



EXHIBITION DEPICTS OLD CITY
 "Reminiscence - Macao Old Photos Collection Exhibition" features works by five local photographers

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NEW MACAU PRESIDENT RESIGNS

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INDIA: DOZENS DEAD IN TRAIN CRASH
 Two passenger trains jumped off slippery tracks on a bridge near a rain-swollen river in central India

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A diocese in central China ordains the country's first Catholic bishop in three years amid tensions between Beijing and the Vatican and a strained relationship between the Chinese leadership and the Christian religion in general.

NEPAL Villagers recover the remains of 17 people who went missing when their village was buried by a landslide triggered by the devastating earthquake that hit the country on April 25.



NEPAL About 500 protesters demanding Nepal be declared a Hindu state in the country's new constitution clash with police.

AFGHANISTAN The United Nations says an increasing number of women and children are getting hurt or killed in Afghanistan's war against the Taliban and other insurgents. *More on p13*

PAKISTAN's Supreme Court rules to allow military trials for terror suspects — the latest in the government's intensified campaign against terrorism in the wake of last year's Taliban attack on a school that killed nearly 150 people, almost all of them children.

AFGHANISTAN A close aide of Pakistan's prime minister says he is optimistic the stalled peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban will resume soon in the interest of peace in Afghanistan.

More on backpage

Studio City to open on Oct 27, Melco hopes for 400 tables

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Ai Weiwei says China promised he can return

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Fork-wielding man stirs turmoil inside hospital

The police launched an investigation after a Filipino man barged into the Hospital Conde S. Januário wielding a 39cm long two-pronged fork yesterday, generating chaos inside the administration building. Around 4:30 pm, a watchman discovered the allegedly psychotic man inside the hospital hall and alerted hospital authorities. It was said that he acted abnormally and uncontrollably throughout the ordeal. Police arrived at the scene and subdued the man after a standoff. He was later taken to the police station in a wheelchair. His motive for entering into the public hospital is yet to be confirmed. According to the Health Bureau, the episode has caused no disturbance to the hospital's operations. The authority has also denied any links to medical accidents.

Public tender for Islands Hospital's foundation

The government yesterday launched its calls for tenders for the construction project of the foundation and supporting facilities at the Islands Hospital. The bidding proposals will open on August 26, allowing 420 days as the maximum construction period. The evaluation criteria include reasonable pricing (60 percent) and integrity (12 percent). Occupying a total of 77,500 square meters of reclaimed land to the northeast of Seac Pai Van reservoir in Coloane, the region's second public hospital is expected to be completed before 2020.

Costa Antunes remains head of GP Committee

The Grand Prix Committee Coordinator, João Manuel Costa Antunes, will remain in his post until the end of this year. According to an announcement published in yesterday's Official Gazette, the Portuguese engineer has been reinstated for the period between August 20 and December 31.

City University of Macau appoints new rector



Zhang Shu Guang will assume office as the new president of the City University of Macau next month. Aged 59, the Chinese scholar finished a bachelor's degree in foreign languages and cultures at Nanjing Normal University before obtaining two Master's degrees

at Xiamen University and Ohio University in law-related subjects. Since 1993, he began teaching at the University of Maryland. As a prolific scholar, Zhang has published over 10 monographs in both English and Chinese, together with a number of academic articles, and has emerged as an internationally renowned scholar in the humanities and social sciences.

Gov't and Sinosky Energy still negotiating deal

Arnaldo Santos, head of the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE), noted that no consensus has been reached with Sinosky Energy over the setting of prices of natural gas supplies. In addition to this, he dismissed the idea of opening up the market in the territory, a move which he regarded as difficult in attracting powerful energy enterprises given its small size. Eight years into the bilateral agreement established in 2007, the Chinese energy provider is still failing to supply natural gas to the region. The government said that they are currently seeking the most appropriate solution. Lawmaker Kwan Tusi Hang earlier criticized the government for its approach to dealing with the concession.

Photo exhibition reminisces about old Macau

Brook Yang

FROM fishermen constructing fishing nets and women delivering spring water, to floatplanes skimming over the water and vintage cars racing at full throttle, a total of 73 photographs captured from the 1960s to the 1990s have been collated to provide a depiction of an old Macau before rapid economic growth caused the city's urban landscape to transform beyond recognition.

Titled "Reminiscence - Macao Old Photos Collection Exhibition," the collection features five renowned local photographers, namely Ao Peng, Ao Chi Keung, Carlos Dias, Tam Kai Hon and Kong Iu Lam. It was inaugurated yesterday at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), an event which marked the school's 20th anniversary.

Running until November 30, the exhibition aims to offer the public an "opportunity to appreciate the old photos of Macau and also look into the future, while recalling the memories of the past."

"The urban landscape has been changing rapidly in Macau along the economic boom and development by leaps and bounds in recent years. The traditional industries such as fishing,



shipbuilding and fireworks which once were in great demand have been declining gradually and some have even ceased to exist.

However, the demolition of buildings, the change of the coastlines, and the emergence of new industries have deeply affected the environment of the citizens' lives," stressed Diamantina Coimbra, IFT's director of the Tourism and Hotel School.

"The photographers walked through the streets and laneways of Macau and not only registered the historical change of the buildings and streets with their delicate camera lenses, but also captured wonderful cultural landscapes for life. The precious old photos are valuable historical materials, in addition to the image recordings. Besides, their advanced ar-

tistic techniques and exalted professional spirit also deserve admiration," she added during the opening ceremony.

Mr Ao Peng, once a photojournalist for over four decades, has witnessed and recorded the past half-century of changing society. He told the Times that his favorite scenes to capture in Macau are people in various practices of industries.

"I take all types of photographs: people, scenery, architecture, there's no limit of types; anything that's worth capturing, I would photograph it. In the past when we only used film, a shot would easily turn useless if your framing wasn't satisfying. What I like very much is photographing all walks of life, thereby many of my photos are [of such things]," he said.

The photographer cited

to reporters a frame that features citizens spontaneously celebrating Chinese National Day during the Portuguese administration. He explained, "Today's youngsters may have no idea how enthusiastic the Macau compatriots in 60s and 70s would be when celebrating National Day every year. It was very lively during the celebrations, I have many photos of that."

Mr Carlos Dias also mentioned that he selected photographs of streets and lanes for the theme of "old Macau reminiscence," as many of them today no longer exist.

"I stopped photographing for some thirty years, and when I picked it up again in 2013, everything was already different. It's very difficult to photograph what was in the past," he concluded.

STATISTICS

Loans increase at a faster pace than deposits

TOTAL loans increased at a faster pace than total deposits, according to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau. Concerning money supply, the latest data indicates that the total amount currency in circulation has dropped by 1.8 percent.

Resident deposits decreased by 0.9 percent from the preceding month to MOP477.4 billion. Non-resident deposits grew by 7.1 percent to MOP266.0 billion. Public sector deposits within the banking

sector increased by 2.5 percent to MOP121.7 billion. As a result, total deposits within the banking sector rose by 1.9 percent from a month earlier to MOP865.0 billion. The shares of MOP, HKD, CNY and USD in total deposits were 18.3%, 41.3%, 13.7% and 22.5% respectively.

The Monetary Authority also indicated that domestic loans to the private sector have increased by 2.4 percent from a month ago to MOP376.0 billion. Among these, MOP100.7 billion was MOP-denominated,



MOP247.0 billion was denominated in HKD, MOP3.1 billion was denominated in CNY and MOP22.8 billion was denominated in USD.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Catarina Pinto

Studio City to open Oct 27, Melco hopes for 400 gaming tables

MELCO Crown Entertainment remains hopeful that Macau's government will allocate as many as 400 gaming tables to its new Hollywood-themed resort, Studio City, which will be opening on October 27, announced the casino operator's co-chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho.

Melco, which is currently under the control of Stanley Ho's son Lawrence Ho and Australian billionaire James Packer, yesterday revealed the opening date of their USD3.2 billion property - the first of a second wave of casino resorts due to open on the Cotai Strip.

Mr Ho told a media conference yesterday that the company is "actively" in talks with the government regarding gaming table allocations.

Galaxy Entertainment Group was awarded 150 gaming tables for its phase II projects, which opened last May.

"We're extremely concerned about the gaming table allocation that they [Galaxy] have had. We hope the government will reward us more for the hard work we have put in over the last ten years. We certainly hope to get more than 150 tables. We hope to get 400," he stressed.

Mr Ho added that, "400 is a realistic figure," unlike "ridiculous requests" from other competitors who have asked for over 400 tables.

Melco's Hollywood-themed resort features Asia's highest Ferris wheel, along with other family entertainment elements developed by Time Warner Inc. The resort will feature a flight simulation with Batman flying through Gotham City and a 40,000 square foot indoor play center, which is set to include rides and interactive facilities with DC Comics characters like Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny.

Although the local casino industry's downward spiral appears to have abated, gaming revenue dropped for the 14th straight month in July. Gross gaming revenue fell 34.5 percent to MOP18.6 billion in July according to data released this week by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Mr Ho foresees a rough se-

RENATO MARQUES



Lawrence Ho

cond half of 2015 but he is hopeful that Studio City can catalyse the market.

"In the second half of the year it will be tough because we are going through a transition. Some gaming rooms have

We certainly hope to get more than 150 tables. We hope to get 400

LAWRENCE HO

closed down and a number of employees have been laid off. I think this is just inevitable and this is really happening," he acknowledged.

Mr Ho is nevertheless confident that in the longer term,

more tourists will be heading to Macau wanting more than just to gamble.

If ten years ago Macau's gaming industry relied mostly on the VIP market, now mass gaming and non-gaming elements are starting to take center stage. According to Mr Ho, the market has changed immensely and the company has prepared itself for such a change.

Studio City features a hotel boasting 1,600 rooms, a theater for magic shows, a 5,000-seat entertainment center and a TV production studio. Mr Ho highlighted the resort's excellent location, as it is situated right next to the Lotus Border Checkpoint, which links Macau to Hengqin island.

Mr Ho said that his company will take full advantage of Studio City's remarkable location, and of its uniqueness. "This is going to be a very independent and unique integrated resort."

He recalled that further in-

frastructure projects, including the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge and the LRT, are the key to helping Macau's gaming industry develop.

Melco Crown Entertainment's CEO said that they didn't want to rush Studio City's opening, thus choosing October 27 - a date that the company also regards as "auspicious."

The casino operator yesterday opened Studio City's doors to media representatives for the first time. Local and international media were invited for

a tour of the property, which included an inspection of the casino's mass gaming floor, in which at least nine smoking rooms have been installed, a ballroom, several hotel suites and the much-anticipated Ferris wheel.

The resort also features the House of Magic - a magic theater where magician and illusionist Franz Harary is expected to perform regularly - and a Pacha nightclub, in addition to a 5,000-seat multipurpose entertainment center.

'THE AUDITION' PREMIERES ON OPENING DATE

'THE AUDITION,' a short film promoting Studio City, will premiere on October 27, coinciding with the opening date of the resort, announced Melco Crown Entertainment's co-chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho. The 16-minute promo - directed by Martin

Scorsese and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, and Brad Pitt - will screen at the prestigious Venice Film Festival next month. A 30-second teaser of the short film was launched on Studio City's official Facebook page last month.

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New company capital comes mainly from China



A total of 1,294 new companies have been incorporated in the second quarter of the year, signalling a decrease of 160 year-on-year. Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicates that the majority of new companies are operating primarily in the wholesale and retail sector (459), followed by the business services sector (328).

Analyzed by the size of registered capital, there were 841 new companies (65 percent of the total) registered with capital under MOP50,000, with a combined total capital of MOP22 million. On the other hand, there were 30 new companies registered with capital of MOP1,000,000 or over, and the total value of their capital amounted to MOP286 million (77.7 percent of the total). In the second quarter of 2015, companies in dissolution totalled 116, and the value of their registered capital amounted to MOP10 million.

The statistical data reveals that the capital of the new companies came mainly from mainland China (MOP234 million), which includes MOP150 million from the 9 provinces of the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region. Local capital amounted to MOP89 million. Analysed by combination of shareholders, there were 826 new companies established solely by Macau shareholders, along with 155 joint ventures between local shareholders and other countries or regions.

At the end of the second quarter of 2015, the number of registered companies totalled 51,103, an increase of 5,055 from a year earlier.

Property market confidence rebounds

WITH the gaming revenue drop easing, local developers are regaining confidence in promoting the real estate market. Nevertheless, Jacky Shek, senior director of the Centaline Macau Property Agency Limited, noted yesterday during a press conference that the forecasts for transaction volume in the third quarter of the year remain low.

Against the background of current stabilized housing prices, Shek told the media that properties were recently being sold for prices slightly higher than those in the first quarter, using this to predict that the stability would stay towards the last quarter.

Although the overall transaction volume continued to stand low, no more downward adjustment in prices would be observed in the current quarter or near future, stressed Shek.

The director added that the company saw no "worse circumstances" which could lead to markdown decisions amongst local sellers. "In July, if the offers given didn't match the already down-adjusted price, the sellers would basically wait rather than sell right away," he said.

Quiet trading in July, in which volume was half that of preceding months, was partly due to the month within the outbound traveling season, a period in which buyers and sellers were believed to be abroad. The situation is similar to that which took place in the beginning of the year.

Besides, Shek noted that the



Jacky Shek

current rut in Hong Kong's stock market did not benefit trading. "We didn't see any collective down-adjustment or those cases where the proprietors hastened to sell their flats after losing money in the stock market," he said.

According to the Financial Services Bureau, a total of 602 transactions were recor-

ded last month. The director also believed that the gaming revenue would incrementally return to a "healthy number" of between 18 billion to 20 billion, which he said was "encouraging to everyone."

"If the gaming earning returns to a steady level and the property prices remain stable, the developers would

be more likely confident and proactive with pushing their properties for sale," said Shek.

Although domestic demand was comparatively more crucial than gaming revenue when it came to the property market, according to him, the latter was more or less still influential. **Staff reporter**

Alert over soaring phone fraud

CENTALINE has urged local citizens to stay vigilant against suspicious telephone calls as the region experiences involving property brokerage scams from time to time.

The agency representatives also praised the two-year-old real estate agency law for effectively safeguarding the interests of realtors, proprietors and buyers through legal agreements.

Jacky Shek said that many people have already become accustomed to the regulations, which were implemented in July 2013, after learning more about their content and objectives.

"We think to support the legislation is to

protect everyone's rights and interests," he said, adding that the scams were of a far more serious nature on the mainland. He stressed that such regulation did not simply target the agencies, dismissing the shutdown of small-scale firms owing to the law's enforcement.

Despite no previous hoaxes being identified, Shek noted that similar crimes have happened occasionally in Macau. The number of phone scams especially soared these past few months.

Advanced technology nowadays also serves to constrain illegal activities, as any individual case would immediately be posted online, alerting society.

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New Macau president resigns in pursuit of further education

CE to attend AL meeting next Wednesday

Brook Yang

SULU Sou, the president of Macau's pro-democracy group, the New Macau Association (ANM), has announced his decision to resign from his post in order to pursue further education in Taiwan. The group's current vice-president, Scott Chiang, will assume the role next month, deferring his university study to commit full-time to the civic group.

Sou was elected the ANM leader a year ago, after the group jointly initiated a remarkably large protest that pressured the government into retracting an egregious compensation bill for top officials. Succeeding young activist Jason Chao as president, the then 23-year old pledged he would participate more in social movements and would strive to unite the association, which dates back to 1992.

Referring to his experience in ANM as "the first window for him to learn about Macau society," Sulu Sou explained that "the past two years participating in the



Scott Chiang

group were like a practical before attending courses at the National Taiwan University's Department of Political Science." He claimed he hoped to "continue contributing to the association and to the general public after returning from the study with deepened knowledge and enhanced organizational skills."

In 2013, the then-fresh graduate partnered with ANM's incumbent lawmaker Au Kam San to run the Legislative Assembly's direct election, while his alumnus Scott Chiang teamed up with Jason



Sulu Sou

Chao. Sou said he had to twice defer his admission to National Taiwan University's Masters program, firstly for being eager to probe the AL election, and later for deciding to "take over the hot potato when the ANM's leadership transition was experiencing turbulence."

"Luckily, my admission has been retained, but it cannot wait indefinitely," he explained of the resignation. He stated he believes that the time is now to pick up the postponed study opportunity, as the association's operations have

"gradually gotten on track, despite facing many challenges from both inside and outside."

"Some people might think there's nothing special about the ANM, as it's only one of the thousands of associations in Macau. But if the association disappears, it will be a big loss to civil society," the young leader concluded, suggesting that differences within the group would take time to rectify while the priority should be to renew a commitment to act in the public interest. To fill in the remaining year of Sou's tenure, Scott Chiang, a 34-year old who has been a member of the association for over a decade, will head the ANM starting next month. Aiming to be fully engaged in the association's operations, Chiang has decided to defer his current undergraduate study in International Relations. In addition, Jason Chao, who currently holds no post in the association, announced yesterday that he would run for the by-election of vice-president, to be held in the upcoming weeks.

Chui Sai On will answer legislators' questions on the topic of government policy and social issues at a plenary session of the Legislative Assembly scheduled for Wednesday 12 August. According to a statement issued yesterday by the Government Information Bureau, the Chief Executive "pays great attention to communication with the Legislative Assembly." Besides attending the plenary session at the end of every year in order to deliver the Policy Address, Mr Chui also attends sessions every April and August. The session, starting from 3 pm, will be broadcast live on TDM and can be live-streamed on several government websites.

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IMF signals delay on adding China to currency basket

THE staff of the International Monetary Fund is recommending that China wait until at least October 2016 to join an exclusive club of the world's top currencies.

China wants its currency, the yuan, included in a basket of currencies used in IMF operations along with the U.S. dollar, euro, British pound and Japanese yen. It was hoping the yuan could be added this Jan. 1. The IMF board will consider later this month the staff's recommendation for a delay until Oct. 1 of next year.

China believes it deserves to be included because it boasts the world's second-biggest economy. But the yuan is not as widely used or freely traded as the other four currencies.

The IMF staff said in a report released Tuesday that it was also worried that adding a new currency Jan. 1 might rattle financial markets on the first day of trading next year.

"The ultimate assessment by the board will involve a significant element of judgment," the IMF report said.

There have been estimates by some private economists that the Chinese economy will get a major boost if its currency



is added because the IMF seal of approval will encourage more foreign participation in China's financial markets.

Since mid-June, the Chinese stock market has been plunging in value despite efforts by the government to end the free-fall.

The currency club China wants to join is known as the IMF's Special Drawing Rights basket.

This is a virtual currency the IMF can use for emergency loans and IMF member countries can use to bolster their own reserves in times of crisis.

The postponement sets the stage for the IMF to add the yuan to the SDR just before Chinese President Xi Jinping hosts a meeting of Group of 20 leaders next year, said David Loevinger, man-

aging director of emerging-markets sovereign research at asset manager TCW Group Inc. in Los Angeles.

"The end game is obvious," said Loevinger, former senior coordinator for China affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department. "If the Chinese make this a priority, it's pretty certain President Xi will have his deliverable at the G-20." AP/Bloomberg

Genting Singapore shares dip as currency losses hit profit

Netty Ismail and Jonathan Burgos

Genting Singapore Plc fell the most in six years after the casino operator warned of a significant fall in second-quarter profit on derivative and currency losses, amid a downturn in gambling by mainland Chinese.

Genting Singapore fell as much as 11 percent, the biggest slump since May 2009. The shares were down 6.1 percent as of 9:50 a.m. yesterday in Singapore, against the 0.3 drop in the benchmark Straits Times Index.

The profit slump is mainly due to "fair value loss on derivative financial instruments" following unfavorable market conditions and unrealized foreign-exchange translation losses, Genting Singapore, which operates the Resorts World Sentosa, said in a statement. It expects adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization for the quarter ended June 30 to be comparable with the previous three months.

"Currency headwinds has been plaguing Singapore gaming operators for quite a while from all their primary segments such as China, Indonesia and Malaysia," said Grant Gortsen, an analyst at Union Gaming Group in Macau. "That has been impacting results over the past several quarters.

Gambling revenue in Singapore and Macau has slumped as Chinese high rollers curb spending to avoid scrutiny amid President Xi Jinping's crackdown on corruption. Genting Singapore's net income plunged 73 percent to S\$62.7 million (USD45.4 million) in the three months ended March 31.

Separately, Landing International rose 2.7 percent in Hong Kong trading after announcing it would buy out cruise operator Genting Hong Kong's 50 percent stake in Magical Gains, an owner-operator of a casino on Korea's Jeju island. Genting Hong Kong, a sister company of Genting Singapore, fell 2.9 percent.

Genting Singapore will remain Landing's joint venture partner on another project on the Korean island, to be named Resorts World Jeju, Landing said in the statement late Tuesday. Bloomberg

corporate bits

GRAND HYATT MACAU 'MDP' PARTICIPANTS COMPLETE 3-DAY FIELD TRIP



Thirty leaders-in-training enrolled in Grand Hyatt Macau's Management Development Program (MDP) completed a three-day, two-night field trip to Guangzhou and Shenzhen in July. The annual field trip is a key component of the yearlong program, which is developed by Grand Hyatt Macau to nurture associates with leadership po-

tential.

Two groups of MDP participants from both the Chinese- and English-language courses visited sister hotels, Grand Hyatt Shenzhen, Hyatt Place Shenzhen and Grand Hyatt Guangzhou, to learn more about each hotel's operations, and gain insights into different regional characteristics and service culture.

THE BLACK SHEEP BAR-RESTAURANT OPENS

Craft beer house The Black Sheep officially opened its doors on July 31, a brand new spot for citizens to chill out and for beer lovers to indulge in flavorful brews from around the world. Friday's opening night saw the bar-restaurant being transformed into a dance floor with rising EDM star DJ Reygus.

"We hope that citizens in Macau can not only relax here, but also learn more about beer, especially artisanal craft beer," said Mr. Danniell Lei, representative of The Black Sheep. "Traditional artisan brewing has existed for centuries, so craft beer is actually something traditional rather than new."

Located at Rua da Perola Oriental Area Preta Macau,



The Black Sheep is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.

HARBOURVIEW HOTEL AUGUST PROMOTIONS

Starting from August 1st until August 31st, Harbourview Hotel at Macau Fisherman's Wharf is launching F&B promotions. Praha Bar will have a 20/30 promotion between 5pm and 8pm. Signature cocktails include Harbour Punch, which uses homemade grog mix to create a spicy flavor; and Oliver Twist, a citrus flavored drink. Other special cocktails are named after local tourist attractions, such as Red Market and San Malo Pims Cup. In addition to cocktails, a variety of beers, including Budějovický Budvar Czech beer, as well as house wines and house spirits, while bar snacks are also available.

Furthermore, every Saturday Praha Restaurant is ha-



ving a Seafood Extravaganza with fresh and baked oysters, king crab leg, Iceland mussels and New Zealand shrimp.

PORTUGAL'S AICEP Global Trade and Investment Agency plans to open offices in Dili, East Timor and Seoul, South Korea, this year and in Mumbai, India, and Astana, Kazakhstan, by the end of 2016, the agency's head, Miguel Frاسquilho, recently said.

Following a four-day visit to China, Frاسquilho told Lusa news agency that Asia continues to be the most economically dynamic part of the world, "which justifies our reinforced presence."

In Asia, besides three offices in China (Beijing, Shanghai and Macau), AICEP is represented in Japan, Saudi Arabia, India (New Delhi), Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Singapore.

During his visit to China the AICEP chairman met with Chinese investors in Shanghai and visited the Huawei multinational's headquarters in Shenzhen, where a group of 12 Portuguese students finished a two-week training course.

The students from the High Technical Institute, University of Aveiro and Leiria Polytechnic Institute were the first covered by the five-year cooperation protocol signed in 2014 by AICEP and Huawei.

China has become one of the major investors in Portugal. Estimates indicate that nearly 10 billion euros of Chinese capital

AICEP boosts presence in Asia



Miguel Frاسquilho

has been invested in the Portuguese economy since China Three Gorges won the tender to privatize 21.35 percent of EDP's capital in December 2011.

"Economic relations between

Portugal and China at investment level and vis-à-vis trade have never before been so strong; China is currently among Portugal's ten main trading partners," Frاسquilho said. **MDT/Macauhub**

China and Angola sign mutual currency acceptance agreement

ANGOLA has signed a monetary agreement with China under which national currencies are now accepted in both countries, Angola's trade minister, Rosa Pacavira said Monday in Luanda.

"The kwanza will have a value in China, and the yuan will have a value here in Angola," said the minister, quoted by news agency Lusa.

Pacavira said that this agreement would increase imports of products made in China, since

it makes it possible to overcome a lack of foreign currency, including dollars, resulting from the fall in the price of oil, Angola's main export.

"No other country agreed to this, only China did, so from now on the two currencies will be accepted in both countries," noted the minister at an event held Monday in Luanda, referring to the facilities arising from the new "monetary agreement."

Pacavira said her ministry was aware of the quality of products manufactured in China and added that "the agreement I mentioned will make quality products available in Angola."

The Angolan President, José Eduardo dos Santos, visited China last June and at the time announced China's financial support for Angola would increase. **MDT/Macauhub**

No other country agreed to this, only China did

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Severe crackdown on church crosses draws backlash



In this July 29 photo, lay leader Tu Shouzhe stands on his Protestant church's roof hours after government workers came and cut down the building's cross, in Muyang Village in Pingyang County, Zhejiang Province

Didi Tang, Lower Dafei Village

ABOUT a dozen Catholics wept and sang hymns outside their church as a man climbed to the top of the building and sliced off its steel cross with a cutting torch. It toppled with a thud.

"Aren't you ashamed of what you have done?" a teary woman yelled at the more than 100 security guards, who along with police and government workers kept the parishioners of Lower Dafei Catholic Church from protecting the symbol of their faith. The guards, who stood with shields and batons in the sun for nearly two hours, looked indifferent.

"Doesn't the government give us the right to religious freedom? Why are they taking down our symbol without any explanation?" another parishioner said hours earlier, as government workers arrived to build the scaffolding to reach the cross.

"We have violated no law. We do not oppose the government," said the parishioner, who gave his name only as Chen for fear of retaliation from authorities. "We have been good, law-abiding citizens."

Authorities in southeastern Zhejiang province are believed to be under a two-month deadline to remove crosses from the spires, vaults, roofs and wall arches of the 4,000 or so churches that dot the landscape of this economically thriving region.

In a rare move, even China's semiofficial Christian

associations — which are supposed to ensure the ruling Communist Party's control over Protestant and Catholic groups — have denounced the campaign as unconstitutional and humiliating. They have warned that it could risk turning the faithful into enemies of the party.

The campaign is believed to be the will of President and Communist Party leader Xi Jinping, whose administration has launched the most severe crackdown in decades on social forces that might challenge the monopoly of the party's rule.

■ A massive government campaign is underway in Zhejiang, where authorities are believed to be under a two-month deadline to remove crosses

But Yang Fenggang, an expert on China's religions at Purdue University, said the party may have miscalculated and could be creating the very instability it is trying to avoid.

"The crackdown has alienated the Christians in China, who

are otherwise law-abiding citizens," Yang said.

He said the campaign to assert state power over officially sanctioned churches has been ordered by the central government and is likely being carried out as a kind of experiment in Zhejiang, where the provincial party chief, Xia Baolong, is a trusted ally of Xi.

The massive campaign comes one year after the provincial leadership ordered the razing of several churches and hundreds of rooftop crosses deemed to be illegal structures. This summer, Zhejiang banned rooftop crosses altogether. Despite criticism that the new rule violates China's constitutional right of religious freedom, local enforcers are sending demolition crews to virtually all the province's churches.

They have met with resistance. Parishioners have kept vigils and tried to block entrances to church grounds with cargo trucks, and many churches have re-erected crosses in defiance.

Since Xi came into power in late 2012, Beijing has hushed voices critical of its policies and practices in China's social media, locked up members of the New Citizens Movement who had called for greater government accountability, and, most recently, rounded up rights lawyers who insist China's law must be followed to the letter and applied equally to the people and the state.

"The authorities are especially worried that those with religious beliefs have a strong

sense of identity and belonging, which can translate into huge social forces," said Zhao Chu, an independent commentator.

In targeting Christians, the party is going after a group possibly bigger than itself. Yang said Christians probably number close to 100 million after more than three decades of rapid growth, though official figures are much lower. The Communist Party has nearly 88 million members.

In a troubling sign for the party, a sizable portion of its nominally atheist membership holds Christian, Buddhist, Muslim or other beliefs. The party is worried that religion — especially versions of Christianity rooted in the West — could subvert its rule.

The party tried to wipe out religion altogether during the ideological fervor of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, but later restored the right to worship. In ensuing decades, religious participation has grown as people seek to fill a spiritual void.

Still, Beijing retains tight controls over all religious groups, requiring them to register with the state or be labeled illegal. It claims the exclusive right to appoint Catholic bishops within China, instead of the Vatican.

In the western regions of Tibet and Xinjiang, where Buddhist and Islamic beliefs mingle with ethnic identities, the government also has sought to curb some of the visible symbols of faith, including beards and veils, and installed sur-

veillance cameras in and around monasteries and mosques.

The rules Zhejiang adopted in early July say crosses should be wholly affixed to a building facade and be no more than one-tenth of the facade's height. No rationale has been provided, and the provincial government did not respond to an Associated Press request for an interview.

The Catholic Patriotic Association of Zhejiang has said it is illegal to remove crosses from properly registered churches. The Christian Association of Zhejiang warned the act has caused animosity toward the ruling party. Both groups called for an immediate halt.

Yang said the rare open opposition from the government-sanctioned Christian associations, which serve as liaisons between the authorities and rank-and-file Christians, means the authorities could lose this important conduit. "Now this bridge has been burned," he said.

Fear, frustration and fury are probably most palpable in the municipality of Wenzhou, tucked between China's eastern coastline and rugged mountain ranges. With its 2,000 or so churches, Wenzhou, home to 9 million people, is as well-known as a bastion of Christianity as it is for its gritty entrepreneurship.

Almost every township has its own claim to a line of products — whether it be buttons, shoe soles, pet products or children's toys. Almost every village has a church or two, joining the landscape of rice paddies, farmhouses and factories.

Zhu Libin, president of the Wenzhou Christian Association, is torn between fellow Christians, who want him to speak on their behalf, and local authorities, who want him to persuade churches to comply.

"As a Christian, I want to see the cross lifted as high as possible, but as a citizen of China, I have to follow the rule when asked," he said in an interview at his downtown Wenzhou office.

When asked to comment on the continuing cross removals, he stood up and walked out. Moments later, he returned but refused to answer.

Zhu Weifang, an officially appointed bishop, declined to be interviewed, but he and two dozen other Catholic officials and priests signed a strongly worded letter calling the new rules unlawful.

"The more (authorities) suppress the call for justice, the more it shows they are faced with severe social crisis, that they have little confidence in their ability to rule, and that they are incompetent in dealing with issues," said the letter, which urges parishioners to "fight by law of reason to defend our very basic right to our religion." **AP**

CHINESE state media say minority Muslim Uighurs deported from Thailand to China remain in detention while authorities investigate whether some planned to join the Islamic State or other groups in the Middle East.

The reports yesterday also said some of the 109 Uighurs fought with Thai and Chinese police as they were being put on a flight back to China last month out of fear they would be executed.

The July 9 repatriations were heavily criticized by the U.N. refugee agency, the United States and others. In Turkey, protesters ransacked the Thai Consulate in Istanbul.

The Global Times newspaper said many had planned to travel from Thailand to Turkey and may have ended up fighting in neighboring Iraq or Syria. Police said they suspect 13 had terrorist links. The reports did not say why the others remained detained almost a month after being sent back to China.

Uighurs share strong linguistic, cultural and religious ties with Turks and are native to China's far western Xinjiang region. The group has complained of harsh cultural and religious suppression as well as economic marginalization under Chinese rule.

The Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party's flagship People's Daily,

Uighurs deported from Thailand remain in detention



Uighurs living in Turkey and Turkish supporters, some carrying flags of East Turkestan, the term separatist Uighurs and Turks use to refer to the Uighurs homeland in China's Xinjiang region, gather outside the Thai consulate in Istanbul, early Thursday, July 9

based its report on what it said were interviews with some of the group conducted by the

Xinjiang Daily newspaper. It said some among the group had been encouraged by friends

and relatives to take up jihad abroad. "I was told that if I don't join

jihad I will go to hell, while a martyr of jihad will go to heaven," it quoted one of the Uighurs, identified only as Abbas, as saying. "And I wanted to go to heaven."

It said they sold property and paid thousands of dollars to smugglers to leave China for Southeast Asian nations where they would tell authorities they were Turkish. Turkish diplomats would then issue them passports, allowing them to travel on to Turkey.

Thai officials have been permitted to visit members of the group in Xinjiang and told reporters they found conditions in their detention center to be good.

Yesterday's report said medical checks and counseling have been provided to "soften their anxiety."

Thai officials said the Uighurs had been in Thailand for over a year, along with others who had fled China and claimed to be Turkish. Thai authorities sought to verify their nationalities before relocating them, and a separate group of 172 was sent to Turkey in late June. **AP**

Kerry raises South China Sea disputes with FM Wang

Matthew Lee, Diplomatic Writer, Kuala Lumpur

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday urged China to end provocative land reclamation projects in the South China Sea and work out effective resolutions to territorial disputes with its smaller neighbors. A senior U.S. official said Kerry had earlier made a blunt case for easing tensions in a closed-door meeting with China's foreign minister.

"The United States shares the frequently expressed desire of ASEAN members to preserve the peace and stability of the South China Sea," Kerry told the ASEAN ministers.

Chinese land reclamation in contested waters has irked Southeast Asian nations who, like the U.S., want China to stop. Washington is calling for a halt to aggressive actions by China and other claimants to allow a diplomatic solution to the rift.

China rejects any U.S. involvement and insists it has the right to continue the recla-



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right, listens while U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry talks before a bilateral meeting at the Putra World Trade Center in Kuala Lumpur

mation projects. Beijing was opposed to the issue being raised at the security forum.

Kerry met earlier yesterday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The senior U.S. official said the secretary had reiterated U.S. concerns about the rising tensions and "China's large scale reclamation, construction, and militarization of features."

The official said Kerry had "encouraged" China, and the other claimants, "to halt problematic actions in order to create space for diplomacy."

Kerry told the ASEAN ministers that his meeting with Wang had been "good." He said he hoped that over the course of the two-day forum

"we will find a way to move forward effectively, together, all of us."

However, Wang on Tuesday said all of Beijing's activities are in Chinese territory and there should be no double standards on the issue, a reference to land reclamation work by other claimants. He said all parties should support China and ASEAN in speeding up negotiations for a code of conduct.

"It's not a constructive move to exercise double standards on the issue," Wang told reporters. "China and ASEAN are capable enough to work together to maintain the peace and stability in the South China Sea." **AP**

Ai Weiwei says gov't promised he can return

ARTIST Ai Weiwei said in an interview published yesterday that Chinese authorities returned his passport with almost no strings attached and promised him he can return to China.

Ai traveled to Munich last week after having his passport returned, four years after it was confiscated, for a medical checkup and to see his young son. In an interview with the Munich-based daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung published yesterday, the dissident artist said Chinese authorities now have a more positive attitude toward him.

"They know that I want to make China into a better country, that I am concerned about the young generation," he was quoted as saying. "There is a basis of trust, otherwise they would not allow me, the former enemy of the state, my exhibitions; otherwise they would not have returned my passport."

Asked under what conditions his passport was returned, he replied that "there were almost none," without elaborating. "They promised that I could come back, which was very important to me. They said, 'you are a free person.'"

Ai said that an anti-corruption



Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei

campaign by President Xi Jinping is creating "enormous tension," with authorities keen not to lose control and intervening at the smallest sign of unrest, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported. But he added that "this campaign was really necessary."

Ai also said that he has to be cautious and work with the situation — "that is much more difficult than vilifying opponents." He also said that he wants "not just to criticize but to offer solutions."

He didn't detail his future plans. **AP**

INDIA

At least 24 killed, 300 survive after trains derail in flooding

Two passenger trains jumped off slippery tracks on a bridge near a rain-swollen river in central India, killing at least 24 people as two coaches hurled through mud and rested on one side at an embankment, officials said yesterday.

The Kamayani Express was on its way to Mumbai when it derailed late Tuesday night near the town of Harda in Madhya Pradesh state, while the Janata Express was traveling in the opposite direction when it slid off the tracks soon after.

The trains were crossing a small bridge near the Machak River, about 950 kilometers south of New Delhi. Another train had passed the same culvert 10 minutes before the first derailment without any problem, but then a flash flood caused part of the track to sink into the rain-soaked ground, said A.K. Mittal, a senior railway officer.

Six coaches from the Kamayani Express and the engine and four

AP PHOTO



In this image made from video, people gather by two derailed trains in Harda in Madhya Pradesh state

coaches from the Janata Express derailed just before midnight. Although rescue workers soon reached the site, they were slowed by darkness.

At least two coaches were partially submerged in the mud, said railway official Anil Sakseena. While most people had been pulled to safety, rescue workers

were still searching for passengers likely trapped.

"We are getting reports that there were flash floods and the tracks caved in. Most of the coaches had passed but the last few carriages were derailed," Sakseena said.

Television footage showed some train cars fell on one side and others were leaning in the mud. Tracks were broken, uprooted and scattered, and a detached train wheel was visible in one section.

At least 24 bodies have been recovered so far and one person was seriously injured, said Bijendra Kumar, a railway official in Bhopal, the main city in Madhya Pradesh state.

Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju said more than 300 people have been rescued. By yesterday morning, the unaffected coaches had been moved from the tracks and rescue operations were nearing a close, according to Kumar. He said that railway

workers would soon start repairing the tracks so traffic can resume. Dozens of trains have been blocked from moving due to the accident, while others have been diverted to other routes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "The two train accidents in Madhya Pradesh are deeply distressing. Deeply pained over the loss of lives."

Heavy monsoon rains have killed more than 100 people in western and eastern India in the past week, flooding rivers and fields, and forcing tens of thousands to take shelter in state-run relief camps.

The rain eased yesterday following two days of heavy downpour.

India has one of the world's largest railway networks and carries more than 23 million passengers each day. However, many parts of the vast network are poorly maintained and accidents are common. Earlier this year, Modi's government had announced plans for a USD137 billion overhaul of the railway's crumbling infrastructure over the next five years.

While many trains are called express, they rarely travel faster than 50 kilometers an hour. The extensive train network remains the main means of transportation for people and goods. **AP**

AD



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AFGHANISTAN

UN reports rise in female, child war casualties

THE United Nations said yesterday that an increasing number of women and children were getting hurt or killed in Afghanistan's war against the Taliban and other insurgents.

The total number of casualties in the almost 14-year conflict was up one percent in the first half of this year, compared to the same period last year, a new U.N. report said. However, the number of women casualties rose by 23 percent and children 13 percent.

Danielle Bell, director of the Human Rights Unit at the U.N.'s Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, said the alarming rise in casualties among women and children was due to ground fighting. UNAMA attributed 70 percent of civilian casualties to insurgent forces.

She said the U.N. was not able to verify whether the Taliban were using civilians as human shields, but that a large number of casualties caused by pro-government troops stemmed from exchange of fire in residential areas.

Afghanistan's security forces have been fighting the Taliban alone since the withdrawal of U.S. and international combat troops last year. The Taliban have sought to take advantage by escalating their attacks,



In this Tuesday, June 30, 2015 file photo, an Afghan woman cries out at the site of a suicide attack on a NATO convoy in Kabul

spreading their footprint from the south and east to the north, and joining forces with other insurgent groups.

Afghan officials have said other insurgent groups, as well as the Islamic State group — which controls about one-

third of Syria and Iraq and has a small but growing presence in Afghanistan — have joined the anti-government war.

The UNAMA report said 4,921 civilian deaths and injuries were recorded in the first half of this year.

"The vast majority, or 90 percent, of all civilians casualties resulted from ground engagements, improvised explosive devices, complex and suicide attacks and targeted killings," it said.

Heather Barr, a senior researcher on Afghanistan with the New York-based Human Rights Watch, echoed UNAMA's call for all parties in the Afghanistan conflict to avoid harming civilians.

The Afghan government "has to take responsibility for civilian casualties — it has to educate its forces about what international law is on the protection of civilians and if there are deaths caused by government forces, they must be investigated," Barr said.

Barr noted that the UNAMA reports says civilian casualties caused by government forces are up 60 percent compared to the same period in 2014. **AP**

NORTH KOREA

Widow of ex-South Korean leader arrives in Pyongyang

THE 92-year-old widow of late South Korean President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kim Dae-jung arrived in North Korea yesterday for a four-day visit.

According to Lee's official itinerary, she will visit a maternity clinic, an orphanage and a children's hospital. Aides say it is not clear if she will meet top North Korean officials, such as leader Kim Jong Un, before returning to Seoul on Saturday.

Last year, Kim Jong Un invited Lee to visit after thanking her for sending condolence flowers on the third anniversary of the death of his father.

Relations between the Koreas have been testy in recent months over the opening of a U.N. office in Seoul tasked with monitoring North Korea's human rights situation and the North's refusal to release several South Koreans detained there.

There are hopes among



Lee Hee-ho, center, the wife of late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, waves as she arrives at Gimpo Airport in Seoul, to leave for North Korea

some South Koreans that Lee Hee-ho's trip could help ease the tensions.

"Lee hopes that her visit paves the way for more dialogues, exchanges and cooperation" between the Koreas, Kim Sung-jae, a former South Korean culture minister who is part of Lee's delegation, told reporters at a Seoul airport before boarding a flight to Pyongyang.

Kim Dae-jung, who died in 2009, was a strong supporter of rapprochement with Pyongyang and held landmark inter-Korean summit talks in 2000 with Kim Jong Un's father and

late North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize later in 2000 for his efforts.

The summit talks spawned a flurry of cooperation projects, but most of them have been put on hold since conservatives took power in Seoul in 2008 and ended big aid shipments to North Korea.

North Korea is particularly keen on reopening the country to South Korean tourists, along with pursuing business and investment deals with its more affluent southern neighbors. **AP**

MYANMAR

Factions find common cause in fighting malaria

Matthew Pennington, Washington

SETTING aside decades of animosity and suspicion, senior Myanmar government and military officials have held unprecedented discussions with representatives of the main opposition party and ethnic minorities in Washington on fighting a common enemy — malaria.

Monday's meeting, also attended by the U.S. government and military, scientific researchers and international foundations, comes amid growing concern over the spread of drug-resistant cases of the mosquito-borne disease in Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries.

If resistance gains a foothold and spreads further, it threatens the effectiveness of the primary medicine used to combat malaria, artemisinin. Therapies using artemisinin have helped cut global malaria deaths by a quarter in the past decade. The disease still kills about 600,000 annually.

Myaing Myaing Nyunt from the University of Maryland Institute for Global Health, which helped organize the meeting at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, said it was held in Washington to provide a neutral venue. She said the participan-

ts agreed to work together regardless of political situation in Myanmar, where landmark elections will be held Nov. 8.

Speaking after several participants addressed a news conference Tuesday, she said two factors had made cooperation possible: the opening in the country after five decades of direct military rule, and the potentially catastrophic public health consequences posed by artemisinin-resistance.

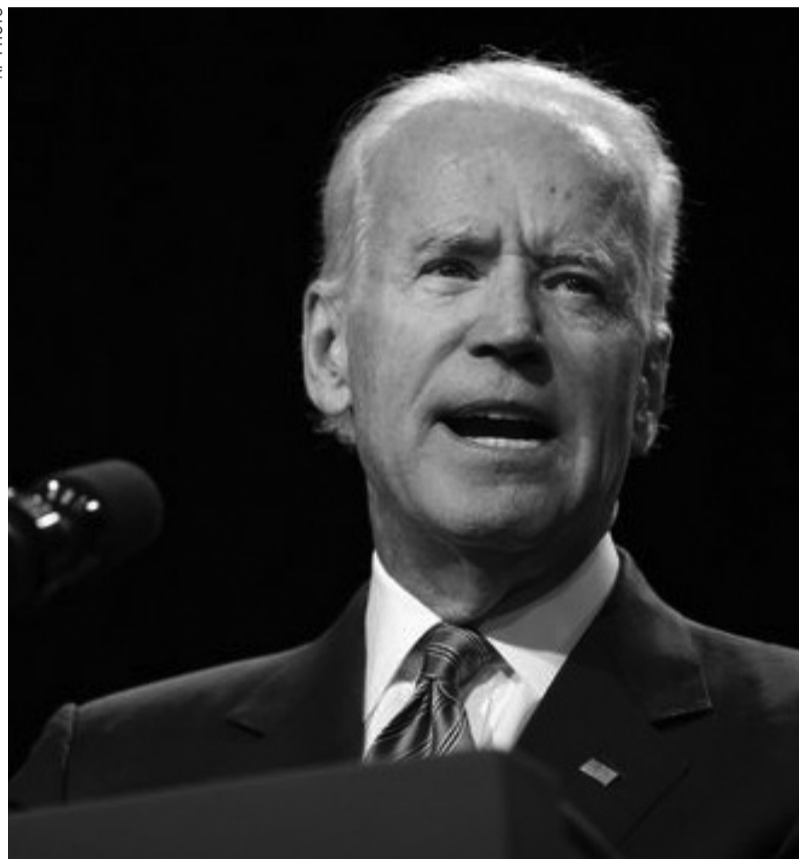
"Whoever wins the coming election, this malaria elimination program will go on, because there will still be this disease threatening our country," Dr. Tin Myo Win, senior health adviser to Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the main opposition National League for Democracy, told reporters.

Deputy health minister, Thein Thein Htay, said malaria cases in Myanmar have decreased from more than 300,000 in 2013 to about 250,000 in 2014 but the nation's porous borders leave it vulnerable. She said studies were still ongoing to determine how far drug-resistance has spread.

Research published in *Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal in February, based on blood samples from 940 people with malaria from 55 sites across Myanmar, showed resistance was widespread across the country. **AP**

USA-JAPAN

Biden tries to reassure Abe after documents reveal spying



Joe Biden



Shinzo Abe

Josh Lederman, Washington

WORKING to prevent tension with a treaty ally, Vice President Joe Biden reassured Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday that the U.S. limits its surveillance of friendly nations, after leaked documents showed U.S. spying on Japa-

nese officials and companies.

Abe had expressed deep concern about the documents WikiLeaks published last week, and vowed to bring up the issue with the U.S. The response appeared to come in the phone call with Biden, who has an established relationship with Abe after years of in-person diplomacy.

"The vice president reaffirmed the United States' commitment made by President Obama in a 2014 presidential directive to focus our intelligence collection on national security interests," the White House said in a brief statement describing the call.

The Japanese prime minister's office said yesterday that

Biden also apologized for causing trouble in Japan, without mentioning a specific incident. It added that Abe told Biden that if the allegations are true, it would threaten the trust between the two countries, so he expects the U.S. to investigate the reports and respond appropriately.

In his 2014 directive and an

accompanying speech, Obama promised the U.S. would no longer monitor leaders of "friends and allies" without a compelling reason, following devastating leaks from former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden that caused diplomatic rifts with Germany and Brazil. The White House has also said the U.S. doesn't conduct spying to gain an economic edge.

The White House offered few details about the call, but said Biden had "underscored our strong commitment to the U.S.-Japan alliance" and thanked Abe for partnering with the U.S.

The effort to mollify Japan comes as the U.S. struggles to finalize a major trade deal that forms the economic centerpiece of Obama's effort to increase U.S. influence in Asia. In Hawaii last week, negotiators from a dozen Pacific Rim countries failed to reach a deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is held up in part over disagreements about access to Japan's auto markets.

The leaked documents include what appear to be five U.S. National Security Agency reports, four of which are marked top-secret, that provide intelligence on Japanese positions on international trade and climate change. They date from 2007 to 2009.

WikiLeaks also posted what it says is an NSA list of 35 Japanese targets for telephone intercepts, including the Japanese Cabinet office, Bank of Japan officials, Finance and Trade Ministry offices, the natural gas division at Mitsubishi and the petroleum division at Mitsui. **AP**

Julie Pace, White House Correspondent, Washington

PRESIDENT Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made dueling appeals to the American Jewish community Tuesday as they sought to rally support for their opposing positions on the Iranian nuclear deal.

Obama met privately for more two hours with Jewish leaders at the White House, making a detailed case for the nuclear accord and urging opponents — including some in the room — to stick to the facts in making their own arguments, according to participants. He singled out the tens of millions of dollars being spent by critics, most notably the pro-Israel group American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The president's meeting came hours after Netanyahu participated in

Obama, Netanyahu make dueling appeals on Iran to American Jews

a live webcast aimed at Americans Jews. The prime minister railed against the agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for billions of dollars in sanctions relief, calling it a "bad deal" that leaves Tehran on the brink of a bomb.

"The nuclear deal with Iran doesn't block Iran's path to the bomb. It actually paves Iran's path to the bomb," Netanyahu said in his remarks. Organizers said about 10,000 people participated in the meeting.

Netanyahu, one of the fiercest critics of the nuclear accord, also disputed Obama's assertion that opponents of the diplomatic deal favor war.

He called that assertion "utterly false," saying Israel wants peace, not war.

Participants in Obama's meeting with Jewish leaders said attendees who oppose the deal raised with the president their concern over being painted as eager for war. They said while Obama appeared sympathetic to their concerns, he continued to argue that if Congress rejects the agreement, he or the next president would quickly face a decision on taking military action to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

The back-to-back sales pitches from the leaders came on the eve of a foreign policy address Obama was to deliver as he



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

seeks to bolster support for the deal in Congress. A White House official said Obama would frame lawmakers' decision to approve or disapprove of the deal as the most con-

sequential foreign policy debate since the decision to go to war in Iraq.

The official said Obama would also argue that those who backed the Iraq war, which is now widely

seen as a mistake, are the same ones who oppose the Iran deal.

The White House is preparing for the likelihood that lawmakers will vote against the deal next month and is focusing its lobbying efforts on getting enough Democrats to sustain a veto. Only one chamber of Congress is needed to sustain a veto.

Obama spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday that the White House is confident it can sustain a veto "at least in the House."

The president got a boost in the Senate Tuesday with Sens. Barbara Boxer of California, Tim Kaine of Virginia and Bill Nelson of Florida announcing their support for the deal. However, the administration lost the backing of three prominent Jewish Democrats — New York Reps. Steve Israel and Nita Lowey and Florida Rep. Ted Deutch. **AP**

Steve Peoples, Cleveland

USA 2016 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Republican debate field set: Trump, Bush in; Perry out

BILLIONAIRE businessman Donald Trump has made the cut for tonight's leadoff debate of the 2016 presidential race, joined by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and seven other Republican contenders.

Seven others will be excluded, including former technology executive Carly Fiorina and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, relegated to a pre-debate forum and second-tier status in the party's crowded field. Fox News announced the 10 Republican White House hopefuls who will take part in the debate.

Trump, after launching his campaign with a speech that labeled Mexican immigrants as "criminals" and "rapists," was initially thought to have no chance in the race, but the latest polls show him far outdistancing the top-tier mainstream Republican candidates. However, his negative numbers in the polls are also high and most observers remain skeptical about his chances of securing the nomination.

Beyond Trump, those selected among the top 10 — based on recent national polls — include Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, Flo-



This combination of photos, from top left, shows Republican presidential candidates Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Mike Huckabee and from bottom left, John Kasich, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump and Scott Walker

rida Sen. Marco Rubio, retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. Making the cut could boost the chances of lesser-known candidates like Kasich.

The debate will be a key test for Trump. Some polls show his backing has grown to nearly double that of Bush, the brother and son of presidents.

Those who didn't make the field for the first debate include Fiorina, the party's only female pre-

sidential candidate, Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, former New York Gov. George Pataki and former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore.

The announcement comes af-

ter the Republican Party that worked aggressively to improve its debates ahead of the election season. Yet with the largest field of contenders in modern memory, organizers say something had to give to ensure the debate in Cleveland didn't turn into a nationally televised circus.

"We never ever envisioned we'd have 17 major candidates," said Steve Duprey, New Hampshire's representative to the Republican National Committee who helped craft the debate plan. "There's no perfect solution."

Republican officials worked closely with TV executives, although the networks have the final say about which candidates will be allowed on stage for their televised events.

Fox News is the host of today's event, the first of six party-sanctioned debates before primary voting begins in February. The network says it used a selection of national polls to make this week's cut. **AP**

AD

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what's ON

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

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

THE CALLING OF SPIRITUALITY
- XIAO YAWEN ARTWORK EXHIBITION
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 31, 2015
VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator,
10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

Offbeat

UNDERWATER SEARCH ENDS FOR FREE DIVER MOLCHANOVA OFF SPAIN



AP PHOTO
In this Friday, Aug. 26, 2005 file photo, Natalia Molchanova of Russia reacts after she set a new world record, holding her breath underwater for 7 minutes and 16 seconds

Spain's rescue services called off their underwater search for missing free-diving great Natalia Molchanova yesterday after spending more than two days looking for her off the Balearic Islands.

The county's maritime rescue service and the police specialist underwater team both said they were limiting their operations to monitoring the Mediterranean Sea surface for any trace of the 53-year-old Russian.

AIDA, the international diving federation, said in a statement that Molchanova

was diving on Sunday without fins at a depth of 30-40 meters off the coast of Formentera when she failed to resurface.

The alert was raised after 5 p.m. Sunday, and a specialist police underwater unit with five divers was deployed from the neighboring island of Ibiza within minutes. A helicopter and a maritime rescue vessel were scrambled, and all shipping in the area was alerted. The search continued until dusk Tuesday.

Maritime rescue coordinator Miguel Chicon said the operation was "very complicated" because Molchanova could have become trapped by weights she was wearing at the time of the dive.

A remote-controlled submersible robot hired by her family would continue an underwater search, police said.

Molchanova ranks among the greatest free divers, having set 41 world records, and earning 22 gold medals at world championships. AP

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | RTPi Live |
| 18:50 | The Illusionist (Repeated) |
| 19:40 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Talk Show |
| 21:40 | Miscellaneous |
| 22:10 | The Illusionist |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Documentary Serie |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live |

cinema

CINETEATRO

6 Aug- 12 Aug



FANTASTIC FOUR

ROOM 1

2.00, 5.50, 7.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Josh Trank

Starring: Miles Teller, Kate Mara, Michael B. Jordan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 100min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES

ROOM 1

3.55 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg,

Rebecca Ferguson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 131min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES

ROOM 3

2.30 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min

ANT-MAN

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Peyton Reed

Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

TO THE FORE

ROOM 3

4.30, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Dante Lam

Starring: Eddie Peng, Siwon Choi

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

MACAU TOWER

30 JUL - 19 AUG

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg,

Rebecca Ferguson

Language: English (Chinese)

this day in history



1945 US DROPS ATOMIC BOMB ON HIROSHIMA

The first atomic bomb has been dropped by a United States aircraft on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. President Harry S Truman, announcing the news from the cruiser, USS Augusta, in the mid-Atlantic, said the device was more than 2,000 times more powerful than the largest bomb used to date.

An accurate assessment of the damage caused has so far been impossible due to a huge cloud of impenetrable dust covering the target. Hiroshima is one of the chief supply depots for the Japanese army.

The bomb was dropped from an American B-29 Superfortress, known as Enola Gay, at 0815 local time. The plane's crew say they saw a column of smoke rising and intense fires springing up.

The President said the atomic bomb heralded the "harnessing of the basic power of the universe". It also marked a victory over the Germans in the race to be first to develop a weapon using atomic energy.

President Truman went on to warn the Japanese the Allies would completely destroy their capacity to make war. The Potsdam declaration issued 10 days ago, which called for the unconditional surrender of Japan, was a last chance for the country to avoid utter destruction, the President said.

"If they do not now accept our terms they may expect a rain of ruin from the air the like of which has never been seen on Earth. Behind this air attack will follow by sea and land forces in such number and power as they have not yet seen, but with fighting skill of which they are already aware."

The British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, who has replaced Winston Churchill at Number 10, read out a statement prepared by his predecessor to MPs in the Commons. It said the atomic project had such great potential the government felt it was right to pursue the research and to pool information with atomic scientists in the US.

As Britain was considered within easy reach of Germany and its bombers, the decision was made to set up the bomb-making plants in the US. The statement continued: "By God's mercy, Britain and American science outpaced all German efforts. These were on a considerable scale, but far behind. The possession of these powers by the Germans at any time might have altered the result of the war."

Mr Churchill's statement said considerable efforts had been made to disrupt German progress - including attacks on plants making constituent parts of the bomb. He ended: "We must indeed pray that these awful agencies will be made to conduce peace among the nations and that instead of wreaking measureless havoc upon the entire globe they become a perennial fountain of world prosperity."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Hiroshima bomb, known as "Little Boy" - a reference to former President Roosevelt, contained the equivalent of between 12 and 15,000 tons of TNT and devastated an area of 13 square kilometers. More than 60% of the buildings in the city were destroyed. Official Japanese figures at the time put the death toll at 118,661 civilians. But later estimates suggest the final toll was about 140,000, of Hiroshima's 350,000 population, including military personnel and those who died later from radiation. Many have also suffered long-term sickness and disability.

Three days later, the United States launched a second, bigger atomic bomb against the city of Nagasaki. The device known as "Fat man", after Winston Churchill, weighed nearly 4,050 kg. Nagasaki is surrounded by mountains and because of this the level of destruction was confined to about 2.6 square miles or 6.7 square kilometers.

Nearly 74,000 were killed and a similar number injured. The two atomic bombs, with the Soviet declaration of war against Japan on 8 August 1945, finally left the Japanese no choice. Japan surrendered to the Allies on 14 August 1945.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The landscape is entirely new but your investment strategy doesn't have to be...

Taurus April 20-May 20 The only ones getting let off the hook are the elusive masses. But when it comes to individuals...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 There is comfort in keeping things blurry, but avoiding focusing on the bottom line won't change it.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Exploring the unknown can be scary - or a grand adventure. Adjusting your attitude could be your most profitable way to spend the day.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Trust your instinct, not the flash of fool's gold. If someone sounds like they're getting creative with the numbers...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There are no new projects, as far as the eye can see. You can always focus on non-financial matters.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If helping others beautify was your source of income, then you'll have to settle for a cut in pay.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 OK, so it's not your typical fantasy. But don't let a lack of money interfere with your love of life itself.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 So much of what's going on in the world applies directly to your finances, even if you have no control over them.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Has the bar been raised or lowered? What is clear is that others are impressed with you...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Everyone seems to be pushing their credit cards to the limit. But just because it's the way of the world doesn't mean it has to be your modus operandi.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your entire life has had an extreme makeover. Of all the things in it that have been transformed...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' level.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' level.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' level.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' level.

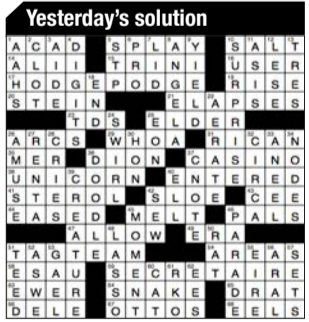
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- "Alice" diner; 5- Attended; 10- Aforementioned; 14- Way out; 15- Martini garnish; 16- "Chicken of the sea"; 17- Migraine; 19- Billy ___ had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 20- Three-legged support; 21- Petrol; 23- Try; 25- Cool; 26- Atari founder Bushnell; 28- Unemotional; 31- Dirty Harry's org.; 34- Buck ender; 36- ___ Gay; 37- Writer Fleming; 38- Cypriot; 40- Acquire; 41- Newly made; 43- Window ledge; 44- Vega's constellation; 45- 33rd president of the U.S.; 47- MetLife competitor; 49- "West Side Story" song; 51- Go in again; 55- Abandonment of faith; 58- Prescription; 59- Ho Chi ___ City; 60- Adequacy; 62- Dust Bowl refugee; 63- Disguised, briefly; 64- Classic cars; 65- Interpret; 66- Marsh of mystery; 67- Overfill;

DOWN: 1- Conductor Zubin; 2- Apply, as pressure; 3- Boundary; 4- Salary; 5- Verbal wit; 6- Menu words; 7- Do a number; 8- Birdlike; 9- Tantalizes; 10- Rich white cheese; 11- Study of hearing disorders; 12- A party to; 13- Roy's "singin' pardner"; 18- Singer Perry; 22- Like some cereals; 24- Diamond protectors; 27- Water wheel; 29- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 30- Info; 31- Separate by a sieve; 32- Actor Jamie; 33- Inflammation of the lungs; 35- Former Houston footballer; 38- Graph; 39- Inseparable friend; 42- Drunk; 44- Quadrilles; 46- Nicotinic acid; 48- Nair rival; 50- For ___ (cheap); 52- Fungal infection; 53- Center of Florida; 54- Actress Witherspoon; 55- Latin love; 56- Toll road; 57- Village People hit; 61- Luau chow



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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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Car Park Included Ref: 15055437
CHUN LEONG Taipa Car Park Space Car Park for Rent HKD 1,700 / 00 sq ft Ref: 1505051

Old Taipa Village Taipa Taipa 1,000 sq ft / HKD 6.5M
Near Lady of Carmel Church Ref: 15035434
Fountainside Studio Apartment Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment New development HKD 12,800 / 567 sq ft Ref: 15070517

Vila Bela Macau 1,978sq ft / HKD 16M
Stunning Views Ref: 15055442
YEE HOI Garden Macau 2 Bedrooms Apartment Amazing Views HKD 14,000 / 1,200 sq ft Ref: 15050513

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New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has a ball tossed to him during warm-ups before the NFL football AFC Championship game against the Indianapolis Colts

Brady testimony in NFL 'Deflategate' released

Jimmy Golen, New York

TOM Brady denied under oath to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell that he tampered with footballs before the AFC title game, and investigator Ted Wells said in a transcript that he never

warned the New England Patriots quarterback he would be punished if he didn't turn over his cellphone.

In a 457-page transcript released on Tuesday, Brady maintained his innocence in the NFL scandal known as "Deflategate." He denied dis-

cussing air level with the ball-boys or even thinking about how inflated the footballs were when he selected them. He also said he's never asked anyone from the Patriots to tamper with footballs.

Brady was suspended for four games and the team was

docked USD1 million and two draft picks after an NFL-sanctioned investigation by Wells found the Patriots supplied improperly inflated footballs for the conference championship game against the Indianapolis Colts, which New England won 45-7.

Brady appealed the punishment. Goodell decided to hear the appeal himself and upheld the penalty. Both sides went to federal court, and U.S. District Judge Richard Berman told the sides to work out a settlement. To encourage them, he ordered Brady and Goodell

to appear in court in person during the NFL preseason.

The transcript filed by the NFL Players Association included the appeal testimony from Brady and Wells on June 23. Wells explained that he did not believe Brady had nothing to do with the ball deflation because the quarterback refused to provide all of the documents that were requested.

"In my almost 40 years of practice, I think that was one of the most ill-advised decisions I have ever seen because it hurt how I viewed his credibility," Wells testified. "It hurt my assessment of his credibility for him to begin his interview by telling me he declined to give me the documents."

Wells' investigation found text messages between Brady and a pair of equipment managers — one of whom referred to himself as "the Deflator" — discussing the preparation of footballs for the Jan. 18 game. The Patriots advanced to the Super Bowl and beat the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 for Brady's fourth NFL title.

Although Wells asked repeatedly for Brady's cellphone, the investigator also testified: "I did not tell Mr. Brady at any time that he would be subject to punishment for not giving — not turning over the documents. I did not say anything like that."

Brady's lawyers have said that the league made up its rules without proper notice to Brady, and that it didn't follow its rules at all in some cases. They have also questioned whether Goodell was independent enough to conduct a fair hearing, even though the collective bargaining agreement gives him that authority. **AP**

Japanese designer rejects plagiarism claims in Olympic logo

Jim Armstrong, Tokyo

JAPANESE designer Kenjiro Sano rejects claims he copied the emblem of a Belgian theater when he created the official logo for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

At a news conference yesterday, Sano said his design was original and he never saw the emblem for the Theatre de Liege before creating his logo.

Belgian designer Olivier Debie has asked the International Olympic Committee and Tokyo Olympic organizers to change the logo because it bears too much resem-

blance to his emblem for the theater in Liege.

"I am extremely surprised to hear the remarks of the Belgian designer," Sano said, adding he was

I am extremely surprised to hear the remarks of the Belgian designer

KENJIRO SANNO

saddened and shocked by claims he plagiarized. "I would like to take this opportunity to state that his claims are completely groundless."

Sano said his geometric design uses a widely available font for the letter "T," which stands for Tokyo, team, and tomorrow. He said the red circle in the logo was inspired by designer Yusaku Kamekura's emblem for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

The 2013 logo for the theater has a similar "T" in white against a black backdrop.

Tokyo organizers said they researched trade-



Belgian designer Olivier Debie displays the official emblem for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and his logo for the Theatre de Liege on a screen in his office in Liege

marks inside Japan and abroad before deciding on the logo. The emblem for the Belgian theater is not a registered trademark.

Hidetoshi Maki, the

executive director of marketing for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, said sponsors were already using the logo.

The logo controversy is another setback for

Tokyo organizers, who last week apologized to the IOC over the scrapping of the original design for the Olympic stadium amid public criticism over the cost. **AP**

SWIMMING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Britain's Hunt wins world high diving championship

GARY Hunt of Britain swept to victory in the final of the high diving at the world championships yesterday. Hunt, the silver medalist two years ago, held on to his lead from Monday's first three rounds to take the gold medal with a total score of 629.30 points.

Going into the last round with a 33-point lead, Hunt was desperate to avoid a repeat of the 2013 worlds, where he blew a 38-point advantage to lose by less than a point.

"That stuck with me. I had to live with that for two years," he said. "I just told myself, 'Don't do it again.'"

Jonathan Paredes of Mexico, who won bronze in 2013, was second on 596.45, while Artyom Silchenko of Russia pleased the home crowd on the



Gary Hunt of Great Britain competes in the Men's 27m High Diving final of the FINA Swimming World Championships 2015 at Kazanska River in Kazan, Russia

banks of the Kazanka River, winning the bronze with 593.45.

Hunt's huge lead left his rivals feeling they were in a separate competition, Paredes said.

"This medal means a lot to me," he said. "Today, we were not fighting for gold, we were fighting for the silver."

U.S. diver David Colturi was in silver-medal position after the first three rounds, but slipped to fourth. Attempting the most difficult dive of any of the 12 finalists in the last round, he landed awkwardly and finished seven points behind Silchenko.

Defending champion Orlando Duque of Colombia was 11th after Monday's first three rounds, but finished sixth with the highest score of the final round, a 151.20-point dive. AP

opinion

Sport Views
Adam Minter, Bloomberg

BEIJING 2022 OLYMPICS COULD BE SURPRISINGLY GREEN

After years of running bloated Olympic Games criticized for their environmental records, the International Olympic Committee decided to make sustainability a goal, using sport as a way to promote better development. Under IOC President Thomas Bach in 2014, it inaugurated Olympic Agenda 2020, a set of 40 reform principles designed to make the Olympics a "plug-and-play" event: Host cities would be chosen in part because the games already fit into their environments and would do minimal damage.

At first glance, Beijing - a city perhaps best known for its smog, not for its snow - is an unlikely showcase for this approach and for the 2022 Winter Olympics, which it was awarded Friday. In 2008, the Beijing Summer Games were a major construction project that permanently transformed the landscape. But it's precisely that history that allows the IOC to further its green goals.

Agenda 2020's influence on the bids considered this week at the IOC's meetings in Kuala Lumpur was unmistakable. Both Beijing and its competitor, Almaty, Kazakhstan, emphasized the minimal amount of construction they'd undertake. Beijing promised to reuse 11 of 12 venues built for 2008, including the iconic Bird's Nest stadium and the Water Cube swimming center, which will be used for curling. Unlike Almaty, which already had the ski slopes, Beijing will need to build them on land just outside a national park. But that's nothing compared with the 2014 Sochi Games' massive construction program and USD51 billion budget. In contrast, Beijing 2022's USD3.1 billion budget is shockingly modest.

As important as Beijing 2022's small construction footprint will be, the bid's lasting impact on the people of Beijing and the surrounding region is potentially even more so. In particular, the city's commitment to cleaning up the air in advance of the games - though it echoes similar promises from 2008 - is far more credible now. In 2008, the anti-smog provisions were focused specifically on mitigating problems in Beijing, and polluting facilities were oftentimes simply moved out of the city into surrounding regions. After the games, the smog returned with a vengeance.

That won't be an option in 2022. First, China already has an anti-smog program under way that has nothing to do with the Olympics, and in seven years it'll probably be producing considerably better air. Second, the skiing events will be held in the mountains of Zhangjiakou, a small town in Hebei, China's most polluted province. Fixing the air there will require long-term regional solutions. If successful, those solutions could have a lasting, positive effect for all of north China.

Nonetheless, the burden of proof is on Beijing for 2022, and the narrow 44-40 vote is a reminder that many people are far from convinced that China can meet it. For now, Beijing stands as the torch-bearer for a new kind of Olympics.

2nd Ivory Coast Special Olympics athlete goes missing

Linda S. Zhang, Los Angeles

A search is underway for a second Ivory Coast Special Olympics athlete who vanished near Los Angeles on Monday night, just hours after his teammate was found safe.

Abidjan Ouattara, 28, was last seen around 11:00 p.m. Monday leaving an Inglewood hotel, where his team had been staying.

According to the Inglewood police, Ouattara's coach discovered that he had gone missing around 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, nearly eight hours after the athlete disappeared. Ouattara was scheduled to leave Los Angeles in the afternoon.

A surveillance camera photo shows the French-speaking golfer wearing glasses, a white athletic jacket with an orange shirt, white pants and sandals.

The police believe that Ouattara has no money or cellphone with him.

Ouattara is the third athlete who went missing as teams began to depart.

Another member of the Ivory Coast delegation, table tennis player Sihon Ange Ismael Kone, 15,



Los Angeles Police Department Cmdr. Dennis Kato, right, shows a photograph of Special Olympics athlete Sihon Ange Ismael Kone, 15

was found sleeping on an Inglewood lawn nearly six miles away from the Los Angeles International Airport Monday afternoon. The autistic teen apparently left his delegation as they prepared to return home.

A 44-year-old Albanian bowler missing since Saturday turned up at a Northern California police station 350 miles away early Monday morning.

The disappearances athletes are not the first to occur during a Special Olympics competition.

Three athletes and a coach from Niger went missing from the games in Ireland in 2003. Two Moroccan athletes and two Dominican Republic athletes disappeared from the games in the Raleigh-Durham area in 1999.

Delegations are required to come with a ratio of one coach to four athletes, and the coaches are responsible for managing their participants, said Jeff Carr, chief operating officer of the Special Olympics World Games Organizing Committee. AP

opinion

HK Observer
 Robert Carroll



CHANGE INVOLVES WORK

Diversifying the economy is an issue which has long been pursued by local economists and Beijing alike. While traditional pillars of the economy such as trading and shipping are in decline - and manufacturing is all but gone - financial and other services, as well as tourism, are flourishing. That base, however, is not wide enough for future prosperity. Successive governments have recognized the need for economic diversification, so implementing policies which foster diversification shouldn't be a problem, right? Wrong.

There are several areas in which Hong Kong could be expanding. One could be as an arts hub, another as an educational hub and perhaps even another as a medical tourism hub. There should also be much more activity in technological and other start-ups and we should be holding regional sports and major entertainment events with more frequency.

Of these, only the establishment and maintenance of the arts and start-ups are being encouraged by the administration, with the latter a recent phenomenon. While there is an admirable push to create the necessary infrastructure for the state-of-the-art West Kowloon Cultural District, the project has suffered repeated delays since its inception in the 1990s.

Ominously, the District is now under its third chief executive. The first two chief executives, of leading international standing as arts centre directors, resigned before their contracts finished, citing health and personal reasons respectively. The current operational chief is a long-serving local civil servant with considerable experience in construction and housing and little-to-no background in arts or cultural management. The District has one of the world's top museum curators, who has said he may also leave before the construction of the much vaunted M+ Museum is completed. Dealing with local officials may be possible in other advanced economies for these world leaders in their field, but Hong Kong officials, relative beginners in cultural matters, seem to know better.

As an educational hub, the city now boasts an arts college, an offshoot of an American institution. The city has regrettably lost out to a bid from much smaller Singapore to feature a more prestigious business college and film school. There is huge demand for international schools regionally but not enough has been done even to meet local demand.

Medical tourism is a field where Thailand and the Philippines have been leading the way for years. Hong Kong, on the other hand, very much a late-comer, faltered before that initiative could even get underway, attempting to close the doors to pregnant mainlanders seeking to give birth here for residential rights. Why not have selective medical tourism? Private hospitals here already limit themselves to areas that are viewed as their most profitable and feasible services, leaving the rest for the major public in sector hospitals.

'Start-ups' has been a recent buzzword in official circles, but what is being done to provide real help to budding small entrepreneurs? With all the wealth of business training and acumen from the many MBAs from leading US and local business schools - not to mention highly successful individuals in the commercial sphere - why is the financial sector not providing crucial venture capital? For a successful example of a regional start-up, you only have to look at Shenzhen to see how that's done. Why is the newcomer outshining the famously entrepreneurial Hong Kong?

For well over twenty years the need for a major sporting/entertainment venue or venues has been recognized, but legislation is only now being planned to fund a major Sports Stadium at the long-vacant Kai Tak airport site. Why only now?

While some segments of the civil service work admirably well, identity card applications services, for example, and immigration check points, there is far too much feet-dragging in other departments where for many, sticking to existing practices far outweighs any personal benefits of instituting change. Change involves more work and more work means greater possibility of error, the anathema to civil servants who would rather spend their time conspiring to lessen loads and avoid risks.

THE BUZZ BOSTON MAYOR WANTS BAN ON CHEWING TOBACCO AT BALLPARKS

Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh wants to ban the use of snuff and chewing tobacco in sports venues across the city. The proposal follows passage of a similar ordinance in San Francisco, which became the first U.S. city to outlaw chewing tobacco from its playing fields in May. Walsh is expected to discuss the proposal yesterday morning. He'll be joined by public health officials, advocates, local youth

and former Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling. Schilling, now an ESPN analyst, revealed earlier this year he was diagnosed and treated for mouth cancer. He believes chewing tobacco was the cause. Walsh plans to officially file the ordinance with the City Council on Monday. It would cover professional, collegiate, school or organized amateur sporting events and be effective April 1, 2016.

GAMING

MGM Resorts rises as CEO outlines plans to boost stock price



James Murren

Christopher Palmeri

MGM Resorts International rose the most since March after reporting better-than-expected quarterly results and outlining plans to boost the stock price. The shares advanced after Chief Executive Officer James Murren made his most favorable comments yet on the potential for a real-estate investment trust for MGM Resorts' casinos. The company will decide by year end. He also said MGM Resorts may expand the Crystals Mall in Las Vegas, with an eye toward selling the retail property and other nongaming assets there at CityCenter.

"We're not opposed to the structure," Murren said on

a call Tuesday with investors when asked about putting MGM Resorts' casinos in a REIT. The company is under pressure from Land & Buildings Investment Management LLC, which has called on Murren to sell casinos or spin off properties into a REIT. The CEO is also contending with the potential sale of a 16 percent stake in the company held by MGM Resorts' largest shareholder. Kirk Kerkorian, who died in June, left a will that directs his estate to sell the stock in an orderly fashion.

The predictability of cash flows at regional resorts and growing profit in Las Vegas boost the potential for a REIT structure, Murren said. "Which is why for the first time, we're willing

to say that we're months away from coming up with a conclusion to our board," Murren said.

MGM Resorts unveiled an initiative it said will boost adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization by \$300 million annually through 2017. The plan, which will increase revenue and cut costs, is expected to show results starting in the second half of this year.

Second-quarter earnings excluding some items totaled 19 cents, the Las Vegas-based casino operator said in a statement. Analysts predicted 11 cents a share, the average of estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

Sales declined 7.6 percent from a year earlier to USD2.39 billion, also topping estimates, as gains in Las Vegas tempered a slump in Macau.

MGM, like other casino operators in Macau, has seen a slide in business as Chinese high rollers cut back amid economic weakness and a government crackdown on corruption. Murren said Tuesday the company isn't actively trying to sell the Mirage hotel and casino. **Bloomberg**

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA Two paramilitary soldiers and one suspected rebel are killed in Indian-controlled Kashmir after a convoy of paramilitary troops was ambushed.

PHILIPPINES Officials say flash floods caused by heavy rain have killed at least seven people, including four children.

THAILAND Security officials in insurgency-racked southern Thailand are proceeding with a plan to ban the use of metal home cooking-gas tanks because they are often used to make deadly improvised bombs.



GREECE's left-wing government wants to get a full bailout deal with creditors this month, rejecting the idea of an extension in negotiations. Nikos Fylis, a parliamentary spokesman for the ruling Syriza party, said yesterday that a proposal by rescue lenders to prolong the talks and give Athens an interim loan is "off the table."

MYANMAR Setting aside decades of animosity and suspicion, senior Myanmar government and military officials hold unprecedented discussions with representatives of the main opposition party and ethnic minorities in Washington on fighting a common enemy - malaria. **More on p13**



ITALY Coast Guard commander Filippo Marini says 400 migrants have been saved from a shipwreck off the coast of Libya and 25 bodies have been recovered so far. Marini said the rescue operation is still ongoing, involving seven ships. He said survivors have indicated that between 400 and 600 people were on board the ship when it capsized yesterday.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/KCNA



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (1st left) attends the "2015 combat aeronautics contest of air commanding officers of the Air and Anti-Air Force of the Korean People's Army (KPA)".