos, most of whose occupants are working in the gaming sector. But we believe that most of the correction has been realized already. So for the remaining half of this year, it may be in the range of five percent only," said Wong.

The capital values of high-end units and mass-and-medium units went down by 17.1 percent and 11.6 percent respectively year-on-year in the first half of the year, while the rental values of the properties



also respectively suffered declines of 11.7 percent and 5.5 percent as of the end of last year.

According to another JLL associate director, Oliver Tong, the central district, known for its exorbitant rents, became affordable to foreign brands after landlords lowered their prices by 30 percent. In addition, Tong foresaw "more vehement competition" in the retail market as large malls will soon multiply across the Cotai Strip.

The region's rental

market for office space has managed to withstand detrimental impact from the depressed gaming economy, with an increase in rental value of 0.5 percent since the end of last year. Rents of A-list real estate have even enjoyed a 5.7-percent increase. Despite this, the entire market's capital value slipped 4.8 percent, following the gaming sector and mainland-invested enterprises' weakening demand for offices in the territory. Staff reporter

CENTRALINE: PROPERTY PRICES TO PICK UP IN THIRD QUARTER

CENTRALINE (MACAU) Property Agency Limited is expecting local housing prices to grow by between three and five percent in the third quarter, in contrast to falling transaction

volumes. The coming batch of flats to be rolled out by property developers is also expected to push up housing prices by at least 20 percent in the fourth quarter.

GAMING ALERT

Boston says Wynn reps knew of mob ties to land

Philip Marcelo, Boston

RECENTLY discovered interviews with at least five people suggest Wynn Resorts knew a mob associate with felony convictions would profit from his stake in the waterfront land where the Las Vegas casino company plans to build a resort, the city says in recent court filings.

Boston, which is suing the state Gaming Commission over its decision to award Wynn a gambling license, says the witnesses told commission investigators that Wynn representatives were informed of or discussed Charles Lightbody's ownership stake before signing an option on roughly 30 acres on the Everett waterfront across from Boston. The city argues that existence of the testimony casts further doubts over the commission's vetting of the Wynn application.

One interview centers on a conversation between



Visitors walk toward the Wynn Macau casino resort, operated by Wynn Resorts

Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Stephen Tocco, a former state secretary of economic affairs working as a political consultant for Wynn.

Tocco told gambling investigators he had mentioned to the mayor that a reporter was inquiring about the Everett land. He then reminded DeMaria that Wynn would not move forward with the deal if there was anyone with a criminal background involved. The mayor, in response, asked specifically if the reporter was asking about Lightbody, Tocco testified.

"A fair and reasonable in-

ference to be drawn from Tocco's testimony is that Mayor DeMaria knew that Lightbody was an owner of the former Monsanto Chemical Site and a convicted felon, which he communicated directly to Tocco, a long-term, authorized representative of Wynn," the city argues in the legal brief.

But Tocco said Monday it's clear from his testimony he didn't pass on any mention of Lightbody to Wynn officials after his brief conversation with DeMaria because the name didn't ring any bells.

"I never heard of Lightbody and I certainly never had

any discussions with Wynn or anybody else about Lightbody," he said. "I didn't pursue it because I didn't know who the names were, anyway. I wasn't involved in the land stuff."

Wynn spokesman Michael Weaver maintains the company first learned about Lightbody's ties to the property from the gaming commission investigation. The commission and DeMaria didn't comment Monday.

The interviews were included in roughly 1,000 pages of materials Boston filed late last week as the city argued for casting a wider net for gathering evidence in the civil lawsuit.

A state judge struck the filings from the court record Thursday because they had been submitted just hours before a hearing in the case. The city subsequently released the materials to the Associated Press.

Boston alleges commission investigators "con-

sciously omitted" mention of interviewing Tocco and DeMaria in their extensive background check into the key players in the USD1.7 billion resort casino project. The testimony also was not included in the administrative record the commission has compiled for the court in Boston's civil lawsuit, the city says.

DeMaria and Tocco's testimony was a focus of legal filings this month in the criminal case against Lightbody and two other former owners of the Everett land, Dustin DeNunzio and Anthony Gattineri.

The three face federal wire fraud charges. They're accused of trying to conceal the fact Lightbody would profit from the multi-million-dollar land deal in violation of the state's casino law, which prohibits criminals from profiting from gambling facilities.

Boston and two other area cities, Revere and Somerville, have sued the gaming

commission following last year's decision to award Wynn a casino license over rival Mohegan Sun. The cities, in separate lawsuits, accuse the commission and Wynn of misconduct that severely compromised the competition for the state's most lucrative regional casino license.

Among Boston's numerous allegations is that the commission attempted to "salvage" Wynn's qualification in the license competition by "mischaracterizing" evidence its investigators uncovered regarding Wynn's knowledge of Lightbody's role.

In a related development, state Attorney General Maura Healey on Monday issued a letter to state transportation officials in which she urged them to delay any approvals for Wynn's project until an independent analysis on the casino's impacts to the notoriously traffic-clogged region could be done. **AP**

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Catarina Pinto

CHYN was born in Macau on April 20 and soon after birth was diagnosed with Down Syndrome, congenital heart disease, a complete ventricular septal defect and pulmonary hypertension. Born to Filipino parents who have lived in Macau for the past ten years, the baby girl now needs MOP300,000 surgery that her family can't afford.

Baby Chyn's parents have launched a fundraising campaign on Facebook and Indiegogo to gather funds for the operation.

As they're both non-resident workers, their baby daughter is not entitled to any government health subsidies, even though she was born here. Furthermore, as "blue card" and tourist visa holders they are required to pay medical bills at a price that can sometimes be 200 percent higher than that paid by Macau ID holders.

"We were advised to approach the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) and we found out that as we are not Macau residents they could not help us financially. It was disappointing but we understand and respect that this is their procedure and protocol," said Carlo de Guzman, baby Chyn's father.

Baby Chyn has three siblings, two of whom were also born in Macau. A large proportion of her relatives have lived in Macau for years, including her paternal grandparents who are both Macau residents.

Mr de Guzman is currently unemployed and on a tourist visa, which authorities have extended due to the baby's situation. Baby Chyn's mother, Nina, returned to her work here in Macau yesterday.

"We decided to have the baby here because back in the Philippines one of us would

BORN IN MACAU, YET STILL NON-RESIDENT

Parents of sick baby faced with astronomical hospital bills



As we are not Macau residents they could not help us financially. It was disappointing but we understand and respect that this is their procedure

CARLO DE GUZMAN
CHYN'S FATHER

have to stay with her. There we can't get help from family members because they're all here," the father recalled.

Mr de Guzman added that the family only learned of the baby's serious health condition during the final stage of the pregnancy. He added that they decided to have the baby at Kiang Wu, as his wife had previously given birth there and it all ran smoothly.

"This time, she had been followed by a doctor at a private clinic and when she was almost seven months pregnant, we went to Kiang Wu for a check-up. Doctors found out that there was something wrong with the baby's intestines, but said they would only

be able to tell more once the baby was born," he said.

A few hours after giving birth, Nina learned that her baby daughter had Down Syndrome, a congenital heart problem and pulmonary hypertension, as well as congenital digestive problems.

As the baby was unable to eat, she underwent surgery at Kiang Wu hospital and has since been given milk through a feeding tube.

"When she was four days old she had the surgery, which was successful. After nine days in the hospital we learned that the medical bill was about MOP143,000. That bill has been settled but we decided back then to move her

to the public hospital to continue treatment, because we thought it would be a little bit cheaper," Mr de Guzman said.

Baby Chyn was admitted to the public hospital in late April and discharged in early June. Now, she's at home but is still being given milk through a feeding tube. If she moves a lot, the feeding tube can get displaced and the baby needs to be taken to the hospital for it to be reattached.

"We are very thankful to the nurses and doctors at both hospitals for the care they've provided. Doctors in Kiang Wu and Hospital Conde de São Januário coordinated to handle her case," Mr de Guzman recalled.

man recalled.

But a greater problem remains to be solved. The baby needs surgery to alleviate pressure in her lungs, and she needs it soon. And around six months after that, she will need to undergo heart surgery.

The first operation can only be performed at Kiang Wu, said Mr Guzman. "First they had actually scheduled it for July, because this operation should be done in the first three months after the baby is born. But we asked them to postpone it to September because we haven't gathered all the money yet," he conceded.

Mr Guzman clarified that they need to pay a MOP250,000 deposit for the hospital to perform the surgery. In total, the operation costs can amount to MOP300,000.

Meanwhile, they are also working to settle a MOP160,000-plus medical bill at Conde São Januário Hospital.

Mr Guzman said that the family was advised to resort to the Social Welfare Bureau office located in the public hospital to request a monthly installment plan to pay their baby daughter's bill.

The Health Bureau (SSM) told the Times yesterday that it could not confirm by press time whether a request had been filed by the baby's family to settle their medical bill under an installment plan. SSM confirmed that these monthly installment plans have been made available for tourists and foreign workers seeking to pay larger medical bills.

Asked if they believe the government will eventually provide help, Mr Guzman said that, "we are still praying for that to happen and hoping that they will help us," although acknowledging that their "expectations aren't too high."

Baby Chyn's parents saw no option other than launching a fundraising campaign. First on Indiegogo (life.indiegogo.com/fundraisers/1312751) and later on by launching a Facebook page titled "Help our Little Angel 'Baby Chyn.'"

He concluded by saying that, "it has been very difficult for us but we remain positive that we will be able to reach the amount of money that we need. We're still hoping. Up until now we have gathered almost MOP100,000, the sum total of all contributions. It's still a long way to go to reach MOP300,000."

Macau Slot profits from World Cup

Macau Slot's profits rose to MOP121.84 million in 2014, MOP18.4 million more than in the previous year. The better results, published yesterday in the Official Gazette, have been attributed to the FIFA World Cup football tournament, which was held in Brazil last year between June 12 and July 13, boosting sports bets. The sports betting concessionaire posted a 42.7-percent growth in revenue from football bets (MOP598 million).

Central Park library extends opening hours



The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will extend the opening hours of its library situated underneath Taipa's Central

Park to between 9.30 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. from Tuesday to Sunday, starting tomorrow. The government's longest-running library, since its first trial operation, will continue collecting public opinions on its service and collection in order to determine the next stages of its operation. All of the reading zones will be available during the above-mentioned period. Regarding the takeover of the existing seven libraries under the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the IC authorities said that a specific timeframe has yet to be released.

10 YEARS AFTER UNESCO LISTING

IC organizes guided visits to heritage sites

BEFORE attending university, Liu Ziliang wants "to know the world," and hence decided to join yesterday's guided visit of Macau's cultural heritage, which he believes differs from Chinese heritage due to the Portuguese influence.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is running a series of guided visits through Macau's cultural heritage sites in partnership with a travel agency. The tours come as part of a program to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the city's main monuments being listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

A total of 65 tourists, including mainly mainland Chinese and 20 people of other nationalities, yesterday took part in a guided visit to the A-Ma Temple, Mandarin's House, Lillau Square, the church and seminary of St Joseph, as well as to the D. Pedro V theatre.

At the theatre, Leong In Fan, a representative of IC's cultural heritage department explained, "This was a very important place for the Portuguese community."

The first western-style theater in China yesterday accommodated an alrea-



The D. Pedro V theatre

dy tired group of tourists, who took a chance to enjoy a 20-minute air conditioning break while taking photos of the theater. The first cabaret show in Asia, the "Crazy Paris Show," was staged in one of the theater's rooms.

Liu Ziliang, 17, said that he was pleased with the visit, which allowed him to learn about "the most ancient and most beautiful part of Macau." He has only been to the region once before,

and that was to go shopping with his family.

Liu added that Macau is the first city that he has visited after completing his university admission exams. "I finished my exams and I want to know the world. So this opportunity came up and I took the chance to come here," he said.

He acknowledged that, of all Macau's monuments that are listed as UNESCO World Heritage, the St Joseph's church impressed him the most. Liu added that he believes these monuments and cultural sites have provided Macau with its own "style," influenced by the Portuguese culture, making Macau a different city to those in mainland China.

Candy Kong, responsible for organizing the tenth anniversary visit, said, "Tourists were quite surprised to know that such a small place can accommodate so many cultural heritage [sites]. Everything seems new because of the mix between the western and eastern cultures, which they find very interesting."

Wu Keng Kuong, head of the travel agency organizing the guided visits in partnership with IC, stressed that **tourists do not come to Macau just for shopping.**

"A great percentage of tourists want to shop, but a large part also want to visit Macau's cultural heritage sites. Foreign tourists appreciate more sites of eastern cultural heritage, while the Chinese prefer the western-style heritage," he stated. MDT/Lusa

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Eleni Chrepa

Tsipras braves parliament on aid as Greek outlook worsens

GREEK Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras braved a revolt in his own party as parliament in Athens began to debate a bailout of up to 86 billion euros (USD95 billion) that international officials have already suggested won't be enough.

With Greece's finances deteriorating rapidly and its banks on the verge of collapse, the European Union proposed a four-week bridging loan that countries including the U.K. have refused to back. Adding to the worsening outlook, the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund both said they had serious concerns about Greece's debt load.

The increasingly desperate efforts to aid Greece underline the fragile nature of the deal struck in weekend negotiations to keep the country in the 19-nation euro region. The first challenge falls to Athens, where parliament must back a package of austerity measures as a precondition to the country's third bailout in five years.

The European Commission and the IMF both said they had serious concerns about Greece's debt load

"We had to negotiate a difficult agreement that includes both fiscal measures and reforms," Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos told lawmakers in Athens yesterday as they began debating the package. Some measures "continue to be of a neoliberal bent that will affect many social groups, with a dou-



Members of the Communist-affiliated PAME labor union gather next to an anti-austerity banner in the northern Greek port city of Thessaloniki

btful return in terms of growth," he said.

With capital controls ravaging an economy that has already shrunk by a quarter since 2009, the prospect of choosing to support steps including streamlined sales taxes and curbs to the pension system has split Tsipras' anti-austerity Syriza coalition. That means he will have to rely on opposition lawmakers to carry the vote, which was due at about 10 p.m. yesterday local time.

The European Commission and the International Monetary Fund both said they had serious concerns about Greece's debt load

Government 10-year bond

yields in Spain, Portugal and Ireland narrowed by as many as 8 basis points on the prospect of a resolution to the standoff that has convulsed the euro area since Tsipras' election in January. The euro declined yesterday 0.1 percent to \$1.1026 at 12:28 p.m. in Frankfurt after dropping 3 percent since June 18, when Tsipras said he was ready to reject a bailout with its associated conditions.

The measures demanded by creditors in exchange for aid have exacted a "heavy toll" and led to a dramatic deterioration in Greece's ability to repay its debt over the past two weeks, a new analysis by the International Monetary Fund showed

on Tuesday. Greece as a result needs debt relief "far beyond" what the euro area has been willing to consider, including possibly deep "haircuts" on the value of Greek debt, it said.

That message was amplified

by the European Commission yesterday in an assessment of Greece's latest bailout request. It concluded that without further aid, the "financial stability risks for Greece will not be manageable and the banking sector will inevitably collapse."

With the pressure rising for immediate aid to keep Greece from defaulting on the European Central Bank and its own citizens next week, the EU proposed bridge financing of 7 billion euros using a bloc-wide fund. Acknowledging that's a route U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and his counterparts in Sweden and the Czech Republic have refused to accept, the Commission is exploring ways to shield non-euro nations from the associated risks.

Facing party defections and with the deal already at risk of unraveling, Tsipras took to national television on Tuesday night to argue the case for an accord as Greece's only choice.

"My priority is to make sure that the choice I made the other day, with a knife at my neck, is finalized," Tsipras said in an interview with ERTV. **Bloomberg**

BANKS TO REMAIN CLOSED

GREECE'S FINANCE ministry says banks will remain closed through today. The ministry says the transactions that can be carried out at the few bank branches that are allowed to open are being broadened. Apart from allowing pensioners without bank cards to withdraw 120 euros per week,

they will also process payments for credit card bills, debts to the state like taxes and utility bills, and the payment of insurance company bills. They will also allow the transfer of funds between accounts in the same bank. Banks have been shut in Greece since June 29.

corporate bits

MASTERCARD MASTERPASS ARRIVES IN HONG KONG

MasterCard yesterday launched MasterPass, a new digital payment platform, for the first time in Hong Kong. With MasterPass, consumers can securely store their MasterCard and other branded card information all in one place, along with shipping and billing address. Allowing consumers to access the payment details in their wallet during checkout eliminates the need to enter payment and shipping information with every purchase, and simplifies the process of completing a transaction, with just a click or tap, on any connected device.

MasterCard is partnering with Bank of East Asia, China Construction Bank, Dah Sing Bank and DBS Bank to launch branded MasterPass digital wallets. MasterPass is now accepted at a variety of online merchants in

Hong Kong, including Broadway Circuit and Zuji, in addition to more than 250,000 online merchants around the world.

"According to the latest MasterCard Online Shopping Survey in Hong Kong, nearly 90% of local consumers love to shop online using their mobile devices. We have also found that security and reputation of the website are both top considerations for local consumers when shopping online," said Anna Yip, Head of Hong Kong and Macau, MasterCard. "MasterPass addresses the concerns of online shoppers, as well as their needs of speed, ease and convenience by offering a one-stop secure payment platform for our digitally-savvy consumers, who are looking to shop and pay safer, faster and simpler."

SANDS CHINA HOSTS 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST' BACKSTAGE TOUR FOR LOCAL ART SCHOOL



Sands China Ltd. hosted a group of 30 students from the Macao Conservatory's School of Theatre for a backstage tour of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"

at The Venetian Theatre. During the tour, the students were given an up-close experience of the Broadway production. They walked through

the backstage area, which includes the costume storage and make-up, seeing the costumes, props and equipment up-close. They also enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk to the musical's tour manager Jo McCrory and production stage manager David Zack at a question-and-answer session before concluding the tour with a group photo.

"We are very excited to provide the students with this unique learning and enriching experience here at The Venetian Macao," said Dave Horton, global chief marketing officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Sands China Ltd. "We always encourage young people to pursue their dreams of theatre and music, and we hope that this tour will inspire them to forge ahead in their theatrical endeavors."

Jointly produced by Broadway Entertainment Group and NETWORKS Presentations, Garuda Indonesia is the official airline sponsor for the Macau show.



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Portugal suspends issuing golden visas

THE Portuguese Foreigner and Borders Service (SEF) has suspended the issuing of gold visas requested since the beginning of July, based on a decision by its Director, according to Portuguese daily newspaper Jornal de Noticias.

The decision is the result of a legal vacuum created by new law 63/2015, which does not regulate certain matters that were originally written in the form of legal articles but are not included in the new law.

China continues to be the country with the highest number of applications

Among the articles repealed by the new legislation is one that defined the length of time candidates for golden visas may stay in the country and the minimum investment required for one to be granted.



Law 63/2015 offers up new possibilities for granting golden visas – by transferring capital of 350,000 euros or more for investment in scientific research within the national scientific system, by transferring capital of 350,000 euros or more applied to investment or supporting artistic production, or the maintenance or recovery of cultural heritage.

In addition golden visas can be granted through acquisition of property worth at least 500,000 euros, with positive discrimination for invest-

ment in low-density areas, so that these investments will not be concentrated exclusively in large cities, representing a decrease of 20 percent.

The other conditions for granting residence permits in return for investment – capital transfer of at least one million euros and creation of at least 10 jobs – remain the same.

According to Jornal de Notícias, over 350 golden visas were granted by the end of April and China continues to be the country with the highest number of applications. **MDT/Macauhub**

China supports professional training in Angola

ANGOLA continues to experience rapid socio-economic development, which means it is urgent to implement continual training of its citizens, the Chinese Ambassador to Angola said Tuesday in Luanda.

Ambassador Gao Kexiang was gifting musical equipment and materials to the Women's Training Centre of the National Institute of Employment and Vocational Training, which is part of the Ministry of Public Administration, Employment and Social Security.

Cited by Angolan news agency Angop, Kexiang Gao also said that China's embassy in Angola would continue to support the establishment of partnerships and joint actions between private individuals and companies from both countries.

The ambassador reiterated the commitment to provide support to vocational training institutions to bolster development of Angolan society "under the strategic partnership between China and Angola." **MDT/Macauhub**

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Construction workers take a break outside of a construction site in Beijing

2Q economic growth steady at 7 percent

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

CHINA'S economic growth in the latest quarter held steady at 7 percent, its weakest performance since the global crisis, but better retail sales and factory output in June suggested efforts to reverse the slump might be gaining traction.

The figure reported yesterday was slightly above forecasts and came as the ruling Communist Party is struggling to reverse a stock market plunge that threatens to disrupt its economic reform plans.

The ruling party is trying to steer China to slower, more sustainable growth based on domestic consumption instead

of trade and investment. But an unexpectedly sharp downturn over the past two years raised the threat of politically dangerous job losses. Beijing responded by cutting interest rates four times since November and pumping money into the world's No. 2 economy through spending on construction.

"There are good reasons to think that the latest figures are mirroring a genuine stabilization of conditions on the ground," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

Retail sales growth accelerated in June to 10.6 percent, up 0.5 percentage points from May's rate. Factory output rose 6.8 percent, an improvement of just under 1 percentage point

from the previous month.

A government spokesman cautioned that the economy still faces "increased downward pressure," due in part to weak demand for Chinese exports.

"The foundation for the stabilization of China's economy needs to be consolidated," said a spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics, Sheng Laiyun, at a news conference.

Second quarter growth probably benefited from a stock market boom that brought brokerages a flood of revenue, according to analysts.

The market has tumbled from its early June peak, prompting a massive government intervention that included banning sales by large shareholders and

a pledge by state-owned brokerages to buy stocks.

The plunge prompted concern consumers might cut spending, but analysts say the impact should be limited. Fewer than 10 percent of Chinese households own stocks, compared with up to one-third in the United States and Europe.

"The real impacts on the domestic economy are likely to be limited to short-lived volatility in industrial sector profits," said Brian Jackson of IHS Global Insight in a report this week. "The most substantial hit to the economy over the medium and long term will be to investor confidence."

The latest figures keep China on track to meet the Communist Party's official growth target of 7 percent for this year. The International Monetary Fund and private sector forecasters expect that to decline further in coming years.

Much of the slowdown from China's double-digit growth in the previous decade was self-imposed as communist leaders tightened controls to cool inflation, surging housing costs and an investment boom.

The ruling party has promised to give entrepreneurs a bigger

role in the state-dominated economy. But they have yet to take significant steps to reduce the monopolies and other privileges of government companies.

The relentless decline in growth has left many ordinary Chinese pessimistic about their own economic outlook.

Wang Zhong, 30, who works in purchasing for a Shanghai restaurant chain, said his company has reduced its workforce and gave no raises this year. He said he and his wife have an 8-month-old son but have put off trying to buy an apartment because prices are too high.

"I'm not optimistic about the economic outlook in the second half of the year," said Wang.

Trade data reported earlier showed June export growth rebounded to 2.8 percent from May's 2.5 percent contraction. Imports fell 6.1 percent, an improvement from the previous month's 17.6 percent decline.

Li Ming, a former employee of state television in Beijing, said he lost several tens of thousands of yuan (thousands of dollars) in mainland stocks but made about 1 million yuan (USD160,000) in the Hong Kong market. He said he and his wife put their profits into buying an apartment they hope will rise in value.

"Generally speaking, however, I don't think there will be any positive changes in the current economic slowdown," said Li, 28.

The government didn't break out June's investment growth rate but Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said the data suggest it accelerated to 11.4 percent from May's 10 percent.

"The support to growth from the financial sector should soon fade. But the recent step-up in policy support will limit the downside risks," said Evans-Pritchard. "We think that growth is on track to slow only gradually over the course of the next few years." AP

There are good reasons to think the latest figures are mirroring a genuine stabilization of conditions on the ground

JULIAN EVANS-PRITCHARD
CAPITAL ECONOMICS REPORT

HONG KONG

Regulator orders Hanergy stock to remain frozen

Kelvin Chan, Business Writer,
Hong Kong

HONG Kong's securities watchdog took the unusual step yesterday of ordering a stock trading suspension to remain in place for a Chinese solar panel maker it's investigating after a plunge wiped out half its market value.

Hanergy Thin Film Power Group, controlled by Chinese billionaire Li Hejun, said in a filing that the Securities and Futures Com-

mission directed Hong Kong's stock exchange to "suspend all dealings" in the shares.

Shares of Hanergy, a unit of Beijing-based Hanergy Holding Group, had been suspended since May 20 at the request of the company after the price plunged by nearly half in the first hour of trading, erasing about USD19 billion from the company's market capitalization.

The suspension order means the shares cannot resume trading

even if the company requests it.

Hanergy's spectacular rise and fall has bewildered Hong Kong's investment community. The crash came after the shares had surged sixfold over the previous year, making Hanergy founder Li one of the richest people in China, but also raising concern that the stock had risen too fast.

In an interview with Chinese state media a week after the stock crash, Li denied reports that the company



Li Hejun, chairman and CEO of Hanergy Group

was being investigated, saying they were "purely a rumor." A day later, the SFC made the rare revelation that it was carrying out a formal investigation into Hanergy's affairs. The watchdog's investigations are usually kept secret.

Under its rules, the SFC is allowed to order suspensions if it decides that "any material false, incomplete or misleading information" has been provided in documents issued by the company.

The regulator has issued such an order only a handful of times in recent years and the move could indicate its investigation is moving into a more serious phase.

In one high-profile case, the SFC ordered sports clothing fabric maker Hontex International Holdings Co. to halt trading just three months after its initial public offering in December 2009 for providing misleading information in its prospectus. The shares were later delisted. AP

Louise Watt, Beijing

A group of 20 travelers from Britain, South Africa and India were detained in northern China, a relative said yesterday. A South African aid group said some of them are accused of watching videos deemed to be terrorist propaganda.

The Foreign Ministry said 20 foreign nationals were suspected of committing crimes in Ordos in China's Inner Mongolia region. It said nine were criminally detained on Saturday, which means they can be held for up to 37 days by police while investigations continue, and 11 were ordered deported.

The British embassy in Beijing confirmed that nine Britons and two dual British-South African nationals had been detained, and said six of them had been deported. It said it was "seeking further clarification" from authorities about those still being held.

The group was initially detained Friday at the airport in Ordos and was being held without charge, said Shameel Joosub, a relative of three of the detained people and CEO of South African telecommunications company Vodacom.

"My family and I are deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of my brother, aunt and uncle," Joosub said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press.

Imtiaz Sooliman, a South African disaster response specialist, said in a statement on

Authorities detain 20 foreigners from South Africa, UK, India



the Facebook page of his agency, Gift of the Givers, that the detainees were part of a group

of 20 people — 10 South Africans, nine Britons and one Indian — who were on a 47-day

tour of ancient Chinese sites. Sooliman said nine members of the group were accused of

watching terror propaganda in their hotel rooms and that they would continue to be detained.

Sooliman said in a phone interview that a relative of some of the detained had contacted him to look into the case and that he was in close contact with South African authorities. He said the group had been heading from Ordos to the central Chinese city of Xi'an when they were detained at the airport.

The news of the detentions came as South African Vice President Cyril Ramaphosa was in Beijing on a trip to China that lasts until Friday. He met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday.

Asked to confirm whether South Africans, Britons and an Indian citizen had been detained Friday at Ordos airport, a press officer at the Ordos police bureau said the case was under investigation and refused to give details.

The South African Embassy in Beijing referred requests for comment to authorities in South Africa, who were not immediately available. The Indian Embassy did not immediately respond to a request for comment. AP

TIBET

Family fails to get lama's body after prison death

Didi Tang, Beijing

CHINESE authorities have refused to release the body of a Tibetan lama who died in a Chinese prison, prompting a sit-in outside the prison by more than 100 Tibetans, a pro-Tibet rights group said yesterday.

The family was informed Sunday that Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, 65, died 13 years into a life sentence on charges of financing and supporting a series of terrorist bombings and secession activities. His supporters say the charges were trumped up to persecute the man.

The prison has not produced the lama's body after two days of negotiations between the police and the monk's immediate family, the New York-based Students for a Free Tibet said



American actor and activist Richard Gere, with Matteo Mecacci, president of International Campaign for Tibet, left, holds a photo of Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

yesterday in a statement. The family wants to perform Tibetan Buddhist funeral rites on the body.

"Our only request is to have his body," said Dolkar, the monk's sister, who was in Dazhu county in southwestern Sichuan province, which borders the Tibetan region. Like many Tibetans, she goes by one name.

She said the family also

was denied the access to see the lama's remains, his death certificate and medical records.

Calls to the prison were unanswered yesterday.

Tenzin Delek was arrested in 2002 in connection with a blast in Chengdu city that wounded three people.

Human rights groups have long said the lama was persecuted by the Chinese and arrested on false

charges because he advocated for Tibetan rights. His suspended death sentence was later commuted to life in prison. He continued to maintain his innocence.

Students for a Free Tibet expressed concern that the group outside the prison could themselves face danger.

Last year, the monk's family had applied for medical parole for him on the grounds that he suffered from a heart condition, high blood pressure, dizzy spells and problems with his legs that had caused him to fall down frequently.

Authorities never responded to the request.

In Washington, members of the House of Representatives also demanded Chinese authorities return the lama's body to his family members for a funeral.

At a hearing on Tibet by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Tuesday, movie actor Richard Gere, a longstanding advocate for Tibetan freedom, called the monk "one of the good men of the community" who found commonality between Tibetans and Chinese. AP

Reform politician Wan Li dies at 99

WAN Li, a Chinese politician known for his reform policies, died yesterday at the age of 99, state media said.

The state-run digital publication The Paper, citing Wan's son, said he died in Beijing. State broadcaster CCTV also reported Wang's death.

Wan was the chairman of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, in 1989 when students gathered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square for pro-democracy demonstrations. Wan's stance on the protests was never made clear, though he never openly opposed the bloody military crackdown that ended them.

Wan, however, was a close ally of the ruling Communist Party's secretary general at the time, Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted for his support of the students and was under house arrest until his death in 2005.

Wan was best known for the reform policies that he began implementing in the late 1970s, especially in rural China.

When he was the party chief for the eastern province of Anhui, he became a pioneer for China's rural reforms that would replace the commune system.

He also was one of the country's first leaders to retire from his positions in the party and government, helping to end the practice by Chinese politicians of serving lifetime tenures. AP

Isabel Reynolds
and Takashi Hirokawa

JAPAN

Protests rage in Tokyo as Abe's security bills look to expand military role

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's bills to expand the role of the military will go to a lower house vote today, after weeks of debate that has eroded his support and sparked opposition protests that echo those that toppled his grandfather more than half a century ago.

The bills were approved yesterday in a special security committee session marked by jostling, shouting and even tears from placard-holding opposition lawmakers that almost drowned out the chairman's voice. They are all but certain to pass due to the ruling coalition's two-thirds majority. If the upper house refuses to take up the bills, a second vote in the lower house can pass them into law with a two-thirds majority.

The legislation enshrines in law Abe's 2014 reinterpretation of the pacifist constitution and would allow Japan to defend other countries as part of a strategy to balance a rising China. Media polls show the majority of voters are opposed to the changes and disapproval of the cabinet now surpasses approval.

Abe's determination to ram the laws through parliament risks a further fall in support from a public skeptical of extending the military's remit, and exposing cracks in his ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Even so, it will help firm up defense ties with the U.S., and allow him to focus on economic policy in elections for the upper chamber next year.

"There will be an uproar within the ruling coalition," inde-

pendent political analyst Minoru Morita said of the likely fallout from the legislation. "The Abe administration will get through the crisis, but go into a difficult period."

Organizers of demonstrations outside the parliament building said 20,000 people attended a protest on July 10, and hope 100,000 will take to the streets over the next three evenings. Tokyo police were unable to provide an estimate of numbers for either last week's rally or a projection for protests this week.

In 1960, massive rallies were led by students and trade unions against the ratification of a security treaty with the U.S. The demonstrations, which sometimes turned violent, helped bring about the resignation of Abe's grandfather Nobusuke Kishi as prime minister.

The biggest protests in recent years were anti-nuclear rallies after the Fukushima meltdown in 2011, with one event at a Tokyo park attracting an estimated 170,000 people. The current demonstrations over the security bills could grow even larger than that this summer, according to Koichi Nakano, professor of politics at Sophia University in Tokyo.



AP PHOTO
Opposition lawmakers, holding banners, are stopped by ruling party lawmakers during the lower house special committee on security legislation at the parliament in Tokyo

Prior to yesterday's vote, Abe told committee members that the legislation was needed because of changes in the power balance of both the world and the Asia-Pacific region. "The security legislation is needed so that Japan can respond without pause," he said.

In the same session, opposi-

tion Democratic Party of Japan lawmaker Kiyomi Tsujimoto wept as she made her case against the bills. "I can't accept the forcible passage of the bills," she said. "The Abe administration should step down."

Unpopular changes in security policy are by no means the only challenges facing Abe in

the coming weeks. His handling of next month's 70th anniversary of the end of World War II risks undermining a fragile recovery in ties with China. The approaching re-start of a nuclear reactor following the 2011 Fukushima disaster is also sparking protests. **Bloomberg**

SOUTH KOREA

Gov't picks China consortium to lift sunken ferry

Kim Tong-hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Korea yesterday selected a Chinese-led consortium as a preferred bidder to salvage a sunken ferry that killed more than 300 people in April last year in one of the country's deadliest disasters in decades.

South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said it will begin negotiating next week with the consortium led by China's state-run firm Shanghai Salvage Co., which offered to salvage the ferry at a cost of 85.1 billion won (USD74.6 million).

If a deal with Shanghai cannot be reached, the second option involves a consortium led by state-run China Yantai Salvage



AP PHOTO
South Korean Coast Guard officers search for missing passengers aboard the sunken ferry Sewol in the water off the southern coast near Jindo last November

A consortium joined by Britain's Titan Maritime Ltd. and the Netherlands' Svitzer Salvage BV was the South Korean government's third option.

Shanghai has experience in salvaging large

ships and was recently involved in lifting a river cruise ship that sank in China's Yangtze River and killed more than 400 people last month, Yeon Yeong-jin, an official from the South Korean minis-

try, told a news briefing.

South Korea formally approved the plans to salvage the ferry Sewol in April, accepting the demands of the victims' families who staged fierce protests in the capital Seoul for

months. The relatives hope that raising the ship will reveal more details about the cause of the sinking and help find the bodies of nine passengers still missing.

Experts say lifting the corroded, 6,800-ton Sewol from deep beneath a channel notorious for strong currents could be potentially dangerous and prove much harder than previous efforts around the world to salvage giant ships, which sometimes ended up costing much more than originally estimated.

The South Korean government had originally planned to drill dozens of holes into the side of the ferry, which would allow it to be tied to two huge naval cranes that would lift the vessel from the seafloor.

However, Shanghai questioned the logic of relying on cables attached to a weakening ship and instead offered to lift the ferry with a frame built with metal beams, according to a ministry official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules. The official said the metal-beam structure would also be safer for divers.

Many large shipwrecks around the world were first cut into sections. The Costa Concordia cruise liner, which capsized after hitting rocks near an Italian island in early 2012, killing 32 people, was raised in one piece, but the 115,000-ton vessel wasn't completely submerged and was pulled upright before being hoisted. **AP**

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GERMANY

Former Auschwitz guard, 94, convicted as accessory to murder

David Rising, Lueneburg

A 94-year-old former SS sergeant who served at the Auschwitz death camp was convicted yesterday on 300,000 counts of accessory to murder and sentenced to four years in prison.

Oskar Groening testified during his trial at the state court in Lueneburg, in northern Germany, that he guarded prisoners' baggage after they arrived at Auschwitz and collected money stolen from them. Prosecutors said that amounted to helping the death camp function.

Presiding Judge Franz Kompisch said Groening had decided to be part of the Nazis' machinery of death.

Groening sat expressionless as the verdict was read and listened attentively for more than an hour and a half as the judge detailed the ruling, occasionally sipping from a bottle of water. He then walked out of the courtroom without talking to reporters.

The charges against Groening



94-year-old former SS sergeant Oskar Groening looks up as he listens to the verdict of his trial yesterday

related to a period between May and July 1944 when hundreds of thousands of Jews from Hungary were brought to the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex in Nazi-occupied Poland. Most were immediately gassed to death.

Unusually for trials of former Nazi camp guards, Groening

has been open about his past throughout the proceedings.

Groening said when his trial opened in April that he bears a share of the moral guilt for atrocities at the camp but that it was up to judges to determine whether he is guilty under criminal law.

In their verdict, judges went

beyond the 3 1/2-year sentence prosecutors had sought. Groening's defense team had called for him to be acquitted, arguing that as far as the law is concerned he did not facilitate mass murder.

Kompisch said Groening deserved respect for having been open about what he did and ha-

ving testified, but that given the enormity of the crime it would have been inappropriate to impose a lower sentence.

Both sides have a week to appeal, and both prosecutors and the defense said they would consider whether to do so. Defense lawyer Hans Holtermann said Groening remains free in the meantime, and given his age and the possible length of appeal proceedings it was uncertain whether he would actually go to prison.

Dozens of Auschwitz survivors and their relatives joined the trial as co-plaintiffs, as German law allows, though none were present for the verdict.

Lawyer Thomas Walther, who represents 51 co-plaintiffs, said that "it is an excellent verdict."

"For us, it not a big question of whether it is three, four, five, six years in prison — that was never a topic," he said. The survivors "are just happy that this trial has been carried through to the end and that there was a verdict." AP

Julie Pace, Matthew Lee and George Jahn, Vienna

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

Fine 'new chapter' or 'historic mistake'?

OVERCOMING decades of hostility, Iran, the United States, and five other world powers struck a historic accord Tuesday to check Tehran's nuclear efforts short of building a bomb. The agreement could give Iran access to billions in frozen assets and oil revenue, stave off more U.S. military action in the Middle East and reshape the tumultuous region.

The deal sets in motion a years-long test of Iran's willingness to keep its promises to the world — and the ability of international inspectors to monitor compliance. It also sets the White House up for a contentious fight with a wary Congress and more rocky relations with Israel, whose leaders furiously opposed the agreement.

Appealing to skeptics, President Barack Obama declared that the accord "offers an opportunity to move in a new direction. We should seize it."

Under terms of the deal, the culmination of 20 months of arduous diplomacy, Iran must dismantle much of its



An Iranian woman shows the victory sign as people celebrate on a street following a landmark nuclear deal, in Tehran

nuclear program in order to secure relief from biting sanctions that have battered its economy. International inspectors can now press for visits to Iran's military facilities, though access is not guaranteed. Centrifuges will keep spinning, though in lesser quantities, and uranium can still be enriched, though at lower levels.

In a key compromise, Iran agreed to continuation of the U.N.'s arms

embargo on the country for up to five more years and ballistic missile restrictions for up to eight years. Washington had sought to keep the arms ban in place, while Russia and China joined Iran in pushing for an immediate suspension.

On the streets of Tehran, Iranians honked their horns and celebrated in the city's main square. President Hassan Rouhani said a "new chapter" had begun in his

nation's relations with the world, even as he denied Iran had ever pursued a nuclear weapon.

While the U.S. partnered in the talks with Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, the decades of tensions between the U.S. and Iran put the two countries at the forefront of the negotiations. A U.N. Security Council diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because talks were private, said the United States

was set to circulate a draft resolution at the council late yesterday to authorize the agreement.

With key restrictions on Iran's nuclear program required for only a decade, opponents of the deal say it simply delays Tehran's pursuit of the bomb. Critics also say Iran will use new wealth from sanctions relief to double-down other destabilizing activities in the region.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who lobbied unceasingly against a deal, called it a "stunning historic mistake" and warned that his country would not be bound by it. Netanyahu strongly hinted that Israeli military action to destroy Tehran's nuclear program remains an option.

Obama and Netanyahu, who have long had a cool relationship, spoke by phone Tuesday. White House officials said Obama also called King Salman of Saudi Arabia, one of the many Sunni Arab

rivals of Shiite Iran who have expressed concerns about the deal.

On Capitol Hill, Republicans accused Obama of making too many concessions. Obama did get a crucial show of support from Hillary Rodham Clinton, his former secretary of state and the likely Democratic presidential nominee. She praised the deal as an important step toward "putting the lid on Iran's nuclear program."

Clinton's support could give some Democratic lawmakers more confidence in standing with Obama as he tries to hold off congressional efforts to disrupt the deal. Congress has 60 days to review it and can try to prevent Obama from waiving sanctions on Iran as promised in the negotiations.

The president reiterated that he would veto any legislation aimed at upending the agreement. Defending it, he said, "No deal means a greater chance of more war in the Middle East." AP



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what's ON

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)
 2pm & 8pm (Saturdays & Sundays)
UNTIL: July 26, 2015
VENUE: The Venetian Theatre
LANGUAGE: English with Chinese subtitles
ADMISSION: MOP280, MOP480, MOP680
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

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

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MACAU OLD SHOPS
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

WESTERN VIEWS ON CHINA:
PAINTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY ABOUT CHINA
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

THE PAST – MASTERS OF MACAU:
AN EXHIBITION OF POETRY, CALLIGRAPHY,
PAINTING AND SEAL-CARVING 2015
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: July 19, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

POLISH COW ON THE RUN FOR 2 YEARS IS FINALLY CAUGHT

Matylda finally moo'ed back home.
 The cow escaped from her Polish farm two years ago and lived a life on the lam in a nearby forest, sometimes damaging crops. She has finally been caught.
 Owner Leszek Zasada spoke about his adventure with the brown cow in a story broadcast this week by the all-news station TVN24.
 He said Matylda escaped in 2013 from his farm in Zloty Stok, in Western Poland, the day after he brought her home.
 She survived two frigid winters on her own, but the time on the run took its toll. She lost the calf she was sometimes spotted with and returned home with many scars.
 Farmers in the area complained of the damage she caused but nobody was able to catch her until last Saturday.

TV canal macau

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

cinema

CINETEATRO

16 Jul - 22 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



ANT-MAN

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

Director: Peyton Reed
Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 117min

POLTERGEIST

ROOM 3
 (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 3
 4.00 pm

Director: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried,
 Morgan Freeman
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 115min



(18-19 JUL) INSIDE OUT

ROOM 3
 4.00 pm

Director: Pete Docter
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 94min

MACAU TOWER

16 Jul - 29 Jul

ANT-MAN

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Peyton Reed
Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 117min

this day in history



1995 SERBS FORCE MUSLIMS OUT OF SREBRENICA

Thousands of Muslim refugees are fleeing the captured "safe area" of Srebrenica forced out by the Bosnian Serbs. United Nations officials say it is the biggest "ethnic cleansing" operation since World War II.

Some 40,000 women, children and elderly people have been ordered to leave the compound at Potocari where they had been under the protection of Dutch peacekeepers.

The Dutch soldiers - part of the UN peacekeeping force - appear to have been powerless to defend Srebrenica against the Serbs who seized control of the town on 11 July.

Reports say all Muslim men over 16 were rounded up as they attempted to flee the advancing Serbs - but these have not yet been confirmed.

The Bosnian Serbs have refused access to journalists and international organisations.

There are many tales of atrocities - rape, massacres and psychological torture - circulating among the refugees now arriving in the northern Bosnian town of Tuzla.

The biggest fear is for the men who have been left behind. Many wives and families fear they will never see them again.

One woman told relief workers she had seen the Serbs slit her husband's throat and that she had seen at least eight other bodies.

The Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Siladjevic, has blamed the Bosnian Serbs for the atrocities.

"Massive massacres were committed by Serbian terrorists upon the civilians of Srebrenica," he said.

"There are hundreds of witnesses that arrived yesterday to Tuzla, speaking of horrendous crimes there; hundreds of bodies, naked, stabbed and killed by Serb terrorists."

The refugees are huddled together in flimsy shelters in a temporary UN camp.

Anne-Marie Huby of Medecins Sans Frontieres said: "These people are already survivors of earlier waves of ethnic cleansing in 1992 and 1993."

"They really thought, when they saw the Serbs come in this time, that it was their last hour. Our aid workers say people are absolutely convinced they will not see their men again."

The makeshift camp has virtually no toilets and aid workers are warning that diarrhoea could become endemic within days.

Thousands spent last night sleeping rough and have no daytime shelter from the strong winds and blistering sun, leading to fears of mass dehydration and heat exhaustion.

The United Nations has begun busing refugees out of the reception camp to other sites so they can be better cared for.

The Bosnian Serbs now appear to have their sights set on Zepa and Gorazde, two other UN-designated "safe areas". If they succeed in taking them, then there will be virtually no Muslims left in the eastern half of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

More details of the atrocities committed in the capture of Srebrenica emerged over the following weeks.

On 12 August 1995 the UN announced an investigation into reports up to 2,700 Muslim men had been shot dead with machine-guns and buried in mass graves. US aerial photographs appeared to show evidence of mass graves close to Srebrenica.

Refugee accounts claimed General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, addressed the Muslim captives and warned that 1,000 refugees would be killed for every Serb who died.

General Mladic was later indicted by the War Crimes Tribunal for genocide. One senior Bosnian Serb, General Radislav Krstic, has been jailed for genocide for his part in the Srebrenica tragedy.

It is now thought that between 7,000 and 8,000 Muslim men were killed by Serb soldiers following the fall of Srebrenica. The massacre is regarded as the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II.

There have been a number of investigations into the massacre. In 2002 the entire Dutch government resigned after an inquiry blamed officials for giving the poorly-armed troops an impossible task to defend the enclave.

Initial findings of a commission involving the Bosnian Serbs admitted for the first time in June 2004 that Serbs had taken part in the killings.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Things are really heating up — maybe in a romantic way, maybe in relation to some other aspect of your life. See if you can get the right people to support you as you push things even further.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your ability to get beyond being offended or otherwise socially slowed down is heightened now — but only if you work it! See if you can get your peers to back you up so you don't back down.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Argue with the consensus today — unless it's working in your favor, of course! You need to stir things up a bit just to get people thinking. It's your role, and you're quite good at it, so put on a good show!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You usually like to think things out — unless you get caught up in the heat of the moment. Today brings an opportunity to act on impulse without much consequence, and you should go for it!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your creative powers are never in doubt, and today shows why that's so true. Things are looking good, but your off-the-wall ideas make them even sweeter for you and your people. Keep up the good work!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You need to make sure that you're not just sticking to your routines as everything changes around you. It's essential for you to adjust your behavior to account for all the offbeat people nearby.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Lead the way to fun, profit, or world-changing — your dynamic energy is exactly what the day needs. Once you've found a way to push it, you should easily find others willing to help it along.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You may find yourself working at a deficit in some way — especially at work or out in the world. You need more power, and while you could just wait for your reserves to fill back up, you may need to take on an ally.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your great energy is helping you to focus everything positive on one person or project — and they should see a serious boost as a result! Your devotion is sure to be rewarded, too, though it may take time.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Work is harder than it ought to be today. Maybe you can't find any leads, maybe an important order has been delayed or maybe a client just got out of bed on the wrong side this morning. Persevere!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your focus is harder to maintain today — but it's not because of any internal factors! You may just find that your energy is better spent on things that outsiders bring up. It's certainly easier!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You need to indulge yourself in a little fantasy today — though not so much that you forget to lock up behind you or turn off the stove! That balance is all-important, but you can tilt a little if you like.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Garbage; 6- Fabric ridge; 10- Latin I word; 14- Link with; 15- Olive genus; 16- Pack of cards; 17- V; 20- Rotten; 21- Intrinsically; 22- Frame of mind; 26- Hopelessness; 30- Incompatible; 34- Small purple plum; 35- Switch settings; 36- Granola morsel; 38- Tend a fire; 39- TV part; 40- In what way?; 42- Business card no.; 43- Bribe; 44- One who belongs to a group; 45- Hypothetical; 49- Ruby-colored; 50- Word processing error; 51- Lawsuits; 54- Map lines; Abbr.; 56- Swollen nodes; 64- "East of Eden" director Kazan; 65- Memory unit; 66- Dean Martin's "That's ___"; 67- Like Cheerios; 68- Pre-owned; 69- Dutch painter Jan;

DOWN: 1- Non-Rx; 2- For shame!; 3- Marshy area; 4- ABA member; 5- "Stay" singer Lisa; 6- Uncomfortably stiff; 7- TV alien; 8- Race segment; 9- Projection at the corner of a door architrave; 10- Often ends in -ly; 11- Golda of Israel; 12- After John in the NT; 13- Terrier type; 18- Radioactive gas; 19- Capital of Western Samoa; 22- Middle; 23- Speaks publicly; 24- Alloy of copper and zinc; 25- Writing table; 27- Eighth sign of the zodiac; 28- Pub purchase; 29- Gore and more; 31- Miler Sebastian; 32- Chest of drawers; 33- Relax; 37- Trunk; 39- Mozart's "___ fan tulle"; 40- Riled (up); 41- Skip; 43- Bawl; 44- Botch; 46- Pay beforehand; 47- Word on a door; 48- Rotated; 51- 1963 role for Liz; 52- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" heroine; 53- Struck, old-style; 55- Health resorts; 57- "Aladdin" monkey; 58- Bad start?; 59- Riviera season; 60- Invoice fig.; 61- Sock part; 62- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 63- Itch;

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words.

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact information.

Real estate listings for various properties in Taipa, Macau, and Mong Ha, including details on size, price, and features.

JML Property logo and contact information, including the company name and 'since 1994'.

Tim Dahlberg, St. Andrews

JORDAN Spieth was practicing a shot he hopes he won't need this week, banging a few wedges off the wall on the famous Road Hole in the fading sun at this, the birthplace of golf.

Dead tired after winning yet again in Illinois before flying all night to get here for what could be a defining moment in golf, Spieth was still intent on having a bit of fun.

"Who wants this?" he yelled out, signing a ball and then tossing it left-handed toward the 50 or so fans still around Monday night.

It caused a bit of a frenzy, but just for a moment. There weren't many fans around, and those who were seemed as if they were still trying to figure out this young Texan who has the golf world buzzing.

They're not alone. Those in a sport that has been fixated for the better part of two decades on Tiger Woods are still trying to decipher Spieth themselves.

What they do know is that he's 21, and in the midst of the greatest stretch of golf anyone has seen since Woods burst on the scene and transformed the sleepy game into must-see TV.

Forget the fact that part of the Woods mystique was that he was a rare player of color in a mostly lily-white game. Woods caused more of a stir by doing other things no one had ever seen before, thrilling fans with his booming drives and winning with clutch putts punctuated by his signature fist pump.

Spieth is no Tiger Woods. He doesn't try to be, though they do share the same habit of talking angrily to themselves during a round.

He doesn't overwhelm a crowd with his presence, doesn't intimidate other players while wearing a red shirt on Sunday. In a game dominated by Woods and the power hitters who followed, he's not even in the same neighborhood as the big boys with a driver in his hand.

What Spieth does do is win. This year he's done it on the biggest stages in golf, grabbing a green jacket at the Masters and following it with a win a few weeks back at the U.S. Open. Add in a British Open and PGA Championship title, and he would be the first player to win the Grand Slam in a calendar year.

He largely does it on his own terms, taking the title at the John Deere Classic on Sunday when others suggested he might be better served by leaving early for Scotland to discover the many vagaries of the oldest course in golf.

But Spieth has a confidence that borders on swagger and, much like Woods in his prime, a belief that his best is better than yours no matter where you tee it up.

GOLF | BRITISH OPEN PREVIEW

Spieth no Tiger, though that's not a bad thing



United States' Jordan Spieth

"He beats you properly," former U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy said. "He beats you with better golf. He doesn't beat you because he hits it further. Tiger's intimidation was that he always did something amazing. Jordan — don't get me wrong,

his body of work is amazing — but he doesn't beat you with a crazy par, or a crazy chip-in from the back of the 14th at Muirfield (Village). He just beats you because he's better."

Just how much better Spieth really is, only time will tell.

His career is in its infancy still, and it's way too early to crown him as the next great player, way too soon to begin talking about whether he — and not Woods — will be the one who finally takes down the record of 18 major titles held by Jack

Nicklaus.

Besides, despite the struggles of Woods in recent times, there's a reasonable chance he's still got enough golf in him at age 39 to finally get past the 14th major he won at the U.S. Open way back in 2008.

"I'm still young," Woods said this week. "I know some of you guys think I'm buried and done, but I'm still right here in front of you."

The tables, though, have turned. While others over the years tried unsuccessfully to stake their claim as Woods' major rival, it is now Woods who tries to get back in the conversation with Spieth, Rory McIlroy and other young players who have now firmly established themselves as the future of golf.

Almost shockingly, Woods has been reduced to almost an afterthought in the biggest tournaments. Playing by himself Monday night behind Spieth on a nearly deserted course, he was largely ignored by the handful of fans who were still hanging around.

Up ahead, Spieth was finished and ready to find the nearest bed. He signed a few autographs and was heading for the exit when asked whether he was too tired to win his third straight major.

"No, I feel just fine," Spieth said. "It's a beautiful spot here."

It was, indeed, especially with the sun setting over the 18th green and the town of St. Andrews behind. But even more beautiful for many in golf would be the sight of Spieth holding the claret jug that goes to the winner on Sunday. **AP**

AP WAS THERE

55 years ago, Alliss shoots 66 and sets record

ARNOLD Palmer carded a 5-under par 67 and aging Gene Sarazen a 69 today in the first qualifying round of the centenary British open golf championship. The courses at St. Andrews took their worst beating ever.

Peter Alliss, a cherub-faced Englishman, led the field with a 66 over the famed Old Course. It was the best competitive round ever played over the 6,996 yards of heather and gorse beside the North Sea.

Palmer, inspired by the arrival of his father from Latrobe, Pa., posted a 32 on the incoming nine of the New Course for a 67. That was matched by Gary Player, the young defending champion from South Africa.

Sarazen is 58 years old, but his hair is as jet black and his legs as bouncy as when he won this championship in 1932. He shot his fine round over the Old Course, driving the ball like a rifle shot and sinking two putts of 20 feet each.

"I'm getting ideas again," Sarazen said with a wink as he walked off the eighteenth green, a broad smile creasing his face.

It was the first time Sarazen had broken 70 at St. Andrews.

Sarazen shared the 69 bracket with



In this July 5, 1960 file photo, Arnold Palmer, U.S. Open Champion

a dozen or so others, including Peter Thomson of Australia. Thomson, a four-time British open winner, played the New Course casually. He is a 7-2 favorite this time.

There were five at 68, including Joe Carr of Ireland, the British amateur champion, and such Ryder Cup stars as Eric Brown

of Scotland, Christy O'Connor of Ireland and Ken Bousfield of England.

The second and last qualifying round is scheduled for tomorrow, with the players shifting courses. The original field of 388 will be cut to the low 100 scorers for the championship proper, beginning over the Old Course on Wednesday.

One of every six in the record field either equaled or bettered par. Playing conditions were ideal.

The New Course, which measures 6,526 yards, has a par of 72. The Old Course has a 73 par. The natives said the New Course played tougher than the Old.

Palmer, seeking to add to his Masters and United States Open championships, played well within himself.

He used a No. 1 iron instead of a driver off the tee on all but three of the holes where a driver normally is used. He went for the fat part of the greens instead of the pin.

At the first he almost holed out his second shot, but the ball sped 5 feet past and he missed the putt coming back. Never going over par, Palmer turned in 35. He sank a 6-foot birdie putt at the eleventh and knocked his approach dead to the pin at the twelfth. **AP**

John Leicester,
La Pierre-Saint-Martin

CYCLING

Froome uses high mountains to take control of Tour de France

OVER the earpiece tucked below his helmet, Chris Froome's team sent word that his panting Tour de France rivals were struggling in the thinning air of the high Pyrenees, on the first skyward climb of this year's race.

Clearly, they were having a bad day. So Froome decided to make it even worse.

Reprising the formula that carried him to victory in 2013, Froome barked an order to three teammates leading him up the punishing ascent: speed up. Shattered by the fierce uphill pace, trailing riders scattered behind them, their bluffs called and hopes dashed.

The first A-listener to crack was none other than last year's champion, Vincenzo Nibali. Sweat beading off his chin, the Sicilian was cooked. The biggest high-profile loser of Stage 10 shed more than 4 minutes to Froome, all but ending his Tour defense.

Next, Alberto Contador dropped from the by-now shriveled group of the Tour's hardest, most pain-resistant climbers. The 2007 and 2009 champion zigzagged across the steep tarmac as Froome's trusty lieutenant Richie Porte applied yet more speed. That doomed the Spaniard's chances of adding the 2015 Tour to the Giro d'Italia title he won in May.

Two down, one major rival to go. Froome took down Nairo Quintana himself. Rising from his saddle with six kilometers still to climb to the La Pierre-Saint-Martin ski resort, Froome accelerated away, head



Britain's Christopher Froome

down, legs pumping. The bill for Quintana, who rode in third behind Froome and Porte at the top, was very costly: 1 minute and 10 seconds lost overall to the British race leader, who is now firmly in control of cycling's showcase race.

"When we got up onto that last climb and we heard the big names that were struggling and getting dropped ... I turned to the guys who were still with me at that point — it was Wouter Poels, Richie Porte and Geraint Thomas — and just said, 'Guys, come on let's on push on here. We've got them in trouble,'" Froome said.

"I couldn't have asked for it to go any better."

For his rivals, it couldn't have been much worse.

"Froome has landed a hammer blow on the Tour," said Nibali, the Astana team leader now a whopping 6:57 behind Froome overall in 10th place. "I have no more to give. I'm not even the younger brother of the Nibali from last year."

Closest to Froome is still Tejay van Garderen, the American leader of the BMC team. But he's 2 minutes, 52 seconds behind overall. Quintana, runner-up to Froome in 2013, trails by 3:09, in third. Contador slipped back

to sixth overall, 4:04 behind.

"Froome rode away and showed his authority," Contador said. "I couldn't breathe. I couldn't get my legs to work. It really was a bad day."

Just as in 2013, Froome's clear superiority on the first high-mountain stage again generated questions about doping, par for the course now in cycling after the damage Lance Armstrong's era did to its reputation, even though Froome has not failed any of his hundreds of drug tests.

"I understand where the questions are coming from, (from) the history of the sport and the people before me who've won the Tour," Froome said. "But at the same time there needs to be a certain level of respect also. I mean I've worked extremely hard to get here."

There are still two more climbing days in the Pyrenees, followed by ascents in the Alps. With 11 stages still to go to the finish in Paris, Froome rightly pointed out that the race is far from done. But riding like this, it's hard to see anyone catching him unless he crashes, gets sick or has a disastrous off-day.

On Tuesday's final 15-kilometer climb, his Sky team also showed itself to be the strongest climbing outfit, which will help protect Froome on future as-

cents. With Porte second at the summit and Thomas sixth, Sky was the only team with three riders in the stage's top 10.

Asked if they have landed a knockout blow, Froome said: "I certainly wouldn't want to be in the position that some of my rivals are in."

Spectators who cycled up in the morning lined the road that snakes to an altitude of 1,610 meters, in a moonscape of grey rocks and ski runs long devoid of snow. In cycling parlance, the climb is "Hors Catégorie" — so tough it defies categorization.

The 167 kilometers ridden in 4 hours 22:07 by Froome, from Tarbes in the foothills, took the Tour through plunging valleys of great beauty with buzzards flying overhead. It also took riders past a reminder of the worst human ugliness: a concentration camp used by the pro-Nazi Vichy government during World War II to lock up Jews later deported to death camps.

The arduous climb and searing summer temperatures were a rude awakening for riders coming off their first rest day Monday, following the Tour's east-to-west swing over nine stages from the Netherlands through Belgium and across northern France. AP

FOOTBALL

Sterling completes USD76M move to Man City from Liverpool

Rob Harris
Sports Writer, London

RAHEEM Sterling became the most expensive English footballer ever this week after joining Manchester City from Premier League rival Liverpool in a drawn-out move costing 49 million pounds (USD76 million).

The England winger signed a five-year deal at City after forcing his way out of Anfield following several fractious months, during which he rejected a new contract and publicly questioned the club's ambitions.

"I'm just glad it's all over and done with and I can't wait to get on the training field," the 20-year-old Sterling told City's website. "The thing that excites

me the most is the world-class squad we have and knowing we have a team that is capable of winning things year in, year out.

"The more quality players that are around you, the more quality it

■ The transfer fee eclipses the previous (EPL) record for an English player - 35 million pounds

brings out in you, so I can't wait to get started and play alongside them."

The transfer fee eclipses the previous record for an English player - 35 million pounds (then \$56 million) - which Liverpool paid Newcastle for striker Andy Carroll in 2011.

Although Sterling only made his Premier League debut three years ago, City believes the skillful, quick forward, is already a top talent and worth breaking the record for. Sterling is an established member of the England team after making his debut in 2012, scoring once in 16 appearances.

"Raheem Sterling is one of the best attacking players in world football, and I am very much looking forward to him joining our squad

out in Australia later this week," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said from the pre-season tour.

"He is a young player with outstanding ability, and I am sure the Manchester City fans will be very excited about seeing him in action for the team."

Sterling leaves Liverpool after scoring 23 goals in 129 appearances but without any winners' medals.

Sterling came close to winning the Premier League in 2014 but Liverpool lost out to City and faltered last season to finish sixth, never looking like winning the title for the first time since 1990.

City's 2014 title was its second Premier League success since the club's fortunes were transformed by



England's Raheem Sterling, bottom, is challenged by Slovenia's Ales Mertelj during the Euro 2016 Group E qualifying

the influx of Abu Dhabi investors in 2008.

Breaching UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules led to limits on City's spending last year, but those restrictions have been lifted after losses were cut at the Etihad Stadium - enabling the club to invest so much in signing Sterling.

Sterling joined Liverpool aged 15 from the Queens Park Rangers academy and the London club is reported to be due a 20 percent cut of City's payment to Liverpool under the terms of that 2010 deal.

Liverpool marked the

loss of its leading talent with a terse 32-word statement on its website, which ended by saying it "wishes Raheem well."

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers insisted on Monday, though, that there are no hard feelings between him and Sterling - despite the player agitating for a move and refusing to go to Thailand on the pre-season tour.

"I want to thank Brendan Rodgers for giving me ... a real chance to cement a place in the first team and show the world my talents," Sterling said. AP

opinion

World Views
 The Editors

GREECE WOULD BE BETTER OFF JUST LEAVING THE EURO ZONE

Does Greece belong in the euro area? This fundamental question has divided Europe's governments for months, and still does. The deal just announced only pretends to resolve their disagreement. That's why it won't work. Enough is enough: Greece should leave the euro system.

The terms forced on Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras last weekend have little chance of being accepted, carried out and sustained by this Greek government or its successors. Greece's parliament may accept them this week because it thinks the alternative is worse - and in the short term, that may be true. In the long term, a deal imposed under extreme duress, and bitterly resented by most Greeks, won't succeed.

Not long ago, a better outcome was imaginable. It would have required compromise on both sides. Greece would have recognized its need to undertake far-reaching economic reforms and to rebuild trust with its creditors. Europe would have responded with fresh, conditional assistance - sufficient to support the Greek economy through a painful transition.

Such a compact is no longer possible. Trust has collapsed to such a point that Greece is being told it must become an EU colony, not a sovereign state. It is being forced into a deal it will resent for years, and to which it will feel no sense of obligation. Under these circumstances, leaving is the best available choice.

The current deal had to split the difference between Europe's divided leaders. France and others want Greece to stay in the euro system; Germany and its supporters don't. The upshot is that Greece must agree to much stricter terms than were previously offered, pass laws to implement far-reaching policy changes within three days, and place a huge stock of assets marked for privatization under EU supervision; then, and only then, will Germany and other euro zone governments ask their legislators for permission to start discussing a new bailout program.

This approach makes it theoretically possible for Greece to remain in the euro system, but practically extremely difficult. The terms are so severe that they might well be beyond Tsipras's power to deliver. One suspects that for Germany and its supporters, this is the point.

Papering over the disagreement between those who want Greece to remain in the euro zone and those who don't - hence failing to decide the very purpose of the strategy - further prolongs the agony and adds to the costs. The risk that it will poison the whole European project, if it hasn't already, grows by the day.

Given Tsipras's history of provocation and evasion, and Greece's history of fiscal fraud and incompetence, his belated yes last week to the creditors' expired offer wasn't enough by itself. It wasn't unreasonable of the creditors to ask for trust-building measures - such as passing a major piece of legislation (on value-added tax, say) at once as a token of good faith.

But demanding instant passage of an enormous raft of measures, many of them only loosely connected to fiscal stability, as the price for the possibility of talks on a new program, gives every appearance of being calculated to humiliate - which is certainly how it will be seen in Greece.

The text of the agreement starts by affirming that, when it comes to policy commitments, "ownership by the Greek authorities is key." Indeed it is. Ultimately, that's why this deal cannot work.

Whatever happens in the next few weeks, Greece may still end up leaving the euro system. Exit now will be painful, to be sure. The risks to the rest of Europe aren't small. But Greece will at least be in command of its own future, with nobody else to blame for its setbacks. The sooner that happens, the better. **Bloomberg**

THE BUZZ PORTUGAL'S PRIME MINISTER CITES GREECE AS WARNING FOR VOTERS

Portugal's prime minister is pointing to Greece's troubles as he seeks to persuade voters to re-elect his center-right coalition government and reject anti-austerity proposals from the main opposition Socialist Party.

With elections three months away, Pedro Passos Coelho said that Portugal cannot afford a repeat of its 2011 financial crisis, when it faced bankruptcy and required a 78 billion euro (USD86 billion) bailout following six years of Socialist rule.

Passos Coelho said his government has started cutting government debt and reforming Portugal's economy, with growth of 0.9 percent last year after three straight years of recession. He said in an interview with S.I.C. television "it's in the hands of the Portuguese to make that a lasting change or risk another path."

Austerity policies in Portugal and Greece's woes are set to be a central theme in the election due in early October.

WORLD SERIES OF POKER

9 players left, 1 will win USD7.7 million in November



Alexander Turyansky

Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas

FOR nine poker players, the dream is just beginning after they outlasted 6,411 others in days of near marathon-length games to advance to the final table of the World Series of Poker's main event in November.

Alex Turyansky of Germany was the last player eliminated shortly before 1:30 a.m. Las Vegas time Wednesday when he put the last of his chips on the line with an ace, king but faced a pair of queens held by chip-leader Joe McKeehen.

That left the final nine players guaranteed at least USD1 million each in winnings and a bid to return to the

World Series of Poker's no-limit Texas Hold 'em main event in November for a chance at \$7.7 million and the event's coveted gold bracelet.

McKeehen leads far and away in chips with 64.1 million. Zvi Stern, 36, of Israel is in second with 29.8 million. Behind him, 61-year-old Neil Blumenfeld of San Francisco, Max Steinberg of California, Thomas Cannuli and Joshua Beckley of New Jersey, Patrick Chan of New York and Federico Butteroni of Italy will all surround the table one last time November 8-9.

The favorite among fans watching in person and at home to win the World Series of Poker's ultimate

championship fell short.

Poker pro Daniel Negreanu, a six-time bracelet winner nicknamed "Kid Poker," who has gotten close but never close enough to making the final table, ended his run in 11th place, the same place he landed in 2001 when he tried against a field of 613 entries.

Negreanu gambled the last of his chips on an ace, four and appeared to be in the clear when chip-leader Joe McKeehan called showing a jack, three. But McKeehan slowly but surely amassed a straight as the cards on the table were flipped one by one. It was the last one, a queen, that did Negreanu in, sending him tumbling to the floor with his hands covering his face.

The battle started with 6,420 players each paying \$10,000 each to enter.

The World Series of Poker has been crowning a champion since 1970, when it was by invite-only at Binion's Horseshoe and the players voted on the ultimate winner. Since then, only four players have won the main event more than once.

The series started May 27 and includes 68 events culminating with the main event. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Jean Revillard/Solar Impulse 2 via AP



Solar Impulse 2 suspends voyage. A team trying to fly a solar-powered plane around the world said yesterday it is suspending the journey in Hawaii after the plane suffered battery damage during its record-breaking flight to the islands. In this image, the solar powered plane approaches Honolulu Airport in Hawaii on July 3, 2015.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	40-60 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

AFGHANISTAN A reclusive Afghan Taliban leader has backed peace talks with the Kabul government, saying in a rare message distributed to media yesterday that the goal of these efforts is an "end to occupation" by foreign forces. Mullah Mohammad Omar's message was released ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In the statement, he also urged Muslim leaders of the world to unite and pledged to continue holy war, or jihad, until foreign troops leave Afghanistan.

LIBERIA A second person in Liberia has died from Ebola in the latest resurgence of the deadly disease in the West African nation, an official said yesterday.



AP PHOTO

USA NASA's New Horizons spacecraft got humanity's first up-close look at Pluto early yesterday, sending word of its triumph across 3 billion miles to scientists waiting breathlessly back home. Confirmation of mission success came 13 hours after the actual flyby and, after a day of both jubilation and tension, allowed the New Horizons team to finally celebrate in full force. NASA said the spacecraft - the size of a baby grand piano - swept to within 7,700 miles of Pluto at 31,000 mph. It was programmed to then go past the dwarf planet and begin studying its far side.

GERMANY Oskar Groening confessed during his trial to feeling "moral guilt" for serving as an SS sergeant at Auschwitz. Yesterday, a court ruled that he was guilty of being an accessory to the murder of 300,000 Jews and sentenced him to four years in prison. **More on p14**