



SAFETY LANE: FEWER ACCIDENTS ON SAI VAN BRIDGE
Gov't to make a final decision on whether to retain the motorcycle lane on Sai Van Bridge by the 1Q of 2016, Secretary Rosário said

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA's military is staging live-firing exercises in the country's west as part of a series of drills involving more than 140,000 troops, state media reported yesterday. The "Joint Action-2015D" exercises in the Chengdu Military Region are the first of five such drills involving units from the army, navy, air force, missile corps and other branches of the armed forces, the Xinhua News Agency said.

BANGLADESH A war crimes tribunal in Bangladesh sentences one man to death and another to life in prison for collaborating with Pakistan to commit mass killings and other crimes during the 1971 war for independence.

AUSTRALIA Australia is criticized over its new greenhouse-gas reduction target which lags behind the ambitions of most wealthy countries. More on p12

INDIA Opposition lawmakers block Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to simplify India's taxation laws, a key part of his plans to boost Asia's third-biggest economy.

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Netizens back illegal vending business near Cotai worksites

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Catarina Pinto

AL PLENARY | SAI VAN BRIDGE

Final decision on motorcycle lane by 1Q next year

THE government is looking to make a final decision on whether to retain the special lane for motorcycles on Sai Van Bridge by the beginning of next year, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, told lawmakers at yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting.

Mr Rosário said that the number of accidents on Sai Van Bridge decreased this year, which has led the government to believe that, "the motorcycle lane at the Sai Van Bridge is helping to improve road safety."

There were 249 accidents involving motorcycles on the bridge in the first quarter of this year, representing a 7.8 percent decrease year-on-year.

A spoken enquiry delivered by lawmaker Zheng Anting triggered further debate, as legislators called on the government to improve road safety, bearing in mind drivers' risky behavior and the growing number of cars and motorcycles crossing Macau's bridges.

The lawmaker asked whether the administration has made an assessment of Sai Van Bridge's provisional motorcycle lane, which began its trial operations in 2012. The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has been successively extending its operation since then.

"This is already the sixth time we've extended [the special lane's operation]. By the beginning of next year I believe we could make a decision on whether to turn it into a permanent lane or to remove [the special lane]," the Secretary said.

Mr Rosário revealed that throughout the first quarter of this year, an average of 13,000 motorcycles crossed the Sai Van Bridge every day, representing a 17 percent increase year-on-year. Traffic volume is also higher than that of the Friendship Bridge, where about 9,200 motorcycles circulate every day.

Lawmakers presented further suggestions on how to improve road safety, namely by requesting the government to allow motorcycle circulation over Nobre de Carvalho (Middle) Bridge, or to open the Sai Van Bridge's lower deck on a permanent basis, since it is currently only being used on typhoon days.

"We know that the bridge's lower deck is used as a temporary measure, open to traffic

during typhoons. Will there be any measures to ensure that this lower deck is open to traffic [regularly]?" lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho asked.

Other legislators have also suggested for the government ban motorcycles from crossing the Friendship Bridge, which has a high incident rate of road accidents.

Tsui Wai Kwan suggested that a "sister bridge" could be built right next to the Middle Bridge.

Au Kam San, Angela Leong, and Zheng Anting insisted that Macau's oldest bridge should be open to motorcycles.

The Secretary, however, seemed reluctant to consider the idea. He recalled that about 100,000 people cross the Middle Bridge on a daily basis via public transportation. Macau's oldest bridge is only open to taxis and public buses.

Therefore, turning it into a motorcycle-only bridge is not a feasible solution: "This would imply that the other two bridges would be used by 18 different bus routes [every day]," Mr

Rosário said, adding that this would place additional pressure on Macau's traffic, and would also increase the average waiting time of people trying to cross the bridge.

He stressed that to meet current traffic and city development needs, the Nobre de Carvalho Bridge will remain open to public transport only.

Moreover, the Secretary recalled that banning motorcycles on the Friendship Bridge has been suggested before, but the community did not reach a consensus on the matter.

Regarding the lower deck of Sai Van Bridge, the director of the Land, Public Works, and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Li Canfeng, said that due to the LRT construction works, the deck is only open to the public when there's a typhoon.

He added that studies have been conducted and in order to open it to traffic on a permanent basis, the deck would need to undergo renovation works, particularly on its ventilation system. This, however, cannot be done while the LRT construction works are underway.

FSS VALUATION REPORT TO BE ISSUED BY YEAR-END

THE SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has revealed that an actuarial valuation report on Macau's Social Security Fund, which is currently being outlined by a Hong Kong expert, will be completed and submitted to the government by the year-end. Mr Tam added that the government is hoping to receive the report by November, and will

disclose its findings to the general public in a timely manner. The study will reflect upon FSS's financial health, evaluating the amount and value of contributions, government allocations, and asset investment return, while also looking into how much money needs to be injected, or in the alternative, how much the contributions would need to be increased by in the future.

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Netizens back allegedly illegal food trucks at Cotai worksites



SYMPATHY amongst local Internet users poured in after footage was released by the Chinese online media outlet Macau Concealers yesterday showing allegedly illegal vendors selling beverages and food to immigrant workmen at the Studio City Macau construction site.

During an on-site visit yesterday, two vans were seen pulling up right outside the worksite's second gate at around 5:30 p.m., a time when the workers, most of them mainlanders, go off duty. A total of three vendors were touting their products, chiefly drinks,

lunch boxes, bread and snacks, neatly placed inside the vehicles.

About four meters away was a private car allegedly carrying two police agents, one of whom was filming a video of the crowd. Ten minutes later, police officers arrived at the entrance and removed one of the vans, while another van is believed to have been left unattended as its owners fled the scene. Behind the wheel of the confiscated vehicle was an English-speaking South Asian driver.

"Basically there are buckets and boxes of rice placed there every day," said Sou

Cheong In, a university student in his junior year currently working at an office inside the worksite.

"It's been quite a while, like a long time, probably since the first day of this construction site," said the 21-year-old, who also stated that the mobile hawkers "have been operating their businesses non-stop" at least for the two year period since he started working there.

At around 6:00 p.m., the owner of the idle vehicle reappeared, telling the police officers standing by his van that he "had some errand to run" and that was

why he abandoned it.

According to one of the police officers, who refused to be identified, such business activities have been going on for "some time", and not just at this particular worksite. Furthermore, allegations have been made that the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau authorities were privy to the mobile vending business. The university student likewise stated that the government authorities were in the know.

"Actually they know of it. How on earth could they not know? The vending cars were parked along the road. The police officers would just disperse them when they saw them do so," said the student. "But then they'd return afterwards."

The online media outlet uploaded the story to its Facebook account, alongside a picture clearly showing the business being conducted via stalls rather than in vans. The report drew adverse reactions from local netizens who voiced their support for the business owners in the comment section.

Some workmen told the Times that the vendors' offerings were affordable and diverse. "There aren't any places around here to eat," said a mainland worker in his thirties. "Some of the food they send is not tasty, and we can choose our favorite [from the vendors]." **Staff reporter**

CY Leung in Zhuhai today

Hong Kong Chief Executive CY Leung is currently visiting Zhuhai with other senior government officials. He plans to meet with leaders of the Zhuhai Municipal Government. Mr Leung will also visit the Hengqin New Area in the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone and inspect construction work on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, a note from his office revealed. The Secretary for Transport & Housing, Prof Anthony Cheung, and Secretary for Constitutional & Mainland Affairs, Raymond Tam, are among other officials accompanying CY Leung.

ICBC issues over one million Chimelong credit cards

The number of ICBC Chimelong co-brand credit cards that have been issued since January exceeds one million, with the total amount of consumption reaching RMB1.2 billion. The cards are being jointly issued by ICBC and Chimelong Group. According to ICBC, the co-brand cards are the first of their kind in China, as they come with membership to a national theme park as well as being UnionPay and VISA-branded chip cards. The cards support both contact and non-contact usage and have now been issued on the mainland and in Macau and Hong Kong. The card doubles as an ICBC credit card as well as a membership card for the Chimelong Group.

UnionPay, SmarTone jointly launch sound wave pay

UnionPay International (UPI), the global business subsidiary of China UnionPay, has joined forces with Hong Kong telecom operator SmarTone to provide a sound wave payment service for mobile phone users with UnionPay bankcards. According to Xinhua, consumers in Hong Kong and Macau will be able to enjoy the new service by downloading SmarTone's Kiss Wallet app to their mobile phones and connecting the app to their UnionPay bankcards. More than 20 million UnionPay bankcards have been issued in Hong Kong and Macau, which can be used at almost every ATM and POS terminal in the two areas.

Planet Payment partners with BESOR

Planet Payment has allied with BESOR to expand its services in Macau, industry sources revealed yesterday. Planet Payment has made several moves recently in order to bolster its international profile, including forming a partnership with Pay.On to expand its mobile point of sale, m-commerce and e-commerce offerings. Planet Payment provides international payment, transaction processing and multi-currency processing services across 23 countries.

AL PLENARY

Gov't to introduce new food safety regulations by 2017

THE government is planning to draft further regulations on food safety by 2017, according to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) president Alex Vong.

"We have administrative regulations [ensuring food safety.] And by 2017, we will introduce more regulations on this matter," he told lawmakers yesterday.

Mr Vong also revealed that IACM is currently training 300 food inspection professionals.

Public concern over recent food safety scares has led lawmakers to criticize the authorities' response to food sampling. Complaints about prawns injected with jelly being sold in Macau, and of contaminated Taiwanese Horng Ryen Jen sandwiches, have sparked further controversy.

Lawmaker Melinda Chan delivered a spoken enquiry calling on the govern-

ment to improve its food safety measures. She urged Macau's administration to improve its imported food sampling system, and regularly monitor potential risks to food safety.

Mr Vong assured lawmakers that, "currently Macau follows a set criteria for food inspection and analysis. We also follow [suggestions] from the Food Safety Committee while taking into consideration China's food safety criteria as well."

He recalled that since establishing a food safety center, IACM has drafted a list of food products that are banned from Macau's supermarkets and shops.

Lawmakers have raised further criticism over the government's handling of food safety scares. Legislator Kwan Tsui Hang queried as to why the government food safety departments appear to be so reluctant to receive potentially conta-

minated food samples for analysis. Lei Cheng I added that food safety mechanisms have failed to build Macau people's trust in the system.

"Regarding the prawns case, a citizen bought prawns that contained an odd substance. If the government is unable to understand immediately why [it happened], taking on samples for testing... could ease people's concerns. The government did not reveal their findings about the jelly," she said.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, reiterated that there is room for improvement when assessing food safety incidents, such as the one involving prawns. However, she recalled that inspections conducted in Macau revealed that no harmful substances were found in the prawns being sold here. **CP**

CHAN MENG KAM

Gov't promises to speed up supporting facilities at Seac Pai Van

Brook Yang

THE Legislative Assembly's Follow-up Committee on Public Affairs concluded its discussion and reports on three issues yesterday, namely unoccupied public housing units, road safety threats, and road excavation works.

The committee's president, lawmaker Chan Meng Kam, told the media after the meeting that these issues are closely associated with the livelihoods of residents, and thus have received considerable attention from the public. "Therefore, the committee decided to follow up on these issues, pushing the government to reflect on its implementation and improve legislation, so as to respond to society's demands," he said.

Chan cited a government representative as saying that the issue of idle public housing units has resulted in a situation where "there are people who



have no house to live in while there are houses that no one lives in."

"The main reason is in not having implemented a review system of the then-applicants'

assets and income, so that some people have obtained their public housing unit without a pressing need for housing," he explained. "Another reason is that – especially shown in the

Seac Pai Van public housing complex – the supporting facilities are inadequate, which hinders the willingness of residents to move in."

Chan said that the govern-

ment has promised to accelerate the construction of additional facilities at Seac Pai Van; as for whether it should introduce penalties to prevent public housing units from the remaining unoccupied, the administration will consider the measures when reviewing the Affordable Housing Law in the future.

During the meeting, committee members also urged the government to improve its coordination mechanisms for road excavation works; they suggested introducing more advanced, low-noise equipment as well as increasing the penalties for project delays.

In addition, Chan revealed that government departments will conduct a joint research investigation into road safety problems that are caused by drunk driving, drug driving and illegal racing, the findings of which will be released at the end of the year.

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Brook Yang

HEATED discussions flared at the Urban Planning Committee's plenary meeting yesterday on the greatly relaxed height and density restrictions for the Fisherman's Wharf resort planning. Regarding the government's draft plan that lifted the area's upper height limit initially from 48 meters to 90 meters, many members of the advisory body voiced strong opposition or questioned the rationale of such "unusual change."

The advisors pointed out that the construction of high hotel towers on the area – located in an urban waterfront and on a reclaimed land plot – would cast significant and irreversible impact on the city's coastal landscape, skyline and airflow, whilst blocking the view of the world heritage listed Guia Light House. Many members also urged for an environment impact assessment (EIA), traffic flow report, and the advantage analysis of building a 90-meter hotel there.

As the stalemate remained unresolved, the controversy was retained for the committee's next meeting where the developer and the Land, Pu-

Tempers flare over lax Fisherman's Wharf planning regulations



Urban Planning Committee's plenary meeting yesterday

blic Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) representatives would supplement these

necessary materials for more comprehensive analyses.

The DSSOPT had handed over a draft plan to the Committee for opinions last year, where the height limit of buildings was raised to 60 meters. With a total of 18 opinions collected in a public consultation afterwards, the bureau decided to further raise the height limit, while increasing the maximum plot ratio from 1.7 to 2.6 and the maximum building coverage from 42% to 55%.

A committee member indicated that "increasing the new building's plot ratio to 2.6 would increase its total floor area to 120,000 square

meters, which is equal to that of three Grand Lisboa hotels; whilst increasing the building coverage ratio to 55 percent would cover a plot of 17,000 square meters, which is a size of two football pitches."

In response to the advisors' opposition and doubts, the DSSOPT's acting deputy director, Cheong Ion Man, explained that the further relaxation in the area's height limit was "made in compliance with the former Chief Executive (CE)'s instruction issued in 2008." Moreover, he revealed the draft planning conditions for Fisherman's Wharf was changed because the developer had submitted

new construction plans.

Another bureau representative also stated, "The intended project is not a real estate project but to build facilities for tourism, convention and exhibition, which is in line with Macau's positioning of a world tourism and leisure hub. Besides, high towers are the trend for urbanism."

However, many members of the Urban Planning Committee believed the reason for the relaxation was unjustified and the authorities' explanation unconvincing. They questioned whether the city needed to follow such a development path, and maintained that the CE's instruction is not a law but merely a reference based on good intentions, which only instructs the ceiling of intended height limits rather than a definite or the suitable decision.

As the instruction was issued as a response to UNESCO's dissent, lawmaker Mak Soi Kun argued that "if the height limit stipulated in the instruction wasn't recognized by the UNESCO, Macau would have been removed from the World Heritage list; as UNESCO didn't object to the instruction, there is no problem with [the height limit of] 90 meters."

Another member also endorsed the loosened restrictions, arguing that, "as the opinions are divided, the decision should be obeying the existing legal mandate in order to balance the area's development and the heritage conservation."

LEGEND VS NEW MACAU

AS THE planning conditions for Fisherman's Wharf haven't gained the authorities' approval, the developer – Macau Legend Development – expects a possible delay of the project's construction. The company's Executive Vice President, Ip Weng Fa, listened in on the Committee's meeting yesterday and told media that they believe the relaxed height limit could drive the city's entire tourism and leisure economy. By contrast, representatives of the New Macau Association



civil group protested against the plan and petitioned to protect the Guia landscape.

Civil group demands specific explanation from authorities over land recovery failure

LOCAL civil group "Love Macau Association" expressed its intention to take further action against the government in conjunction with other organizations yesterday unless the authorities provide further explanations of their failed attempts to recover the controversial 16 idle land parcels.

Chao Sao Fung, president of the association, appealed to the legislative assembly in a letter that he had submitted to its representative in the

afternoon, stating that the officials "should offer some clarification of the legislature in order to alleviate public concerns over the land recovery."

"Everyone knows the most critical issue to citizens here in Macau is housing," said Chao. According to the group's rough estimations, the 48 idle land plots are attributable to leaseholders, plus the looming reclaimed Zone A could become a home to more than 100,000 public hou-

sing units, an amount sufficient for the local population who are currently finding private housing unaffordable.

The group's president slammed the authorities for having withheld the nitty-gritty of the issue, which she suspected might be linked to interest transfer between the government and businessmen. "The information on the 113 idle plots of land, for a couple of years, remained unavailable despite enquires by many lawmakers for

information," said the association's head.

She also aimed to pressure the legislature's head Ho Iat Seng into launching a public hearing, where major officials in charge of the land recovery would be summoned to a meeting with the lawmakers at the legislative assembly. However, Ho has previously rejected a similar suggestion made by two pro-democracy policymakers, Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam



San, citing the reason that they lacked the statutory rights to demand such a thing.

The group did not exclude any possibility of ramping up their efforts to make a public hearing possible, with the

help of other parties. "If another public hearing is to be rebuffed, we'd launch some campaigns, such as collecting signatures, or mobilize citizens to voice support for those lawmakers," she said **Staff reporter**

THE latest statistics from the Monetary Authority of Macao indicate that new approvals of both residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) have increased in June. The total outstanding balance on the loans also witnessed an increase.

June recorded MOP3.9 billion worth of new residential mortgage loans being approved by Macau banks, representing an increase of 5.7 percent month-to-month. In terms of value, the new loans to residents increased by 6.2 percent whereas those to non-residents decreased by 8.2 percent. However, comparing these figures with the same period last year, approvals of new RMLs have decreased by 57.1 percent.

New RMLs being collatera-

New mortgage loans increase in June



BLOOMBERG

lized by uncompleted units (i.e. equitable mortgages) decreased by 14.7 percent month-to-month to MOP282 million, which is an 89.7 percent decrease in comparison to the same period last year.

On the other hand, new commercial real estate loans grew by 51.8 percent month-to-month to MOP6.2 billion. In terms of value, new CRELs to residents increased by 64.6 percent while those to non-residents decreased by 45.4 percent. On an annual basis, new

approvals of CRELs dropped by 42.7 percent.

As of the end of June 2015, the outstanding value of RMLs had increased by 20 percent year-on-year to MOP165.5 billion. Concurrently, the outstanding value of CRELs increased by 34 percent from the end of June 2014 to MOP140.8 billion. The delinquency ratio for RMLs and CRELs both stood at 0.07, with the former down by 0.01 percentage points and the latter up by 0.03 percentage points from one month ago. **BY**

Taiwan receives record mainland visitor numbers in first half

SOME 2.8 million people visited Taiwan from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau in the first half of 2015, according to official data. The figure accounts for 55 percent of the nearly five million visitors to the island in the January-June period.

The mainland was the biggest contributor of tourists to Taiwan during the six-month period. Compared with the same period in 2014, there were 121,783 more mainlanders that made the trip across the Taiwan Strait.

Japanese and South Korean tourists ranked second and third, with about 750,000 and 330,000 visitors respectively.

According to Taiwanese authorities, 70.9 percent of travellers came to the island for sight-seeing, 7.7 percent for business and four percent to visit family.

Last year, the annual number of visitors to Taiwan exceeded nine million for the first time. Taiwan is expecting ten million tourists this year.

Citigroup cuts August gaming revenue forecast to MOP19 billion

ACCORDING to industry sources, the Gross Gambling Revenue (GGR) of tables at Macau casinos reached MOP4.8 billion during the first nine days of August, Citigroup reported yesterday.

The daily run rate of this period amount-

ed to MOP567 million, six percent lower than that of July. As a result, Citigroup has reduced its August GGR forecast from 20 billion to MOP19 billion, assuming a daily run-rate of MOP630 million for the rest of the month (-34 percent y-o-y but +2 percent m-o-m).

The research house also pointed out that if the average monthly GGR falls below MOP20 billion in the first eight months of 2015, the Macau government "may roll out more supportive policies for the industry."

Bernstein Research's analysts noted that the GGR for the first nine days "appears weak considering there were two weekends in this period," although they also added that "part of the weakness is due to lower-than-normal hold rates."

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Organização de visitas de estudo para os jovens, à Zona-Piloto de Comércio Livre da China (Guangdong), mobilizando-os a participarem nas sessões de apresentação de políticas sobre a cooperação regional.

Celebração entre Macau e Guangzhou de um "Acordo sobre a promoção conjunta da parceria entre os jovens de Macau e de Guangzhou no âmbito de emprego e de criação de negócios".

Em relação aos primeiros 30 projectos empreendedores de Macau autorizados a estabelecer-se no Vale de Criação de Negócios para os Jovens de Macau em Hengqin, os serviços competentes estão empenhados na promoção do avanço dos respectivos processos e na devida coordenação.

Encorajamento às empresas beneficiárias do Plano de Apoio a Jovens Empreendedores para participarem nos eventos da Semana Dinâmica de Macau.

Negócios empresariais

Apoio às empresas na identificação de oportunidades empresariais através da exploração de mercados

- Organização de delegações empresariais para várias províncias e cidades do Interior da China, assim como para os países lusófonos, no sentido de participarem nas actividades comerciais e de feiras neles realizadas;
- Organização de sessões de esclarecimento sobre as políticas promovidas na Zona-Piloto de Comércio Livre da China (Guangdong), além de visitas de estudo àquele local;
- Realização de palestras no intuito de auscultar as opiniões dos operadores dos diversos sectores relativamente à implementação do Acordo CEPA;
- Prestação de acompanhamento e de apoio às 33 empresas recomendadas a instalar-se no Parque Industrial de Cooperação Guangdong-Macau em Hengqin;



• Aceleração do processo de construção do Parque Científico e Industrial de Medicina Tradicional Chinesa Guangdong-Macau, havendo já cerca de 30 empresas registadas que entraram no Centro de Incubação do referido Parque.

Finanças e Reserva Financeira

Gestão da Reserva Financeira em observância de um modelo seguro, eficaz e com garantia de capital e de juros



- Firmeza em cumprir os princípios de "segurança, eficácia, regulamentação e credibilidade";
- Participação nos grandes projectos de empreendimento baseados em planos de excelência, através de uma plataforma segura de fundos e com observância dos princípios de "garantia de capital e de juros";
- Realização de estudo sobre a afectação ordenada de uma parte da reserva financeira e sua aplicação nos projectos com capital e juros garantidos, mediante parceria estabelecida com o Banco do Desenvolvimento da China, com a Província de Guangdong e também com a Província de Fujian.

Promoção da cooperação financeira regional e concessão de crédito transfronteiriço

- Celebração, entre o Banco Nacional Ultramarino de Macau, S.A. e a Sucursal de Macau do Banco da China, de um acordo de cooperação para o desenvolvimento de negócios dos mercados da China e dos Países de Língua Portuguesa;
- Com o lançamento das "Medidas provisórias sobre a gestão de actividades de crédito transfronteiriço em RMB operadas, de forma experimental, em Nansha de Guangdong e na Nova Área de Hengqin", as instituições bancárias de Macau passam a poder conceder, às empresas estabelecidas naqueles locais, créditos em RMB a forma transfronteiriça.



Plataforma regional na área económica e comercial

Promoção da construção de "Uma Plataforma e Três Centros" entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa (PLP), com destaque da função de plataforma

- Lançamento do Portal para a Cooperação na Área Económica, Comercial e de Recursos Humanos entre a China e os PLP.

www.platformchinapl.mo

- ▲ Base de Dados dos Produtos Alimentares dos PLP, Base de Dados de Quadros Profissionais Bilingues e respectivos serviços, informações sobre convenções e exposições (MICE), leis e regulamentos, informação económica e comercial da China e dos PLP.
- ▲ Com 271 fornecedores e agências registados e dados sobre 762 produtos dos PLP.
- Promoção da cooperação na área de formação
 - ▲ Organização de 5 colóquios cobrindo políticas e leis, gestão de negócios, entre outros, tendo sido formados, no total, 192 funcionários públicos e técnicos provenientes da China e dos PLP.
- Integração dos componentes dos PLP nas áreas de cooperação como MICE, economia e comércio, assim como a medicina tradicional chinesa



- ▲ Organização das delegações dos PLP para participarem nos eventos da Semana Dinâmica de Macau realizados nas 3 províncias, Hunan, Shanxi e Jiangxi;
- ▲ Realização da 1ª edição do Fórum de Cooperação Internacional de Medicina Tradicional 2015 -- Parque Científico e Industrial de Medicina Tradicional Chinesa para a Cooperação entre Guangdong-Macau, com a presença de peritos de medicina tradicional provenientes do Interior da China, Portugal, Brasil, Angola e Moçambique, bem como representantes das empresas de marca da área de medicina tradicional de Guangdong, Hong Kong e Macau, num total de mais de 150 pessoas;

- ▲ Realização da 6ª edição do "Fórum Internacional sobre o Investimento e Construção de Infra-estruturas" em Junho, com a presença de cerca de 40 governantes a nível vice-ministerial ou superior, provenientes dos 31 países e regiões e mais de 1.000 quadros qualificados e especializados do mesmo sector, oriundos de diversos locais do mundo, e com assinatura de 11 acordos e memorandos em relação à cooperação estratégica nas áreas de infra-estrutura e habitação, num valor total superior a 2,5 mil milhões de dólares americanos, sendo o melhor resultado ao longo dos anos;
- ▲ Realização da 1ª edição do Fórum de Cooperação em Infra-estruturas Sino-CELAC e do Encontro Ministerial sobre Infra-estruturas entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa, por ocasião da 6ª edição do "Fórum Internacional sobre o Investimento e Construção de Infra-estruturas", com a participação no referido Encontro de 180 representantes de entidades profissionais no sector em causa da China e dos PLP, bem como de Macau;
- ▲ Realização do Fórum e Exposição Internacional de Cooperação Ambiental de Macau 2015 (MIECF), com mais de 450 expositores oriundos de mais de 20 países e territórios, e 28 acordos assinados, tendo sido realizadas também 296 bolsas de contacto in loco, além dos 1.149 encontros para compradores convidados;
- ▲ Realização da Feira de Produtos de Marca de Guangdong e Macau 2015 em Julho.

Reuniões e actividades

Reforço do intercâmbio com províncias e municípios, aprofundamento da cooperação e alargamento das áreas de cooperação

Realização e participação nas reuniões bilaterais e actividades com autoridades dos diversos locais desde o início de 2015:

Fevereiro 1ª Reunião do Grupo Específico para a Promoção da Cooperação Zhongshan-Macau	Abril Reunião de Alto Nível Macau - Fujian	Abril Reunião de Cooperação Zhuhai-Macau 2015	Abril Cerimónia de arranque da Zona-Piloto de Comércio Livre de Guangdong e das diversas áreas nela integradas.	Mai Encontro de Alto Nível Macau - Hubei	Mai Reunião do Grupo de Trabalho para a Cooperação Guangzhou - Macau 2015	Junho Conferência de Cooperação Conjunta Guangdong-Macau 2015	Julho 8.ª Reunião de Cooperação a Alto Nível entre Hong Kong e Macau.
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Assinatura de 13 documentos de cooperação em forma de acordos, protocolos de intenção e memorandos

Áreas abrangentes abordadas nas reuniões e respectivos acordos assinados, com matérias incididas sobre o desenvolvimento económico, a gestão financeira, a promoção do valor cultural, as políticas ligadas à vida da população, a cooperação regional, etc.



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corporate bits

INVO TECH EXPANDS TO LARGER OFFICES, ADDS STAFF TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL GROWTH



As part of a global expansion plan, InvoTech Systems, Inc., an RFID Inventory Control Systems provider, relocated its headquarters to larger offices to accommodate new staff and worldwide client growth. InvoTech's global growth prompted the addition of new team members in its Product Development, System Installation and Technical Support departments. The company will continue to be based in Southern California with offices double the size of its previous location.

InvoTech Systems provides advanced Linen Management, Uniform and Laundry Systems that integrate the latest RFID technology to increase profitability for hotels, resorts, casino operators, sports arenas, convention centers and theme parks.

Jeff Welles, InvoTech president said, "Hospitality companies, casino operators, and other businesses around the world recognize the advantages of automated inventory tracking. Our office and staff expansion are a result of the leading hotel companies and other industries selecting InvoTech's RFID Uniform and Linen Systems to reduce labor expenses and eliminate losses to increase profitability."

InvoTech's international clients include Four Seasons Macau, Grand Venetian Macau Resort Hotel and MGM Grand Macau.

Google forms a new holding company, 'Alphabet'

Brandon Bailey
Technology Writer, San Francisco

GOOGLÉ is creating a new company to oversee its highly lucrative Internet business and a growing flock of other ventures, including some — like building self-driving cars and researching ways to prolong human life — that are known more for their ambition than for turning an immediate profit.

The new company will be called "Alphabet," Google CEO and co-founder Larry Page announced Monday (yesterday, Macau time). Page said he'll be CEO of the new holding company, while longtime Google executive Sundar Pichai will become CEO of Google's core business, including its search engine, online advertising operation and YouTube video service.

While the company will still use the Google name for those core services, Page said the new structure will provide more independence for divisions like Nest, which makes Internet-connected home appliances, and Calico, which is conducting cutting-edge health research.

Analysts said the move may also be a nod to Wall Street demands for more fiscal accountability: As part of the reorganization, Page said the company will begin reporting financial results by segments. That should give a clearer picture of how Google's core Internet business is performing, separate from other ventures, said analyst Colin Gillis of the investment firm BGC Partners.

Google reported more than USD14 billion in profit on \$66 billion in sales last year, most of it from lucrative Internet ad-

AP PHOTO



Google's headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

vertising, while other ventures have required large investments without showing immediate returns. The company's stock has surged in recent weeks after a new chief financial officer signaled some trims in corporate spending.

The reorganization also cements the importance of Pichai, who is viewed by many as a potential successor to Page. Google's other co-founder, Sergey Brin, will be president of the new holding company.

With the reorganization, Page signaled that he wants to give more authority to CEOs of the companies that will be part of the new entity known as Alphabet.

"Our company is operating well today, but we think we can make it cleaner and more accountable," he wrote. "We believe this allows us more management scale, as we can run things independently that aren't very related."

Businesses that will operate separately under the Alphabet umbrella include Calico, which Google established to conduct health research in 2013; Nest, which Google acquired in 2014; Fiber, which is building high-speed broadband networks in several cities; and Google X, the research lab responsible for Google's self-driving car venture and previously developed its controversial Internet headset, known as Glass.

Alphabet will also oversee Google Ventures and Google Capital, two corporate investment entities that focus on early- and growth-stage startups.

Google's YouTube video division, however, will remain part of the core business under Pichai, although Page made a point of praising its chief, longtime ad executive Susan Wojcicki. Google historically has not reported earnings separately for the YouTube business.

"It may not be quite ready yet," Gillis said of YouTube. "Maybe they're going to do a little polishing and work on profitability first."

The new structure could make it easier for Google Inc. to sell off some of its unrelated businesses, or buy new ones, analysts said. Page has suggested previously that he is a fan of Warren Buffett, the famed financier and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway. Buffett's conglomerate owns more than 80 subsidiary companies and lets each operate with substantial independence.

Google said its chief financial officer, Ruth Porat, will hold the same title for both Google and Alphabet. Once the reorganization is complete, the company says its two existing classes of publicly traded stock will continue to trade on the Nasdaq exchange under the ticker symbols "GOOG" and "GOOGL." AP

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Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

Yuan slides after Beijing announced

CHINA devalued its tightly controlled currency yesterday following a slump in trade, allowing the yuan's biggest one-day decline in a decade.

The central bank said the yuan's fall was due to reforms aimed at making its exchange rate more market-oriented. But sustained weakness raises the risk of tensions with the United States and other trading partners that criticize Beijing's currency controls.

China becomes the third major trader to take actions that weakened their currencies. Initiatives by Japan and the European Union over the past two years depressed the yen and euro. But analysts cautioned against seeing the change as a direct effort to help Chinese exporters.

The yuan had strengthened along with the dollar, hurting exporters and raising the risk of politically dangerous job losses in manufacturing industries that employ tens of millions of workers. July exports fell by an unexpectedly large margin of 8.3 percent from a year earlier.

Yesterday's move "signals a new government willingness" to let the currency decline, said USB economist Tao Wang in a report.

Beijing is likely to move cautiously but market expectations "could quickly become entrenched" and cause the yuan to "depreciate quite quickly and significantly," said Wang.

She said that would represent a "sea change in China's exchange rate policy" but would help to support flagging economic growth.

The devaluation could present a dilemma for the United States and other governments that accuse Beijing of suppressing the yuan's exchange rate, giving its exporters an unfair price advantage and hurting foreign competitors.

A weaker yuan might prompt complaints by foreign manufacturers. But the central bank said its goal was to give market forces a bigger role, a step Washington has demanded.

If the changes help to support Chinese exports, "that could help sustain regional trade and in turn help support global growth," the governor of the Philippine central bank, Amando Tetanco, told The Associated Press.

The yuan, also known as the renminbi, is allowed to fluctuate in a band 2 percent above or below a rate set by the People's Bank of China based on the previous day's trading.

The bank said starting yesterday that in addition to the previous day's exchange rate, the daily fixing of the trading band will take into account supply and demand.

"This complex situation is posing new challenges," said a central bank statement. It said a strong yuan is "not en-



A man walks past a currency exchange shop yesterday

Q&A: What yuan weakening means for Beijing, other countries

Joe McDonald, Business Writer, Beijing

CHINA devalued its tightly controlled currency yesterday. The central bank said it was trying to make the state-controlled exchange rate more market-oriented. In recent months, the yuan has strengthened along with the dollar, making Chinese exports more expensive and raising the risk of politically dangerous job losses in industries that employ tens of millions of workers.

HOW IS CHINA'S CURRENCY SYSTEM DIFFERENT?

Beijing uses what it calls a "managed float." It allows the yuan's exchange rate to fluctuate within a band 2 percent above or below a point set by the People's Bank of China based on the previous day's trading. That allows the exchange rate to rise or fall in response to supply and demand but prevents wide swings that might hurt traders. This is different from other major currencies such as the U.S. dollar and the euro, which are freely traded. But most other countries also regulate exchange rates based on an "anchor currency" such as the dollar to prevent abrupt swings that might hurt their economies. In China's case, the United States and



A man reads a financial newspaper report at a stand in Beijing

es currency devaluation



tirely consistent with market expectation” and this was a good time to adjust controls.

The center of yesterday's trading band was set 1.9 percent below Monday's level. The yuan quickly fell 1.3 percent against the dollar and was down 1.9 percent by the afternoon.

That was the biggest one-day decline since Beijing ended the yuan's direct link to the U.S. dollar in July 2005 and switched to basing the exchange rate on a basket of foreign currencies. The composition of that basket is secret but the dollar appears to dominate it, which means the yuan rose even as currencies of other developing countries fell.

The latest move doesn't appear to be aimed at helping Chinese exporters even though it follows last weekend's announcement of dismal July trade, said Mizuho Bank economist Vishu Varathan in a report.

The yuan has risen by about 3.5 percent per year since 2012 on a trade-weighted basis and the latest change only gives back part of that, according to Varathan.

A sustained decline “risks abrasive international trade dynamics,” said Varathan. But he said a weaker yuan “could be ultimately positive for Asia” if it helps to revive Chinese growth and demand for imports. **AP**

ountries

other major trading partners complain Beijing suppresses the yuan's value, giving its exporters an unfair price advantage and hurting foreign competitors.

WHAT DID CHINA DO TO THE YUAN?

The People's Bank of China set a center point for yesterday's trading that was 1.9 percent below Monday's level, and the biggest one-day change in a decade. The bank said that was part of reforms in its rate-setting system aimed at giving a bigger role to market forces. The bank said that starting yesterday, its daily fixing of the center point for trading will take into account supply and demand as well as the previous day's exchange rate. Yesterday, the yuan was allowed to fall 1.3 percent shortly after the start of trading and was down nearly 1.9 percent at midday. The central bank said market forces would be given a bigger role in the future, which leaves open the possibility of more declines.

WHY DID CHINA DEVALUE?

The central bank said it took action because the yuan has been rising in value when market forces indicated it should have fallen. The yuan has been pushed up because its exchange rate is heavily influenced by

the U.S. dollar, which also has risen. At the same time, currencies of other developing countries have fallen. This has hurt Chinese exporters by making their goods more expensive abroad. China's exports plunged by an unexpectedly wide margin of 8.3 percent in July.

WILL DEVALUATION RAISE TENSIONS WITH THE U.S.?

Yesterday's change presents a dilemma for U.S. policymakers who have often accused China of manipulating the yuan for a trade advantage. A weaker yuan will make Chinese exports more competitive and might trigger complaints from U.S. manufacturers. But the central bank said it is trying to make the exchange-rate system more market-oriented — a step Washington has been pressing Beijing to take.

WILL DEVALUATION HELP CHINA'S EXPORTERS?

Yesterday's decline of less than 2 percent against the U.S. dollar is modest compared with the swings in other major currencies. But every bit of relief from price pressures helps Chinese exporters, whose profit margins are paper-thin. The central bank said yesterday's change was a one-time event. But its promise to give market forces a bigger role in setting exchange rates in future raised the possibility of further declines, which would relieve still more price pressure on exporters.

RMB depreciation screams buy dollars before Fed's move



A bank worker displays Chinese yuan at a bank in Beijing

Netty Ismail

CHINA'S decision to devalue the yuan is good news for dollar bulls.

China's central bank cut the yuan's daily-fixing rate by a record 1.9 percent yesterday after the International Monetary Fund last week delayed a decision to endorse it as a reserve currency. The move cast doubt on the health of the world's second-largest economy, weighing on the currencies of its trading partners and competitors. The dollar was already supported by speculation the Federal Reserve will increase interest-rates as early as next month.

“The dollar story continues to look in almost splendid isolation compared to pretty much everywhere else,” said Jeremy Stretch, a foreign-exchange strategist at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in London. “It just adds to the impetus” for a currency that's rising because “the growth story is allied to the prospect of Fed tightening upcoming.”

While the dollar has rallied versus all of its major peers in the last 12 months, the bullishness had faded. Forecasters ratcheted back expectations for gains in the dollar after a gauge of the currency fell 1.7 percent in three months ended June 30 amid weakness in the U.S. economy that few predicted.

The People's Bank of China had kept the yuan broadly stable against the dollar since March to encourage greater global usage in a push for official reserve status at the IMF. China has been pushing for the yuan to join the dollar, euro, yen and pound in the basket of currencies that make up the fund's Special Drawing Rights, or SDR.

A strong yuan had put pressure on China's exports. The nation's overseas shipments fell 8.3 percent from a year earlier in dollar terms in July, well below the estimate of a 1.5 percent decline in a Bloomberg survey.

“The gain by holding dollar-yuan very steady, in terms of its appeal for the SDR, is now outweighed by the need for a weaker exchange rate as part of looser monetary conditions,” said Sean Callow, a strategist at Westpac Banking Corp. in Sydney. “It adds to the appeal of the U.S. dollar heading into next month's meeting.”

The Chinese central bank's move yesterday was a one-time adjustment, it said in a statement, adding that it plans to keep the yuan stable at a “reasonable” level and will strengthen the market's role in determining the fixing.

“They're saying it's a one-off, but I don't think the market's actually buying that,” said John Gorman, head of dollar interest-rate trading for Asia and the Pacific at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Tokyo. “This might be the start of a broader change. That's why the market is reacting so strongly.” **Bloomberg**

YUAN DEVALUATION WILL HIT HK RETAILERS

THE DEPRECIATION of the yuan against the U.S. dollar will be a “major headwind” for Hong Kong retail, Barclays analyst Phoebe Tse told Dow Jones. The strong Hong Kong dollar, which is pegged to the U.S. dollar, will make mainland Chinese tourists think twice about visiting the former British colony. “We also believe other destinations with depreciated currencies offer better valuation proposition for shopping,” says Tse. These destina-

tions include Europe, Japan and Korea, whose currencies have weakened against the yuan. Some Hong Kong retailers such as cosmetic retailer Sa Sa International Holdings Ltd. once drew more than half of their income from mainland Chinese visitors. The slowing number of visitors led the shop to declare a nearly 9% drop in Hong Kong and Macau sales for the three months ended June. Sa Sa shares dropped 0.6% yesterday.

AUSTRALIA

Gov't criticized over greenhouse-gas reduction target

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA has been criticized over its new greenhouse-gas reduction target which lags behind the ambitions of most wealthy countries.

Lawmakers in Prime Minister Tony Abbott's conservative government yesterday agreed on a target of curbing carbon gas emissions to at least 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The target could go as high as 28 percent, Abbott said.

"This is fairly and squarely in the middle of comparable economies," Abbott told reporters.

The target scales back a draft proposal to reduce Australian greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent in that period.

The U.S. has pledged to cut overall emissions 26 percent to 28 percent by 2025, compared to 2005.

The European Union has pledged a reduction of 40 percent from 1990 levels by 2030.

Australia's target "undoubte-



dly puts Australia well toward the back of the pack, really at the bottom end of all the developed economies and we start from a very high polluting point," Mark Butler, opposition

spokesman on climate change, told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"We are the highest polluters per head of population in the OECD, so we do have a sub-

stantial amount of work to do," Butler said.

Australia's commitment to global cooperation on tackling climate change has come under question since Abbott's go-

vernment was elected in 2013. Last year, Australia repealed a three-year-old carbon tax on the nation's worst greenhouse-gas polluters.

In June, the government reduced its Renewable Energy Target — a policy to ensure a minimum amount of Australia's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020 — from a legislated 41,000 gigawatt hours minimum to 33,000 gigawatt hours.

Abbott announced yesterday he would not attend a United Nations climate summit in Paris in December when world leaders will attempt to forge a new global agreement on reducing emissions after 2020. Australia will be represented by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

Australia is one of the world's worst greenhouse gas emitters per head of population because of its heavy reliance on abundant reserves of cheap coal to generate power. Critics argue that the economic importance of the coal industry explains why Abbott opposes wind turbines on the Australian landscape.

Prof. Steven Sherwood, director of the Climate Change Research Center at University of New South Wales, described the target as "weak enough to reinforce Australia's new reputation as the world's foot-dragger." AP

INDONESIA

China, Japan vie to build high-speed rail



Ninie Karmini, Jakarta

INDONESIA'S top development official said the government is studying proposals from China and Japan for construction of a high-speed rail line and expects to announce the outcome later this month.

Andrinof Chaniago, the national development planning minister, told reporters yesterday that a decision on which proposal to accept could be made in about two weeks.

The high-speed rail, which will connect the capital Jakarta to

Bandung, is part of Indonesia's 750-kilometer high-speed train project that would cut across four provinces on the main island of Java and end in the country's second largest city of Surabaya.

President Joko Widodo has ambitious plans to improve Indonesia's infrastructure, which could boost manufacturing and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

Officials have said that the final proposals made by regional rivals China and Japan followed intense high-level lobbying efforts as the two countries compete for po-

litical and commercial influence in Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

Both countries have substantial expertise in high-speed trains though China is a latecomer to the industry compared with Japan.

"We will conduct a review not more than two weeks and will make a decision soon," Chaniago said after meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Xu Shaoshi.

China and Japan have offered low interest loans and other perks as they vie to secure the rail contract.

China's embassy in Jakarta on Monday released a statement promising 40,000 new jobs in Indonesia for every year of the line's construction.

Chaniago said China estimates the line would cost USD5.5 billion and is offering Indonesia 50-year loans that will charge annual interest of two percent.

Indonesia's Presidential Chief of Staff Luhut Panjaitan has said that Japan International Cooperation Agency has offered loans of \$4.4 billion with a 40-year repayment period and an annual interest rate of less than one percent.

At a news conference yesterday, Xu said China is ready to begin construction of the Jakarta-Bandung line in September and could complete it within three years.

"Our high-speed train technology is quite developed and safe," Xu said. AP

THAILAND

Palace says king recovering from excess fluid in brain

THAILAND'S royal palace announced Monday that 87-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej is recovering from several ailments, including excess fluid in the brain and difficult breathing due to congested lungs.

The Royal Household said that a scan performed earlier this year found an increased level of fluid in the king's brain, but others in July and August showed the level had started to decrease.

It said the latest checkup and X-ray showed that an inflammation found earlier in the king's chest had disappeared, his heartbeat was back to normal and his breathing was close to normal. The statement said the king had been given medicines to dissolve mucus in his chest, which was now being treated with physical therapy.

Last October, he had his gallbladder removed.

The king has rarely left a

Bangkok hospital that has become his residence since he was admitted in 2009 with what was said to be a lung inflammation. His general absence from public affairs has spurred concern about the eventual royal succession.

Most Thais hold great affection for Bhumibol, who was crowned on May 5, 1950, after coming to the throne in 1946 following the death of his elder brother.

While he is a constitutional monarch with no formal political role, Bhumibol has been widely revered and is generally regarded as the country's unifying figure. The heir apparent, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, does not command the same respect and affection as the king.

Open discussion of the monarchy is constrained by a strict lese majeste law that makes criticism of the royal family punishable by up to 15 years in prison. AP

Mari Yamaguchi
and Elaine Kurtenbach, Tokyo

JAPAN

Reactor restarts after 4 year break due to Fukushima

A power plant operator in southern Japan restarted a nuclear reactor yesterday, the first to begin operating under new safety requirements following the Fukushima disaster.

Kyushu Electric Power Co. said yesterday it had restarted the No. 1 reactor at its Sendai nuclear plant as planned. The restart marks Japan's return to nuclear energy four-and-a-half years after the 2011 meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan following an earthquake and tsunami.

The national broadcaster NHK showed plant workers in the control room as they turned the reactor back on. Tomomitsu Sakata, a spokesman for Kyushu Electric Power, said the reactor was put back online without any problems.

The Fukushima disaster displaced more than 100,000 people due to radioactive contamination and spurred a national debate over this resource-scarce country's reliance on nuclear power.

A majority of Japanese oppose the return to nuclear energy. Dozens of protesters, including ex-Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who was in office at the time of the disaster and has become an outspoken critic of nuclear power, were gathered outside the plant as police stood guard. "Accidents are unpredictable, that's why they happen. And certainly not all the necessary precautions for such accidents have been taken here," Kan shouted to the crowd of about 300 people.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority affirmed the safety of the Sendai reactor and another one at the plant last September



Plant operators work to restart the No. 1 reactor at the control room of the Sendai Nuclear Power Station in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture

under stricter safety rules imposed after the 2011 accident, the worst since the 1986 Chernobyl explosion.

The Sendai No. 1 reactor is scheduled to start generating power Friday and reach full capacity next month. The second Sendai reactor is due to restart in October.

Yoichi Miyazawa, Japan's industry minister, said yesterday that the government would "put safety first" in resuming use of nuclear power.

All of Japan's 43 workable reactors were idled for the

past two years pending safety checks. To offset the shortfall in power output, the country ramped up imports of oil and gas and fired up more thermal power plants, slowing progress toward reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases.

Miyazawa said nuclear power is "indispensable" for Japan.

"It would be impossible to achieve all these three things simultaneously — keep nuclear plants offline, while also trying to curb carbon dioxide and maintain the same electricity cost. I hope to gain the public's

understanding of the situation," Miyazawa said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has sought to have the reactors restarted as soon as possible to help reduce costly reliance on imported oil and gas and alleviate the financial burden on utilities of maintaining the idled plants.

"There are very strong vested interests to reopen nuclear reactors. Accepting them as permanently closed would have financial implications that would be hard to manage," said Tomas Kaberger, chairman of the

Japan Renewable Energy Foundation.

Utilities are seeking approvals to restart 23 reactors, including the other Sendai reactor.

The government has set a goal to have nuclear power meet more than 20 percent of Japan's energy needs by 2030, despite the lingering troubles at the Fukushima plant, which is plagued by massive flows of contaminated water leaking from its reactors.

Removal of the melted fuel at the plant — the most challenging part of the 30-to-40-year process of shutting it down permanently — will begin only in 2022.

Still, the government favors restarting other plants judged to meet the new safety criteria, for both economic and political reasons. Japan invested heavily in its nuclear power program and many communities rely on tax revenues and jobs associated with the plants.

Japan also faces pressure to use its stockpile of more than 40 tons of weapons-grade plutonium, enough to make 40 to 50 nuclear weapons. The plutonium, as fuel called MOX, will be burned in reactors since the country's nuclear fuel recycling program at Rokkasho in northern Japan has been stalled by technical problems.

To burn enough plutonium, Japan needs to restart as many as 18 reactors. Nuclear experts say this could pose a challenge. AP

Update: Challenges remain at destroyed nuke plant

AS Japan resumed generating nuclear power yesterday, restarting 1 reactor in the south, the destroyed Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in the northeast remains a highly radioactive site, more than four years after an earthquake and tsunami triggered meltdowns in three of its six reactors.

A look at the status of the plant:

RADIATION LEAKS

Water is still being pumped into the reactors to prevent further meltdowns, and huge amounts

of it, now radioactive, have leaked out of the damaged containment chambers and into other parts of the buildings. Some has leaked outside, so a sea wall and an underground barrier have been built to try to block the contaminated water from reaching the sea. Any leakage now appears to be minimal, but the immediate coastal waters are largely closed to commercial fishing.

EVACUATIONS

Radioactive material spewed out by the ini-

tial explosions and meltdowns contaminated nearby towns and farms and driven more than 100,000 people to leave their homes. Some areas have been cleaned up, but decontamination work often needs to be repeated, and some remain off-limits. Some people have returned to areas deemed safe, many of them senior citizens, while families with children have tended to stay away. The government plans to send evacuees back to all but the most

uninhabitable areas by March 2017, and to cut financial support for those who won't return.

DECOMMISSIONING

Removal of melted fuel from the three reactors — the most challenging part of the 30- to 40-year cleanup — will not begin until 2022. Experts have yet to pinpoint the exact location of the melted fuel and study it, and need to develop robots capable of working safely under extremely radioactive conditions.

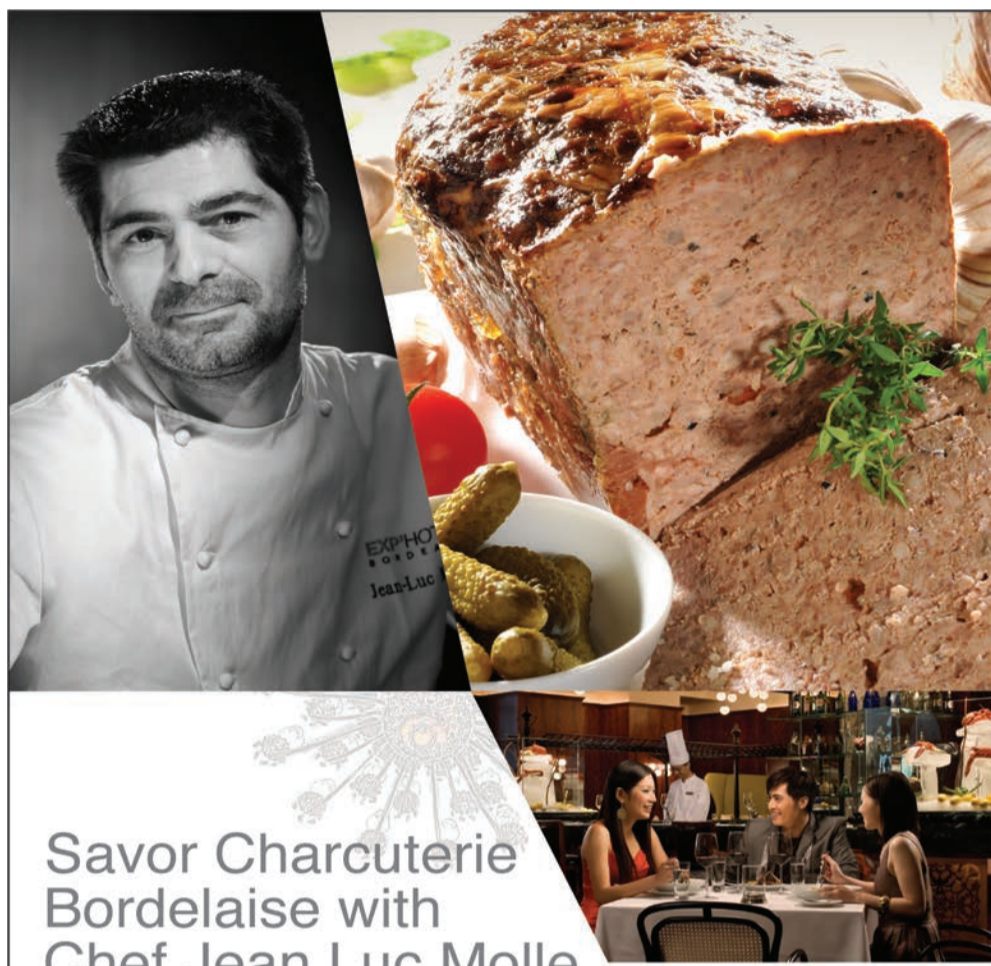


Protesters shout slogans during an anti-nuclear rally in front of the National Diet building in Tokyo yesterday

IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN'S NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

The government has set a goal to have nuclear power share more than 20 percent of resource-poor Japan's power generation by 2030. However, additional costs to retrofit and modernize plants to meet pos-

t-Fukushima safety requirements, as well as huge decommissioning costs, could make nuclear power less appealing to utility companies. Most experts doubt Japan will build any new nuclear plants, and as aging reactors are taken offline, the industry may be phased out. AP



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GREECE

Gov't agrees on broad terms of new bailout package



Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos

Derek Gatopoulos
and Elena Becatoros, Athens

GREECE has agreed on the broad terms of a new three-year bailout package with international creditors, with only a few details left to iron out, officials said yesterday.

Euclid Tsakalotos sounded upbeat about the prospects of quickly finalizing a deal that would prevent the country's default next week and secure

its future in the euro.

"We are very close. Two or three very small details remain," he said as he emerged yesterday morning from all-night discussions with the creditors' negotiators.

The European Commission, a key negotiator in the talks, confirmed the progress.

"The institutions and the Greek authorities achieved an agreement in-principle on a technical basis and talks are still ongoing on finalizing details,"

said Annika Breidhardt, the Commission's spokeswoman for economic affairs. She said the details were expected to be cleared up yesterday.

She noted that an agreement still requires approval from higher-level representatives, and that senior finance officials from the 28 EU nations would hold a conference call later yesterday.

Germany, the largest single contributor to Greece's two previous bailouts and among

the toughest negotiators so far, remained cautious. "We will have to examine the results that come in the course of today," deputy finance minister Jens Spahn told n-tv television.

A draft of the agreement cited by the Greek daily Kathimerini said the deal included a package of more than 30 measures that would have to be voted on in Greece's Parliament immediately, followed by a second package of measures to be adopted from October onwards.

Investors cheered the news of progress.

Greece's government borrowing rates fell, a sign investors are less worried about a default. The 2-year bond yield dropped by 4.2 percentage points to 14.73 percent. The Athens Stock Exchange, which reopened recently after being shut for five weeks during the most severe part of Greece's financial crisis, was up 2.2 percent in midday trading.

Greece's government is hoping to push the new 85 billion euro (USD93 billion) three-year agreement through parliament this week, ahead of an expected meeting between eurozone finance ministers on Friday. **AP**

NETHERLANDS

Possible BUK missile parts found at MH17 site



Dutch prosecutors have said for the first time that they have found possible parts of a BUK missile system at the site in eastern Ukraine where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was brought down last year, killing all 298 people on board. Prosecutors said in a statement yesterday the parts "are of particular interest to the criminal investigation as they can possibly provide more information about who was involved in the crash of MH17." Prosecutors have previously said they are treating a missile strike as the most likely scenario, but yesterday's announcement was the first time they have described possible physical evidence of a missile. However, they cautioned that the conclusion cannot yet be drawn "that there is a causal connection between the discovered parts and the crash of flight MH17."

TURKEY

Warplanes strike PKK targets in southeast

Turkish warplanes struck Kurdish rebel positions overnight in southeast Turkey, the military said yesterday, a day after heavy violence in the country left at least nine dead. In a statement, the Turkish military said jets hit 17 targets of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, around the Buzul mountain and the Ikiyaka region in Hakkari province, which borders Iran and Iraq. In further violence yesterday, Kurdish rebels attacked an infantry brigade command post in nearby Sirnak province, seriously wounding a soldier who later died in a hospital. On Monday, nine people, including five police officers, were killed in separate attacks in Istanbul and in the southeastern Sirnak province. The attacks were blamed on the PKK. Turkish warplanes have raided PKK targets in Iraq and in southeast Turkey in tandem with airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Syria since late July. The main focus of the raids however, has been the PKK. The PKK has been fighting for Kurdish autonomy in southeast Turkey. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people since 1984.

USA

4th night of Ferguson protests brings dozens of arrests

Jim Salter and Jim Suhr, Ferguson

POLICE arrested nearly two dozen people in Ferguson during a protest that stretched into early yesterday marking the anniversary of the fatal shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old African-American by a white police officer, although there was no repeat of the violence that scarred weekend demonstrations.

There were no shots fired and no burglaries, looting or property damage during the protest, county police spokesman Shawn McGuire said. The St. Louis suburb thoroughfare was the focus of months of massive protests and sometimes violent unrest last summer after the killing of Michael Brown by a Ferguson police officer, which sparked nationwide protests and a fierce debate over how police treat minorities.

On Monday night (yesterday, Macau time), no smoke or tear gas was used, and no police or civilians reported injuries, McGuire said in a statement. By 1 a.m.,

the crowd and police were heading home.

McGuire said approximately 23 arrests were made, though police were still confirming official totals.

Late Sunday, a protest in the same area was interrupted by gunfire and a police shooting that left an 18-year-old suspect critically injured. The violence set Ferguson on edge and had protest leaders worried that tensions could escalate. St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger declared a state of emergency that authorized county Police Chief Jon Belmar to take control of police emergency management in and around Ferguson.

Early Monday evening, hundreds of protesters were chanting, beating drums and carrying signs. When some in the group moved into a traffic lane, officers in riot gear forced people out of the street. Some demonstrators threw water bottles and other debris at officers.

Protests also cropped up outside Ferguson. Almost 60 people, including scholar and civil rights activist Cornel West,



Police patrol in Ferguson, Mo.

were arrested around midday Monday for blocking the entrance to the federal courthouse in downtown St. Louis. Another group later briefly blocked a highway during the late afternoon rush hour, with an additional 64 arrests, according to McGuire.

Ferguson resident and military veteran Hershel Myers Jr., 46, criticized the police response as aggressive and unnecessary. **AP**

what's ON



2015 ART TROUPE-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME – FREE YOURSELF

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 1, 2015

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries

Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

TEA CULTURE HOUSE

TIME: 9am-7pm daily (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House, Lou Lim Ioc

Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

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

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU ARTS WINDOW - FORM OF ANIMALS - PHOTOGRAPHY BY WONG WANG LAP

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: August 30, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE GOLDEN DRAGON 2.0

TIME: 8pm

DATE: August 12-15, 2015

VENUE: Old Court Building, Avenida da Praia Grande, Macau

ADMISSION: MOP150

LANGUAGE: Cantonese

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6655 1380

EXHIBITION BY CHAN VAI CHUN

TIME: 11am-7pm

DATE: August 12-16, 2015

VENUE: Macau Military Club, Avenida da Praia Grande, 975

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

Offbeat

91-YEAR-OLD SYDNEY MAN CHARGED WITH IMPORTING COCAINE

A 91-year-old retired surgeon has been charged with importing cocaine hidden in soap into Australia, prompting police to warn travelers to beware they are not tricked into becoming drug mules.

Victor Twartz, of Sydney, was released on bail when he appeared in Sydney's Downing Center Local Court charged with importing a commercial quantity of cocaine last month. He did not enter a plea and will appear in court next on Oct. 6.

The retired oral surgeon faces a potential life prison sentence if he is convicted of importing 4.5 kilograms of the drug into Sydney Airport on a July 8 flight from New Delhi.

A search of Twartz's luggage found 27 packages of soap that tested positive for cocaine, police said.

Police say it appears that Twartz was scammed by a group of people he had befriended online before his trip. Australian Federal Police organized crime commander David Stewart declined to say whether Twartz had been promised anything by the group, but said he had been in contact with them over several months.

Police were tipped off by Twartz's family about the email exchanges but did not stop him from leaving Australia, Stewart said.

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	The Pope's Revolution
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:40	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

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



1985 HUNDREDS DEAD IN BOEING CRASH

A Japan Airlines jumbo jet has crashed on a remote mountainside 70 miles (112km) from Tokyo in Japan. There were 15 crew and 509 passengers on board, mostly holidaymakers.

There are no reports of survivors.

It is the worst disaster involving a single airliner and the second major accident involving a Boeing 747 in the past two months.

In June a Boeing of the Air India fleet crashed into the Atlantic off southern Ireland killing all 329 people on board.

The Japan Airline's jet came down during a 50-minute flight from Tokyo to Osaka.

Ten minutes into the journey the pilot told air traffic control that a door at the rear of the plane was damaged.

He said he was going to turn back and make an emergency landing.

Minutes later he reported he had lost control of the aircraft.

The pilot's last message was that he was lost and the plane disappeared from the radar screen.

It crashed into Mount Osutaka where rescuers discovered debris spread over a wide area.

Accident investigators from Boeing are expected to assist in trying to ascertain cause of the crash.

A key factor will be locating the planes two flight recorders from the jumbo's tail section.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Four survivors were rescued nearly 15 hours after the crash. After a lengthy investigation it was established that the principal cause was an incorrect fuselage repair carried out seven years earlier.

Faulty splicing of two bits of fuselage had left the section up to 70% less resistant to decompression.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your leadership is rarely in question, and today shows why that's the case. You take the reins at work or at home in a way that shows everyone concerned what's what. Don't look back!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've got to fight the power today - even if it's just the person in the next cubicle over. Struggles are everywhere right now, and you should be able to make at least one work to your advantage.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your opinions are never set in stone - well, almost never, anyway! You may find that something that once seemed pretty certain to you is suddenly in question, so make sure you're ready for change!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You can't just keep responding to the situation in the same old way - you've got to adapt! That might not be easy, but it's essential that you figure out what needs to happen if you want to succeed.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your ability to think laterally is a key element of today's big business - so make sure that you're not just sticking to the same old ideas. You can make a difference if you try something crazy.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your regular way of getting things done is not going to work today - so make some tweaks and see if you can save any time-savers for later. You are always learning, and now is the time to absorb even more!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your energy is fantastic and should make the day quite enjoyable - no matter what's on your plate. Just make sure that you're sharing this good stuff with those in your life who could use a lift.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 A parent or some other older person in your life needs help - though they may be too proud to ask. It could be tech support, a sounding board or a little extra cash, but you can help in a big way!

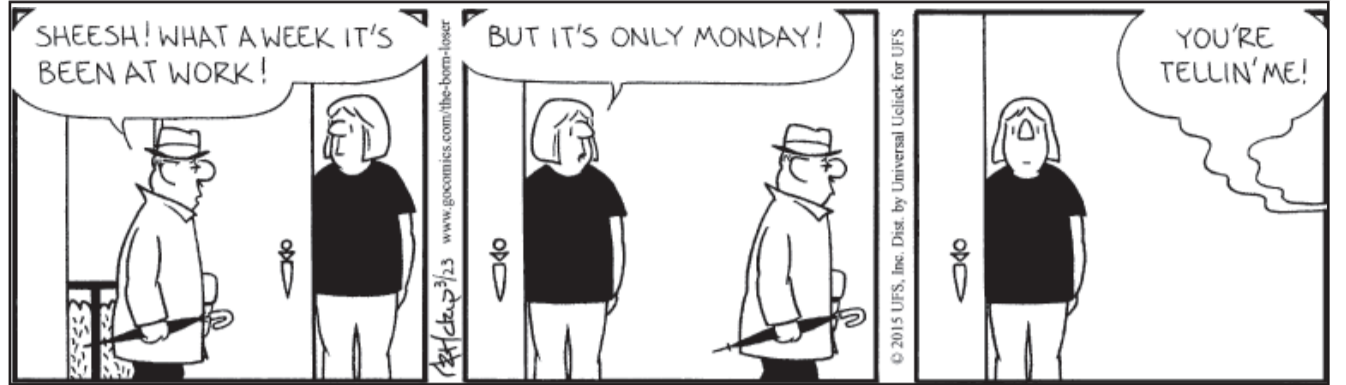
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You need to break down barriers and really explore - there's so much more to your world than you understand. Things may start to get really weird, but that's how it should be. Live large!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to think about your future - which may be easier said than done. There are too many variables to keep track of, for one thing, but you should be able to get somewhere with your great mental energy.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's essential for you to share your ideas with the world - or at least your little corner of it. Speak out, even if people are skeptical at first. Genius always has to wait for others to catch up!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your thoughts are racing - it may be hard to focus on any one topic. That should be fine, as long as you can get your people to cover for you while you go off chasing the wild goose.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

WORLD

Table listing weather for various world cities: Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Begley and Bradley; 4- Land measure; 8- Hunting cat; 14- Tin Tin; 15- Deeked out; 16- Flammable gas; 17- Actress Gardner; 18- Part of an eye or camera; 19- Boot part; 20- Third Sunday before Lent; 23- Italy's Villa d'...; 24- Thermoplastic yarn; 25- Diner order; 28- Summer emines; 30- Swampfever; 33- Characterized by straight lines; 36- Device with 88 keys; 40- Feedbag morsel; 41- nous; 42- The act of adjourning; 45- Fragmental; 46- Main arteries; 51- Thrice, in prescriptions; 52- External; 55- Writer Sarah Jewett; 56- Impresario; 59- "Oedipe" composer Georges; 62- Genuine; 63- Jazz org.; 64- Capital of the Bahamas; 65- Nerve network; 66- Immerse; 67- Furry swimmers; 68- Sailing; 69- Opposite of NNW;

DOWN: 1- Rubs out; 2- Strip; 3- Shape up; 4- Rights org.; 5- Purify; 6- Slender; 7- Ford flop; 8- Related to the back of the eye; 9- Elemental unit; 10- Take Train; 11- Tic Dough; 12- Bambi's aunt; 13- Agent, briefly; 21- Some like it hot; 22- Zoological segment; 25- Author Harte; 26- One telling tales; 27- Shipping deduction; 29- Freshwater fish; 31- Mislaid; 32- Abby's twin; 34- Agree; 35- Scott's topper; 36- Deal; 37- Just lying around; 38- Cracked; 39- Refusals; 43- Very funny; 44- Give an account; 47- Director Howard; 48- General tendencies; 49- Jackal headed deity; 50- Shawl worn in Mexico; 53- firma; 54- Fencing swords; 56- "quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 57- Tenn. neighbor; 58- Zeno of ...; 59- Brian of Roxy Music; 60- Writer Hentoff; 61- Superlative suffix;

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-69.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Trevor Huggins, London

FOOTBALL | REVIEW

Struggles and surprises as Premier League gets moving

It is, of course, much too early to try to read something into the first round of matches in a Premier League season that has another 37 games and more than eight months to run.

But it's just too tempting.

Especially as some of the surprises in an entertaining start will clearly have an impact on the coming weekend's action — at least for Chelsea and Arsenal.

The Blues now face one of their toughest games of the season — at Manchester City — without goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, following the Belgian's rash decision to clatter into Bafetimbi Gomis during its 2-2 home draw with Swansea.

New signing Asmir Begovic, whose first touch was to pick the ball out of the Chelsea net after Gomis had converted the resulting penalty, should make his full debut for the champions at Etihad Stadium.

And it promises to be a tight game. Though Chelsea lacked the rhythm that will come as the season progresses, Jose Mourinho's side still showed plenty of power and attacking intent against Swansea — particularly whenever Willian or Eden Hazard were on the ball.

With a nervous Manchester United needing an own goal by Kyle Walker to beat Tottenham,



Manchester City's Vincent Kompany

Manchester City was by far the most convincing of English football's Big Four with its 3-0 win at West Bromwich Albion.

When players like Yaya Toure, who scored twice at the Hawthorns, and David Silva are on the kind of form they showed yesterday, the 2012 and 2014 champions are an astonishingly good side.

Add the 49 million pounds

(USD76 million) paid to Liverpool for Raheem Sterling and the goalscoring talent of Sergio Agueiro, and it's not difficult to see the potential for a third league trophy in five seasons.

Or of an early title claim when Chelsea coming visiting on Sunday.

Given Courtois' automatic suspension, Chelsea fans will have

left Stamford Bridge on Saturday with even longer faces and even bigger regrets after Petr Cech was allowed to move to Arsenal.

About 24 hours later, those opinions may have been revised with the 33-year-old's calamitous league debut for his new club.

For a man who makes very few mistakes in a season, two blunders after less than an hour is certainly a worrying start, and was enough to consign Arsene Wenger's side to an embarrassing 2-0 home defeat to West Ham.

Arsenal had a good domestic season in 2014-15, finishing third in the league and winning a second consecutive FA Cup. The major disappointment came from a poor start — with just two wins from the opening eight league games — that effectively dashed any realistic hopes of winning the title.

So Sunday turned into precisely the kind of nightmare that Arsenal had been determined to avoid. And the extent to which it is already playing mind games can be gauged from the comments made

afterward by defender Per Mertesacker.

Looked at dispassionately, losing the first of 38 games means nothing.

Yet Mertesacker went so far as to describe Sunday's upset as "a massive loss", adding that "to start with a game like that is not good, but to bounce back is even more important now."

It's a far cry from the relative optimism that Louis van Gaal's new-look United should be taking to Aston Villa in the first of the season's Friday night fixtures.

With four new signings in the starting lineup and a fifth — Bastian Schweinsteiger — coming on in the second half, United should have looked pretty disjointed in the middle and vulnerable at the back against Tottenham.

Neither was the case.

It may not have been a slick performance, and there was more sideways passing than is usually welcomed by the Old Trafford faithful, but United looked a very sharp unit at times. **AP**

AD

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Teams of rowers from Italy, top, and the U.S., bottom

RIO 2016

Some US rowers fall ill at Olympics test event

Stephen Wade, Rio de Janeiro

THIRTEEN rowers on the 40-member U.S. team came down with stomach illness at the World Junior Rowing Championships — a trial run for next summer's Olympics — and the team doctor said she suspected it was due to pollution in the lake where the competition took place.

The event took place amid rising concerns about the water quality at venues for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, now less than a year away.

The Americans were by far the hardest hit at the regatta that concluded over the weekend, with reports of vomiting and diarrhea. Other teams in the competition reported some illnesses, according to World Rowing, the sport's governing body, but those were about as expected at an event that featured more than 500 young rowers.

On July 30, The Associated Press published an independent analysis of water quality that showed high levels of viruses and, in some cases, bacteria from human sewage in all of Rio's Olympic and Paralympic water venues, including the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, where the rowing competition took place.

U.S. coach Susan Francia, a two-time Olympic gold-medal rower, said in an interview with the AP that 13 athletes and four staff members — including herself — suffered various gas-

trointestinal symptoms during the team's two weeks of training in Rio.

Dr. Kathryn Ackerman, the U.S. team physician, said athletes from several other countries stayed in the same hotel as the Americans, but did not seem to get as sick as her rowers.

"I don't know if it was the water bottles in the boats, or hygiene precautions that some athletes are really good about and others weren't," she said.

Officials did not rule out that the Americans could have gotten ill from food or drinking water.

WHO has not and will not issue an 'official recommendation' on viral testing

ORGANIZERS

"We're not really sure. My personal feeling is, I think it's from the lake," Ackerman said.

Francia said she lacked the data and information to directly blame the illness on the venue, but added: "It just doesn't seem normal."

She warned athletes coming for the Olympics that "you should know when you're coming next year that you have to be smart about how you are preparing."

Francia said the U.S. team had taken precautions about competing in the polluted lake beneath Rio's picturesque Christ the Redeemer statue, "but

maybe we were not as strict in enforcing them as we should have been from the beginning."

"As soon as kids started going down, we were bleaching our handles, we were immediately washing hands after coming off the water," she said. "Other countries didn't allow water bottles at all. Other countries had water bottles in zip-locked bags."

US Rowing, which oversees the sport in the United States, said it is investigating what sickened the athletes, who range in age from 16-19. None are

likely to be Olympians next year.

Rowing officials will debrief the athletes when they return to the U.S., likely through the rest of the week. They will talk to the athletes, review protocols for cleanliness.

Ackerman said she became worried when one U.S. boat tipped over in the lake, although the athlete who got thrown into the water was not among those who became ill.

"Obviously we were all concerned because we know the water's polluted," she added.

A spokesman for the Rio organizing committee yesterday at-

tributed American team illnesses to "class travel symptoms" and said an event doctor treated eight Americans, three Britons and three Australians for symptoms including diarrhea.

The Americans' experience is almost certain to raise more concerns for the Olympics. About 10,500 athletes will attend the Summer Games, and 1,400 will participate in rowing, sailing, triathlon, canoeing and distance swimming in the waters around Rio.

"You don't want to see athletes in the boat-park vomiting," Francia said, recounting that the competitor she saw get sick was not an American. One of the U.S. rowers did faint in a dining area, she added.

The AP analysis of water began in March and was performed by noted Brazilian virologist Fernando Spilki, coordinator of the environmental quality program at Feevale University in southern Brazil. It showed dangerously high levels of viruses from sewage in all Olympic venues. The samples were checked for three types of human adenovirus, as well as rotavirus, enterovirus and fecal coliforms.

These are viruses that are known to cause digestive and respiratory illnesses, including explosive diarrhea and vomiting, but can also in rarer cases lead to more serious heart, brain and other diseases, such as hepatitis A.

The AP testing, which will continue through the Olympics, also checked for bacterial fecal coliforms — which at times during the study peaked at the Olympic lake to 10 times the acceptable limit for secondary contact per Brazilian regulations.

In two separate emailed statements following the AP study, the World Health Organization affirmed it was advising the International Olympic Committee "to widen the scientific base of

indicators to include viruses." The WHO underscored that it's actually up to the local Olympic organizing committee in Rio to order that viral testing be done.

However, in an emailed statement, the organization reversed course and said that "WHO has not and will not issue an 'official recommendation' on viral testing."

The local committee has not responded to repeated requests for information on whether it will order the viral testing.

Matt Smith, the head of World Rowing, said he wants the IOC and local organizers to ask the state of Rio de Janeiro to do viral testing in the run-up to the Olympics.

However, the Rio state environment agency does not have the equipment or the trained personnel to carry out viral testing of water, according to local virologists. The agency confirmed it only does bacterial testing, since that is all Brazilian law, like that of most nations including the U.S., demands.

Smith said the rowing, sailing, swimming, canoeing and triathlon federation could unite to test if the Rio state officials declined to.

"If they don't agree, or don't want to, we will discuss together what to do and probably finance our own test," Smith said.

Peter Sowrey, the CEO of sailing's world governing body ISAF, told AP he would seek independent testing for viruses "to understand exactly what we are dealing with."

Sailing will take place in Guanabara Bay, rowing and canoeing in Rodrigo de Freitas, and triathlon and swimming off Copacabana Beach.

Peter Cookson, the high-performance director for the Canadian team, said he had "absolutely no problems" at the regatta. But he had questions about risks.

"I'm not an expert in viruses. We've never encountered this," he said. "I'm struggling with what the right answer is to protect the rowers."

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes and IOC member Carlos Nuzman, who heads the local organizing committee, appeared at the venue over the weekend.

Paes, who has repeatedly acknowledged that Rio "missed an opportunity" to clean its waters for the Olympics, said he would follow the IOC's lead on viral testing.

"The IOC needs to tell us that we need to," he said. "The Brazilian law doesn't tell us to do that (viral testing). They just tell us to do the standards of the Brazilian law. And if the IOC wants it, we'll do it."

Swiss rower Katharina Strahl, noting that the lake was "smelly in a few places," was able to joke about the pollution.

"I don't think in this lake they'll be throwing the coxswain into the water," she said. **AP**

opinion

Views on China

James Mackintosh, Investment Editor, FT

WHY CHINA'S DEVALUATION MIGHT NOT TRIGGER A CURRENCY WAR

The Chinese were introduced to currency wars via a best-selling series of books by Hongbing Song during the financial crisis, but many observers concluded the country had finally entered the global foreign exchange battle after its devaluation yesterday.

On the face of it this is odd. By the standards of emerging market devaluations, the 1.9 per cent drop in the renminbi against the dollar barely even counts. The Brazilian real has tumbled by more on 10 days this year already. Furthermore, the People's Bank of China says it is a "one-time correction".

Currency traders see it differently. The fall is the biggest for the renminbi since its dirty float — its average daily change this year, in either direction, has been 0.06 per cent.

Traders think there is more to come. The freely-traded offshore renminbi dropped 2.8 per cent and the offshore 12-month non-deliverable forward plummeted 3.6 per cent.

There are solid fundamental reasons for China to devalue. The renminbi has strengthened dramatically in trade-weighted terms, as the euro, yen and emerging market currencies fell sharply against the dollar, but China maintained its partial peg. As the PBOC noted, adjusted for inflation, the renminbi's risen even more — 17 per cent since the start of last year in real trade-weighted terms, more than the dollar thanks to China's higher inflation.

With a slower economy and a stock market crash, China has eased monetary policy a lot this year. Yet before the devaluation, the renminbi was barely weaker than at the start of January.

Until yesterday, the PBOC's daily fixing had been helping to keep the currency stronger, consistently setting more than 1 per cent above the market rate (it can move in a 2 per cent band around the fix). Its new approach to setting the fix remains obscure, but if it has more of a "market orientation", as it suggests, market pressure could see the currency weaken further.

However, there are reasons for doubt that more devaluations will follow. China has sophisticated policymakers, notwithstanding the chaos of its misguided efforts to shore up shares. If China really wanted a weaker currency, it would surely recognise that a big one-off move of 20 per cent or so, the amount the yen has dropped in the past 18 months, would be better than a drip-feed of small cuts.

Equally, China is fixated on qualifying for reserve currency status by entering the International Monetary Fund's basket of "special drawing rights", alongside the dollar, euro, yen and sterling. The IMF has delayed a decision until September next year to give China time to ease restrictions on the renminbi. Yesterday's devaluation was supposedly part of the reform process, but if it turned out not to be a one-off it would not help the renminbi be accepted.

Traders might be proved right that the renminbi will fall further against the dollar, simply because further liberalisation of the currency would allow it to react properly to looser domestic monetary policy and slower growth. But those worrying that yesterday's devaluation is a precursor of drastic weakening ahead, exporting deflation to the rest of the world, are probably going too far.

MDT/Financial Times

THE BUZZ HONG KONG POLICE ARREST 5 UBER DRIVERS, SEARCH OFFICE

Hong Kong police arrested five Uber drivers and searched the ride-hailing app's office in the Asian financial center.

Police said yesterday that officers posing as customers arrested the five drivers in an operation aimed at combating illegal taxis. Police said in a statement that the five men were suspected of illegally carrying passen-

gers and driving without insurance.

Police did not name Uber Technologies but local Cable TV news showed officers inside the company's Hong Kong office and said they took away computers and documents.

In a statement, Uber said it stands by its drivers "100 percent."

HONG KONG

Gucci spars with landlords as mainland demand slumps

Frederik Balfour and Annie Lee

LANDLORDS on Hong Kong's Russell Street a year ago could boast the highest retail rents in the world. Now they are adjusting to a new reality.

Burberry Group Plc, Kering SA and jewelry retailer Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. are pushing landlords to lower rents on existing properties as luxury brands are scaling back amid plummeting sales. TAG Heuer closed its Russell Street store last week, citing high rents and declining traffic.

Luxury retail sales have plunged amid China's economic slowdown and President Xi Jinping's austerity and anti-corruption campaigns, causing Hong Kong to relinquish the top spot to New York's Fifth Avenue in November and spurring the biggest drop in retail rents this year since 2009. Also contributing to slack demand are a weaker yen and euro, prompting Chinese tourists to favor Japan and France over Hong Kong, said Helen Mak, senior director of research at Colliers International.

"Unavoidably rents will trend down," says Marcos Chan, head of research for Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan at CBRE Group Inc. "We don't see any reason why retail will quickly see a rebound any time soon."



A pedestrian walks past a Prince Jewellery & Watch Co. store on Russell Street in Causeway Bay

Jewelry, watches, clocks and valuable gifts sales fell 15.9 percent in the year ending June, according to Hong Kong Retail Management Association statistics.

In a July research report, Jones Lange LaSalle Inc. predicted high-street rents will drop 15 percent to 20 percent this year. That's a far more bearish scenario than the 5 percent drop the company was forecasting at the end of last year.

Ground zero of the downturn is Russell Street, a mere block and a half long in the heart of the Causeway Bay retail district, lined with shops selling Montblanc pens, Omega watches and Swarovsky jewelry. Average monthly rents in the area fell 10.4 percent in the first half, according to Colliers.

Kering, the owner of the

Gucci brand, has warned that it may close some of its shops in Hong Kong if rental costs don't come down.

"Many landlords have not necessarily understood that the markets have changed," Kering Chief Financial Officer Jean-Marc Duplaix said on a conference call with analysts in July.

Russell Street's two largest landlords are Emperor International Holdings Ltd. and Soundwill Holdings Ltd.. A spokeswoman for Soundwill, whose tenants include Burberry and a Rado shop which is moving into the spot vacated by TAG Heuer, declined to provide rental figures.

While luxury retailers are slowing down their pace of expansion, some mid-market shops are looking to expand and may be able to find more affordable options, CBRE's Chan said in a Bloomberg Television interview yesterday.

"We see landlords are willing to negotiate with the retailers, a trend which did not happen in the past few years," he said.

Street-level landlords in Central on Hong Kong Island, and across the harbor in Kowloon neighborhoods that cater heavily to mainland shoppers, are also feeling the pinch. Average rents fell 15 percent in Tsim Sha Tsui in the first half, Colliers said. Bloomberg

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Photo by Peter Barreras/Invision/AP



Wax selfie. Grammy award-winning singer Sam Smith, right (!), takes a selfie with his wax figure likeness during an unveiling ceremony at Madame Tussauds in San Francisco, this week.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

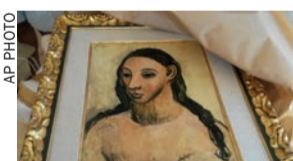
INDONESIA's top development official says the government is studying proposals from China and Japan to build a high-speed rail line and expects to announce the outcome later this month. More on p12

USA Two more people in the New York City borough of the Bronx have died of Legionnaires' disease, bringing the death toll to 12 in the largest outbreak of the disease in New York City history, officials said yesterday.



USA Local officials in towns downstream from where millions of gallons of mine waste spilled into a southwest Colorado river are demanding answers about possible long-term threats to the water supply. Colorado and New Mexico declared stretches of the Animas and San Juan rivers to be disaster areas as the orange-colored waste stream made its way downstream toward Lake Powell in Utah after the spill Wednesday at the abandoned Gold King mine near Silverton, Colorado.

GREECE Fights break out among migrants on the Greek island of Kos, where overwhelmed authorities are struggling to contain increasing numbers of people arriving clandestinely on rubber dinghies from the nearby Turkish shore.



SPAIN A team of Spanish police experts flew to the French island of Corsica yesterday to retrieve a masterpiece by Pablo Picasso that was smuggled out of Spain, where it is considered a national treasure. A spokesman for Spain's Civil Guard said four police experts in national heritage and several Culture Ministry officials flew to recover the painting, "Head of a Young Woman," which is valued at 24 million euros (USD26 million). The work is owned by Spanish banker Jaime Botin, brother of the late Emilio Botin, former head of the Santander banking group.

SYRIA The head of the World Food Program tells The Associated Press there will likely be more cuts in food aid for desperate Syrian refugees because the U.N. agency's funding outlook is "bleak."