



DORE 'INVESTORS' PETITION GOVERNMENT
The group displayed banners that called for help from the MSAR government to 'get back their savings'

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FRANCE CARRIES OUT AIRSTRIKES IN SYRIA
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WORLD BRIEFS

US-CHINA Beijing's pledge to help crack down on hackers who steal commercial secrets from the United States, even coming as it did amid a bit of arm-twisting by President Barack Obama, is a big breakthrough that could reduce U.S.-China tensions and end huge losses for American companies. *More on p10*

THAILAND Thai police said that two men who were arrested in connection with August's deadly Bangkok bombing were the ones who carried out the attack and that authorities have gathered enough evidence to prosecute them.

THAILAND A trip to see fireflies has turned into tragedy in Thailand when two boats collided in the night, killing a woman from Hungary and seriously injuring a South Korean along with nearly two dozen other tourists, police said over the weekend. One boat with 21 South Koreans and two Hungarians was returning at the end of its trip when it was struck by an empty boat going in reverse. Around 20 other people, mainly from South Korea, also suffered injuries Friday night at Amphawa, a popular tourist destination about 60 kilometers west of Bangkok, he said.

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JUNKET WOES

Dore 'investors' deliver petition to government

SEVERAL residents involved in an "investment" scheme related to Dore Entertainment delivered a complaint letter to the Secretariat for Economy and Finance last Friday afternoon. The group, who held a silent demonstration in front of the Government Headquarters, displayed banners that called for help from the MSAR authorities to "get back their savings," which reportedly had been given to Dore with the prospect of earning higher interest.

A representative of the group of seventeen people presented a petition to be delivered to Secretary Lionel Leong, urging for government action.

After the letter's delivery, a group spokesperson shared with journalists her deep disappointment about the government's inactivity. "The Macau government is not helping us! Just as parents never refuse to help their children when they are in trouble, the government should help us as well to get our



RENATO MARQUES

money back," she said, adding, "The government cannot just let the case continue like this without taking any responsibility. They should care for us."

This demonstration comes in

the wake of another protest last Thursday when the same group gathered outside Wynn Macau, where Dore operates most of their VIP rooms. At that time, the bar bending workers' asso-

ciation joined them, urging the government to help them get their investments back.

The protesters claim that Dore Entertainment is rejecting withdrawals from deposit account-

ts placed with the company.

On Dore Entertainment's side, they have released a statement indicating that a former cage staff member has allegedly abused her authority, conducting unauthorized business for which the company cannot be accountable.

According to TDM, citing Judiciary Police figures, the number of complaints rela-

Just as parents never refuse help to their children when they are in trouble, the gov't should help us get back our money

PROTESTERS' SPOKESPERSON

ted to the Dore case has risen to 43. The complainants claim that the total amount stolen from them amounts to HKD440 million. RM

Neptune Group reportedly loses HKD1 billion

AFTER a month of complications in Macau's VIP gaming sector, junket operator Neptune Group has stated that a loss of approximately HKD1 billion might force it to shut down its local operations.

Hit by a recent fraud scandal and subsequent loss of credibility involving junket Dore Entertainment, the VIP gaming promoter announced heavy losses for the financial year that ended in June.

In its annual results report, Neptune Group

blames the "spectacular slowdown in the Macau VIP gaming industry as a whole."

The same results report also shows that the Group lost almost HKD350 million in unsettled gamblers' debts, causing the company's gaming revenue to drop by a third.

These results are a downturn for the junket, which in the previous financial year had reported a profit of HKD515 million.

Neptune Group, which has already closed a

VIP room at StarWorld hotel, admits now the possibility of a complete shutdown in their local operations.

In a statement issued last Saturday, the junket says that it is considering how to restabilize amidst "unsettling challenges" and "difficult circumstances."

At the same time, a Hong Kong court last Thursday postponed until 24 March the trial of Cheung Chi Tai, a former major shareholder in Neptune Group, on accusations of money laundering.

CRIME

Mainland workers pay over RMB300,000 for fake job recommendations

Aries Un

THE Judiciary Police arrested a cargo delivery driver last week after 41 foreign workers from the mainland fell for his false job recommendations that earned him over RMB300,000 in total.

According to the local authorities, the 45-year-old suspect worked for a local freight delivery company in the Inner Harbor. In April, pretending to be a manager of a large-scale beverage company, he approached a group of restaurant workers, promising jobs for them at other companies with all related procedures done properly.

The workers, together with other acquaintances and together totaling 29

persons, paid RMB 246,500 to the suspect in the hope of working at the companies, which he claimed have close affiliations to the executives working there.

Months later without having the promise realized, the group contacted the police, which later caught the driver at his workplace. Later on, the investigators realized that he was connected to another two similar hoaxes, which happened in March and August of this year.

The two examples of deception, with 12 mainlanders involved, were said to have earned the suspect RMB76,000 in total. An investigation is underway to find other possible accomplices in the scams following the suspect's claim that he has another accomplice.

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IPM honors former European Commission head



FORMER European Commission president, Durão Barroso, is visiting Macau this month, where he will be awarded the title of Honorary Coordinator Professor by the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM).

The ceremony will take place on October 20. Lei Heong Iok, IPM's president, told Lusa that Mr Barroso will receive the award after a conference, where he will be speaking on the topic "Globalization of the Twenty-First Century: New Silk Routes, Other Links between Continents."

"For us at IPM, this will be a very meaningful ceremony, as Mr Durão Barroso is a personality of great prestige, as a former prime minister of Portugal and also former president of the EU," Lei Heong Iok said.

The ceremony will be presided over by the Secretary of Social Affairs and Culture, Mr Alexis Tam.

URBANISM

Inner Harbor redevelopment stirs controversy

THE tenants of five old stores operating under the Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association along a street in Inner Harbor are being forced to move out, in order to give way for a real estate redevelopment promoted by Fong Chi Keong.

According to an Official Gazette announcement, the land parcel – spanning 736 square meters on Rua da Ribeira do Patane – will be developed into an 18-storey commercial-residential building. Existing individual properties will be demolished.

Fong told media last Friday on the sidelines of an event that the 70-year-old blocks, which sit opposite the troubled Sin Fong building, were too old to be used. He reassured the media that the planned construction project is not high-end.

Asked if tenants might resume the operation of their businesses at the current rental prices, the association's head ruled out the possibility. "They won't be able to find better premises if they are unwilling to pay much."

In addition, the current tenants have already been ordered to look for new places for their businesses. "It's legitimate to notify tenants that they must leave and look for other places half a year before the lease expires," he said. "They have to abide by the contract and the law."

Fong Chi Keong stressed that development was the way to go. According to Fong's estimate, the new real estate project will bring in profits of at least MOP200 million.

TOURISM

MGTO to offer overnight visitors a sightseeing package

FOR the first time ever, tourism authorities will implement a free sightseeing package for overnight visitors.

The policy was revealed last Friday by the Macau Government Tourist Office director, Helena de Senna Fernandes, on the sidelines of a function. This came after she dismissed a media report indicating that authorities had considered financing inbound tourists to encourage overnight stays.

"I have to clarify that there has never been a MOP200 accommodation allowance," Fernandes told the media. "We will give a tour to the visitors if they come and visit Macau, for which the Tourist Office will be financially responsible."

According to the director, the initiative is intended to attract international tourists staying in Hong Kong, along with other mainland Chinese tourists who are not from the Guangdong province. "These tourists must stay overnight in Macau to grow the amount of



more-than-one-day stays. That's our target," she stated. Helena de Senna Fernandes reminded media that, according to official statistics, 53 percent of the 3.03 million visitor arrivals last month were same-day visitors.

The government-funded scheme will only be implemented after the "golden week," as the project requires time for further development.

Hotels have to provide records confirming overnight

stays in order to determine the effects of the scheme, which seeks to reach out to the mainland and Hong Kong for tourists from overseas.

As the initiative enters the final stage of deliberation, no further details have been made available. However, the office's head said that the project has been well received by the tourism sector.

Regarding the prospects of "golden week" visitors, Helena de Senna Fernan-

des did not offer advance figures, saying, "We are still collecting information from the agencies and hotels, but we can say that, from the agencies' point-of-view, they are expecting a sharp decline." She justified this prediction based on the fact that this year's National Day holidays and Mid-Autumn Festival holidays are consecutive, making this "golden week" a little longer and possibly leading many mainland tourists to travel further abroad. **AU**

City shown in a different perspective with Lego bricks



AN exhibit featuring Lego versions of local attractions and monuments opened to the public last Friday. It will be available for viewing until 28 December at the Ritz Building, in Senado Square, and at the Macau Science Centre.

A team led by Andy Hung, the first certified Lego professional in the Greater China region, used over 120,000 Lego bricks to build replicas of iconic Macau landmarks such as Macau's World Heritage sites, attractions and events. Andy Hung paid great attention to the realism of the buildings depicted and used miniature figures and props to highlight the atmosphere of places like Senado

Square, Rua de Felicidade and the Ruins of St. Paul's, replicas of which are displayed at the Ritz Building. The Macau Grand Prix Guia Circuit, Macau Tower and map of Macau Peninsula exhibits are displayed at the Macau Science Centre.

The three-month crossover exhibition inauguration was officiated by the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) director, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, and the Lego HK Marketing Manager, Yvonne Lam Wing Ki.

"We believe that the exhibitions will attract both residents and tourists to experience Macau in a new and different perspective," Helena de Senna Fernandes said at the official opening.

In conjunction with the Lego exhibition, a digital photography exhibition by photographer Antonio Leong will also be on display. Leong has created a virtual trip to Macau using Lego mini-figures as tourists exploring several Macau landmarks.

The exhibition also offers a series of workshops conducted by Andy Hung and Antonio Leong. The two will sha-

re their techniques and experiences with members of the public who sign up for the sessions.

Last year and in mid-September this year, MGTO organized large-scale roadshows in Hong Kong, showcasing Lego versions of some famous Macau landmarks which, according to MGTO, were very well received by the public. The current exhibition has been in development for more than half a year.

■ ■
The exhibitions will attract both residents and tourists to experience Macau in a new and different perspective

HELENA DE SENNA FERNANDES

Hairdryer triggers fire in hotel, 4 taken to hospital

A fire allegedly caused by a short-circuited hairdryer in an Imperial Palace Hotel guest room on Sunday morning has resulted in four visitors being hospitalized for treatment. The fire, which occurred at around 6 a.m., reportedly blackened the walls and ceiling of the room. It had already been extinguished upon firefighters' arrival. The fire is believed to have been sparked by a faulty internal connection within the household appliance, which was burnt to ashes.

Association calls for waste recycling industry shutdown

AN association for waste recycling (listed in the Official Gazette with the Portuguese name Associação Comercial de Reciclagem de Materiais Recicláveis de Macau) kicked off a strike on Saturday to heap pressure on the government to devise more measures to shore up the industry, which is allegedly facing multiple challenges.

The association's call to temporarily shut down operations drew support from many of its members. Since the weekend, the region has seen waste piling up at some of the already-closed stores.

Chan Man Nin, president of the association, stated last Friday during a press conference that their effort would continue until further policies were put forward to address their financial plight. "We will only resume operations once there's a response reassuring the industry. Otherwise, it's rather hard for us to survive," he said.

A combination of surging rental costs, a low return rate in recyclable materials, and a scarcity of venues has plagued the industry, said Chan. He added that their predicament



was worsened when most of their workers, forced to deal with collecting materials on the streets and given a limited working area, would end up being fined by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM).

The bureau stressed that no "selective enforcement" was invoked during its inspections, but that those laborers' conduct in the public space might cause public hygiene issues, reported TDM, citing an IACM official.

Chan urged the government to take pragmatic action in response to recyclers' appeals or the association would step up their action to the point where even organized drivers might protest on roadways.

The Environmental Protection Bureau promised to study relevant measures for the recycling industry such as those that have been taken in Hong Kong, to see if they might

be viable in the local industry.

Macau Green Student Union head Chan Chon Meng also weighed in on the issue, calling on the recyclers' association to cease its movement, saying that the bulk of waste left unattended on the streets might tarnish the region's reputation.

According to some recyclers, more than 3,500 tons of paper and metal waste, supposedly recyclable, would end up in landfills or incinerators every week after the strike. The commerce chamber also demanded a venue to lodge the existing stock of waste, as its storage warehouse edges closer to its return deadline of November.

Citizens complain of rubbish piling up

The recycling industry strike yesterday extended into its second consecutive day. Citizens are complaining about the rubbish that is piling up, which has raised concerns over public hygiene.

Meanwhile, tourists told TDM that their desire to return to Macau would be affected if the environment is polluted.

"The hygiene condition is acceptable for the time

-being. If the streets aren't clean, you won't even want to get out of the car," a tourist said.

A statement issued by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) claims that the department is looking into the recycling policies of nearby regions, in order to understand whether the policies have been successful and if they could be replicated in Macau.

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Patricia Hurtado
and Edvard Pettersson

Jailed billionaire Ng said to have evaded US bribery probe

A Macau billionaire now jailed in New York failed to comply last year with a request from U.S. prosecutors that he answer questions as part of an overseas bribery investigation, according to court papers and a person familiar with the probe.

Ng Lap Seng, 68, is being held in a Manhattan federal jail after his Sept. 19 arrest on charges that he brought USD4.5 million into the U.S. and lied about its purpose to authorities. As part of a complaint detailing the allegations against Ng, an FBI agent said Ng left the U.S. in July 2014 without responding to a grand jury subpoena in an "unrelated investigation."

That investigation, based out of Nevada, focused on allegations of foreign bribes being paid, according to a person familiar with matter who declined to be named because it wasn't public. Natalie Collins, a spokesman for U.S. Attorney Daniel Bogden in Las Vegas, declined to comment. It's unclear who the government was targeting or whether the 2014 investigation is continuing.

Ng's name surfaced this year as part of a lawsuit alleging that Sheldon Adelson, the 82-year-old billionaire founder and chairman of Las Vegas Sands Corp., ordered secret investigations into the business and financial affairs of Macau government officials and insisted on retaining a Macau lawyer who exposed the company to violations of U.S. anti-bribery



Ng Lap Seng

law. The suit was filed by the former chief executive officer of the company's Macau unit.

In testimony at a May hearing in Las Vegas, Adelson denied knowing Ng and said he hadn't authorized Ng to deliver a message from Adelson to government officials in China. "I know of nobody in our company that dealt or was dealing with this Ng Lap Seng," Adelson said.

Adelson also denied that Ng

was connected to an alleged \$300 million-bribe request to his Sands China Ltd. casino operation in the former Portuguese colony. The payment, according to Adelson's testimony, was to facilitate the company getting long-delayed approval to sell condos at its Four Seasons property and to settle claims by a Taiwanese businessman.

Adelson testified that the com-

pany didn't pay the requested bribe and that he didn't know who the intended recipient was. Former Sands China Ltd. CEO Steven Jacobs alleged he was fired after he had conflicts

with U.S. operations and their intermediaries from making improper payments to foreign officials to win or retain business.

Ron Reese, a spokesman for Sands, declined to comment on whether the Ng subpoena was related to the government's investigation of the company. Ng, who has a net worth of about \$1.8 billion, has been held without bail at a federal jail in lower Manhattan since he was arrested as he was about to leave the U.S. on his private jet on Sept. 19. In that case, prosecutors said they also have evidence that Ng wired at least \$19 million to U.S. bank accounts and individuals.

At a bail hearing in Manhattan federal court on Sept. 21, Tung said Ng didn't understand the purpose of the subpoena, was unaware of the investigation and didn't speak English. A prosecutor cited the unanswered subpoena without providing specifics as part of her request that Ng be held without bail.

"I think he was not aware of this at all," Tung told a judge. Ng's assistant, Kevin Yin, was also arrested Sept. 19 on the same charges and is being held on a \$1 million bond. His lawyer said Yin denies wrongdoing. **Bloomberg**

■ Ng was arrested as he was about to leave the U.S. on his private jet on Sept. 19

with Adelson, including fights over what he said were illegal demands that secret investigations be performed of Macau government officials for information that could be used as leverage to thwart adverse regulation. According to court filings by Jacobs, Sands China conducted a background investigation of Ng.

Following Jacobs's allegations, the U.S. Justice Department and Securities and Exchange Commission opened investigations into whether Adelson's company violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. That law prohibits companies

Unemployment rate increases to 1.9 pct

THE unemployment rate for June-August this year reached 1.9 percent, up slightly by 0.1 percentage points from May-July, data released by the Statistics and Cen-

sus Service (DSEC) shows. The underemployment rate remained stable at 0.4 percent, DSEC said.

The number of unemployed citizens reached 7,500, up by 100 from

May-July. With fresh graduates joining the labor market, the number of new labor force entrants searching for their first job (1,300) increased by 200, making up 17.7 percent of

the total unemployed, up by 3.3 percentage points from May-July.

In comparison with June-August 2014, the labor force participation rate decreased by 0.6 percenta-

ge points, while the unemployment and underemployment rates increased by 0.2 and 0.1 percentage points respectively.

The total labor force numbered 402,700 and the participation rate stood at 73.3 percent. The total number of tho-

se employed decreased by 2,800 from May-July to 395,100. Analyzed by industry, employment in the Construction and Retail Trade registered a decrease, while employment in Hotels, Restaurants & Similar Activities saw an increase.

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Local volunteers build 75,000 hygiene kits for Clean the World

MORE than 4,000 volunteers in Singapore, Macau, Bethlehem and Las Vegas worked around the clock and across the globe on Saturday to successfully complete an unprecedented 24-hour global volunteer effort.

The volunteers built 200,000 hygiene kits to be distributed to populations in need worldwide, including in Macau. According to Sands China, more than 1,500 Sands China team members and volunteers from the Macau community worked together at The Venetian's Cotai Expo from 2-9 p.m. to assemble 75,000 kits, supporting the global effort. A total of 14 associations joined Sands China team members to build the kits.

"It's important to the company, it's important to team members, it's important to the community as a whole. It's a very special event for which we want to use our resources, in terms of team members and supplies that we recycle from hotel properties, to contribute to parts of society that are in need," said Winnie Wong, Sands China's VP of Corporate Communications and Community Affairs, cited by TDM.

Each hygiene kit contains soap and other items collected from Clean the World's hospitality partners, including global LVS properties such as Sands China's integrated resorts in Macau. To form these individual personal care kits, soap is recycled

through Clean the World's sanitation and processing equipment, and is then packed with other amenities such as shampoo, conditioner, a toothbrush and toothpaste.

"The more recycling partnerships we can develop, the more waste we can turn into the life-saving tools. We have greatly reduced the number of children who were dying on a daily basis because they didn't have access to soap and hygiene supplies," Clean the World's director Sam Stephens told TDM. "A global build of this magnitude has a far-reaching impact, providing reclaimed hygiene supplies to people and places we normally can't reach," stated Shawn Seipler, founder and CEO of Clean the World.

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GAMING CHIPS

Wynn Resorts bondholders see USD400M erased in Macau squeeze

Christopher Palmeri and Cordell Eddings

ADD bond investors to the long list of people losing money on Wynn Resorts Ltd.

Almost USD400 million in market value has disappeared this year from the \$4.5 billion of fixed-income securities issued by the Las Vegas-based company. That's on top of the \$9.3 billion in value lost by stockholders. Wynn Resorts shares are down 60 percent this year.

Like other casino operators with business in Macau, Wynn has been suffering through a 15-month slump, caused by a crackdown on corruption on the mainland and a slower economy in China. The company is more reliant than its peers on that market, and particularly the high-rolling VIPs whose business has dropped off the most. Chris Snow, an analyst at CreditSights Inc. in New York, said the bonds



The Wynn Las Vegas, right, and its sister hotel, Encore Las Vegas, are seen in Las Vegas

The liquidity situation is very tight, and the market fundamentals are pretty negative.

CHRIS SNOW
CREDITSIGHS INC, NEW YORK

could go lower.

"The liquidity situation is very tight, and the market fundamentals are pretty negative," Snow said. Those factors "will continue to put pressure on the bond price."

The biggest hit for fixed-income investors has come in Wynn's 5.5 percent bonds due in 2025. Issued in February at par, they have dropped 5.7 percent this month alone, and are now trading at 86.75 cents on the dollar.

Betting in Macau fell 36 percent in August to 18.6 billion patacas (\$2.3 billion), following July's 34 percent drop, according to data from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Wynn Resorts received 70 percent of its revenue from Macau, the former Portuguese colony off of China's coast, last year, according to Bloomberg data. That compares with 64 percent for Las Vegas Sands Corp. and 34 percent for MGM Resorts International Inc.

Wynn also has more high-rollers, the gamblers whose activity has dropped the most in the past year. Wynn received 67 percent of revenue its last year from these customers, compared with 60 percent for the market as a whole, according to Deutsche Bank data.

"Wynn is more exposed to

what's going on in Macau than the others," said Keith Foley, an analyst at Moody's Investor Service in New York. "Macau makes up the majority of its revenue and earnings. Their focus tended to be on the VIP section, and that's the segment that's getting hurt the worst."

One particular concern for investors is the new capacity coming online. Wynn and other casino operators have more than \$14 billion in new properties scheduled to open in the next year that could prompt a price war in Macau, even as the new casinos add to the debt load on their balance sheets.

Wynn has two casinos under construction: the \$4.1 billion Wynn Palace, scheduled to open in Macau in the first half of next year, and the \$1.6 billion Wynn Everett, outside Boston, scheduled for late 2017.

Construction of the two properties will cause Wynn's debt level to spike by the end of this year, with total borrowings amounting to 6.7 times the company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, according to Alex Bumazhny, a director for gaming, lodging and leisure at Fitch Ratings Ltd. in New York. He expects that ratio to improve after Wynn Palace opens next year. If the project doesn't produce the \$350 million in annual Ebitda he expects, or if it takes business from Wynn's existing Macau resort, Fitch may have to reevaluate the credit rating, Bumazhny said. Fitch currently rates the company BB, two levels below investment grade.

To conserve cash, Wynn Resorts cut its quarterly dividend to 50 cents a share in April, from the \$1.50 it paid previously. It could cut the payout further to preserve its credit rating, according to Foley.

It would be "foolish to issue dividends on borrowed money," company founder Steve Wynn said on a conference call at the time.

The 7.4 percent current yield of the 2025 bonds is closer to that of a BB- rating, below its current score, according to Bloomberg data.

"Downgrades wouldn't be a surprise," Snow said of the company's credit rating. **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

Rents crash on shopping strip that was world's priciest

Alfred Liu

COSMETICS retailer Colourmix will soon move to Hong Kong's Russell Street, once the world's most expensive shopping strip, and pay almost 40 percent less than the former tenant as China's economic slowdown rattles the city.

"Landlords have to face the reality, no matter how reluctant they are," Lawrence Wong, a director at property agent Sheraton Valuers Ltd., said in a telephone interview

over the weekend. "It's still better than leaving their property empty."

Russell Street has lost its claim as the most expensive shopping street on the planet to New York's Fifth Avenue, according to broker Cushman & Wakefield Inc. in November. A July research report by Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. predicted prices for space in prime locations will drop 15 percent to 20 percent in Hong Kong this year.

Retail rents were down 12 percent in Causeway Bay and 3 percent in Central

at the end of June, Oriental Daily reported earlier this month, citing data from CBRE Group Inc. The broker said in a report that the decline came after rents for shops at prime locations in Hong Kong's four shopping districts, including Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok, increased by 213 percent from 2003 to 2014.

Hong Kong's retail property market has slumped as China posts its weakest growth in a quarter century. The world's second-largest economy will announce a growth objective

of 6.5 percent to 7 percent for 2016, according to eight of 15 economists in a Bloomberg News survey conducted Sept. 17-22. All of those surveyed said they expect next year's target will fall short of the about 7 percent set by Premier Li Keqiang for 2015 growth.

Colourmix, run by Veeko International Holdings Ltd., will rent a 1,000 square-foot space in Causeway Bay for almost HK\$1 million (\$129,000) per month, 43 percent lower than what luxury

Swiss watch brand Jaeger-LeCoultre is currently paying, said Wong, whose company handled the transaction.

In Central, Hong Kong's business district, Adidas Hong Kong Ltd. will pay 23 percent less for the space being vacated by Coach Hong Kong Ltd., according to Land Registry data. The sports brand's rent is HKD4.34 million a month, down from HK\$5.6 million paid by Coach, the designer handbag maker.

Hong Kong's residential market also is experiencing weaker sentiment. "Housing market outlook will likely become more cautious amid increased volatility in the global and Hong Kong's financial markets," the Hong



Kong Monetary Authority said in a report released Friday. "The risk of downward adjustment has picked up steadily." **Bloomberg**

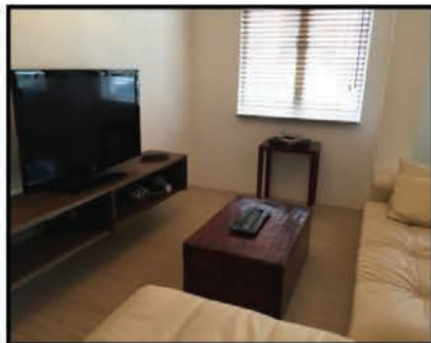
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Soi Cheung, Taipa Village

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Lakeview - Macau

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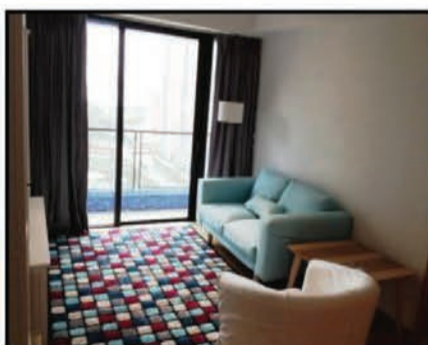
Fully Furnished with a large front balcony over looking the Macau tower to Taipa. Convenient location, close to Grand Lisboa and Senado square. Viewings by appointment only.



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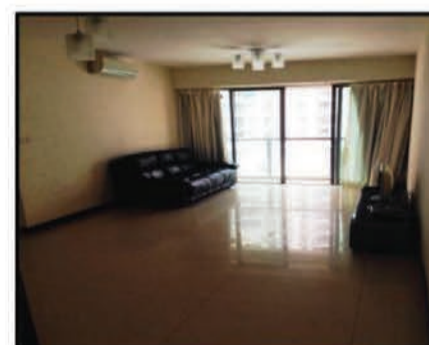
Nova Park, Taipa

(Ref: 15090537)
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A well appointed two bedroom apartment in Taipa newest complex. Two good size double rooms. Master bedroom furnished with en suite shower room. Second bedroom left unfurnished but willing to furnished upon tenants request (bed, desk wardrobe etc). Living / dining area furnished with a small baloney over looking Central Park. Lovely well fitted modern kitchen.



Kinglight, Taipa

(Ref: 15090529)
771q. ft. HKD 13,500
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.



Pacifica, Taipa

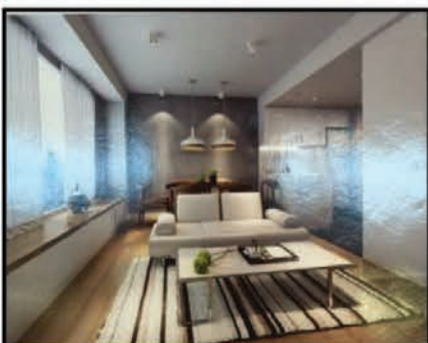
(Ref: 15090538)
1,317q. ft. HKD 15,000
Great location in Taipa. 3 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms.
Semi furnished. Fitted kitchen with white goods. Open plan dining / living area.
Balcony. Facilities inc. kids play area, pool, gym & gardens.



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Rate: HKD 5,725ft.

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The Manhattan, Penthouse Taipa

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Angola visited by 4.6 million tourists by 2020



THE tourism sector in Angola is expected by 2020 to record about 4.6 million tourists who will provide revenues estimated at USD4.7 billion, said last week the National Director of Tourist Activities of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Januário Marra, speaking about Tourism Week which this year has the motto "1 million tourists, 1 million opportunities," said the forecast tourism revenue in 2020 would account for about 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and the sector provides 1 million jobs.

Marra, cited by Angolan news agency Angop,

said the qualitative transformation of tourism was currently affected by the country's economic and financial situation, hence the need to pay special attention to the sector, which is strategic for the revival of the national economy.

The National Director of Tourist Activity said the sector faced the challenges of repairing and building appropriate facilities for the population and the tourism business, whilst contributing to the conservation and protection of natural heritage, promoting development of cultural and ethnic heritage and promoting a positive image of Angola abroad. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

US companies invest USD16 billion in decade

Sprivate investment in Mozambique exceeded USD16 billion in the past decade, the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, Nyeleti Mondlane said last week in Maputo, the Mozambican press reported.

"So far, 24 projects have been approved that are likely to create about 4 million jobs, involving private investors in the United States, totalling \$16 billion dollars in the oil and gas sector, agriculture, industry, transport, tourism and services," said the deputy minister for foreign affairs.

The level of trade relations is also encouraging and both countries have recorded growth in trade, with exports of about \$62 million by Mozambique to the United States in 2012 to about \$144 million in 2013, said Mondlane speaking on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In turn, US exports to Mozambique fell from about \$254 million in 2012 to about \$205 million in 2013, Mondlane said cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa.

The deputy minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique also pointed out that in the last ten years, the US had positioned itself as the largest contributor to official development assistance to Mozambique, totalling about \$2 billion in multifaceted support, focused on the provinces of Sofala and Zambézia in central Mozambique, and Niassa in the north. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Celebrates International Housekeeping Week with Team Members

In-house events at The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and Sands Macao

Sands China Ltd. celebrated International Housekeeping Week this year with activities for its team members at The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and Sands Macao.

Team member events at the three properties included lucky draws, talent shows, torch relays, a mummy wrapping game, tug-of-war, a bed making competition, and a sustainability-minded competition to challenge team members to use recyclable materials to create a 3-D model.

"These team member events are a way to celebrate and recognise the hard work and dedication of Sands China's housekeeping team, and help further boost team spirit and encourage the continued drive for service excellence," said Ciaran Carruthers, senior vice president and director of Venetian and Plaza operations for Sands China Ltd. "Having a dedicated week allows Sands China to plan activities for its housekeeping teams to participate in and enjoy, while allowing team members in other departments to recognise the important contribution that housekeeping makes to our daily operations."

International Housekeeping Week is marked annually during the second week of September, and has been celebrated around the world since 1981. It recognises the dedicated team of housekeeping professionals who work tirelessly throughout the year to maintain clean and safe environments, making sure guests feel comfortable and are looked after.

The Venetian Macao first observed International Housekeeping Week in 2008, celebrating the achievement and the tireless efforts of a team that diligently and religiously serviced thousands of guests during the opening of the integrated resort, and multitudes more during the critical first year of operation.



Sands China Ltd. celebrates International Housekeeping Week with activities for team members at its properties to recognise its dedicated team of housekeeping professionals. Celebration activities at Sands Cotai Central included lucky draws and a 3-D model creation competition.



Celebration activities at The Venetian Macao included a talent show and wall decoration.



At Sands Macao, tug-of-war, a bed making competition and lucky draws were part of the celebration activities for International Housekeeping Week.

ANALYSIS

Sino-American agreement on cybertheft a first step

Paul Wiseman, Ken Dilanian

CHINA'S pledge to help crack down on hackers who steal commercial secrets from the United States, even coming as it did amid a bit of arm-twisting by President Barack Obama, is a big breakthrough that could reduce U.S.-China tensions and end huge losses for American companies.

Analysts say the agreement between the world's two biggest economies is just a start but could lead to real progress on the cybertheft issue — depending on how well it's implemented. Obama announced the agreement at a joint news conference over the weekend with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"I think it's a big deal," said Dmitri Alperovich, who published a seminal paper in 2011 identifying Chinese cyber economic espionage and now runs the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike. "For the first time ever, the Chinese have made a distinction between national security espionage and economic espionage."

Also significant, Alperovich said, is the fact that the Chinese have agreed to provide responses to U.S. government requests for investigations. "They can't just shrug and say, 'We don't do hacking; hacking is illegal,'" he said.

Mark MacCarthy, vice president for public policy at the Software and Information Industry Association, said the tech industry trade group agrees with Obama that the cybertheft of intellectual property must stop. "We are hopeful the understanding reached by the president and Chinese President Xi Jinping results in real progress on the ground," he said.

For the first time, the Chinese have made a distinction between national security and economic espionage.

DMITRI ALPEROVICH
CROWDSTRIKE

President Barack Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping, first lady Michelle Obama and Jinping's wife Peng Liyuan descend the Grand Staircase as they arrive for a State Dinner at the White House in Washington

The U.S. has accused Beijing of backing Chinese hackers who steal trade secrets from American companies. Before the Xi summit, Obama called cybertheft by China "an act of aggression."

James Lewis, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Strategic Technologies Program, said the thefts probably cost American companies tens of billions of dollars annually.

Last year the U.S. charged five officers in China's People Liberation Army for computer hacking and economic espionage against six U.S. companies, including Westinghouse, U.S. Steel and Alcoa.

Malcolm Lee, nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former White House economic official, said that the Friday agreement will "begin to address one of the most destabilizing and corrosive issues in the relationship."

Senior U.S. officials said the Obama administration had been preparing a package of sanctions in recent weeks aimed at China and other nations over cyberthefts of intellectual property. When news of those plans appeared in the U.S. media, China dispatched a high-level delegation, led by Meng Jianzhu, the secretary of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Chinese Communist Party, to work out a deal. The result was Friday's announcement.

"The thing that got the Chinese to the table is the threat of sanctions," Alperovich said.

Last year's indictments helped, too, Lewis said. "The Chinese thought about how unhappy that experience was, and

they didn't want to go through it again," he said. "They knew the Americans were really worked up."

The U.S. also has been getting better at tracking the source of cyberattacks. North Korea, for instance, was quickly identified as the source of a hack last year that damaged computers at Sony and exposed internal emails at the filmmaker.

"That made them think, 'We're not going to be able to get away with this,'" Lewis said.

Trevor Nagel, a partner with the law firm White & Case who specializes in cybersecurity and other global technology issues, noted that China now has intellectual property of its own to protect, as it has become a world leader in manufacturing.

Jeremie Waterman, executive director for China at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, called the agreement "a clear statement" on an issue of critical importance to the future of relations between the two countries. "Hopefully, it marks a new chapter," Waterman said, adding that, as with other areas of negotiation between the U.S. and China, the key will be implementation.

The agreement may not be easy to enforce, particularly since it's often difficult to trace the source of cyberattacks and the Chinese government has never acknowledged a role in past attacks, said Betsy Page Sigman, a cybersecurity expert at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

"The Chinese government can use intermediaries" in such attacks, "and it can be very difficult for them to be found out," she said. **AP**

Tracing China's long, convoluted relationship with the UN

CHINA'S President Xi Jinping is poised to address the U.N. General Assembly for the first time today. Here are some milestones in China's long, convoluted relationship with the world body:

1945 — The Republic of China, led by Chiang Kai-shek, becomes the first nation to sign the U.N. charter. As one of the victors in World War II, China assumes one of five permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council over the objections of some world leaders, including Britain's Winston Churchill. Chinese representatives also help draft and sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1949 — Chiang's Nationalists lose the Chinese civil war to Mao Zedong's Communists and retreat from the Chinese mainland to the island of Taiwan. The Republic of China, however, retains China's Security Council seat with the key backing of the U.S. in order to restrain Mao's ally, the Soviet Union, as the Cold War unfolds.

1950 — The Korean War breaks out. With Soviet encouragement, Chinese forces are sent to bolster North Korea's military. The Security Council recognizes North Korea's attack on the South as an invasion and dispatches a 21-nation force led by the U.S. to repulse the aggression. U.N. forces frequently fight against Chinese troops until the signing of an armistice in 1953.

1950s and 1960s — Mao's People's Republic of China attempts repeatedly to replace the ROC as the legitimate representative of China at the U.N. However, with Washington's strong support, the Republic of China manages to hang on even as support in the General Assembly steadily erodes.

1971 — Amid a thaw in relations between Beijing and Washington, the People's Republic of China secures the votes of 26 newly-independent African nations and finally prevails in its campaign to win the China seat. Passed on the 21st attempt, U.N. Resolution 2758 expels the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek from the body, effectively casting Taiwan into the diplomatic wilderness.

1974 — Soon-to-be paramount leader Deng Xiaoping becomes the first major Chinese politician to address the General Assembly. In his speech, Deng assures the body that China is not and never will be a superpower or seek dominance over

others (replacing "hegemon"), assertions increasingly at odds with China's rising global influence in the 21st century.

1991 — The Republic of China applies to join the U.N. separately from mainland China as the representative of Taiwan and its related islands, saying that Resolution 2758 was irrelevant to Taipei's status. The move is fiercely condemned by China and is never included in the General Assembly's agenda or put to a formal vote.

1992 — Having dropped its objections to U.N. peacekeeping on grounds of non-intervention, China sends its first contribution in the form of an engineering company to join in a mission in Cambodia. In subsequent years, China becomes far and away the biggest contributor of personnel to peacekeeping operations among the five permanent Security Council, with more than 3,000 troops and police committed as of this year.

2013 — China is granted a seat on the U.N. human rights council despite frequent criticisms of its authoritarian political system and heavy restrictions on civil liberties. Opponents say that move not only provides cover for China's detention of political opponents and other abuses, but also allows it to suppress all U.N. human rights initiatives and attempts to hold rights violators accountable.

2015 — President Xi Jinping appears before the U.N. for the first time and, in an address to a sustainable development summit, pledges USD2 billion in support for development in poor countries, growing to \$12 billion by 2030. Xi also said China would forgive interest-free loans owed to China by poor nations that were coming due in 2015. (See article on p11) **AP**



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at United Nations headquarters

UNITED NATIONS

Xi Jinping vows billions of development dollars, debt forgiveness

Cara Anna

CHINA'S president pledged billions in aid and said Beijing will forgive debts due this year in an effort to help the world's poorest nations, as world leaders begin to seek the trillions of dollars needed to help achieve sweeping new development goals.

President Xi Jinping spoke at a global summit that on Friday launched the non-binding goals for the next 15 years.

Xi and others spoke as the U.N. gathering began to shift focus from development to the high-powered General Assembly meeting that begins today with speeches by Xi, President Barack Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the first morning alone.

Obama and Putin will meet today. The prospects for any meeting between Obama and Rouhani, even a handshake, remained unclear.

Rouhani arrived Saturday and immediately was encouraged by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to have Iran step up to help achieve political settlements to the grinding conflicts in Syria and Yemen, where Iran has influence. The Islamic republic is a top ally of the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad and supports Shiite Houthis rebels who have held parts of Yemen for months.



People's Republic of China President Xi Jinping, left walks with with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, right, at United Nations headquarters

Iran's president said in his address that the recent deal with world powers on its nuclear program "has created suitable conditions for regional and international cooperation," including on protecting the environment.

As world leaders met quietly behind the scenes, others lined up to express support for the new development push that aimed to eliminate both poverty and hunger over the next

15 years. They replace a soon-to-expire set of development goals whose limited success was largely due to China's surge out of poverty over the past decade and a half.

China's president vowed to help other countries make the same transformation. Xi said China will commit an initial \$2 billion to establish an assistance fund to meet the post-2015 goals in areas such as education, health care and economic

development. He said China would seek to increase the fund to \$12 billion by 2030.

And Xi said China would write off intergovernmental interest-free loans owed to China by the least-developed, small island nations and most heavily debt-burdened countries due this year.

He said China "will continue to increase investment in the least developed countries," and support global institutions, including the Beijing-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank that is due to launch by the end of the year and is seen as a Chinese alternative to the more Western-oriented financial institutions of the World Bank.

Ban made a major pitch to the private sector Saturday for its help in financing the development goals. "In a sense, September 26th is even more important than September 25th,"

he told dozens of global business leaders from companies including Google, Unilever, Siemens and Sinopec. "Today, we begin the hard work of turning plans into reality."

As world leaders made promises about the future, a key Jordanian leader said they needed to pay attention to the refugee crisis now spiraling out of control in the Mideast.

Jordan Minister Imad Najib Fakhoury made an impassioned plea at the U.N. summit for the world's countries to take in more Syrian refugees to help his country which has been overwhelmed by those fleeing the conflict there.

In his address, Fakhoury said Jordan's efforts are akin to the United States having to absorb 64 million more people, or the European Union 100 million, or Japan 25 million, or China 280 million.

Lebanon Prime Minister Tammam Salam made a similar plea, telling the United Nations the Syrian refugee crisis was costing his tiny country one-third of its gross domestic product and strangling development.

Salam said the Syrian civil war and fleeing refugees "is one of the greatest development challenges" facing Lebanon. The Mediterranean country has become home to more than 1.2 million Syrian refugees — about a third of Lebanon's native population. **AP**

China will continue to increase investment in the least developed countries.

XI JINPING

US criticizes Beijing ahead of UN women's equality session

THE United States and human rights organizations sharply criticized China's repression and imprisonment of women's rights activists ahead of a high-level U.N. meeting yesterday to promote women's equality. The session will be co-chaired by China's President Xi Jinping.

China hosted the last major U.N. women's conference in Beijing in 1995, and Xi has been proclaiming the importance of women's human rights. But Amnesty International's Roseann Rife said on Saturday

Beijing's stance was "hypocritical" when the government continues to jail women activists.

Liesl Gerntholtz of Human Rights Watch said China's participation should include "the brave Chinese women fighting for change," not just "the repressive government."

Over the past three weeks, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power has put the photos of 20 women activists in the window of the U.S. Mission across the street from U.N. headquarters. She said the women — including three from China — should be at Sunday's

meeting, not in jail.

The first photo that went up was of leading Chinese human rights lawyer Wang Yu, who has campaigned against sexual harassment of school girls and defended women's rights activists. She was arrested in July and is being held at a secret location on suspicion of "inciting subversion of state power."

But China isn't the only country targeted for repressing women activists. The U.S. campaign also includes three women from Ethiopia, two each from Azerbaijan, Myanmar and Vietnam,

and one each from Iran, Eritrea, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Venezuela and Syria. Ukrainian helicopter pilot Nadezhda Savchenko, who was seized by pro-Russian separatists and is facing charges in Russia, and an unnamed North Korean political prisoner also are among the 20 women.

Since the photos went up, Vietnam has freed Ta Phong Tan, a blogger arrested in 2011 and sentenced to 10 years in prison for "anti-state propaganda," and Egypt's president pardoned Sanaa Seif, sentenced to



In this undated photo provided by the United States Mission to the United Nations, 16 photos of imprisoned female activists join a silhouette representing a 17th woman, in the window of the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York

three years in prison last October for demonstrating without permission. "While we are pleased that two of the women we highlighted are no longer behind bars, none of the women we have profiled in this

campaign should be in prison at all," Power told The Associated Press on Saturday. "So we still have a very, very long way to go. Much further than resolving just the 20 cases we are highlighting this month." **AP**

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Attention
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THE Thai captain of a seized cargo ship carrying an estimated USD2 million worth of seafood has been arrested in Indonesia on suspicion of illegal fishing, in the latest development linked to an Associated Press investigation that uncovered a slave island earlier this year. At least one other crew member is still under scrutiny.

The massive Thai-owned Silver Sea 2 was first identified by AP in July through a high-resolution photo taken from space, showing slave-caught fish being loaded onto the refrigerated vessel in Papua New Guinea's waters. The AP then tracked the ship through its satellite beacon and informed Indonesian authorities when it crossed into their waters on its way home to Thailand.

Friday's arrest is one of at least 10 made in Indonesia and Thailand since the investigation tied the catch of migrant workers forced to fish to the supply chains of major U.S. food sellers and pet food companies six months ago. As a result, more than 2,000 men from Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos have been identified or sent home, a multi-million dollar Thai-Indonesian fishing business has been shut down, class action lawsuits have been filed and new laws have been introduced.

Touring the Silver Sea 2, Indonesian Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti said she believed the frozen fish filling up its holds came from eastern Indonesia's Arafura Sea, where foreign fishing vessels are banned. She also said authorities are looking further into evidence that sug-

INDONESIA

Thai man arrested on boat believed to be carrying slave fish



Indonesian Minister of Fisheries Susi Pudjiastuti, center, examines fish from the cargo bay of Silver Sea 2, a Thai-owned cargo ship which was seized by Indonesian authorities last August, at the port of Sabang, Aceh province

gests the ship may be linked to the human trafficking ring described by AP. The Silver Sea 2 is accused of receiving illegally caught fish at sea and turning off its satellite beacon. Its remaining 16 crew members will be deported.

Pudjiastuti said she hoped anyone found guilty would face harsh punishment as a deterrent, and added the vessel may be

destroyed. Indonesia has already blown up dozens of smaller foreign boats accused of illegal fishing. The 2,285-ton ship is now at a naval base in Sabang in the country's far northwestern tip where it was seized last month.

"If the court decides it should be confiscated, then we will sink it," she said.

Silver Sea Reefer Co., which

owns Silver Sea 2, maintains it has done nothing wrong.

Thailand's fishing industry, worth \$7 billion a year in exports, relies on tens of thousands of poor migrant laborers who come seeking jobs mainly from neighboring countries. They often are tricked, sold or kidnapped and put onto boats sent to distant foreign waters to fish. Refri-

gerated cargo ships are used to pick up seafood and sometimes transport new slaves, although no victims of trafficking were found on the Silver Sea 2.

Late last year, AP journalists saw slave-caught fish being loaded onto another reefer owned by Silver Sea in the Indonesian island village of Benjina, where men were found locked in a cage for asking to go home. In written surveys conducted with nearly 400 rescued slaves, several also told AP they were trafficked to Indonesia from Thailand aboard Silver Sea ships, including Silver Sea 2.

The high-resolution photo taken from space for AP by U.S.-based commercial satellite imagery company DigitalGlobe showed the Silver Sea 2 in Papua New Guinea with its holds open and a trawler tethered to each side, loading fish. Analysts identified the smaller boats as among those that fled Benjina earlier this year, crewed by enslaved men who said they were routinely beaten and forced to work nearly nonstop with little or no pay. Another Thai cargo ship was also impounded in Papua New Guinea after eight trafficking victims were found on board.

The AP's work was entered into the U.S. congressional record for a hearing, after links were made to the supply chains of American companies such as Wal-Mart, Sysco, Kroger, Fancy Feast, Meow Mix and Iams. The businesses have all said they strongly condemn labor abuse and have taken steps to prevent it. Congress is scheduled to discuss the AP findings again later this month. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Gov't to investigate militia forces linked to attacks

Jim Gomez, Manila, Philippines

THE Philippine government will investigate the reported involvement of paramilitary forces in deadly attacks against tribal communities in a conflict that has displaced hundreds of villagers in the south, the justice secretary said Sunday.

Secretary Leila de Lima said government prosecutors and the National Bureau of Investigation have been ordered to prosecute and order the disarming of the alleged militia groups and identify supporters who foster their criminal and violent acts.

Such militia forces, which are trained and armed by an over-stretched military to guard far-flung rural villages, have been linked to rights abuses and criminal acts. The military says



Students from a Roman Catholic-run St. Scholastica's College pour out of their campus for a "noise barrage" to protest the Sept. 1 killings of three indigenous people leaders, one of whom was a teacher, and the forced closure of their schools in southern Philippines

paramilitary forces with a current strength of about 20,000 men have played a crucial role in helping fight a decades-long communist insurgency, adding that abusive militiamen have been prosecuted and punished.

"Our goal must not be li-

mitted to prosecuting the offenders and disarming these groups, but must extend to a conclusive probe on their supporters who fuel their criminal operations and acts of violence," de Lima said in a statement.

"Even as we condemn these paramilitary groups

and their benefactors, all parties must go beyond and show resolve in putting an end to their reign of terror" in tribal communities, she said.

Human Rights Watch accused the Philippine military last week of standing aside while paramilitary forces attacked tribal villages and schools accused of supporting Marxist guerrillas in at least three southern provinces.

A paramilitary group allegedly killed an educator and two tribal leaders in a school in remote Surigao del Sur province in a Sept. 1 attack that caused a few thousand residents to flee their homes. Another militia force has reportedly staged violent assaults against tribesmen since last year in the provinces of Bukidnon and Davao del Norte, particularly students at tribal schools

accused of promoting the communist ideology, according to the U.S.-based rights group.

Military spokesman Col. Restituto Padilla said the military would not condone any rights abuses. The military, he says, welcomes any investigation of its commanders, who oversee the militiamen linked to the attacks.

De Lima said her department has been following the reported attacks against tribal communities "with great concern," adding that initial reports she got suggested "that the transgressions which resulted in the death and injury of members of indigenous peoples' communities and the destruction of their property involved paramilitary groups."

Tribal communities, de Lima said, have been caught in the middle of the

insurgency war and most likely forced to take sides and pitted against each other in the conflict by communist New People's Army rebels and "some elements of the state's security forces."

"The state's mandate to preserve peace and enforce law and order in the affected communities must continue while ensuring that non-combatants are not caught in the crossfire," she said. "Violators will be held to account."

The 46-year Marxist insurgency is one of the longest-running in Asia and talks to end the fighting have stalled. The military says years of battle setbacks, infighting and factionalism have weakened the insurgents, who have survived by extorting from mining and agricultural companies, mostly in the country's south. **AP**

France fires first airstrikes on extremists in Syria

Angela Charlton, Paris

FRANCE has fired its first airstrikes in Syria as it expands military operations against Islamic State extremists, President Francois Hollande's office announced yesterday.

The office said that "France has hit Syria" based on information from French reconnaissance flights sent earlier this month. It didn't provide any further details.

France has been firing airstrikes on IS extremists in Iraq as part of the U.S.-led coalition since last year, but had resisted airstrikes in Syria because it didn't want to strengthen President Bashar Assad. Hollande announced a change in strategy earlier this month because of growing concern about the Syrian refugee crisis.

The president's office argued



A French military plane lands on the French navy aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle in the Persian Gulf

yesterday that it was a question of national defense, as France has been attacked and threatened by extremists claiming ties to IS.

Hollande, heading to the U.N. General Assembly, also stressed

the importance of seeking a political solution for Syria.

"More than ever the urgency is putting in place a political transition," including elements of the opposition and Assad's regime, Hollande said.

France has remained opposed however to recent diplomatic suggestions of allowing Assad to stay in power for a limited time.

While no specifics were provided about the location or timing of the airstrikes, French

military officials have said they would target IS training and logistical sites, according to French media reports.

The French government has insisted that while it is part of the U.S.-led coalition, France is deciding who and what to hit independently.

Hollande announced Sept. 7 that France would start airstrikes, days after the photo of a dead 3-year-old Syrian boy galvanized public concern about Syrian refugees.

In his statement, Hollande said: "Civilian populations must be protected from all forms of violence, that of IS and other terrorist groups but also the murderous bombardments of Bashar Assad."

In another development, Iraq will begin sharing "security and intelligence" information with Russia, Syria and Iran to help combat the advances of the Islamic State group, the Iraqi military announced yesterday.

A statement issued by the Iraqi Joint Operations Command said the countries will "help and cooperate in collecting information about the terrorist Daesh group," using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. **AP**

Michael Rubinkam
& Nicole Winfield

GREETED by throngs of cheering faithful at every turn, Pope Francis is capping his whirlwind visit to the United States in an entirely fitting way — Mass for the masses on Philadelphia's grandest boulevard — while also spending time with inmates at its largest jail.

The 78-year-old "people's pope," who seems to feed off the energy of the crowds, is expected to see the largest of his six-day tour today (Macau Time) when he celebrates a climactic outdoor Mass on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway before flying back to Rome.

The Mass is the culminating event of a Vatican-sponsored conference on the family that drew the wildly popular pontiff to Philadelphia.

He'll begin his day by speaking to bishops from around the world before heading to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, where he'll visit with 100 inmates — a cross-section of suspected killers, rapists, mobsters. He's expected to offer them words of hope, forgiveness and redemption.

"His mission is the marginalized, the forgotten," prison spokeswoman Shawn Hawes said. "From our understand-

USA

As many as a million expected for pope's last Mass of visit



ing, he wants those who are in custody to know that they are not forgotten and they can be redeemed."

Prison ministry has been a hallmark of Francis' pontificate. He meets often with inmates and has washed prisoners' feet during pre-Easter rituals. He opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and has called for the abolition of life imprisonment and solitary confinement.

He had also been widely expected to talk privately with abuse victims this weekend and may do so Sunday. Cardinal Justin Rigali, the former Archbishop of Philadelphia who retired in 2011 amid a scandal over clergy sex abuse, celebrated Mass with Francis on Saturday.

The pope landed in Philadelphia on Saturday morning and celebrated a Mass for about 1,600 people at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and

Paul, saying the future of the Catholic Church in the U.S. requires a much more active role for lay Catholics, especially women. Francis has repeatedly said women should have a greater role in church leadership, though he has rejected the idea of ordaining women.

Later in the day, he extolled America's founding ideals of liberty and equality in a speech outside Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed.

"Those ringing words continue to inspire us today," the pope said of the Declaration of Independence, "even as they have inspired peoples throughout the world to fight for the freedom to live in accordance with their dignity."

He cited the abolition of slavery, the growth of the labor movement and the fight for racial equality as proof that "when a country is determined to remain true to its founding principles, based on respect for human dignity, it is strengthened and re-

newed." He warned that religious freedom was under threat but did not mention gay marriage, abortion or government-mandated birth control coverage by name.

He decried "a world where various forms of modern tyranny seek to suppress religious freedom, or try to reduce it to a subculture without right to a voice in the public square, or to use religion as a pretext for hatred and brutality."

He also encouraged immigrants in the crowd of 40,000 to celebrate their heritage and traditions, and he assured them they are of value to America.

The birthplace of American democracy was turned into an armed and heavily fortified encampment for the pope's visit, with streets blocked off by metal fencing and concrete barriers, visitors passing through airport-style security checkpoints and thousands of police and National Guard troops on patrol.

Some feared the heavy security would scare people off, and, in fact, train

ridership was lower than expected Saturday. Restaurateurs complained of empty tables.

But Francis was cheered by tens of thousands Saturday night at a music-and-prayer festival on the Parkway, waving to the crowd in his open-air popemobile. Performers included Aretha Franklin and Andrea Bocelli.

The program was trimmed after it ran more than an hour late and Francis ditched his prepared remarks to instead deliver an off-the-cuff monologue on families and God's love.

He called families a "factory of hope," even with their imperfections.

"Defend the family, because that's where our future will play out," he said.

After he finished, a chant erupted from Logan Square: "¡Viva El Papa, Viva La Familia!"

Organizers have said they expect 1 million people to turn out Sunday for Francis' final Mass in the U.S., a nation the Argentine is visiting for the first time. At the Mass, six families — from Australia, Congo, Cuba, France, Syria and Vietnam — will receive Francis-signed copies of the Gospel of St. Luke. They'll get an additional 100,000 copies to distribute in their home countries. **AP**

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VENUE: Taipa Houses-Museum Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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– MACAU X LEGO® EXHIBITION

TIME: 9am-6pm

UNTIL: December 28, 2015

VENUE: MGTO Tourist Information counter in Senado Square

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 3000

OX WAREHOUSE CHILDREN'S ARTLAND 2015

– JOLLY JOINT EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 1, 2015

VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

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ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

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VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement

(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

Offbeat

CONGRESSMAN GRABS DRINKING GLASS USED BY POPE, TAKES SIP

Pope Francis wasn't the only person to drink from the glass of water he used during his speech to Congress. An enterprising Democratic congressman from Philadelphia also took a sip.

U.S. Rep. Bob Brady, a Catholic, told the Philadelphia Daily News (bit.ly/1iQthvf) that as the pope left the chamber Thursday, he headed to the lectern to grab Francis' drinking glass.

Brady said he took it to his office and had a drink. So did his wife, Debra, and two staffers, he said.

"How many people do you know that drank out of the same glass as the pope?" Brady asked.

The congressman said he also invited fellow Catholic and Democrat U.S. Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania into his office. Casey, his wife and his mother dipped their fingers into the water, Brady said.

Brady said he used a bottle to save the rest for his four grandchildren and his great-granddaughter, saying he would bless them with it.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Camp X Secret Agent School
16:00	Portuguese Music
17:00	Documentary
17:30	Documentary Series
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

cinema

CINETEATRO

24 SEP - 30 SEP

EVEREST

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Baltasar Kormakur

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

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 121min

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS

ROOM 1

7.15 pm

Director: Wes Ball

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

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 131min



OFFICE

ROOM 2

2.00, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Johnnie To

Starring: Chow Yun-Fat, Sylvia Chang, Eason Chan, Tang Wei

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 117min

ATTACK ON TITAN: END OF THE WORLD

ROOM 2

4.05, 9.50 pm

Director: Shinji Higuchi

Starring: Haruma Miura, Kiko Mizuhara

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 90min



THE INTERN

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Nancy Meyers

Starring: Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 121min

MACAU TOWER

10 SEP - 30 SEPT

MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

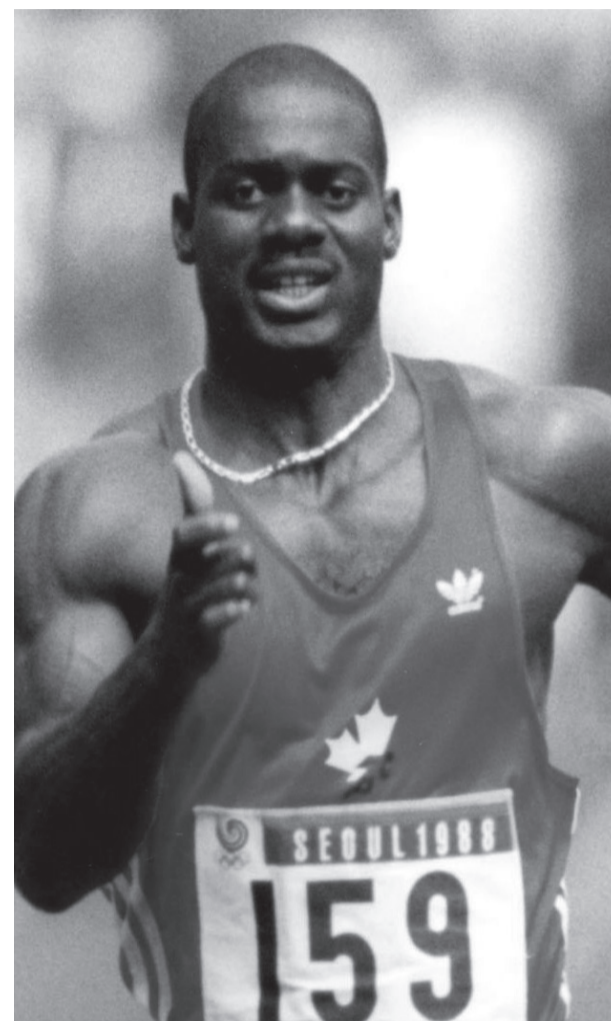
Director: Wes Ball

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

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 131min

this day in history



1988 JOHNSON STRIPPED OF OLYMPIC GOLD

Sprinter Ben Johnson has been sent home from the Seoul Olympic Games in disgrace.

The Canadian has also been stripped of his 100m gold medal after testing positive for drugs.

Johnson has just arrived home in Toronto and has said he will appeal against the International Olympics Committee's verdict.

But the IOC has already said the athlete's intended defence - that a herbal drink he consumed before the race had been spiked - will not be accepted.

Samples of Johnson's urine were tested for drugs immediately after the 100m final three days ago which he won in a world record time of 9.79 seconds.

And Olympic officials confirmed last night that traces of the anabolic steroid, Stanozolol, had been detected.

The sprinter was woken in the early hours of the morning to be told the IOC had decided to send him home.

Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said it was the correct decision, but a tragedy for Johnson and a great sadness for all Canadians.

But the athlete's sister, Clare Rodney, told reporters she was convinced the drug testers had made a mistake.

"I can really tell anybody from the depths of my heart that he is not guilty," she said.

The Canadian media has labelled Johnson a cheat, but there was also sympathy for the man who said he valued a gold medal over a world record because no one could take it away from him.

Britain's Linford Christie - who was awarded the silver medal after Johnson's disqualification - said he felt sorry for someone who had been a "great ambassador" for the sport.

"I'm also sad for athletics because this has been a bad day for us," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ben Johnson was banned from competing for two years and stripped of all the other world records and medals he held. He began racing again in January 1991, but never regained the form that had made him the fastest man in the world.

In the 1992 Barcelona Olympics he did not even make the final of the 100m.

In January 1993 he tested positive again for steroids at an indoor meeting in Montreal, Canada.

A unanimous decision by the International Association of Athletics Federations banned him from competition for life.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You suddenly feel confident about achieving your financial goals.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're no longer being rubbed the wrong way, from the top down.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It's a foreign landscape, but in the best possible way. The whole world seems radically changed.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 When it comes to money, it pays to keep your wits about you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Things get worse before they get better. No matter how hard certain people cling to power,

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You may be going about your regular routine, but everything has changed.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're caught up in a whirlwind romance with a new era and you're not alone.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Did you say you were counting on change? Or did you say you were counting some change?

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You may not be in on a big exchange of money, but the entire world it seems is exchanging ideas.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your vision of the future is suddenly blank, because it feels like the future is already here.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have a renewed sense of excitement and ambition, and your image of the future is rosy.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 What used to seem unrealistic is now the norm. Isn't that just how it always is?

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 for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

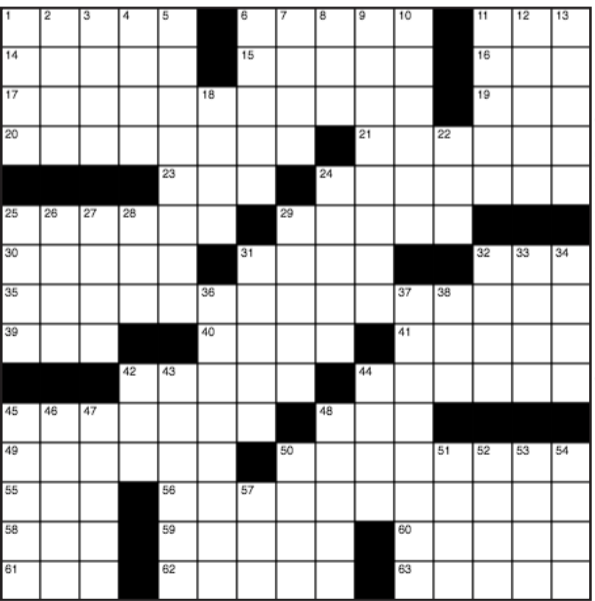
WORLD

Table listing weather for various world cities: Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Biblical spy; 6- Pilfer; 11- Actor Erwin; 14- Astrologer Sydney; 15- Monte ...; 16- Ballet step; 17- The act of restoring; 19- Bingol; 20- Predate; 21- Milk and egg drink; 23- ... in Charlie; 24- Supervise; 25- Half-hour funny show; 29- Dicieembre follower; 30- Actor Ryan; 31- Lulu; 32- General on Chinese menus; 35- In spite of; 39- Compass dir.; 40- Peek follower; 41- Perfect, something to aspire to; 42- Barbershop quartet member; 44- Glacial period; 45- Cheap; 48- Year abroad; 49- Singer Kitt; 50- Makes a sign; 55- Cool ... cucumber; 56- Uncertainty; 58- Posed; 59- Wispy clouds; 60- ... lift?; 61- Summer on the Seine; 62- Pan-fry; 63- ... salts;

DOWN: 1- Mrs. Dithers, in "Blondie"; 2- Traditional prayer ending; 3- Make it to the end; 4- Romain de Tiroff, familiarly; 5- Green flower vegetable; 6- Lots; 7- London art gallery; 8- "... tu" (Verdi aria); 9- Skin emollient; 10- Lengthier; 11- Bridges; 12- California-Nevada lake; 13- Grammarian's concern; 18- Quantity of paper; 22- Miracle-...; 24- ... a customer; 25- Unit of loudness; 26- A party to; 27- Head of France?; 28- Cornfield cry; 29- Belgian painter James; 31- Yippeel; 32- ... yellow ribbon...; 33- Obstacle; 34- Give the eye; 36- Republic in E Africa; 37- Poisonous alkaloid; 38- HST's successor; 42- Explosive initials; 43- Morals; 44- Technical sch.; 45- Quit; 46- Attacks; 47- Steamed; 48- Eagle's home; 50- Frobe who played Goldfinger; 51- Miners' sch.; 52- Regrets; 53- Other name for taro; 54- Tailor's line; 57- French vineyard



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- 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
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Treasure Garden, Unit K Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Towards Amizade Bridge HKD 19,000 / 1,728 sq ft Ref: 15070516

Va Fu, Old Taipa Village Taipa 670 sq ft / HKD 4.58M HKD 6.835sq ft Very Centrally Located Ref: 15085449
Chong Fok Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment Close to Macau University HKD 12,900 / 1,300 sq ft Ref: 15070520

Dahlia Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa 1,054 sq ft / HKD 6.88M HKD 6,527sq ft Ocean Garden Complex Ref: 15095453
Kinglight Taipa 2 Bedrooms Apartment Great Location HKD 13,500 / 771 sq ft Ref: 15090529

Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau 627 sq ft / HKD 4.198M HKD 6,695sq ft 5 mins from Ruins of St Pauls Ref: 15075447
Houston Court, Coloane Village Coloane 1 Bedroom Apartment Views Across the Water HKD 13,300 / 800 sq ft Ref: 1505502

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Bon Jovi bring the house down at The Venetian Macao



LEGENDARY AMERICAN rock band Bon Jovi thrilled packed audiences at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena with two back-to-back concerts on Friday and Saturday. Singing hit after hit from their extensive back catalogue of classic rock anthems, the crowd sang along and rocked out as frontman Jon Bon Jovi brought the house down with pitch-perfect renditions of classics such as "Livin' on a Prayer," "You Give Love a Bad Name," "Who Says You Can't Go Home" and "It's My Life." With boundless energy and enthusiasm, Jon Bon Jovi encouraged the crowd to join in and be part of the show.

RUGBY

Wales fights back to beat England 28-25 in World Cup classic

Steve Douglas
Sports Writer, London

WALES defied an early battering up front and a slew of second-half injuries to rally to a remarkable 28-25 win over England at the Rugby World Cup yesterday (Macau time), leaving the tournament host in real danger of early elimination.

In a physically brutal match at Twickenham, England built up 19-9 and 22-12 leads through big defense and set-piece domination, but couldn't put the Welsh away and froze in the final 25 minutes.

Dan Biggar's flawless kicking kept Wales in touch, before a try from scrumhalf Gareth Davies tied the scores at 25-25 with eight minutes left.

By that stage, Wales had lost three backs — in a four-minute spell — to add to its extensive injury list to leave the back division with two scrumhalves, two flyhalves and three players out of position.

Biggar kicked another penalty, his seventh in a row, to put Wales in front but the English had a chance at a draw when they earned a penalty with two minutes left. England captain Chris Robshaw chose to go for a lineout rather than give Owen Farrell — who had been six from six from the kicking tee — a shot at goal from the right touchline.

The decision backfired, as Wales' pack snuffed out the danger with a big shove. The final whistle was met by disbelief from the majority at Twi-



England's Owen Farrell is tackled during the Rugby World Cup Pool A match between England and Wales at Twickenham stadium in London

ckenham.

"I don't think I've shown as much emotion at the final whistle as I have tonight," Wales coach Warren Gatland said. "I can't ask for anymore. I think they (Wales' players) wanted it more in the end."

England now likely has to beat Australia next Saturday, back at Twickenham, to avoid elimination from the toughest ever pool at a World Cup. After naming a contentious lineup — including rookie center Sam Burgess — based on pragmatism over attacking flair, England coach Stuart Lancaster told critics to judge

him on the result.

After early dominance, England caved in under the pressure, and Lancaster has some questions to answer. First, he has to get over the disappointment of his team throwing away a victory.

"We are absolutely devastated to lose the game," Lancaster said, "having been in a position of playing so well and having dominance on the scoreboard." Robshaw took responsibility for the late penalty call, feeling the kick was tough and that England's lineout had been in the ascendancy up to that point.

"We decided we wanted to go

for the win," a distraught Robshaw said. "Unfortunately, it didn't come off."

For Wales, the priority is finding enough fit players to take the field against Fiji on Thursday. Center Scott Williams, winger Hallam Amos, and full-back Liam Williams all went off injured between the 63rd and 67th minutes, leaving the Welsh with a makeshift backline that had been ravaged by injury before the tournament through last-minute withdrawals of Leigh Halfpenny and Rhys Webb.

Somehow Wales came through. And what proved to be the crucial try in the 71st came

when Lloyd Williams — a reserve scrumhalf thrust out to the wing — made a break down the left and kicked the ball across field. Davies scampered onto it, collected the ball, and grounded under the crossbar.

Biggar converted and then knocked over a gutsy penalty kick from halfway in the 75th to give Wales the lead for the first time since midway through the first half. There was to be no way back for the English.

"It was an amazing win given the circumstances," Wales captain Sam Warburton said.

The match turned into a classic and was also some occasion, played out before a crowd of 81,129 that included British princes William and Harry — vice patrons of Welsh and English Rugby, respectively, who were sitting side by side. The noise before kickoff was extraordinary, and the anthems sang with gusto in the 127th meeting between the old foes.

Lancaster took some flak by selecting Farrell and Burgess, and altering the game plan in the back division, but they both held up well. As did the pack early on, earning two penalties from Welsh feeds into the scrum. The Welsh lineout wasn't much better.

Jonny May's left-wing try, following a well-worked blind-side move featuring Anthony Watson then Mike Brown, gave England a 16-6 lead after 27 minutes. Gatland looked a worried by the end of the first half but he needn't have been. **AP**

Pietersen scores 3 as South Africa routs Samoa 46-6

WITH a massive point to prove after opening its Rugby World Cup campaign in embarrassment, South Africa did just that with a six-try blitz of Samoa in a 46-6 win on Saturday.

Right winger JP Pietersen led the way with a hat trick of tries to somewhat ease the painful memory of last weekend's 34-32 defeat to Japan — the biggest upset in World Cup history — which led to scathing criticism back home.

"Sometimes you have to look in the mirror and see how tough you are," South Africa coach Heyneke Meyer said. "That's why I coach, and it's a great feeling sitting there and knowing that your players really played for you. I had a lot of criticism, but I backed this team."

The players, too, wanted to prove their support for Meyer.

"This is the beginning of us getting back on track," captain Jean de Villiers said.

"But there is a long road to go. We know we disappointed people."

Pietersen scored with a sharp interception try in the first half, and neat bit of handling early in the second.

Flanker Schalk Burger barged through two tackles for the third try, and Schalk Brits, who replaced him, peeled off the back of the scrum for South Africa's fourth try and a welcome bonus point.

After Pietersen stayed just inside the line to grab his third late on, awarded after a video replay, there was just enough time for Bryan Habana's 60th international try as he showed his destructive pace to collect the ball near the halfway line and streak into the left corner.

De Villiers and fellow veterans Victor Matfield and Burger got rousing ovations from their relieved fans when they came off in the closing stages.

"It's one of the toughest weeks in a

Springboks team for me," Matfield said. "But it's also the most messages I've ever got in my life ... guys sending you inspirational stuff."

Last weekend, South Africa's players were sat in stunned silence inside their dressing room, towels draped over their heads in shame, after their shock defeat.

This time it was sheer jubilation at Villa Park, so much so that one beer-bellied Springbok fan showed some pace of his own to sprint onto the field just before the end.

He was met by a heavy Samoan tackle, however, and some loud jeers from his own fans.

But apart from that, it was all cheers.

The fans did their best to help them avoid further embarrassment with brilliant support, and there was a massive roar after a raucous rendition of their national anthem. **AP**

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



JUNKET TO JUNK

Video footage showing a gamblers' brawl allegedly in one of the casinos got attention on social media. It seemed to be more a nervous "quid pro quo" than a good old sleazy fight.

Whatever it was, we take this supposedly and undeservingly notorious quarrel at a junket-operated room as a graphic way to highlight the challenges the gaming industry has to overcome in order just to be. Previously, we reflected upon the South China Morning Post's report of a new kind of insurance policy to cover against kidnappings. Today we recall the findings on illegal activities from the three month long joint operation between the security apparatus of Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong. Besides drug trafficking and situations of wrongful entry, illegal detention or confinement for bad gaming debts deserved to be underlined in a lively red.

Things are rotting and moving fast. On September 18th, Secretary for Economy and Finance had a meeting with the gaming operators around a set of issues known to guide the mid-term evaluation; topics like economic vitality, job market, social responsibility, on-the-job training, mobility, and international competition. Speaking through the same GIS release, Lionel Leong stressed that the government was willing to improve the legislation to strengthen the regulations of concessionaires and junket operators.

However, probably developments like the Dore Group's white-collar financial heist - if we may say so - as well as the trial facing the Macau junket operator, Cheung Chi Tai (Neptune Group), in Hong Kong, bring a sense of urgency into the equation, demanding more resolute action to clarify the priorities.

We find that the crux of the case is to tighten junket activities, and that does not exclude reviewing the existing laws. This is not a guessing game much less a devaluation of the rule of law; it is plain common sense to not to bury the problems arising from the realities of the junket business of the day under tomes of laws and regulations.

To speak bluntly, there are indeed issues related to junket activities that clearly overlap with other jurisdictions: the informal remittance of money, the unruly debt collection, and mainly the interference by a second banking layer borrowing from legal banks. Junket financing modus operandi disrupts the system by attaching extortionate interest rates to the food chain of sharking loans.

Not surprisingly, the Secretary for Economy and Finance spoke again a few days later, mostly to underline the importance of these gaming operators: Healthy junket operation is linked to the whole development of the gaming industry.

That is why Lionel Leong is willing to send post-haste a package of internal instructions to the gaming industry - and we underline - to facilitate a move toward sounder laws and regulations.

Perhaps, the same spirit of getting results first in the shaky gambling kingdom of Macau can also be taken by the Economic Services, under Secretary Leong, so as to set internal instructions about advertising casino activities. For all the reasons known, but also for general ones, Macau and the 'industry' has to persevere in order to strike a better balance between gaming and non-gaming segments of the Casino Business. This is not the time to wait for new laws and updated regulations. So long consulting, so long time consuming.

THE BUZZ FEDERAL PROSECUTORS TAKE OVER MEXICO BABY-SALE CASE

Mexican federal prosecutors are taking over the case of at least nine babies taken from poor or drug-addicted mothers and offered in an adoption-for-pay scheme.

The prosecutors' office in the northern border state of Sonora said the federal government had taken over the investigation because it involved child trafficking and organized crime.

The ringleaders allegedly offered adoptive

parents the babies with false paperwork for between USD5,000 to \$9,000. One of the ringleaders worked in a child welfare agency.

Sonora previously decided to drop charges against adoptive parents and returned the children to them. But the kids will undergo DNA tests, in case any biological parents show up to claim them. Prosecutors have suggested the biological mothers may not have wanted the babies

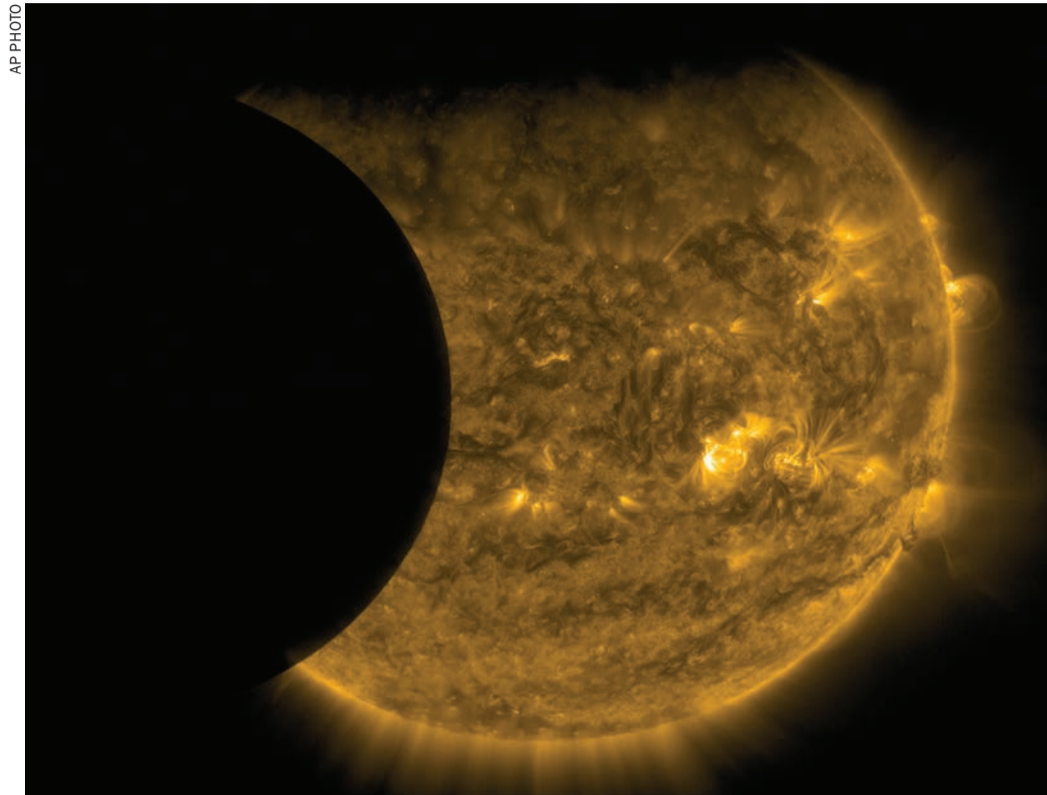


Image provided by NASA shows the moon, left, and the Earth, top, transiting the sun together, seen from the Solar Dynamics Observatory

DOOMSDAY PROPHECIES

'Blood Moon' seen as sign of end times by some Mormons

Brady McCombs
Salt Lake City

A rare confluence of a lunar eclipse and a supermoon this weekend has prompted such widespread fear of an impending apocalypse that the Mormon Church was compelled to issue a statement cautioning the faithful to not get caught up in speculation about a major calamity.

Sunday night's "blood moon" (today, Macau time) and recent natural disasters and political unrest around the world have led to a rise in sales at emergency preparedness retailers. Apocalyptic statements by a Mormon author have only heightened fears among a small number of Mormon followers about the looming end of time. The eclipse will give the moon a red tint and make it look larger than usual. It won't happen again for 18 years.

It's unclear how many Latter-day Saints buy the theory, but Mormon leaders were worried enough that they took the rare step this week of issuing a public statement cautioning the faithful not to get carried away with visions of the apocalypse.

Leaders of The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints told its 15 million worldwide members that they should be "spiritually and physically prepared for life's ups and downs," but urged them not to take speculation from individual church members as doctrine and "avoid being caught up in extreme efforts to anticipate catastrophic events."

The Mormons preparing to hunker down Sunday night aren't alone. Some from other religions also fear a doomsday scenario. A Christian pastor in Texas has written a book predicting a world-shaking event.

Storing away enough food and water in case of disaster, job loss or something worse is part of the fundamental teachings of the religion. Many homes in Utah are equipped with special shelving for cans of beans, rice and wheat. The belief that regular history will someday end, bringing a second coming of Jesus, is embedded in the minds of Mormons and the church's official name.

Though most Latter-day Saints probably haven't even heard of this latest theory tied to the blood moon, the church's decision to address it publicly is sig-

nificant and shows leaders felt the need to reassert their authority on the matter, Mormon scholars said.

"For it to filter up to that level means and for them to decide to send out a policy letter means that they felt there was something they needed to tamp down on," said Patrick Mason, the Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University in California.

Kevin Allbee, spokesman for Utah-based Emergency Essentials, said his company has seen a steady rise since June with sales up 200 to 300 percent. He attributes it to a variety of events leading to more anxiety, including the earthquake in Nepal, Russian's intervention in the Ukraine and economic concerns in Greece and China. He said it goes well beyond Mormons in Utah. They do most of their sales online with customers outside the state.

The public pronouncement by the church comes after leaders earlier this month sent a memo to administrators and teachers in the church's education system telling them to be wary of Mormon author Julie Rowe's books. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	85-115 Bad
Ambient	85-115 Bad

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



USA Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton again defended her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state, comparing the multiple investigations to Republican-led probes into her husband's administration more than two decades ago. "It is like a drip, drip, drip. And that's why I said, there's only so much that I can control," she said in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."



IRAQ will begin sharing "security and intelligence" information with Russia, Syria and Iran to help combat the advances of the Islamic State group, the Iraqi military announced.



ISRAEL Israel's Education Ministry says it has reached a settlement to end a nearly monthlong strike by the nation's Christian schools. The Christian schools have been on strike since the school year began on Sept. 1 to protest cuts in government funding. Christian leaders have said the cuts amounted to discrimination.



GERMANY Wayward insoles cost Eliud Kipchoge a chance to break a world record. Despite problems with his shoes from the first kilometer, Kipchoge won the Berlin Marathon yesterday in a personal best time of 2 hours and 4 minutes. The Kenyan's insoles were noticeably slipping out of his runners around the 20K mark, flapping behind him as he maintained a leading pace with training partner Emmanuel Mutai and 2012 race winner Geoffrey Mutai.