



IPIM TO COORDINATE MICE SECTOR
 IPIM will be the entity responsible for all works related to the sector of conventions and exhibitions

P3



AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING DORE CASE
 The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau stated that it is aware of the petitions made by Dore Group investors

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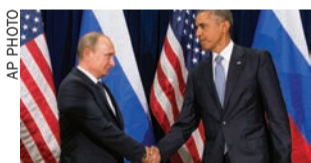
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Lower cap on overseas withdrawals to hit gaming harder

P5

WORLD BRIEFS



UNITED NATIONS Obama and Putin's first formal meeting in more than two years started with an awkward handshake and ended without a breakthrough on Syria, a crisis that has strained their already tense relationship. On the biggest issue that divides them in Syria — the status of embattled leader Bashar Assad — Obama and Putin left their discussions yesterday exactly where they started. The U.S. still insists Syria's future cannot include Assad, while Russia appears to only want to bolster the standing of his longtime ally, casting him as the best defense against IS militants.

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VENETIAN MACAU OPEN
 2015

15
 days to go

Sin Fong Garden residents convicted of aggravated disobedience

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HERITAGE

Mid-Autumn Festival tradition kept alive

ONCE more, the Mid-Autumn Festival traditions have been kept alive at the Albergue SCM at S. Lazaro district. As per tradition, the venue was filled with light from lanterns of all shapes and colors on Sunday evening as celebrations kicked off to the theme of "Celebration of the Moon – Mid-autumn Festival."

Deeply rooted among various communities within Macau, it is easy to see a mix of people from different backgrounds and cultures celebrating this festival.

The idea is "to keep this tradition alive and celebrate the moon in a joyful way," said Mr Carlos Marreiros, architect and general director of Albergue SCM, yesterday at the event opening.

According to Chinese mythology, this festival's origins were as a harvest



festival, during which people would celebrate the completion of the harvest tasks by worshipping the mountain gods. Between the Ming and Qing dynasties, the Mid-Autumn festival gained popularity, becoming one of today's most important and traditional celebrations, which involves children as a central part of the festivities.

Alongside the "less traditional" lanterns hanging over the heads of the many partygoers at Albergue SCM, there was a distribution of traditional rabbit lanterns to children who lined up patiently to receive them. Food and traditional mooncakes were shared among people from all ages, with smiles seen on many faces. Traditional Chinese music and calligraphy were also among the activities at Albergue SCM. **RM**

Gov't hopes coastal waters management approved this year



The Sai Van Bridge, Macau

THE MSAR has officially applied to the Central Government for the management of Macau's coastal waters. The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, hopes that Beijing's approval will be made within this year.

Speaking on Monday at the airport before leaving for a two-day visit to Zhoushan, in Zhejiang province, Chui told reporters that the government has formed a task group to actively engage in discussions with related departments from

the mainland over customary waters. The task of defining the role of Macau on the management of its own coastal waters is currently directed by the central government. When visiting Macau last December, Chinese president Xi Jinping announced that China and Macau have begun preparations to implement changes to the system.

The CE was also asked about the financial situation of the region. Mr Chui said that he was optimistic about this year's

fiscal surplus despite Macau undergoing a period of consolidation.

He stressed that the government would devote its best efforts to managing the budget proposal for the coming year, and ensuring that the financial surplus is used in projects outlined in the Policy Address.

Regarding the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome, the CE said it has commissioned the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of the University of Macau to do an in-depth study of the concession issue.

Chui Sai On said that the government would heed the people's opinion on the issue, adding there were several factors to consider, such as the component of diversified gaming, continuity of dog racing in Macau, suitability for the development in its neighboring area, the location, and the possibility of combining the dog and horse races.

Sonia Chan attends ceremony marking Singapore's 50 years



THE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, has attended a reception in celebration of Singapore's 50 years of independence. "I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the continued support provided by the Consulate General of Singapore and the contributions made by the local Singaporean communities over the years. I am confident that with the dedicated efforts of both governments and the

private sectors, Macau and Singapore will usher in a new era of cooperation in various aspects," Chan said during the event, attending as the acting chief executive.

The reception took place at The Venetian Macao and included a musical performance by the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music Concert. The Singaporean orchestra is on its debut overseas tour. It is composed of 80 musicians from more than 20 countries.

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Sin Fong Garden residents convicted of aggravated disobedience

SEVEN Sin Fong Garden building residents were convicted of aggravated disobedience. The Court of First Instance (TJB) ruling was issued yesterday morning.

Considering that all of the defendants are first time offenders, they were sentenced to a penalty equivalent to 90 days worth of fines at a rate of MOP 100 per day (totaling MOP 9,000) that can be transformed into sixty days of imprisonment if they fail to pay the fines.

"I'm going to talk with the lawyers to see if there's any chance of an appeal. Is this ruling fair or not? I think everybody knows the answer," one of the convicted told TDM.

The TJB ruling indicated that the rights of assembly and demonstration of citizens are granted by the law. However,

I'm going to talk with the lawyers to see if there's any chance of an appeal

DEFENDANT

this freedom of assembly and expression is not unlimited, and the citizens' use of these rights was far from being in a legitimate and proper way. The judge highlighted that all meetings and demonstrations that violate the fundamental rights of others in an excessive way are illegal.



Protestors camp outside the Sin Fong building on April 2014

The facts in question occurred on April 10, 2014 at around 8:30 p.m., when protesters gathered on the street in front of the troubled Sin Fong Garden building, after an inconclusive meeting with the Land, Public

Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT). The residents took part in loud protests, which made it difficult for neighbors to sleep. At around 1 a.m., when the police started the eviction of the site, these seven defendants

defied the eviction order, remaining on site and showing an unwillingness to leave. By doing so, according to the ruling, they troubled the traffic and blocked the passage of vehicles driven by other citizens.

Following the original accusation of aggravated disobedience by the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), the seven Sin Fong Garden proprietors accused the government of breaking its alleged promise not to prosecute them over the demonstration. The allegation was dismissed afterwards by an investigation made by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC). According to the anti-graft department, representatives of Sin Fong Garden owners stated that they never heard government officials promising not to prosecute them. **RM**

IPIM to coordinate all MICE activities from November

THE Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) will be the entity responsible for all works related to the sector of conventions and exhibitions, effective from November.

The range of new activities includes the participation in the research and formulation of policies, strategies and measures related to the convention and exhibition industry, and the implementation of the "Support Program for Professional Training and Education in the Convention and Exhibition Sector", among others. Some of these roles were previously attributed to the Committee for the Development of Conventions and Exhibitions and the Economic Activities Development Department, operating under the Macau Economic Services.

In a press conference held yesterday at the Macau Business Support Centre, IPIM's acting president, Irene Lau, said: "This measure aims to increase the efficiency, integrate resources and optimize the idea of the 'one-stop' service for all MICE activities, benefiting the organizers and working in favor of the development of this industry".

This new package of measures, that will be in full force from January 2016, includes the implementation of a series of special support plans to the convention and exhibition sector, such as the Business Tourism Plan that, up until this time, has been managed by the Macau Government Tourist Office.

IPIM will also become the only institution with the overall respon-



Irene Lau

sibility to assess all applications and requests for financing and support of all MICE activities.

Irene Lau also revealed that although the annual budget for finance support of IPIM will remain the same (MOP100 million), the Institute will recruit six more staff collaborators to help with the new tasks.

Alongside the change in the departments, there are also some adjustments being made to regulations. One of the important changes mentioned by Mrs Lau was related to the application for financial support of international activities and has to do with the increasing interest from the government concerning the participation of the local associations in broader organizations. In this way, the government will restrict the organization of international-level exhibitions and

conventions to the associations that are members of the International Association of that business sector.

The most recent figures related to the local MICE sector were released by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI). The report issued this month indicates that Macau is the Asian top performer in 2014 for the MICE industry, with an increase of 38.1 percent in space sold, from 143,000 m2 in 2013 to 197,500 m2 in 2014, beating markets such as Vietnam and Philippines and standing very close to the Indonesian market results.

UFI's report continues to show mainland China on top of the list with 10.4 million m2 in net space sold, which represents more than 56 percent of the whole Asian market. **RM**

This measure aims to increase the efficiency, integrate resources and optimize the idea of the 'one-stop' service for all MICE activities

IRENE LAU
IPIM ACTING PRESIDENT

SURVEY

Restaurant industry sales up by 14.6 pct



A total of 2,112 restaurants, eating and drinking places, and cooked-food stalls in municipal markets were operating in 2014, up by 194 year-on-year, according to a survey released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Restaurant industry sales went up by 14.6 percent year-on-year to MOP9.63 billion, while expenditure amounted to MOP 9.12 billion, an increase of 17.6 percent year-on-year.

According to the data collected by DSEC, the number of people engaged in the industry went up by 16.6 percent to 30,401, with employees accounting for 94.6 percent of total.

Regarding expenditure, the purchase of goods (MOP 3.53 billion) and compensation of employees (MOP 3.10 billion) increased by 9.6 percent and 21.4 percent respectively year-on-year. Rents, the main operating expense of many businesses, accounted for 41.6 percent of total.

Analyzed by type of restaurant, local-style teahouses and congee/noodle shops topped the list (815) followed by Chinese restaurants (504). The latter are larger in size, number of persons engaged and revenues.

The restaurants and similar establishments surveyed in 2014 included licensed restaurants, eating, drinking places, and cooked-food stalls in municipal markets, excluding those similar restaurants and facilities directly operated by hotels and casinos, as well as street hawkers.

CE promises uninterrupted garbage collection



The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, stated yesterday during a visit to the city of Zhoushan, in Zhejiang Province, that the local authorities will guarantee the normal cleaning of the city, despite the recycling industry strike. The Chief Executive said that he intends to keep in close contact with the recycling sector to learn more about the challenges and difficulties it faces. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) and the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) will coordinate with the companies in charge of the concessions to collect all of the accumulated rubbish, the CE added.

Authorities investigating junket fraud case

THE Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) issued a statement yesterday revealing that several public departments are investigating the Dore Entertainment theft and the claims that residents have not been able to withdraw their investments from the junket group.

DICJ states that it is aware of the petitions made by the "investors" involved and the general opinion of society about the topic. In the statement, DICJ recalls that it is closely cooperating with the investigations of the Judiciary Police (PJ) as well as the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) and the Financial Intelligence Office (GIF) in order to assure the stability and sustainability of the gaming sector as well as guaranteeing the legitimate interests of the citizens.

"Any illicit acts detected, will lead to legal liability according with the law," DICJ stated, referring also to government's efforts to promote the healthy



development of the gaming industry together with the entire sector stakeholders.

Still, according to DICJ, the Dore case is a reminder that the government should speed up the improvement of the junket sector inspections. DICJ will issue instructions to this business sector and initiate the procedures for an update

of the law in order to increase the transparency and regulate the operation of junkets.

Simultaneously, it will promote communication between all parties to gather opinions that can contribute to the development of a more dynamic and competitive sector.

Also yesterday, the International Union of Operating

Engineers (IUOE) called upon the gaming regulator to investigate Dore Entertainment's operations.

IUOE recalled that junket promoters recruit and often provide credit to high rollers, mostly from mainland China, to gamble in exclusive VIP rooms inside Macau casinos. The junkets also have personnel operating inside the casino high roller clubs, as is the case of "Dore Entertainment", which operates several VIP rooms in the territory, most of them at the Wynn Macau. "We are calling on the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, which ultimately oversees the regulation of Macau's gambling industry, to investigate Dore Entertainment's operations," stated IUOE representative Jeff Fiedler.

Mr Fiedler continued: "In particular, we believe authorities should review any current and historical relationships between Dore Entertainment and a person named Charles Heung Wah Keung."

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Leanda Lee

THE Dore investor protests over the last week indicate that the elements within the local investor community believe they have an implicit agreement with the Macau government.

The investors in the recent internal fraud case perpetuated by a Ms Chow, an employee at Dore, (the company is also a stated victim in this case) have indicated through their protests that they believe the government should take responsibility for their investments regardless of any lack of due diligence or understanding of investment risk on their part. At a promised rate of return on capital of 2 percent per month, or the equivalent of 24 percent per annum, a normal investor would assess their acceptable level of exposure to the commensurate level of risk that those rates of return in a particular environment entail.

These investors in Dore believe that they are owed something by someone, be it junket, casino or government, and rather than process their claims through the courts via the normal procedures, they

If the gov't bows to these investors' claims, more likely putting pressure on the junket or less advisedly on the casino, how far will it go in bailing out local investors?



Dore 'investors' handed in a petition calling for government support last week

MDT ANALYSIS

Dore's dangers

seek not redress but demand their entitlements of a government bail-out. And so it is, in an increasingly paternalistic society. If there is anything the government owes investors is education to build financial acumen, and a stronger set of governance laws and community awareness to ensure fiduciary duties are met.

As normal business practice, companies seek to raise working capital through borrowings or attracting equity investments: junket operators do the same and given the buoyant nature of the gaming industry in Macau, they have offered attractive rates of return on such capital. The gaming industry has changed of recent times. Lower rates of return to all parties - casinos, junket operators, banks, hotels and their respective shareholders and the Macau budget - are to be expected. The Dore incident merely highlights the game change and

the extent of some of the consequences.

Neither are junket operators banks; they are marketers and middle-men of sorts, and also extend credit to players. Thus, investments and debt in these businesses are not deposits, a term which connotes a higher level of capital security than "investments". Note the prevalent and emotive use of this word 'deposits' rather than 'investments' or 'loans' in public discussions on this topic. We seem to forget that it was not until after the 2008 Financial Crisis that even banks would guarantee our deposits and even now the government provided bank deposit protection scheme is limited.

There are enormous consequences to the way the government responds to this event. If the government bows to these investors' claims, more likely putting pressure on the junket or less advisedly on the casino, how far will it go in bailing out

local investors? Joe Chao "deposited" a \$5,000 investment on the roulette table the other day but lost it, well, you know the odds: will the government be called upon the guarantee this too? This is taking the argument to the extreme but the logical end point is not far off.

Another fear is that the government will offer a knee-jerk response to this event and put into place a stronger set of regulations that further constrain the ability of the junket operators to do business in an increasingly difficult environment. China's tough Union Pay overseas ATM withdraw limits of 100,000 yuan per annum announced in the last few days and to be fully implemented next year will hit Macau's main industry even harder, particularly at the mass market level. Add to this the contagion effect of this Dore incident in the liquidity squeeze on the junkets as they tighten credit to VIP players in case there is a nervous call on funds by investors, the local government cannot afford to place further constraints on companies chasing business in the casino supply chain at this particular time.

100,000 yuan annual cap on overseas UnionPay withdrawals

THE annual cap on overseas cash withdrawals for UnionPay cardholders has been reduced to 100,000 yuan (USD15,713) or its equivalent per card, effective next year. Between October 1 and December 31 this year, overseas withdrawals will be limited to 50,000 yuan or the equivalent.

The new rules have been issued by China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) through a circular sent to banks, the media reported. The new instructions add to the 10,000 yuan equivalent daily cap per UnionPay cardholder.

Accounts that exceed the cap are to be added to a watch-list by banks, according to SAFE requirements. Further cash withdrawals outside of China should be forbidden. According to the administration, the measures were implemented to rein in potential money-laundering activities. Banks have also been requested by SAFE to monitor "abnormal" accounts that register frequent cross-border fund transfers.



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Jennifer Thompson
Financial Times

LUXURY BRANDS

'The good old days are gone and they won't return'

FOR years the script was simple. Luxury brands - primarily European, with the occasional American among them - wishing to increase profits headed east to China. Its swelling urban population had a seemingly insatiable appetite for their wares.

Citizens of a nominally Communist state proved the saviour of a sector during the worst global financial crisis in almost 80 years.

But, over the past two years, the dream has begun to sour. "The good old days are definitely gone and they won't return," says Katherine Chan, analyst at Nomura.

Not only is growth in the mainland Chinese economy slowing after the stratospheric rates recorded over the past two decades, but it is coming down from such a level that luxury companies may well be the first to experience the "hard landing" that financial Cassandra warn of. Smaller, but important, regional markets such as Hong Kong and Macau often feel the ripples first.

There have been a variety of social and economic factors that have underpinned consumption trends, but the inauguration of Xi Jinping as Chinese president in November 2012 is a useful place to start.

One of the victims of his high-profile initiative to clamp down on corruption was the luxury goods sector, whose goods - bottles of top whisky, or watches - are typically the favoured form of bribe.

That push came against a backdrop of weaker growth, with the Chinese economy increasingly characterised by debt, overcapacity and rising labour costs. Officially, China's economy grew 7.3 per cent in 2014, the slowest pace in nearly a quarter of a century, and 7 per cent in the second quarter of this year.



But there is a growing view among global investors that the real rate is far lower - perhaps as little as 5 per cent.

The recent stock rout in mainland China and subsequent efforts by Beijing to prop up the market have grabbed the world's attention. Analysts are divided on the longer-term effects of the bear market on consumer spending, but, says Emily Huang, analyst at Barclays, the plunge in Chinese equities - the Shanghai Composite has fallen some 40 per cent from its late June peak - is likely to have "damped hopes that [the second half] will be better".

Take Chow Tai Fook Jewellery, the world's biggest listed jeweller by market capitalisation. It has seen like-for-like sales in Hong Kong and Macau fall in the 12 months to March and the company has warned that "the luxury sector as a

whole shows signs of slowing after years of rapid growth".

Other large houses have reported slowing sales growth. Sales across Asia Pacific for Tiffany & Co, the US luxury jeweller, grew 1 per cent to USD504m in the six months to July 31, compared with a growth rate of 9 per cent and \$1bn in the previous full financial year.

Swiss luxury goods group Richemont, owner of jewellers including Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and Piaget, says all regions increased sales in the year to March apart from Asia-Pacific - excluding Japan. The poor performance reflected difficult trading in Hong Kong and Macau. Across the region, sales slipped 1 per cent year-on-year to €4.1bn.

"Richemont's results for the year were resilient, despite a difficult situation in Hong Kong and Macau," says Johann Ru-

pert, its chairman.

But there are bright spots. Chinese spending overseas still tops the league tables. In 2014, 30 per cent of tax-free shopping around the world came from customers from China, according to a report by Global Blue, an international tax refund group. Total spending by Chinese tourists grew 18 per cent year-on-year.

"Chinese spending, especially on luxury goods, is still strong," notes Ms Huang.

Moreover a sale not made in one location may still take place somewhere else. The widespread political protests in Hong Kong last autumn, concerns over the outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome in South Korea this spring, Japan's 2014 sales tax rise - all hurt consumer spending in those regions for a specific period, but often tourists simply hea-

ded elsewhere in the region.

"Globally . . . not a question of pace, more a question of place," says Erwan Rambourg, luxury analyst at HSBC. "Chinese consumers are still active, but more in Japan and Europe than in Greater China."

The Japanese market has also received a fillip from the weaker yen. Richemont and Tiffany have noted the greater influx of foreign tourists has boosted spending in Japanese stores, although overall sales are lacklustre.

Analysts also note that some companies, as they head into the third quarter, will face a more flattering base for comparison for sales made in 2015, after the widespread political protests in Hong Kong hit sales in some stores in 2014.

All this makes for an opaque picture for spending on watches and jewellery in the region. Luxury goods sales in mainland China contracted for the first time last year, by 1 per cent to Rmb115bn (\$18bn), according to a study by Bain & Co. Many observers believe that the cracks in the economy over the past year augur something far worse than a temporary market shock.

But it is worth remembering that annual economic growth of 7 per cent - or 5 per cent for that matter - far outpaces that of the US, the eurozone and most emerging markets.

China is down but not out, analysts covering the luxury sector agree.

"This year will remain quite difficult," concludes Ms Huang. "But nobody knows how consumers are going to behave going forward." **MDT/FT Exclusive**

corporate bits

CTM SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL SCHOOL



CTM and Saint Paul School signed a cooperation agreement to synergize resources to advance the practice and application of information te-

chnology in education and bring more innovation to the traditional teaching model.

The signing ceremony was held on Friday at the assembly

hall of the Saint Paul School. A comprehensive home-school communication platform powered by CTM Education Cloud network - "Macau MSchool", was launched today to provide an effective and convenient channel to facilitate instant communication and information exchange between school and parents.

During the ceremony, CTM's CEO Vandy Poon said that e-learning will be the trend of the future development of education.

Fr. Alejandro Salcedo, Principal of Saint Paul School, claimed that the "MSchool" app is the product of the cooperation, coordination, coalitions and collaboration process between the school and CTM to achieve the desired results.

UNIQLO CHIEF PRAISES DISNEY'S NEW PARK IN SHANGHAI



Fast Retailing Co. Chairman Tadashi Yanai said Walt Disney Co.'s new park in Shanghai will help his Uniqlo casual wear brand expand in China, shrugging off

concerns over an economic slowdown in the Japanese retailer's largest overseas market.

"The opening of the Shanghai Disneyland gives both

of us, Uniqlo and Disney, a business opportunity," Chairman Tadashi Yanai told reporters in Shanghai, where Uniqlo will open a new Disney-inspired concept store. "Our business is getting absolutely no impact" from China's slowdown, he said.

Starting yesterday, Uniqlo is devoting an entire floor at its six-story China flagship store in central Shanghai to products co-designed with Disney. A human-sized Mickey Mouse statue greets visitors to the store, where T-shirts and toys depicting characters such as Tinker Bell, Woody of Disney Pixar's "Toy Story" animated films, and Darth Vader from the Star Wars movies are on display.

MARKETS

Asian stocks extend sell-off, Tokyo down 4 percent

1906	639	2125	175	6719	3615	2542
-100	-16	-135	-7	-330	-290	-112
6752/T	6770/T	6654/T	7004/T	7242/T	7741/T	7974/T
パナソニック	7&7	7&7	日立	KVB	HOVA	任天堂
1179.5	3230	17965	608	311	3822	19310
-73.0	-155	-710	-28	-19	-185	-790
6753/T	6773/T	6963/T	7011/T	7261/T	7741/T	7984/T
シャープ	パイオニア	ローソン	三菱重	マニ	コダック	コダック
139	251	5180	5165	17	1250	1250
-8	-17	-180	-205	1	-39	-39
6754/T	6796/T	6965/T	7012/T	7262/T	7742/T	7985/T
アパレル	ケイオ	朴チス	川重	ホンダ	ホンダ	ホンダ
716	364	2574	389	34	35	35
-38	-23	-77	-19	-1	5	5
6756/T	6841/T	6971/T	7013/T	7269/T	7743/T	7986/T
日立国際	横河電	京セラ	IHI	スズキ	スズキ	スズキ
1242	1216	5307	301	1250	1250	1250
-127	-50	-169	-14	1	1	1
6758/T	6857/T	6976/T	7201/T	7270/T	7744/T	7987/T
ソニー	アドバンテ	太陽電	日産自	富士	富士	富士
2753.5	848	1462	1066.0	40	40	40

Men walk past an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo

ASIAN stocks tumbled yesterday, extending a global market sell-off triggered by grim corporate news, expectations of a Fed rate hike and jitters about China's economy. European shares fell moderately while futures pointed to a bounce back on Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: European markets added to the previous day's losses. Germany's DAX fell 0.2 percent to 9,468.57 and Britain's FTSE 100 edged down 0.6 percent to 5,925.73. U.S. shares were set to drift higher after a sharp sell-off Monday. S&P 500 futures were up 0.3 percent at 1,876.90. Dow futures rose 0.1 percent to 15,931.00.

SOUR COCKTAIL: Analysts say investors have been buffeted by a slew of bad news. Commodity trading company Glencore dived 29 percent in London on Monday as investors increasingly doubt its financial strength in a time of weak commodity prices. The fallout from Volkswagen's emissions rigging scandal is spreading to other auto brands. Pharmaceutical stocks in the U.S. are limping after a price-gouging incident raised the prospect of greater regulation. Fed officials, meanwhile, continue to signal they will raise U.S. interest rates this year, marking the beginning of the end of ultra-low interest rates that have underpinned stock markets.

THE QUOTE: "Investors are bailing out of resource stocks following further pressure on London-listed commodity house Glencore," said Michael McCarthy, chief strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney. "Analys-

ts fretted over its debt pile, and its share price is now down more than 80 percent on its 2015 high. Hyperbole is in overdrive as commentators call it the resources sector Lehman Brothers moment."

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dropped 4.1 percent to 16,930.84 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 3.8 percent to 4,918.40. Markets in South Korea and Taiwan were closed for holidays. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slid 3.0 percent to 20,556.60. The Shanghai Composite in mainland China shed 2.0 percent to 3,038.14. Singapore and Thailand fell while the Philippines and Indonesia were slightly higher.

ASIAN DATA: Important economic indicators in Asia this week include the Tankan report on Japanese business confidence due tomorrow, which will show how much faith companies have in the prospects for economic recovery. Investors who worry China's economic downturn might deepen were looking ahead to purchasing managers indexes due Thursday for manufacturing and service industries.

ENERGY: Benchmark crude rose 39 cents to USD44.82 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell \$1.27 to close at \$44.43 a barrel in New York on Monday. Brent Crude, a benchmark for international oils, was up 46 cents to \$48.47.

CURRENCIES: The dollar recovered losses against the yen and rose to 119.97 yen from 119.92 yen on Monday. The euro was little changed at \$1.1234 from \$1.1233. AP

ADVERTORIAL

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Rotary Club of Macau Outbound Youth Exchange Program - 2015 UK Summer Camp

For the past few years, Rotary Club of Macau has been invited by Rotarians of Greater Manchester and Cheshire District 1050 (now District 1285) through Rotary Club of Sandbach Cheshire to send 2 students from under-privileged families in Macau to participate in a 2-week summer camp held at Petty Pool Outdoor Centre near Northwich. A total of 18 young students (aged 16 to 18 years old) from 9 different countries, mostly European, take part in the Camp.



Photo taken with all UK Summer Camp participants and Rotarians from Rotary District 1285



Climbing & abseiling

This July, the Club selected and sponsored with the support of Rotary Foundation's District Grant, two students Eric and Mary from our Adopt-A-School St Paul's School, one of which is the 'Student of the Year', to embark on this annual Outbound Youth Program. They spent one week in different Rotarian host families and one week in Petty Pool camp during which they did climbing, shooting, archery and orienteering as well as visited many notable locations like Liverpool football stadium and fire station. These sponsored students receive training on Prevention on Sexual Harassment and Abuse as required by Rotary International, did a pre-camp presentation in our club meeting and a post-camp one upon their return. One gratifying observation is their marked improvement in public speaking, English capabilities and confidence level after the trip. As they said self-belief and self-confidence were greatly enhanced through cultural exchanges and opportunities to speak English to different nationalities.

Mary, one of the participants this year, said, "In UK, I can get to know what life is like outside Macau and gain a new perspective on life and the world. It's hard to describe really, you have to experience it yourself. I am really glad Rotary gave me the opportunity to go outside of Macau. Life is wonderful here. In addition, I'll never forget this wonderful summer camp. I think that I'll visit my new friends in the future. Thank you very much again."

While Eric shared: "This is a special memory for me. I would like to thank all of you to give me this wonderful journey. My friends, my host family and Rotary members took good care of me. Unbelievable and amazing experience was branded in my life"

Goodwill Ambassador Program (GWA)

Goodwill Ambassador Program is an annual project of Rotaract Club of Macau which aims to offer young people in Macau an opportunity to visit another country, to experience a different culture and to promote world understanding.

The theme of the 13th Goodwill Ambassador Program is "Happy and Share". Candidates have to go through application, interview, training camp and service project before the final presentation. Six outstanding candidates were selected by the organizing committee and judges to represent Macau to visit Australia on 13 - 21 June 2015, accompanied by three of our members.

The 9-day journey to Australia was incredibly amazing, which was full of surprises and challenges. One of the most unforgettable parts of the trip was to serve in a local food bank in Canberra and climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge! What makes the trip more enjoyable is that the Australian Rotaractors are all friendly and have a warm-welcoming personality. In this 9 days' trip, the GWA delegates filled up their hearts with experiences, memories, gratitude and inspirations, getting ready to radiate these elements in our community.



Community Service - cleaning up the Manly Beach



Climbing up the Sydney Harbour Bridge



Community Service - Reorganizing the Food Bank in Canberra

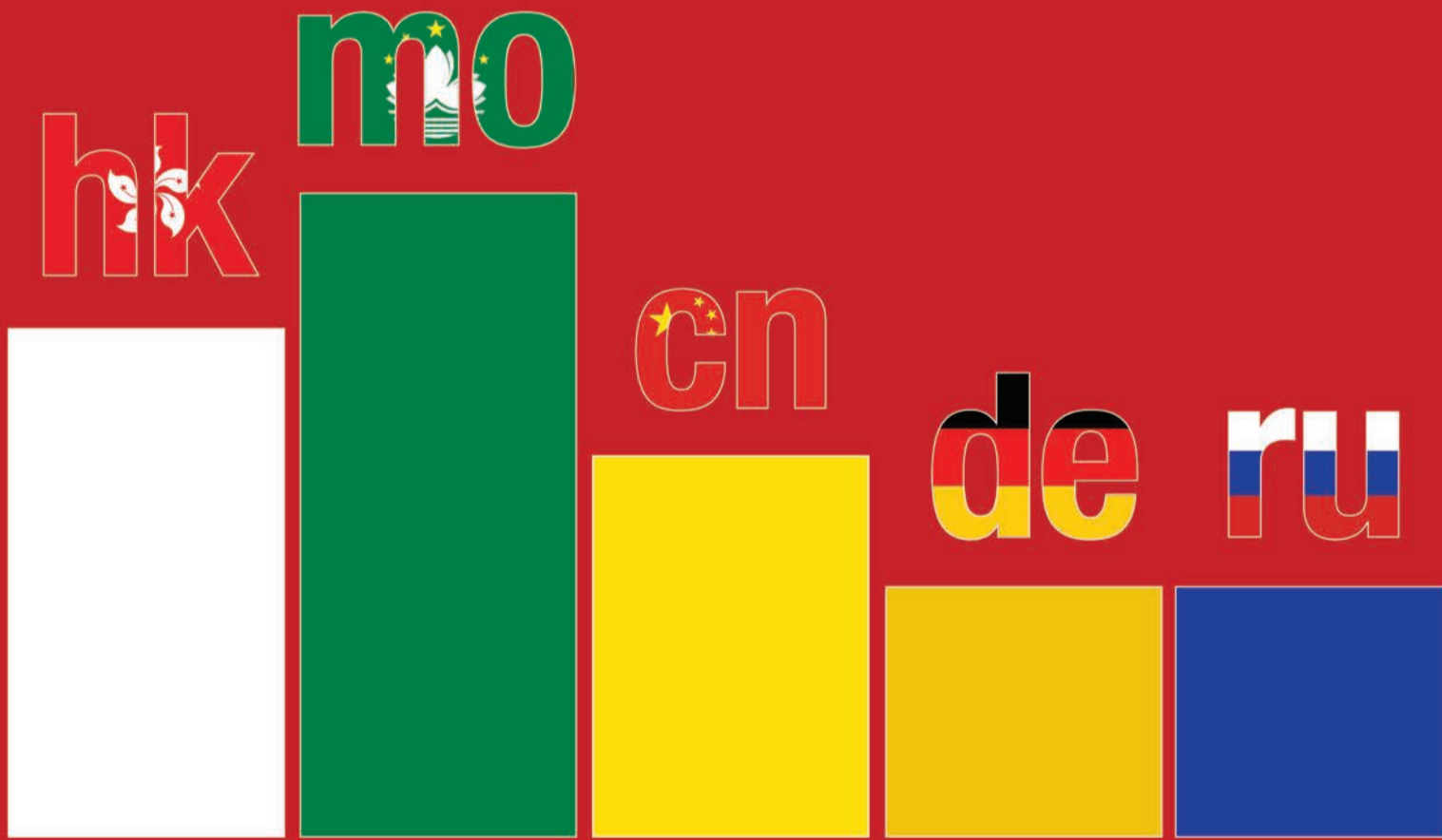
The Aussie trip is ended, the ripples has just started. Let's be motivated to share our happiness!

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MOZAMBIQUE

Chinese ambassador announces cooperation projects

CHINA will finance the construction of a pediatric unit and residences for physicians in Beira, in Mozambique's Sofala province, announced the new Chinese ambassador to Mozambique, Sun Jian.

The ambassador, cited by newspaper Notícias, also announced that the government of his country would finance construction of a vocational school in Nampula province.

Sun Jian, who was speaking in Maputo after a courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário, said that in 2016 China would finance, also in Mozambique, the construction of the Mozambique/China Cultural Centre and a Communication and Art School.

The projects funded by China in Mozambique include modernization of the international terminal of Maputo International Airport, construction of the National Stadium in Zimpeto and the new building of the Prosecutor General's Office (PGR), part of a package which includes the construction of the Palace of Justice premises in the city of Maputo, the Central Office for Combating Corruption and the Criminal Office. **MDT/Macauhub**

Fitch Ratings lowers Angola's credit rating to B+

PAULO BARBOSA



Road market in Angola

FITCH Ratings has lowered Angola's credit rating from "BB-" to "B+", to reflect the effects that low oil prices have had on the economy, the agency announced in a statement released Friday.

The agency also said the outlook was stable, due to the measures approved by the Angolan government to respond to the negative effects of the low price of the main raw material for export.

"Angola's dependence on oil and gas leaves the country exposed to the sharp drop in oil prices, which led to a rise in public debt, falling reserves and weaker growth," said the Fitch report issued

Friday.

On the positive side, the agency highlighted the timely response of the

■ **Angola's public debt could exceed 40pct of GDP this year**

government to the negative effects, including a tighter monetary policy, fiscal measures and devaluation, which may limit the downward revision of the credit rating.

Fitch estimates suggest Angola's public debt exceed 40 percent of GDP this year, against 23.1 percent of GDP in 2013 and the budget deficit reached 4 percent of GDP. **MDT/Macauhub**

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ANALYSIS

Xi big-money pledges underpin Chinese diplomacy

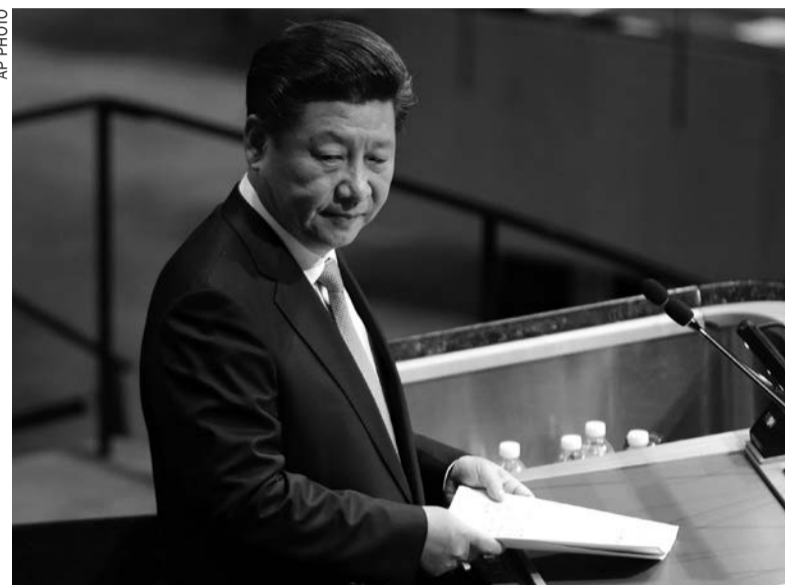
Christopher Bodeen, United Nations

CALL it checkbook diplomacy, Chinese style.

On visits to Washington and the United Nations, President Xi Jinping has pledged billions of dollars for peacekeeping, economic development and climate change, winning audience applause and plaudits from the world body.

However, while many countries trade aid for specific advantages, Xi's approach is more ambitious. He's using the power of the purse to cast China as a responsible contributor to international peace and stability and to dilute international criticism of Beijing.

The approach seems to be a success so far, helping Xi override condemnation in the West about the authoritarian Communist government's strict limits on human rights and relentless persecution of anyone considered an opponent of one-party rule. He's also been able to drown out some concerns over China's aggressive moves to assert its territorial claims in the South China Sea, where it has lately been creating artificial islands by piling sand atop reefs and atolls, then topping them



China's President Xi Jinping

with airstrips and other infrastructure.

It also has the added bonus of making China look good alongside its chief international rivals, Japan and the U.S., who have long maintained the biggest foreign aid programs. Unlike China, though, that aid often comes with political or economic conditions attached.

In his first-ever appearance at the U.N. General Assembly, Xi yesterday (Macau time) commit-

ted USD1.1 billion to support U.N. and African Union peacekeeping efforts. The day before, Xi had pledged an initial \$2 billion for meeting post-2015 global development goals, saying that could grow to \$12 billion by 2030. Another \$10 million was pledged to the U.N. agency promoting women's rights.

Even earlier, during his state visit to Washington, Xi pledged \$3.1 billion to help developing countries combat climate change,

bringing the total for all potential pledges over the four days to more than \$18.2 billion — still a drop in the budget for a nation with a \$10 trillion economy.

Outside of monetary pledges, Xi didn't have a lot to contribute to the debate at the U.N. His 20-minute address on Saturday to the U.N. development summit was notable only for the aid pledges within. Otherwise it was dominated by bland statements, greeting card-worthy platitudes and assorted jargon: the phrase "win-win" was deployed no less than five times.

Xi, who in early September presided over a massive military parade in Beijing, said Monday that China would never seek to become a hegemonic power that would dominate others or put its interests above international justice — despite the doubts of its Asia-Pacific rivals.

"Let the vision of a world free of war and with lasting peace take root in our hearts," Xi told the assembly.

Consistent with China's avowed neutrality, Xi also stayed outside the key debates over the civil war in Syria and its resulting refugee crisis, the rise of the Islamic State

and the war in Ukraine. China's principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs plays especially well among other developing nations, many of whose governments are similarly autocratic.

And despite skepticism in Washington, Xi used his post-summit White House news conference with Obama on Friday to focus on progress in the overall relationship, while taking a mild approach to the South China Sea and asserting China's opposition to cyber espionage, another issue of increasing concern to Washington which Obama said China must stop.

The strategy has largely shielded both him and China from criticism, at least on this trip, the one exception being Xi's co-chairing of a U.N. meeting on women's issues Sunday. That drew fire from critics including Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, who said China's detention and harassment of women's rights activists ought to disqualify Xi from such a role.

In the face of such criticism, Xi may have an ally in his glamorous wife, former army folk singer Peng Liyuan, who kept up her own busy schedule during the trip that ends today.

In Washington, she helped unveil the name of the National Zoo's new baby panda, while in New York she presided at charity events in her capacity as a World Health Organization goodwill ambassador and UNESCO special envoy for girls' and women's education. **AP**

OCCUPY HONG KONG

Anniversary reignites debate on city's election

PROTESTERS seeking to remind China of last year's lost fight for free elections in Hong Kong gathered yesterday outside the city's government headquarters, where students had battled tear gas to seize the streets for 79 days.

Groups including the Civil Human Rights Front and People's Power have called for demonstrations on the anniversary of what became known as the Umbrella Movement, when students sheltered under umbrellas in clashes with riot police.

Since then, China and pro-democracy lawmakers and activists in Hong Kong have battled to a standstill over how to elect the city's leader, with a Beijing-sponsored bill defeated in the Legislative Council in June. Failure to compromise has fueled concern that China may abandon the system of self-rule that

late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping granted the city for 50 years when the U.K. relinquished sovereignty in 1997.

"We know it's not the time for another Occupy," said Tam Tak Chi, executive committee member of People's Power, a political party. "But we are doing this to exert pressure on the police and the government. It's time to rethink our relationship with China, especially how it should be as we are approaching 2047."

Others in the pro-democracy camp played down the possibility of another major protest akin to the "Occupy Central" demonstrations of 2014.

"The democratic camp feels lost and confused on which direction the movement should be headed, and there are also different arguments on what kind of tools or measures to rely upon in the fight for de-



mocracy," Chan Kin Man, an associate professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and a key organizer of last year's campaign, told broadcaster RTHK on Sunday.

The protests last year kicked off after three student leaders including Joshua Wong were arrested for storming government headquarters on Sept. 26. Over the next two days, the clashes escalated after the police fired 87 tear gas canisters and used pepper spray in a failed attempt

to disperse the growing crowd. Instead, more people took to the streets in anger as images of the confrontation were broadcast worldwide, leading to what was seen as the official start of the movement.

At its height, tens of thousands of people demonstrated, demanding that China drops what protest leader Benny Tai has said was an "undemocratic" demand to screen candidates for the chief executive election in 2017. Protesters blockaded main roads, pi-

tched tents and lined pavements with artwork and banners. Over the next two months, talks with the government failed, and disagreements between protest leaders increased as public support faltered. Just before Christmas, the police swept in and cleared the main protest area.

"It's a time to reflect on what happened last year, but more importantly to think about how we will move forward," said Dorothy Wong, a spokeswoman for "Umbrella Parents," an activist group organizing yesterday's rally. "It's also a chance for the different civil society groups to gather again and remember they're not alone in the fight for democracy."

The tussle over Hong Kong's future, and the extent of self-rule for the city of 7.5 million residents, has continued to play out in meeting halls, in the press and on social media.

Pro-democracy activists see evidence of the Chinese government's influence in everything from university appointments to media coverage.

In the past three months, student leaders including Wong and Alex Chow have been charged over their roles in the street occupation. In July, former Home Affairs Secretary Tsang Tak-sing was removed for "inadequate" outreach among the city's youth, the South China Morning Post reported.

A former top official from the China's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office said this month the city must complete "decolonization" and become more Chinese. "We must remember this event," said Tam. "It's not just about political reform or universal suffrage now. China's Communist Party is meddling in Hong Kong's affairs." **Bloomberg**

Michael Melia, Storrs, Conn.

THE multitudes of Chinese students attending American universities are approaching college as less of a life experience and more as a transaction, educators worry, leading to measures to help them integrate — including broadcasting football games in Mandarin and giving them orientation before they even leave Asia.

While students of similar backgrounds naturally flock together anywhere, the integration question is being discussed with urgency in relation to Chinese students because of their sheer numbers. On American campuses, where they number in the hundreds or thousands, it is easier for them to find friends who speak the same native language and form insular communities.

The experience of Anyi Yang, a 19-year-old University of Connecticut sophomore from Beijing, reflects some of the challenges.

When she arrived in the United States, it was a member of a Chinese student group who picked her up at the airport. An applied math major, she has gotten to know some of her American peers through coursework, and she cheered alongside them as she watched a broadcast of the women's basketball team winning a national championship. But she spends nearly all her free time with Chinese friends. She had expected Americans to be more welcoming.

"They are friendly, but some I thought would be more interested in talking to me," Yang said. "Actually, they seldom speak to me if I don't speak to them."

Where administrators and analysts of US-China relations see missed opportunities for exchange, some professors also see a disconnect affecting their classrooms as Chinese students, in general, participate less in discussions.

"They like to stay with each other, and it's getting the attention of a lot of our professors," said Yuhang Rong, an assistant vice provost for global affairs at UConn, which counts more



University of Connecticut sophomore, Anyi Yang of Beijing, left, attends a meeting of the Chinese students and scholars association on campus in Storrs, Conn.

AN AMERICAN EDUCATION

US colleges seek better integration for Chinese students

than 300 students from China in its freshman class.

With the rise of China's middle class, the number of students it sends to the United States jumped to 274,439 in the 2013-2014 school year from 61,765 a decade earlier, according to the Institute of International Education. Graduate students account barely for the biggest group, but undergraduates from China have been gaining quickly.

Robert Daly, director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Wilson Center, said some of today's students have a different attitude from the Chinese who came as pioneers in the 1980s and 1990s.

"There's not a sense of coming to America, like an older generation, so much as buying a credential to get a better job," he said.

At Big Ten public univer-

sities, which began a big recruiting push in China several years ago for students and their tuition dollars, the integration of Chinese students has become such a pressing issue in the past couple of years that they now hold regular summits to discuss strategies.

The University of Illinois, which enrolls nearly 5,000 Chinese students on a campus of some 44,000 students, began holding "Football 101" clinics a couple years ago and introduced Mandarin-language broadcasts this fall. Mike Waddell, a senior associated director of athletics, said he has seen the students at games listening to the broadcasts through their smartphones.

"It's such a big part of the Big Ten culture that we wanted to make sure we reached out to students and made them feel very welcome," Waddell said.

At Purdue, one of several

schools that now hold pre-departure orientation sessions in Chinese cities, Michael Brzezinski, the dean of international programs, said officials begin stressing to incoming freshmen even before they arrive in Indiana the importance of engaging with other students.

Many schools are also working with domestic students and faculty to help make Chinese students more comfortable.

Ohio State has developed programs to encourage domestic students to interact with international students, including joint tours of nearby cities. Purdue prods student groups to do more with international student groups by offering additional money for joint events, and it's trying to create training programs for students on intercultural competence. UConn, likewise, is having discussions on ex-

pectations of "global competencies" for faculty and staff.

Local Chinese consulates are also involved. In meetings with freshmen from China on campuses around the Northeast, Zhang Yang, of the New York consulate's education office, said officials encourage them to study hard, be good student ambassadors, make new friends, and learn and adapt to campus culture.

Kevin Zhuang, a UConn student from Shanghai, said the biggest challenge for most students is the language barrier. The campus experience, he said, really depends on the student.

"We have some Chinese students who are really outgoing who have a lot of American friends," he said. "We also see people who stay at home all day and just hang out with Chinese and don't want to speak English at all." AP

274,439

With the rise of China's middle class, the number of students it sends to the US jumped to 274,439 in the 2013-14 school year from 61,765 a decade earlier

HANGZHOU

Court tries 2 activists for trying to form independent party

TWO Chinese activists involved in attempts to organize an independent political party pleaded not guilty in court yesterday to the charge of subverting state power, their wives and a lawyer said.

If convicted by the court in the eastern city of Hangzhou, Lu Gengsong and Chen Shuqing could face lengthy jail terms.

Lu's wife, Wang Xue'e, and Chen's wife, Zhang Donghong, said the men

insisted on their innocence when standing trial in Hangzhou Intermediate People's Court. Calls to the court were unanswered.

The wives said the men, who were tried separately, argued that they were

exercising their rights to speech and organization as granted by Chinese law.

Fu Yonggang, Chen's attorney, said the defense also argued that it is impossible for an individual who holds no public power or exerts no substantial social influence to subvert state power. "We have found the charge to be ridiculous," Fu said.

The court has yet to rule on the cases. China has one-party rule under the Communist Party. All other political parties allowed to exist within China are sanctioned by the party, and serve as advisory bodies. AP

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban display force, president vows to retake city

Lynne O'donnell, Kabul

TALIBAN gunmen fanned out in full force yesterday across a key Afghan city they captured the day before, as the U.S. military carried out an airstrike on Kunduz and President Ashraf Ghani vowed to take the northern city back from the insurgents, urging his nation to trust Afghan troops to do the job.

The Afghan military launched a counter-offensive on the city, Ghani said in a televised address to the nation, adding that his security forces are "retaking government buildings ... and reinforcements, including special forces and commandos are either there or on their way there."

"The enemy has sustained heavy casualties," said Ghani, who marked his first anniversary in office. He urged his nation to trust Afghan troops and not give in to "fear and terror."

But Monday's multi-pronged assault on Kunduz took the Afghan authorities and military officials by surprise. Hundreds of Taliban launched a coordinated attack and after a day of fierce fighting, they managed to overrun government buildings and hoisted their flag in the city square.

The fall of the city of 300,000 inhabitants — the first urban area taken by the Taliban since the 2001 U.S. invasion ousted their regime — was also a major setback to Ghani, who has staked his presidency on



A Taliban fighter sits on his motorcycle adorned with a Taliban flag in a street in Kunduz, Afghanistan

bringing peace to Afghanistan and seeking to draw the Taliban to peace talks.

Taliban gunmen were patrolling the streets of Kunduz, setting up checkpoints, searching for government loyalists and sealing off exit routes for anyone who wished to escape.

In Kabul, the National Security Council was meeting to discuss the development. The number of dead and wounded in the fighting was unclear.

Wahidullah Mayar, the spokesman for the Public Health Ministry said on his Twitter account that Kunduz hospitals received "172 wounded patients and 16 dead bodies so far."

Doctors Without Borders, the international charity, said its trauma center in Kunduz received 129 wounded since early Monday morning, including 20 women and 39 children. Of

the total, nine had died, said Kate Stegeman, an MSF field communications manager.

The Taliban issued a statement, attempting to reassure residents of Kunduz that they were safe. Hours after the fall, people had streamed out of the city late Monday.

But by yesterday morning, roads were blocked and some government buildings set on fire, several residents told The Associated Press over the phone. They spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety.

"From this morning, the Taliban have been setting up checkpoints in and around the city, looking for the government employees," one resident said. "Yesterday it was possible for people to get out of the city, but today it is too late because all roads are un-

der the Taliban control."

The Taliban controlled Afghanistan from 1996 until they were dislodged by the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. Their rule was marked by brutality, with so-called apostates subject to arbitrary justice.

The insurgents have had a heavy presence in Kunduz since launching their annual summer offensive with an assault on the city in April. That marked the start of a campaign across the north, with attacks reported in recent days in neighboring Takhar province, and intermittent attacks on districts around Kunduz city. Official say the Taliban have allied with other insurgent groups to boost numbers and fire power.

The U.S. military carried out at least one airstrike yesterday on the city "in order

to eliminate a threat to the force," spokesman U.S. Col. Brian Tribus said. Neither the U.S. nor NATO troops are believed to have an operational presence in the region, though the German military control a major base in the nearby city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Security analyst Ali Mohammad Ali described the Taliban takeover as "a shock but not a surprise because every province in Afghanistan is as fragile as Kunduz."

Afghan security forces have been sorely tested this year, following the withdrawal at the end of 2015 of international combat troops. Army and police have suffered huge casualties and their resources have been spread thinly across the country as the Taliban have taken their fight to topple the Kabul government to every corner of the country.

With the capture of Kunduz, the Taliban have achieved a "huge political and propaganda victory," said Ali.

The Defense Ministry said government forces had already retaken some parts of the city early in the day, including a newly-built police headquarters and the prison in Kunduz. Reinforcements, including special forces, were sent to the region from across the country.

MSF and the International Red Cross said they had evacuated some of their international staff from Kunduz. All U.N. staff were evacuated on Monday.

"The enemy's main objective was to create fear and terror," Ghani told the nation.

Kunduz is one of the largest and wealthiest cities in Afghanistan, and the surrounding province, also called Kunduz, is one of the country's chief breadbaskets and has rich mining assets. It lies on a strategic crossroads connecting Afghanistan to Pakistan, China and Central Asia. **AP**

NEPAL

Kathmandu mulls new restrictions for Everest climbing permits

NEPAL is considering placing new age and fitness restrictions on people who want to climb Mount Everest, officials said yesterday, as the country looks to enhance safety on the mountain after several disasters in recent years.

The government is mulling barring people under 18 and over 75, as well as those with disabilities, said Mohan Sapkota, a spokesman for the Himalayan country's ministry of tourism. The new rules could also require that climbers attempting to scale the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) mountain have experience on medium-size peaks.

"We are discussing the ways to promote safety for mountaineers. The moun-

tain should not be the place for people to die. It should be a place for adventure," Sapkota said, adding that the government's deliberations were at a very preliminary stage.

Everest climbing permits earn Nepal, an impoverished nation, millions of dollars a year, but the government has come under criticism after a series of disasters over the past few years. Officials have also been blamed for granting too many permits.

Hundreds of climbers — ranging from some of the world's most experienced mountaineers to relative novices on high-priced, well-guided trips — make summit attempts on Everest every year.

Novice climbers are guided by experienced Sherpas, but their inexperience puts both the climber and the Sherpa at higher risk.

Nepal currently bars people under 16 from attempting to climb Everest, but has no upper age limit. The oldest person to scale the peak was an 80-year-old Japanese climber.

The youngest to reach the top of the world's highest mountain was 13-year-old American Jordan Romero, who did it in 2010. But Romero climbed from the Tibet side of the mountain at a time when China imposed no age restrictions on climbers. Since then, China has imposed an upper limit of 60 and a minimum



Trekkers walk towards Everest Base camp, Nepal

age requirement of 18 for climbers.

Last week, Japanese climber Nobukazu Kuriki — who lost nine fingers to frostbite during a 2012 attempt to climb Everest — abandoned his fifth unsuccessful attempt to scale the mountain. **AP**

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 張 錦 豪 Zhang Jinhao 2003 年 威 尼 斯 人 澳 門 高 爾 夫 球 公 開 賽 亞 軍

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Ciaran Giles & Iain Sullivan,
Barcelona

SPAIN

Tough talks loom for Catalonia pro-secession parties

SECESIONIST parties who agree on breaking Catalonia away from Spain but little else started preparing for tough political negotiations aimed at forming a regional coalition government to push their independence agenda despite a warning from Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy that any separation attempt won't be permitted.

The separatist "Together for Yes" pro-independence alliance on Sunday won 62 seats in Catalonia's 135-member parliament, six short of a majority, forcing it to seek support from the Popular Unity Candidacy anti-establishment separatist party that detests Artur Mas, the regional leader who called the vote.

No meetings were set Monday but both sides said talks would begin soon to form a regional government and pick its leader. The Popular Unity Candidacy party, known as CUP, won 10 seats and has lambasted Mas for invoking unpopular austerity measures.

Members said they wouldn't support anyone to lead Catalonia's regional government linked to "cutbacks and corruption," a clear reference to Mas, who



Catalonian pro-independence supporters celebrate in Barcelona, Spain

presided over cutbacks during Spain's years of economic hardship during the financial crisis.

While CUP leader David Fernandez promised his party will help the "Together for Yes" side because both share the common goal of independence, analysts predicted difficult negotiations. A new government isn't expected to be in place until November.

CUP is "in a tough spot: supporting Mas would antagonize its voter base, but forcing him to step down could paralyze the independence process," said Antonio Barroso, a London-based analyst with the Teneo Intelligence political risk consulting group.

Mas brushed off suggestions

that his leadership was in question and insisted that under party agreements he has to be the regional presidential candidate.

He insisted the vote gave them a mandate to proceed with the independence drive and that they would work with CUP "to carry out the road map" and to put in place governmental structures needed for what he called "the legal disconnection" with Spain.

Prior to the elections, Mas and his group had pledged to work for an independent state within 18 months, including a unilateral declaration of independence.

But CUP's main candidate, Antonio Banos, said the day after that such a declaration couldn't

now be justified as it would have needed the backing of more than half the votes.

Under the 41-year-old Fernandez, CUP has succeeded regionally in tapping into the same anger at austerity measures exploited by far-left European parties like Syriza in Greece.

Catalans, he said in an interview with The Associated Press last week, need to claim their sovereignty as a nation from a Spanish state he sees as having little respect for Catalonia and is an enthusiastic participant in a global capitalist economy he labels as "a war machine that robs, kills and lies."

Anti-secession parties played

up the fact that the pro-independence parties won just 48 percent of the popular vote.

That happened because of a quirk in Spanish voting law that gives votes from rural areas more value in selecting lawmaker seats than those from urban areas. And in Catalonia, there is more support for secession in less-populated areas.

Rajoy insisted that Spain won't be split apart and labeled the vote a failure because more than half of those who voted chose anti-independence parties.

"Those in favor of rupture never had the backing of the law and as of yesterday neither do they have the backing of the majority of Catalan society," he said.

The threat of Catalonia breaking away from Spain has been a constant source of bitter dispute between Mas and Rajoy's government, which rejects Catalan independence as unconstitutional.

Rajoy must call general election by the year's end with polls suggesting his party will lose its majority in the national parliament. His Popular Party took a beating in the Catalan elections, winning just 11 seats, eight fewer than in the previous legislature.

Mas has been Catalonia's regional president since 2010 and heads the Convergence party that has played a key role in Catalan politics for decades. Formerly opposed to independence, he started championing the cause in recent years the central government in Madrid government snubbed his effort to win more regional financial powers for Catalonia.

Throughout the campaign, Spain argued that independence would mean Catalonia being ejected from the European Union and out of the group of countries that use the euro.

The EU declined to comment Monday on the election outcome, saying it was an internal Spanish issue.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, pointed to comments by Merkel a few weeks ago that the EU treaties guarantee the integrity and sovereignty of every country.

"So, from our point of view, it is important for the rule of law to be observed in all that happens now — in relation both to the European treaties and national law," Seibert said. "The position of the German government is unchanged."

The newly elected Catalan deputies will take their seats by Oct. 27, with a new regional Catalan government expected to be in place by early November. AP

Those in favor of rupture never had the backing of the law [...] neither do they have the backing of the majority of Catalan society

PM MARIANO RAJOY

Q&A about the Catalonia independence vote

PARTIES pushing for independence from Spain won a majority of seats in Catalonia's regional Parliament in a ballot Sunday, but failed to secure more than 50 percent of the popular vote in an election they had hoped would give them a clear, unequivocal mandate for secession.

With 98 percent of the votes counted, the "Together for Yes" group of secessionist parties had 62 seats in the 135-member parliament, meaning they would need to join forces with the radical Popular Unity Candidacy party — that secured 10 seats — to be able to push regional legislation through.

However, together they only won 47.9 percent of the popular vote, meaning opponents to independence were in a majority.

Here are some questions and answers about the Catalonia independence vote.

Q: How and why did the vote come about?

A: Catalonia is a prosperous, industrialized region in northeast Spain sharing a Mediterranean border with France. It has

for centuries treasured its own language and culture, but during the 1939-1975 military dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco, the Catalan language was banned in spoken and written forms.

The recent surge in independence sentiment stems from June 2010, when Spain's highest court struck down key parts of a groundbreaking charter that would have granted Catalonia more autonomy and recognized it as a nation within Spain.

Artur Mas, Catalonia's regional leader, began openly pushing for an independence referendum but Spain's central government has repeatedly quashed moves for a plebiscite, maintaining it would be unconstitutional.

Eventually, Mas decided to turn elections for the regional parliament into a substitute ballot on independence.

Q: Who has won?

A: Mas has claimed victory as separatists had a majority of lawmakers returned to parliament in Barcelona. However, oppo-

nents to independence say the majority of votes were cast by those did not want to break away from Spain.

Q: What does Spain's government think?

A: The government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has made it clear it will use all legal methods to prevent the independence of Catalonia, which accounts for nearly a fifth of Spain's economic output.

Q: What's next?

A: With both sides claiming some form of victory, moves to declare independence will be opposed. Months of negotiations are likely.

Many analysts believe the independence drive will be halted after Spain holds a general election in December and decides whether Rajoy and his Popular Party stay in power. Whoever wins, analysts say, the next government is likely to start negotiating more autonomy and fiscal powers for Catalonia. AP

what's ON



MID-AUTUMN FESTIVALS
- MOON CHASING PARTY
TIME: 8:30pm-10pm
VENUE: Taipa Houses-Museum Lacerda Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

WORLD TOURISM DAY
- 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
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

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Offbeat

POLISH ARMY CHECKS SITE OF ALLEGED TUNNEL WITH NAZI TRAIN



The Polish military this week deployed chemical, radiation and explosives experts to a site in southwestern Poland where a Nazi train allegedly missing since World War II could be located.

Tomasz Smolarz, the governor of Lower Silesia, said the aim of the work in the town of Walbrzych is to exclude any danger for residents. He said the experts will continue their technical checks through Saturday.

The military's efforts come after two explorers claimed to have found a Nazi train trapped in a tunnel that they say could contain both armaments and precious minerals. The explorers' claim awaits confirmation, but it has sparked hopes it could be a Nazi train laden with treasure that local legend says went missing at the end of World War II. The train was reportedly booby-trapped with weapons.

During the war, Walbrzych was still part of Germany. Called Waldenburg, it was in an area where Adolf Hitler was building a system of secret underground tunnels. The legend says the so-called "gold train" entered one of the tunnels while fleeing the advancing Soviet army in 1945 and was never seen again.

Though there's no evidence the train even existed, news of the possible discovery has sparked global fascination in the case and a local gold rush.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeat)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	UEFA Champions League: Porto - Chelsea (Repeat)

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

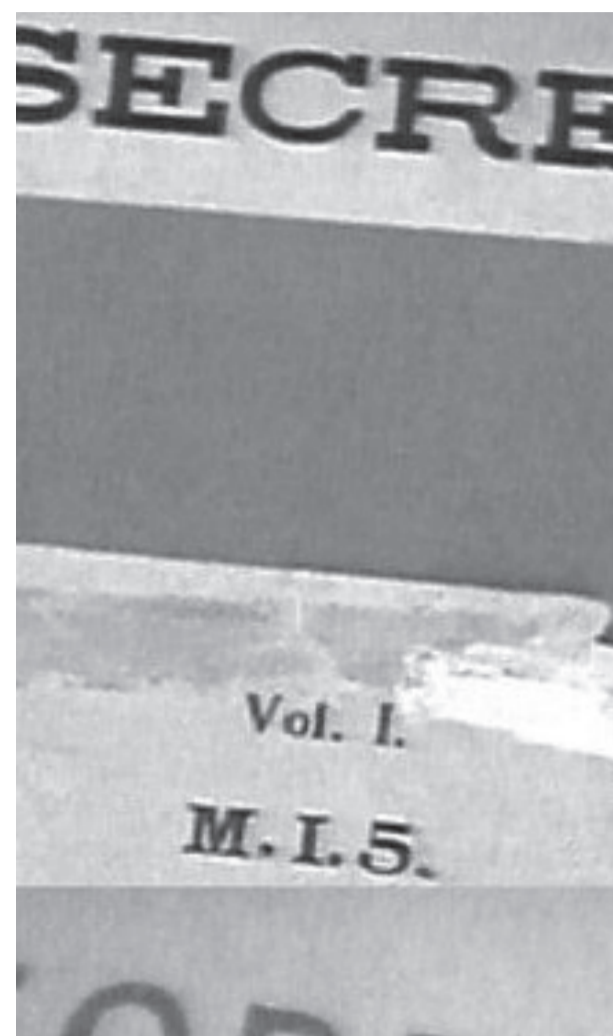
MACAU TOWER

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



1971 FOREIGN OFFICE NAMES SOVIET SUPERSPY

The British Government has named the Soviet defector who last week exposed dozens of Russians alleged to be spying in the UK.

Information from Oleg Lyalin - supposedly a member of the USSR's trade delegation in the UK - led to the expulsion of 105 Soviet officials from Britain on 25 September.

Mr Lyalin, 35, is a senior officer in Russia's intelligence service, the KGB. He was due to appear at a London magistrates' court at 1030 GMT on a drink-driving charge, but failed to appear.

He is now understood to be under the protection of British counter-espionage agents along with his secretary, Irina Teplyakova, who has also defected.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed the pair had sought political asylum after Mr Lyalin's arrest in Tottenham Court Road, central London, on 30 August.

He was remanded on bail of £50 which was paid by the Soviet trade delegation.

His hearing today in Number One Court, Marlborough Street, lasted only long enough for him to be reported absent.

Charles Shearer - the police officer who arrested the Russian - was in the courtroom.

"Up till this morning I did not know that the man I arrested was a spy - it was only when I read the papers today that I twigged," he said.

If Mr Lyalin's allegations are correct it will be a huge blow for the KGB's operations in the UK.

The Soviet Union has responded with the expulsion of 18 British embassy staff from Moscow and surveillance of all UK subjects in the country is reported to have been stepped up.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

British security services recruited Oleg Lyalin in May 1971 after they discovered he had been having an affair with his secretary.

When he was arrested for drink-driving, the trade delegation member knew he would not benefit from diplomatic protection and sought help from MI5.

He was the first Soviet intelligence agent to defect since World War II.

It was a huge embarrassment to the Soviet authorities and the pair were forced into hiding in fear of KGB retaliation.

They married, changed identities and moved to Bournemouth, but the relationship only lasted a few years.

Mr Lyalin died in February 1995.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You'll never accomplish your dreams by doing as little as possible.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Don't even consider blending in with the masses. If you want to improve your odds, the best bet is on the most way out horse in the race.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Dreaming about change in general isn't good enough. Be clear about exactly what you want and how to get it.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The financial future is unknown, but somehow that doesn't seem like such a frightening concept.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Spend the day with your wallet in your purse or pocket. Make it your personal challenge, and don't budge no matter how strongly others react.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You have no new projects on your plate, but wrapping up old ones is more confusing than imaginable.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Is finance both an art and a science? There's a certain suppleness that's called for, but it never pays to bend the rules, even if you're not actually breaking them.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 What is the subject of your dreams? Money should be almost an aside. If you're too focused on it, you'll scare it away.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If you can't get revved up to start the day, just remind yourself of the not too distant past.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're considering of doing some serious gambling. Hedge your bets by registering the reactions of others.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Yes, things are looking up, but that doesn't mean you should take your credit card out of the vault.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You want to try out a new idea. Why not, when the whole world is. It's a bit early to transform your entire life for it, though.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

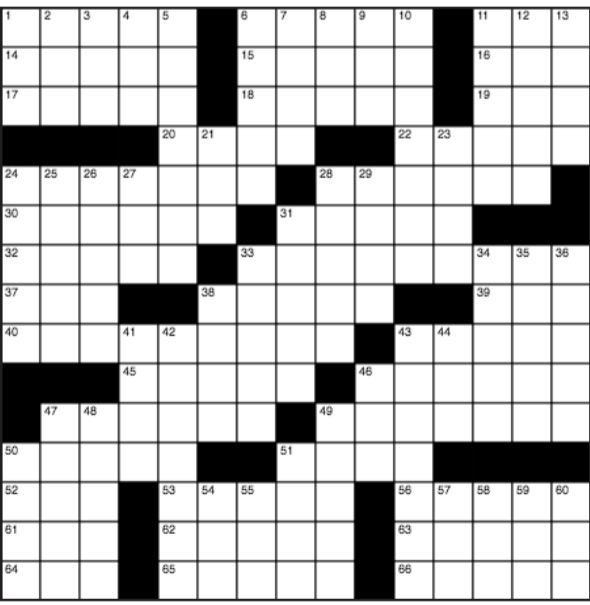
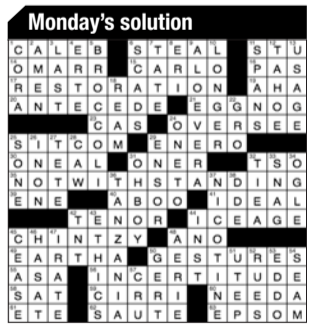
WORLD

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Throat problem; 6-Bundle; 11-Spring mo.; 14- barrel; 15-Rope used to guide a horse; 16-Possess, to Bums; 17-Autocratic Russian rulers; 18-Made a choice; 19-Leftover; 20-Drinks slowly; 22-Uncanny; 24-Hobby; 28-Main arteries; 30-Eye membrane; 31-Actor Hawke; 32-Like some vbs.; 33-At hand; 37-Actress Farrow; 38-Oldsmobile model; 39-Sue Grafton's '... for Evidence'; 40-Highly seasoned sausage; 43-Category; 45-Property claims; 46-Delphic shrine; 47-Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace; 49-Make tough; 50-Meat; 51-Earth's satellite; 52-Aliens, for short; 53-Ancient; 56-Inexpensive; 61-A mouse; 62-Fowl pole; 63-Small mountains; 64-Monopoly quartet; Abbr; 65-Tortilla topped with cheese; 66-Shouts;

DOWN: 1-Boozehound; 2-Boob tubes; 3-'Michael Collins' actor; 4-Flub; 5-Elapsing; 6-Slant; 7-Jumps on one leg; 8-Tolkien tree creature; 9-Word that can succeed old, ice and bronze; 10-Pert. to a union of states; 11-Now, in Nogales; 12-Seine spot; 13-Nerve network; 21-The Monkees' '... Believer'; 23-Gas burner or Sicilian volcano; 24-Dress with care; 25-Eagle's home; 26-Leash; 27-Neckwear; 28-Maker of Pong; 29-Presidential battleground state; 31-Levels; 33-Isolated; 34-Expanse of sand; 35-Cotton thread used for hosiery; 36-City on the Ruhr; 38-Ancient Athens's Temple of ...; 41-Entreaty; 42-Primitive form of wheat; 43-Crisp; 44-Fall back; 46-Winning tic-tac-toe line; 47-Brown-furred aquatic carnivorous mammal; 48-Student tables; 49-Scout master?; 50-Visionary; 51-Interlock; 54-Mauna ...; 55-Dwarf with glasses; 57-Get a move on; 58-Building annex; 59-Competitor of Tide and Cheer; 60-Letter addenda



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Telephone - Report 1000
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PSP 28 573 333
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Thursday, 11:45pm
Fiji v Wales
H 7, D 41, A 1.18

RUGBY

Wales changes 3 in back division for Fiji game

WALES made three injury-enforced changes to its depleted back division and kept the same pack for the Rugby World Cup game against Fiji tomorrow.

Fullback Matthew Morgan, center Tyler Morgan and winger Alex Cuthbert were brought in yesterday to a back line that lost Scott Williams and Hallam Amos to tournament-ending injuries in the 28-25 win over England on Saturday.

Williams and Amos became the fifth and sixth Welsh backs ruled out of the World Cup this month, while fullback Liam Williams is unavailable against Fiji because he is undertaking the graduated return-to-play protocols after a head knock against England.

Despite just a five-day turnaround, Wales coach Warren Gatland chose the same set of forwards from the grueling match at Twickenham. No. 8 Taulupe Faletau and flanker Dan Lydiate will make their 50th appearances for Wales, which goes for its third straight Pool A win.

"It is important we build on the success and momentum from last weekend and take that into Thursday," Gatland said.

Props Aaron Jarvis and Samson Lee were named as repla-



Fiji's Gabriele Lovobalavu tackles Australia's Will Genia during the Rugby World Cup Pool A

cements for the second straight match as they look to fully recover from calf problems. Versatile back James Hook is also among the reserves after being called into the squad on Monday.

Fiji were forced to change both of its wingers after Waisea Nayacalevu was ruled out of the tournament because of

a knee injury sustained against Australia last week and Nemani Nadolo was suspended for a dangerous tackle near the end of the same game. They were replaced by Timoci Nagusa, the top try scorer in this season's French league with Montpellier, and Aseli Tikoitrotuma.

And in another blow for the

Fijians, scrumhalf Nikola Matwalu missed out after hurting his back against Australia.

There were six changes in all by Fiji for the game at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, where captain Akapusi Qera will be the third player to win 50 caps for Fiji after Nicky Little (71) and Seremaia Bai (50). AP / Oddschecker.com

LINEUPS

WALES: Matthew Morgan, Alex Cuthbert, Tyler Morgan, Jamie Roberts, George North, Dan Biggar, Gareth Davies; Taulupe Faletau, Sam Warburton, Dan Lydiate, Alun-Wyn Jones, Bradley Davies, Tomas Francis, Scott Baldwin, Gethin Jenkins. Reserves: Ken Owens, Aaron Jarvis, Samson Lee, Luke Charteris, Justin Tipuric, Lloyd Williams, Rhys Priestland, James Hook.

FIJI: Metuisela Talebula, Timoci Nagusa, Vereniki Goneva, Lepani Botia, Aseli Tikoitrotuma, Ben Volavola, Nemias Kenatale; Netani Talei, Akapusi Qera (captain), Dominiko Waqaniburotu, Leone Nakarawa, Tevita Cavubati, Manasa Saulo, Sunia Koto, Campese Maafu. Reserves: Viliame Veikoso, Peni Ravia, Leeroy Atalifo, Nemias Soqeta, Malakai Ravulo, Henry Seniloli, Joshua Matavesi, Kini Murimurivalu.

FOOTBALL

FIFA bans Blatter ally Warner for life over repeated bribery

FOUR years after stepping down in disgrace, former FIFA vice president Jack Warner was banned from soccer for life yesterday for repeated acts of bribery related to World Cup bidding votes.

Warner, a long-time ally of President Sepp Blatter who was allowed to resign from FIFA in 2011 with his "presumption of innocence" maintained, is currently fighting extradition from Trinidad and Tobago on U.S. charges of racketeering, wire fraud and money-laundering.

The decision by the FIFA ethics committee on Tuesday shows that judge Hans-Joachim Eckert will pursue officials long after they have left their jobs.

A more pressing case for the ethics body is an investigation into Blatter, who was interrogated by Swiss prosecutors on Friday in part over allegations he undervalued the awarding of World Cup television rights to Warner. Blatter, who denies wrongdoing, is at risk of being suspended by his own organization.

Warner's lifetime FIFA ban stems from Eckert's report on the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

As leader of the CONCACAF region

from 1990-2011, Warner gained considerable influence in World Cup votes by the FIFA executive committee and now the extent of his wrongdoing has been reinforced by Eckert.

"Mr. Warner was found to have committed many and various acts of misconduct continuously and repeatedly during his time as an official in different high-ranking and influential positions at FIFA and CONCACAF," the FIFA statement said.

"In his positions as a football official, he was a key player in schemes involving the offer, acceptance, and receipt of undisclosed and illegal payments, as well as other money-making schemes."

The case highlights how the specter of corruption has hung over FIFA under Blatter's 17-year presidency.

Former FIFA vice president Chung Mong-joon, who hopes to succeed Blatter in February's election, said Tuesday the leadership crisis is so severe that an emergency task force should be set up to run the game.

With Blatter under criminal investigation and general secretary Jerome Valcke suspended from work and being investigated by the ethics committee, Chung said FIFA is in "total meltdown."

"Under such circumstances, FIFA and



Joseph "Sepp" Blatter, left, president of FIFA, listens to Jack Warner, chairman of the tournament

regional confederations should consider convening extraordinary sessions of their respective executive committee(s) as well as congress to set-up an emergency task force that will enable FIFA secretariat to function without interruption," Chung, a former vice president under Blatter, said in a statement from South Korea.

Among Chung's potential rivals in February's election is UEFA President Michel Platini, who has been questioned as a witness over a payment from FIFA — one of the reasons Blatter was interrogated on Friday by Swiss authorities. Blatter and Platini denied wrongdoing as they await news from the ethics committee, which is looking into the case. AP

TENNIS

Venus Williams wins 700th match of career at Wuhan Open

VENUS Williams earned the 700th victory of her career yesterday by beating German qualifier Julia Goerges 6-4, 6-3 in the second round of Wuhan Open. Williams is a seven-time major champion who won her last Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2008.

Anna Karolina Schmiedlova beat a top-20 player for only the third time in her career when she defeated fourth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (6). Schmiedlova will next meet Kristina Mladenovic, who beat 14th-seeded Madison Keys of the United States 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

Ana Ivanovic advanced with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Madison Brengle. The ninth-seeded Ivanovic has only dropped seven games in two matches.

Also, Belinda Bencic of Switzerland retired from her match against Camila Giorgi of Italy with a left leg injury. Bencic, who was coming off a loss to Agnieszka Radwanska in the Tokyo Pan Pacific final on Sunday, retired after dropping the first set 6-2.

Victoria Azarenka also limped off and retired after she was broken in the second set by Johanna Konta and was trailing 6-4, 1-0 in her third round match. AP

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIPS

For the first time in many years I am teaching an undergraduate university course. Surprisingly, I am enjoying this teaching - I am not known for my patience, which is essential in undergraduate teaching. It is also the first time I have worked with the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) and I have found the students to be interested and engaged. And while I have previously taught project management, it is a first for me to teach Project Management for New Hotel Openings.

In my research for the course I was very surprised to learn that project management is not covered in most Hotel Management degrees around the world. Nor is new hotel openings, even though many, many new hotels will open in Asia over the coming 20-plus years, and it can be a very good career path for fresh Hotel Management graduates.

Most Hotel Management degrees include internships, which are a great way for students to learn about the industry that they will work in after graduation, and get practical experience before graduation. Personally, I think that internships should be an integral part of most university undergraduate degrees. It is perverse that the international undergraduate students (from China and elsewhere) who are studying in Macau are not permitted by the local labour laws to do their internships here. This is something that must be changed.

The Macau and central Chinese governments are always promoting local industry diversification, and I along with many others fully agree with this policy. To me, hotel management and especially new hotel openings, is a field of expertise that is fundamental to Macau's development and is something that is greatly needed throughout the region and so is something that can become an important industry diversification for Macau. Similarly, there is also great need for expanding tertiary education in the region and this can also become a major "export" industry for Macau, like it is in Australia, the USA and Europe.

However, unlike Macau, most places trying to promote international tertiary education permit students to work locally while they are studying. I and many others firmly believe that work experience is an essential part of university learning. It also allows international students to reduce their tuition and local living costs while they are studying. Finally, it is also good for the local community by expanding the local labour pool, and students spend any income they receive locally.

It is totally incorrect to say that international students take away jobs from locals. International students are only here for a limited time, and internships and related industry work are not full-time employment. Moreover, in many cases students take positions that cannot be filled with local labour.

Now we have the very stupid situation where Chinese students studying Hotel Management in Macau are now arranging to do their internships in China (or elsewhere) because they are not permitted to do them in Macau hotels, which we all know suffer from chronic labour shortages.

To diversify its economy, Macau should be doing all that it can to promote international tertiary education and the development of the hotel industry. This goal can be easily achieved by changing local labour laws to permit international students to work in Macau while they are studying, similar to the rules in Australia and elsewhere.

THE BUZZ SECOND MADONNA SHOW ADDED TO HONG KONG LEG

A second Hong Kong concert by pop queen Madonna has been announced for Feb 18 as part of the singer's Rebel Heart Tour.

Concert organizers Live Nation Lushington (HK) added the second show after all tickets to the sole Feb 17 show were snapped up within 30 minutes of going on sale on September 25 - setting what is believed to be a record for the fastest Hong Kong concert to

sell out, the SCMP reported yesterday.

Afterwards, the pop star will perform in Macau at Melco's new property Studio City on February 20 and 21. The Rebel Heart tour includes the Billboard Hot 100 hit, 'Bitch, I'm Madonna'. The hit single features star-studded cameos by Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, and Kanye West, as well as appearances by Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry, and Rita Ora.

BALANCING ACT

Media rights group says EU is too soft on Hungary



From left, EU correspondent for the Committee to Protect Journalists, Jean-Paul Marthoz, Advocacy Director for the CPJ, Courtney Radsch, Board member and former chairperson for the CPJ, Kati Marton and Central Asia Program Coordinator for the CPJ, Nina Ognianova address a media conference in Brussels

Raf Casert, Brussels

AN international press freedom group says the European Union has been too lenient in its treatment of media abuses in Hungary and accuses it of economic bias in defending the rights of journalists.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said in yesterday's report "Balancing Act" that the 28-nation bloc was struggling to match its lofty human rights standards with its day-to-day actions in protecting journalists around the world.

"There are significant challenges that undermine press freedom and new threats are emerging," the

report concluded.

There was no immediate response from the Hungarian government.

Hungary has come under intense scrutiny since Prime Minister Viktor Orban came to power and professed he wanted to turn Hungary into an "illiberal state" like Russia and China, where press freedoms are also under intense pressure.

Even though EU institutions including its legislature have criticized Orban, firm action has yet to be pushed through.

"By not holding member states to account, the EU has failed to forcefully and consistently defend press freedom," the CPJ said.

Under Orban, "the state

media have been turned into pro-government mouthpieces, state advertising has been used to reward friends and punish dissenters, independent journalists have been marginalized, and limits have been imposed on its Freedom of Information Act law," the report said.

There also have been incidents during the migrant crisis in Hungary earlier this month. The Associated Press has protested the brief detention of one of its journalists by police as he covered migrants crossing the border, saying he was forced to delete footage that included images of a police dog knocking down a refugee. Hungary has disputed the account.

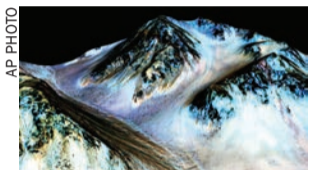
Though the member nations still control much decision-making on press freedom, the CPJ said the EU should do more by enforcing rules on public broadcasting, the digital agenda and rights issues. And it said the EU should be more even-handed in criticizing outside nations.

"The EU is inconsistent," the report said. "This approach allows for situations where a country such as Burundi, with little strategic value, can be more severely reprimanded for its actions than China." AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	140-170 Bad
Ambient	115-145 Bad

WORLD BRIEFS

US-CHINA The multitudes of Chinese students attending American universities are approaching college as less of a life experience and more as a transaction, educators worry, leading to measures to help them integrate - including broadcasting football games in Mandarin. More on p11



SPACE Mars appears to have flowing rivulets of water, at least in the summer, scientists reported in a finding that boosts the odds of life on the red planet. "Mars is not the dry, arid planet that we thought of in the past," said yesterday Jim Green, director of planetary science for NASA.

SYRIA A dedicated manhunt by the CIA, the National Security Agency and the military's Joint Special Operations Command has been methodically finding and killing senior militants in Syria and Iraq, in one of the few clear success stories of the U.S. military campaign in those countries.



HUNGARY The government is consulting with Volkswagen unit Audi and with Mercedes Benz over the potential impact on their local factories from the VW emissions-rigging scandal. Economy Minister Mihaly Varga says about 2 million of the engines suspected of being manipulated by VW to cheat environmental standards were made in Hungary by the Audi affiliate

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Mid-Autumn's quiz. People attend a traditional puzzling game at the Lou Lim leoc garden-park to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival.



USA A day before the only woman on Georgia's death row is set to be executed, the state Board of Pardons and Paroles scheduled a new clemency hearing in her case. Kelly Renee Gissendaner, 47, is set to die by injection of pentobarbital at 7 p.m. (2300 GMT) Tuesday at the state prison in Jackson.

PERU Clashes between police and local residents protesting construction of the USD7.4 billion Las Bambas copper mine project has left two people dead and 18 injured in Peru's southern Andes.