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PJ raided five jewelry and telecommunications stores in NAPE Monday noontime making 17 detentions

P5



CHINESE MARKETS CRASH AGAIN IN BIGGEST COLLAPSE IN 20 YEARS

P10,11



ASHLEY MADISON HACK MAY HAVE LED TO SUICIDES
2 individuals associated with the leak of Ashley Madison customer details are reported to have taken their lives, according to Canadian police

P15

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WORLD BRIEFS



USA-CHINA Republican Scott Walker says President Barack Obama needs to have some "backbone" and cancel a planned official state visit next month by the president of China. The Wisconsin governor and 2016 presidential candidate said yesterday the planned visit of Xi Jinping should be canceled in light of the U.S. stock market's tumble, which Walker says was driven by China's manipulation of their economy.

USA-CHINA National Security Adviser Susan Rice is headed for China to help lay the groundwork for President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington next month. The White House said yesterday that Rice will meet with senior Chinese officials including State Councilor Yang Jiechi on a range of issues that affect the two nations, regional dynamics and global matters.

JAPAN A powerful typhoon damages buildings, tosses around cars and floods streets in southwestern Japan before heading out to the Sea of Japan. No deaths were reported, but at least 26 people were injured.

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FITCH REPORT

'Proximity to mainland' hinders drive to diversify

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Fiscal reserves suffer losses in stock market turmoil

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FITCH REPORT

Macau's drive for diversification faces uphill climb

Alex Bumazhny, Fitch Ratings

GAMING in Macau has received increased attention in recent months due to its sudden decline after years of meteoric gains. The shrinking gaming revenue base and about USD20 billion in new resort development has led to talk by some that it could in time become a better rounded destination and perhaps catch up to Las Vegas in terms of non-gaming offerings.

The Macanese government, with a prod from mainland China, has made a priority to diversify its economy away from gambling by broadening its appeal as a travel destination. However, when setting benchmarks and goals Macau's officials need to be cognizant of Macau's supersized gaming revenues, in part inflated by the VIP commissions, and the high 39% gaming tax rate that will make catching up to the Las Vegas Strip's non-gaming mix difficult if not impossible.

The Las Vegas Strip, with its nightclubs, shows, conventions and celebrity chef restaurants, is the poster child of diversification. In 2014, 63% of its revenues came from non-gaming activities. By contrast, Fitch estimates that Macau's non-gaming activities accounted for less than 10% of the resort gross revenues.

Why? For one, Macau's oft-cited handicaps such as the lack of a world class airport and shortage of hotel rooms and



■ In 2014, 63% of [Vegas] revenues came from non-gaming [...] Fitch estimates that Macau's non-gaming activities accounted for less than 10% of resorts' gross revenues

meeting space to handle large scale conventions are partly to blame. However, these factors explain only a part of the story and will to a large extent get re-

mediated soon. A bridge is being built that will connect Macau to Hong Kong's airport and the resort expansions being built in the Cotai area of Macau will add nearly 12,000 rooms, a 50% increase, and other non-gaming amenities.

But the biggest impediment to diversification for Macau may be what casino operators and investors consider its main strength – its proximity to China, where gambling is otherwise forbidden. High speed rail and hydrofoil ferries help bring in over 65,000 Hong Kong and Chinese visitors each day, many staying just for a day. To meet the insatiable demand for gambling Macau packs over 5,800 gaming tables on less than 12 square miles of tropical hills and landfill. And even amid the current slowdown, each table game generates more than \$12,000 per day, more than double the most productive Las Vegas Strip casinos. This strong

gambling demand tends to shrink the non-gaming aspects as percentage of the whole pie and price out more casual gamblers and non-gamblers.

More than half of Macau's gross gaming revenues come from the "VIP" players. These players are often brought to the casinos by junket agents, which provide credit and act as hosts to the players. The casinos pay commission for this business – about 40% of the players' theoretical win – most of which goes to the players. Macau's reported gaming revenues are gross of these commissions and Fitch estimates that net gaming revenues are roughly 15% lower. While Macau casinos may spend thousands flying in and pampering a VIP player, the cash value of the perks typically pales in comparison to the theoretical gross gaming revenue generated.

Premium mass players, a step down from VIP, are mainly di-

fferentiated from VIP in that they do not require credit, deal directly with the casino and may get a slightly less of a royal treatment. Las Vegas Sands, the leader in Macau's mass segment, allocates about 20% of its tables to premium mass and generates about \$15,000 each day off these tables. Perks for this segment is a more meaningful relative to the gaming revenues – Fitch estimates roughly 10%-20% of gaming revenues.

In addition to its restrained table and hotel room capacity, Macau's high 39% gaming tax rate makes it less enticing to market to more casual gamblers – the "base" mass. Nevada's gaming tax rate is 7%, which means that a Las Vegas Strip operator, all else being equal, can reinvest additional 32% of the player's theoretical win into the player in form of comps relative to Macau without sacrificing margin. A customer that may look barely profitable in Macau is a lot more attractive to a Las Vegas casino. Las Vegas Strip's 63% non-gaming mix includes 10% of free giveaways, or about \$1.5 billion worth of rooms, food and beverage.

Conclusion: To be sure, Macau's non-gaming mix will improve. Gaming revenues are on track to decline about 40% from the peak during the current slowdown. Vegas-style attractions such as a performance lake, an Eiffel Tower replica and a Ferris wheel are now under construction in Macau and will attract cash paying customers that will have the additional rooms to stay at. That said the Las Vegas Strip is an unfair rival in terms of non-gaming mix. In a nation where 41 out of 50 states now have casino gambling, the Vegas Strip is still very much the face of the sector and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future.

Courtesy thewhyforum.com

THE Government Information Bureau (GCS) yesterday distributed the following note on behalf of the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) to the media:

"In accordance with the recommendations advocated by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on cross border regulatory cooperation, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) and the People's Bank of China

Monetary Authority announces pact with PBOC Tuesday

(PBOC) entered into the "Memorandum of Understanding on Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing" ("MoU"). The AMCM and the PBOC, in line with the relevant laws and regula-

tions of the Macao SAR and the Mainland respectively, as well as the standards of the FATF, shall strengthen the exchange of regulatory information and the cooperation in the relevant aspects of

supervision."

In the short, laconic communiqué, the AMCM said it "has been exerting efforts in enforcing the prevention of activities of money laundering and terrorist financing. The

implementation of the MoU shall further enhance and strengthen the management of the prevailing supervisory system to prevent the activities of money laundering and terrorist financing in the

financial sector of the Macao SAR."

No further details were disclosed. The MoU was first disclosed discretely and unilaterally late last Friday on the official website of the PBOC. Macau Daily Times and other media reported on the pact, raising issues about the legitimacy of the AMCM to disclose personal sensitive data to an entity from an alien jurisdiction.

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THE Macau government's stock investment made with public fiscal reserves – accounting for 11.8 percent of the overall portfolio – has recorded losses due to the recent stock market turmoil.

The Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance issued a statement yesterday explaining that Macau's banking system and currency market still remained stable. It pledged that the MSAR government would spare no effort to ensure the stability of the territory's financial system as well as paying close attention to local banks' asset quality and the financial market dynamics outside.

Despite the current book loss, the authorities estimate the fiscal reserve investment to record positive returns for the entire year. However, its annual performance will still depend on financial market conditions at year-end.

According to the Office, overall stock investments accounted for 11.8 percent in the government's fiscal reserve

BLACK MONDAY**Fiscal reserves suffer stock market turmoil losses**

investment portfolio. Of the total stock investment amount of MOP41.3 billion, MOP13.5 billion was invested in the mainland and Hong Kong stock markets, which accounts for 32.8 percent of the stock portfolio and 3.8 percent of the overall investment portfolio.

The Macau authorities are unconcerned by the recent stock market dives in the mainland and Hong Kong, as the local economy and trade are closely linked to the neighboring regions' financial dynamics.

Citing a series of indicators on the local banking system and money market, the Finance authorities said these sectors were spared from direct impact by the external stock

turmoil; instead, they have remained in steady conditions under "rigorous risk management" and "effective currency peg."

"When it is needed, the MSAR government will also take all necessary measures to maintain Macau's financial system at stable and operating normally," stressed the Office. Meanwhile, it appealed to local residents to pay attention to market risks and risk management when investing in stocks. "As of the end of December, 2014, Macau residents held over MOP200 billion in overseas securities, which has been the major means of financial investment for local residents," it indicated. **BY**

CORRUPTION**US trade union points mainland graft officials to local junket-linked companies**

U.S.-BASED trade union, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), yesterday sent a second communication to Wang Qishan, head of the CCP's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), highlighting financial enterprises with opaque ties to the Macau junket operator "Neptune", according to an email from Macau Gaming Watch.

As detailed in the press release, the financial companies, a Hong Kong-based firm called "Royal Bullion" and its wholly-owned subsidiary in Shenzhen, named "Goldman Sachs (Shenzhen) Financial Leasing", are controlled by family members of Cheung Chi Tai.

Furthermore, the release explains how public records show that Mr. Cheung and his family have had numerous ties to the "Neptune" gambling operation in Macau. According to the Wall Street Journal, Mr. Cheung has historically been "one of the biggest shareholders" in the VIP operator Neptune Guangdong Group, which has claimed interest in as many as 15 high roller clubs in the city.



Based on the IUOE's research findings, Mr. Cheung's relatives Cheung Chun Pong and Ng Chor Yam established the precious metals trading company "Royal Bullion" in Hong Kong in September 2009. Royal Bullion advertises itself as a "strategic partner" with the VIP gaming enterprise Neptune Guangdong Group and the Hong Kong listed junket investor Neptune Group. Royal Bullion later set up a wholly owned foreign subsidiary, "Goldman Sachs (Shenzhen) Financial Leasing", across the border in Shenzhen which claims to be the city's largest foreign financial leasing company.

In the release, IUOE

spokesperson Jeff Fiedler noted, "First of all, we do not believe this Shenzhen-based firm set up by the Cheung family has any relationship whatsoever with the New York financial institution Goldman Sachs." "That said," he continued, "these enterprises appear to be yet another access point for the Cheung family's involvement in the Neptune gambling operation."

Mr Fiedler went on to say, "It is these types of ancillary financial institutions, operating on both sides of the border and working in tandem with Macau's junkets, that we are highlighting for the Party's Discipline Inspection agency."

Gaming group appeals for making cash handout routine

MEMBERS from the Power of the Macao Gaming Association were at government headquarters yesterday morning as they petitioned authorities to guarantee implementation of the annual Macau Wealth Partaking Scheme next year.

After submitting their plea to a government representative, the nine petitioners, clad in their association jackets, told media that the cash handout scheme was "essential" to grassroots communities, calling it a "rudimentary measure favorable to citizens" in spite of the shrinking gaming revenue.

"At the moment, we still have an average gaming income of MOP20 billion, which means the cash handout could still be possible next year," said Stephen Lau, the association's general meeting chairman.

Citing a hypothetical example of a four-member family that can receive a total of MOP36,000 based on this year's scheme, granting MOP9,000 per permanent resident, Lau said that it could be hard for some households to save up such a sum.

The money is also vital to low-income families that fail to qualify for other subsidies provided by the government, the chairman said.

Mainland scholars have previously criticized the after-effects of the scheme, claiming that reliance on the policy for income could make its beneficiaries "slithful." Lau responded that cash recipients who deny the scheme's significance might donate



A group member hands over petition to a gov't official

their grants to the needy, instead of calling for an end to the policy.

In June, Executive Council spokesman Leong Heng Teng expressed the authorities' intention to collect public opinions concerning turning the cash distribution into an ongoing policy. Before such a move eventuates, Lau believes that the region's leader should make the policy routine each year. "Before he makes the scheme constant, we hope the CE can keep that scheme ongoing every year," he said, "because many citizens here don't necessarily share the economic fruits of the gaming industry."

In July, Chief executive Chui Sai On said that he wished to see the economic fruit be shared among citizens. This year's cash handout cost the authorities around 5.83 billion, with over 670,000 citizens benefiting from what most dub as "candy giving."

Staff reporter

RESEARCH

UM to get 4 million yuan from China's Science Foundation

THE University of Macau's (UM) Zhuhai Research Institute (UMZRI) will receive a total of RMB4 million in funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) for ten research projects, according to the results of grant applications for the year 2015 recently released by the NSFC.



According to an official press release, this year, UM submitted funding applications to the NSFC for 38 research projects. "It is encouraging news that over 26% of them, or ten applications, have been approved."

The ten funded research projects are respectively headed by Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) Chair Professor Philip Chen; FST professors Li Yangmin and Zhu Lei; FST associate professors Zhou Wanhuan and Xu Qingsong; FST assistant professors Dr U Leong Hou and Dr Xu Lihu; as well as Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences (ICMS) assistant professors Dr Lu Jiahong, Dr Wan Jianbo, and Dr Wang Chunming. Five of the projects, namely 'Ergodicity of Sto-

chastic Partial Differential Equations Driven by Degenerate Jump Processes', 'Design and Control of Fully Compliant 3-DOF Constant-Force Micropositioning Stage for Cell Microinjection with Minimal Damage', 'Design Theory and Dynamic Hysteresis Nonlinear Control Method Studies for a 6-DOF Micro Manipulation Stage Based on Hybrid Giant Magnetostrictive and Piezoelectric Actuators', 'Wideband Antennas on Multi-Mode Radiator: Theory and Approach', and 'Evolutionary Computation Based Deep Learning Techniques

for Disease Prevention and Control', have been selected by the NSFC as some of this year's General Programmes.

The note further stated that the other five projects, namely 'Shearing Behavior and Multiscale Constitutive Modeling of Silty Sand-Structure Interface', 'Reviewer Assignment Algorithm Design and Analysis', 'The Role and Mechanism of Beclin 1-VPS34 Complex in Regulating Intra-neuronal Aβ Homeostasis', 'An Injectable, in Situ-forming Glucosaminan Biomaterial for Periodontal Tissue Regeneration', and 'Anti-atherosclerotic Effects of 20(S)-protopanaxatriol and 20(S)-protopanaxadiol Saponins from Panax Notoginseng', "stood out in the category which the NSFC has established specially for young scholars under the age of 35."

Founded in 1986, the NSFC aims to encourage innovative scientific research and to promote balanced, coordinated, and sustainable development of various academic disciplines by awarding research grants to outstanding research projects in China on an annual basis.

UN holds high-level strategy forum in town for South-South cooperation

THE United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) is holding a high-level, multi-stakeholder strategy forum in Macau.

Kicking off yesterday, the two-day gathering focuses on scaling up global support for South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Forum aims to review and strategically align existing instruments and new approaches with partnerships and networks. Ideally, this will go toward building an institutional alliance of the Global South to address global and regional challenges.

Representatives and diplomats from over 70 countries and regions – such as Cambodia and Bangladesh – have assembled at the forum, along with

officials from the UN General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. They will not only review the major decisions and actions needed for a long-term South-South vision and strategic framework, but will also examine the efficacy of the existing multilateral South-South advocacy, financing and operational support architecture.

The Chinese Liaison Office's representative, Shi Xuelin, cited China's president, Xi Jinping, in his address, stating that China is firmly pushing for cooperation between Asian and African countries. He said that holding the forum in Macau is of great significance, as the city plays an important role in developing international cooperation by directly participating in the "Belt and Road" initiatives. **BY**

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BLOOMBERG



Police bust ring illegally profiteering UnionPay cards

started operating last May. The rackets compromised the Hong Kong branch of China UnionPay with a HKD710,000 loss.

Of the suspects - who range from 24 to 55 in age and will be sent to the Public Prosecutions Office today - nine were from the mainland, while the rest are locals. Authorities said that the abovementioned stores were owned by a group of men comprising three locals and one mainlander. One of the jewelry firms was found to be unlicensed during the raid.

The four masterminds behind the operation hired five locals and three mainland Chinese as assistants, while employing another five mainlanders to hunt for potential clients in casinos, the majority of whom were also from across the border. Those hunters were rewarded after each transaction with an amount ranging from MOP50 to 300, which was subject to the clients' individual withdrawal.

According to the authorities, some of the seized terminals

were set up to alter the transaction location to the mainland instead of Macau, as Chinese terminals allow a far lower handling fee rate than Macau ones; through doing this, their aim was to reap gains from the rate disparity. A further inquiry is currently underway to see if any other accomplices are involved.

In another case, details of which were also released yesterday, PJ officers caught three members of a mainland drug-trafficking ring selling drugs to nightclub-goers.

Following information provi-

ded by their source, the authorities' agents targeted the suspects, monitoring two of them who had checked into a hotel in Cotai a few days ago. The pair met with the other suspect Monday noontime in their room. The investigators intercepted the suspects when they left the room at night and found them to be in possession of drugs worth a market value of MOP750,000.

The authorities also believed that the ring has been operating for half a year and has held remote control sales throughout the territory. **Staff reporter**

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) raided five jewelry and telecommunications stores in NAPE at noon on Monday. They apprehended 17 people, allegedly in connection to illegal cash withdrawals through UnionPay cards on rigged point-of-sale (POS) terminals.

Earlier, the authorities had received a tip-off from a source about the illicit activities and, after investigation, they eventually descended on the pinpointed stores. The investigators seized

11 POS terminals, several cash-counter machines, along with numerous transaction accounts and receipts on site. Around MOP13.5 million cash denominated in MOP, HKD and RMB was also recovered.

A PJ spokesperson revealed yesterday in a media briefing that 4,549 deals had been made to date, totaling MOP354.7 million. These takings have been accumulating since the longest-running illegal activity branch in one of the five firms

MAN FALLS FOR BANK ACCOUNT HACK THROUGH UNKNOWN APP

A MAN has lost RMB6,350 after receiving a text leading him to download an application, which he later found to be non-removable, except via factory reset. The message was said to contain a link for perusing his daughter's past academic records. The ap-

plication that was automatically installed on his phone after he clicked on the link failed to function. Moments later, the victim received other messages saying money had been transferred from his bank account to an unknown account.

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SPORTS

34th International Marathon to allow 2,000 more entrants

Brook Yang

THE annual Macau International Marathon is scheduled to return on December 6 this year, with new passing points, along with two thousand more runners, to be added to the routes.

In light of increasing demand from athletes hoping to participate in the event, the organizer has decided to raise the participant limit to 8,000. The president of the Macao Sport Development Board, José Tavares, assured media at a press conference yesterday that the increase in runners would not cause problems on the track, as course routes have been carefully adjusted after thorough consideration.

"Of course, there are many construction works underway along the track, and many vehicles. We will add further new attractions when the Light Rail Transit construction has been completed," he said.

According to the chairman of the General Association of Athletics of Macau, Ma Iao Hang, registration for the past several editions of the marathon has also filled to capacity prior to

PHOTO ARCHIVE



the application deadline.

"With society becoming more aware of living quality and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, more and more long-distance runners have emerged," said Mr Ma. "This international track competition event in Macau, after over three decades' worth of effort and improvement, has become an event in which both domestic and overseas runners desire to participate."

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the induction of the city's historic center into the UNESCO World Heritage list, this year's marathon and half marathon courses will specially inclu-

de the heritage-listed A Ma Temple. Moreover, runners will enter the underwater tunnel in Cotai to reach the University of Macau's Hengqin Campus for the first time.

"And in the afternoon of the same day, the city will stage the 'Parade through Macao, Latin City,' where the athletes – apart from enjoying the competition – can experience Macau's unique combination of tourism, culture and sports," said Tavares.

The marathon, half marathon and "mini-marathon" courses will start from the Macau Stadium between 6 a.m. and 6.15 a.m. Runners on the marathon and half marathon courses are required to run across the Sai Van Bridge and complete routes that span from the A Ma Temple on the Macau Peninsula to the Cotai Strip.

Champions and new record-holders will be offered cash prizes totaling MOP1.496 million. To ensure smooth operation of the event, the organizer has also increased the number of assisting personnel from 700 to 1,000. In addition, training sessions will be organized in order to help the public participating prepare for the courses in the correct manner.

Visitor spending plunges compared to last year

THE latest figures from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) show that inbound visitors last quarter spent 24.7 percent less than they did in the equivalent period last year, amounting to MOP12.25 billion in total.

The decline in outgoings, exclusive of gaming expenditure, also suggests an 8.3 percent dip from MOP 13.36 billion in the first quarter of the year. Overnight tourists' spending reached MOP9.58 billion, which slid by 30.4 percent year on year, while that of same-day visitors spiked 7.3 percent to MOP2.67 billion.

As suggested by the statistics, shopping dominates visitors' spending, followed by accommodation and food and beverages. Local food, cosmetics and perfume remain the most desirable among buyers. Their satisfaction about local facilities, tourist attractions and services grew quarter to quarter, yet fell when it came to transport service.

The average spending for individuals was MOP1,668, which slipped 22.1 percent from that of last year, or 7.4 percent quarter to quarter. Mainland Chinese visitors' spending fell by 24.3 percent year-on-year to MOP 2,012, while similar falls were also recorded among Singaporean, Japanese and Malaysian tourists. The data also show that shoppers from Taiwan and Hong Kong likewise spent less on average.

The region only saw a hike in spending by tourists from the United Kingdom, with a 3.5 percent year-on-year increase registered.

AD

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Shining Virtuosos

ZHANG HAOCHEN

Zhang Haochen and Macao Orchestra
2015-16 Season Opening Concert

Piano Zhang Haochen

04 / 09 / 2015
8pm Friday

Venue
Macao Tower Auditorium

Conductor
Francis Kan

Programme
Bruckner: Overture in G minor, WAB 98
Liszt: Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, S.124
Bruckner: Symphony No. 6 in A Major, WAB 106

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MOP 350 / 300 / 200 / 100

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Warner Bros. in talks to make films in China with local partner

Yi Zhu

WARNER Bros. is in talks with an investment house in China to begin producing films locally as the Hollywood studio tries to stake out a spot in the world's fastest-growing major movie market.

The studio behind the impending "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" is in discussions to set up a joint venture with China Media Capital, Wu Jiaming, a spokesman for the state-backed investment fund, said in a telephone interview. Time Warner and the Shanghai-based firm agreed in 2013 to partner on investments in the local media sector.

Time Warner Inc.'s Warner Bros. and other Hollywood studios are seeking to expand in a country that is expected to become the world's biggest market for film entertainment, even as its economy is slowing. Last year, box office receipts surged 34 percent to USD4.8 billion, while the U.S./Canada



Chinese filmgoers wearing 3D glasses watch a movie at a cinema in Shijiazhuang city, north China's Hebei province

total shrank 5 percent to \$10.4 billion.

"China Media Capital is indeed seeking a joint venture with Time Warner," said Wu, who is also a trustee at the private equity firm. "Everything is going on smoothly, but we can't reveal more details at the moment."

Warner Bros. spokesman Paul

McGuire declined to comment. The Wall Street Journal first reported on the talks Tuesday.

In 2014, Chairman Li Rui-gang said China Media Capital was raising money from investors including WPP Plc, Time Warner and SoftBank Group to invest in Chinese media and entertainment companies.

The investment firm started in

2009 with an initial fund size of 5 billion yuan (\$780 million) from investors including China Development Bank Corp. The U.S. dollar fund's investors included Crown Resorts Ltd. Chairman James Packer and Yahoo! Inc. co-founder Jerry Yang, Li said at the time.

Chinese box office receipts for February passed those of the

U.S. for the first time. Powered by the Lunar New Year holiday, the take hit \$650 million, just edging out the U.S.'s \$640 million, according to Chinese research firm ENT Group.

Local authorities maintain a tight grip on the industry, which is dominated by domestic production houses and theater chains like Wang Jianlin's Wanda Group and Huayi Brothers.

Industry regulators ensure that Chinese movies make up about 55 percent of the annual box office. Producing films on local turf may allow Hollywood studios to get around annual quotas on movie imports.

Warner Bros.' potential Chinese foray marks its latest attempt to crack the market. It first teamed up with the China Film Group on production in 2004, when the domestic market was relatively underdeveloped.

The U.S. studio's effort comes as major Chinese companies like Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. are increasingly bankrolling Chinese and U.S. films, such as the latest installment of Tom Cruise's Mission Impossible franchise.

China Media Capital also has a venture with DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc., which is producing "Kung Fu Panda 3." **Bloomberg**

Russia removes foreign detergent, washing powder from shops

RUSSIAN authorities have begun to remove foreign brands of detergent and washing powder from stores, claiming that they pose health risks. The Consumer Protection Agency said in a statement yesterday that recent inspections of selected goods by top

foreign brands such as Colgate-Palmolive and Procter & Gamble have found high levels of toxic ingredients. Moscow extended its ban earlier this month on selected food imports from the EU and other countries. Russia, however, has not banned the imports

of detergent and washing liquid and most of the producers mentioned by the agency have production facilities in Russia. The companies listed by the consumer protection agency have not immediately reacted to the allegations.



Foreign-branded detergents are seen on the shelves of a hardware store in Moscow

corporate bits

LOUIS XIII SENDS MACAU RECRUITS TO PARIS FOR BUTLER TRAINING



Louis XIII Holdings Limited arranged a specialized training session for its butlers with MCM Palace

Consultants in Paris, where they were extensively trained in service, etiquette and entertaining. Louis XIII

offered this opportunity to Macau citizens to develop their professional skills to world level.

"All Louis XIII team members are part of creating a refined and remarkable experience for our guests and we are going to exceptional lengths to ensure staff have the highest skills and expertise required. The butler training in Paris is an example of our pledge and commitment to the development of our valued staff, which is an essential and integral part of creating, from Macau, one of the world's leading luxury brands," said Mr. Stephen Hung, Joint Chairman of Louis XIII. "We want to redefine what a luxury

experience means to our guests - while also transforming the aspirations of the Macau citizens who make these experiences happen".

Louis XIII's butlers will receive additional training by the Guild of Professional English Butlers. Successful graduates of this program, tailored for Louis XIII, will be awarded Associate Membership of the Guild.

Ms. Emily Chan, one of the butlers who attended the training in Paris said, "I am impressed by the unparalleled level of training Louis XIII provided throughout, from the smallest detail such as the greeting of guests, to learning specialty knowledge like wine pairing and the skill of anticipating guests' needs. I am confident that



future Louis XIII guests will be equally impressed by our refined services."

Louis XIII is developing a new ultra-luxury lifestyle

destination on Macau's Cotai Strip. The property is still under development and is slated to open in the summer of 2016.

Mainland groups in Portugal lose over USD115 billion in market capitalization



CHINESE groups that have invested in Portugal in the last several years have seen their market capitalization lose more than 100 billion euros (USD115 billion) since the most recent devaluation of the yuan and subsequent downturn in stock markets, reports the Portuguese newspaper Diário Económico.

Fosun International has performed worst in relative terms, depreciating by 29.8 percent on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. In Portugal it controls the Fidelidade (insurance), Luz Saúde (health) and Redes Energéticas Nacionais (energy) companies.

Figures compiled by the newspaper and then adjusted to euros indicate that Fosun International lost 4.9 billion euros and is now worth 9.8 billion

euros.

In absolute terms, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) has lost the most. Although the relative loss (-12.15 percent in local currency) is less, it accounts for 54 billion of the 105.9 billion euros lost from those groups' capitalisation in August; it is now worth 194.3 billion euros.

During this period Beijing Enterprises Water (acquired Compagnie Général des Eaux Portugal in 2013) and the Bank of China have also posted losses above 12 percent.

Bank of China, which like ICBC is represented in Portugal, has lost 37.5 billion euros, while Beijing Enterprises Water saw nearly a billion euros disappear.

Haitong, which according to Banco Espírito Santo de Investimento, has suffered the third most significant relative loss, -22.61 percent, falling 8.7 billion euros to 17.9 billion euros.

The 105.9 billion lost by the aforementioned companies due to the current economic situation does not include figures from Anbang (Novo Banco), China Three Gorges (EDP) and State Grid (REN) because they are not quoted on the stock exchange. **MDT/Macauhub**

AFRICA

Angola ranks eighth with most Chinese investments

ANGOLA is the eight-ranking African country with the most Chinese investments, 189, on a list topped by Nigeria with 404, indicates a compilation by the Brookings Institution in the USA, based on official figures.

The 30-page document "Why is China investing in Africa? Evidence from the firm level" by Wenjie Chen, David Dollar and Heiwai Tang analyses investment by more than 2,000 Chinese companies in 49 African countries. It reveals that most Chinese investment projects in Africa have been channelled to the service sector, with a significant number also in the area of industry.

Exponential growth of China's investments in Africa has also led to changing perceptions of the country.

The authors cite figures from "Pew Global Attitudes", published by the Pew research and polling institute, to state that "African respondents have a more significant positive view of China (70 percent) than in Europe (41 percent), Asia (57 percent) and Latin America (57 percent), which probably reflects the positive impact of China's contribution to African growth."

Regarding the Portuguese language countries, the study only refers to the number of investments in Angola, Mozambique, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) and São Tomé and Príncipe. Angola heads that list, with 189 projects involving 80 companies, followed by Mozambique (94 companies), Cabo Verde (2) and São Tomé and Príncipe (1). **MDT/Macauhub**

AD

Rotary

District 3450



Hong Kong / Macao / Mongolia /
The People's Republic of China -
Guangdong Province

ABOUT ROTARY

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.



ABOUT ROTARY IN DISTRICT 3450

Rotary International District 3450 is part of Rotary International. It consists of 77 Rotary Clubs with over 2,000 Rotarians, 64 Rotaract Clubs with over 4,000 members, 63 Interact Clubs with over 2,800 members and 7 Rotary Community Corps with 150 members located in Hong Kong, Macao, Mongolia and The People's Republic of China - Guangdong Province.

There are 6 Rotary Clubs in Macao -

- Rotary Club of Macau chartered in 1947
- Rotary Club of Hou Kuong chartered in 1978
- Rotary Club of Macau Central chartered in 1984
- Rotary Club of Guia chartered in 1993
- Rotary Club of Macau Islands chartered in 1997
- Rotary Club of Amizade, Macao chartered in 2013

ROTARY AND POLIO ERADICATION

Rotary launched its polio immunization program PolioPlus in 1985, and in 1988 Rotary became a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, joined by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and later, by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Rotary members have since contributed more than USD 1.2 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than two billion children in 122 countries from polio. Since then, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 cases a year to only 416 for all of 2013.



Rotary's main responsibilities within the initiative are fundraising, advocacy, and social mobilization. Through 2018, every new dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation up to \$35 million a year.

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ric@rotary3450.org

or check out our District website:

www.rotary3450.org

How the mainland's tremors could weaken the world's major economies

Paul Wiseman and David McHugh,
Business Writers

CHINA is exporting something new to the world economy: Fear.

Global investors are quaking over the prospect of a devastating slump in the world's second-biggest economy. And they're fast losing confidence that China's policymakers, seemingly so sure-footed in the past, know how to solve the problem.

The worst-case scenario is that a collapsing Chinese economy would derail others around the world — from emerging markets in Chile and Indonesia to industrial powers such as the United States, the European Union and Japan.

The free-fall in the stock markets, in the words of David Kelly, chief global strategist at JP Morgan Funds, is "Made in China."

This year, the International Monetary Fund expects China's economy to grow 6.8 percent, which would be its weakest pace since 1990.

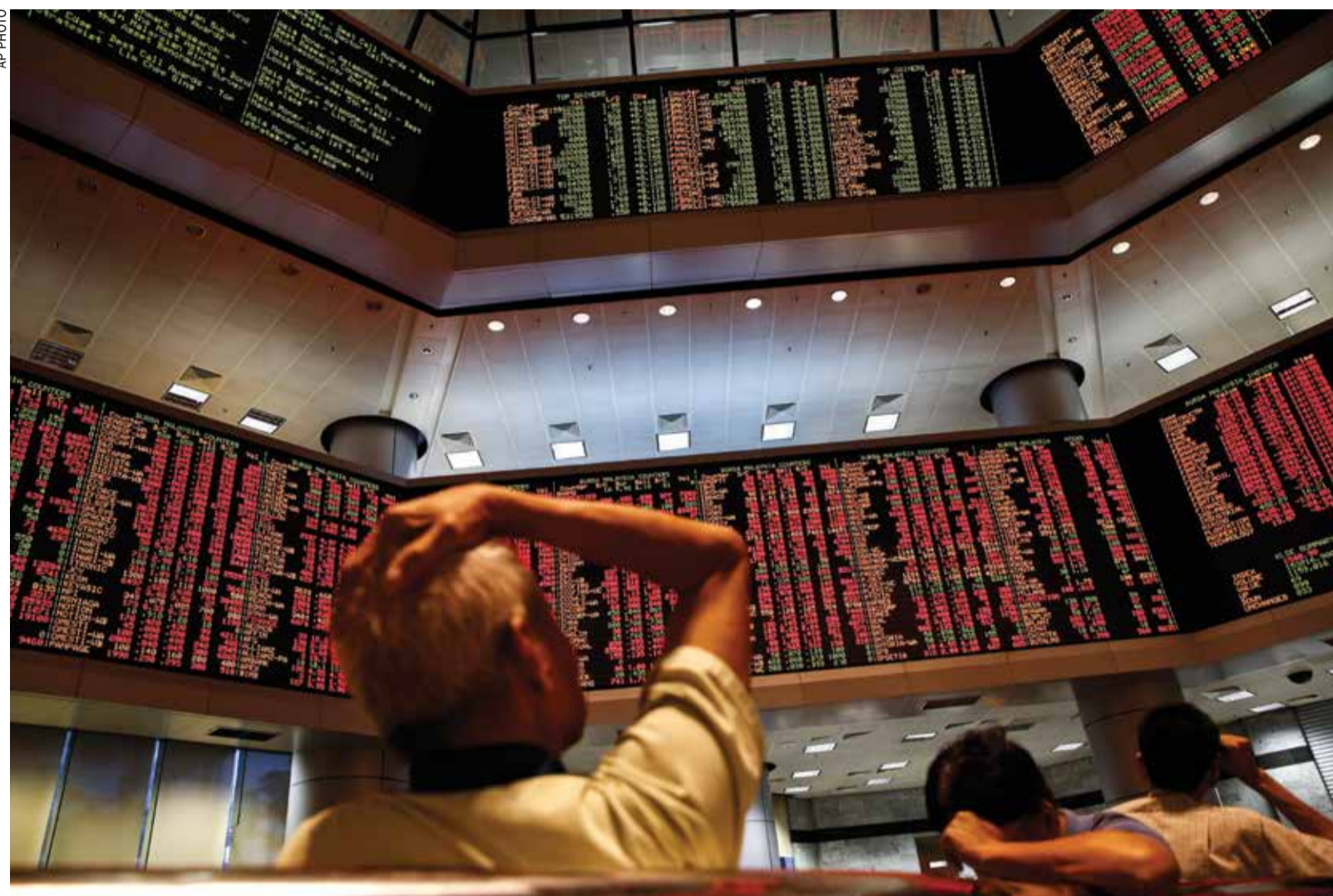
China, which was posting double-digit growth in the mid-2000s, is trying to engineer a daunting transition — from overheated growth fueled by exports and often-wasteful investment to slower growth built on consumer spending.

Official numbers show the Chinese economy grew 7 percent from January through March from a year earlier. Yet there's growing suspicion that Beijing's statistics are failing to capture the extent of the slowdown: Auto sales, electricity consumption and construction activity are "all looking very weak," Kelly notes.

"Everybody felt they could slow down to about 7 percent (annual growth) and that wouldn't be the end of the world," says Sung Won Sohn, economist at California State University Channel Islands. "It looks like it's slowing down even beyond that."

Big American companies such as Caterpillar and Chevron have acknowledged the damage that China's troubles are causing them. China's troubles have also depressed several technology stocks. Shares in Apple, which has enjoyed strong sales of iPhones and other products in China, are down nearly 20 percent the past five weeks.

On the surface, at least, the panic on Wall Street might seem overdone. After all, a 1 percent annual drop in China's economy translates into just a 0.2 percent pinch to



People watch trading boards at a private stock market gallery in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

America's economy, according to Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. Likewise, a China pullback of that size would slow annual growth in the 19-country eurozone by only 0.10 percent to 0.15 percent, according to UniCredit Research.

Slowing industrial output and construction in China means less demand for Chilean copper, Australian coal and Brazilian iron ore

That sort of slowdown is hardly catastrophic.

So why the hysteria?

For one thing, China's troubles raise doubts about whether its policymakers have the tools to keep their economy growing at a healthy pace — something that's been a reassuring constant for more than two decades.

Recently, Sohn says, "The Chinese government has not been able to control its economy and the financial market."

Beijing had cushioned its economy during the 2008-2009 financial crisis by ordering state-owned banks to ply companies with loans to build roads, houses and factories. The result: an escalation of corporate debt that's now feeding the problems.

The Chinese authorities also made the misguided decision to talk up stock prices, encouraging inexperienced investors to buy shares. The idea was that companies could issue stock into a rising market and use the proceeds to reduce their debts.

But stocks rose to unsustainable levels and crashed. The government has since been trying in vain to clean up the mess.

The latest trouble started Aug. 11, when Beijing unexpectedly devalued China's currency, the yuan. Authorities explained that they wanted to catch up with investor sentiment, which suggested that the yuan was overvalued from having been linked to a rising U.S. dollar.

Skeptics worried that the devaluation was instead a desperate move to bail out China's struggling exporters: A weaker yuan gives Chinese goods a price edge in foreign markets.

In the aftermath, pain from

slower Chinese growth and a weaker yuan could spread. Oxford Economics calculates that a 10 percent drop in the yuan this year would reduce South Korea's growth in 2016 by 1.16 percent and Indonesia's 0.32 percent.

Slowing industrial output and construction in China means less demand for Chilean copper, Australian coal and Brazilian iron ore. It also squeezes Taiwan and South Korea, which make components Chinese factories use to assemble electronics, cars and other products. Also suffering is Japan, which sends about a fifth of its exports to China.

The possibility of a worse-than-expected Chinese downturn has also raised worries in Europe, now in a fragile recovery. The impact will depend on just how bad the slowdown turns out to be. A severe downturn — to, say, 3 percent annual growth — could cost Europe 1 to 2 percentage points in lost economic output cumulatively over five years.

Germany would likely absorb the most pain. In the past decade, German makers of industrial machinery and autos have boosted profits thanks to China's strong growth. In 2013, China overtook the United States as the largest market for luxury carmaker BMW AG. BMW has been cautioning

that China's market is enduring a "normalization" and that lower growth is expected.

Andreas Rees, chief German economist at UniCredit Research, notes that China accounts for just 6.5 percent of Germany's exports. "Overall, I think all the frenzy about China is exaggerated," he says.

Yet some analysts say economic calculations might not be enough to measure the risks from a downturn in China's economy. The political and social fallout could exert their own damage.

What if China's slowdown further reduces oil prices, igniting an economic crisis in energy exporter Russia? Would President Vladimir Putin be tempted to distract his people by stirring up more trouble in Ukraine?

Greece accounts for just 2 percent of the eurozone's economy. Yet a Greek budget crisis has raised fears that the country would have to abandon the euro, possibly leading to a breakup of the eurozone.

"Here's this utterly unimportant economy, which is managing to paralyze European policymaking," says Harvard University economist Kenneth Rogoff.

If Greece can threaten European unity, imagine the fallout from a crisis in the world's No. 2 economy. No wonder investors are freaking out. AP

CHINESE shares plummeted to extend the steepest four-day rout since 1996 on concern the government is abandoning market support measures.

The Shanghai Composite Index tumbled 7.6 percent to 2,964.97 at the close, sinking below the 3,000 level for the first time in eight months. The gauge has dropped 22 percent in four days since Aug. 19. More than 700 stocks fell by the 10 percent daily limit in Shanghai yesterday, including PetroChina Co., the nation's biggest company by value.

Speculation around the government's intentions has escalated since Aug. 14, after China's securities regulator signaled authorities will pare back the campaign to prop up share prices as volatility falls. The China Securities Regulatory Commission made no attempt to reassure investors after Monday's plunge, unlike a month ago when officials issued two statements shortly after an 8.5 percent drop.

"It's panic selling and an issue of confidence," said Wei Wei, an analyst at Huaxi Securities Co. in Shanghai. "The government won't step in to rescue the market again as it's a global sell-off and it's spreading everywhere now. It's not going to work this time."

Yesterday's drop is the seventh decline of more than 6 percent for the benchmark gauge in the past three months.

The CSI 300 Index declined 7.1 percent, with gauges of energy, technology and material companies sinking more than 8 percent. PetroChina, long considered a favorite holding of state-linked rescue funds, closed at its lowest level since December.

The Hang Seng Index rebounded 0.7 percent after a gauge of price momentum dropped to the lowest level since the October 1987 stock market crash. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index lost 0.9 percent to the lowest close since March 2014.

Unprecedented government intervention has failed to stop a more than USD4.5 trillion rout in mainland equities since June 12 amid concern the slowdown in the world's second-largest economy is deepening. Officials have armed a state agency with

Stocks crash again to extend biggest plunge since 1996



Investors monitor stock prices at a brokerage in Beijing

more than \$400 billion to purchase stocks, banned selling by major shareholders and told state-owned companies to buy equities.

When the Shanghai Composite tumbled 8.5 percent on July 27, the regulator issued statements shortly after the market closed saying it would probe the sell-off and underlining the government's commitment to supporting equities. The CSRC

It's panic selling and an issue of confidence

WEI WEI
ANALYST,
HUAXI SECURITIES CO.,
SHANGHAI

hasn't made any statements since Monday's tumble.

"The regulator probably thinks the market slump this time hasn't impacted the broader financial system, or they think the situation is still controllable," said Xue Hexiang, a senior strategist of Huatai Securities Co.

China has halted intervention in the stock market so far this week as policy makers debate the merits of the government campaign to prop up share prices, according to people familiar with situation.

On Aug. 14, the regulator said China Securities Finance Corp., the state agency tasked with supporting share prices, would no longer add to holdings unless there's unusual volatility and systemic risk, although it would remain in the stock

market for years to come.

Officials should wind down the stock market support program even if prices continue to decline, according to a front-page commentary in the state-run Economic Information Daily yesterday.

Some 17 percent of listed shares traded on mainland bourses were halted from trading yesterday, little changed from Monday. About 40 percent were suspended during the depths of last month's rout.

Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., the nation's second largest company, fell 5.1 percent in an 11th day of declines. Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. slid 9 percent. Futures on the CSI 300 sank by the 10 percent daily limit.

The intervention sparked concern among Chinese traders

that the government was trying to shore up the market at levels unjustified by weaker economic outlook. Stocks on mainland bourses traded at a median 61 times reported earnings on Friday, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's the most among the 10 largest markets and more than three times the 19 multiple for the Standard & Poor's 500 Index.

China's economic growth slowed to 6.6 percent in July, according to Bloomberg's monthly GDP tracker. The nation's first major economic indicator for August signaled a further deterioration as a private manufacturing index fell to the lowest level in six years.

The central bank added the most funds to the financial system in open-market operations since February yesterday as currency-market intervention to prop up the yuan strained the supply of cash.

The People's Bank of China auctioned 150 billion yuan (\$23.4 billion) of seven-day reverse-repurchase agreements, according to traders at primary dealers required to bid at the auctions. That compares with 120 billion yuan maturing yesterday, which leaves a net injection of 30 billion yuan.

"We believe that Chinese policy makers have many tools to address the slowing economy," said Michelle Leung, chief executive officer of Xingtai Capital Management Ltd. in Hong Kong. "There is a political debate over which tools to use." **Bloomberg**

700

Stocks that fell more than the 10pct daily limit yesterday

Gov't cuts interest rates in new bid to spur economy

CHINA cut interest rates yesterday for a fifth time in nine months in a new effort to shore up slowing economic growth.

The benchmark rate for a one-year loan will be cut by 0.25 percentage point to 4.6 percent and the one-year rate for deposits will fall by a similar margin to 1.75 percent, the central bank announced. It also increased the amount of mo-

ney available for lending by reducing the minimum reserves banks are required to hold by 0.5 percentage point.

The moves had been anticipated by financial analysts after exports, manufacturing and other economic indicators weakened by larger margins than expected.

Beijing reported economic growth held steady at 7 percent in the latest quarter

but that was due to a stock market boom that pushed up the contribution from financial industries while other sectors weakened.

In a statement, the central bank cited "downward pressure" on China's economic growth rate and said it wanted to lower financing costs for Chinese companies.

The bank also promised to pay close

attention to liquidity, or the availability of credit, a possible attempt to ease concern a recent rise in capital outflows from China might leave less money for lending.

Exports in July fell by an unexpectedly large margin of 8.3 percent while a manufacturing survey found activity this month contracted at a faster rate than anticipated. **AP**

SINGAPORE

Gov't to hold election Sept. 11 in test of ruling party

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

SINGAPORE will hold a general election on Sept. 11, the government announced yesterday, in what is expected to be a tight contest for the ruling party, which has dominated politics in the city-state for 50 years but is now facing growing disaffection among citizens.

The People's Action Party, whose founder and Singapore's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew, died in March at age 91, currently holds 80 out of 87 seats in Parliament.

Although that number implies massive popularity for the PAP, the party has been aided by an electoral system in which some constituencies are represented by a group of four to six lawmakers, boosting the winning party's numbers.

The party usually fields groups led by senior, popular members of Parliament. The system has helped the PAP maintain a commanding majority, even though it received just 60 percent of all votes in



Singapore's Prime Minister and Secretary General of the ruling People's Action Party Lee Hsien Loong, fifth right, arrives with his party members at a polling station on Saturday May 7, 2011 in Singapore

the 2011 general election, in its worst electoral performance. It has lost two by-elections since then.

The decline in popularity results from growing resentment over political restrictions, an influx of foreigners and a high cost of living.

For the younger generation, Singapore's economic success "does not have that much resonance compared with their parents or grandparents," said Eugene Tan, an associate professor of law at Singapore Management University.

"They are less enamored of

a one-party dominant system and are inclined to more political diversity and contestation. The results will signal whether we are incrementally moving away from a one-party dominant system," he said.

The virtual one-party dominance was led by Lee, who is widely credited with setting the country on the path of economic success and was lauded at the nation's 50th birthday celebrations on Aug. 9 for his achievements.

Lee's son, current Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, recounted at the rally the country's progress in the last 50 years and urged Singaporeans to think about the next 50.

"If you are proud of what we have achieved together, if you support what we want to do ahead, the future that we are building, then please support me, please support my team," he said.

"We have to do it together, so that we can keep Singapore special for many years to come. Another 50 years. And Singapore has to stay special

because if we are just a dull little spot on the map, a smudge, we are going to count for nothing. We have to be a shining red dot," he added.

On election day, 16 areas in Singapore will be contested in groups, while 13 others will be contested individually, amounting to a total of 89 seats. Parliament was dissolved by the president earlier yesterday and nomination Day is Sept. 1.

There are around 2.46 million eligible voters, up from 2.35 million in 2011, with an increased number of voters born post-independence.

The opposition Workers' Party currently holds the other seven seats. It rose in popularity, particularly among the younger generation, after campaigning on the back of providing credible voices to keep the PAP in check.

In the 2011 election, the party snatched the five-member ward of Aljunied in Eastern Singapore, ousting a PAP team led by a former foreign minister. **AP**

AD

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KOREAS

Seoul halts propaganda broadcasts as rivals reach deal

Hyung-jin Kim and Foster Klug,
Seoul

AFTER more than 40 hours of talks, North and South Korea pulled back from the brink yesterday with an accord that allows both sides to save face and, for the moment, avert the bloodshed they've been threatening each other with for weeks.

In a carefully crafted, though vague, statement, North Korea expressed "regret" that two South Korean soldiers were maimed in a recent land mine blast Seoul blamed on the North. While not an acknowledgement of responsibility, let alone the "definite apology" South Korea's president had demanded, it allows Seoul to claim some measure of victory in holding the North to account.

South Korea, for its part, halted anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts over loudspeakers on the border, which will let the authoritarian North trumpet to its people a propaganda win over its bitter rival, and silence the broadcasts that outside analysts say could demoralize front-line troops and inspire them to defect.

The agreement represents a good first step in easing animosity that has built since South Korea blamed North Korea for the mine explosion at the border earlier this month and began the propaganda broadcasts in retaliation. But, as always on the Korean Peninsula, it's unclear how long the good mood will continue.

Despite South Korean President Park Geun-hye's expression of hope that the North's "regret" will help improve the Koreas' relationship, the accord does little to address many fundamental, long-standing differences. The announcement of further talks to be held soon in either Seoul or Pyongyang could be a beginning, but the Koreas have a history of failing to follow through on their promises and allowing simmering animosity to interrupt diplomacy.

The negotiations that began Saturday at the border village of Panmunjom, where the Koreas agreed to the 1953 cease-fire that stopped fighting in the Korean War, also resulted in Pyongyang agreeing to lift a "quasi-state of war" it declared last week, according to South Korea's presidential office and North Korea's state media.

While the declaration was largely a matter of rhetoric — the



People watch a TV news program reporting that South and North Korea reached an agreement, at the Seoul Railway Station, South Korea

border is the world's most heavily armed and there has never been a formal peace agreement ending the Korean War, so the area is always essentially in a "quasi-state of war" — there had been growing worry about South Korean reports that the North was continuing to prepare for a conflict during the talks, moving unusual numbers of troops and submarines to their land and sea border.

The Koreas also struck an important humanitarian agreement by promising to begin talks in September to plan emotional reunions of families separated by the Korean War. The reunions could take place as early as October, considering the time needed to match relatives and agree on a venue, said an official from Seoul's Unification Ministry who didn't want to be named, citing office rules. The Korea said in the accord that more reunions would follow, but there were no immediate details.

In a signal of North Korea's seriousness, Pyongyang sent to the talks Hwang Pyong So, the top political officer for the Korean People's Army and considered by outside analysts to be North Korea's second most important official after supreme leader Kim Jong Un.

"I hope the two sides faithfully implement the agreements and build up (mutual) confidence

through a dialogue and cooperation and that it serves as a chance to work out new South-North relations," chief South Korean negotiator and presidential national security director Kim Kwan-jin said in a televised news conference.

The United States quickly wel-

■ In a carefully crafted statement, N Korea expressed "regret" that two S Korean soldiers were maimed in a recent land mine blast

comed the agreement and the prospect of tensions dropping.

Kim, the Seoul negotiator, described the North's expression of "regret" as an apology.

Pyongyang had denied involvement in the land mine explosions and rejected Seoul's report that North Korea launched an artillery barrage last week. South Korea's military

fired dozens of artillery rounds across the border in response and said the North's artillery strikes were meant to back up an earlier threat to attack the loudspeakers. There were no details on whether the North addressed the artillery claim in yesterday's deal.

North Korea often makes conciliatory gestures to win concessions and aid from rivals after stoking tensions. The North is now seen as eager to reopen to South Korean tourists, along with pursuing business and investment deals with its more affluent neighbor.

During the talks at Panmunjom, the North Korean negotiators raised the issue of restarting joint tours to the North's scenic Diamond Mountain resort, said the official from Seoul's Unification Ministry.

The tourism project began in 1998 during an era of warmer ties and was a legitimate source of hard currency for the cash-strapped North, but Seoul suspended the tours in 2008 following the shooting death of a South Korean tourist there. Issues related to North Korea's nuclear weapons program or joint military exercises between the U.S. and South Korea, which Pyongyang condemns as a rehearsal for invasion, were not discussed during the talks, the official said.

These were the highest-level

talks between the two Koreas in a year, and the length of the sessions was no surprise.

While the Koreas have difficulty agreeing to talks, once they do, marathon sessions are often the rule. After decades of animosity and bloodshed, finding common ground is a challenge. During the latest Panmunjom talks, the first session lasted about 10 hours and the second session about 33 hours.

The negotiations started shortly after a Saturday deadline set by North Korea for the South to dismantle the propaganda loudspeakers. North Korea had declared that its front-line troops were in full war readiness and prepared to go to battle if Seoul did not back down.

South Korean defense officials said during the talks that about 70 percent of the North's more than 70 submarines and undersea vehicles had left their bases and could not be located by the South Korean military. They also said the North had doubled the strength of its front-line artillery forces since the start of the talks.

Kim Min-seok, a spokesman for Seoul's Defense Ministry, said yesterday that the South Korean military was seeing signs that some of the North's submarines and undersea vehicles were returning to their ports, but he did not elaborate. **AP**

Russia cancels short-lived Wikipedia ban

Russia yesterday canceled a ban on the Russian-language Wikipedia, which barely lasted a few hours and caused a storm among Russian online users. The Russian communications watchdog sent out notifications to Internet providers late on Monday, instructing them to block access to Wikipedia in Russian after a provincial court ruled that its entry on hashish contains banned information. Internet users across Russia were reporting in the late hours of Monday that they weren't able to access Wikipedia's Russian version. The agency removed Wikipedia from the list of banned websites early yesterday morning, saying that the information in the article had been edited — thus complying with the court decision. Internet users noted that Wikipedia didn't seem to have edited the entry but only renamed its title. Recent laws passed in Russia which classified as "banned" any information about drug use, suicide and anything that could be interpreted as inciting hatred have allowed authorities to clamp down on dissent and block access to any website. Russia's Federal Communications Agency has come under fire before for what has been described as attempts to stifle dissent online. The agency has blocked access to opposition websites as well as blogs of popular opposition leaders like Alexei Navalny.

ZIMBABWE Safari guide killed by lion

A lion charged and killed a safari guide who was leading a group of tourists in the same national park in Zimbabwe that was the home of Cecil the lion who was killed by a bow hunter in July. Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba said yesterday that Quinn Swales was in Hwange National Park when he spotted six lions on Monday. "One of the lions had cubs and they became hostile. Mr. Swales at first manage to scare the lions away but then the male lion later made a U-turn and attacked him," Charamba told The Associated Press. None of the tourists was harmed, she said. Swales was leading six tourists on a walking safari when he spotted fresh lion spoor and decided to track a pride of lions consisting of two females, two cubs and two males, according to the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. The collared lion, named Nxaha, attacked Swales, the parks authority said. Cecil's killing in July by American dentist James Walter Palmer just outside the park sparked outrage in the United States. The collared lions are being monitored for an Oxford University study.

ISLAMIC STATE FANATICISM

Images purport to show destroyed Syrian temple

AP PHOTO



This undated photo released yesterday on a social media site used by Islamic State militants shows smoke from the detonation of the 2,000-year-old temple of Baalshamin in Syria's ancient caravan city of Palmyra

Sarah El Deeb, Beirut

The Islamic State group released propaganda images yesterday that purport to show militants laying explosives in and then blowing up

the 2,000-year-old temple of Baalshamin in Syria's ancient caravan city of Palmyra.

The images, posted on social media by supporters of the group, showed militants carrying barrels of explosives, and

laying them inside the temple. Other smaller wired cans lay around the temple walls and columns. Then an image shows a grey plume of smoke rising above the temple from a distance, and then an image of

the temple reduced to a pile of rocks. One caption read: "The complete destruction of the pagan Baalshamin temple."

The Associated Press could not independently verify the images. However, they were released like other group propaganda and carried a logo it often used in the city of Palmyra, in Syria's central Homs province.

The images also corresponded to prior AP reporting. A resident of Palmyra had told the AP the temple was destroyed on Sunday, a month after the group's militants booby-trapped it with explosives.

The U.N. cultural agency UNESCO on Monday called the destruction of the temple a war crime.

The temple, a structure of giant stone blocks several stories high fronted by six towering columns, was dedicated to a god of storm and rain — the name means literally "Lord of the Heavens." It was part of a sprawling Roman-era complex that includes other remains of temples to local gods and goddesses, including the even larger and slightly older Temple of Bel. Experts and residents fear the group will destroy the other ruins.

The Islamic State group, which has imposed a violent interpretation of Islamic law across its self-declared "caliphate" straddling Syria and Iraq, says such ancient relics promote idolatry. It already has blown up several sites in neighboring Iraq, and it is also believed to sell looted antiquities. The group had seized control of Palmyra, in the central deserts of Syria, in May. **AP**

RUSSIA

Ukrainian filmmaker sentenced to 20 years by Russian court

Iulia Subbotovska, Rostov-on-Don

ARussian court convicted a prominent Ukrainian filmmaker yesterday of conspiring to commit terror attacks and sentenced him to 20 years in prison in what critics called a politically motivated show trial.

The court in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don said Oleg Sentsov had set up a terror cell in the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed last year, and was plotting attacks. He will serve time in a maximum-security prison.

Such lengthy prison sentences are rare in Russia even for politically tainted trials.

Sentsov was tried along with local activist Alexander Kolchenko who was sentenced to 10 years in prison. As the judge wrapped up the session, the two men began to sing the Ukrainian national anthem.

The 39-year-old Crimean native was a vocal opponent of Russia's 2014 annexation of the peninsula. Critics have dismissed his prosecution as retaliation for his pro-

AP PHOTO



Oleg Sentsov sits behind glass in a cage at a courtroom in Rostov-on-Don

Ukrainian position.

"The whole trial was designed to send a message. It played into Russia's propaganda war against Ukraine and was redolent of Stalinist-era show trials of dissidents," said Heather McGill of Amnesty International.

Sentsov, who didn't apply for Russian ci-

tizenship, was grabbed on a street in Crimea's capital in May 2014 by Russian security officers and resurfaced days later in custody in Moscow. Sentsov had pleaded not guilty and insisted that a Russian court had no jurisdiction in his case.

Russian prosecutors claim both men were plotting to blow up a Lenin monument and were behind attempts to burn down offices of two Russia-related organizations.

Dozens of prominent filmmakers, including Russian Golden Globe winner Andrei Zvyagintsev, have petitioned the Kremlin to release Sentsov.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on his Facebook page sent a message of support for Sentsov.

"Hang in there, Oleg," he wrote. "A time will come when those who set this trial for you will land in the dock."

Britain called the trial politically motivated. British Minister for Europe David Lidington said the charges were "disproportionate" and voiced concern that the two men did not have access to a fair trial. **AP**

Rob Gillies, Toronto

HACKING

Police: Ashley Madison breach might have led to suicides

THE hacking of the cheating website Ashley Madison has triggered extortion crimes and led to two unconfirmed reports of suicides, Canadian police said yesterday (Macau time).

The company behind Ashley Madison is offering a \$500,000 Canadian (USD378,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of members of a group that hacked the site.

Hackers last week released detailed records on millions of people registered with the website, a month after a break-in at Ashley Madison's parent company, Toronto-based Avid Life Media Inc. The website, whose slogan is, "Life is short. Have an affair," is marketed to facilitate extramarital affairs.

Toronto Police acting staff Superintendent Bryce Evans said the hack is having an "enormous social and economic fallout."

"This hack is one of the largest data breaches in the world," Evans said. "This is affecting all of us. The social impact behind this leak, we're talking about families, we're talking about children, we're talking about wives, their male partners."

The hackers who took respon-



Ashley Madison's Korean website is shown on a computer screen in Seoul

sibility for the break-in had accused the website's owners of deceit and incompetence, and said the company refused to bow to their demands to close the site. The hackers referred to themselves as the Impact Team.

Evans said the hackers released the entire Ashley Madison client list, which claims more than 30 million users worldwi-

de. He said the hackers also sent a taunting message to the company CEO and released his emails.

Evans said there are confirmed cases of criminals attempting to extort Ashley Madison clients by threatening to expose them unless payment is received.

The police official did not offer

further details of the unconfirmed suicides. He also said hate crimes may be connected to the hack but did not provide details.

Evans addressed the hackers directly, saying their actions are "illegal and will not be tolerated."

"This is your wake-up call," he said.

A representative of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security attended the news con-

ference. Special Agent Ron Marcello of Homeland Security Investigations said Toronto police asked for assistance and said the FBI is the lead on investigating the hack.

U.S. government employees with sensitive jobs in national security or law enforcement were among hundreds of federal workers found to be using government networks to access and pay membership fees to Ashley Madison, The Associated Press reported last week.

"This is worldwide," Evans said. "We're looking at bringing in top security investigators from around the world to assist."

Avid Life Media Inc., the company that owns Ashley Madison, said in a statement that a reward has been offered because more help is needed. The company called the hack a "malicious" and "unprecedented" crime and said they are assisting investigators. **AP**

This hack is one of the largest data breaches in the world

BRYCE EVANS
TORONTO POLICE
ACTING STAFF SUPERINTENDENT

MPC

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what's ON


CURRENCY IN THE PAST CENTURY
 - EXHIBITION OF MACAU'S ISSUED CURRENCY

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: September 13, 2015

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau Organizer: Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

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

Offbeat

KEVIN BACON TO PERFORM ON STAGE
IN 'REAR WINDOW' THIS FALL


Kevin Bacon will star in a stage adaptation of the story that inspired Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 classic film "Rear Window."

Hartford Stage in Connecticut said yesterday that the movie star will headline the haunting tale of a man in a wheelchair who witnesses a possible murder. It's been adapted for the stage

by Keith Reddin and will run from Oct. 22-Nov. 15.

It will be directed by Hartford Stage Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak, who nurtured the Broadway hit "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" also at Hartford Stage.

It's produced by Charlie Lyons, Jay Russell and Jeff Steen.

Bacon is a Golden Globe Award winner whose films include "A Few Good Men," "Apollo 13" and "Footloose." He's been on Broadway in "Slab Boys" and "An Almost Holy Picture."

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:50	The Presence of Anita (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Behind The Balaclavas
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Presence of Anita
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League Highlights
23:45	Miscellaneous
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

20 Aug- 26 Aug

**HITMAN: AGENT 47**

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.05, 5.55, 9.30 pm

Director: Aleksander Bach

Starring: Rupert Friend, Hannah Ware, Zachary Quinto

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

ATTACK ON TITAN

ROOM 1

7.45 pm

Director: Shinji Higuchi

Starring: Haruma Miura, Kiko Mizuhara

Language: Japanese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 90min

**PIXELS**

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Chris Columbus

Starring: Adam Sandler, Kevin James,

Michelle Monaghan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:**NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES**

ROOM 3

2.15 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min

WILD CITY

ROOM 3

4.05, 5.55, 7.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Ringo Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Shawn Yue, Tong Liya

Language: Cantonese/Mandarin (Chinese/English)

Duration: 105min

MACAU TOWER

20 AUG - 9 SEPT

PIXELS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Chris Columbus

Starring: Adam Sandler, Kevin James,

Michelle Monaghan

Language: English (Chinese)

this day in history


1985 BUDD SMASHES 5,000M
RECORD

The controversial athlete, Zola Budd, has broken the world 5,000m record.

The bare-footed runner completed the distance in a time of 14 minutes and 48.07 seconds - 10 seconds faster than the previous record.

Budd came in nine seconds ahead of second-placed Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway - the former 5,000m record holder.

It is the second time she has broken the 5,000m world record.

The first time was in her homeland of South Africa last year when her achievement could not be recognized as the country is banned from international sport because of its policy of apartheid.

Her participation in the race at Crystal Palace in London was not publicised beforehand to avoid protests by anti-apartheid campaigners.

The fast-tracking of South African-born and bred Budd's application for British citizenship - on the strength of a British grandfather - caused uproar last year.

Critics said it was a ruse to allow her to compete in the upcoming Olympic Games.

Controversy followed her to the event in Los Angeles in 1984 when she collided in the 3,000m with US favourite, Mary Decker, who fell and failed to finish.

Budd came in seventh.

Since then Budd's cause has not been helped by her refusal to publicly condemn apartheid.

Protests at her British citizenship have not abated with time and anti-apartheid campaigners have sometimes forced Budd off the course during races.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Budd broke several British and world records but could never outrun the controversy that dogged her.

She returned to South Africa in 1988 and did not compete again on the world stage until 1992 after South Africa's had abolished apartheid and been re-admitted to international sport.

A long-anticipated "re-match" with Mary Decker in a road race in 1992 ended in an anti-climax, with Decker winning easily.

Difficulties in Budd's running career were accompanied by some in her private life.

In 1989 she argued over money with her father, Frank, and refused to let him give her away when she married Mike Pieterse later that year.

Five months after his daughter's wedding Frank Budd was shot dead by a hitchhiker who claimed he had made a homosexual pass at him.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You'll be getting something new, and so will those around you. Your immediate response may be less than positive, so don't be insensitive about how you express your shopping remorse.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Financial maxims are out the window. All that glitters is not gold, but you couldn't care less today. Just like a baby, you'll enjoy all the ribbons and trappings as much as the goods themselves.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Day to day is what makes a life, but there are such things as good time extremes. Today is one of them. You'll learn a valuable lesson and preaching has nothing to do with it.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Don't create social problems for yourself, or private life ones, for that matter. Doing something for yourself will definitely make you seem selfish. Focus on others for one more day.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Say it ain't so. Romance and excitement are amplified by consumerism? Don't be bothered by such pettiness. You can generate 10 times more if you stay magnanimous.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Did you take a financial risk lately? Is the tension too much for you? It will all be over soon enough, kiddo. Until then, go with the flow and force yourself to smile.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
It's a day to explore high ideas, and yet everyone is focused on the lowest rung of our cultural ladder. Let yourself wallow in it. It's grease for the economy that lasts the whole fiscal quarter.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you got caught up in the moment yesterday, it's not too late to take it back today. Figuratively, that is. The literal version will have to wait until tomorrow.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If you could put it in a bottle, you'd make a fortune. But you can't buy the kind of goodwill and happiness you're dishing up today. Enjoy it for what it's worth.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
The build up and cost are intense, and it's all over with unconscious speed. That normally doesn't sound like a good investment, but the balance sheets are rigged in your favor today. Enjoy.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
A communion of people with similar values beats a group of presents of similar value hands down. Which you end up among remains to be seen, but whichever it is, make the most of it.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Think carefully before speaking. Price tags, wrappers -- these are not the stuff of real value. Luck won't necessarily be on your side if you suddenly become a blabber mouth.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	21	31	cloudy
Harbin	18	25	cloudy
Tianjin	21	30	overcast
Urumqi	17	30	clear
Xi'an	20	31	cloudy/shower
Lhasa	10	22	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	20	28	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	23	31	overcast/cloudy
Kunming	17	23	moderate rain
Nanjing	22	30	cloudy
Shanghai	23	30	cloudy
Wuhan	21	31	cloudy
Hangzhou	21	31	cloudy/clear
Taipei	27	29	moderate rain
Guangzhou	25	35	clear
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy/shower
WORLD			
Moscow	15	25	overcast
Frankfurt	16	22	cloudy
Paris	20	24	drizzle
London	15	18	drizzle/moderate rain
New York	18	30	drizzle/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Box office hit; 5- This is fun!; 9- Let ___; 13- Chemical used on trees; 14- Russian range; 15- The world's longest river; 16- Director Riefenstahl; 17- Thick sweet liquid; 18- Authenticating mark; 19- Capital of Lesotho; 21- Despot Amin; 22- Bar bills; 23- Type of tide; 25- Slippery; 27- Stringed musical instrument; 31- Rarely; 35- Cupid's counterpart; 36- Rich soil; 38- Caravansary; 39- Cinque follower; 40- Klondike territory; 42- Horse-like animal, term of insult; 43- Personal quality of material belonging; 46- Blood fluids; 47- Parody; 48- Dagger; 50- Undated; 52- On the peak of; 54- Director Wertmuller; 55- Cries of discovery; 58- ___ Lingus; 60- Quantity which has magnitude and direction; 64- 27th president of the U.S.; 65- Govt. security; 67- Retained; 68- Baht spender; 69- Moves with care; 70- Kitchen addition; 71- DEA agent; 72- Gen. Robert ___; 73- Capone's nemesis;

DOWN: 1- Aromatic fragrance; 2- Olive genus; 3- Devotees; 4- Pals; 5- Twisted; 6- Mata ___; 7- Evade; 8- Catches sight of; 9- Fashionable; 10- ___ yellow ribbon...; 11- Tell all; 12- Electric fish; 14- Normally; 20- Stutz contemporary; 24- Sanctimonious; 26- Bandleader Brown; 27- Flat-topped hills; 28- Give it ___; 29- Boisterous; 30- In the buff; 32- Male duck; 33- Fertile area in a desert; 34- Thin fogs; 37- Ethical; 41- Indigenous inhabitants; 44- Flexible; 45- Vietnamese holiday; 47- Make less taut; 49- Perfectly; 51- Vane dir.; 53- Pertaining to punishment; 55- Env. notation; 56- Very funny; 57- A long way off; 59- Red flower; 61- Head of France; 62- Chooses; 63- Hwys.; 66- Peg used on the first in golf



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- Fire department 28 572 222
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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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<p>Pacifica Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment In The Heart of Taipa HKD 18,000 / 1,300 sq ft Ref: 15080525</p>	<p>Tou Un, Tower 2 Taipa 2 Bedroom Apartment Walking distance to Cotai Strip HKD 11,800 / 690 sq ft Ref: 15080521</p>	<p>Fountainside Studio Apartment Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment New development HKD 12,800 / 567 sq ft Ref: 15070517</p>	<p>Chun Fok Garden Apartment Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment A Lovely Community HKD 15,800 / 1,300 sq ft Ref: 15070520</p>

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ATHLETICS

While chasing Bolt, Gatlin shakes off criticism at worlds

Eddie Pells & Pat Graham, Beijing

USAIN Bolt returned to the track at the world championships yesterday and eased his way through the preliminary round of his favorite race, the 200 meters.

Justin Gatlin also cruised, doing nothing to diminish his role as Bolt's top challenger.

Win or lose, Bolt will leave Beijing still hailed as his sport's fun-loving Superman. The chances of Gatlin getting a champion's send-off: slim to none.

Doesn't bother him one bit. "Sometimes it has to be fuel," Gatlin told The Associated Press as he left the Bird's Nest to cool down at the nearby practice field following a preliminary heat of 20.19 seconds. "If you don't let anything affect you at all, you have nothing to

pull off of when you're already running on fumes."

When Gatlin lined up for the 100-meter final Sunday night — a scintillating race he lost to Bolt by .01 seconds — he was on the line with three other athletes who had served doping bans: Tyson Gay, Asafa Powell and Mike Rodgers.

Their doping pasts have barely been footnotes to the narrative in the 100. And the other athletes competing in Beijing despite their doping pasts have essentially gotten a free pass, as well, even as track and field has been hit with multiple reports alleging doping among athletes in almost every corner of the sport.

Gatlin? He takes all the heat. "If he wasn't doing good, nobody would bring it up," Dutch sprinter Churandy Martina

said. "You do a million good things and one bad thing and people focus on the bad thing. It's just people. It's strange."

There has been vigorous debate over whether a convicted doper should be able to compete again. Gatlin has been snubbed by some meets since his return from his second doping conviction in 2010.

But there is no keeping him out of major events like this one, or the Olympics.

In 2011 and 2012, the Court of Arbitration for Sport delivered a pair of decisions that spiked an International Olympic Committee rule banning anyone who'd served a doping suspension of longer than six months from competing in the next Olympics. Those decisions sparked debate about whether a lifetime ban should be in or-



United States' Justin Gatlin

der for a first offense. That didn't happen, but last year, the World Anti-Doping Agency passed a rule that allowed for a four-year sanction for a first offense.

"The reality is that your decisions have consequences

and some are permanent," U.S. Anti-Doping Agency CEO Travis Tygart told the AP. "He made the decision to dope, and even if he's fully eligible to compete again, some people can't erase that from their minds." AP

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AP PHOTO



Pedro Rodriguez

AP GLOBAL FOOTBALL 10

Manchester City, Pedro Rodriguez take the lead

in the opening weekend of the Serie A in Italy.

Marseille polled fourth for routing Troyes 6-0 in the French league, while Bayern Munich took fifth after beating Hoffenheim 2-1 with a goal in the final minute from Robert Lewandowski.

Sporting Gijon, Barcelona, Chelsea, Fiorentina and Paris Saint-Germain round out the top 10 teams.

Pedro is the player of the week after marking his arrival from Barcelona by inspiring Chelsea to its first league triumph of the season, a 3-2 win at West Bromwich Albion.

"A £21m move to Chelsea and both a goal and an assist in the first-half of his debut," Julian Bennetts of Hayters news agency in England said. "That was quite some week for Pedro, who topped it off by heading back to Barcelona to say goodbye to his former teammates."

Callum Wilson, of Premier League newcomer Bournemouth, is

second for a hat trick in a 4-3 win at West Ham, which also saw his team pick up its first three points of the season.

"Welcome to the Premier League, Callum Wilson," Tom Timmermann of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch said. "Hat tricks aren't that easy to come by."

Luis Suarez is third after scoring the only goal in the second half of Barcelona's 1-0 win at Athletic Bilbao.

Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech is fourth, after two stunning first-half saves in his side's encounter with Liverpool on Monday, which ended 0-0.

David Silva is a place behind, after impressing as City beat Everton.

Lewandowski, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Michy Batshuayi, Antonio Kolarov and Blaise Matuidi complete the top 10 players of the week. **AP**

MANCHESTER City is top of the first Associated Press Global Football 10 of the new season and Pedro Rodriguez is the leading player after scoring on his Chelsea debut.

Manuel Pellegrini's City led the team voting after a 2-0 victory over Everton maintained a perfect start to the Premier League season.

City is also yet to concede a goal in the three games played so far. "City not only made it nine con-

secutive Premier League wins (including last season) but doing that at Everton added more worth to it as Pellegrini showed they are really out to regain the title," Umaid Wasim of DAWN.com in Pakistan said. "They won at Goodison Park, a venue (where) they've struggled in the past."

Borussia Dortmund is runner-up after thrashing Ingolstadt 4-0 in the Bundesliga.

Udinese is third for winning 1-0 at defending champion Juventus

AP GLOBAL FOOTBALL 10

PLAYERS

1. Pedro Rodriguez, 83 points
2. Callum Wilson, 77
3. Luis Suarez, 63
4. Petr Cech, 59
5. David Silva, 54
6. Robert Lewandowski, 44
7. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, 40
8. Michy Batshuayi, 37
9. Antonio Kolarov, 30
10. Blaise Matuidi, 28

TEAMS

1. Manchester City, 113
2. Borussia Dortmund, 92
3. Udinese, 67
4. Marseille, 57
5. Bayern Munich, 54
6. Sporting Gijon, 47
7. Barcelona, 45
8. Chelsea, 38
9. Fiorentina, 31
10. Paris Saint-Germain, 27

AD

ALBERGUE SCM
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澳門仁慈堂婆仔屋

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Duration of the Exhibition: 26 August 2015 until 12 September 2015
Opening Hours: Everyday from 12:00 to 20:00
Except Monday from 15:00 to 20:00
Exhibition Venue: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery
Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau

Free Admission

ALBERGUE SCM
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opinion

Views on Gaming
 Poker News Report

**RUSSIA ABOUT TO TAKE ON
 MACAU AS ASIAN GAMBLING HUB**

With the first casino resort about to open its doors in the far eastern region of Primorye, Russia could become the destination of choice for Asian gamblers.

Early next month, the doors should open at "Tigre de Cristal" – the first in a series of luxury casino resorts planned for the far eastern Russian region of Primorye. The resort consists of 119 hotel rooms, 65 gaming tables and 800 slot machines. Compared with most resort casinos, Tigre de Cristal is fairly modest in size. So why will it be making the news?

Tigre de Cristal has been developed and will be managed by Lawrence Ho's Summit Ascent Holdings company – Ho being the billionaire investor responsible for the City of Dreams developments in Macau and Manila. The casino resort is the first of sixteen planned super casinos for the Primorye Entertainment Zone that will expand over 1,500 acres and include a water park, theatres and a ski slope.

More than ten million visitors are expected each year once the entertainment complex is completed, generating revenues of up to \$5.2 billion annually. Already more than USD2.2 billion has been invested in the area by casino companies looking to take advantage of generous tax breaks offered by the Russian government (3% to 7%) compared to the taxes being charged on operators in Macau (39%).

Primorye is officially known as Primorsky Krai. It is situated in the far south eastern corner of Russia (seven times zones east of Moscow) and has borders with China and North Korea. Gamblers planning a trip over to have a bet at the new casino tables should find Vladivostok on their atlas and then head about 250Km north east. Warning. It is very cold and most of the world's Siberian tigers live in the area.

The area was designated one of four (soon to be six) official gambling zones in Russia in July 2007, and plans to develop the infrastructure of Primorye were put in place. Due to the financial crisis of 2008 and typical Russia bureaucracy, the development of the area has been slow to manifest. Now it looks as if it is all systems go for Primorye to challenge Macau as the destination of choice for Asian gamblers.

Primorye has the advantage of being located much closer than Macau for gamblers in Northern China, South Korea and Japan. Vladivostok can be reached by air in under 2½ hours from Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo (it takes four hours to reach Macau) and, while the value of the rouble is depressed, punters will be getting much greater value for their money than they would in Macau.

Cheaper labour costs and lower tax rates for operators mean better deals for punters. Other than the temperatures and the tigers, it sounds great – but there is more! There are not the currency restrictions that exist in Macau and Las Vegas, and visa requirements – already scrapped for South Vietnamese nationals and Chinese tour groups – are likely to be relaxed for all nationalities visiting Primorye.

What is not known yet – and this could be a potential game changer for the success of Primorye over Macau – is if smoking will be allowed in specified areas or private VIP rooms. Last month, authorities in Macau proposed a blanket ban on smoking in casinos – including in specially constructed airport-style smoking lounges that had just been installed throughout Macau's casinos to comply with previous legislation. Smoking is generally banned in public places in Russia, but an exception could be made while the Primorye Entertainment Zone is in its infancy.

If you fancy a glimpse of what the new Tigre de Cristal Casino will look like, the video below has just been released by the resort. We are not sure if actors were paid to represent grumpy old Russian men, but guess that the plastering on the wall will be finished by the time the resort opens for business next month.

Courtesy Poker News Report

THE BUZZ **MACAU: INFLATION RETURNS TO 4.76 PERCENT IN JULY**

The consumer price index last month rose by 4.76 percent year-on-year to 106.13, down from 4.91 percent the preceding month, reported the Statistics and Census Service. The increase was said to be due to higher rentals for dwelling and rising costs of eating out. Compared to July 2014, notable hikes were

seen in the price index of alcoholic beverages and tobacco tax, housing and fuels as well as health owing to stricter control over tobacco tax, as well as the above two drivers.

Retail sales reached 14.26 billion in the second quarter, down by 12 percent from 16.28 billion in the initial quarter.

FISHERMAN'S WHARF

Food festival to take place in holiday week to woo more patrons



PHOTO ARCHIVE

The organizers of the International Cultural and Food Festival have arranged for the event to be held over the time of the Mid-Autumn festival and National Day this year, in an attempt to lure more visitors both locally and from abroad.

The eight-day event, which made its debut at the Fisherman's Wharf in 2010, will this year celebrate its sixth edition and is set to be held at the same location. Harry Wu and Vincent Leong, two of the organizers, unveiled the gastronomic event's highlights yesterday afternoon in a media

briefing. The food stalls will be furnished to mimic the territory's streetscape as it appeared in the 1970s.

The pair expressed optimism regarding the prospect of the food fest, and indicated that the organizers have shelled out MOP1 million in advertising it throughout the Pearl River Delta. Last year, the Macao Foundation financed the culinary exposition to the tune of roughly MOP6.5 million. Nonetheless, the organizers are yet to disclose the budget for this year's festival.

Regarding visitor turnout, the duo were confident that

the event would attract as many participants as last year's did, with the caveat that the outcome would be subject to the weather during that period. The organizers recorded around 200,000 visits to the event last year.

It was reported that one third of the exhibition zone would be dedicated to local restaurateurs, while the rest is to be set aside for exhibitors from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia among others. Local eatery owners have been encouraged to apply for free.

Asked if the food festival could survive without government financial support, Wu conceded that the strain on human resources would make it impossible.

"With the shortage of manpower, the restaurants alone are already feeling the pressure, and even asked us if we could supply human resources for catering," he said. "Their difficulties happen to be ours. It's rather hard to hire that many people who will have to be paid triple for working on festival days."

Staff reporter

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Alexey Filippov



Judo worlds. South Korea's Baul An, right, competes against Russia's Mikhail Pulyaev, in the men's 66 kg final at the World Judo Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, yesterday. South Korea's Baul An won the gold medal.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	115-145 Bad
Ambient	115-145 Bad

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

THAILAND Bangkok city hall rejects criticism from the national police chief, who said the probe into last week's deadly bombing was hindered by broken security cameras. It insists only one camera was out of order.

AFGHANISTAN An Afghan health official says 11 people, mostly children, died when a truck transporting gas canisters exploded outside the western city of Herat.

CAMBODIA Police have confiscated nearly 1.5 tons of marijuana in what they say is their biggest seizure of the drug since they started cracking down on it 15 years ago.

BANGLADESH's High Court imposes a six-month ban on the screening of a movie about a garment worker who was rescued from the rubble 17 days after a five-story factory complex collapsed more than two years ago, killing more than 1,000 people.



AP PHOTO

LEBANON Ministers of the Hezbollah group and its allies walked out of a Lebanese Cabinet meeting yesterday meant to discuss the country's worsening garbage crisis, reflecting the government's lingering dysfunction despite mass protests. Prime Minister Tammam Salam had called for the emergency meeting after a weekend of clashes between security forces and demonstrators protesting against corruption and poor public services.

HUNGARY The latest surge of migrants crossing the Balkans has brought a record number to Hungary despite government efforts to quickly build a 4-meter high fence on the Serbian border to stop them. According to police data, 2,093 migrants were detained Monday, the highest figure so far this year. Over the past week, the daily average was of 1,493 migrants.