



LAWMAKER WANTS MOP12,000 HANDOUT
Pereira Coutinho met yesterday with the CE and offered his suggestions for the upcoming Policy Address

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NG LAP SENG FREED ON BAIL

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CHINA WARNS US NAVY
The warning comes after a U.S. Navy warship sailed past one of China's artificial islands in the S. China Sea

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Hollywood stars show up for Studio City opening

P6,7 MDT REPORT



WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Guinness World Records has denied a Chinese city's attempt at a new mark for the biggest serving of fried rice ever cooked, saying Yangzhou violated rules by wasting 150 kg of the feast. According to a posting on the record book's Chinese microblog, organizers said 4 metric tons of cooked fried rice was distributed to five different outlets. However, local media quoted the Yangzhou tourism bureau as saying some of the rice was considered inedible and sent to a farm to feed pigs.



USA-TIBET The Liberty Medal has been presented to representatives of the Dalai Lama in recognition of his efforts to promote compassion and human rights around the world. The Tibetan spiritual leader was chosen in June to receive the award, which comes with a USD100,000 cash prize, but canceled his appearance at the Philadelphia ceremony on Monday evening for health reasons.

More on backpage

Death toll reaches 339 in quake-hit Pakistani, Afghan areas

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MUSIC

'Piano prince of Iceland' debuts in town

ICELANDIC multi-instrumentalist, Ólafur Arnalds, will mark his debut show in Macau tomorrow as part of the 29th Macau International Music Festival. Arnalds, who is sometimes referred to as the "piano prince of Iceland", mixes classical music with pop and electronic elements, and

says that he is equally inspired by classical and pop music.

"I have always been interested in classical music, but I have a broad taste in music. Sometimes I listen to pop and I'm influenced to write classical; other times it's the reverse," said Arnalds.

"We make up genres in our

heads as a way to talk about music. They are not physical. We can take them away [and once we do], it becomes easier to mix different types of music."

Ólafur Arnalds' music is considered experimental and technically minimalistic. When quizzed about the reasons for the lack of musical technicality

in his work, he said, "I didn't study piano so I don't have any technique to write or play complicated music, so I write simple music." Despite this, he said that he prefers "not knowing too much" because it means he doesn't "think too much."

"I don't recommend that people don't study music – you need to have some knowledge – but thinking too much can hinder the creative process."

According to Arnalds, the show will last "around 70 minutes" and will consist of about 15 songs. The set list will feature hits mainly from his older albums, with one or two from his latest, entitled "For Now I Am Winter". The pieces from the first of his

albums will also include vocals, which are usually absent from his largely instrumental works.

"I usually prefer music without vocals, but it was interesting to try it out. In the end we decided to treat the voice [vocals] as just another instrument

■ Arnalds will also perform at Hong Kong's Clockenflap Festival

in the orchestra."

The artist's show is now sold out, but Arnalds will perform again in the Pearl River Delta region in Hong Kong during the Clockenflap Festival on November 29. He will play there as member of the experimental techno duo Kiasmos, together with Janus Rasmussen.

Macau is the first stop on his world tour lasting until mid-December, and one of only four Greater China performances. The others will be held in Shanghai, Taipei, and Hong Kong.

He revealed that he has visited China three times before, but never Macau, stating: "I'm very curious about Macau as I've never been here before. I didn't know what to expect." After some reflection he joked, "Macau is really funny because it looks just like Europe, but it's full of Chinese people." **Staff Reporter**



Ye Dabo (left) and Chui Sai On

THE Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, met with the new Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ye Dabo, stating that the support given by the Office of the Commissioner has been an important factor in facilitating the SAR's external affairs and long-term development.

He replaces Hu Zhen-

gyue, who was appointed by the central government to the Macau post in 2011.

During Monday's meeting at the government headquarters, the CE said that the good lines of communication between the government and the office have strengthened since the establishment of the SAR 15 years ago.

CE meets with new Ministry of Foreign Affairs Commissioner

Ye was briefed on the economic situation of Macau. Chui said that the government was using the ongoing adjustment period of the city's economy to foster industry diversification and to strengthen regional cooperation.

The new Commissioner explained his action plan for the future, which includes building up the city's external relations through inviting foreign leaders to Macau, and sending the SAR's own senior officials abroad. He also indicated that he

intends to assist Macau in joining international organizations and hosting more international conferences, in order to enhance the territory's profile.

Ye said that the Office of the Commissioner would strengthen its contributions to the transformation of Macau into a world center for tourism and leisure, and develop the commercial and trade service platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries – known as the "Centre and Platform" strategy.

In addition he reaffirmed Macau's role in the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative.

Ye Dabo was appointed the new Commissioner on October 23, following his time at the General Office of the Foreign Affairs Leading Group. He was born in 1956 in Quanzhou in Fujian province and has held a number of diplomatic and foreign affairs-oriented posts including in Taiwan and the United States. He also spent a few years in the Com-

monwealth of Dominica, Sri Lanka and the Maldives as a plenipotentiary after being promoted into the General Office of the Foreign Affairs Leading Group in 1997.

Before Ye's foreign affairs career, the mainland official worked as an English teacher in a secondary school and then moved on to work for Fujian Normal University after he graduated from the institution. In addition, Ye worked for a journalistic association as a part-time translator.

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THE Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, has pledged a wage rise for civil servants and the continuity of the cash handout for the coming year, according to Macau Civil Servants Association president José Pereira Coutinho, who talked to Chui yesterday morning.

During a one-hour meeting where the city's leader, accompanied by Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan, took suggestions from the association head for his 2016 fiscal year Policy Address that is slated for November 17. Chui has been listening to different groups in recent days during his run-up to the widely anticipated policy announcement.

Coutinho, also a lawmaker, advised him to increase the individual amount of next year's Wealth Partaking Scheme to MOP12,000, which has not yet been agreed to by Chui. Nevertheless, the CE told him that the cash handout would still be available next year. "Let's see how much it will be. After all there will be a check for sure," he said. "This is great news for Macau residents."

So far the government has yet to make up its mind on the extent of the increase in its employees' salaries, although Coutinho proposed a six percent increase for the two top officials. He told the media that he was confident that his

Lawmaker asks for MOP12,000 cash handout



Pereira Coutinho

wish would come into fruition eventually.

"Let's look forward to the amount increasing. It's been good already when there has been a hike," he said.

The lawmaker also anticipated that the upwards-adjustment in salaries would turn into a "regular system", with the amount of increase announced on the first day of every year.

Furthermore, he urged the go-

vernment to introduce another wage increase for low-level civil servants, whose salary, he claimed, hardly rivaled ordinary dishwashers'.

Chui also pledged to bring in more citizen-oriented infrastructure and facilities in the prospective reclaimed areas and also accelerate the construction of the Island Hospital, Coutinho said.

In addition, he pressured the

Chief Executive to build 80,000 more affordable housing units in the territory to address the public demand. He also appealed for tighter supervision over the gaming industry and realization of the system to punish incapable officials.

"We hope the officials can understand that the city is competing with neighboring regions," he said. "If their governance is not enhanced, the city would be

overtaken by those regions."

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the meeting with the CE, Coutinho said that the region's development model

It's very simple: we don't want to have so many casinos in Macau. We have too many of them.

PEREIRA COUTINHO

based on the gaming industry should be rethought: "It's very simple: we don't want to have so many casinos in Macau. We have too many of them. They shouldn't be allowed to have so many gaming tables."

The government released a statement later in the day stating that the authorities are "confident [that they will] retain social welfare measures and the long-term mechanisms related to citizens' livelihood."

UN CORRUPTION SCANDAL

Ng Lap Seng, John Ashe freed on bail

MACAU developer Ng Lap Seng was released on Monday after posting USD25 million of his \$50 million bail and agreeing to pay for two private security guards to be in attendance around-the-clock at his Manhattan apartment, to ensure he does not flee. Ng, 67, is at the center of a bribery case that has drawn scrutiny into the operations of the United Nations.

The former president of the United Nations General Assembly, John Ashe, who is facing tax charges in a bribery case, was also released on Monday on a USD1 million bail even though a prosecutor said it is likely that he will face additional charges.

Ashe, 61, was freed at dusk after an electronic bracelet was attached and the last of four co-signers



Ng Lap Seng, center, leaves federal court with his attorney Benjamin Brafman, right, after he was released on bail

to his bail package was approved. He declined to comment as he left the Manhattan federal court.

Earlier in the day, assistant U.S. attorney Janis Echenberg told Judge Vernon S. Broderick that prosecutors were "rather likely" to bring additional charges against Ashe, a former U.N. ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda who served for a year in the largely ceremonial role of U.N. General Assembly presi-

dent until September 2014. So far, he only faces tax counts that carry a maximum penalty of six years in prison.

The U.S. government claims Ashe, of Dobbs Ferry, New York, was a central figure in a bribery conspiracy from 2011 through to 2014 in which Macau developer Ng Lap Seng and other businesspeople paid him over \$1 million in bribes to support a multi-billion-dollar U.N. spon-

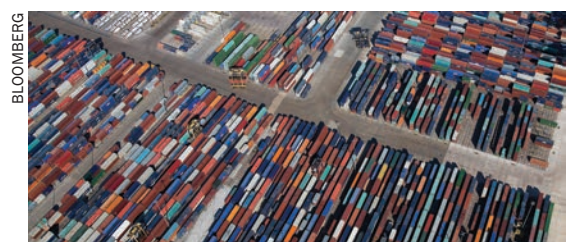
red conference center that Ng hoped to build as his legacy in Macau, where he lived.

Also charged in the case was Francis Lorenzo, a deputy U.N. ambassador from the Dominican Republic. Prosecutors said Lorenzo was paid tens of thousands of dollars a month by Ng's organizations to support the Macau project.

Lorenzo, 48, was also released on bail on Monday. Lorenzo, who has been suspended from his diplomatic post, met the conditions of a \$2 million bail package.

Lawyers for all three men have said they are fighting the charges and will be vindicated. Lawyers for Ashe and Lorenzo also say it is likely they will make immunity claims in the case. **MDT/Agencies**

Mainland-Macau trade rises 35.2pct in nine months



TRADE between the Chinese mainland and Macau increased by 35.2 percent year-on-year to USD3.56 billion during the first nine months of 2015, the Ministry of Commerce revealed yesterday.

The mainland's exports to Macau rose by 37.4 percent year-on-year to USD3.42b during the January-September period. The MSAR's exports to the mainland totaled USD140m, a decrease of 2.4 percent year-on-year, according to the ministry.

Mainland authorities approved 306 investment projects from Macau entities during the period, with the actual use of Macau capital reaching USD750m, up 75.6 percent from the same period last year.

Mainland businesses have worked on 25 contracts in Macau from January to September, earning business revenue of USD820m. **Xinhua**



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MACAUS government needs to take more "concrete actions" to support the economy amid a 16-month casino downturn, including speedier decision-making and better planned infrastructure, said Angela Leong, executive director of SJM Holdings Ltd.

"Macau is such a small place and the government wants to diversify the economy. But they only talk when they should say how they would support" the city, Leong, who's also mother to the youngest children of SJM's founder Stanley Ho, said in an interview in Macau. SJM operates the largest number of casino tables in the city.

Macau's economic growth tumbled 26.4 percent in the second quarter amid China's economic slowdown and a corruption crackdown that caused VIP gamblers to avoid the city. Beijing is expected to introduce more policies this year to support the region, according to Li Gang, director of the Chinese government's local liaison office.

SJM, founded by billionaire Ho who held a gambling monopoly in Macau for decades, owns 20 of the 35 casinos in the region and operates about a third of the more than 5,800 legal casino tables. It has been

Gov't needs to do more and act faster, Angela Leong says



Angela Leong, executive director of SJM Holdings

trying to diversify its operations by adding more non-gaming features.

While the Macau government has done a good job building up its reserves over the years of strong economic growth, "nobody expected the economy would drop so quickly," Leong said in Macau.

Macau "hasn't made its planning very well. When the economy reaches its low, you should do better on the infrastructure, transportation," she said, citing as an example delays in completing a bridge that will connect Macau with Hong Kong and the city of Zhuhai in mainland China.

"Do you know how long we have been talking about the bridge? Ten, 20 years. That's a long time," the 54-year-old Macau lawmaker said. Her company is also waiting for government approval for about six years on her plan to build a new theme park, hotels and other non-gaming facilities next to

“The gov't wants to diversify the economy. But they only talk when they should say how they would support.**”**

ANGELA LEONG

SJM's planned casino resort in Cotai.

Leong's comments follow those of Las Vegas tycoon Steve Wynn earlier this month, when he criticized the authorities' policy of limiting gambling tables and delays in informing operators of the number of tables casinos will receive. The administration fired back days later, saying casinos must fully comply with its rules. **MDT/Agencies**

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STUDIO City is the new Hollywood-inspired integrated resort in Macau, aiming to redefine the region as an international tourism destination. The Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. property that had its grand-opening yesterday is more than just a USD3.2 billion casino resort.

The Batman ride and the figure-eight-shaped 130-meter-high Ferris wheel, named the Golden Reel, are just two examples of what's on offer at this entertainment-inspired new destination resort.

Entertainment and adventure are, in fact, key words of this project that also offers a 3,700 square meter entertainment center and fun zones from world renowned Warner Bros, DC Comics, Hanna-Barbera Productions and Looney Tunes entertainment.

To complement all of this, a permanent magic show at the "House of Magic", an Ibiza-style nightclub, and, of course, the Studio City Event Center that will host live concerts, theatrical performances and sports events.

The Hollywood-themed venue is among the USD28 billion of investments the local gaming houses are expected to make in the next three years.

As for the casino, it features, as announced, 250 gaming tables, while the hotel provides 1,600 hotel rooms and suites divided into two towers, the "Star Tower" and the "Celebrity Tower", completing Studio City's jump into the new era of integrated resorts targeting families and tourists.

Studio City Opens doors aimed at



Security guards stand outside the Studio City yesterday

At a press conference held yesterday morning, the co-chairmen Lawrence Ho and James Packer explained the project and its aims, highlighting the fact that it is built with a long term perspective. "We always built thinking in the long term," said Mr Packer.

Answering to journalists' questions, Mr Ho stressed that he made sure that this project is "no imposition" but instead a

business decision, noting the opportunity to have land in Cotai that has connectivity advantages, being just next to the "new gate of Macau", the Lotus Bridge immigration point, that forms a direct connection with mainland China through Hengqin island, and also a future station-point for the Macau Light Rapid Transit (LRT). Among other transportation advantages, Lawrence

Ho also mentioned the new Pac On Ferry Terminal, which he expects will commence operations during the coming year facilitating, in conjunction with the future bridge, Macau - Hong Kong - Zhuhai with a variety of access methods.

During the presentation, Mr Ho also acknowledged that Studio City will target the mass-market, stating that "Macau's future will

be driven by the Chinese middle class". According to the CEO of Melco, the company is expecting a 20 percent return on its investment in Studio City.

At 4 p.m., the main doors leading into Studio City opened and crowds of visitors who were waiting outside poured through. Among them was Shanghai native Xu Jing, who was there with her family, and said her husband planned to visit the casino while she and her two-year-old son were more interested in checking out the Batman ride and magic show.

The stakes are high for Melco. The casino operator has yet to win authorization from the Macau government for all of the 400 gaming tables it needs at Studio City by next October in order to meet the conditions of USD1.4 billion of loans, according to Standard & Poor's Ratings. The company is asking banks to waive financial conditions for a year on the loan, people with knowledge of the matter revealed on Friday.

An adult Studio City ticket includes the 15-minute Batman ride, a ticket for the Ferris wheel, as well as entry to a magic show and costs 650 patacas, or USD81. Disneyland in Los Angeles charges \$99 for an all-day ticket for anyone over 10. While not exactly cheap, it's affordable for mainland China's mass traveler market, said Richard Huang,

Q&A LAWRENCE HO MELCO CROWN'S CEO

'We steered away from the VIP market a



ON the sidelines of the grand opening of the Hollywood-themed Studio City yesterday, the Times was one of the few media outlets that took part in an interview with Mr Lawrence Ho, co-chairman and chief executive officer of Melco Crown Entertainment Limited, to learn more about the vision behind the project and how it can redefine Macau as a truly international tourism destination.

Macau Daily Times - Melco Crown was the last of the six gaming concessionaries to enter the market, about five years behind the rest. Nevertheless, it is taking the lead in this new phase of Cotai development. Is that a way of making up for

This is a very different property unlike anything in the world so it is an experiment, but we were willing to try it.

time lost in the early stages?

Lawrence Ho - I think it just shows that our company, our board of directors, James Packer and myself have confidence in the Macau

market. We have done everything differently, every time the government asked for diversification we did not just take that and say 'I'm just going to give you some crappy lazy river and a swimming pool and say it is diversification.' We do not do that. We really take it to the heart and say, 'we are going to follow that'. And to be honest I really enjoy doing things like that because it is fun! And although I am not a gambler I like the fun stuff. The casino and the revenue helps us to facilitate building up these things. As I have said many times before, "House of Dancing Water" will never make any money, it is just not going to pay back the investment of 250 million dollars and wi-

thout the casino it would never be there. But at the same time, our heart is really in supporting the government. We also believe that what we do is at a point of differentiation because a casino is a homogeneous product, every casino is the same, what we are really trying to sell is the experience and the emotion.

MDT - Is Studio City the first sample of what the future of entertainment will be like in Macau?

LH - We sure hope so! This is a very different property unlike anything in the world so it is an experiment, but we were willing to try it and our board [of directors] was very supportive about the overall direction [we are heading in].

MDT - We have already heard that you will target the "mass market" in every sense with this new property. We know what the current situation is but will this property be able to adjust itself for the future, whatever that will be?

LH - We always build for the future! If you look at City of Dreams it has been open for six years and in that case we really built for the future, unlike some of our competitors that just "replicate something from Las Vegas or a part of the world and build it here". The Chinese consumers nowadays have been to see the "real thing"; they have been to Paris, they have been to London, they have been to New York. Why would they want to come to

reviving Macau

DiCaprio finds joy in local project with De Niro, Scorsese



who tracks casino stocks for Nomura Holdings.

Even with China's recent slowdown, Macau operators are counting on consumer spending, which has outpaced economic growth, to spur demand for entertainment and leisure, especially with family holidays.

Chinese consumers are more willing to spend extra on accommodation when they are traveling with children, a survey by Mintel Group Ltd. showed. They also look for Mandarin-speaking tour guides, public information in a familiar language, and proximity to home because of limited holiday leave.

Macau "meets most demands of Chinese tourists," said Linda Li, a Mintel travel analyst, who says the city will do much better if there are sufficient activities and attractions to keep visitors longer than three days.

On average, tourists stay a length of 1.4 days in Macau. Lengthier stays will depend on accommodation costs, said Aaron Fischer, head of consumer and gaming research with CLSA in Hong Kong. Nightly tariffs should ideally be HKD1,000 to HKD1,500 (\$130- \$195), instead of the HKD3,000 that some Macau hotels charge, he said. **MDT/Agencies**

STUDIO City's opening occurred yesterday evening, in the new property's 5,000-seat multipurpose Event Center.

A premier of the Studio City-inspired short movie "The Audition," that led to the presence of the actors Leonardo Di Caprio and Robert De Niro as well as the director Martin Scorsese, took place at the first event held at the resort.

After the 15-minute movie, the celebration program continued with a live concert featuring names such as Mariah Carey, Hong Kong's star singer Aaron Kwok and the South Korean girl-band Sistar that delighted a special audience of VIP guests.

Earlier in the morning, a press presentation of the movie was held, where Leonardo DiCaprio said: "For me the great joy was finally getting to be on set with both of these guys."

"The Audition" co-star Robert De Niro and director Martin Scorsese also attended the press briefing. "To be able to have scenes with Bob and being directed by Marty is a small slice of heaven for me as an actor," DiCaprio expressed. He described the two as his "fathers in the world of cinema," DiCaprio added.

Scorsese described the film as "reality-based with some humor." The plot follows DiCaprio and De Niro who are invited to Macau by Scorsese to compete for the same part in a movie. Brad Pitt also appears in the film but did not attend the opening.

Scorsese has directed multiple films with DiCaprio and De Niro, but "The Audition" marks the first time the three, along with Pitt, have collaborated.

Producer Brett Ratner said he hoped that the short could be turned into a feature film. "It's just a teaser. We come to Macau, Marty



From left, Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro and Scorsese

comes here, lives at the hotel for three months, six months and we make a big event movie," he said. **MDT/Agencies**

MACAU PLAYS A PART IN SCORSESE'S MOVIE

DIRECTOR MARTIN Scorsese is preparing a movie portraying 17th century Macau. The movie titled "Silence", expected to premiere in 2016, tells the story of two Jesuit priests who face violence and persecution when they travel to Japan to locate their mentor and to spread the gospel of Christianity. Part of the movie portrays Macau as it was in the seventeenth century and is based on the novel by the Japanese writer Shusaku Endohas. The director mentioned that it "was a good opportunity to study the history of the region and the Portuguese presence here." Mr Scorsese added that when researching for the movie he was surprised by the influence that the Portuguese and Spanish had in this area of the world. A makeshift Macau was built in a studio in Taiwan, where the Macau scenes were shot.

long time ago'

Macau to see the "fake thing", it's degrading and it's insulting to Chinese people to do what some of our competitors do. We want to bring the "World's First"; world's first Batman ride, the world's tallest figure eight ferris wheel. Above all, we want to respect our customers, we want to say, 'we know you have travelled the world but look: this is really cool and you have never seen it anywhere else'. That is what we want; to put Macau as a world leader in entertainment.

And people will adjust to it, the same way they did when we first built City of Dreams in a minimalistic, contemporary and luxurious style. People around us kept saying, 'they like gold and they like white marble' but now we are

the leader in 'premium mass', the most sophisticated level of customer. They did not just like it, they gradually learned to

Our customers are climbing the consumption and sophistication ladder and we are there to help them.

love it and that is part of our job as well. Our customers are climbing the consumption and sophistication ladder and we are there to help them.

MDT – Is Studio City going to be Cotai's 'main attraction'?

LH – I think so. This is so new and so unique in the fact that there are more at-

tractions here than there are at probably all of the other integrated resorts combined, and we deliberately did something totally dif-

ferent from City of Dreams because I like to do things differently each time. City of Dreams is about land-based entertainment and live shows, here [at Studio City] it is all about interactive entertainment that people can enjoy with their family.

MDT – Studio City asked the government for 400 gaming ta-



bles. You only got 250 and all mass-market. What is your feeling about that?

LH – We steered away from the VIP market a long time ago. I think we are the second least reliant on VIP customers out of the six con-

cessionaires. The VIP contribution to our overall group, even before Studio City, was less than 10% so that is not that important to us at the moment. We all understand table caps and annual growth, so we understand why the go-

vernment did that. Even if we had got the 400 tables, the percentage of VIP would be minimal so we are where we are and we are happy with it. Ultimately we have been the biggest supporter of the "mass business". **RM**

India's top airline starts IPO bidding



IndiGo is the only Indian airline to have made a profit in each of the past seven years

THE parent company of India's leading airline, IndiGo, began taking orders for what could become the nation's biggest initial public offering in almost three years.

InterGlobe Aviation Ltd. and existing stakeholders are offering shares at 700 rupees to 765 rupees each, seeking to raise as much as 30.01 billion rupees (USD462 million), according to terms for the deal obtained yesterday by Bloomberg News. The IPO, the first by an Indian airline since 2006, will allow IndiGo to build its fleet in one of the world's fastest growing aviation markets.

"Indigo's market leadership position, cost competitiveness and low-cost carrier business model, along with India's aviation potential, make IndiGo one of the consistent performers" in the country's airline industry, Anand Rathi Share & Stock

Brokers Ltd. wrote in a Monday research note. The Mumbai-based brokerage recommended its clients subscribe for shares in the IPO.

The sale comes as Indian stocks have gained almost 10 percent since early September. It will help gauge investor sentiment toward the world's fastest growing major economy as Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitches India as a safe and lucrative destination for foreign money.

If shares sell at the top end of the proposed range, IndiGo would trade at 21.3 times trailing earnings, compared with 33.72 times for Spring Airlines Co. and 68.94 times for Juneyao Airlines Co., low-cost carriers that listed in China earlier this year. Jet Airways India Ltd. and SpiceJet Ltd., the other two listed Indian carriers, are loss-making.

At the top of the range, the IPO would value IndiGo at about 275 billion rupees, making it the thir-

d-largest budget carrier in the Asia-Pacific region, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. IndiGo is the only Indian airline to have made a profit in each of the past seven years.

As of 1 p.m. local time, 33 percent of the total shares on offer were subscribed, with bidding to continue until tomorrow. Institutional investors had bid for 1.22 times the shares reserved for them.

Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Morgan Stanley are leading the offering. Barclays Plc, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. and UBS Group AG also are working on the IPO.

IndiGo flies to 34 cities in India and five overseas. It had a 37 percent share of domestic air traffic during the first nine months of the year, according to regulatory data, outpacing Jet Airways with 23 percent and state-run Air India Ltd., which had a 17 percent share. **Bloomberg**

Alibaba surging sales shake off slowing Chinese economy

Lulu Yilun Chen

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. defied the slowdown in China's economy with sales that climbed by almost a third as the online emporium captured more of the nation's shift to mobile shopping. Shares surged.

Sales jumped 32 percent to 22.2 billion yuan (USD3.5 billion) in the three months ended September, the company said yesterday, beating analyst estimates. Shares rose as much as 12 percent in pre-market trading as the stock heads for its best month since last year's initial public offering.

Alibaba has forged partnerships with retailers including electronics chain Suning Commerce Group Co. and offered new cloud-based services for merchants to stoke transaction growth and limit the impact of an economy heading for its slowest growth in 25 years. Increased promotions on Alibaba's Tmall.com and Taobao Marketplace are driving sales ahead of next month's Singles' Day, the country's biggest shopping event.

"The results were surpris-

ing because people were expecting weak performance due to an overall slowdown in China's economy," said Li Yujie, an analyst at RHB Research Institute Sdn in Hong Kong. "It was a beat because people's expectations were pretty low."

Net income surged to 22.7 billion yuan after recognizing an 18.6 billion-yuan gain on its stake in Alibaba Health Information Technology Ltd.

Even as China's economic growth drops to a level not seen since the late 1970s, billionaire Chairman Jack Ma is pushing ahead with acquisitions. The company has participated in almost \$15 billion of deals announced this year, about triple the number for all of 2014, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The company this month offered \$4.6 billion for the rest of Youku Tudou Inc. to stream more video content to Chinese Internet users through control of the YouTube-like site. Buying Youku is part of Alibaba's plans to reach more of the 594 million Chinese who access the Internet from mobile devices and are hungry for online content. **Bloomberg**



corporate bits

2,000 PARTICIPANTS TO JOIN SANDS CHINA ECO TRAILHIKER THIS SATURDAY



Sands China Macau Eco TrailHiker 2015 will take place this Saturday, October 31, at Cotai Expo Hall F at The Venetian Macao. 2,000 participants are enrolled and more than 200 volunteers will assist at the start/finish line, water stations as well as check points.

Sands China Macau Eco TrailHiker 2015 is a large-scale team-hiking challenge event. Organized by Macau TrailHiker Ltd., the event has been title-sponsored by Sands China Ltd. for five years and is supported by the Macau Sport Development Board (MSDB) and the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO). Participants are required to build up team spirit and challenge themselves in two race categories: a 30km Corporate Challenge and a 10km Family Fun Course.

All net entry fees will be donated to the Macau Special Olympics and the Macau Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP WITH 'MACAO SHOPPING BREAK'



To celebrate the upcoming festive season, Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao has launched a special hotel package – the Macao Shopping Break. From Oct. 26 to Feb. 7, 2016 guests will be able to book rooms for stays during the same period at The Venetian Macao; Conrad Macao, Cotai Central; Holiday Inn Macao Cotai Central and Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central with discounted savings pa-

ckages available.

Visitors can also enjoy discounts with the "Shop & Dine Specials" discount booklet redeemable at over 125 shops and outlets within Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao. In addition, those who book rooms via the Macao Shopping Break will automatically be entered into a lucky draw for a chance to win prizes. One winner will be drawn every two weeks in bi-weekly draws from Nov. 12, 2015 to Feb. 11, 2016, offering seven prizes including suite accommodation. Three winners will be drawn in a grand draw on Feb. 15, 2016, with prizes including suite stays and luxury travel amenities from DFS's T-Galleria.

MGM CHINA LAUNCHES LOCAL TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR SECOND YEAR



Following the success of last year's inaugural launch of two career development programs, the Management Associate Program (MAP) and Pride Program, MGM Macau jumpstarted the second year of both schemes earlier this month.

The programs are designed to offer high-potential local talents intensive career development training at MGM Ma-

cau, paired with cross-training experience at MGM Resorts International's properties in Las Vegas to give them the opportunity to learn best-in-class operations practices in an international environment. The MAP Program focuses on developing new graduates while the Pride Program aims to pave the way for career advancement of existing employees.

Top graft buster turns sights on financial industry



CHINA'S top graft buster is turning its sights on the financial industry with plans to dig into organizations ranging from the world's biggest bank to the regulator overseeing a volatile stock market.

The People's Bank of China, the nation's five biggest lenders, sovereign-wealth fund China Investment Corp. and the banking, securities and insurance regulators are among 31 entities that will be inspected for possible misconduct or corruption.

The Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection is set to carry out its first broad checks on the finance industry since President Xi Jinping became the party's head in November 2012. Announced in a statement on Friday, the inquiries will add to post-rout probes that have snared executives from Citic Securities Co. and a senior official at the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

"It's happening at a sensitive time," said Zhu Lijia, a professor of public policy at the Chinese Academy of Governance, a government-linked institute, citing the imminent release of China's next five-year plan for the economy.

"A corrupted financial system could threaten the nation's economic security, which will be a growing concern as the downward pressure on the Chinese

economy intensifies," said Zhu. "The central leadership must have learned the problems from the market rout and realized it's important to clean up the system before further reforms."

Under Xi, corruption investigations have brought down top generals, a former top presidential aide, China's retired security chief and senior executives from powerful state-owned enterprises.

Citic Group Corp., the conglomerate that is the parent of China's largest brokerage, China Development Bank and the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges are also on the list. The banks to face checks include Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., the world's largest by assets.

Zhang Yujun, an assistant chairman at the stock regulator, is under investigation on suspicion of "severe disciplinary violations," the Communist Party's disciplinary committee said Sept. 16, using language that often refers to corruption probes. **Bloomberg**

31

The number of entities to be inspected for possible corruption

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Rotary Blood Donation Day



Date
November 22, 2015 (Sunday)

Event Time
11:00 am. - 16:30 pm

Ceremony Time
12:30 pm.

Venue
Leisure Area of Edf. Lok Yeong Fa Yuen

Organizers:
Rotary Club of Macau
Rotary Club of Hou Kuong
Rotary Club of Macau Central
Rotary Club of Guia
Rotary Club of Macau Islands
Rotary Club of Amizade, Macau
Co-Organizer:
Macao Blood Transfusion Centre

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AP PHOTO



In this April 8 2008 file photo, Chinese navy personnel get ready for the U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer USS Lassen to dock at the Shanghai International Passenger Quay

SOUTH CHINA SEA SOVEREIGNTY

Beijing warns US Navy after ship sails by artificial island

Christopher Bodeen and Robert Burns, Beijing

A U.S. Navy warship sailed past one of China's artificial islands in the South China Sea yesterday, in a challenge to Chinese sovereignty claims that drew an angry protest from Beijing, which said the move damaged U.S.-China relations and regional peace.

China's Foreign Ministry said authorities monitored and warned the USS Lassen as it entered what China claims as a 21-kilometer territorial limit around Subi Reef in the Spratly Islands archipelago, a group of reefs, islets, and atolls where the Philippines has competing claims.

"The actions of the U.S. warship have threatened China's sovereignty and security interests, jeopardized the safety of personnel and facilities on the reefs, and damaged regional peace and stability," the ministry said on its website.

■ The USS Lassen sailed past one of China's artificial islands in the South China Sea in a challenge to Chinese sovereignty claims

"The Chinese side expresses its strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition," the statement said.

The sail-past fits a U.S. policy of pushing back against China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea. U.S. ally the Philippines welcomed the move as a way of helping maintain "a balance of power."

Since 2013, China has accelerated the creation of new outposts by piling sand atop reefs and atolls then adding buildings, ports and airstrips big enough to handle bombers and fighter jets — activities seen as an attempt to change the territorial status quo by changing the geography.

Navy officials had said the sail-past was necessary to assert the U.S. position that China's manmade islands cannot be considered sovereign territory with the right to surrounding territorial waters.

International law permits military vessels the right of "innocent passage" in transiting other country's seas without notification. China's Foreign Ministry, though, labeled the ship's actions as illegal.

The U.S. says it doesn't take a position on sovereignty over the South China Sea but insists on freedom of navigation and overflight. About 30 percent of global trade passes through the South China Sea, which also has rich fishing grounds

and a potential wealth of undersea mineral deposits.

China says it respects the right of navigation but has never specified the exact legal status of its maritime claims. China says virtually all of the South China Sea belongs to it, while Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam claim either parts or all of it.

Beijing's response closely mirrored its actions in May when a navy dispatcher warned off a U.S. Navy P8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft as it flew over Fiery Cross Reef, where China has conducted extensive reclamation work.

A Defense Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the Lassen's movements, said the patrol was completed without incident. A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Cmdr. Bill Urban, declined to comment.

Speaking to foreign correspondents in Manila, Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said he supported the U.S. naval maneuvers as an asser-

tion of freedom of navigation and as a means to balance power in the region.

"I think expressing support for established norms of international behavior should not be a negative for a country," he said. "I think everybody would welcome a balance of power anywhere in the world."

Without identifying China by name, he said "one regional power" has been making "controversial pronouncements" that must not be left unchallenged.

The Obama administration has long said it will exercise a right to freedom of navigation in any international waters.

"Make no mistake, the United States will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows, as we do around the world, and the South China Sea is not and will not be an exception," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said earlier this month.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said China adhered to international law regarding freedom of navigation and flight, but "resolutely opposes the damaging of China's sovereignty and security interests in the name of free navigation and flight."

"China will firmly deal with provocations from other countries," the statement said, adding that China would continue to monitor the air and sea and take further action when necessary.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kong said such actions by the U.S. might end up spurring further advances in China's defense capabilities.

"If any country wishes to disrupt or impede China's reasonable, justifiable and lawful activities on our own territories by playing some little tricks, I would advise these countries to cast off this fantasy," Lu said.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said Monday the U.S. would not be required to consult with other nations if it decided to conduct freedom of navigation operations in international waters.

"The whole point of freedom of navigation in international waters is that it's international waters. You don't need to consult with anybody," Kirby said.

The South China Sea has become an increasingly sore point in relations with the United States, even as President Barack Obama and China's President Xi Jinping have sought to deepen cooperation in other areas.

Despite those tensions, exchanges between the two militaries have continued to expand, with a U.S. Navy delegation paying visits last week to China's sole aircraft carrier and a submarine warfare academy. **AP**

HINDU KUSH EARTHQUAKE

Death toll reaches 339 in quake-hit Pakistani, Afghan areas

Riaz Khan and Rahim Faiez,
Peshawar

RESCUERS were struggling to reach quake-stricken regions in Pakistan and Afghanistan yesterday as officials said the combined death toll from the previous day's earthquake rose to 339.

According to Afghan and Pakistani officials, 258 people died in Pakistan and 78 in Afghanistan in the magnitude-7.5 quake, which was centered deep beneath the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan's sparsely populated Badakhshan province that borders Pakistan, Tajikistan and China. Three people died on the Indian side of the disputed region of Kashmir.

Afghan authorities were scrambling to access the hardest-hit areas near the epicenter, located 73 kilometers south of Fayzabad, the capital of Badakhshan province. Teams on foot were sent to the most remote regions to assess damage and casualties, but air relief drops were not expected to begin for some days.

In Pakistan, the Swat Valley and areas around Dir, Malakand and Shangla towns in the mountains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province were also hard-hit. Officials said 202 of the dead were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Pakistani town closest to the epicenter is Chitral, while on the Afghan side it is the Jurm district of Badakhshan.

More than 2,000 people were injured in Monday's temblor, which also damaged more than 4,000 homes in Pakistan, officials said.

In Afghanistan, Qameruddin Sediqi, an adviser to the public health minister confirmed 78 dead and 466 wounded, based on numbers reported by hospitals across the country.

"We believe the exact numbers are much higher because not all people bring the bodies to the hospitals so there are many that are not being counted. And there are still areas we don't have access to so we are not aware of the situation there," he said.

Badakhshan Gov. Shah Waliullah Adeeb said more than 1,500 houses there were either destroyed or partially destroyed.

The province's casualty figures of 11 dead and 25 injured "will rise by the end of the day,



Afghan women walk towards a damaged house following an earthquake, in Kabul

once the survey teams get to the remote areas and villages," Adeeb said.

Helicopters were needed to reach the most remote villages, many inaccessible by road at the best of times, he added. Now, landslides and falling rocks have blocked the few existing roads. Food and other essentials were ready to go, he said, but "getting there is not easy."

■ 258 people died in Pakistan and 78 in Afghanistan in the magnitude-7.5 quake

Badakhshan is one of the poorest regions of Afghanistan, despite vast mineral deposits. It is often hit by earthquakes, but casualty figures are usually low because it is so sparsely populated, with fewer than 1 million people spread across its vast mountains and valleys. It also suffers from floods, snowstorms and mudslides.

In Baghlan, southwest of Badakhshan, Jawed Bahsar, spokesman for the provincial police chief reported at least three dead and 31 wounded.

More than 350 houses had been destroyed or damaged. He too said the number was expected to rise as officials and relief workers reached remote districts.

Nangarhar province on the eastern border with Pakistan was particularly hard hit, despite its distance from the epicenter. Enamullah Maikheil, spokesman for the Nangarhar public health hospital, said at least 28 people died and 141 were wounded. More than 1,000 homes were destroyed and many livestock killed.

In Pakistan, casualties and damage were also being assessed, said Ahmad Kamal, the spokesman for Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority. Bajur tribal region bordering Afghanistan was also affected by the quake, with dozens of homes damaged in other tribal regions.

Helicopters and military planes were transporting relief supplies and military engineers were working on restoring communication lines disrupted by landslides, said Lt. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa, the army spokesman. The landslides were also hampering rescue attempts in some areas, and roads were being cleared to ease access.

A magnitude-7.6 quake hit Pakistan on Oct. 8, 2005, killing more than 80,000 people and leaving more than 3 million homeless, most of

them in the northwest of the country and in the divided region of Kashmir.

That quake was much shallower than Monday's — 10 kilometers below the surface, compared to the depth of 213 kilometers on Monday — and thus caused greater damage, said Mohammad Hanif, an official at the Meteorological Department.

In the Swat Valley town of Mingora, resident Jamal Ali Shah said the earthquake "was like the Day of Judgment." He sobbed as he sat outside his damaged home with his belongings around him, fearing the building would collapse in an aftershock.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited the earthquake-hit town of Shangla in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where at least 49 people were killed and 80 were injured in the earthquake.

He said his government would soon announce a relief package to help quake victims.

Monday's quake shook buildings in the capital, Islamabad, and cities elsewhere in Pakistan and Afghanistan for up to 45 seconds in the early afternoon, creating cracks in walls and causing blackouts.

In Afghanistan's Takhar province, 12 students at a girls' school were killed in a stampede as they fled a shaking building.

Sonatullah Taimor, a spokesman for the governor of Takhar province, said so far authorities had recorded 14 people dead there — including the schoolgirls. More than 50 were injured and 200 houses destroyed. He said food, blankets and tents were in short supply, though people had been warned to sleep outside — in near-freezing temperatures — in case of aftershocks. **AP**

CHINA TO OFFER RELIEF AID TO QUAKE-HIT AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN

THE CHINESE government will offer disaster relief to quake-hit Afghanistan and Pakistan based on their needs and China's Red Cross will provide emergency assistance in cash to the two countries, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday. "The Chinese govern-

ment will provide disaster relief to Afghanistan and Pakistan according to the conditions and their needs. China's Red Cross will also provide emergency assistance in cash to the two countries," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said at a daily press briefing.

INDONESIA

Jokowi tells Obama Jakarta to join Asia trade pact

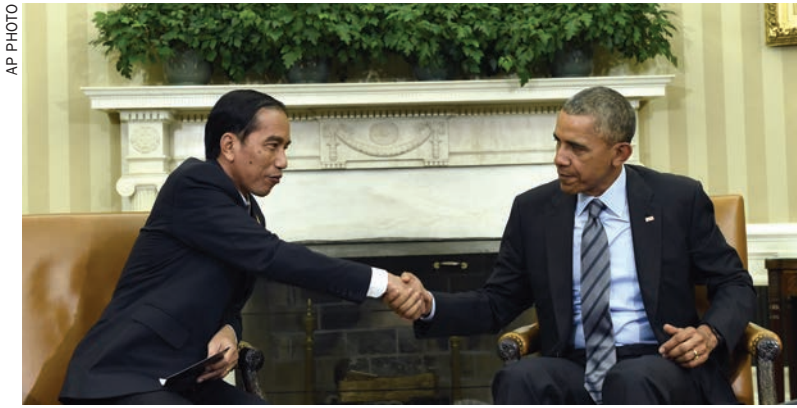
Matthew Pennington, Washington

INDONESIA'S leader looked to cement his nation's growing ties with the United States, declaring after a meeting Monday with President Barack Obama that Southeast Asia's largest economy intended to join a sweeping U.S.-backed Pacific Rim trade deal.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo is making his first Washington visit since winning power a year ago, and is keen to drum up American investment in a flagging economy. U.S. companies complain that economic protectionism makes it difficult to do business there.

"Indonesia intends to join the TPP," Widodo said in the Oval Office, referring to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He provided no other details, but described the Indonesian economy as open.

Obama said Widodo was leading Indonesia in the "right



President Barack Obama shakes hands with Indonesian President Joko Widodo during their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington

direction." "We want to be a partner with you," he said.

Indonesia had previously expressed interest in joining TPP but this is the strongest indication yet that it is serious about joining the pact, which the U.S. has negotiated with 11 other nations. Once the pact is ratified and takes effect — a process that could take a couple of years — it would cut tariffs and

streamline trade rules among nations that account for 40 percent of global GDP.

It could prove a tough sell in Indonesia, where Widodo faces stiff opposition to liberalizing the economy. According to the World Bank's 2015 Ease of Doing Business rankings, Indonesia was 172nd out of 189 economies in the area of contract enforcement.

Speaking at a separate fo-

rum Monday, U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman said the U.S. has had "serious concerns" about investment barriers in Indonesia. He did not specifically address the prospect of Indonesia joining TPP, but said "other countries who are able and willing to meet its standards, can potentially accede."

Obama and Widodo also discussed climate change and counterterrorism against groups like the Islamic State. Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-majority nation and largely moderate.

Another agenda item was ma-

ritime security cooperation, Obama said, alluding to tensions in the South China Sea. In a joint statement, the two presidents called for all parties to refrain from actions that raise tensions, but did not mention China by name.

Indonesia balances its relations between the U.S. and China — which is an even more important source of trade and investment than America. Indonesia is not a claimant in the South China Sea, but is concerned about China's expansive maritime claims that may infringe on the territorial waters of the Natuna islands that is part of the Indonesian archipelago.

Widodo has put little focus on foreign relations since he won election last year on a wave of popular support. His visit, which began Sunday, is a chance to build a rapport with Obama, who spent part of his childhood in Indonesia.

But the Indonesian leader was being shadowed by events at home: raging forest fires that have spread a thick, smoky haze over Indonesia as well as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Officials said Widodo would be cutting short his U.S. visit to deal with the forest fire crisis and would be flying home yesterday afternoon. AP

Indonesia intends to join the TPP.

JOKO WIDODO

AD



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Edith M. Lederer, New York

MIGRANT CRISIS

Aid agency head: More Syrian refugees in Istanbul than Europe

NEARLY 60 percent of refugees are living in cities today and there are currently more Syrian refugees in Istanbul than in all the rest of Europe, the head of the International Rescue Committee said Monday.

David Miliband told The Associated Press in an interview Monday that “the iconic image” of a refugee being someone in a camp has changed.

First, he said so many people are fleeing conflict and chaos that there’s no room for them in camps. Equally important, he said, is that most people don’t want to be in refugee camps and when they’re displaced for a long time want to earn a living — even if that means working in the black market.

Miliband gave the example of Istanbul, without citing any figures. The International Rescue Committee said there are currently more Syrian refugees in Istanbul than the 366,000 Syrian refugees it estimates are in the rest of Europe.

Currently, there are 20 million refugees in the world — including 2 million in Turkey — and 40 million people uprooted and displaced in their own countries, which Miliband called “a grisly world record.”

The former British foreign minister said that as president of a leading humanitarian organization helping refugees it’s important to ask whether these numbers are “a trend or a blip.”

“Everything says to me it’s a trend, not least because the global situation is of more people on the move,” Miliband said,



A Syrian refugee child sleeps on his father's arms while waiting at a resting point to board a bus, after arriving on a dinghy from the Turkish coast to the northeastern Greek island of Lesbos

pointing to the additional 200 million people seeking “an economic better life as migrants or immigrants.”

Looking at the roots of what he calls the current “refugee and migration crisis,” Miliband first cited “the tumultuous convulsions inside significant parts of the Islamic world.”

He also pointed to the 30 to 40 nations that can’t meet the basic needs of their citizens and

contain ethnic, political and religious differences among their people, and “an international political system weaker and more divided than at any time since the end of the Cold War — and arguably weaker than during the Cold War itself.”

Francois Crepeau, the U.N. special investigator on migrant rights, said last Friday that two million refugees from the Middle East should be re-

settled in Europe over five years, which means 400,000 per year, divided by either the 28 European countries or the 32 countries in the global north.

Miliband said there’s no question that a continent with 500 million people can cope with 400,000 refugees a year, “but it has to be done in a competent way.”

The IRC recently interviewed more than 800 families in and

SLOVENIA MULLS ERECTING BORDER FENCE

SLOVENIA HAS warned it will tighten border entry for migrants if an EU plan to stem their flow across the Balkans fails. Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec said late Monday that the new measures would include the closure of a number of border check points with Croatia if it keeps on sending large number of migrants to the frontier. EU and Balkan leaders agreed at a weekend summit to stem the massive migrant flow by introducing tighter border controls. Since Oct. 16, when the refugee flow was rerouted to Slovenia after Hungary sealed off its border with Croatia, around 84,000 people have crossed into Slovenia. The small Alpine nation has been struggling to cope with the influx. It is also mulling erecting a border fence.

around Izmir, Turkey, 80 percent of them from the war-torn countries of Syria and Iraq, and others fleeing conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It said most were refugees, not economic migrants, hoping to go to Europe. **AP**

USA

House Republican leaders reach budget deal with White House

Andrew Taylor and Erica Werner, Washington

HOUSE Republican leaders struck a budget deal made with the White House aimed at averting a government shutdown and forestalling a debt crisis.

The deal would take budget showdowns and government shutdown fights off the table until after the 2016 presidential election, a potential boon to Republican candidates who might otherwise face uncomfortable questions about messes in the Republican-led Congress.

Such standoffs have been a regular occurrence between Congressional Republicans and the

Obama administration, leading to a 16-day partial government shutdown in 2013 and a first-ever downgrade of the nation’s credit rating by Standard & Poor’s in 2011.

Congress must raise the federal borrowing limit by Nov. 3 or risk a first-ever default, while money to pay for government operations runs out Dec. 11 unless Congress acts. The emerging framework would give both the Pentagon and domestic agencies two years of budget relief of USD80 billion in exchange for cuts elsewhere in the budget.

The leader of the House, Speaker John Boehner, was making one final appeal to restive Republi-

cans: Pass the hard-won agreement with President Barack Obama before Rep. Paul Ryan assumes the speaker’s job later this week.

Boehner is leaving Congress under pressure from conservative lawmakers angered by his history of seeking compromise and Democratic votes on issues like the budget. His departure set off a scramble to find a new speaker who could unify House Republicans, and party leaders persuaded Ryan, a former vice presidential candidate, to take on the challenge. The budget pact, in concert with a must-pass increase in the federal borrowing limit, would solve the thorniest

issues awaiting him.

But Boehner encountered immediate resistance when he laid out the plan Monday night. His plan is for members to vote on the deal today.

Outlined for rank-and-file Republicans in a closed-door session Monday night, the budget relief would total \$50 billion in the first year and \$30 billion in the second year.

A chief selling point for Republican leaders is that the alternative is chaos and a stand-alone debt limit increase that might be forced on Republicans. But conservatives in the conference who drove Boehner to resign were not ready to fall in line.

“This is again just the



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington

umpteenth time that you have this big, big, huge deal that’ll last for two years and we were told nothing about it,” said Rep. John Fleming of Louisiana.

“I’m not excited about it at all,” said Rep. Matt Salmon, an Arizona Republican. “A two-year budget deal that raises the debt ceiling for basically the entire term of this presidency.”

The measure under discussion would suspend

the current \$18.1 trillion debt limit through March 2017.

The budget side of the deal is aimed at undoing automatic spending cuts which are a byproduct of a 2011 budget and debt deal and the failure of Washington to subsequently tackle the government’s fiscal woes. Republican defense hawks are a driving force, intent on reversing the automatic cuts and getting more money for the military. **AP**



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SYRIA

IS militants tie captives to Palmyra columns, blow them up

Sarah El Deeb and Suzan Fraser, Beirut

THE Islamic State group killed three of its captives in Syria's ancient city of Palmyra by tying them to Roman-era columns at the site, then blowing the structures up with explosives, activists said yesterday.

The Palmyra explosions were the latest method of killing by IS militants, known for beheadings, immolation and drowning of prisoners.

A Palmyra activist who goes by the name Nasser al-Thaer said that the killings of the three captives took place on Monday afternoon at the Palmyra archaeological site, located a few kilometers away from the city. Al-Thaer and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists on

the ground, said the three were civilians but that their identities remain unknown.

Earlier this week, IS posted images on social media purported to show its members driving a tank over a captured government soldier, allegedly to revenge what it said was his driving over IS militants. The group is known to have tanks, mostly captured in battle from Syrian troops or in the territory it holds in neighboring Iraq.

IS has also destroyed many of the ancient Palmyra's Roman-era relics, including the magnificent Temple of Bel and the iconic Arch of Triumph. IS captured Palmyra from government forces in May, and considers such relics as promoting idolatry. But scientists say the group resorts to promoting and documenting such attacks also for their shock value, to spread awe and fear.

The group has relied on looting and selling such antiquities on the black market for revenue.

Also yesterday, Turkey confirmed that its military this week attacked the main Kurdish force across the border in northern Syria, a key ally of the United States in its efforts to defeat the Islamic State.

The U.S.-supported Kurdish militia, known as the YPG, said the Turkish military shot at its forces deployed in the town of Tal Abyad twice on Sunday, using mostly machine guns. There were no casualties in the shooting and the Kurdish forces didn't return fire.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu confirmed that the military targeted the Kurdish forces in an interview with Turkey's ATV television late Monday.

But his account was different



This undated photo released Aug. 25 2015, by Islamic State militants shows smoke from the detonation of the 2,000-year-old temple of Baalshamin in Syria's ancient caravan city of Palmyra

from the Kurdish force. He said the Turkish military attacked the Kurdish force west of the Euphrates river, while the YPG said the attack was in Tal Abyad, which is east of the river.

"We said the PYD will not go west of the Euphrates and that we would hit it the moment it did. We hit it twice," Davutoglu said. The YPG is the fighting force of the PYD, or the Kurdish Democratic Party.

"Turkey cannot abandon its border, its fate to any country," he added, without elaborating.

Turkey is wary of the PYD, which is affiliated with Turkey's Kurdish PKK rebels, who have waged a bloody insurgency in southeastern Turkey. The Kurdish capture of the majority-Arab town of Tal Abyad, and its

subsequent inclusion under the semi-autonomous enclave has further irked the country.

Turkey, which is part of the U.S.-led coalition against IS, however differs with Washington on whether the Kurdish force is a terrorist organization. Both countries have labeled the PKK as a terror group but only Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish forces as terrorists.

Kurdish fighters expelled Islamic State militants from Tal Abyad in June, dealing a major blow to the extremist group's abilities to access supply routes across the Turkish borders.

Last week, Tal Abyad was declared an independent administration allied with the semi-autonomous Kurdish enclave in northern Syria. **AP**

AD



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Business Luncheon
Guest Speaker: **John Pauline**
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HASSELL, Hong Kong
on
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International designers HASSELL are re-imagining the southern tip of Zhuhai's Hengqin Island. The site signifies the expansion of Hengqin Island, and is positioned for high-end business services and international resort & tourism zones through ongoing collaboration between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, and is a national model area of marine eco development.

Tuesday, 10th November



Venue Oasis Private Room, 2/F
Galaxy Macau, Cotai
12.30: Drinks
1 pm: Lunch
1.45 pm: Presentation by John Pauline
2.30 pm: Close

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what's ON



MIMF: IL MANTOVANO HEBREO
 – PROFETI DELLA QUINTA (ISRAEL/ SWITZERLAND)
 TIME: 8pm
 VENUE: St. Dominic's Church
 ADMISSION: with free ticket
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

'PAINTER • PAINTING'
 WESLEY CHAN COMICS EXHIBITION
 TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
 UNTIL: November 1, 2015
 VENUE: Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, 10, Macau
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

2015 ART TROUPE-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME
 – FREE YOURSELF
 TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
 UNTIL: November 1, 2015
 ADMISSION: Free
 VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries
 Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro,
 Macau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

TEA CULTURE HOUSE
 TIME: 9am-7pm daily
 (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House, Lou Lim loc
 Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de
 Almeida
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

WESTERN VIEWS ON CHINA:
 PAINTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY ABOUT CHINA
 TIME: 10am-7pm
 (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
 UNTIL: December 31, 2015
 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
 ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

RUSSIAN POLICE FIND HALF A TON OF CAVIAR IN SPEEDING HEARSE

Police in Russia's far east stopped a hearse speeding on a highway — only to find half a ton of caviar stashed inside.

The Interior Ministry's department in the Khabarovsk region said yesterday the hearse was caught speeding on the road connecting Khabarovsk, not far from the Chinese border, to a city further north. When police officers asked the driver to open the car they saw plastic containers with caviar hidden under the wreaths lying next to a casket. More caviar was found inside the casket, which did not contain a body.

The driver and his partner, who both work for a funeral director, told the police they had been hired by a man in a village outside Khabarovsk who asked them to take the casket with the body of a female relative to a city morgue. The men insisted that they had no idea what was inside the casket.

Police are looking into the source of the caviar and considering charges for illegal production and distribution.

Caviar production in Russia is strictly regulated and contained to about 50 sturgeon farms. Wild caviar production and sturgeon fishing is almost entirely banned, except for indigenous peoples of Russia's north who have to obtain permits. Sturgeon populations in the Caspian Sea have shrunk dramatically since the fall of the Soviet Union because of illegal fishing.

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	Miscellaneous
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

22 Oct - 28 Oct



GOOSEBUMPS

ROOM 1

2.30 pm

Director: Rob Letterman

Starring: Jack Black, Dylan Minnette, Odeya Rush

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 103min

OUR TIMES

ROOM 1

4.30, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Ding Sheng

Starring: Andy Lau, Liu Ye, Wu Ruofu, Wang Qianyuan

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 134min



BRIDGE OF SPIES

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Alan Alda

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 141min

CRIMSON PEAK

ROOM 3

2.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Guillermo Toro

Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Jessica Chastain, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 119min

GOOSEBUMPS

ROOM 3

4.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Rob Letterman

Starring: Jack Black, Dylan Minnette, Odeya Rush

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 103min

MACAU TOWER

15 Oct - 04 Nov

THE MARTIAN

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Kate Mara

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history



1979 CHAIRMAN HUA ARRIVES IN LONDON

The first Chinese leader to visit Britain, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, has arrived in London at the start of a six-day visit.

He was welcomed at Heathrow airport by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who paid tribute to China as a "great and historical nation which has a crucial role to play in world affairs".

She said the two countries enjoyed a "close understanding in many fields" and she hoped their talks would further improve relations. In his reply, Chairman Hua stressed "the important role Western Europe has to play in defending world peace".

He said this was why China had given "high priority to the development of good relations with the West European countries". Chairman Hua was given the kind of treatment usually reserved only for royalty and presidents.

The Coldstream Guards formed a guard of honor before he was taken to the luxury Claridges hotel, where he and his party will be staying. Chairman Hua has an invitation to lunch at Buckingham Palace where the Queen will personally take him on a tour of the state rooms.

This is the Chinese leader's first visit to the non-Communist world, apart from a short stay in Iran before Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi was forced into exile. During his visit, he is expected to discuss trade, various bilateral issues, including the future of Hong Kong, and world peace.

It is hoped he and Mrs Thatcher will sign a number of deals, including an air services agreement giving Chinese airlines the rights to fly to Britain. Trade issues are expected to focus on the process of modernization in China - in particular improvements to its armed forces, transport infrastructure and industry.

The Chinese delegation will pay a visit to Rolls Royce in Derby, BP and British Rail's technical center. Chairman Hua, who spent 20 years of his life in the Chinese agricultural sector, will also be shown a farm in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and fit in a quick visit to Oxford University, before flying on to Rome on Saturday. He has already spent a week each in France and West Germany.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In an interview before his visit to Western Europe, Chairman Hua was quoted as saying he wanted to see for himself the reality of advanced economic, scientific and technological experience to see how they could benefit China's modernization program.

The trip paved the way to improved relations between Britain and China.

Official negotiations on the future of Hong Kong began in 1982 and were completed with the handover on 1 July 1997. The Queen became the first British monarch to visit China in 1986.

However, the brutal suppression of the pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 led to a breakdown in China's relations with the West.

China has since become of the world's leading growth economies, prompting greater trading links with the West. But in 2005 the EU and US were still enforcing an embargo on arms sales to China imposed after Tiananmen Square.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's all brand new, and you're embracing the change around you with enthusiasm...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Research has taken on a whole new meaning. You can't afford to throw your money around...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're wearing your hopes and wishes on your sleeve for all to see, from friends right down to strangers...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Tempers will flare today, most likely someone else's. Take your time and choose your words carefully...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've been putting a positive spin on everything, and even you are getting sick of the sunny side of the street...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've gone off the beaten path, and now you have a lot to wade through. Money issues are your thorniest...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Sure, being selfish is bad, but if you don't have enough for you and yours, then your behavior hardly qualifies...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're out of this world, but so is one of your friends. No, you weren't separated at birth...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can get a lot done and you have a lot of fun doing it, but you just can't come up with any money...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Why worry, as long as you have a security net of some kind or another? Excess can be postponed...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's counterintuitive, but having less is bringing out the best in you, and you're not alone...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 When you were flush, you were lost in a fog, filled with delusions. Now that you're down from the clouds...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World cities, including min/max temperatures and conditions.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- First name in architecture; 5- Soprano Lily; 9- Cross the goal line; 14- Coagulate; 15- Indigo source; 16- Lout; 17- Dig like a pig; 18- Where heroes are made...

DOWN: 1- Creamy-beige color; 2- North Carolina university; 3- It's over your head; 4- Conductor Klemperer; 5- 'The Taming of the Shrew' setting; 6- Be right with ya; 7- The world's longest river...

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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- City Safety Collision Avoidance System

*Optional Features

Jenny Barchfield, Palmas

SUPER-SIZED Maori from New Zealand, diminutive Aeta from the Philippines and native peoples of all shapes and sizes in between tested their mettle at the first World Indigenous Games, a chaotic, kaleidoscopic celebration of first peoples from around the globe.

Organizers billed the nine-day event as a sort of indigenous Olympics.

But for many of the nearly 2,000 participants from some 20 countries who converged last week on host city Palmas, a remote agricultural outpost in Brazil's scorched heartland, the sports themselves took a back seat to what they said really matters — cross-cultural sharing and learning.

"This restores your faith in humanity," said Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, a 46-year-old school-teacher from the Nehiyaw people of Canada's Saskatchewan province, as he followed round one of the spear-throwing competition. "An elder once told me that our culture will save us. I think this is what he meant."

Despite the obvious differences between participants — Brazil's Tapirape wore only body paint and tiny loincloths while the sole Russian delegate was covered in Siberian furs in defiance of the sweltering tropical heat — the commonalities that unite indigenous people from around the globe are palpable, Oksasikewiyin said. From Ethiopia to Ecuador, first peoples worldwide are still reeling from the lingering effects of colonialism and fighting to preserve their cultures and lands, he said.

"We see we're all in the same boat," he shouted over the roar of spectators cheering a particularly impressive spear toss. "Being here, all together, it becomes so clear."

The event, which kicked off Friday, comes one year after Brazil played host to soccer's World Cup and ahead of next

Cultural sharing trumps sports at World Indigenous Games



A New Zealand Indian Maori takes part in the spear throwing competition



Indians from various ethnic groups and countries dance during the opening ceremony of the World Indigenous Games

year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The indigenous event's hypnotic opening ceremony swirled with eye-popping feather headdresses, sumptuous silk robes, butterfly suede dresses and revealing loincloths as the 40-odd delegations melted into one chanting, dancing, pulsating mass of humanity.

Maori warriors lost a battle of the titans against the fridge-sized Bakairi people of central Brazil

The far-flung cultural mash-ups multiplied over the following days.

Mongolian archers in velvet mantles traded tips with their feather-crowned brethren, the Xerente people, reputed to be

among Brazil's most-skilled archers. A knot of Tarahumara women from northern Mexico haggled mercilessly over the price of a gourd-and-palm leaf headdress with an equally hard-nosed group of artisan women from the Amazonian state of Para.

The Games are the biggest thing ever to roll into the sleepy town of Palmas during its short 27-year history as the capital of Brazil's newest state of Tocantins. Non-indigenous locals got in on the action, too, filling the bleachers and swarming the handicraft fair. And everyone snapped endless selfies.

Still, the Games have been hampered by technical glitches and allegations of mismanagement. On opening day, construction workers were still busily working on the installations. The sporting events got off to a late start after a wall in the cafeteria collapsed, slightly injuring several workers and leaving many without breakfast and unable to compete on Saturday.

The debut competitions were

pushed back to Sunday, which saw a surprise upset in the blistering tug-of-war event: New Zealand's fierce Maori warriors lost a battle of the titans against the fridge-sized Bakairi people of central Brazil. The Javae women, also from central Brazil, made short shrift of the Mexican women, in their Crayola-hued circle skirts, and a hefty combined U.S.-Philippines team outweighed the forest-dwelling Macuxi people.

Native Brazilians representing around two dozen of the country's more than 300 tribes make up the lion's share of participants at the Games — and their problems have taken center stage at the event. Small but boisterous protests against a proposed constitutional amendment that would give a Brazilian Congress largely dominated by the agricultural lobby the right to demarcate indigenous lands erupted at the opening ceremony, where embattled President Dilma Rousseff was booed. The proposal could come up for an initial

vote this week.

"It would be a disaster for us," said protester Merong Tapurama, of the Pataxo Ha-Ha-Hae people, adding that he saw the Games themselves as a bid to paper over the dire reality of Brazil's beleaguered indigenous people.

Estimated at between 3 million to 5 million in pre-Columbian times, Brazil's indigenous population is now under a million people, making up just 0.5 percent of the country's 200 million inhabitants. They continue to suffer from racism, poor education and health care, and remain locked in sometimes-bloody battles with loggers, miners, cattle-grazers and soy farmers intent on pushing them off ancestral lands.

"It's great that the world is getting to see our culture, see how rich it is," said Timbira Pataxo, who travelled from Bahia state to sell knickknacks at the entrance to the Games. "But the world also needs to know about the real existential threats we face." AP

AD



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opinion

World Views
Adam Minter, Bloomberg

TWO-CHILD POLICY FOR CHINA IS TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

When Chinese leaders convene this week for a four-day meeting on the future of the country's economy, the biggest news might have to do with babies. According to reports in Chinese media, the government may be ready to relax the notorious "one-child" policy, in existence since the late 1970s, and allow Chinese parents to have two kids.

This might seem like a rare victory for human rights in a country where reproductive freedoms have long been restricted, and it is. But the government has a more practical outcome in mind. China's population of working-age adults started shrinking in 2012, and by 2050 the country will be home to fewer than 1.6 workers for every retiree, according to a 2013 report from the Paulson Institute. That's comparable to aging, slow-growth countries like Japan and Singapore. In response, the regime is hoping to spark a baby boom.

Unfortunately, by this point, even a two-child policy may be too little, too late. Most Chinese outside the big cities can already have two, and sometimes more, children. Meanwhile, a recent, limited opening in several cities failed to turn up many urban couples interested in having a second child.

The reasons aren't unique to China: As societies become wealthier and concentrate in cities, couples choose to have fewer kids. A peer-reviewed study from 2012 found that between 2000 and 2005, urbanization accounted for a net decline in fertility in all but three of China's provinces. The government could try enforcing maternity-leave policies better and providing more generous childcare subsidies. But such policies haven't really succeeded in Singapore or Japan, and there's little reason to think that they'd work any better in China.

More drastic solutions are needed. Step one would be to scrap population-control policies altogether. Though total fertility in China is in long-term decline, lifting the cap on births entirely might at least encourage rural parents to produce more kids. What China really needs to do, though, is the same thing Japan's struggled with for so long: import labor.

If bringing immigrants into the world's most populous country sounds crazy, it's not. China is already home to large immigrant communities, including several hundred thousand Africans (mostly traders) in Guangzhou, approximately 30,000 to 40,000 Arab traders in the trading hub of Yiwu, and hundreds of thousands of Americans, Japanese, and Europeans - many of whom work illegally as professionals and creatives - across the country.

More pertinent perhaps are the increasingly large communities of Southeast Asian laborers who have begun working in southern Chinese factories as the supply of migrants from the countryside dries up. No reliable estimate of their numbers exists. But according to an August investigative report from Reuters, there are "at least 30,000" illegal workers in Dongguan, one of China's best-known manufacturing towns, most of whom hail from Southeast Asia. (In the last four months, I've personally seen Burmese working illegally in recycling facilities in Guangdong province.) Chinese officials are reluctant to admit to the scale of the influx (likely because of the corruption involved in bringing workers over the border), but state media concedes that the number of illegals has grown in recent years.

The question is how to formalize and build upon a trend that's already begun. In recent years, China has opened its doors to high-skilled immigrants. But like most East Asian countries, China isn't a diverse place, and citizens and leaders alike remain suspicious of outsiders. Though a naturalization process exists, it's rarely used except for cases of marriage or individuals perceived to have made major contributions to Chinese society.

The chances of those rules being changed are slim. But China could take other less dramatic steps, starting with a temporary guest worker program targeting factory workers. In advance of the 2020 Olympics, Japan is trying something similar, allowing skilled construction workers into the country temporarily. China could target the lower end of the labor spectrum. (...)

Like any largely homogenous country, China will struggle mightily with the idea of accepting a large influx of foreigners. But the relative tolerance with which expatriates and foreign workers appear to be treated currently suggests that at least some degree of formal immigration is possible.

THE BUZZ UNIVERSITY FINDS CREATIVE WAY TO TEST DRONES OUTSIDE

Researchers at Kansas State University's Salina campus have found a unique solution to testing drones in a real-world environment while maintaining safety: They built a very big cage. The Federal Aviation Administration has severe restrictions on where drones can fly outdoors, including a prohibition within five miles of an airport. The college's campus happens to fall within such a five-mile radius. So, since the school started an unmanned aircraft program in 2008, flights have had to occur offsite.

The 300-foot long, 200-foot wide and 50-foot tall netted structure looks a bit like a fully-enclosed golf



driving range. The nets — held up by wooden utility poles — allow the wind, rain, snow or other weather conditions to easily pass into the test area and don't block GPS signals.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	35-55 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

VIETNAM A court sentences six executives of a state-owned railway corporation to up to 12 years in prison after convicting them of corruption involving a Japanese-funded railway project.

CAMBODIAN civil society groups and an international human rights organization condemn an assault on two opposition lawmakers by protesters who were apparently supporters of the ruling party, and demand an independent investigation.

PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA The Philippines is unable to permanently resettle refugees from Australian-run detention camps as it attempts to provide for its own people, President Benigno Aquino III says.

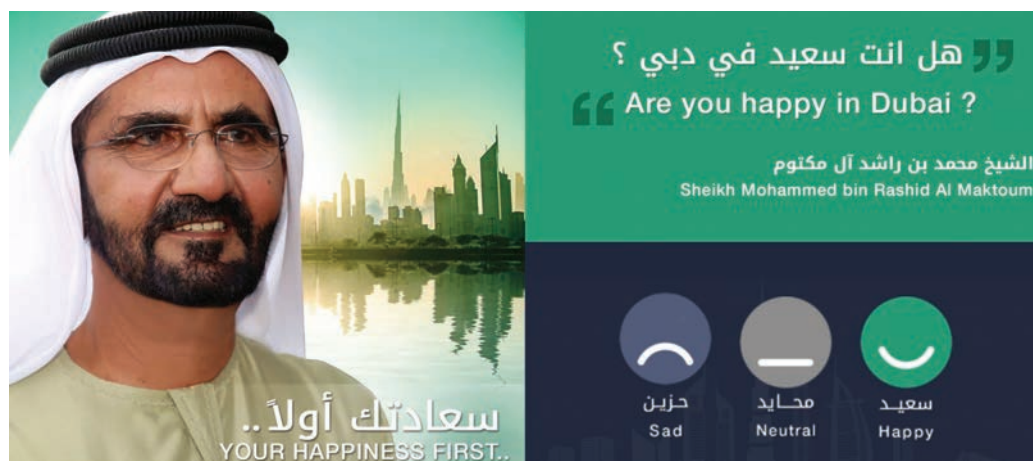
PORTUGAL's prime minister has named his Cabinet for what could be one of the country's briefest governments ever. Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho presented his list of senior government officials yesterday to the Portuguese head of state for formal approval. They were to be sworn in Friday, after which the center-right coalition government has 10 days to present its four-year policy program to Parliament.

POLAND Most of the results were in for Poland's parliamentary election but the country was still waiting early on Tuesday to learn if the winning right-wing Law and Justice party has secured a majority in the lower house of parliament. The state election commission was to announce yesterday afternoon how many seats each of the parties will get. Five parties won seats, including the centrist Civic Platform that had ruled for eight years.

YEMEN A small medical facility run by Doctors Without Borders in the northern Yemeni province of Saada was destroyed by two airstrikes but there were no casualties, the aid group's chief in Yemen said yesterday. The first strike came around 11 p.m. on Monday and hit a building housing the facility's administration offices, according to Hassan Boucenne, who spoke to The Associated Press by telephone from the southern port of Aden.

UK Britain's economy slowed in the July-September period amid broader concerns over the global economy. The Office of National Statistics said yesterday the economy grew 0.5 percent compared with the previous quarter, when growth was 0.7 percent. The rate was below expectations of 0.6 percent.

Think you're unhappy in Dubai? Police may call to ask why



Jon Gambrell, Dubai

If you say you're unhappy in Dubai, the police may call to ask you why as part of a new survey. The online poll, unveiled in recent days, comes as Dubai tries to break into the top 10 rankings of world's happiest cities by 2021, an effort in league with other lofty aspirations in this emirate, home to the world's tallest building.

The simple survey has users choose between a frown, a smile and an unimpressed straight line. The police say they will call those who say they are unhappy, which puzzles some observers, including William Davies, a senior lecturer at the University of London who recently published the book "The Happiness Industry: How the Government and Big Business Sold Us Well-Being."

"This looks like to me an attempt to try to slightly frighten people into A) replying to the survey question and B) replying to say they're happy because people really don't want to be rung up by the police with the question: 'Well, what's your problem?'" Davies said. "But I don't know. Maybe there's something sincere about it."

The effort to measure happiness can be seen in government offices across Dubai, one of seven of the United Arab Emirates. Small tablet computers placed next to civil servants allow citizens to provide instant feedback on their experience. Last year, authorities also began ranking municipal offices

with a two-to-seven star system based on their customer service, part of Dubai's "smart government" push.

That happiness effort has included the Dubai police, most well-known abroad for some of the luxury cars employed in its fleet. Twitter messages from the police often include the hashtag "Your Security Our Happiness" in both Arabic and English.

At a recent electronics show, the Dubai police unveiled its happiness survey,

This looks like to me an attempt to try to slightly frighten people.

WILLIAM DAVIES

saying it began last week. It sent text messages to a number of Dubai residents including a link to a webpage showing a picture of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, with the Burj Khalifa tower behind him. It asked one question in English and Arabic: "Are you happy in Dubai?"

In a statement, police said the survey received more than 200,000 responses in its first day, with 84 percent saying they were happy, 6 percent neutral and 10 percent unhappy. Police did not

disclose how many text messages they sent.

But that wasn't all. Maj. Gen. Khamis Mattar Al Mazzeina, Dubai's police chief, told local media that his officers would randomly call a selection of those unhappy to ask what was upsetting them.

"If the matter is under our jurisdiction, we will help them with it, but if it has to do with another government entity we will forward the issue to the concerned department," he said. He stressed police could not help with personal issues.

Police and Dubai officials did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press to discuss concerns about having police calling those who say they are unhappy.

The United Arab Emirates is ranked No. 20 out of 158 countries surveyed in the United Nations' 2015 World Happiness Report. Though coming in first in the Arab world, the United Arab Emirates hopes to break into the top 10 by 2021, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the nation's founding.

Davies warns, however, that solely focusing on happiness, either in Dubai or elsewhere in the world, could mask other issues.

"I think it diverts attention away from broader political or economic factors that might actually be problematic or unjust," Davies said. "It's possible to imagine a society which had great concern for happiness but very little for concern for say human rights or the rights of minorities." AP