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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”



**ASCOTT
OPENS WITH
LONG-TERM
VIEW**

▲ P6 INTERVIEW



**US-CHINA AGENDA AS XI
BEGINS STATE VISIT**

For Xi, fresh off a large military parade in Beijing, the US visit is about recognition of China's status as a resurgent world power

▲ P11



**ALL BLACKS PLAYER MAKES
THE DIFFERENCE**

Aaron Smith, one of six New Zealand starters playing in his first World Cup, made the difference against Argentina

▲ P19 RUGBY WORLD CUP

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA-NEW ZEALAND
As Chinese grew wealthier while their economy raced ahead, dairy farmers more than 6,000 miles away in verdant New Zealand felt like they'd won the lottery. Now, it's as if they've have discovered the lottery ticket was invalid.
More on p10

NEW ZEALAND A New Zealand zoo decided yesterday that it wouldn't euthanize a Sumatran tiger that attacked and killed a veteran zookeeper.

SINGAPORE A Filipino nurse working in Singapore was sentenced yesterday to four months in jail for describing Singaporeans as losers on his Facebook, and subsequently providing false information to police investigators. Ello Ed Mundsel Bello, 28, pleaded guilty to a charge of promoting feelings of ill-will and hostility under the country's sedition act, and two charges of providing false information to the police. An additional charge under the sedition act, and another for lying to the police, was also considered during sentencing.

AUSTRALIA's new Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull indicates that he is in no hurry to sever the nation's constitutional links to Britain by appointing an Australian president as head of state. More on p13

VIETNAM has freed a high-profile blogger who has traveled to the United States, which is pressing for more such dissidents to be released.

Casino analysts capitulate on second-half recovery . P7



Government focuses on attracting more mainland students . P8 EDUCATION

More on backpage

Q&A CHEW HANG SONG
ASCOTT CHINA - CITY MANAGER FOR HONG KONG & MACAU

Ascott Macau opens with a long-term view

ON the sidelines of the opening of the Ascott Macau yesterday evening, the Times spoke to Mr Chew Hang Song, Ascott China city manager for Hong Kong and Macau, to learn more about this new property and his market expectations.

Macau Daily Times – Ascott Macau opens its doors with a different concept from what we can find across the territory, can you explain to us more about that concept?

Chew Hang Song – Ascott Macau is indeed a luxury property, with all the facilities

We have a long-term view of the situation around this area of the planet and we are confident that in the next ten to twenty years China will still be a booming market

CHEW HANG SONG

that you can find in the 5-star hotels around Macau, except the casino. We'd rather focus our efforts into the details, the furnishing and into the design. We want to have a close connection with Macau and its heritage; for example, all the floors' lift lobbies are decorated with photography-based art décor that depicts different landmarks of Macau. We will try to infuse all of these little details of Macau into our property on several levels to create a different atmosphere. We want to create a more friendly and comfortable ambience for the travellers, especially for those who come with families. We want to be a refreshing change for travellers that are used to coming to Macau and checking-in to a typical Casino-hotel.

MDT – Who do you think will be the guests of Ascott Macau?

CHS – I would say that we are targeting mostly family travellers and business travellers. We have been around the globe for the past thirty years and we are a very recognized brand, not just for corporate travellers but also private travelers, whom we want to particularly aim this towards, especially since China has been growing at such a fast pace, even if it has been slowing down in the last few months it is still growing. We have a long-term view of the situation around this area of the planet and we are confi-

dent that in the next ten to twenty years China will still be a booming market and Macau will benefit from that too.

MDT – Does the location of the property have a direct relation to its target clientele?

CHS – Yes, precisely! The Macau government is trying to steer away from only the gaming industry and opening up more to other industries. The overall economy is still very healthy and we definitely stand to benefit in the long run.

MDT – One of the open-to-public features of the property is the Heart Bar. What can people expect from that venue?

CHS – Heart Bar is actually a quiet, functional venue, with mainly tree-filled areas, a fine dining area with nice food and drinks, the pure bar with a wide menu of cocktails, fine drinks and wines and an outdoor space that can be very pleasant for people to enjoy the open air with each other. We are trying to attract local people to come, I would say that this is more for them even, to enjoy and relax at the Heart Bar. Once more, we bet on a sophisticated design with a lot of attention to detail and a pleasant atmosphere where all people can find their space and feel comfortable. Besides the bar we also have three restaurants that will be open to all, featuring Western, Chinese and Japanese cuisines. We



Chew Hang Song

are really betting on the convenience and in the quality of what we offer.

MDT – Do you have any figures on the expected occupancy for the coming months?

CHS – We have been doing pretty fine actually and I can say that, for example, during the first week of September we reached 100 percent of our occupancy which is quite surprising for a property that had only been open for a few days. For the next few times we expect an average occupancy of about 60 percent so we are quite confident in the market.

MDT – Normally other Ascott properties search for guests who have plans to stay longer than just a couple of days; do you expect that to also happen in Macau?

CHS – Definitely I think we will receive such requests here too because we have a very strong corporate base and also very strong clientele that have known us for many years from other places in the world and especially from mainland China, where we are very strong and currently operating in 26 cities. That demand happens there so I expect a similar response here too. **RM**



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Stephanie Wong and Catherine Chen

Casino analysts capitulate on second-half recovery

FOR Macau casinos analysts, this is what capitulation looks like. As revenue declined month after month this year, they have steadily cut their estimates for how the year will turn out. In January, they forecast a slight increase in overall casino revenue after the 2.6 percent decline in 2014, the first drop in the city's history. That estimate kept sliding throughout the year until the median estimate from 12 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg is now for a 32 percent slump.

They have given up on the idea of a second-half recovery, now assuming a USD14 billion revenue decline in one year. China's relentless crackdown on graft and the slowing economy have forced high rollers to lay low. Looser travel restrictions on Chinese nationals and a possible easing of a proposed smoking ban might have boosted optimism. That didn't last long. A yuan devaluation, stock rout, government clampdown on money flows and the latest scandal of alleged fraud committed by a junket operator employee added concerns to the hard-luck industry.

The scandal "gives an additional reason to dislike

The mass segment by default takes time to build because you rely on word of mouth to spread reputation

RICHARD HUANG



Gaming operators are betting new resorts, like Studio City (pictured) will help turn around the industry by luring more customers with their family-friendly attractions

the overall Macau gaming space because of the potential overhang," said Richard Huang, an analyst at Nomura Holdings Inc. "I'm not optimistic about the future of the VIP business." Huang forecast a 31 percent decline this year and a 5 percent growth in 2016.

Gross gaming revenue could fall to about \$30 billion this

year, \$14 billion shy of the \$44 billion posted in 2014.

Casino shares fell, with Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. dropping 3.9 percent and Sands China Ltd. down 2.5 percent by the close of trading in Hong Kong. The Bloomberg Intelligence Macau Gaming Index has fallen 40 percent year to date, against the Hang Seng Index's 8 percent decline.

Amid a weak market, revenue per available room in some of the hotels has dropped in the second quarter according to Bloomberg Intelligence data, and hotels are offering steep discounts to draw more customers. Sands China, which has the most rooms in Macau among six operators, took out advertisements in Hong Kong newspa-

pers offering rooms costing as low as HKD788 (\$102) until February next year. Galaxy Hotel has discounts as low as 30 percent.

Casino bosses are betting new resorts will help turn around the industry by luring more customers with their family-friendly attractions, such as Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd.'s Batman ride, Asia's tallest Ferris wheel and Madonna concerts among other non-gaming features at its resort due to open in October.

The market may grow 5 percent next year, followed by another 10 percent gain in 2017, according to the Bloomberg survey. While VIP revenue continues to slump, the mass-gambling market has shown signs of growth, partly helped by the resort expansion of Galaxy, said Nomura's Huang.

One major test for the former Portuguese colony would be visitation during the weeklong China National Day holiday which lasts from Oct. 1-7 this year. Major hotels including those at Galaxy hotels, Melco Crown, Wynn Macau Ltd. and MGM China Holdings Ltd. are fully booked, according to calls to the properties.

Still, gambling houses need the big spenders for now to generate revenue. Though Macau government wants to draw more tourists, those patrons who make lower bets won't immediately provide significant growth, said Huang of Nomura.

"The mass segment by default takes time to build because you rely on word of mouth to spread reputation and create desirability to come to Macau," he said. **Bloomberg**

Costa Antunes to serve as adviser to Alexis Tam

THE Macau Grand Prix Committee Coordinator, João Manuel Costa Antunes, will be serving as an adviser to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

Mr Tam said yesterday that Costa Antunes will be providing advisory services for two of his Secretariat's main projects: the Hotel Estoril and the new public hospital.

Costa Antunes will be leaving the Macau Grand



Costa Antunes pictured during last week's media visit to Hotel Estoril

Prix Committee after organizing this year's event in November. "He will be working for my cabinet as an adviser. We have many projects at hand," stated Mr Tam, as quoted by Radio Macau.

The engineer recently took part in a tour of the decrepit Hotel Estoril, where he acknowledged that he would be willing to provide technical advisory services, given his background as an engineer.

During last week's vi-

sit to the hotel, Mr Costa Antunes recalled that to revamp the building would be far costlier than to build a whole new facility from scratch.

According to the Secretary, the hotel has not yet been demolished because of a "minority" of citizens calling for its renovation. A petition has been handed to the government by Macau Root Planning calling for an assessment of the building's value.

Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza Vieira, who will be designing the project, is also in favor of building a whole new facility, instead of revamping the existing building. The architect was planning on travelling to Macau next month, but the Secretary revealed that Siza Vieira's visit has been postponed. He will be heading to Macau only after a decision has been made regarding the petition. **CP**

EDUCATION

Gov't focuses on attracting more mainland students

Catarina Pinto

THE government is hoping to increase the quotas of both public and private local universities to ensure that the enrollment of students from mainland China increases, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has revealed.

Speaking on the sidelines of a visit to the University of Saint Joseph's new campus yesterday, the Secretary acknowledged that Macau universities will face challenges of attracting a sufficient number of local students within the next few years.

"All universities will be facing major challenges because there won't be enough students. So I've enrolled the help of the Ministry of Education in China, because Macau provides advantages to students, for instance for those interested in studying the Portuguese language," he said.

The government is hoping to increase the current quota granted to public universities to accept mainland students. Mr Tam said the local government is still in talks with Beijing, but made assurances that they have received "good feedback" from them.

"The minister agreed with me. We can offer good quality education to mainland students. Very few people speak Portuguese in China and we have good conditions to teach the language here," he stressed, adding that, "I want to turn Macau into a center for Portuguese language learning in the Asia-Pacific region."

But in order to achieve such a goal, Mr Tam acknowledged that more universities would need to be allowed to bring on board mainland students, in-



Peter Stilwell (left), Alexis Tam (center) and Bishop José Lai (right) pictured during the visit to the campus



Construction works on USJ's new campus

cluding USJ.

"I hope that in the coming school year we will be able to have more mainland students

Very few people speak Portuguese in China and we have good conditions to teach the language here

ALEXIS TAM

come in," he added.

Yesterday, Mr Tam took part in a tour of the new USJ campus that is currently under development in Ilha Verde.

USJ's rector Fr Peter Stilwell confirmed that the university is also looking to attract mainland students, and has submitted a proposal to the Macau government for permission to receive 60 students from China.

"We have asked for a small quota for how many applications from mainland students we can accept. We are aware that we need to handle mainland students' enrollment a bit differently, since they speak Mandarin, they need to be socially integrated in our community and they need assistance with accommodation. So initially we

asked for a quota of 60 students," rector Stilwell revealed.

USJ's rector acknowledged that the university has also been attracting students from other countries, as at least 30 percent of the student community is comprised of foreigners now.

The new campus' construction works are set to be completed by the end of this year, but the dormitory building will only be completed by next March, said Peter Stilwell.

"There was a delay because at one point the Macau Foundation had shown an interest in accommodating their visiting professors [at the dormitory here]. But later on they found they had other plans, so we had to redraft the design project," he explained.

Fr Stilwell said he's still hopeful to get all of the academic buildings licensed by competent government departments by the year-end, but he does not guarantee that the new campus will be up and running for the next school year.

"We would be more than happy to kick off the next school year already on this campus, but nothing's guaranteed. We all know that construction works can be complex (...)" he acknowledged.

According to Father Stilwell, the new campus' budget remains set at around MOP520 million. The Macau diocese has contributed MOP40 million so far, while the government, via the Macau Foundation, has granted about MOP370 million in several installments.

Fr Stilwell acknowledged that the university has faced major challenges in recent years in regards to the campus' construction. Delays, he said, were triggered by long licensing procedures as well as construction problems caused by strong rocks needing special drilling, among other reasons.

The rector confirmed to reporters his willingness to continue at the helm of USJ, although stated that, "such a decision is really up to my superiors. I will be reaching the end of my four-year tenure in May. However, I am available to continue. I think it wouldn't be polite to initiate this project and then leave before it's fully completed," he stated.

The University of Saint Joseph currently has 1,300 students, but he's hoping that with the new campus the university could accommodate about 2,200 students.

Nursery to be installed in USJ's NAPE campus

THE Macau diocese is planning to open and run a nursery at the USJ campus in NAPE once the university moves to its new campus, still under construction in Ilha Verde, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, announced yesterday.

The Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) is in

talks with the Macau diocese for the opening of the nursery, said Mr Tam on the sidelines of a visit to the new University of Saint Joseph campus.

"Our cooperation with USJ is good. When these new facilities are completed, part of the current campus will accommodate a nursery, as Macau is in

great need of more nurseries," he told reporters.

The Secretary said they're still holding talks regarding the nursery, but he's hopeful it can open next year. Mr Tam stated that the new nursery is set to accommodate at least one hundred children.

Aries Un

CRIME

A local engineer was duped into giving away a large part of his savings in a premeditated honey-trap to an anonymous group from the mainland, according to the Judiciary Police.

The victim, a 33-year-old project foreman, has lost a total of RMB246,000 to the hoax, which allegedly started in November last year. He met a mainland girl through an online dating site at that time and became acquainted with her.

Since then, the man has been exchanging text mes-

Engineer loses considerable portion of savings in mainland honey-trap

sages through the Line app with the girl, who claimed she worked in a nightclub as a barmaid. It was said that he even gave his personal contact details to her.

On the fifteenth of June this year, the girl texted the victim to offer him sex-related services, meanwhile professing that she needed

a client after rejecting one she did not like.

Upon agreeing to the deal, the victim later received a call from a man posing as a staff member from her company, who requested for him to hand over RMB1,000 for the service. The victim then paid for the service via the

Chinese third-party online payment method of Alipay.

Soon after, the man received another call where he was told the girl had been arrested for offering such services. In addition, the man on the other end of the phone call accused the victim of releasing tips-off to the mainland security

authorities, which led to the arrest.

Denying that accusation, the perplexed victim promised to post half of the RMB14,000 bail money for the detained girl for fear that the episode would cause trouble for his family, as threatened by the group.

However, the episode did not end there for the victim, as he later received another call from the same group who claimed that the mainland police had raided their venue, resulting in many arrests of their employees offering similar services.

The man then promised to cover part of the bailouts involving hundreds of thousands after succumbing to the group's intimidation. He finally contacted the police last Saturday after discussing the months-long manipulation by the group with his family.

corporate bits

CEM PROMOTES RENEWABLE ENERGY BY HOSTING DESIGN COMPETITION



In the past two years CEM held a 'Solar & Capacitance Model Car Race' at the Coloane Power Station in collaboration with Macau Youth Federation, the General Association of Chinese Students of Macau and the Youth Center of Macau Federation of Trade Unions...

This year, CEM announced that a record of 600 students and teachers forming almost 100 teams in representation of 23 local schools are expected to participate in the three competitions, the "Solar & Capacitance Model Car Races and Windmill Rotor Design Competition" aiming at enhancing Macau students' consciousness and recognition of the usage of renewable energy...

Declining smartphone maker HTC booted from blue chip index

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN'S stock exchange has removed smartphone maker HTC from its index of blue chip companies, signposting the dramatic decline of a business that once ranked as Taiwan's No. 1 brand and dazzled consumers with some of the world's first Android handsets.

The exchange removed HTC from its FTSE TWSE Taiwan 50 index yesterday after the company's market value declined below the level required for inclusion in the market benchmark. The index lists Taiwan's 50 biggest companies which together represent 70 percent of the market's value.

It's a humbling comedown for a company that once sold more than 1 in 10 of phones worldwide, received plaudits for innovation and represented Taiwan's ambitions to spawn its own globally recognized electronics brands.

In the past several years,



A woman speaks on her mobile phone in front of an HTC mobile phone billboard in Taipei

HTC has struggled because of marketing and supply chain glitches as well as intense competition from Apple, Samsung Electronics and Chinese makers such as Xiaomi. Last month, it announced a 15 percent cut in its staff of about 15,700 after a second-quarter loss of USD247 million.

"They made a lot of missteps, but they were also caught in the crosshairs of a shift to commoditization of the market," said John Brebeck, senior Taipei adviser with

Hong Kong investment consultancy Peace Field.

HTC, an 18-year-old company that started out doing contract work for other high-tech firms, came out with its HTC Magic phone in 2008. It ran on Google's Android operating system when other vendors were still working on feature phones — the kind with buttons rather than touchscreens. Company revenues shot up 93 percent in 2010.

By early 2011 those handsets, backed by a reputation for lightness and technical quality, had taken HTC to its world market share peak of 10.7 percent.

That year the New York-based consultancy Interbrand ranked HTC as the No. 98 brand worldwide. That laurel cast the company whose initials stand for "high tech computer" as a model for an island dependent for decades on high-tech contract work but with few globally known brands of its own.

HTC's decline began as the number of smartphone vendors surged along with total shipments that reached 1.2 billion units last year, up 28 percent over 2013.

Samsung and Apple captured the United States through sales contracts with wireless carriers while local Chinese brands such as Lenovo and Xiaomi led in China as HTC was trying to establish a customer base. Its world market share is estimated now at 3 to 4 percent.

HTC attributes its losses to slowing use of high-end Android phones, changes in its product lineup and increased competition.

It will keep working on high-end handsets along with connected devices and "virtual reality," the company's media office said last week.

"We remain confident that, with the diversification of our product portfolio and our continued investment in innovation, our market share will grow," it said. AP

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NZ dairy bust shows far-reaching ripples from mainland changes

Nick Perry
and Joe McDonald, Wellington

AS Chinese grew wealthier while their economy raced ahead, dairy farmers more than 6,000 miles away in verdant New Zealand felt like they'd won the lottery.

They were getting record prices for their milk and it seemed there was no slaking China's thirst for premium New Zealand infant formula, especially after a tainted milk powder scandal made Chinese shoppers wary of local brands.

Now, it's as if farmers have discovered the lottery ticket wasn't valid. A world milk glut and a decline in Chinese demand for imported dairy products have sent prices down by 50 percent. Many farmers are borrowing to stay afloat and rural suicides have increased.

Dairy exports in the year ended June totaled 12 billion New Zealand dollars (USD7.6 billion), down from nearly NZ\$16 billion a year earlier. Dairy trade to China has proved particularly volatile, rising from NZ\$2.8 billion in 2013 to NZ\$6 billion last year, then plunging to NZ\$2.3 billion this year.

"We saw it happening on the cash-flows way back in April, May, and could see well ahead that there was going to be just massive deficits," said Chris Engel, a farmer with 400 cows in Wairarapa, a region of quaint towns, rolling green pastures and a striking backdrop of snow peaked mountains.

Engel, who has been farming with his wife Jude for more than three decades, said there have been droughts and other challenges in the past but never such bleak paydays. "We just had to be in constant contact with the bank, updating them regularly, to get their support to pay the bills."

The financial dilemma for New Zealand's dairy farmers, and the economy they help



A Chinese shopper browses for milk

power, underscores that China's quarter century of supercharged growth has given it enough global weight to create not only winners, but losers too.

China's growth last year of 7.4 percent was its slowest in more than two decades, sending ripples around the world. It is forecast to wane to 7 percent or less this year.

Australia, which boomed for a decade on Chinese demand for its vast reserves of iron ore and coal, is grappling with a painful transition after those sources of growth shriveled.

Last week, Tony Abbott was toppled as Australia's prime minister by a challenger from his ruling Liberal Party, in part reflecting dissatisfaction with waning economic growth and Abbott's inability to successfully articulate a new strategy for the \$1.5 trillion economy.

But the challenge from China is not only its slowing economy,

In some industries, its domestic companies are becoming more effective competitors to the foreign exporters who had visions of unlimited growth in the market of 1.4 billion people. The ruling Communist Party is encouraging many Chinese dairy producers to combine into financially stronger entities.

Chinese dairies struggled to recapture market share after a 2008 scandal over tainted formula that killed at least six babies and prompted many shoppers to switch to expensive imported milk and baby formula.

But they have recently been successful in launching products, including new yogurt brands by Mengniu and Yili, two leading dairies, according to Euro-monitor food analyst Lianne van den Bos.

Agriculture Ministry figures showed a recovery in Chinese milk production in 2014 from 2013 and a substantial drop in

total dairy imports in the first half of this year.

In August, South Korea reported its biggest monthly drop in exports for six years that was both a sign of weak global demand and a shift in the type of goods China needs to import. Chinese leaders are trying to give consumer spending a bigger role in the economy, weaning it from overreliance on trade and investment in real estate and heavy industry.

"South Korea exports mostly intermediate goods to China related to investment" such as computer chips and auto components, said Jung Kyuchul, a fellow at the Korea Development Institute. "If China reduces investment and boosts consumption, that's not good for us."

Experts also believe Chinese companies are gaining competitiveness against South Korean exporters partly because of strong support from the state.

"Televisions, communications devices and components are the areas of strength for South Korea but China is likely to catch up," said Jung.

In New Zealand, the country's central bank is trying to prevent a farming-led recession. It has cut benchmark interest rates three times this year, as it seeks to give farmers and other exporters a boost by lowering the value of the country's currency.

Reserve Bank Governor Graeme Wheeler said this month that if drought conditions develop this summer, as some forecasts predict, it could prompt further rate cuts.

Statistics released this month show 27 New Zealand farmers and farm workers committed suicide over the past year, the most in five years. The rate of suicide tends to be higher in rural areas than in cities, even during prosperous times. The isolation of farm life may be one factor.

Theo Spierings, the chief executive of New Zealand's Fonterra, which collects and sells most of the country's milk, said China is very serious about developing its own supply of milk.

But Spierings said he doesn't believe China will be able to produce enough on its own to meet the rising demand, and there will still be a place for foreign suppliers.

Chinese dairy consumption per person nearly tripled from 7 kilograms in 2004 to 19 kilograms last year, according to Euromonitor International, a research firm. It says sales should rise by at least 10 percent a year in the longer term.

To help keep farmers solvent, Fonterra has offered hundreds of millions of dollars in interest-free loans, repayable only when the price of milk rises.

Engel, the Wairarapa farmer who is also local chairman for advocacy group Federated Farmers, is among the many farmers who are operating at a financial loss this year. Many are borrowing money to survive the year, hoping milk prices will improve, which they have modestly since reaching a low in August.

"Do you buy food for that cow? Or, you have to fix the tractor. Do you just not fix it?" said Engel. AP

Andrew Roberts

BURBERRY Group Plc Chief Executive Officer Christopher Bailey downplayed the prospect of any imminent rebound in China. "There's been a struggle there," Bailey said yesterday of luxury demand in Hong Kong and Macau, speaking after the company's women's fashion show in Lon-

Burberry chief Bailey downplays prospects of Chinese rebound

don's Kensington Gardens. The shares fell 1.2 percent.

Sales of designer gear have cooled in China following a government clampdown on ex-

travagance. Hong Kong and Macau, previously hubs for big spenders, have been hardest hit as wealthy consumers shop in Japan and Europe instead, with Italian

handbag maker Prada SpA saying last week that business in the cities "remains quite difficult." Burberry, which had its weakest revenue growth in two years in

the three months through June, reports second-quarter sales next month.

China's devaluing of the yuan in August and the Federal Reserve's

decision this month to hold off from raising U.S. interest rates have added to concerns about global growth.

"There's lots of changes going on in the world," Bailey, who is also chief creative officer, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. "But at the heart there has to be that thing of moving forward." Bloomberg

Issues topping the Sino-US agenda as Xi comes for state visit

AP PHOTO



Investors monitor displays of stock information at a brokerage house in Beijing

Matthew Pennington, Washington

KEY issues facing the United States and China as the Asian nation's leader, Xi Jinping, makes his first U.S. state visit since becoming president in 2013. President Barack Obama will host Xi at the White House on Friday.

CYBERSECURITY

Hacking attacks on U.S. companies and government agencies have become a growing source of tension. China is suspected in the theft of personal data of millions of current and former U.S. government employees. But Washington's main issue with China is over state-sponsored cybertheft for economic benefit of Chinese companies. It says that goes beyond traditional intelligence gathering. Last May, U.S. authorities issued criminal indictments against five Chinese military hackers accused of stealing from U.S. corporations. China responded by pulling the plug on a formal dialogue with the U.S. on cyber issues. The U.S. says it is preparing further measures to punish industrial espionage but appears unlikely to act against China before the summit.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

China has alarmed its nei-

ghors with a massive campaign of artificial island-building to assert its claims to disputed reefs and islets in the South China Sea. It has reclaimed about 1,210 hectares of land in the past year-and-a-half by dredging sand from the ocean bed, causing environmental destruction. While the U.S. is not among the six territorial claimants in the South China Sea, it has been increasingly critical of China's conduct, which it says stirs tensions and threatens freedom of navigation in international waters key to global trade. Lawmakers have been pressing for the U.S. Navy to flex military muscle by sailing close to the artificial islands to show the U.S. does not recognize China's sovereignty claim. China says the U.S. should mind its own business.

CLIMATE CHANGE

China and the U.S. are the two largest source countries of the emissions that contribute to global warming, and combating climate change has become a promising area of cooperation. Last November, Obama and Xi made a joint announcement on curbing emissions, giving a nudge to world leaders ahead of a summit this December in Paris aimed at reaching a global climate change deal. The U.S. and China have announ-

ced joint research and U.S. and Chinese cities are setting targets on cutting emissions.

ECONOMY

With nearly USD600 billion in annual two-way trade, the U.S. and China have a deep commercial and economic relationship — but one with tensions as the trade balance is heavily in China's favor. The U.S. has long pressed China to adopt a more self-sustaining economic model driven by domestic demand rather than exports and investment and to allow more market access to American companies. China has moved cautiously on market-oriented reforms. The changes it has made have contributed to an economic slowdown, and a multibillion-dollar intervention by China to stop a slide in stock prices raised questions over its economic stewardship and roiled world markets. A drop in the exchange rate of China's currency also revived concerns that China may try to push down the renminbi against the dollar, helping Chinese exporters.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Under Xi, China has launched its toughest crackdown in years on its civil society activists. That's part of a wider move to stymie Western-style

freedoms in China's increasingly prosperous and connected society. The government has also tightened controls on religious minorities in Tibet and the far western region of Xinjiang, and against Christians. The Obama administration has been outspoken about this deterioration of human rights in China and said last month that improvements were needed for a positive summit. But typically human rights are eclipsed by other weighty issues on the U.S.-China agenda.

NORTH KOREA

North Korea recently announced the restart of atomic fuel plants that supply its nuclear weapons program and has signaled it could mark an Oct. 10 anniversary of its ruling party with a satellite launch. Such activities have strained the North's traditionally strong ties with China and put Washington and Beijing in closer alignment over the need to contain Pyongyang. The U.S. and Chinese leaders could discuss how to respond to another North Korean provocation. But they've differed on how to get Pyongyang to change its ways. The U.S. wants China to use its economic leverage; China wants the U.S. to resume long-stalled negotiations. **AP**

Apple withdraws some apps after malware found

Apple Inc. says it has removed some applications from its App Store after they were found to contain malicious software in an unusual security breach. The company yesterday blamed the breach on the use by some developers of a fake version of a software tool that was posted on Chinese websites and included the malicious software. Tencent Ltd., operator of the popular WeChat social media service, said its software was affected and the company released a new version after its security researchers found the malicious code.

Britain to guarantee mainland investment in new nuclear plant

The British government says it will underwrite 2 billion pounds (USD3.1 billion) in Chinese financing for a new nuclear power plant in southwest England, as it encourages major Chinese investment in Britain's nuclear sector. Treasury chief George Osborne, who is on a trip to China, says Britain will underwrite China's stake in the Hinckley Point power station. He says the deal "opens the door to majority Chinese ownership of a subsequent nuclear project" planned for England's southeast. British officials hope yesterday's announcement will encourage France's EDF Energy, the lead investor, to make a final decision this year to build the plant, which would be Britain's first new nuclear station in two decades. The project, which had been due to start producing electricity in 2023, has been mired in delays.



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AP PHOTO



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull gestures as he announces his new cabinet during a press conference at Parliament House in Canberra on Sunday

AUSTRALIA

New PM doesn't plan constitutional change

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull indicated yesterday that he is in no hurry to sever the nation's constitutional links to Britain by appointing an Australian president as head of state.

Turnbull led the Australian

Republican Movement, an advocacy group, when it failed at a 1999 referendum to convince Australians to replace Queen Elizabeth II as Australia's head of state.

But six days after becoming prime minister, Turnbull said he had no plans to revisit the divisive constitutional issue.

"While I am a republican, I have to say to you that there

are much more immediate issues facing me and the government than the republic, and the key ones all relate to economic growth," Turnbull told Nine Network television.

Governor General Peter Gosgrove, the British monarch's representative in Australia, swore in Turnbull's first 21-member Cabinet later yesterday.

Turnbull on Sunday announ-

ced a younger team of ministers that included more women than the 19-member Cabinet of his predecessor, Tony Abbott.

"Today we are forming a government for the 21st century, a ministry whose composition and focus reflect our determination to ensure that Australia seizes the opportunities of these, the most exciting times in human history," Turnbull told the swearing in ceremony yesterday.

Abbott was defeated in a surprise leadership ballot of lawmakers within the ruling Liberal Party last week after he battled poor opinion polling during most of his center-right government's two years in power.

Abbott is a staunch monarchist who riled many conservatives by making the Queen's husband, Prince Philip, an Australian knight on Australia's national day on Jan. 26. Many thought an Australian citizen would have been a more appropriate choice for the honor.

Many believe that with both the prime minister and opposition leader Bill Shorten now supporting an Australian republic, the constitutional change could now be possible. Opinion polls suggest that most Australians believe that they should have an Australian head of state.

But Turnbull said there needed to be a "genuine popular movement" for change.

"My own view ... is that the next occasion for the republic referendum to come up is going to be after the end of the Queen's reign," he said. "I think that will be the next watershed event, if you like, to make that issue relevant."

Abbott was not included in the new Cabinet. The government's unpopular chief economics minister, Treasurer Joe Hockey, has been replaced by Social Services Minister Scott Morrison. Hockey has announced he plans to quit politics.

Turnbull would not comment on reports that Hockey will become Australia's next ambassador to the United States.

"I think he's got a lot of national service, as it were, ahead of him in his life," Turnbull said.

The government's popularity crashed in opinion polls and never recovered after Hockey unveiled his first annual budget in May last year. The budget was widely criticized as unfair toward the poor, and a hostile Senate blocked key measures. **AP**

Teresa Cerrojano, Manila

A former Philippine provincial governor and his brother, who are among the country's most-wanted crime suspects for the 2011 murder of a radio anchor and prominent environmentalist, have been arrested in Thailand, officials said yesterday.

Former Gov. Joel Reyes of western Palawan island province and his brother Mario Reyes, an ex-municipal mayor, were arrested Sunday by Thai police on the southern island of Phuket, said Philippine Justice Secretary Leila de Lima. She said Thai immigration authorities were processing the brothers' deportation papers.

The Philippine government has offered a 2 million peso (USD43,000) reward each for information leading to the arrest of the

PHILIPPINES

Wanted ex-governor, brother arrested in Thailand for murder



Former Gov. Joel Reyes, right, of western Palawan island province and his brother Mario Reyes, an ex-municipal mayor, sit during a press conference at Crime Suppression Division in Bangkok

brothers, who fled the Philippines after being implicated in the murder

of Gerardo Ortega. Thitirat Nongharnpitak, deputy chief of Thailand's

Central Investigation Bureau, said one of the brothers was arrested for

illegal immigration. The other came to Thailand legally but was arrested on the charge of overstaying his visa, he said, adding that both would be deported.

Ortega's family said Ortega may have been silenced for accusing officials including the Reyes brothers of alleged corruption involving funds from a natural gas project. He had also been a staunch critic of mining in Palawan, which is famous for its pristine beaches and virgin forests.

Ortega was brazenly shot on Jan. 24, 2011, at a used clothing store in

downtown Puerto Princesa city, Palawan's provincial capital, by a self-confessed hit man who implicated the Reyes brothers and a former provincial administrator.

The brothers have denied the accusation, saying their political opponents were behind the charges.

"The arrest of the long-wanted Reyes brothers provides an opportunity for pursuing the ends of justice," presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma said. "We acknowledge the efforts of Interpol and Thai authorities in making this possible."

Mika Ortega, the slain environmentalist's daughter, also welcomed the arrests. But she told DZMM radio that there is a long fight ahead to make sure that the masterminds of the crime are convicted. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Kim Dotcom extradition hearing begins

Nick Perry, Wellington

KIM Dotcom and three colleagues face an extradition hearing that began yesterday in an Auckland courtroom. Dotcom is the colorful German-born entrepreneur who started the Internet site Megaupload, which was shut down by federal authorities in 2012. Here's what's at stake:

THE CASE: U.S. prosecutors are trying to extradite Dotcom from his home in New Zealand to face trial in Virginia. His Megaupload site was once used by millions of people to store files and download songs and movies. Federal authorities accuse Dotcom of facilitating Internet piracy on a massive scale and have charged him with conspiracy to commit copyright infringement, racketeering and money laundering. Dotcom argues that plenty of people used his site for legitimate reasons he can't be held responsible for those who chose to use it for illegal downloads.

As well as Dotcom, the U.S. is also trying to extradite former Megaupload officers Mathias Ortmann, Bram van der Kolk and Finn Batato.

THE HEARING: The hearing is expected to last about four weeks. U.S. prosecutors don't have to prove Dotcom and his colleagues are guilty. Instead, they have a lower legal bar: proving the men have a case to answer, also known as a prima facie case. It's similar to the level of proof that prosecutors would need to launch a criminal trial in the U.S.

THE DEFENSE: The defense has argued since his arrest that Dotcom should never have faced criminal charges and that any case against him should be heard in civil court. They argue that prosecutors have overplayed their hand, knowing they needed a criminal case to effect an extradition. In an affidavit for the defense, Harvard Law School professor Lawrence Lessig argues that criminal



Kim Dotcom, founder of Megaupload.com, speaks to members of the media

copyright infringement applies only to people who directly download or steal something and not to secondary parties like website operators. The defense also plans to argue the hearing should be delayed.

THE MONEY: Defense lawyers say that they have been hamstrung because Dotcom and his colleagues don't have access to their money in order to mount a robust defense. When Megaupload was shut

down, prosecutors froze tens of millions of dollars in accounts in Hong Kong and New Zealand.

New Zealand courts have since allowed Dotcom some living and legal expenses, but not enough to cover all his legal bills.

THE IMPLICATIONS: The case highlights the tensions between content creators, like the Hollywood studios who make movies and expect royalties for their work, and Internet sites that collect, curate or distribute content that others have made. Some argue the case could have broader implications for everyone from moviemakers and musicians to popular websites like YouTube and Google.

WHAT'S NEXT: Whichever side loses the extradition judgment is likely to appeal, setting off a new round of legal wrangling. That means even if Dotcom is extradited, it may be months or even years before he faces trial in the U.S. **AP**

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Nicholas Paphitis, Athens

GREECE

Left-wing Tsipras gets 2nd mandate, dominates politics

GREEK left-wing leader Alexis Tsipras was set to receive the formal mandate to govern for a second straight term yesterday, after his unexpectedly decisive victory in early national elections that saw most Greeks back parties committed to the debt-heavy country's harsh bailout commitments.

At 41, Tsipras now dominates Greek politics, having seen off both the main, center-right opposition and his own party rebels despite a sharp policy U-turn that kept the country in the eurozone but ditched the anti-austerity platform which first swept him to power in January.

Tsipras quickly announced that he will renew his pro-European coalition with the small, right-wing populist Independent Greeks (ANEL) party, which beat opinion polls to clear the three percent parliamentary entry threshold.

With more than 99.7 percent of Sunday's votes counted, Tsipras' Syriza had 35.5 percent, while New Democracy trailed with 28.1 percent. But in a sign of widespread discontent, more than four in 10 Greeks stayed away from the parliamentary election — the second this year — and Nazi-inspired Golden Dawn remained the country's third-strongest party with 7 percent.

Just two months ago, Syriza abandoned its pledges to reverse income cuts, tax hikes and labor reforms under duress to secure a third, 86-billion-euro (USD97 billion) international



Alexis Tsipras the leader of left-wing Syriza party waves to his supporters after the election results at the party's main electoral center in Athens

bailout for the recession-battered country. Tsipras has promised to put as human a face as possible on the inevitable new cutbacks and pension reforms his government must enforce to continue receiving the rescue loans.

"We will soften certain elements of the agreement, without breaking our (bailout) commitments," Dimitris Mardas, deputy finance minister in

Tsipras' first government, said yesterday.

Greek stocks opened more than 1 percent lower, but were about flat in later morning trading.

Berenberg Bank analyst Holger Schmieding said the result had several positive features for markets, and Syriza now has a clear mandate to do whatever it takes to keep Greece in the euro currency club — which

it looked set to crash out of before the summer bailout deal.

"After years of almost unprecedented crisis, the vast majority of Greeks has once again endorsed parties that are promising to keep the country in the euro even if that implies thorough and painful reforms," he said.

Many Greeks voiced apprehension over the impending cutbacks, which follow a

six-year wave of austerity measures that lopped a quarter off the economy and saw unemployment rise to 25 percent.

"I am happy that Tsipras was elected, but he should work," said 54-year-old mechanic Kostas Tabaris. "He must (carry out) reforms, fix the crisis, help the poor, give presents, money to everyone."

Civil servant Nikos Georgopoulos, 40, said he found the result disappointing.

"I am pessimistic, because we already knew which line of politics will be followed," he said. "The politics of the third (bailout). So we know that there is nothing good for the Greek people to wait for."

Just seven months into his term, Tsipras lost his majority in parliament after far-left rebels in his party opposed the tough conditions demanded by eurozone countries for the new rescue package. But rebels, who formed a breakaway party pledging to take Greece out of the eurozone, failed to get elected to parliament.

Teneo Intelligence analyst Wolfgang Piccoli said the overall result shows that Tsipras is now "the only player in town."

"His supreme political skill is only matched by the incompetence of his political adversaries," Piccoli said. **AP**

CUBA VISIT

Pope meets with Fidel, misses out on dissident greeting

Nicole Winfield and Michael Weissenstein, Havana

POPE Francis was flying to eastern Cuba yesterday for the next leg of his pilgrimage after having met with both Raul and Fidel Castro but missing out on an encounter with Cuban dissidents.

The Vatican stressed that no official meeting had been planned with the dissidents. The Vatican embassy in Havana did make calls to some leaders "as a sign of attention to these people," the Vatican spokesman said, but in the end the dissidents were prevented from reaching the cathedral where the greeting was planned.

The Castro meetings went off without a hitch.

The Vatican described the 40-minute session with Fidel Castro at the former president's home as "informal and familial," with an exchange of books and discussion about big issues facing humanity, including Francis' recent encyclical on the environment and the global economic system.

Video of the encounter broadcast on Cuban state media showed the 89-year-old Castro chatting animatedly with Francis and shaking the pope's hand, the pope standing in his white vestments and Castro sitting in a white button-down shirt and Adidas sweat top.

The meeting brought together the leader who shaped Cuba for the last half of the 20th century and Latin America's first pope, who is credited by many Cubans with opening a path to the future by mediating the warming diplomatic relations between their country and the United States. After his Cuba visit, the pope flies to Washington for his first ever trip to the U.S.

Francis called on Castro after celebrating Mass in Havana's main plaza on his first full day in Cuba.

In his homily delivered under the gaze of a metal portrait of revolutionary fighter Che Guevara, Francis urged Cubans to

care for one another out of a sense of service, not ideology. He encouraged them to refrain from judging each other by "looking to one side or the other to see what our neighbor is doing or not doing."

"Whoever wishes to be great must serve others, not be served by others," he said. "Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people."

It was a subtle jab at the communist system, which even the Vatican spokesman didn't deny. "The pope doesn't tend to make explicitly political speeches, but he has some general principles and everyone is free apply their different experiences



Pope Francis and Cuba's Fidel Castro shake hands, in Havana

of life on them," the Rev. Federico Lombardi said.

At one point, Francis was approached by a man who grabbed onto the pope's hand and head before he was pulled away by security agents. Video showed what appeared to be the same man throwing leaflets in the air, and backers of a Cuban dis-

sident group said on Twitter he was a member of the opposition.

The head of the opposition group Ladies in White said 22 of 24 members of her group who wanted to attend Mass were prevented from going by Cuban security agents. And two other well-known Cuban dissidents said agents detained them after the Vatican invited them to the pope's vespers service at Havana's cathedral. **AP**

what's ON



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VENUE: L2 Showcase / MGM MACAU,

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ADMISSION: free

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HISTORICAL PAINTINGS OF MACAU IN THE 19TH CENTURY

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

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Offbeat

BEE STINGS, RESEARCH THAT MAKES YOU GO 'HUH?' WIN IG NOBELS

A Cornell University graduate student who allowed honeybees to sting him in 25 places and a group of scientists who concluded it's possible for one man to father 888 children are among the winners of this year's Ig Nobels, which honor humorous scientific achievement.

Michael Smith estimates he was stung about 200 times during his 2012 honeybee study. His conclusion: The three most painful places to get stung are the nostril, the upper lip and the male sex organ.

"A sting to the nostril is so painful it's like a whole body experience," he said.

Other winners being honored Thursday night at the 25th-annual ceremony at Harvard University include a trio of linguists who discovered that almost every language in the world uses the word "huh" for clarification in a conversation and researchers who found that corporate CEOs take less professional risk if directly affected by a natural disaster as a child.

Real Nobel laureates hand out the prizes, and winners receive a cash award: a Zimbabwean 10 trillion dollar bill, the equivalent of a couple of U.S. dollars.

Smith shared the Ig Nobel for physiology and entomology with Justin Schmidt, an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona who devised a pain scale for insect stings.

His advice: Do not get stung by the tarantula hawk, a nasty looking wasp found in the Southwestern U.S. with a stinger about a quarter-inch long.

"The sting is entirely nontoxic but hurts like the bejus," Schmidt said.

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13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:50	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Documentary Series
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

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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



1955 NEW TV CHANNEL ENDS BBC MONOPOLY

Britain's first independent television station is on air, ending the 18-year monopoly of the BBC and bringing advertisements to the airwaves for the first time.

The new Independent Television Authority (ITA) began its broadcasts with live coverage of a ceremony at the Guildhall marking the start of Britain's first-ever commercially-funded television station.

Among the speakers was the Postmaster General, Charles Hill. The Post Office is working with the ITA to provide the service, and he was quick to address concerns over advertisements.

"We shall not be bothered by a violinist stopping in the middle of his solo to advise us of his favourite brand of cigarettes," he said, "nor indeed will Hamlet interrupt his soliloquy to tell us of the favourite brand of toothpaste ordinarily used at Elsinore."

After the Guildhall banquet, the main programmes got under way.

They included a variety show, half an hour of drama excerpts starring Sir John Gielgud, Alec Guinness and Kay Hammond, and a boxing match.

There was a final news bulletin and cabaret before the final five-minute religious programme, Epilogue, which ended the service at 2300 BST.

The first advertisement came a little more than an hour into the schedule, during the variety show.

Viewers saw a tube of Gibbs SR toothpaste in a block of ice, with a voiceover pronouncing it a "tingling fresh toothpaste" for teeth and gums.

There were another 23 advertisements during the evening, promoting products from Cadbury's chocolate to Esso petrol.

The BBC broadcast "The Donald Duck Story", profiling the Walt Disney cartoon character.

The Corporation is already coming under huge pressure as a result of the new competition from the ITA.

It is looking into the possibility of a quiz show, similar to the ITA's "Double Your Money" hosted by Hughie Green, prompting fears that the arrival of the ITA will cause a slide into lower-standard, populist programming.

Competition is also driving up costs: bidding wars have begun for artistes who before were forced to accept BBC wages. At the same time, the price of popular American imports such as "I Love Lucy" and "Dragnet" has risen from a few hundred pounds up to several thousand.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It later emerged that it was BBC Radio which staged the most effective spoiling tactic to the launch of ITV, with the death of Grace Archer, a leading character in the radio soap, *The Archers*.

The episode pulled in an audience of 20 million, but the BBC denied that the plot development was deliberately timed.

Independent television was at first referred to as the ITA, the name of the regulatory body charged with setting up the regional franchises. The channel is now universally known as ITV.

The initial ITV franchise was to the London area only, run by Associated Rediffusion and ABC (Associated Broadcasting Company).

Further franchises were awarded region by region until 1965, when the whole country could receive ITV.

The ITA was replaced by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) in 1972, and then by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) under the Broadcasting Act of 1990.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 All the most important interpersonal stuff is going on between the lines today, so try to ensure that you're paying close attention! You may not figure it all out until tomorrow, but that's okay.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Life is getting pretty intense for you today, so make sure that you've got the time and energy to handle all that comes your way. It's not as hard as it sounds, and is likely quite rewarding!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Help those who need it most today - even if you have to leave your own projects for the time being. You rack up all kinds of bonus karma, which is sure to come in handy in the near future.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're presented with two or more appealing options, and you may not be sure how to proceed. There's nothing wrong with that, but you do need to make up your mind pretty soon.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've got to take certain issues more seriously today - but that probably just means asking the right questions. You get the info you need after you show that you're interested.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Try harder to figure out what's really going on under the surface. You may not understand the deepest levels yet, but you should still be able to make some headway with the rest of it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your ability to focus on work and business is enhanced today so you can get more done - and you might spot some new opportunities that would not have occurred to you otherwise.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You feel a wave of healing energy crash over you - and it feels great, of course! You may feel better physically, but it goes deeper than the flesh and should repair old psychic wounds as well.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your dreams are much more vivid tonight - and if you can't remember them, that means their messages have been fully absorbed. If you do remember pieces, chew on them until they're digestible.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 What's really going on inside you? Today brings the chance to really look deep within yourself and see what you've been missing. You may be really surprised - and you're not alone!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your job is more important than you realize - so take it seriously today, even if it's limited to a job search. That can be especially fruitful if you look further afield than usual.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You are a bit fuzzy-headed today, but that doesn't mean you need to sit out any complicated dealings. Your good energy is a good substitute for knowing all the facts, so more forward now!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled. The Easy puzzle has numbers 2, 3, 1, 9, 6, 2, 3, 7, 5, 9, 4, 7, 2, 4, 6, 8, 7, 3, 3, 6, 7, 4, 9, 1, 5, 4, 9, 7, 8, 5. The Easy+ puzzle has numbers 8, 4, 1, 2, 7, 6, 9, 3, 8, 1, 5, 6, 9, 5, 1, 5, 4, 9, 2, 4, 5, 4, 8, 7, 1, 5, 9, 7, 1, 5, 9. The Medium puzzle has numbers 6, 2, 7, 7, 3, 2, 8, 3, 9, 1, 7, 8, 5, 4, 2, 3, 7, 3, 4, 9, 3, 6, 9, 8, 1, 3, 9, 4, 6, 1. The Hard puzzle has numbers 5, 2, 7, 6, 1, 3, 4, 2, 6, 7, 1, 1, 8, 2, 5, 6, 3.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in China (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and the World (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Four-sided fig.; 5- Cushions; 9- Fragment; 14- Crew needs; 15- Rotisserie part; 16- Spine-tingling; 17- Siouan speaker; 18- Outward show; 20-Finger; 22- Poseidon's realm; 23- Letter opener; 24- Body of an organism; 26-Arab sailing vessel; 28- Oyster shells are reduced here; 32- Grunts; 36- Tropical cuckoo bird; 37- Blender brand; 39- Delete; 40- Touse; 42- Roman garments; 44- Sack starter; 45- Prefix meaning "false"; 47- Organization; 49- Part of TNT; 50- Sequence; 52- Whisker of a cat; 54- Hardware fastener; 56- Elevator man; 57-On the ocean; 60- By means of; 62- Likenesses; 66- Party pooper; 69- Villainous character in Shakespeare's "Othello"; 70- Start of a Dickens title; 71- Female child; 72- Hanging to one side; 73- Some locks; 74- Feminine ending; 75- ___ browns;

DOWN: 1- Cross; 2- I could ___ horse!; 3- Gator's kin; 4- African fly; 5- Writer of Hebrew prayers; 6- PC program; 7- Immerses; 8- War horse; 9- Sun. speech; 10- Mental labor; 11- "Judith" composer; 12- Costa ___; 13- Woodland animal; 19- Contented sighs; 21- John Lennon's "Dear ___"; 25- Choir members; 27- Half and half; 28- Lanterns; 29- Busy; 30- Skinfint; 31- Israeli desert region; 33- Tirades; 34-Romanov rulers; 35- Photographic tone; 38- Rate; 41- Proper; 43- Foreign film feature; 46- Thieves' place; 48- Prissy; 51-Capital of Fiji; 53- Book of the Bible; 55-Slight trace; 57- Apart; 58- Bristle; 59- List-ending abbr.; 61- Related by blood; 63- Big bash; 64- Freudian topics; 65- Ex-frosh; 67- Bandleader Brown; 68- East ender?;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including 'The Manhattan Unit E Taipa', 'The Studio Macau', 'Dahlia Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa', 'Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau', 'Ieng Kok B Macau', 'Chong Fok Taipa', 'One Oasis, Tower 3, Unit B Coloane', 'Houston Court, Coloane Village', and the JML Property logo with '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.

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RUGBY

The All Blacks' smallest playmaker makes the difference



New Zealand's Aaron Smith scores a try during the Rugby World Cup Pool C match between New Zealand and Argentina

FOR all the incredible experience the All Blacks put out on Wembley - four centuries and one on 98 caps - it was one of their relative newcomers and their smallest guy who made the difference in their thrilling Rugby World Cup opener on Sunday.

Aaron Smith, one of six New Zealand starters playing in his first Cup, scored the try which put his side back in front of Argentina and broke the Pumas' spirit, all the while having to deal with unrelenting opposite Tomas Cubelli.

The All Blacks won 26-16, but the biggest ever crowd at a Rugby World Cup game was treated to a New Zealand side struggling to handle swarming Argentines for the middle 40 minutes.

In the first half, Smith said the All Blacks played as if they were expecting something to happen, instead of making it happen, and put themselves under pressure with two yellow cards. In the second, reinforcements added an urgent desire and the team finally played without fear.

"It looked better, and felt

better," said Smith, who was in the middle of it all.

Trailing 16-12 and nearly into the last quarter, New Zealand received a penalty in Argentina's left corner and kicked it out for a lineout. They won it, and smashed aside the Argentinians so well in driving hooker Dane Coles to the line that when Smith steadied the ball behind the ruck, he saw no Argentine was home. It was an easy run-in for his fifth try against Argentina in seven tests.

"Just a heads-up play," he said. "I wanted to pass to (fullback) Ben Smith on the blindside but a defender got in the way, and I didn't want to throw an intercept. I was only two meters out, I felt I could sneak over. It was sneaky."

Sneaky aptly describes Smith. His vision, speed, sidestep, and accuracy have made him the world's best scrumhalf virtually since the All Blacks chose him in mid 2012. He's so valuable that of the 47 tests New Zealand played between the last Rugby World Cup and this one, he appeared in 41, tied for the most in the team. **AP**

SG.SPORTS.YAHOO



Singapore soccer players react after losing to Malaysia during their AFF Suzuki Cup Group B

FOOTBALL

Singaporean jailed 4 years for match-fixing

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

A supervisor at a construction company with a match-fixing history was yesterday sentenced to four years in jail for bribing a foreign coach and players in Singapore an attempt to rig a preliminary Southeast Asian Games soccer match.

Rajendran R Kurusamy, 55, pleaded guilty to meeting Timor Leste's team manager, Orlando Marques Henriques Mendes, in Singapore on May 28 with the help of an Indonesian referee and a former Timor Leste player.

Mendes, who was also the technical director of the Football Federation of Timor Leste, was offered 15,000 Singapore dollars (USD10,700) by Rajendran to hold a goalless score-line for 20 minutes in a first-round match against Malaysia, before losing by a few goals. Mendes allegedly accepted the bribe. Rajendran also offered to pay at least seven players \$4,000 (US\$2,844) each.

All four men were arrested by the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau before the match on the evening of May 30. Malaysia won 1-0. Timor Leste subsequently finished fifth in

its group of six teams and failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

Deputy public prosecutor Nicholas Khoo dubbed Rajendran as the country's "most prolific match-fixer in terms of number of convictions."

In 1997, Rajendran was sentenced to 27 months in jail for attempting to bribe three players of the local S-League.

Two years later, he received another 24-month jail sentence for agreeing to give a prison warden 20,000 Singapore dollars (\$14,300) in exchange for a smuggled mobile phone. Rajendran used the phone to make football bets and illegal personal calls.

"In the present case, the accused's offenses were clearly premeditated," Khoo told the court. "The fact that the accused is a recalcitrant offender who has a string of similar antecedents for match-fixing offences ... evidences that the accused criminal tendencies are not an uncharacteristic aberration, but part of a defined pattern of criminality," he said.

In passing the sentence for two corruption charges, district judge Hamidah Ibrahim noted the need for "general deterrence" given that Rajendran was

found guilty of similar charges in the past.

For the first charge of bribing Mendes, he was given a jail term of 42 months. The second charge of offering bribes to at least seven Timor Leste players attracted a jail term of 48 months - the highest of its kind dealt on a single charge for match-fixing - she said, adding that both charges will run concurrently.

Rajendran also had a history of working with notorious Singaporean match-fixer Wilson Raj Perumal.

The bearded Rajendran, who has been on remand since May, appeared in court handcuffed, dressed in white and brown prison garb.

He looked unfazed when the judgment was dealt but family members in the courtroom were teary-eyed as they exchanged final words before he was led away.

Rajendran is the second out of the group of four to present a plea. For his role, Indonesian referee Nasiruddin, who goes by one name, was sentenced to 30 months' jail on July 21.

The maximum penalty for corruption in Singapore is a five-year jail term and 100,000 Singapore dollars (\$71,400) fine. **AP**

AD

27th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest
5, 12, 19, 27/9, 1/10/2015 - 21:00 & 21:40
 Sea Area in front of the Macau Tower

International Fireworks Display Contest
 MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE
 www.macaotourism.gov.mo

opinion

Our Desk

Aries Un



FRESH FLOWERS OR TANKS

While Beijing's high-profile military extravaganza on September 3 triggered myriads of speculation over its underlying intentions on the world stage, it also set off a heated online debate amongst students at the University of Macau as to which one was the most appropriate way to commemorate post-war peace: fresh flowers or tanks.

A cover picture bearing the Chinese slogan of "to remember warfare with fresh flowers, not tanks", posted by the university's elected student union on its Facebook page on the same day, drew hundreds of comments instantaneously from university students.

Such a politically suggestive stance blatantly announced by the student body essentially placed the students into four cliques, namely the people who lambasted the group members for imposing a personal viewpoint on the rest of their colleagues; the people who appreciated the group's rare act of courage in freely expressing their views; the people who favored the content in the picture, and finally the people who expressed strong disgust at the idea suggested by the slogan.

In fact, no clique would be the ultimate winner in the dispute as different parties view Beijing's muscle flexing based on their own rationale and self-interpretation of the history, just the same as most political commentators.

It sounds absolutely legitimate for one nation, which has been victimized and downtrodden during foreign aggression, to flaunt their whole arsenal on an occasion marking the victory over its former oppressor after 70 years. Aside from promoting the clichéd message of peace, how could the nation's leader miss out on such an opportunity to tell the world something more under the spotlight?

Likewise, the student union's motive behind the contentious phrase is equally comprehensible and justifiable, and it has an absolute right to voice their own views towards the military review just as much as the opposition students have a right to impeach the group in Macau – one of the few Chinese cities with a scrap of democracy.

Furthermore, we surely don't need someone's comments on Facebook to remind us of that flowers do not help on the battlefield, and that we should instead have some kind of daily emblem reminiscent of the fallouts from warfare and atrocities in order not to return to violence. The only message that came into my mind upon reading the slogan was the sheer promotion of peace, as simple as that. If there is a wider picture to look at, why bother with the comparatively irrelevant minutiae.

No matter how one tries to defend his or her political standpoint, objectors will always remain against it, given the disparity of respective perception and being from different milieus. It is always encouraging to see productive and constructive discussions among students, yet a section of that Facebook debate among the university students was simply disappointing.

Scrolling down the comments list on the cover picture reveals nothing more than a catfight where some local students even made ad hominem attacks against mainland students who in return fought back with derogatory remarks.

It is true that critical and objective thinking is not always necessary nowadays when it comes to online debates. Yet trying to out speak others without solid arguments on a social-networking platform where a certain amount of personal information is available to public is seriously not a wise move, especially when much of it is done by students from a so-called first-class university, which prides itself on producing well-rounded graduates every year.

THE TOP BANKER QUILTS OVER MISSING BUZZ USD1.5B

Moldova's central bank governor resigned yesterday, following weeks of street protests over \$1.5 billion that disappeared from three Moldovan banks.

Dorin Dragutanu, governor of the National Bank of Moldova stepped down and accused politicians of interfering in the bank's internal affairs.

He said if politicians continued to put pressure on him "I will say the truth, especially as my hands are free now."

Dragutanu claimed politicians had tried to discredit the central bank. Prime Minister Valeriu Strelet responded, saying Dragutanu did not like politicians asking legitimate questions about the bank.

MACAU

Concerts feature talented local musicians



Ray Long



Sophia Feinga Su



Hugo Loi



Katy Ho

Two concerts will be held at the D Pedro V Theatre on Friday and Saturday as pre-opening events of the 29th Macau International Music Festival. Titled "Bravo Macau," both concerts are being organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and will feature performances by young local musicians, namely violinist Sophia Feinga Su, saxophonist Hugo Loi, pianist Ray Long and violist Katy Ho.

The four musicians have been winning awards from a young age and have been admitted to top-notch institutions where they have honed their skills,

unleashing their natural talent. Fourteen-year old Sophia Feinga Su currently attends the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in the U.S.A., and was the youngest ever participant in the Macau Young Musicians Competition to be awarded the IC Prize, in 2008. Hugo Loi is dedicated to music training, teaching at the Macau Conservatory and several local schools. He became the first representative of the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague to perform solo abroad and conduct exchange sessions with students at the University of Ghana, in Africa, in 2013.

Ray Long graduated with first class honors from the Royal College of Music in the United Kingdom, and has received second prize and the Brighton Fund Prize award at UK's Springboard, amongst other important awards.

Katy Ho also graduated and completed a master's degree at the Juilliard School of Music and was awarded a scholarship by the same school last year. She now teaches music courses at public schools in New York.

According to an announcement made by the IC yesterday, tickets for both concerts "are now limited."

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Liu Dawei



Visitors view bonsais during the 2015 Bonsai Clubs International Convention in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province. More than 600 bonsais were displayed during the convention, that ended yesterday.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	25-45 Good	
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate	
Ambient	50-70 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

SIERRA LEONE An Associated Press investigation finds that weak leadership, shoddy supplies and infighting exacerbated a chaotic situation at a critical front in the battle against Ebola in Africa.

BURKINA FASO Burkina Faso's political crisis deepens as the military insists its general must serve as head of state until the next elections while protesters clash outside the hotel where regional leaders were mediating.



AP PHOTO

S KOREA Security researchers say they found critical weaknesses in a South Korean government-mandated child surveillance app – vulnerabilities that left the private lives of the country's youngest citizens open to hackers. Internet watchdog group Citizen Lab and German software auditing company Cure53 said they found a catalog of worrying problems with "Smart Sheriff," the most popular of more than a dozen child monitoring programs that South Korea requires for new smartphones sold to minors. "There was literally no security at all," Cure53 director Mario Heiderich said. "We've never seen anything that fundamentally broken."

GERMANY The CEO of Volkswagen apologizes and VW customers say they felt duped after the Environmental Protection Agency reveals that the German automaker skirted clean air rules by rigging emissions tests for about 500,000 diesel cars.

IRAN said yesterday it has given samples to the U.N. nuclear agency collected by its own experts at the Parchin military site, where Western nations suspect it once worked on detonators for nuclear weapons.