



IN-HOUSE BACHELOR DEGREE LAUNCHED
Melco has partnered with Edinburgh Napier University to launch the company's first in-house bachelor's degree

P2



MACAU ORCHESTRA SHINES IN AUSTRIA
The orchestra performed at the opening concert of an Austrian festival attended by the country's president Hans Fischer

P4



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P20

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA More than 150 students fell ill in northwest China after breathing in smoke from a mock air defense evacuation drill, state media reported yesterday. Smoke was used to make Friday's drill at Yifu Experimental Middle School in Gansu province more realistic, but the volume generated was too large, said the official Xinhua News Agency.

CHINA Hollywood studio Warner Bros. and a Chinese investment company said yesterday that they will jointly produce Chinese-language movies for the international market. Warner Bros. and China Media Capital announced their Hong Kong-based joint venture two days before the start of Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States. Flagship Entertainment Group Ltd. will also have offices in Beijing and Los Angeles.

CANADA-SYRIA Canada is to accelerate Syrian refugee applications to bring in 10,000 over a year earlier than scheduled.

More on backpage

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Ban Ki-Moon - 'I'm an easy scapegoat'

F1

Gaming watchdog breaks silence on junket theft

P3

AP PHOTO



Pope Francis praises US-Cuba detente as model for world

P15

Melco Crown launches first in-house bachelor degree

Catarina Pinto

MELCO Crown Entertainment has partnered with Edinburgh Napier University to launch the company's first in-house bachelor's degree next year. MCE YOU-niversity is part of Melco's Whole Person Development program designed for employees who do not hold a university degree.

Akiko Takahashi, the company's executive vice president and chief human resources and corporate social responsibility officer, said on Friday that Melco is committed to fostering internal career opportunities: "It's better to lose people to ourselves than to lose them to competitors. So we need to allow them to have access to the jobs they'd like to try."

Stressing that Melco oversaw 18,000 internal transfers and promotions since it first opened its properties in Macau, Ms Takahashi said that the company's first bachelor's program - a Bachelor of Arts in International Business Practice offered in partnership with Edinburgh's Napier University - will be launched next year, with the first batch comprising 15 employees. They will be able to



Akiko Takahashi

continue their careers at Melco while studying.

Senior operation managers, shift managers, pit supervisors and assistant directors of casino services are among the employees who have enrolled in the program.

"To enroll, employees must

have at least five years of supervisory or managerial experience, and must pass certain assessments. Usually a bachelor's program comprises of a four-year study program. But in this case, they get two-years of credit for their practical experience and enter the bachelor's

program on the third year," she explained.

The senior executive added that classes would be customized to suit Macau's economic needs and interests: "This is an in-house credited program awarded by the Edinburgh Napier University. The classes

will be somewhat customized to us. For instance, the international marketing class will provide a Macau context [for study] by asking how international marketing relates to Macau and to our business and tourism."

Ms Takahashi told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held on Friday that the company would cover tuition fees.

Melco is in talks with local universities for co-teaching opportunities

The company is also in talks with local universities for co-teaching opportunities in this first bachelor's degree program. The executive VP did not disclose which higher education institutions would be participating in the program, stating only that negotiations are currently taking place.

Ms Takahashi told reporters that enough personnel have been recruited for Studio City, the company's Hollywood-themed resort, which opens on October 27.

Melco Crown Entertainment's co-chairman and CEO, Lawrence Ho, said that lifelong learning and holistic personal development programs are part of the company's core values.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The Macau International Jazz Festival was held at MGM's Lion's Bar last weekend. Guitar legend Lee Ritenour (pictured) headlined the closing concert on Saturday.

CRIME

Korean man caught for violent robbery

THE Judiciary Police arrested a Korean man last Saturday in connection with a gruesome robbery that happened earlier this month. The 33-year-old suspect was accused of having assaulted a local while she was on her way home via the light railway construction near the Jockey Club late at night. He grabbed the 32-year-old victim's handbag containing over MOP10,000, hit her with a hammer multiple times and then fled the scene on foot

and then by cab. After losing all of his money in May, the suspect said he had been surveying the region for locations at which to carry out the robbery. The man was also allegedly linked to another aggravated theft where he procured promotional chips worth HKD210,000 in July from a Korean tourist. The suspect, who worked as a clerk in his home country, reportedly shed his clothes while fleeing the scene in order to avoid being recognized.

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Gaming watchdog breaks silence as demands for intervention continue

Aries Un

THE Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau broke its silence last Friday over the Dore Group embezzlement, following another effort by the junket's investors to draw public attention to the ongoing episode on the same day.

During an afternoon press conference, attended by lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, roughly 70 investors from the group urged the government, along with Wynn Macau and the troubled company, to address the contentious issue.

According to attendees, the theft has compromised at least 70 investors' deposits in the junket's account, amounting to approximately HKD700 million. Nonetheless, the investors and self-described "victims" estimate that their losses might even amount to as much as HKD2 billion, much higher than initial estimates of arou-



Pereira Coutinho (right) attended a protest organized by Dore Group's "investors" last week

nd HKD100 million.

Many of those investment deals were found to have been sealed in varying ways, leaving some scammed investors without contracts after direct bank transfers. Coutinho identified incomplete gaming regulations as the source of the issue and blamed the regulations for not explicitly defining the legal identities of those involved in

such an investment model.

Furthermore, the lawmaker also stressed that the authorities could not turn their back on the predicament, given its role in granting gaming concessions to the casino operators.

"Actually, the bureau knows whether or not the VIP rooms could conduct such a business as the authorities know their accounts while calculating the [gaming] tax," he told the journalists during the press conference. "[The officials] know the sources of their incomes."

In addition, the lawmaker also invoked the Basic Law, professing that the legal protection of rights and freedoms of citizens could extend to this particular episode. He called on the government to contact the investors embroiled in the theft as soon as possible to offer assistance.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau issued a statement on Friday clarifying that only preauthorized credit institutions are allowed to run

GGR TO DROP IN SEPTEMBER

MACAU'S GROSS gaming revenue is expected to drop again in September. According to a forecast made by Lusa, local casinos may close the month of September with revenues between MOP18.1 billion and MOP18.6b.

businesses involving public savings and funding. The bureau also said that the existing law only recognized shareholders and executives whose engagement in the junket business has been approved through a scrutiny.

Last week, both Wynn and the junket operator downplayed their roles in the high-profile scam after making headlines the week before, but the latter was accused of denying investors' withdrawal requests. Some found their accounts frozen by the group despite deposited funds remaining intact, while others claimed that a portion of their money went missing from within the accounts.

The lawmaker cautioned that such an episode, if left unaddressed by the government, would tarnish the region's reputation as an internationally-renowned gambling hub. He also believed that with appropriate handling, this matter could deliver the message to foreign investors that Macau is a city with sound and transparent legal practices.

Junket doesn't owe Wynn money, spokesman says

WYNN Resorts spokesman Michael Weaver reiterated on Friday that Dore does not owe the company any money. A Dore employee confirmed via telephone that the company lodged the statement in the Macao Daily newspaper on September 17 – as the Times reported on Friday – and declined to comment further.

The incident comes after a 15-month drop in Macau's casino revenues as China's anti-corruption crackdown and a slowing economy kept high rollers at bay. The so-called junket operators – the middlemen who provide betting credit to the high-end players – have been closing their exclusive gambling rooms amid the downturn.

GAMING

EU strengthens rules against money laundering

THE European Union has strengthened rules against money laundering, including a rule which requires due diligence for transactions of EUR2,000 or above within gambling services as a new Anti-Money Laundering Directive takes effect. Based on this increased stringency, EU member states are required to implement new rules within the coming two years.

Casino gamblers will be required to provide identification documents, and will be subject to stricter monitoring in case they place bets or reclaim casino chips worth

EUR2,000 or above.

In addition to the due diligence requirements, gaming operators will have to report suspicious transactions and maintain records of payment.

Businesses that are subject to the new rules will also have to implement internal control measures to combat money laundering and terrorism-financing activities.

According to the new legislation, under proven low-risk circumstances, member states may exempt certain gambling service providers from some or all require-

ments, but in strictly limited and justified conditions. These exemptions, however, do not apply to casinos, and will be subject to a specific risk assessment.

"Apart from casinos, member states are given the power to decide whether to either partially or fully exempt gaming operators [from applying the new rules] in proven low-risk [situations]," said lawyer Rui Patrício from the Portuguese law firm MLG-TS at a briefing on the new EU directive, newspaper Diário de Notícias reported.

The EU's fourth anti-money laundering directive, adopted this summer, is intended to facilitate the work of Financial Intelligence Units in different member states, establishing a coherent policy towards non-EU countries that have flawed anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing schemes, as well as ensuring full traceability of fund transfers within, to and from the EU. **CP**

MGTO organizes Islamic Culture workshop

The Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) held two themed training sessions on 4 September and 18 September in Hong Kong entitled "Islamic Culture in Tourism" aimed at tour guides, hotel employees and tour operators from Macau, as well as MGTO staff. The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize travel industry personnel with the religion of Islam, so that they can provide a more appropriate and considerate service for Islamic visitors to Macau.

MUST to open pharmacy program next year

Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) will launch a five-year pharmacy degree program next year. The news emerged from a briefing which addressed the profession's certification for secondary school students last Saturday. Cheang Im Hong, head of the Health Bureau's department of inspection and licensing, expects that the bachelor's degree program will attract around 40 additional practitioners to the profession every year. Currently, the number of registered pharmacists sits at 437 with an average of 40 practitioners entering the field every year, while the number of registered technological assistants working in pharmacies totals 211 with 15 new members expected annually. According to the Health Bureau, the majority of local pharmacy graduates completed their studies either in the mainland or Taiwan.

Gov't starts installing surveillance cameras today

The first phase of the citywide surveillance camera installation starts today at the border gate port in two phases. The initial phase of the electronic spying system, which is estimated to take around three months, involves network installation at the plaza located outside the checkpoint complex and the underground bus station. Up to 219 cameras will be installed at the above locales in the first phase, and another 263 at major roads, while another 338 cameras will be scattered across the region at major facilities, tourist attractions and areas with a high crime rate. According to the Infrastructure Development Office, a central monitoring center instantly collects images from the surveillance points located across the city so as to better oversee the region's security.

MUSIC

Macau Orchestra European tour kicks off in Austria



15-year-old Macau violinist, Sophia Feinga Su

THE Macau Orchestra (OM) was recently in the Austrian city of Linz to participate in the annual Brucknerfest Linz Festival, representing China. The ensemble gave two concerts in the iconic concert hall, Brucknerhaus Linz.

The orchestra's music director and principal conductor, Liu Jia, also conducted the Linz Bruckner Orchestra in the opening concert of the Austrian festival, which was attended by Austria's president, Mr. Hans Fischer.

OM presented two concerts

at the revered music festival alongside a number of young Chinese musicians – such as rising piano star Zhang Haochen, sheng (reed pipes) instrumentalist Wu Wei, and promising 15-year-old Macau violinist, Sophia Feinga Su – as an introduction to the musical achievements of contemporary China.

During this visit, OM's delegation – the vice-president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Leong Hio Ming, maestro Liu Jia and all the musicians – was received by the Mayor of Linz, Mr. Klaus Luger, at the city hall.

OM gave a concert in the Austrian city of Erl as a part of the Tiroler Festspiele Erl, followed by performances at the Tonhalle Zürich (Switzerland) and the Liszt Ferenc Zeneművészeti Egyetem, in Budapest (Hungary). Today, the orchestra will return to Vienna and end its tour with a concert at the MuTh - Konzertsaal der Wiener Sängerknaben.

STATISTICS

290,000 take part in cultural activities



Concertgoers at the D. Pedro V Theatre

IN the second quarter of 2015, a total of 290,100 individuals participated in cultural activities, according to a survey conducted by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The cultural activity participation rate (percentage of individuals in the population aged 16 and above participating in cultural activities) was 52.8 percent, down by 0.8 percentage points year-on-year. The number of local residents participating in cultural activities totalled 249,800 with a participation rate of 58 percent, up by 1.3 percentage points year-on-year.

The Survey on Participation of Residents in Cultural Activities indicates that going to the cinema is the most popular cultural activity, and that it is pursued by

157,800 people.

The number of local residents going to libraries increased by 2 percent year-on-year to 110,900. Conversely, the number of locals visiting museums or World Heritage sites decreased by 2.1 percent year-on-year to 95,600. There were 91,200 local residents attending performances, down by 12.8 percent year-on-year. Music and dance recitals were the more popular performances among locals, attracting 67,400 participants (73.9 percent), while theatre performances had 46,700 participants (51.2 percent), down by 14.6 percent and 9 percent respectively year-on-year.

According to DSEC, 36,400 local residents attended art exhibitions, down by 6.2 percent year-on-year.

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2015-2016 Free Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme

In line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization, starting today, the Health Bureau will offer free seasonal influenza vaccination for the following high-risk populations with details as follows:

Eligible Groups	Detailed Arrangement
People between the age of 6 months and less than 18 years	Children who have not attended nursery school or persons not studying in Macao should be vaccinated at Health Centres, vaccination point of Kiang Wu Hospital, Outpatient Department of MUST Hospital or Workers' Clinic.
People aged 60 or above	To be vaccinated at Health Centres, vaccination point of Kiang Wu Hospital, Outpatient Department of MUST Hospital or Workers' Clinic.
Pregnant women Patients with chronic cardiovascular, pulmonary, metabolic, renal or immunocompromised diseases, including obese individuals (with body mass index BMI ≥ 30)	Pregnant women or patients being followed-up in Conde de São Januário General Hospital shall receive vaccination with prescription by their attending physician; others may visit Health Centre for vaccination.
Health care workers	Governmental and non-governmental medical organizations with relatively large number of staff to get vaccinated themselves, with vaccines offered by the Health Bureau. Other medical professionals holding valid Macao SAR Resident Identity Card, Health Bureau patient card and Health Bureau licence renewal receipt can be vaccinated at Health Centre.
Residents and staff of residential institutions	Personnel of Health Centres will visit the institutes to provide vaccination services according to the information provided by the Social Welfare Institute.
Others for whom vaccination is considered necessary by the Health Bureau	After the Health Bureau has contacted respective entities for name lists, vaccination will be arranged by Health Centres.
Children, students, teachers and staff members of local nursery schools, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools	Personnel of Health Centres will visit nurseries/schools to provide mass vaccination services. Children in nursery schools, pupils, teachers and staff members of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools who failed to join the mass vaccination may, starting 1 st December 2015, get vaccination at Health Centres, vaccination point of Kiang Wu Hospital, Outpatient Department of MUST Hospital or Workers' Clinic.

1) All eligible persons should hold a valid identity document issued by the Macao SAR and a Health Bureau patient card; for those who do not have a patient card, please contact a Health Centre for application.

2) Community organizations such as community centres and elderly homes may contact Health Centres, mass vaccination will be arranged accordingly when human resources condition permits.

Aside from the above mentioned specific groups, members of the public who wish to reinforce their immunity against influenza are advised to consult their private doctors for prescription and vaccination. Due to the frequent mutation and antigenic drift of influenza viruses, the vaccination should be repeated every year to maintain adequate immunity.

Macao, 21st September 2015.

Ávila and Souza represent MSAR in Singapore

THE 2015 edition of the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix took place last weekend on the streets of Singapore, with some added value to the usual support race of the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia (PCCA), with the brand-new TCR in both the International and Asia Series.

As for the Porsches, local driver Rodolfo Ávila was one of the most frequently-mentioned names from within the commentary box of Singapore Marina Bay Circuit. Racing under the Macau flag, Rodolfo displayed solid skills in both races but stayed one step away from the podium in both situations. There were two fourth place fi-



RENATO MARQUES



NEXT RACES

PCCA – Last two rounds of the season, Shanghai International Circuit, China, October 30 - November 1.

TCR ASIA – 24-25 October, Buriram International Circuit, Thailand.

It's great to be racing here and I'll be back for sure next year

FILIPE DE SOUZA

nishes for Ávila, who still performed some great feats on the 23 turns of Singapore as he fought for third position.

Action on the track during Race 1 on Saturday was highly limited as the Malaysian driver Alif Hamdan went spinning

and encountered some difficulties in removing his car from a dangerous position. This forced Hamdan to run the majority of his race under the safety car, giving a comfortable win to the New Zealand driver Craig Baird.

Yesterday's Race 2 was domi-

nated by China's Tung Ho-Pin, who had already crossed the finish line on Saturday in second place, finishing a superb overall performance. Ávila was fourth but his race was fast and furious.

The TCR series was one of the

big selling points of this year's racing program, and provided spectators with quality entertainment. Ávila was racing for the first time in Singapore with another driver from Macau, Filipe Souza.

The weekend was unfortunate for Souza. In Saturday's race, he was taken out by another driver in the early stages and did not have a chance to race at all. Hong Kong's Michael Choi, driving a Honda Civic TCR, won TCR Asia Series Race 1.

Yesterday's race was a little better. Although Filipe encountered some obstacles – as some of the car's mechanical issues could not be fixed – he finished fifth in race 2, and was promoted to fourth due to a penalty given to Kenneth Lau from Hong Kong, also from the Stewards. Michael Choi reasserted his dominance with another win on this second race. **RM**

Vettel wins GP to liven up F1 title race

FERRARI'S Sebastian Vettel won the Singapore Grand Prix yesterday and runaway championship leader Lewis Hamilton retired mid-race, injecting new life into the fight for the Formula One title.

Vettel led from start to finish in a race that was temporarily interrupted by a fan wandering on the track.

Vettel's third win of the season came by 1.4 seconds over Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo.



AP PHOTO

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen was third, as all three finished in the positions they started at the Marina Bay street circuit.

"I was able to look after my tires and control the pace," Vettel said. "Overall a perfect weekend, I am very, very happy."

Hamilton suffered a power delivery failure that the team took a long time to diagnose and could not fix, forcing him out on lap 33.

His championship lead over Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg, who finished fourth, was cut from 53 to 41 points – 252 vs. 211 – with Vettel a further eight points back on 203. There are six races left.

Williams driver Valtteri Bottas was fifth yesterday, Red Bull's Daniil Kvyat sixth and Force India's Sergio Perez seventh.

18 illegal workers face prosecution after police raid

A joint operation conducted by the Public Security Police and Judiciary Police last Friday identified 18 illegal fema-

le workers at a downtown nightclub. The sudden raid on casinos, karaoke parlors and pubs on the Macau peninsula and Co-

tai Strip, led by the Macau Unitary Police Service, was carried out in order to combat human trafficking and other

major crimes. Up to 48 out of 781 people intercepted have been taken to the police station for inquiries. Among these,

three workers held Korean passports, nine held Chinese passports, and six had Chinese travel permits.

All eighteen were from the same entertainment venue and have been sent to the Public Prosecution Office after being confirmed as illegal workers. A total of 220 security agents participated in the operation.

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ARTS

Cultural exchange program ends with 'Embraces'

THE monologue "Embraces" will take three young local actors and a veteran from Hong Kong to the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) and will run in five performances from 6 to 8 November.

The production stages a series of monologues, telling four unusual and intimate personal stories. The audience will hear Maggie Im's experience growing up as the fat girl – hilarious and heart-breaking by turns – while Simon Lou tells the audience of the struggles emerging from his similarity to a famous Hong Kong comedian. In the third monologue, Caroline Lam describes her passion for the performing arts as the actress reveals her desire to change the world through



acting, while Mak Pui Tong will compare his professional experience as an actor with a side job he took as a shrimp breeder.

The performance concludes the "Monologue Diaries", a cultural exchange program that took local performers Maggie, Simon and Caroline up to an artistic residence at

Chung Ying Theatre, one of Hong Kong's most esteemed theatre companies.

According to CCM, after completing an intense four-week program of rehearsals and performances, the trio will return to Macau for the premiere of "Embraces," which will be performed in Cantonese.

Health authorities caution against illegal cosmetic treatments

THE Health Bureau has urged citizens to stay vigilant while seeking cosmetic medical services as such procedures have been growing increasingly popular in the territory over the last few years.

According to the authorities' statistics, last year only 21 medical centers out of 287 health care venues had registered with the government to provide cosmetology services as their major business while another 21 venues run similar services.

The health department stressed that ordinary beauty salons without related licenses from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau were not authorized to engage in business involving medical procedures or plastic surgery, as it is strictly prohibited by related regulations. Since 2011, the authorities have already received 51 complaints over the provision of cosmetic beauty services, 26 of which are directed at health care venues, while the rest are at beauty salons.

In 2012, the two bureaus es-



established a joint mechanism to monitor the industry, allowing them greater power in overseeing such services. The authorities have carried out a total of 23 onsite inspections throughout the region in the first two quarters of the year. They also called on service-seekers to understand the potential risks associated with cosmetology before undergoing plastic surgery.

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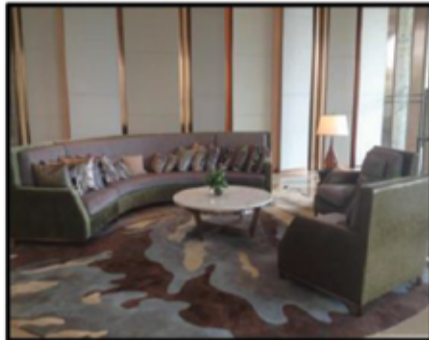
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Houston Court, Coloane Village - Coloane

(Ref: 1505502)
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Stunning One Bedroom Apartment. Well appointment property in Coloane village. Views across the water to China. One king size bedroom with built in storage. Good size en suite toilet & shower room. Furnished & upgraded last month (painted throughout. Air con gased & serviced, new bathroom fittings). Modern open plan kitchen & living area. Small private outdoor area.



One Oasis, Tower 3, Coloane

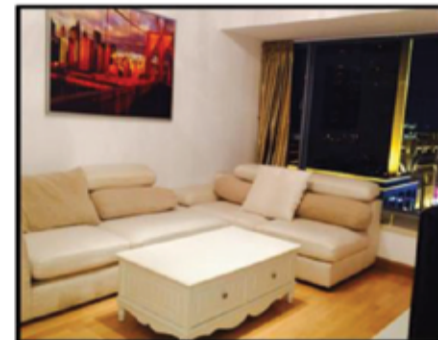
(Ref: 15070515)
1,286sq. ft. HKD 15,500
Furnished 2 bed apartment, 2 bathrooms with one being en suite. One Oasis offers amazing club house facilities including a indoor and outdoor swimming pool, cinema, restaurant, kids playroom and a fantastic gym. Hourly shuttle bus and main route for public transportation. Great location with Cotai Strip and ferry terminal only 10 minutes away. Located south of the Cotai Strip, One Oasis is in an area surrounded by both entertainment and Nature.



Chong Fok

(Ref: 15070520)
1,300sq. ft. HKD 12,900

Great family home or possible flat share option this 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms apartment comes furnished. It has a well equipped kitchen, plenty of built in storage throughout the apartment. Located close to the old Macau University in Taipa, it takes a minute to walk to the closest bus stop, and five minute walk to the shops, hotels and banks. The complex has a swimming pool and a lovely community feel amongst its residents.



One Central - Macau

(Ref: 15040490)
1,300sq. ft. HKD 26,000

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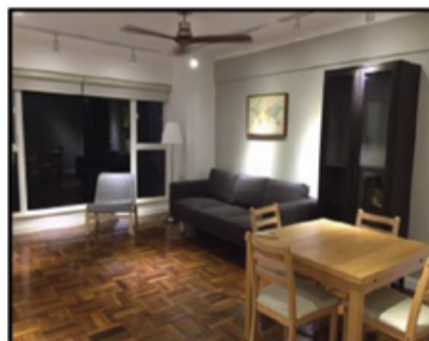
Directly linked to the shopping center.

Walking distance to MGM, Wynn Available now.



Hellene Gardens, Bauhinia Court - Coloane

(Ref: 1505501)
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Kinglight, Taipa

(Ref: 15090529)
771sq. ft. HKD 14,500

Newly renovated and furnished 2 bedroom apartment in the heart of Taipa.

Both kitchen and bathroom have been refitted, with built in storage in bedrooms.

Great location with restaurants, bars, doctors, super markets and shops nearby.



Penha Hill, Tower 13 - Macau

(Ref: 11060198)
1,434sq. ft. HKD 16,000

Newly renovated bright 3 bedrooms (3 bedrooms) apartment with a spacious living room.

Nicely furnished and decorated.

Car park available for rent \$2600. Great location, close to the Penha Church, surrounded by nature and very peaceful area.



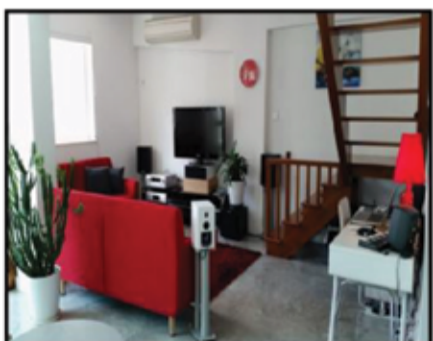
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Yuan devaluation could weigh on Chinese buyers of US homes

Alex Veiga, Business Writer

SHANSHAN Wu already owns three houses back home in China. But the 36-year-old has spent the last two months in Chicago shopping for a three-bedroom. She's got cash to spend - up to USD400,000.

And she's not done. "The real estate market in China is dropping and I'm planning to sell one of them to maybe buy more houses in the U.S.," said Wu, whose hometown of Yunfu is in Guangdong province.

Chinese have been snapping up U.S. real estate of all kinds, looking for a safer place to put their money than their own slowing economy. Investors from China are now second only to Canadians in the number of U.S. homes they buy.

In the last few months, amid signs that China's economy is slowing even more than expected, Chinese investors have stepped up their buying even more. The government's decision last month to downgrade the country's currency added to their urgency, since a weaker yuan makes buying real estate in dollars more expensive.

"I got a spur of buyers contacting me the past few days," said Gloria Ma, an agent with Re/Max Action in Lisle, Illinois, who is working with several Chinese homebuyers. "Some of the people are selling part of their holdings over there and come here and buy."

While purchases by foreigners represent just a sliver of overall U.S. home sales, they have impacted markets significantly in certain cities such as New York,



Shanshan Wu, right, goes over real estate listings with her broker, Lisa Li, in Naperville, Ill.

San Francisco, Seattle and Irvine, California. Buyers are also showing up in more affordable Midwestern areas like Chicago.

In the 12 months ended in March, roughly 209,000 U.S. houses were sold to buyers living outside the U.S. or immigrants in the country for less than two years, according to the National Association of Realtors. That represents about 4 percent of all sales of previously occupied homes in the same period.

Of the USD104 billion in total sales, Chinese buyers accounted for the biggest portion, \$28.6 billion. Half of those sales involved homes in Florida, California, Texas and Arizona.

Overall, U.S. home sales to foreign buyers have been falling - 10 percent in the 12 months

Amid signs that China's economy is slowing even more than expected, Chinese investors have stepped up their buying

ended in March compared to the same period a year earlier - but the devaluation of the yuan makes a slowdown in Chinese deals unlikely.

That's one reason it's likely that Chinese who are interested in buying real estate won't pull back now, said Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors.

So far this year, the yuan has fallen 2.6 percent versus the dollar. It now takes about 6.37 yuan to buy \$1. That's still better than five years ago, when 6.77 yuan bought \$1.

For now, the change in the currency is likely not enough to dissuade well-heeled homebuyers from China, said Wei Min Tan, a real estate broker who caters to investors looking to buy condominiums in Manhattan.

"My clients may say, 'OK, I'll just negotiate an extra 5 percent off,'" said Tan, whose clients tend to buy condos pri-

ced between \$1 million and \$5 million.

That price range is typical of Chinese investors buying homes elsewhere in the U.S. And most of them pay in cash.

"In the last year or two, we've seen more sales pushing \$5 to \$10 million," said Tere Foster, managing broker for Team Foster at Windemere Real Estate in Seattle.

The segment of homes most in demand by Chinese buyers are those priced around \$1.2 million, she said.

"That's where we're seeing a lot of the business," Foster said.

Not all buyers are wealthy investors. Some are middle-income earners with kids bound for university in the U.S. They will typically buy an apartment or small single-family home for their kids to live in while they go to college, said Lisa Li, an agent at Re/Max of Naperville, a suburb of Chicago.

Others will use the home as a vacation property or a rental.

The main reason: To protect their money.

"They want a safe place to park their assets," Tan said. "A lot of my clients were not expecting the Chinese economy to be strong indefinitely. A lot of them started moving assets to safer countries a few years ago."

Wu, the CEO of the countertop maker, is looking to make her move now.

She says she's determined to land her first home in the U.S., despite extra costs from the devaluation of the Chinese currency.

"It affects us a little bit," Wu said. "But not much." AP

corporate bits

SOFITEL LAUNCHES NEW WINE DAYS



Sofitel is launching the new 2015 edition of its Wine Days during which Sofitel hotels around the world celebrate French wine and art-de-vivre. Sofitel Macau's programs will be held from today until October 31, 2015 during the traditional wine harvest period in France.

Happenings include a partnership with 2004 Worldwide Best Sommelier Enrico Bernardo, a global study about the art of wine, and in-hotel events such as the Rendezvous bin end sale and the Mistral "Wine Market", both offering discount prices on wine. In terms of F&B offerings, there's the Mistral "Cold Cuts Buffet" dinner, Le Chinois Special Set Menu with Wine Pairing and the Sommeliers Selection list from Maison Kressmann at Privé French Restaurant.

JINJIANG BUYS 81PCT STAKE IN 7 DAYS HOTEL OWNER KEYSTONE

Shanghai Jinjiang International Hotels Development Co. bought a controlling stake in the owner of 7 Days Group Holdings Ltd., two years after the economy hotel chain was delisted in New York.

Jinjiang International will pay 8.3 billion yuan (USD1.3 billion) for 81 percent of Keystone Lodging Holdings Ltd., the owner of Plateno Group. Plateno took 7 Days private in 2013, with funding from Carlyle Group and Sequoia Capital China. The transaction gives Keystone an enterprise value of 10.8 billion yuan, Jinjiang said in a statement to the Shanghai Stock Exchange Friday announcing the deal.

The Shanghai-based ho-



Jinjiang International Hotel Management Co Chief Executive Officer Bernold Schroeder

tel operator, which used to focus on economy hotels, is snapping up properties in China and abroad to counter an industry-wide slowdown. Jinjiang in November 2014 signed a deal with Starwood Capital Group to buy Groupe du Louvre and subsidiary Louvre Hotels Group for an undisclosed price, gaining more than 1,000 hotels in 46 countries.

The latest acquisition will be funded by cash and loans, the company said in a statement. Jinjiang had 8.1 billion yuan in cash as of June 30, according to its Aug. 29 half-year report. Jinjiang has reached basic financing agreement with some banks.

"This buy marks a major step in our expansion, especially in adding brands in middle to high-end hotels," Jinjiang said in the statement.

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

IF North Korea launches a rocket into space or conducts a nuclear test in the coming weeks, as observers suspect it may, China is certain to respond angrily, and perhaps with an unprecedented level of economic punishment. The question is whether North Korea can be swayed even by its most important ally.

China, which fought on North Korea's side in the 1950-53 Korean War and remains its biggest trading partner and source of assistance, is thought to have the most leverage of any nation over Kim Jong Un's authoritarian country.

Yet the degree of that influence has long been questioned, particularly over the almost four years since Kim took power following the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, who visited China repeatedly and maintained close ties with Beijing.

The younger Kim has yet to make a trip to China or receive any high-ranking Chinese officials in Pyongyang. He snubbed a prestigious military parade in Beijing earlier this month, instead sending an envoy, secretary of the ruling Korean Workers Party Choe Ryong Hae.

Now, North Korean officials have signaled that they could mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of its ruling Workers Party on Oct. 10 with a satellite launch, and announced a restart of atomic-fuel plants that prompted speculation that North Korea is preparing for its fourth nuclear test explosion. Either a nuclear test or a satellite launch would violate U.N. resolutions, the latter because the rocket technology needed can also be used to develop long-range missiles.

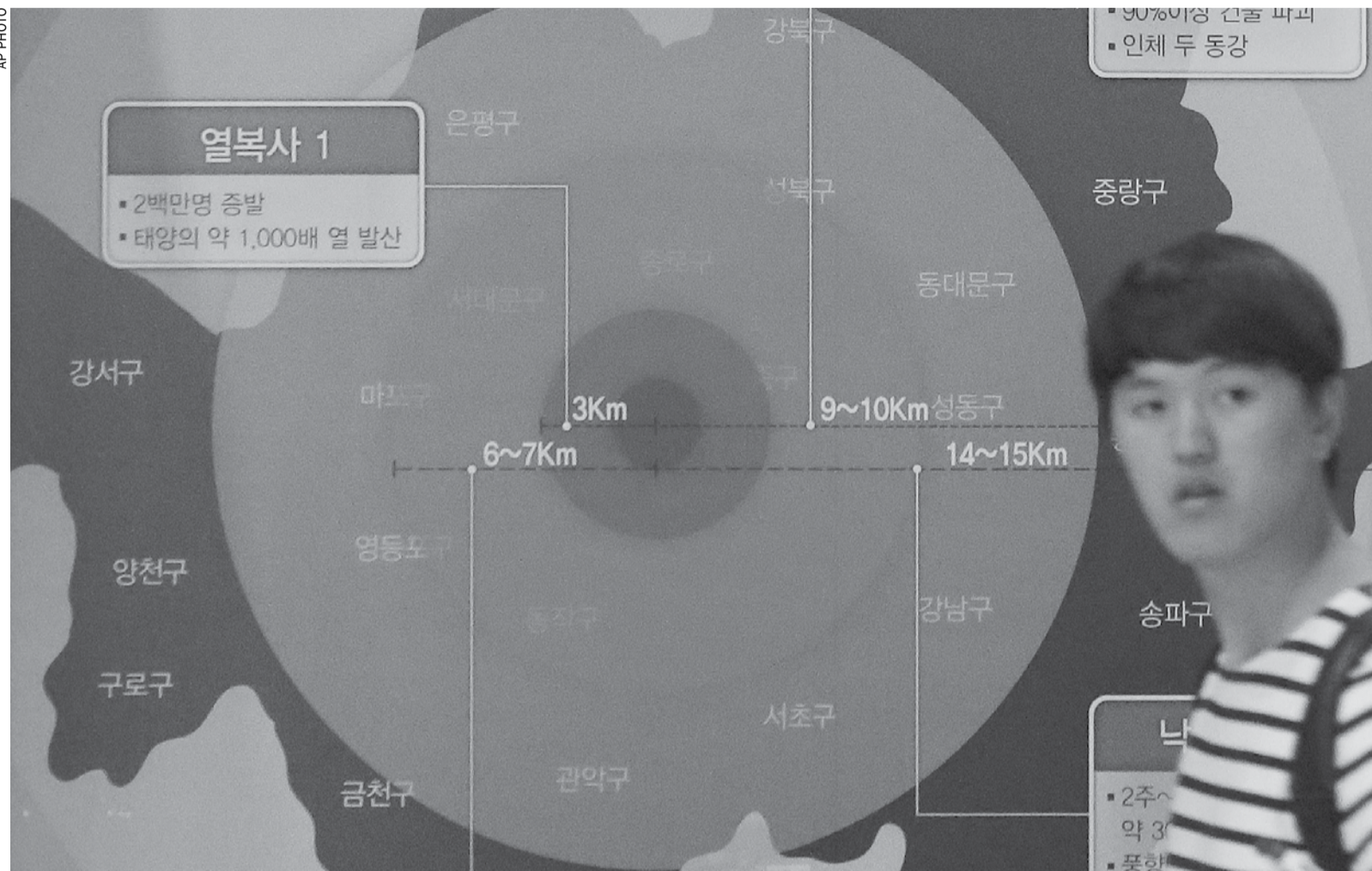
China's response to North Korea's last declared nuclear test, in the spring of 2013, was considered something of a watershed in degree of harshness. China swiftly joined the international community in condemning the action, called in the North Korean ambassador to protest, and, according to some indications, slowed the flow of goods across their border.

A new nuclear test or rocket firing could lead China to enforce existing and future sanctions more vigorously.

"China will strongly oppose (a test or launch) and will be sure to implement future United Nations resolutions even more resolutely," said Zhang Liangui, a North Korea expert with the ruling Communist Party's main research and training institute in Beijing.

China may also take unilateral steps such as cutting back on cross-border trade, Chinese experts say. Such measures could target the industrial commodities and luxury goods Kim needs to keep the moribund

Beijing to respond firmly to any North Korea nuke test



A visitor walks by a display illustrating the damage a TMT class nuclear weapon would cause if detonated in Seoul, at the Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea

North Korean economy ticking over and ensure the loyalty of regime supporters.

Information about North Korea's trade relations is difficult to access, though South Korea estimates its rival's total trade rose slightly to USD7.61 billion last year, of which China-North Korean trade accounted for as much as \$6.8 billion.

Beijing might also consider beefing up its forces along its 1,420-kilometer border with the North, as it was rumored to have done last month during a confrontation between North Korean and South Korean forces.

A test would inflict considerable collateral costs on the already strained China-North Ko-

rean relationship, both between their governments and among the Chinese public, where opinion has been increasingly running against North Korea.

"Most importantly, relations between the two parties and people will be greatly harmed if North Korea insists on acting while being clearly aware of China's stance," said Lu Chao, an expert on the North at the Academy of Social Sciences in Liaoning province bordering North Korea.

Such a development, Lu said, will leave North Korea "even more isolated on the international stage," with Beijing less willing to speak up for its ally at forums such as the U.N., where last year it sought to suppress discussion of a report about human rights violations in the North.

Yet, China remains unwilling to take measures that might pose an existential threat to the regime, even as it pushes North Korea harder to end its nuclear provocations and reform its broken-down economy.

Along with their historical ties, Beijing continues to see North Korea as a crucial buffer against U.S. troops based in South Korea and Japan. It also deeply fears that a regime collapse could send swarms of refugees across its border.

For that reason, Beijing probably won't greatly curtail assistance in food and other daily

necessities, including fuel oil, although there are indications that some of that aid may have already been cut back, said Jingdong Yuan, a specialist on Asia-Pacific security at Australia's University of Sydney.

"It's hard to anticipate drastic policy changes such as a complete cutoff of aid because limiting the impacts of uncertain developments in North Korea remains a key consideration for Beijing," Yuan said.

Given North Korea's intensely opaque leadership, experts say it's extremely difficult to judge what effect China's existing statements, adherence to U.N. sanctions and unilateral measures may have on the regime. Most, however, believe their value is limited.

"The general conclusion is that Beijing's impact on the

nuclear development has been moderate to negligible. The horse is already out of the barn, so to speak," Yuan said.

North Korea's leaders may also have concluded that their regime is secure enough to withstand tougher action from Beijing, Zhang said.

"It's obvious that sanctions haven't affected the lives and decision-making of their leaders. They think that not even a tough stance from China can affect their system's stability, so they just don't care," Zhang said.

Still, Beijing may be hoping to at least give North Korea's government pause.

"When considering the pros and cons, especially with the danger of further economic sanctions from China, the regime may just think twice before acting," Lu said. AP

The general conclusion is that Beijing's impact on the nuclear development has been moderate to negligible

JINGDONG YUAN
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

CHINA URGES RETURN TO SIX-PARTY TALKS

CHINA ON Saturday urged the countries involved in talks on ending North Korea's nuclear program to resume negotiations that stalled seven years ago. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the multilateral talks involving China, the United States, Russia, Japan, South Korea and North Korea are still the best way to address the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. He made the remarks at a symposium commemorating the 10th anniversary

of a joint statement, in which all six parties agreed to commit to denuclearizing the peninsula. The talks collapsed in 2008, when North Korea refused inspections and declared the deal void. "It is urgent for all the parties involved to reactivate the (2005) joint statement and make joint efforts to create conditions, reach consensus and pave the way for the resumption of the six-party talks," Wang said, addressing scholars and officials.

Hacking and maritime claims overshadow Xi's US visit

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

AS Chinese President Xi Jinping makes his first state visit to Washington this week, the outlook for relations is decidedly murkier than when he hosted President Barack Obama at their last summit less than a year ago.

Tensions are rising over allegations of Beijing-directed cyberattacks on the U.S. and China's moves to assert its South China Sea territorial claims. Much of the American public sees China as an economic threat and criticisms are rising over a sweeping crackdown on civil rights.

"U.S. suspicions regarding Chinese intentions are growing," said Aaron L. Friedberg, professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University.

"The atmosphere surrounding this summit may be more negative than any in the post-Tiananmen period," Friedberg said, referring to China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989 that marked the nadir in relations.

At the same time, belief in China's inexorable rise has been shaken by a stock market plunge and an economic slowdown that have sent shockwaves through global markets. And last month's catastrophic chemical warehouse explosion in a city just east of Beijing that killed 173 people has also underscored concerns about corruption and incompetence, increasing doubts about the viability of China's model of authoritarian governance.

Circumstances were different when the two leaders met in November at an Asia-Pacific summit in Beijing. Then, they could point to a much-heralded consensus on climate change, while China had just recently taken part in the premier U.S. naval exercise in the Pacific and appeared to be assuming greater responsibility for the global commons.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

Not all is gloomy. Beijing and Washington have found common cause in restraining Iran and North Korea's nuclear ambitions, even if China has been unable to restart six-nation talks with Pyongyang.

"We should actually take a closer look at any kind of possible cooperation, to leverage our resources and to do the utmost," Xi's chief foreign policy adviser, State Counselor Yang Jiechi said in a recent interview with the of-



In this Nov. 12, 2014 file photo, U.S. President Barack Obama, left, shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping after their press conference at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

ficial China Daily newspaper.

In Washington, meaningful discussions are expected on trade, North Korea and Iran. U.S. officials say they have little hope for major breakthroughs on the tough issues bedeviling ties, but that there may be conciliatory gestures such as restarting dialogue on cybersecurity and a pact on avoiding unintended incidents between military aircraft.

"To me, the most important thing about the meeting is that it is an acknowledgement of the importance of the relationship," said University of Virginia professor of foreign affairs and China expert Brantly Womack. Other than that, it will be mostly posturing, Womack said: "I imagine it will be more light-sabre poses than deliverables."

Chinese officials and government-backed scholars say that the world's top economies should maintain close contact and operate under a new "major power" relationship, a concept that seeks to bring China up to parity with the U.S.

"The key is that the both sides need to make concessions and the meeting is a venue for negotiation," said Zhu Feng, a Peking University expert on China-U.S. relations.

Before arriving in Washington on Friday, Xi is scheduled to attend business-related events in Seattle. After meeting Obama, he travels to New York to deliver a speech before the U.N.

General Assembly the following Monday.

CRACKS APPEARING

For Xi, who took over as president in 2013, the visit comes as his standing both at home and abroad has grown slightly more ambiguous.

Earlier this month, he presided over a massive military parade in Beijing that showcased the growing might of the People's Liberation Army. However, while a few luminaries such as Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attended, most leaders of the world's major democracies stayed away, with the U.S. sending only its Beijing ambas-

The regime's reputation for competent economic management has taken a hit. Still, Xi appears to be firmly in control for now

AARON L. FRIEDBERG
PROFESSOR OF POLITICS AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.

sador.

The event was a hit among the Chinese public, but it was criticized abroad as threatening in appearance and unhelpful to reconciliation with World War II antagonist Japan.

The parade came on the heels of a Chinese stock market plunge, eroding trade figures, and an unexpected currency devaluation, prompting concerns about the state of the world's second-largest economy. The warehouse explosion in Tianjin also prompted questions about the strength of government institutions.

"The Communist Party regime's reputation for competent economic management has taken a hit. Still, Xi appears to be firmly in control for now," said Princeton's Friedberg.

At home, Xi's enduring strengths include his total authority over the military and security services and a growing cult of personality. That's allowed him to pursue a thorough campaign against corruption, while pressing a wide-ranging crackdown on Western democratic concepts and non-governmental, religious and other groups outside party control. Scores of human rights lawyers have been questioned or detained. Some have disappeared.

Overseas, it's a different story. His visit comes as Obama is under growing pressure — from Congress, parts of the military and intelligence community —

to take a tougher stance on China.

Rights groups have called on Obama to press Xi over the human rights crackdown. On a visit to China last month, U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom David Saperstein urged China to end a campaign of cross removals and church demolitions and end harassment of members of unregistered religious groups.

VIEWED WITH SUSPICION

The latest survey of U.S. attitudes toward China by the Pew Research Center showed that 54 percent of Americans have an unfavorable view of Beijing, continuing a rising trend dating back to 2010.

Topping those concerns are the USD1.27 trillion in U.S. debt held by China and the loss of American jobs blamed on Chinese competition. Close behind are hacking attacks originating from China that American officials say are approaching epidemic levels, including the theft of millions of U.S. federal personnel records that American lawmakers have said was engineered by Beijing.

Yet, despite U.S. warnings of legal action, China has shown no serious sign of acting on Washington's concerns, preferring to portray itself as a victim of hacking.

And while exchanges between their militaries have grown more frequent, Washington still has grave doubts about Beijing's intentions. The Sept. 3 military parade featured upgraded bombers and a pair of anti-ship ballistic missiles that analysts say could pose a direct threat to the U.S. Navy, American bases in Asia and to allies such as Japan and the Philippines.

Also of recent concern has been China's program of turning reefs in the South China Sea into islands complete with airstrips capable of accommodating those bombers.

Washington has repeatedly called on Beijing to halt such moves, only to be told they're not a threat and not of U.S. concern.

"The United States is not part of these disputes, and we do hope that the United States does not get involved," foreign affairs adviser Yang said in the newspaper interview.

The level of distrust, especially over hacking and espionage, was displayed in a unique way recently when the U.S. State Department ended a decades-long tradition of housing top officials at the iconic Waldorf-Astoria hotel while they are in New York.

No reason was given for the change, although officials pointed to Hilton Worldwide's sale of the hotel to a Chinese insurance conglomerate in a deal that prompted concerns over Chinese eavesdropping. **AP**



In this Jan. 20, 2004 file photo, Japanese Army soldiers are cheered by Iraqi children as they leave their base in Samawa, southern Iraq, one day after Japanese soldiers entered a conflict zone for the first time since World War II, crossing into Iraq on a humanitarian mission

Ken Moritsugu, Tokyo

JAPAN

Analysis: Tokyo takes step toward having a 'normal' military

IN the wee hours of Saturday morning, Japan took a step toward having a military in line with most armed forces around the world, one that would be able to take part in combat even when the country is not under direct attack.

Not everyone agrees that would be a good thing, as the noisy street protests outside parliament and the requisite criticism from China show.

But conservatives in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who have long chafed at restrictions on Japan's military under a constitution imposed by a victorious United States after World War II, want to undo what they consider unreasonable limits on the nation's armed forces.

While Japan's military remains far from unfettered, the package of bills approved by parliament is a further step in a gradual erosion of the restrictions that has been underway for more than two decades. The actual changes under the new laws may not be huge, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, over heated opposition, has achieved a significant shift in Japan's security framework, nudging his nation closer to having what proponents call a "normal" military.

Initially after World War II, Japan wasn't supposed to have a military at all. The United States, which occupied Japan from 1945 to 1952, wanted to banish the militarism that led to the war.

Under Article 9 of a new constitution adopted in 1947, the Japanese people renounced the

use of force to settle international disputes, and the right to maintain land, sea and air forces for that purpose.

U.S. thinking, though, changed with the outbreak of the Korean War. It began to view Japan as a potential Cold War ally rather than a threat. At American insistence, Japan created what is called the Self-Defense Force in 1954. While some still question its constitutionality, most now accept that

Japan's military will be able to take part in combat even when the country is not under direct attack

Article 9 allows Japan to have what has become a sizeable and well-equipped military to defend the country.

Over time, the government, again often under U.S. pressure, has repeatedly stretched the definition of self-defense to send the military on missions

to the Mideast, Africa and elsewhere, though short of actual combat. And more often than not, the moves have met strong public opposition.

The first Gulf War in 1990-91 was a major turning point. Japan, by then an economic superpower, made a major financial contribution to the effort, but was criticized for giving too little, too late and not sending any people.

"The Gulf Crisis forced Japan to judge and cope with many questions which Japan after World War II had not experienced," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a 1991 annual report.

The following year, despite vocal opposition, parliament authorized the military to join U.N. peacekeeping operations around the world, though only in noncombat roles such as building infrastructure and policing.

A decade later, a special law approved in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in 2001 allowed Japan to send naval vessels to the Indian Ocean to refuel ships in the U.S.-led coalition. In 2004, another special law authorized the one-time deployment of troops to Iraq for construction projects.

The latest legislation formally allows many of these activities.

The government will no longer need to enact a special law each time, though parliamentary approval to dispatch troops will still generally be required.

The most heated provision enables the military, for the first time in the postwar era, to come to the defense of allies under attack, though only when the situation is also deemed an imminent, critical threat to Japan.

Previous governments have considered collective self-defense, as the concept is known, unconstitutional. Abe's Cabinet unilaterally reversed that finding by approving a reinterpretation of the constitution last year. Last weekend's legislation changes laws governing the Self-Defense Forces to allow them to do that.

Approval of the bills was never in doubt — the ruling coalition holds a solid majority in both houses of parliament — but the battle over them sparked larger-than-usual protests, energized a new generation of student activists and came at a political cost to Abe's public support ratings. Protesters saw the legislation as an assault on Article 9 and demanded that Abe resign.

In a way, the U.S. succeeded perhaps more than it now wishes in instilling a strong pacifist chord in the Japanese psy-

che, which has come to embrace the U.S.-drafted constitution as its own.

U.S. officials today are careful to avoid demanding changes in Japan's military policy, at least publicly. But in the face of China's growing military challenge and North Korean threats, they say they welcome whatever Japan can do to strengthen bilateral military cooperation and contribute more to regional security, within the constraints of its constitution.

Abe is eager for his country to play a larger international role, but voters remain unsure. Though the economy has stagnated, Japan has enjoyed decades of peace under the war-renouncing constitution, paving the way for its economic rise. That's a source of pride, particularly when compared to the war defeat and utter devastation brought on by the military-led government in the first half of the 20th century.

Japanese are not anti-military anymore, in the way they were in the immediate postwar decades, but the pacifist chord remains strong nearly 70 years later, as evidenced by the ruckus inside and outside parliament over the security legislation. Abe's long-term goal is to revise the constitution, but that remains a daunting challenge. AP

PHILIPPINES

Head of Filipino sultanate that invaded Malaysian state dies

Jim Gomez, Manila

THE leader of a sultanate in the southern Philippines that staged a 2013 invasion of a bustling Malaysian state and sparked a deadly security crisis has died of kidney failure, his family and followers said yesterday.

Sultan Esmail Kiram II died at age 76 late Saturday at a hospital in southern Zamboanga city and left an order for his followers to pursue a claim to Sabah state in neighboring Malaysia, according to sultanate spokesman Abraham Idjirani.

"One of his instructions was the pursuit of the Sabah claim through peaceful means for the welfare of the Filipino people," Idjirani said.

Although largely dismissed as a vestige from a bygone era, Kiram's Muslim sultanate, based in the southern Philippine province of Sulu, stirred up a crisis



In this March 10, 2013 file photo, Sultan Esmail Kiram II talks with his brother Sultan of Sulu Jamalul Kiram III as they pose for photographers at his residence in Taguig, south of Manila

between Malaysia and the Philippines when his younger brother and about 200 followers, dozens of them armed, barged into Sabah's coastal village of Lahad Datu in February 2013.

Malaysia responded by sending

troops and launching airstrikes in weeks of sporadic fighting that killed dozens of people before the standoff eased.

Kiram's brother, who led that invasion, survived the clashes and returned to the southern

Philippines, where he died last year of a heart attack, Idjirani said.

Malaysia has governed the resource-rich frontier Sabah region of timberlands and palm oil plantations in northern Borneo as its second-largest federal state since the 1960s.

The Kirams claim Sabah has belonged to their sultanate for centuries and was only leased to Malaysia, which they say pays them a paltry annual rent. Malaysian officials contend the payments are part of an arrangement under which the sultanate has ceded the 74,000 square kilometers of Sabah territory to their country.

The Kiram sultanate, which emerged in the 1400s, built a legend for its wide influence at the time and its feared Tausug warriors. Chinese and European leaders once sent vassals to pay homage to their powerful forebears. The Sulu sultana-

te preceded both the Philippine republic and Malaysia by centuries, Idjirani said.

Overrun by history, however, the Kirams now carry royal titles and nothing much else. The sultanate has about 75,000 followers in Sulu and outlying islands that are among the country's poorest regions and are troubled by Muslim rebels, al-Qaida-linked extremists and outlaws.

Kiram was buried yesterday in Sulu's Maimbung town, where he had lived, with government forces providing security. A bomb explosion damaged Maimbung's police station late Saturday, but the attack was unrelated to his death and may have been staged by Abu Sayyaf militants, who have been targeted in a new military offensive, Sulu military commander Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado said.

Kiram led the sultanate since the early 2000s, backed by an elder brother, Jamalul, who had relocated to Manila and died in 2013.

Kiram's successor will be a younger brother, Phugdal Kiram, a retired grade school teacher, Idjirani said.

Philippine presidents have relegated the volatile territorial feud to the backburner despite efforts by the Kirams to put it on the national agenda. AP

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Migrants board a bus after they arrive at the border between Austria and Hungary near Heiligenkreuz

Khaled Kazzuha, Szentgotthard

EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

Joy as refugees flood into Austria; tears for those kept out

MIGRANTS following a well-worn path into Western Europe used to know exactly where they wanted to go and how to get there. Not anymore.

Their journey has morphed into an exhausting, chaotic, unpredictable mess as Balkan states close their borders and squabble over how to respond to the unprecedented wave of humanity flowing across their territories.

Hungary's decision to shut its border with Serbia on Sept. 15 set off a chain reaction in Croatia and Slovenia that has forced people fleeing violence in their homelands to rush from one European border to the next as they desperately try to find their way north before the rules change again.

Some 10,000 migrants flooded into Austria on Saturday after days of being shuttled from one country to another or seeing their paths blocked by border guards with dogs, razor-wire fences, barricaded bridges or riot police. Some were sent on chaotic trips from Serbia through Croatia, over to Hungary and up to Austria.

Hungary's foreign minister accused Croatia of dumping hundreds of migrants upon his country in buses, while Slovenia's prime minister accused Croatia of failing to fulfill its European responsibilities.

Tens of thousands more migrants are expected to enter Europe as people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia cross the seas from Turkey to Greece and head north through Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary.

"I have no idea where this journey will bring me, because

se I do not know which border after Serbia will be open," Mustafa Alrufay, a 26-year-old from Iraq, said Saturday at a refugee camp in Gevgelija, Macedonia. "I also have no idea in which country I'll be accepted and find secure shelter to live and work."

About 5,000 migrants a day are passing through Macedonia, according to the European Union.

■ **Some 10,000 migrants flooded into Austria on Saturday after days of being shuttled from one country to another**

In the dangerous waters of the Mediterranean, the Italian coast guard said Saturday it had coordinated the rescue of 4,343 migrants from smugglers' boats off the coast of Libya in just one day. Adding to the tally, a Norwegian vessel rescued another 335 people. The Greek coast guard said a 5-year-old girl found in the sea

off the island of Lesbos died after her boat sank. Fourteen others are missing.

Migrants have long taken death-defying trips across the Mediterranean to reach Europe, relying largely on smugglers to guide them. But Hungary's decision to close the border with Serbia is forcing them to plot entirely new routes.

The first choice for many was to head west through Croatia to Slovenia, but the Slovenian government closed its border as well and stationed riot police to block some bridges. That left hundreds in limbo and led others to cross into Hungary from Croatia.

People-traffickers knew of Hungary's plans to close the border and were prepared to try different routes, according to Maurizio Albahari, author of a book on Mediterranean migrations and a social anthropologist at the University of Notre Dame.

But most people on the trek north aren't paying to get all the way to Germany. They do some of the journey on their own, skirting roadblocks as they arise. They compare notes on Facebook, where the "Guardians of the Homeless" group claims 100,000 members. They watch the news, they talk to journalists.

"Everyone among them knew that Hungary would finish building their fence on the 15th, so

the urge to beat the deadline added to the chaos," Albahari said. "Additionally, there's the expectation the EU will come up with more stringent measures early next week, and that is adding to the haste of people who feel they risk being stuck where they don't want to."

Pain and uncertainty drained away from the face of Adeeb Jaafri, a theater student from Damascus, as he arrived Saturday in Heiligenkreuz im Lafnitztal in Austria.

"Right now, I feel like I've been born anew. Now I don't even see these long queues in front of me," he said, pointing to scums to board buses. "It makes no difference to me whether I am delayed whether I stay here two days. The important thing is that I've finally arrived. And that I am now finally safe."

Others raised their arms in joy as they crossed the border, a milestone in their epic journey to safety.

But for many, the chaos and uncertainty continues. Some families were separated as they fought for space on buses. Others were not allowed across.

On the Hungarian side of the border with Austria, Hala Khatib of Damascus and her three daughters wept uncontrollably.

"I want to go to Germany. My husband is in Germany. I've come here all alone to this country. Please let me go," she

sobbed. "I am exhausted. Me and my children, we're exhausted."

Many waited as long as 12 hours to be allowed forward.

At border spots in half a dozen countries, thousands set up camp with no food or water or slept on the streets, exposed to heat in the day and the cold at night. In Turkey, riot police pushed back hundreds of migrants who were trying for the second day to reach the country's western border with Greece and Bulgaria. Police in Slovenia said more than 1,000 migrants had entered the country, but many others were still waiting at the border.

Croatia demanded help in the form of a more unified approach from the European Union. The country of 4.2 million has seen more 20,700 migrants arrive since Wednesday.

"This will not stop. This is a bitter river, a river of desperate and embittered people that will not stop flowing," Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic said Saturday while touring the community of Beli Manastir near the border with Hungary. "They will use (this route) all the time unless the problem is solved at the source."

Hungary's military, meanwhile, announced another solution to Europe's immigration crisis: calling up 500 reservists to reinforce its borders. **AP**

PAPAL VISIT

Francis urges Cuba, US to fully develop their detente

Michael Weissenstein and Nicole Winfield, Havana

POPE Francis urged the Cuban and U.S. governments to push ahead on their newly forged path toward normal relations, saying they should “develop all its possibilities” as he arrived Saturday on the first leg of a trip to the Cold War foes that papal diplomacy helped bring together.

Standing on the tarmac of Havana’s Jose Marti airport, Francis called the resumption of full diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba this year an “example of reconciliation for the entire world.”

The pope wrote a personal appeal to Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro and hosted their delegations at a secret meeting at the Vatican last year to seal a deal after 18 months of closed-door negotiations. Since then, the two leaders have reopened embassies in each



Pope Francis waves from his popemobile as he leaves the airport and arrives in Havana

other’s countries, held a personal meeting and at least two phone calls and launched a pro-

cess aimed at normalizing ties in fields ranging from trade to tourism to telecommunications.

Standing with Cuba’s president by his side, Francis said the developments over recent months have given him hope.

“I urge political leaders to persevere on this path and to develop all its possibilities as a proof of the high service which they are called to carry out on behalf of their peoples, of all America, and as an example of reconciliation for the entire world,” he said.

Castro blasted the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba as “cruel, immoral and illegal” and called for it to end. But he also again thanked the pope for his role in fostering “the first step” in a process of normalizing relations.

The Vatican has long opposed the embargo on the grounds that it hurts ordinary Cubans most. On the eve of the visit, the Vatican No. 2, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, made clear the Holy See hopes the rapprochement

will eventually result in the lifting of sanctions. The Obama administration also called on Congress to lift the embargo, and on Friday it unveiled a new round of executive actions that carve out exceptions to the sanctions, such as allowing U.S. businesses to open offices in Cuba, letting U.S. residents send unlimited cash to Cubans and permitting virtually all U.S. pleasure boats to travel to the island without a special license.

In his remarks, Francis gave a friendly greeting to Fidel Castro, asking his brother Raul to send the 89-year-old revolutionary “my sentiments of particular respect and consideration.”

In the same breath, Francis also gave an apparent nod to Cuban dissidents, who have complained that he wouldn’t be sitting down with them during his visit. He said he wanted to embrace “all those who, for various reasons, I will not be able to meet” — as well as Cubans elsewhere in the world. The Vatican spokesman said the pope’s words were certainly meant as an expression of greeting to all Cubans, dissidents included.

“This visit is like a breath of hope blowing over Cuba,” because of the role that the pope played in the reestablishment of relations with the U.S., retiree Diego Carrera said. **AP**

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what's ON



OX WAREHOUSE CHILDREN'S ARTLAND 2015 - JOLLY JOINT EXHIBITION

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UNTIL: November 1, 2015

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TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Thursdays)

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

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TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: October 31, 2015

VENUE: MGM MACAU, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

TRUMP TELLS BUSH HE DIDN'T WANT A FLORIDA CASINO, BUT HE DID

2016 presidential candidate Jeb Bush said during a Republican Party debate that Donald Trump wanted casino gambling in Florida. Donald Trump said "I did not." The fact is, despite what he said Wednesday night, Trump wanted it and didn't get it under the Bush administration, even though he donated money to the state Republican Party and Bush.

"The bottom line is Donald Trump was interested in casino gambling in Florida, I can tell you that for a fact," said former Florida House Speaker John Thrasher, who said he met with Trump twice and talked about the issue, once in New York and once in Trump's Palm Beach Mar-A-Lago resort. Thrasher, now president of Florida State University, said during both meetings that Trump pushed for Florida to sign a compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida to allow casino gambling.

At the time, early in Bush's first term, Trump was working with the tribe on a deal to manage what's now the Hard Rock Casino. That deal eventually fell through, but not before Trump pushed Florida leaders to come to an agreement. The stumbling block? Bush.

"It was pretty clear Jeb Bush wasn't interested in casino gambling," Thrasher said. When it was pointed out to the Trump campaign that he actually was interested in casinos during the Bush administration, spokeswoman Holly Hicks said by email, "Mr. Trump never asked Jeb Bush personally to approve casino gambling."

But he did push for it. Former state Sen. Dennis Jones was at Thrasher's second meeting with Trump, along with powerful Sen. Jim King, and confirmed Trump wanted to talk about casinos. Jones said Trump also said he wanted to be a player if Florida ever approved destination casino resorts, which Trump is still interested in. **AP**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:50	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

19 SEP - 23 SEP

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.15

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: IDylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 131min



EVEREST

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

Director: Baltasar Kormakur

Starring: Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, John Hawkes, Robin Wright

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 121min

GUIA IN LOVE

ROOM 3
2.15, 5.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Sam Leong

Starring: Wong You Nam, Steohy Tang, Annie Lau

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 104min



ATTACK ON TITAN: END OF THE WORLD

ROOM 3
4.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Shinji Higuchi

Starring: Haruma Miura, Kiko Mizuhara

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 90min

MACAU TOWER

10 SEP - 30 SEPT

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: IDylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 131min

this day in history



1998 CLINTON'S GRAND JURY TESTIMONY RELEASED

Bill Clinton's testimony about his relationship with a young female assistant has been released to the United States public. The video of the American president's 17 August interview in front of the Grand Jury was taken to a television station at 0910 local time (1410 BST) and broadcast immediately by many US networks.

During the examination President Clinton was questioned by prosecutors about the exact nature of his affair with Monica Lewinsky - and whether he had previously lied under oath.

The president's defense against the accusations relied on elaborate definitions of certain words. The interview was originally taped on the insistence of the investigating team for the benefit of a jury member who could not attend the hearing.

But members of the House of Representatives justified the release of the tape by saying the public had the right to see all the evidence of the Starr Report. "It's not a pretty sight... But the key thing we've all got to focus on is what is the truth", said Charles Canady - a republican on the House Judicial Committee.

A visibly uncomfortable President Clinton was forced to defend previous statements about his affair with Miss Lewinsky by quibbling over the precise definition of his words.

In particular he said "sexual relations" did not to him mean "sexual intercourse" - which he denied having with the former White House intern. Challenged later in the hearing, he argued the meaning of the smallest of words contained in one of his lawyers' statements. "It depends upon what the meaning of the word 'is' is. If 'is' means 'is and never has been' that's one thing - if it means 'there is none', that was a completely true statement," he said.

After facing the Grand Jury, the president now awaits the verdict of the American people.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 9 December 1998 the House Judiciary Committee proposed four articles of impeachment against the president. Ten days later - after a bitter debate between republicans and democrats - the House of Representatives voted to confirm the recommendation.

Bill Clinton became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment, but he refused to resign. His trial began on 7 January 1999 and ended on 12 February when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Things are getting harder for you, and that may result in you turning inward somewhat. Don't fret - you should be out of this funk in just a couple of days. You can use this time to figure stuff out!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your nerves are a bit frayed, but that can actually be a good thing! You may find that you are more sensitive to subtlety than usual, so pay attention and see what you've been missing.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Think things through more carefully - you've got to make sure that you're not simply going through the motions. Your mental energy is a bit scattered, but if you focus it, you can win big!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Certainty may be hard to come by today - but when you know something for sure, act on it quickly! You've got what it takes to push through this haze toward something really solid.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 What seems like a troubling issue at first glance turns out to be little more than an ego clash. Try not to take it seriously, but do make sure that you find a way to put it to rest before evening.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your emotions are stronger than ever - and they seem to be calling the shots! Don't let them drag you too far down in the mud, but do see if you can get yourself back where you need to be.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're feeling a bit stingy today - but there's nothing wrong with that! Sometimes you need to hang onto what is yours even if you feel selfish or otherwise uncool about it. Take it easy!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You feel reborn today - things are just perfect for you, even if it may feel that this has been too long in coming. Try to just kick back and enjoy the new energy without expectations.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your unconscious mind rears up and takes action again - but this time shouldn't be embarrassing! It might get weird, but you should come out ahead when all is said and done. Trust your gut.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your greatest hopes are out in the open today - it's hard to keep a secret! That's okay though, because your energy is simply better spent on making your ambitions a reality. You can do it!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your need to be of some use to the world is stronger than ever today, so get out there and volunteer or get active in local politics. You may run into someone whose views are exactly in sync with your own.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're in the middle of some important business, yet you may not feel entirely sure that you know what's going on. Things are sure to clear up soon, so you can sign documents with confidence, if need be.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Group of individual facts; 5- Part of ETA; 8- Indigo source; 12- Busy; 14- Rock's Motley ...

DOWN: 11- Per ...; 2- Editor Wintour; 3- Melody; 4- Garage sale sign; 5- Woody's boy; 6- Bemoan; 7- African antelope; 8- Official records; 9- Standards; 10- That is to say...;



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*Optional Features

RUGBY WORLD CUP

Japanese media praise 'historic' win over South Africa



Japan players celebrate after Karne Hesketh scored the winning try against South Africa

JAPAN'S surprise victory over South Africa, the world's third-ranked rugby team, at the World Cup in Britain continued to reverberate through the Asian country as the local media lavished praise on the team yesterday.

Ranked 13th in the world, Japan beat the two-time World Cup champions 34-32 in the opening Pool B match Saturday, with Karne Hesketh scoring a last-minute try to overtake the Springboks. The Japanese team, known as the Cherry Blossoms, had won only one previous World Cup game, against Zimbabwe in 1991.

Public broadcaster NHK reported Japan's "historic" vic-

tory as its top news, saying the team is off to a great start toward its goal of becoming one of the top eight squads in the tournament. The Sports Nippon newspaper called the victory a "miracle."

"I've never worked harder in my 20 years of coaching," coach Eddie Jones was quoted as saying by the Japan Rugby Football Union. "Our targets are to make the quarterfinals and be recognized as one of the best teams of the tournament."

The comments from Jones, who guided Australia to the 2003 final, appeared in Japanese on the group's website.

Japan plays Scotland on Wednesday. **Bloomberg**

Gomez wins third straight world triathlon championship

SPAIN'S Javier Gomez won his third straight world triathlon championship Saturday, finishing second behind countryman Mario Mola in the ITU World Triathlon Series finale.

Gomez and Mola traded the lead several times on the last lap of the run until Mola outkicked Gomez over the final few hundred meters at Grant Park in downtown Chicago.

Mola finished the 1,500-meter swim in Lake Michigan, 40-kilometer bike ride and 10-kilometer run in 1 hour, 44 minutes, 53 seconds, coming in just 4 seconds ahead of Gomez. South Africa's Richard Murray was third in 1:45:35.

The finish was dramatic, with Gomez making a final bid to win.

"I was happy with my title in my pocket when I was running shoulder by shoulder with him," Gomez said. "I still tried to win the race, but he was just



Spain's Javier Gomez

stronger today and I'm happy with the second and happy with my fifth world title."

Mola finished second in the series standings. France's Vincent Luis was third.

"When I have the opportunity to race side by side (with Gomez), it's always an amazing feeling," Mola said. "I was

lucky to get this one, to win today, but ah, he's five times world champion."

Gomez is the first man to win three straight triathlon world championships and five overall. He also won in 2010 and 2008, making him the sport's dominant man over the last several years. **AP**

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opinion

Insight
 Paulo Barbosa



DISENCHANTMENT IN THE AIR

Macau is a funny place. Regarding the most recent case of junket fraud involving Dore Entertainment, enraged "investors" staged protests in several locations to complain about the government's alleged inability to supervise the gaming industry and junkets in particular. An individual tasked with representing the protestors was interviewed while wearing a mask and sunglasses that concealed his identity, and claimed that the government should intervene and help the petitioners get back their "hard-earned money." Isn't it funny that those who benefit from the legal loopholes now ask for legal support?

Too often laws are enforced only when it is convenient.

This made me consider a rhetorical question: What happens when a society's most esteemed values turn out to be flawed? And what happens if a region subsists on the presence of legal loopholes?

I believe that many foreigners living in Macau began their summer holidays with this question - or variants of it - on their minds. People here are disenchanted. As I saw written in a Portuguese newspaper, people in Macau who are "tired of moronic procedures" remain here, but they do not enjoy the region as they did before. Others simply abandon a city that they once loved. Obviously, countless more arrive, seduced by the easy dollar but completely oblivious to the region's identity. And maybe that is the best way to deal with it.

What is happening in Macau was foreseen a long time ago: the Portuguese and the Macanese feared that the transfer of sovereignty to mainland China could mean the end of Macau as they knew it - and it did, although not immediately. That fear led some to leave in 1999, only to return later amidst the region's sudden economic development.

In fact, it was raining money, due to the end of Stanley Ho's long-held monopoly and the liberalization of the gaming industry. Macau soon became the world's most unrestricted gaming den, surpassing even Las Vegas.

The large influx of money, a stronger connection to the motherland and the perception of better living conditions still continue to attract crowds. The territory is literally saturated with new residents (whatever title they hold on their ID). Tourists have arrived in droves, attracted by gambling and an image of cosmopolitanism and luxury, which remains little more than a slogan.

Consequently, many of the people who used to like living here now feel uncomfortable, residing in cramped houses and seemingly perpetually stuck in traffic. Some find it difficult to live with dignity. To give just one example, "blue-card" holders are charged over 20 times more than residents to obtain certain treatments at public healthcare facilities. Almost nobody seems to care.

Some people start to have the notion that they are entangled in the system or are even guinea pigs - voluntary, of course - in a social experiment that consists of the creation of a micro-state with its own currency and judicial system, albeit one that lacks the critical mass to work properly.

Some remain here mainly because it is still financially rewarding. They stay because they are grounded here, because of inertia. They stay here, but they complain. There is a lot of whining in Macau, an atmosphere that is somewhat incomprehensible given the resources available in the region. That pessimistic tone surfaces in idle chatter but also in the media - and this column is no exception.

After I wrote this piece, I heard Saturday's statements about a candidate for the upcoming legislative election in Portugal. Carla Félix visited Macau and listened to the concerns of local youth. "I think that the possibility of acquiring a house is out of the question [for them], and that compromises family planning and possibly even the chance of [staying in] Macau forever. In some cases, people think of plans B and C," she told Radio Macau.

THE NOVELIST WHO SOLD 500M BOOKS DIES AT 77

Jackie Collins, the novelist whose raunchy tales of glamor and fame sold more than 500 million books in a writing career spanning almost a half century, has died. She was 77. Collins died of breast cancer on Saturday, her family said in a statement posted on her website. Her older sister, the actress Joan Collins, told People magazine she was "completely devastated". Jackie Collins was diagnosed with stage 4

breast cancer six and half years ago, according to an article in People, but only revealed her condition publicly in an interview with the magazine last week.

"I've written five books since the diagnosis, I've lived my life, I've traveled all over the world, I have not turned down book tours and no one has ever known until now when I feel as though I should come out with it," she told the magazine.

GREECE

Syriza headed for victory in election, exit poll shows



ALEXIS Tsipras looked set to return to power in Greece as his Syriza party headed for an election victory for the second time in eight months, an exit poll showed.

The 41-year-old former prime minister's Coalition of the Radical Left was leading with as much as 34 percent of the vote compared with as much as 32.5 percent for New Democracy, headed by Evangelos Meimarakis, 61, according to the survey broadcast by the main Greek television channels. The far-right Golden Dawn was in third place with between 6.5 and 8 percent.

Whichever party emerges victorious, what follows is a period of negotiations with smaller groups before the makeup of the next govern-

ment becomes clear. Unlike in the January vote that swept Syriza to power on a promise to abandon austerity and defy European leaders, the new coalition has little room to maneuver after Tsipras caved to the demands of creditors for more spending cuts and tax increases in exchange for aid.

An international review of Greece's reform efforts is due before the end of the year, and a positive verdict will be necessary to start accessing the country's new 86 billion-euro (USD97 billion) bailout, its third rescue package since 2010. Of particular importance will be the disbursement of funds to recapitalize Greek banks, which have been battered by outflows of deposits that prompted capital

controls.

The vote was Greece's sixth national ballot since 2009, including July's surprise referendum on austerity measures called by Tsipras as he upped the stakes in talks with the euro region.

Both Syriza and New Democracy said in the campaign that they would not challenge the bailout agreement and would push to implement its terms, though a number of smaller parties didn't share that view. Investors have nonetheless signaled confidence in recent weeks that the worst is over for Greece, with government bonds posting the biggest returns in the euro zone over the past month, and the Athens stock market also rallying.

In the exit poll, Syriza was projected to take between 30 and 34 percent of the vote, while New Democracy's range was 28.5 to 32.5 percent. Center-left Pasok, which governed in a coalition with New Democracy until January, was set for 5.5 to 7 percent. Independent Greeks, the junior coalition partner in Tsipras's last government, was forecast to take between 3 and 4 percent, exceeding the threshold to enter parliament. **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The 27th Macau International Fireworks Display contest continued on Saturday with the fireworks teams from Korea, Italy and Portugal.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



NEW ZEALAND A veteran New Zealand zookeeper was attacked and killed by a Sumatran tiger yesterday inside the animal's enclosure. Police said they were called to the Hamilton Zoo at 11 a.m. after reports that 43-year-old Samantha Kudeweh had been attacked by one of the zoo's five tigers. Police said she died at the scene.



AUSTRALIA's new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull yesterday announced sweeping changes to his first Cabinet and promoted more women, including Australia's first female defense minister. Turnbull increased the number of female Cabinet ministers from two to five, including Defense Minister Marise Payne. The government's unpopular chief economics minister, Treasurer Joe Hockey, has been replaced by Social Services Minister Scott Morrison.

AFGHANISTAN Three people, including two police officers, were wounded in a suicide attack yesterday in Afghanistan, while 21 other civilians were wounded in a separate attack.



NEPAL yesterday formally adopted a much anticipated and long-delayed constitution that took more than seven years to complete following a decade of political infighting.

YEMEN's Shiite Houthi rebels have released six foreigners whom they were holding hostage and they are flying out of the country's capital Sana'a, airport officials and Houthi officials said yesterday.