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CHOW TAI FOOK SEEKS CHINESE TOURISTS ABROAD
The jeweler was hurt by weak retail sentiment in HK and Macau, and a decline in tourism, especially from mainland China

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SINGAPORE LOSING OUT TO HONG KONG
Singapore and Hong Kong have been vying for years to hold the crown of most competitive place to do business

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A group of Chinese and American investors, who specialize in real estate, hotel and tourism, have bought 80 percent of French football club Nice for an undisclosed fee. Club president and former majority owner Jean-Pierre Rivere will retain a 20 percent stake.

S KOREA Operators of the ACT college entrance exam cancel the tests for students in South Korea and Hong Kong at the last moment over what they said was a verified breach of test materials. More on p13



USA The pilots of a solar-powered airplane on a globe-circling voyage that began more than a year ago said their flight over the Statue of Liberty before landing in New York inspired them on their mission to promote a world free from reliance on fossil fuels.

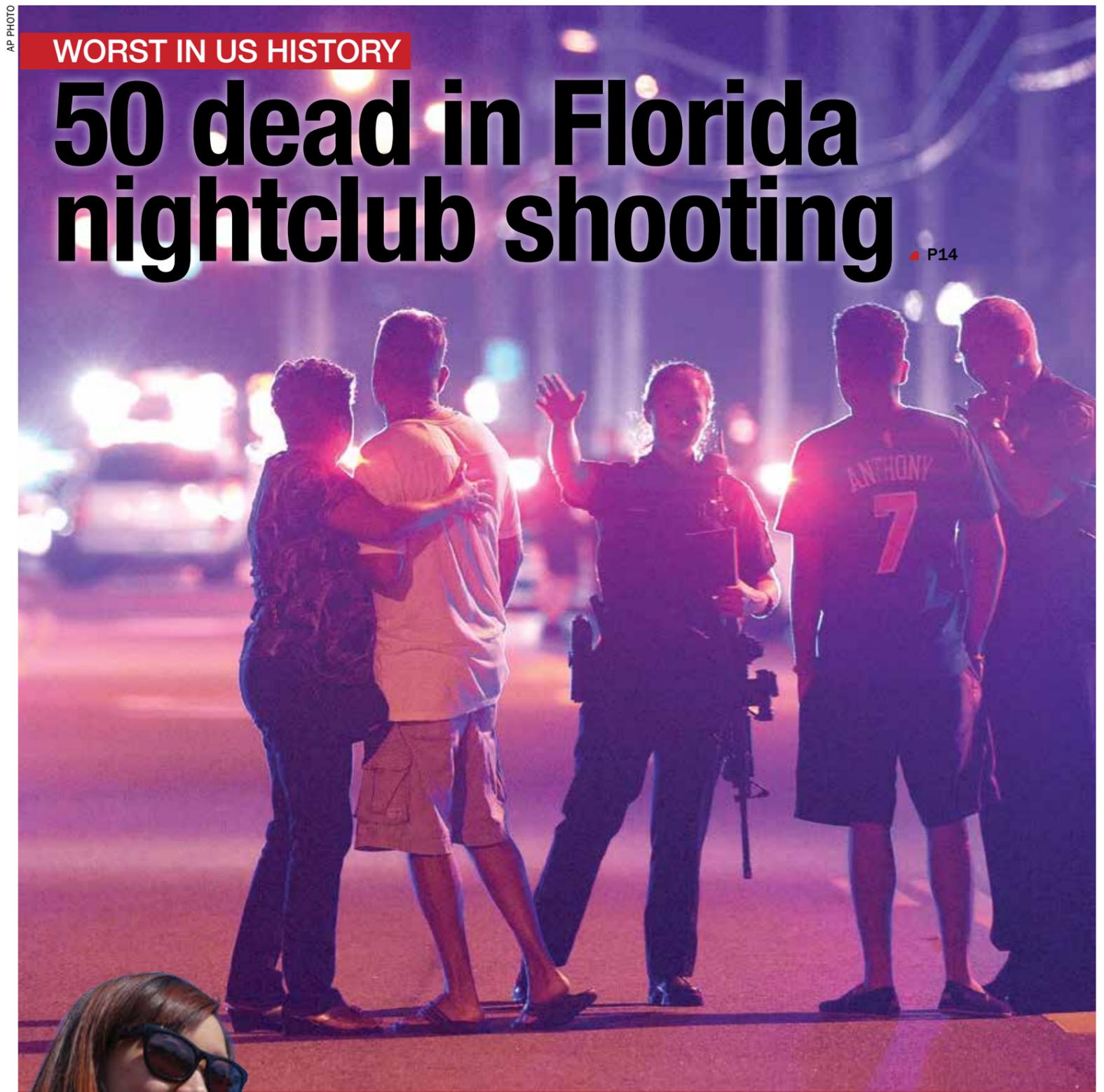
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Asia takes lead in rush to monetise innovations F1



WORST IN US HISTORY

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Q&A **WONG KAI KEI**
3RD PRIZE IN NATIONAL ENGLISH DEBATING COMPETITION

'English proficiency gives us comparative advantage' P2

Q&A WONG KAI KEI
3RD PRIZE IN NATIONAL ENGLISH DEBATING COMPETITION

'Macau students are less exposed to English environments' than HK

TWO debaters, Wong Kai Kei and Leong Ka Wai, from the University of Macau (UM) English Debating Team have recently won third prize at the 19th Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press (FLTRP) Cup National English Debating Competition, held at Beijing Foreign Studies University. According to a press release by UM, the competition is the largest and most influential debating competition in China. This year's event attracted 120 debating teams from around 500 universities in China, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and China Foreign Affairs University.

The Times interviewed one of the winners, Wong Kai Kei, who shared her experience of learning English.

MDT - What sparked your interest in the English language and what is your English-language background?

Wong Kai Kei (WKK) - I like languages. I think that learning a new language is important for understanding different cultures. Learning English is also kind of functional, since it is the key language to connect us to the world. I graduated from the Sacred Heart Canossian College English Section. I grew up in an English environment since high school. We used to listen to English and to write in English. However, the chances to speak and to express ourselves in English are still very limited in high school. After I joined the English Debating Team of UM I acquired many opportunities to communicate and express my ideas in an effective manner.

MDT - On a personal note, what is the value of learning English?

WKK - I think that English is the most well-known and commonly used language. Learning it connects us to the world and offers us worldview perspectives of people from different back-



Wong Kai Kei

grounds. It is the medium which we use to talk to people, to understand people, to showcase our ideas. I attended an exchange program in George Washington University in the U.S.A. in my third year. At that time, English became the way through which I could connect to my classmates and to people around me. It also became my tool to survive in an English-speaking world. At that time, I was very grateful for the fact that I had felt the need to prepare myself in order to survive. Given the emergence of globalization, the English language plays a role that is getting more and more important.

MDT - What most impacted upon your development of proficiency in English?

WKK - I think my English proficiency resulted from three areas: teaching, self learning, and self-interests. I learn and impro-

Learning to express ourselves in a concise and persuasive way is far harder than we think.

ve my English most effectively through speaking. By mastering one skill among speaking, writing, listening and reading helps other skills as well, since they are very interconnected.

I like speaking a lot and debating is undoubtedly an activity that arouses my interest and I truly enjoy it. My coaches and debating friends constantly give me feedback and advice on ways to express myself in a more effective manner. Practice makes perfect. I genuinely believe that only through initiative to improve and practicing constantly with perseverance we can realize our improvement and keep improving. I would say that your determination to master the language, in addition to your consciousness about your own weaknesses are the most important qualities to enhance your language proficiency.

MDT - What is the greatest challenge of learning English?

WKK - In my opinion, the most difficult part of learning English is learning to communicate effectively. We all know the basics of English. However, knowing sentence structures, grammar and pronunciations do not guarantee fluent and effective communication. The ability to walk out of our comfort zone and talk to native speakers is something that requires courage and determination.

Learning to express ourselves in a concise and persuasive way is far harder than we think.

MDT - Do you consider learning about Western culture an aid to improve English proficiency?

WKK - I think that, to a certain extent, yes. It is important to learn about Western culture in order to best understand and communicate in English. However, the benefits of learning cultures would not be realized in language proficiency unless we practice.

MDT - How do you assess the English proficiency of local students?

WKK - I think that the English proficiency of Macau students is comparatively lower to that of Hong Kong students. Most high schools in Macau use Chinese as a medium of instruction. Comparatively speaking, Macau students are less exposed to English environments. English is not one of the official means of communication.

I definitely think that Macau students/citizens should enhance their English proficiency. As globalization is emerging, English is the most common language in the world. Having a high English proficiency level gives us comparative advantage in terms of getting jobs and promotions. I think we should start teaching in English right through primary school since this corresponds to a stage when students are easily adaptable and express themselves more often. It becomes harder and harder to learn and master a language as we get older.

MDT - What suggestions would you give to Macau students in order to improve their English?

WKK - Read daily. Read whatever you can in English. Utilize the opportunities to talk in English. Imitate good speakers. Stay in an English-speaking country. Attending exchange programs, internships, or even making short trips in foreign countries are good ways to learn English.

STATISTICS

Mortgage and real estate loans on decline

NEW approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) and commercial real estate loans (CRELs) both decreased simultaneously in April 2016, according to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macau.

In April, new RMLs approved by local banks decreased by 4.7 percent month-to-month to MOP2.8 billion, of which 94.1 percent were extended to residents. In terms of value, new RMLs to residents and non-residents fell by 4.1 percent and 14.2 percent respectively. When compared with the same period in 2015, new approvals of RMLs dropped 35.1 percent.

Meanwhile, new CRELs fell by 26.4 percent month-to-month to MOP2.2 billion, of which 88.2 percent were provided to residents. In terms of value, new CRELs to residents dropped by 33.6 percent whereas those to non-residents increased significantly by 272.9 percent, mainly driven by new loans granted to enterprises. On an annual basis, new approvals of CRELs fell by 75.7 percent.

Regarding outstanding balance, RMLs remained virtually unchanged from the previous month while that of CRELs decreased.

At the end of April 2016, the outstanding value of RMLs was MOP174.9 billion, up by 7.8 percent from a year ago, with the resident component amounting to 93.6 percent of the total.

Concurrently, the outstanding value of CRELs decreased by 0.4 percent month-to-month, but recorded a rise of 21.5 percent year-on-year to MOP166.7 billion.

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Sereno wants Portugal to be more than a memory after 2049

I wouldn't like for us to get to 2049 and there be a possibility that my country is only remembered for having left here [in Macau] a set of buildings that are part of the world's heritage," said Vítor Sereno, Consul General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong as quoted by Radio Macau.

Sereno spoke last Friday afternoon at the annual reception at the Bela Vista official consul's residence, to commemorate the Portuguese National Day (June 10).

Sereno expressed that Portugal is not only part of Macau's past but should also be an important part of its future. "My commitment is toward our country [Portugal] and our community [Portuguese] to be able to contribute decisively and participate in the future strategy that the Central Government and the [Macau] Executive intend to implement," Sereno added.

The consul said that Portu-



The Portuguese Secretary of State of Internal Administration, Jorge Gomes (left), Chui Sai On and Vítor Sereno during the Portuguese National Day reception

guese authorities want to help the Macau Government to achieve "the three great goals of its governance: making Macau as a platform to the Portuguese-speaking countries; help Macau to diversify and to assert itself not only as a tourism and leisure hub but also a hub for the learning of the Portuguese language, as well as in health

and renewable energy sectors." The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, attended the event and highlighted the contribution of both the Portuguese and Macanese communities in the construction of Macau. "It is with renewed joy that I recognize the active contribution of Portuguese and Macanese residents in the territory and

part of Macau society for the construction and development of the Special Administrative Region," he said during his speech, adding: "We are preparing the 5th edition of the Ministerial Conference of Forum Macau. We believe that relying on the national strategy 'One Belt, One Road' and taking advantage of its singularities, Macau will continue to promote and strengthen its cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries," he stated. The CE also reaffirmed the commitment of the government of the territory to continue in its pursuit of closer and stronger relations with Portugal and with the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Earlier on, the traditional ceremonies of "flag hoisting" at the Portuguese Consulate building, followed by the visit to the Camões Grotto in Luís de Camões Garden had been carried out to also commemorate the poet and celebrate Portuguese communities worldwide. **RM**

China's Nanhai Jiujiang the big winner of Dragon Boat Races



China's Nanhai Jiujiang dominated the main event of this year's International Dragon Boat Races in Macau, managing to renew their title in the women's category and add a new title in the open category. This was an improvement for the team following their 2015 efforts when they were beaten by Indonesia's National Team by only 0.34 seconds in the grand final. This year, China's team took no chances with Thailand's National Team, finishing in 1:51:761. Macau's team came in 3rd position in this race with a Macau team record of 1:54:551. This however was not the only achievement of local teams after reaching 2nd position overall in the women's category and losing only to China's Nanhai Jiujiang. Overall in the women's category the MGM Macau team came third.

'Pearl Horizon' buyers looking for help from Beijing



A group of pre-sale "Pearl Horizon" buyers participated in a new protest yesterday, after delivering a letter to the Liaison Office. The protestors departed from the Polytec Asset office, passed by Rua do Campo and arrived at their destination at the Liaison Office in the afternoon. This time, the group's main slogan indicated that they are looking for help from Beijing. "Central government save Macau Pearl Horizon," read a front sign. The protestors wore white themed t-shirts (as opposed to their usual black), with pictures of blood stamped on them.

Suppliers industry wants to hire more expat workers

Last week, the Macau Union Suppliers Association visited the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), urging the government to allow suppliers to hire more expat drivers. The association, representing small- and medium-sized suppliers, claimed that the industry is facing a shortage of human resources. The association stated that employees often raise the issue concerning the hiring and usage of expats by their employers, resulting in a reduction in the expat employee quotas of the employers, as required by the DSAL. The Bureau claimed to carefully oversee the application for expat employee quotas for every company, according to a report by TDM.

New association seeks Guia Circuit listing

Renato Marques

THE recently created Macau Guia Circuit Promotion and Development Association (MGCPDA) is planning to create a website with the purpose of "getting the association closer to the general public and society in general," the group's chairman José Luís da Rosa Estorninho told the Times.

The head of the association told the Times that the website will have more than an institutional and informational purpose, with it being a window for direct contact with people that share the same interests.

"We want people that share the same passion as we do to interact with us, share their ideas, opinions, concerns and comments," he added.

The association's stated purposes are contributing to the

promotion and development of the "Guia Circuit"; utilizing cooperation with private and public entities and developing advertising and promotional activities to meet those goals. According to Estorninho, "to be able to propose the classification of the 'Guia Circuit' to UNESCO's world heritage list is a dream and one of the goals of the association."

As an association that "runs on wheels" the MGCPDA wants to move forward with its goals and "move fast," promised the chairman. To achieve that goal, the association has already established a team of "good people" in order to "endeavor to succeed" with well-known names from different local sectors that included an invitation to the Portuguese Consul General in Macau, Vítor Sereno, to be its honorary president.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Greyhound probe launched in Australia

GREYHOUND authorities in New South Wales, Australia have charged 179 owners and trainers with breaches of regulations concerning the export of dogs to Macau, which has been banned since 2013 by its principal body, Greyhound Racing NSW.

An inquiry launched by the body late last year brought to the attention of authorities suspected unauthorized exports to Macau. Should the accused be found guilty, trainers and owners involved will face fines, suspensions and even possible disqualification from the sport.

Macau's Yat Yuen Canidrome Company has increasingly eyed Irish greyhounds as its supply from Australia has dried up; a process that was expedited last year when major freight airlines joined a boycott over the export of such dogs bound for the MSAR.

A recent shipment of 24 Irish greyhounds destined for Macau was stopped during transit at Manchester Airport in the U.K.

"We are aware of reports concerning 24 greyhounds being exported from Ireland to Macau via Manchester," said the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) in a statement.

"GBGB does not advocate the export of greyhounds to jurisdictions where welfare standards cannot be verified and will take the appropriate action against persons that knowingly supply greyhounds to such countries," informed the organization.

A related meeting held recently between representatives of the Irish greyhound industry, Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and members of the International Greyhound Forum, came to the conclusion that Irish authorities have no jurisdiction outside of Ireland in terms of animal welfare and supervision. **DB**



Panda Pavilion closed for first-time mating



The Giant Panda Pavilion will be closed from tomorrow until July 11. Leong Kun Fond, administration committee member of the Civic and

Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), stated that during the closure period IACM will collect data related to the pandas' physical condition. Following this, IACM will then prepare for the first breeding of panda cubs in the city. The IACM is cooperating with experts from Chengdu in order to overcome any difficulties that may arise during the first ever panda breeding in Macau. If the pandas, named Kai Kai and Xin Xin, successfully mate, the pavilion is likely to reopen before July 11, according to a TDM report.

Hundreds celebrate Philippine independence

Hundreds of Filipinos gathered yesterday in downtown Macau to celebrate 118 years since the independence of the Philippines was declared, when revolutionary forces in the country seized sovereignty over the islands from the colonial rule of Spain. The declaration however, was not recognized by the United States nor Spain, which were embroiled in a war against each other during the period. At the ceasefire, later in 1898, Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States in the Treaty of Paris. Full independence would not be granted to the country until 1946 via the Treaty of Manila. Yesterday hundreds gathered at Praca da Amizade to celebrate the national day, despite the threat of rain in Macau.

ENVIRONMENT

Gasoline and diesel to comply with Euro V standards

UNDER newly proposed rules, the sale of unleaded gasoline and diesel for vehicle use in Macau should meet standards equivalent to the Euro V standard. The Executive Council (ExCo) concluded in their analysis of the proposal on Friday.

According to the proposal, "the inspection [of the fuels] must be based on the methods established by the European Union and the national standards of the People's Republic of China" as well as the rules adopted by the petrochemical industry. The Transport Bureau (DSAT) will be in charge of this inspection.

The draft bill also sets an update mechanism to be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) "at least once in a year's time."

In order to establish



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a balance between environmental protection and the need for adjustment from sector operators, the government has set a transition period of 180 days. During this period, Chinese national rules will be introduced, following this, the petrochemical industry standards before finally the entry into force of the Euro V standards.

According to the statement of the ExCo, this draft bill comes in light of the fact that "motor vehicles exhaust gases are one of the major pollution sources of Macau's air", which is what led the government previously to review the limits for gas emission. The measure is in line with the government compromise "to improve

air quality and ensure the health of the population," the statement reads. It is one of the measures implemented in support of broader ambitions of the "use of clean vehicles and to optimize gas emission patterns for motor vehicles."

ExCo proposed that the draft would enter into force 30 days after the date of its publication. **RM**

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RETAIL

Chow Tai Fook seeks Chinese tourists abroad

Daniela Wei

CHOW Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. is chasing Chinese tourist dollars overseas as the economic slowdown in China crimps luxury sales and contributed to a 46 percent drop in full-year profit for the world's largest publicly traded jewelry chain.

The jeweler was hurt by weak retail sentiment in Hong Kong and Macau, and a decline in tourism, especially from mainland China due to the stronger U.S. dollar. The company said it expected market conditions in the region to stay challenging in the coming year.

By contrast, retail sales outside of its traditional bases, including newer markets such as the U.S., Taiwan and South Korea, grew 26 percent in the fiscal year en-

ding 2016. Chow Tai Fook's strategy is to "expand footprint in overseas market to grasp opportunities from the booming Chinese outbound tourism," it said.

The jeweler is aiming to capture a shift in Chinese shopping habits as the country's slowdown has damped the demand for luxury goods. Hong Kong retailers were also hurt as mainland Chinese tourists, who account for almost a third of luxury spending globally, skip the shopping mecca for other destinations. The government's crackdown on corruption also caused big-spending Chinese to avoid neighboring Macau, causing a two-year gambling decline in the world's largest casino center.

"The increasingly affluent and sophisticated Chinese consumers continue to look for more

personalized products and shopping experience," the company said in a statement last week. "Lifestyle and leisure spending becomes the trend, with strong outbound tourism boosting the consumption abroad."

Last week the jeweler reported net income fell to HKD2.94 billion (USD379 million) for the year ended March 31.

The retailer's efforts to grow beyond mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau may reap little benefit for now, as its overseas presence remains small relative to those core markets, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Catherine Lim. "The inclination of Chinese travelers to buy jewelry from a brand readily available in Hong Kong and China may be low, as they are more likely to buy international brands or even try local brands from their destination," she said.

Hong Kong retail sales fell 12 percent in the first quarter, with jewelry and watch sales plumme-

ting nearly double that, contributing to Chow Tai Fook's lowest profit since 2010. Mainland Chinese tourists to Hong Kong, who accounted for more than 70 percent of the total in the first four months this year, have dropped 13 percent in the period compared to a year ago, according to the city's tourism board.

Chow Tai Fook's retail network expanded to 2,319 sales locations as of end-March, including a net opening of 62 in the fiscal year. Of these, 2,179 locations are in mainland China, with the remainder in other markets, which the jeweler doesn't break down into specific countries. It opened six sales locations in Taiwan and South Korea during the period, according to the statement.

Mainland China contributed 60 percent of Chow Tai Fook's sales in fiscal 2016, with the remainder from Hong Kong, Macau, and other markets, which the retailer doesn't break down. The company still sees growth in

China, it said.

Chow Tai Fook plans to shut as many as eight sales locations outside mainland China in the current financial year, said Managing Director Kent Wong at a briefing Tuesday. The retailer managed to lower rental expenses by 13 percent for sites in Hong Kong and Macau that it renewed contracts for in the last fiscal year, Finance Director Hamilton Cheng said.

The company expects net opening of stores in mainland China - after accounting for closures - to be similar to the last fiscal year, Wong said. Chow Tai Fook had a net opening of 55 locations in mainland China in fiscal 2016.

Still, jewelers such as Chow Tai Fook "will continue to face a challenging business environment in the Greater China region" as they grapple with weak consumer sentiments, said Zhang Jialin, an analyst at ICBC Intl Research Ltd. **Bloomberg**

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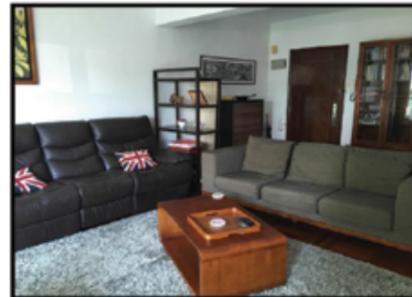


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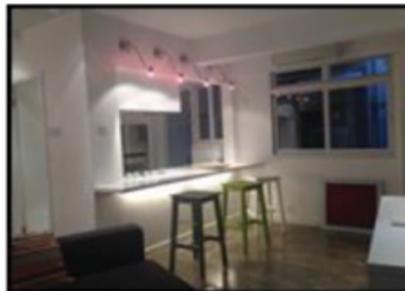
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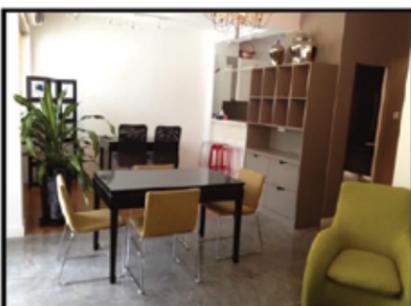


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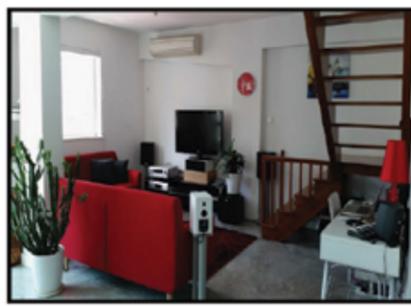


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Renovated 5 years ago this apartment has a modern open plan kitchen. The main floor consists of a good size double bedroom and a separate bathroom. A wooden staircase leads to the upper floor which has an open area, good for bedroom, office, studio or entertainment area. This apartment has a wonderful private terrace with views over looking Government Offices. This is a rare chance to buy a view. Viewing by appointment only.

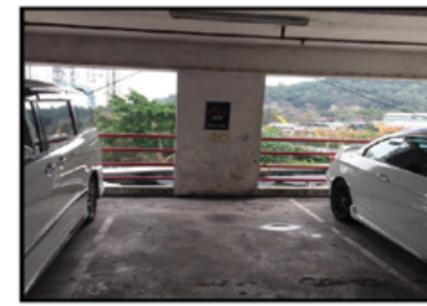
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Nova Taipa E Low Mid Floor - Central Taipa

(Ref: 16055475)
2,218sq. ft. HKD 10.8M
Rate: HKD 4,869sq ft

Fantastic apartment with views across Central Park. The property has four double size bedrooms and two large bathrooms; one en suite, each room has plenty of built in storage and air conditioners. The huge open plan living/dining with windows across one whole wall makes the room wonderfully bright and airy. Modern kitchen; built in appliances, lots of cabinets and a small open drying area for laundry. The whole apartment was recently decorated and could be occupied immediately. One car park space is also available for sale with the property for HKD1.8 million. Vacant property.



Chun Leong Car Park, Taipa

(Ref: 15050514)
HKD 1.69M

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COOPERATION

Chinese foreign policy forges new links with Belt and Road plans

Renato Marques

THIS [One Belt, One Road initiative (B&R)] is not new. It started more than one thousand years ago during the Han dynasty. Now we have the continuation. The B&R initiative is a new type of China's foreign policy," said Professor Zhou Hong, the current professor of European Politics and Modern History and former Director of the Institute of European Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

The scholar spoke during the keynote speech that opened the Workshop on Contemporary Relations between China and Central and Eastern Europe, organized by the European Union Academic Program – Macao (EUAP-M), taking place at the University of Macau (UM) on Friday and Saturday.

Zhou drew a conceptual map of the ideas underlying the initiative and highlighted its importance not only for China's foreign policy but also as an "internal balance policy."

"This is an initiative also to balance China's own development, because in China we also have an East-West relation to solve," Zhou said, adding that "the Eastern areas of China have been developing far faster than the ones in the West regions."

Professor Zhou recalled that economists and even Chinese President Xi Jinping have supported the R&B initiative, stating that "it is a natural extension of the development of China's economic path because we have all learned that Chinese proverb, 'If you want to get rich, you have to build roads first' and 'building roads' basically means linking yourself to a bigger market."

Zhou also reminded that al-

though people used to put the focus of the initiative on China, "this is no one-way street," as "interests and efforts have to come from both sides," bringing attention to the shared benefits and challenges amongst all countries involved. He also recalled that "434 years ago Matteo Ricci was successful in establishing contacts between Western Europe and China because he was well prepared, had the knowledge and had studied well the field to where he was heading."

According to Zhou, the "R&B initiative came in a time of dramatic changes within the European Union [EU]," recalling how the map of Europe has been changing and how in a short period of time EU members passed from eight to 28.

Krzysztof Sliwinski, a Polish national and associate professor at the Department of Government and International Studies of Hong Kong Baptist

University shared similar sentiments. Speaking to the Times during the workshop, Sliwinski mentioned that the statistics of mutual trade show clearly an "approach" of China with most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. He stated that "mutual cooperation between both parties has been growing at least in the past 6 years,"

“We have all learned that Chinese proverb, ‘If you want to get rich, you have to build roads first’

ZHOU HONG

adding that an increase in relations has worked as a "win-win for both and namely the so-called 16 countries in Central and East Europe that were hit pretty hard by the Euro-crisis." In his opinion, these countries saw in China "some sort of economic backup" that they were not getting from the EU, raising tensions within the European Union.

"Traditional central Europe powers such as Germany or France are not too happy that countries they call 'junior partners' from their perspective, which include countries such as Czech Republic, Poland or Hungary, could have their own bilateral relations with China," Sliwinski noted.

Also at the EUAP-M workshop, Senior Researcher from the National Institute of Economic Research of Bucharest, Iulia Oehler-Sincai, said that although the relations between Romania and China go back for centuries, the country's political cycles caused disruption. "Some political parties are clearly more supportive of the relations with China while others are more on the side of the Western European countries and it's important to find the balance."

As she mentioned, "after Greece we are the second most strategically located country and China benefits from that as we are served by several Pan-European corridors. But we also need infrastructure. We are still lacking in high-speed railways and highways to link Eastern and Western Europe and China could offer that to us."

Workshop to emphasize the most recent developments in bilateral relations

THE main purpose of the Workshop on Contemporary Relations between China and Central and Eastern Europe, organized by the European Union Academic Program – Macao (EUAP-M) was to "emphasize the most recent developments in bilateral relations between China and the Central and Eastern Europe countries (CEE-Cs)," according to Song Weiqing, associate professor of the Department of Government and Public Administration of the UM.

The scholar stated also that the debate was around several topics with the focus being the "competition for power arising in that part of Europe." It also drew attention to how China as a "newcomer" is trying to balance and grow its influence in countries that five or six centuries ago were under its circle of power and influence, and are now being influenced by "several other global powers."

Weiqing recalled that it is "very important" that this workshop is done here in Macau as part of the EUAP-M's

efforts to raise the knowledge about the EU locally in Macau, the place "where East meets West," said Song.

During the opening speech the vice-rector for Research, Rui Martins, had highlighted the relevance of the program that will run from 2012 to 2017 at UM which is a joint initiative between UM and the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM) with a budget of EURO1.3 million (approx MOP11.8 million), and is 50 percent co-funded by the EU.



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Citigroup sues AT&T over right to say 'thanks' to customers

Erik Larson

THANKING loyal customers for their business may seem uncontroversial, but Citigroup Inc. has something to say about how exactly you do it.

The bank sued AT&T Inc. on Friday over the telecom company's use of the trademarks "thanks" and "AT&T thanks" in a new customer-loyalty program. The use infringes several of Citigroup's trademarks, including "ThankYou" and "Citi ThankYou," according to a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court.

Citigroup, the world's biggest credit-card lender, has been using the "ThankYou" trademark in a customer-loyalty program since 2004, and more than 7 million of its customers have a ThankYou-branded credit card, the bank said. Citigroup wants a court order barring AT&T from using the terms.

AT&T's use of the phrases "is likely to cause customer confusion," the bank said. The trademark designs also have similar fonts and word placements, according to the suit.

AT&T is balking at New York-based Citigroup's allegations.

"This may come as a surprise to Citigroup, but the law does not allow one company to own the word 'thanks,'" AT&T spokesman Fletcher Cook said in an e-mail. "We're going to continue to say thanks to our customers."

Dallas-based AT&T launched the new customer loyalty program on June 2, even though the company was already aware of Citigroup's use of related trademarks, according to the complaint. The companies even have a co-branded credit card that gives "ThankYou" points to users based on how much they spend, according to the card's website. **Bloomberg**



Mercedes-Benz to start selling plug-in fuel cell SUV next year

Elisabeth Behrmann

MERCEDES-BENZ will start selling a fuel-cell electric version of its GLC sport utility vehicle next year, an effort to broaden the appeal of the technology with the first publicly available battery that can be charged both with hydrogen and at a wall socket.

Able to drive about 500 kilometers before recharging, the car is part of Daimler AG's 7 billion euro (USD7.9 billion) spending effort on green technology through next year. The GLC F-Cell's plug-in option gives the car enough charge to drive 50 kilometers, potentially making it more attractive to buyers despite the existence of just 26 public hydrogen refueling stations in the U.S.

"Daimler sees several different drive technologies coexisting in the future," Thomas Weber, the carmaker's head of development, said in a statement. "We have a broad portfolio of vehicles from compact cars to heavy trucks that require us to think holistically."

Carmakers are pouring money into electric vehicles as emissions regulations tighten around the world and cities increasingly restrict access for high-polluting cars. The Volkswagen AG diesel-emissions cheating scandal and early success of Tesla Motor Corp.'s electric Model 3 have also shaken the industry's confidence in traditional combustion engines.

Daimler first offered a fuel-cell vehicle in 2010, when it started selling a small number of B-Class



F-Cell compact cars. The technology is attractive because of fast refueling times similar to gasoline or diesel engines and driving ranges of several hundred kilometers. Still, carmakers have struggled to establish the technology in the mass market because handling hydrogen is challenging and building the charging infrastructure is costly.

Volkswagen and BMW AG don't sell fuel-cell cars, though BMW said in March it's testing a vehicle with a 700-kilometer range and plans to offer the technology in about a decade. In Japan, where the government offers generous incentives, fuel-cell cars are also far from mainstream, with about 40,000 hydrogen-powered vehicles expected on the road by 2020. Honda Motor Co. started sales of its Clarity Fuel Cell sedan in Japan this year, while Toyota Motor Corp. offers the Mirai sedan and Hyundai Motor Co. the Tucson Fuel Cell crossover.

Alongside its fuel-cell effort, Daimler said it will keep introducing plug-in hybrid versions across its model range and will unveil a concept version of a battery-electric car at this year's Paris motor show. Unlike Daimler's previous efforts, the vehicle will have its own distinct design instead of simply being a version of an existing gas-powered car. It'll enter production this decade with a 500-kilometer driving range, Daimler said, more than twice that of the existing electric version of the Mercedes B-Class.

The pressure to invest in a range of new technologies despite low sales of hybrid and electric cars means carmakers will probably collaborate more with each other to reduce the cost, said Christian Mohrdieck, who heads Daimler's fuel cell development.

"We'll probably see more cooperation," Mohrdieck said. "There's the advantage to save costs and also bundle volumes." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

'NOW YOU SEE ME 2' SCREENING AT THE VENETIAN



Soler

An exclusive screening of the action thriller film "Now You See Me 2" from Lionsgate's Summit Entertainment label was held at The Venetian early this month.

According to a Sands China's press release, bringing Hollywood mega productions and its stars to

the city is just one of many ways to further promote the city as an international tourist destination, as well as generating global awareness of Macau.

As the first place in Asia to screen the movie, the territory was the "ideal choice" since many of



Eliza Chan

the scenes in the movie were shot on location in and around Macau.

The statement added that audiences would recognize the iconic neon-sign of Sands Macao, as well as the Great Hall of The Venetian which was also featured with its iconic curved esca-

tors in the sequel of the action movie.

The star-studded "Now You See Me 2" is the sequel to "Now You See Me" which earned over USD350 million in the box office worldwide when it was first released.

MGM RAISES MOP230,000 FOR ORBIS MACAU

To help Orbis Macau in preventing avoidable and treatable blindness in visually impaired children, MGM raised MOP230,000 this year, topping the chart as the highest fund-raising corporate donor for the Orbis Raffle Campaign.

MGM said in a statement that the Golden Lion Team members participated in the "Orbis Raffle 2016" sale campaign between April 11 and 15, and showed an overwhelming response within a short period of time, to support Orbis' sight-saving work in developing nations.

The resort has been a supporter of community and philanthropy initiatives, including a long-term collaboration with Orbis Macau in support of its sight-saving work. Since 2009, MGM has participated in the annual Orbis Raffle Campaign and co-organized a number of innovative fundraising programs. More than MOP2.1 million in cash and in-kind donations have been raised for Orbis Macau over the years.

Explosion at Shanghai's main international airport injures 4



Paramilitary policemen guard a closed off area of the Shanghai's Pudong airport

A small explosion at a check-in area of Shanghai's main international airport injured four people yesterday but did not cause any disruption to flights, officials said.

The blast at Pudong International Airport, China's second-busiest, occurred at around 2:20 p.m. and appeared to have been caused by some sort of homemade ex-

plosive, the airport's management said on its verified microblog account.

It said the four injured people were taken to a hospital but gave no word about their condition. There was no disruption to flights into or out of the airport, the management said, although police and internal security troops cordoned off the area and checked for additional explo-

sives.

Ni Bowen, who was waiting to check into his Philippine Airlines flight when the explosion happened, said passengers ran for safety after a loud bang rocked the hall.

"At that moment, a beer bottle filled with white smoke rolled right by my feet. I was scared and made off at once," said Ni, 30, who works for a machinery manufacturer.

One of the injured, a Chinese man, sustained a severe neck injury, China's official Xinhua News Agency said, citing hospital officials. It said the injury may have been self-inflicted.

Also injured was a 53-year-old Philippine man. The two others who were hurt were Chinese, including a 67-year-old man and 64-year-old woman who suffered injuries to their heads, hands and legs, Xinhua said.

Pudong airport serves international flights but is also a hub for two major domestic airlines. AP

New Taiwan leader rejects predecessor's bid to visit HK

Yu-Huay Sun, Argin Chang

TAIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen blocked her predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou, from making a landmark visit to Hong Kong this week, citing security concerns.

Ma's travel request was rejected on grounds that the administration needed more time to ensure the security of the ex-president's trip and assess what confidential information he had access to, Taiwan's Office of the President said yesterday. The onetime-Kuomintang leader was due to address the Society of Publishers in Asia's annual jour-

alism awards gala in Hong Kong on Wednesday, which would've made him the most senior Taiwanese figure to visit the former British colony since the Chinese civil war ended in 1949.

The Hong Kong visit by Ma, 65, would've capped a career of milestone trips. In November, he shook hands with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Singapore, the first face-to-face encounter between leaders of the former civil war foes in almost 70 years. Tsai took office May 20, after securing control of both the presidency and the legislature for her Democratic Progressive Party in a landslide election in January. **Bloomberg**



Tsai Ing-wen (center)

AD

OUR APPRECIATION TO THE SANDS CHINA DRAGON BOAT TEAMS
A JOB WELL DONE - GREAT TEAMWORK,
TEAM SPIRIT AND PERFORMANCE

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ST REGIS
FOUR SEASONS
假日酒店 Holiday Inn
CONRAD
Sheraton Grand

Sessões de Recolha de Opiniões da População sobre o Projecto do Plano Quinquenal de Desenvolvimento da RAEM (2016-2020)

Para melhor ouvir as opiniões e sugestões da população sobre o Projecto do Plano Quinquenal de Desenvolvimento da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau (2016-2020), o Gabinete de Estudos das Políticas vai realizar, nos dias 24 e 25 de Junho de 2016, sessões de recolha de opiniões da população, e todos os residentes são bem-vindos para apresentar as suas opiniões.

Data	Horário	Local	Línguas
24 de Junho de 2016 (Sexta-feira)	Das 20H00 às 22H00	Centro de Actividades Turísticas, sito na Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes n.º 431, 2.º andar	Cantonense (com serviço de interpretação simultânea para português)
25 de Junho de 2016 (Sábado)	Das 15H00 às 17H00		

Os residentes interessados podem inscrever-se, a partir de 13 a 17 de Junho, através das seguintes formas:

Página electrónica: <http://www.cccmtl.gov.mo>
 Fax: 89871371, 89870898
 Inscrição presencial ou por telefone: das 9:00 às 18:00 nos dias úteis, sem intervalo na hora de almoço

- Endereço: Gabinete de Estudos das Políticas (sito na Rua do Desporto n.ºs 185-195, 5.º andar, Taipa)
- Telefone: 89871365, 89871367

Para a consulta detalhada e o descarregamento do documento do projecto: www.cccmtl.gov.mo

IMF urges Beijing to tackle 'high' corporate debt immediately

Scott Lanman

THE International Monetary Fund's No. 2 official urged China to take immediate steps to tackle rising corporate debt or risk "dangerous detours" during the country's transition to a consumption-oriented economy.

"Corporate debt remains a serious - and growing - problem that must be addressed immediately and with a commitment to serious reforms," David Lipton, the IMF's first deputy managing director, said in a speech to an economics conference on Saturday in Shenzhen, China.

The comments build on other recent warnings from the global crisis lender about China's debt, including an estimate of a possible USD1.3 trillion in



David Lipton, the IMF's first deputy managing director

loans extended to borrowers that don't have sufficient income to cover interest payments. China has accumulated debt faster than any Group of 20 nation over the past decade, climbing to 247 percent of gross

domestic product, according to Tom Orlik, an economist for Bloomberg Intelligence.

Premier Li Keqiang said in March that the country may use debt-to-equity swaps to cut the leverage ratios of Chinese com-

panies. An IMF staff report in April said China's plan to rid banks of bad loans could backfire, allowing debt-laden "zombie" companies to stay afloat and creating conflicts of interest for bankers.

China has made "limited progress" in addressing corporate debt and restructuring, Lipton said. He gave an estimate of total debt at 225 percent of GDP and corporate debt at 145 percent of GDP, "which is very high by any measure."

"With the rapid increase in credit growth in 2015 and early 2016, and the continued high rates of investment, the problem is growing," said Lipton, a former U.S. Treasury and White House official. "This is a key fault line in the Chinese economy. It is surely within China's powers to address this

problem. And it is important that China tackles it soon."

In addition to addressing the problem quickly, China must fix balance sheets at companies as well as banks, and improve governance to prevent a new debt bubble, he said.

Lipton and other IMF staff members are meeting with officials in China as part of an annual assessment of the nation's economy.

Macquarie Capital Ltd. said in a June 8 report that China's debt is a concern but unlikely to result in a crisis. The borrowing is backed largely by bank deposits instead of other, more volatile funding, and the central bank could intervene quickly if needed, according to the report by Hong Kong-based analysts Larry Hu and Jerry Peng. **Bloomberg**

China now rivals U.S., Europe as growth engine for Asia exports

Enda Curran

CHINA is now an equal or even bigger driver of export growth in neighboring economies than the U.S. and E.U. combined, marking a significant shift in the economic pecking order since the 2008 global financial crisis.

That's according to research by Deutsche Bank AG economists who weighed up the influence of the U.S. and China over the rest of Asia through the prism of export growth, as well as the currency and bond markets.

In Taiwan and Indonesia, for example, the growth of China's gross domestic product dominates the U.S. and European Union's as a source of export demand. In other economies, the trading giants are equally important.

"This is noticeably different from the pre-crisis years when China was much less important - bordering on irrelevance - as an engine of growth in the region," Deutsche analysts led by Asia-Pacific Chief Economist Michael



Spencer wrote in a note. After a rocky start to the year, China has been aided in its growth prospects by a record surge in credit in the first quarter. Key indicators for May are expected to show that the economy is continuing to find its footing and growth is on track to hit the Communist Party's goal of 6.5 percent to 7 percent for 2016.

The International Monetary Fund in April upgraded its China growth forecasts by 0.2 percentage point for this year and next, following signs of "resilient domestic demand" and growth in services that offset weakness in manufacturing.

Beyond the pace of GDP growth, China's currency gyrations are

also increasingly important across the region. While the dollar still drives volatility in most Asian currencies, the yuan is as least as important for fluctuations in the ringgit and won and is growing in significance for other exchange rates, except the peso.

"Asia is far from being a 'yuan bloc', but idiosyncratic shocks to the yuan cannot be ignored," according to the Deutsche analysts.

The People's Bank of China surprised traders this week by setting the reference rate at weaker-than-expected levels, helping send the currency to its biggest declines in four months versus a trade-weighted basket that includes the yen and the euro.

The rate's fixing had become more predictable since early February after the PBOC pledged greater transparency and the yuan increasingly tracked moves in the dollar against major currencies. That was after a sudden weakening of the yuan in January fueled fears of a devaluation and triggered global market turmoil. During the subsequent three months, the central bank adopted a more market-based system to set the rate and said the basket would play a bigger role.

Where the U.S. still dominates, however, is in the bond markets: moves in Treasury yields continue to steer Asian bond trading. And even if Asia central banks don't match rate tightening by the U.S. Federal Reserve, financial conditions in the region may tighten if U.S. yields increase.

"We find only weak evidence that fluctuations in Chinese yields have any impact on other countries' bond markets," the analysts said. **Bloomberg**

SEVERE WEATHER

Rainstorms hit several provinces

RAIN and hail have brought havoc to several Chinese provinces, causing casualties and economic losses. Floods in Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Guizhou left one dead and five missing. More than 11,000 people were relocated and 4,900 people received emergency aid, such as food and drinking water, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The ministry estimates that the weather front caused economic losses of 420 million yuan (64 million U.S. dollars).

Torrential rain has left five people missing in southwest China's Guizhou Province. Storms had forced nearly 4,000 residents to temporarily relocate as of Saturday. The rain damaged more than 520 hectares of crops and over 360 houses collapsed. Direct economic loss reached over 31 million yuan, said a statement by the local civil

affairs department, who have allocated 4 million yuan for disaster relief. Tents, camp beds and quilts were sent affected areas.

Rain battered neighboring Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Saturday and yesterday. More storms are expected in next four days.

In east China's Jiangxi Province, more than 260 teachers and students were trapped in a primary school by flooding yesterday and relocated to safer places.

Hail in north China disrupted the Dragon Boat Festival holiday, causing the death of one person. Hail in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province yesterday accumulated on the road to a depth of more than 10 cm in some places with some hailstones three centimeters in diameter, according to the provincial meteorological station. **Xinhua**



People walk on a waterlogged road in Nanning

IT'S NOT ALL BAD NEWS IN HK

Singapore losing out to Hong Kong in race to be most competitive

David Roman

SINGAPORE and Hong Kong have been vying for years to hold the crown of most competitive place to do business. Now a clear winner is emerging: Hong Kong.

While Hong Kong is rising on world rankings for competitiveness, Singapore is sliding. The latest results from IMD, a Swiss business school, put Hong Kong at the top of the list, knocking the U.S. off the No. 1 spot. Singapore has dropped from third to fourth place.

The IMD defines competitiveness as the ability of a country to create an environment in which businesses can generate sustainable value. The rankings are based on a combination of hard data and opinion surveys of more than 5,400 business executives covering four main areas: economic performance,



Hong Kong

government and business efficiency and infrastructure.

Both Hong Kong and Singapore boast low taxes, good infrastructure and easy procedures to open a business, so why the divergence in competitiveness?

One of the reasons is Singapore's weakening economy as exports in the trade-reliant nation have come under pressure. But another key factor may be Singapore's stricter rules on hiring foreign labor, which adds to bu-

Singapore has stricter rules on hiring foreign labor, which adds to business costs

siness costs.

"The key difference between the two territories is Singapore's restrictions on importing foreign labor, and their policy of boosting labor costs to discourage companies from being dependent on foreign labor," said Brian Tan, an economist at Nomura in Singapore. "When you push labor costs, that's going to have an effect on competitiveness."

The index flags Hong Kong's labor market as more compe-

titive than in Singapore, with the China-controlled territory improving from 2015 on scores such as working hours, skill levels, unemployment legislation and immigration levels.

Hong Kong also leads Singapore on business efficiency, including productivity and management practices, according to IMD.

Making the top five of the list is still an achievement though. Singapore was ranked third on the IMD's list last year, its highest level in the past five years. It's only surpassed Hong Kong once in that period, in 2014.

"It's not that Singapore did something wrong, or that they must do things differently," said Christos Cabolis, the Lausanne, Switzerland-based chief economist at IMD World Competitiveness Center. "It's simply that it's really hard to be on top of the list." **Bloomberg**

Bangladesh arrests over 5,000 in crackdown on extremists

POLICE in Bangladesh said yesterday that they have arrested more than 5,000 criminal suspects in the past few days as they continue a nationwide crackdown to try and stop a growing wave of brutal attacks on minorities and activists.

Since the crackdown began on Thursday, police have arrested 5,324 people, including 85 suspected Islamist radicals, said police spokesman Kamrul Ahsan. The majority of those arrested have petty criminal records. More arrests are expected through this week.

At least 18 people, including atheist bloggers, foreign aid workers and religious minorities, have been killed in attacks over the last two years. In separate incidents last week, two Hindus were fatally attacked. The attacks have alarmed the international community and raised questions about whether Bangladesh's secular government can protect minorities and secular writers and intellectuals in the Muslim-majority nation.

The crackdown began four days after the wife of a police superintendent who led drives against Islamist



A member of Bangladeshi bomb disposal unit carries seized homemade bombs during a raid on a building where members of a banned Islamist group were detained in Mirpur area

militants and drug cartels was shot and stabbed to death in the southeastern city of Chittagong. The killing caused a furor among Bangladesh's political establishment, many of whom considered her as one of their own.

Days after that attack, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vowed to root out radicals and defeat their bid to establish Islamic rule in the country.

Authorities have arrested suspects in some of the 18 attacks, mostly low-level operatives accused of following orders to carry out attacks, but none has been prosecuted. Police have said they are waiting until investigations are complete before taking any suspects to court.

Almost all the attacks have been claimed by transnational Islamist extremist groups, including the Islamic State group and al-Qaida affiliates. The killing Friday of a Hindu ashram worker in northern Bangladesh was also claimed by IS, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist activity online.

Hasina's government, however, says transnational terror groups have no presence in the South Asian nation of 160 million. It blames the attacks on domestic groups aligned with political opposition parties, though it has presented no evidence of such a campaign and the opposition denies the allegations. **AP**

Korea prosecutors raid Lotte headquarters as probes widen

Sohee Kim, Sam Kim

SOUTH Korean prosecutors widened their probes into Lotte Group, searching the conglomerate's headquarters and the offices of some of its units, including those of the hotel subsidiary that's preparing for what could be the country's biggest initial public offering.

The raid, which began Friday morning, included Hotel Lotte Co. and Lotte Homeshopping, according to a Lotte spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be named as per company policy. The spokesman couldn't confirm a Yonhap news report that said 200 investigators went to 17 locations related to the group and seven affiliates as part of an investigation involving suspected use of slush funds.

An official with the Seoul prosecutor's office, who spoke on condition he not be named, confirmed that investigators are pursuing allegations of slush funds and embezzlement by company executives. Yonhap, citing an unnamed prosecutor, reported that homes of some Lotte executives were also searched.

The move deepens the crisis at Lotte Group, a conglomerate with 89 Korean units with than 100 trillion won (USD86 billion) in assets, which has been weathering through a power struggle atop the founding family. The turmoil also comes as Lotte seeks to raise \$4.5 billion by listing its hotel unit, a plan that's already been delayed and scaled back because of a separate investigation into bribery allegations involving company executives.



The Lotte World Mall and tower

The IPO may face further delay with the latest investigation, according to Chung Sun Sup, CEO of Chaebul.com, which researches Korea's family-run conglomerates. "The markets' view on it is negative now, so the possibility for postponing it is also growing," he said.

Six of Lotte Group's eight listed units fell in Seoul trading, losing more than 200 billion won in market value. Lotte Chemical Corp. and Lotte Confectionery Co. closed unchanged.

Additional delays could be costly. Hotel Lotte, which is also the world's third-largest operator of duty-free shops, earlier this week cut the IPO price range after prosecutors began the bribery investigation, reducing the maximum size of the sale to 5.26 trillion won from an earlier target of 5.74 trillion won. The sale is being arranged by Mirae Asset Daewoo Co., Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Besides the investigation, the Japanese-Korean conglomerate has been in turmoil since last year, when a power struggle atop the Shin family erupted into public view. **Bloomberg**

ACT exams canceled in South Korea, Hong Kong over breach

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

OPERATORS of the ACT college entrance exam on Saturday canceled the tests for students in South Korea and Hong Kong at the last moment over what they said was a verified breach of test materials.

The cancellation affected about 5,500 test takers who will receive refunds of test fees, according to ACT spokesman Edward Colby, who said the company believes it was the first time the exam was canceled for an entire country.

The ACT, an Iowa-based nonprofit organization, had planned to administer the tests at 56 different locations in South Korea and Hong Kong on Saturday

The College Board canceled tests in China and Macau in January

morning. The ACT decided to cancel the test soon after it received "credible evidence" that the test materials had been leaked, Colby said.

"We are extremely concerned about any activities that could impact the fairness and integrity of the test. When individuals attempt to profit by stealing test materials and selling them, it can hurt thousands of students who did nothing wrong, as it

has in this case," Colby said in an email conversation.

Colby said he couldn't comment on when and how the test materials might have been leaked because the incident is still under investigation. He said the ACT exams will be administered in South Korea and Hong Kong again in September.

The sudden cancellation of the exam caused confusion in South Korea, where many students didn't know of the decision until they arrived at the test sites, according to teachers from private "cram schools" in affluent southern Seoul that specialize in preparing students for the tests.

ACT emails notifying students of the cancellations didn't reach inboxes until nearly 7 a.m., an hour before students were to arrive at

test sites, they said.

"It's frustrating for students, including those who had been planning to use the scores for early decision admissions at U.S. schools," said a cram school teacher who had prepared four students to take the test. She spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear she might anger her clients if she allowed her name to be used.

"Parents have asked whether they should prepare their kids to take the exams in other countries like Japan in the future, because they are worried that the cheating problems could reoccur here, as it had with the SATs," she said.

South Korea has struggled to clamp down on cheating on standardized English and college admission tests and similar problems have been reported in other Asian countries. The College Board, the New York-based testing firm that oversees the SAT college entrance exams, canceled tests in China and Macau in January over concerns that some students had seen copies of the tests in advance. The College Board was forced to cancel SATs in South Korea in 2013 for similar reasons. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Ali exhibit opens in venue of 'Thrilla in Manila'



FILIPINO fans remembering boxing legend Muhammad Ali gathered near the site of his epic "Thrilla in Manila" fight with Joe Frazier for an art and photo tribute Friday.

The display near Araneta Coliseum at Ali Mall was launched hours before Ali's burial in the United States. Ali died June 3 at age 74. Outside the coliseum, a cutout picture of Ali stands in a boxing ring. Fans crowded around a screen playing videos of the 1975 match that put the Philippines on the map. At the mall, memorabilia including boxing gloves with Ali's autograph, an original souvenir program and a gold commemorative coin also are on display.

The Oct. 1, 1975, heavyweight championship, one of the greatest boxing matches in history, was won by Ali on a technical knockout at the jam-packed coliseum in Manila's suburban Quezon city and was watched by a worldwide audience. **AP**

AD

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50 dead in Florida nightclub shooting, worst in US history

Mike Schneider, Orlando

A gunman wielding an assault-type rifle and a handgun opened fire inside a crowded Florida nightclub early Sunday before dying in a gunfight with SWAT officers, police said. The attack left at least 50 people dead, making it the worst mass shooting in American history. Authorities were investigating it as an act of terrorism.

At least 53 other people were hospitalized, the Orlando mayor said. "There's blood everywhere," Mayor Buddy Dyer said.

The suspect exchanged gunfire with an officer working at the gay club known as Pulse Orlando around 2 a.m., when more than 300 people were inside. The gunman then went back inside and took hostages, Police Chief John Mina said.

Around 5 a.m., authorities sent in a SWAT team to rescue the hostages. Police have not determined an exact number of casualties, but Mina said "approximately 20" bodies were inside the club.

In addition to the guns, the shooter also had some sort of "suspicious device," Mina said.

Authorities were looking into



Law enforcement personnel block off a street near Pulse nightclub

whether the attack was an act of domestic or international terror, and if the shooter acted alone, according to Danny Banks, an agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

"This is an incident, as I see it, that we certainly classify as domestic terror incident," Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings said.

The suspect was identified as Omar Mateen of Port St. Lucie,

Florida.

Rep. Alan Grayson named the shooter, citing law enforcement officials. A federal law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation also confirmed the name. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

FBI agent Ron Hopper said there was no further threat to

Orlando or the surrounding area.

When asked if the gunman had a connection to radical Islamic terrorism, Hopper said authorities had "suggestions that individual has leanings towards that."

Police had said previously on Twitter that there was a "controlled explosion" at the scene of the shooting. Mina said that noise was caused by a device in-

tended to distract the shooter.

A woman who was outside the dance club early Sunday was trying to contact her 30-year-old son, Eddie, who texted her when the shooting happened and asked her to call police. He told her he ran into a bathroom with other club patrons to hide. He then texted her: "He's coming."

"The next text said: 'He has us, and he's in here with us,'" Mina Justice said. "That was the last conversation."

Dozens of police vehicles swarmed the area around the club. At least two police pickup trucks were seen taking what appeared to be shooting victims to the Orlando Regional Medical Center.

Pulse posted on its own Facebook page around 2 a.m.: "Everyone get out of pulse and keep running." Just before 6 a.m., the club posted an update: "As soon as we have any information, we will update everyone. Please keep everyone in your prayers as we work through this tragic event. Thank you for your thoughts and love."

Local, state and federal agencies were investigating. President Barack Obama was briefed on the attack and has asked for regular updates on the investigation, the White House said.

The attack follows the fatal shooting late Friday of 22-year-old singer Christina Grimmie, who was killed after her concert in Orlando by a 27-year-old Florida man who later killed himself. Grimmie was a YouTube sensation and former contestant on "The Voice." AP

Trump mocks Romney on 'trickle-down racism' comment

Kevin Cirilli

DONALD Trump returned to the combative form that helped him win the U.S. Republican presidential nomination, slamming Democrats, calling for his party to unite behind him, and responding to Mitt Romney's suggestion that his election could lead to "trickle-down racism."

At a rally Saturday in Tampa, Florida, the presumptive Republican nominee termed himself "the least racist person that you have ever met" and knocked Romney, as he's done before, for losing to President Barack Obama as the Republican nominee in the 2012 election. Later, in Pittsburgh, he stirred the crowd by saying that Hillary Clinton, the presumptive De-

Trump termed himself 'the least racist person that you have ever met'

mocratic nominee, plans to limit access to guns.

Romney said on CNN Friday that electing Trump could fundamentally change the nature of the U.S. "Trickle-down racism, trickle-down bigotry, trickle-down misogyny, all these things are extraordinarily dangerous to the heart and character of America," Romney said.

"Don't forget, this guy let us down. He choked and

he let us down," Trump said in Tampa of Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and private equity firm executive.

After enduring days of criticism from Republican congressional leaders including House Speaker Paul Ryan for his complaints that a U.S. judge of Mexican heritage was biased because of ethnicity, Trump said it was time for the party to get behind him.

"The Republicans have to stick together and they have to be smart," he said. "The Republicans have to be tough because we have the better ideas. And my ideas are better than any of them."

The weekend events - including a rally Friday night in Richmond, Virginia, and a second event on Saturday at Pittsburgh In-

ternational Airport - were Trump's first since he spoke in more measured terms about his campaign platform on Thursday, using a teleprompter.

The billionaire political novice needed no prompting to deliver barbs at Clinton, whom he termed "very crooked" at the Tampa rally. In Pittsburgh he told supporters that Clinton wants to repeal the Second Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms. "On that issue alone, I think we win the election. I really do," Trump said. Clinton supports gun-control measures, none involving the Second Amendment.

Trump also revisited his primary-season attack on Jeb Bush, noting that the former Florida governor had been an also-ran in the party's nominating



contests. "I was at center stage at every debate," said Trump, while Bush was "falling off the ends" of the stage.

"I don't think he's going to endorse me," Trump said in Tampa. "Who the hell cares?" Tieless in a business suit, and having swapped his usual red "Make America Great Again" cap for a black version, Trump was feeling the heat at the campaign

stop at Pittsburgh International Airport, where temperatures reached 88 Fahrenheit (31 degrees Celsius).

"It's 140 degrees up here. That's the end of this suit. It's soaking wet. Does anybody want my jacket?" The crowd cheered, and one fan yelled "Happy birthday, Mr. Trump," ahead of the New Yorker's 70th birthday celebration tomorrow. Bloomberg

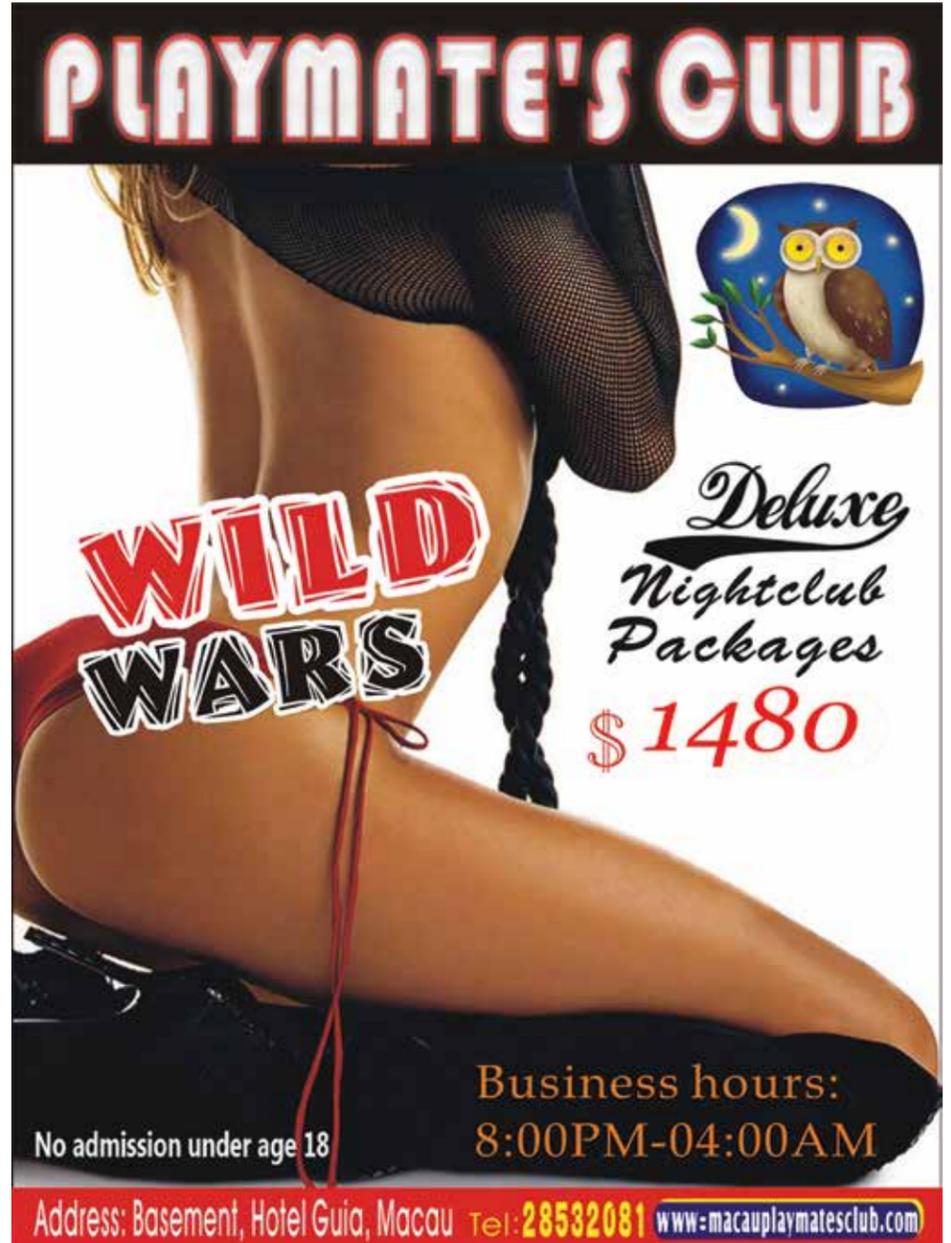


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what's ON



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH ARCHITECTURE STUDENT GRADUATION PROJECT EXHIBITION 2016 - OTHER PLANS

TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 18, 2016

VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building,

Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

THE EXHIBITION OF LOU KAM IENG

TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: June 17, 2016

VENUE: Pavilion of the Lou Lim Ieoc Garden,

Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro n.º 10

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily

(Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

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

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement

(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily

(Except Thursdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Centre,

Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre MOP25;

Planetarium MOP60-80

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

CAFE SOCIETY

TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 30, 2016

VENUE: Rua de Abreu Nunes 14B

Edf. San Pou R/C - A

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6307 3797

TIBET REVEALED

TIME: 11am-7pm (open on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 20, 2016

VENUE: Iaohin Gallery,

No. 39ª Rua Da Tercena, Macau

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 1908

Offbeat

UBER DRIVER RETURNS LOST MONEY TO WORLD SERIES POKER PLAYER

A World Series of Poker player says he hit an "emotional jackpot" thanks to an Uber driver who returned his USD7,000 ante.

Jacob Brundage, of Lakeland, Florida, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that he lost a tote filled with cash and playing chips June 1.

The 39-year-old says he realized the bag was in an Uber car that he rode from The Venetian to the Rio.

Brundage failed to reach the driver through the app and enlisted a group of waiting Uber drivers to help.

The driver, who wants to remain anonymous, called Brundage and returned the bag.

Brundage gave him \$200 as a reward. Uber spokeswoman Maui Cheska Orozo says this is likely the most expensive item ever left in an Uber car in Las Vegas.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:40	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group C): Poland - N. Ireland (Repeated)
16:30	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group C): Germany - Ukraine (Repeated)
18:20	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:10	Contraponto (Repeated)
20:10	Sports
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
20:50	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group D): Spain - Czech Republic (Live)
23:00	TDM News
23:50	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group E): Rep. of Ireland - Sweden (Live)
02:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:30	Sports (Repeated)
02:50	UEFA EURO 2016 - Group Stage (Group E): Belgium - Italy (Live)

cinema

CINETEATRO

09 JUN - 15 JUN

NOW YOU SEE ME 2

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Jon M. Chu

Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo,

Woody Harrelson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 129min



WARCRAFT: THE BEGINNING

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Duncan Jones

Starring: Travis Fimmel, Paula Patton, Ben Foster

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 123min



SING STREET

ROOM 3

2.15, 5.50, 9.30 pm

Director: John Carney

Starring: Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Aidan Gillen,

Maria Doyle Kennedy

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 106min

ANGRY BIRDS

ROOM 3

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 7.30 pm

(3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Clay Kaytis, Fergal Reilly

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

02 JUN - 22 JUN

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Dave Green

Starring: Megan Fox, Will Arnett, Tyler Perry

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



1967 MOSCOW CALLS FOR UN ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

The United Nations Security Council has rejected Soviet demands for an immediate vote on a resolution condemning Israel's aggression in the six-day war.

Moscow - which has close ties with Egypt - is also demanding the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Arab territories. It follows six days of fighting in which Israel has made advances on three fronts doubling the area of land it controls.

Israel says the attacks were launched to counter huge Arab troop movements along its borders.

It has seized Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt in the south and the Golan Heights from Syria in the north. It has also pushed Jordanian forces out of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The advances ended with ceasefires signed as Israeli troops were poised within striking distance of each of the respective capitals, Cairo in Egypt, Damascus in Syria and Amman in Jordan.

It is not clear what action Moscow will take in the face of the UN's hesitation. The council has postponed making a decision on how to respond to the war until tomorrow at the earliest.

Israel has already declared its intention to remain in control of its newly occupied territories until permanent peace with its Arab neighbours can be established.

Israel's casualties after six days of fighting are calculated at 759 dead and about 3,000 wounded, Arab casualties are far higher, about 15,000. The scale of the refugee problem caused by the war is also now becoming clear.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is making preparations to help thousands of Egyptian soldiers stranded in the Sinai desert after last week's bitter fighting. Water supplies to the area were cut off in the hope of slowing the Israeli advance.

Gaza City in the Gaza Strip saw some of the fiercest fighting between Egyptians and Israelis during the brief war. It is estimated there are now some 200,000 Arabs living in five camps outside the city. Many have not eaten for days.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency is appealing for help to buy tents, blankets and vehicles and has also asked for medical supplies.

It says many of the refugees in Jordan are homeless for a second time - having been forced to flee the camps outside Jericho which had been their homes since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

The British Government is contributing towards the cost of the emergency relief, as are many Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia which is donating half a month's salary per soldier in its armed forces.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The General Assembly met again on 19 June but lengthy discussions on what action to take continued for a month until the session adjourned on 21 July and referred the matter back to the Security Council.

The Council, after long discussions, on 22 November unanimously adopted Resolution 242, which became the basis for future United Nations policymaking on the Middle East conflict.

It stated "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and called for "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict".

It also called for the acknowledgement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of every national state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure borders.

In the meantime, the Arab nations resolved to ignore Israel's call for peace. With Soviet help, they began rebuilding their armies and adopted a policy of three nays, no to peace, no to recognition of Israel and no to negotiations.

The occupied territories became the basis of the land-for-peace diplomatic concept at the heart of the 1978 Camp David accords and 1993 Oslo accords.

Israeli forces evicted Jewish settlers from the Gaza strip in August 2005 and began to demolish some settlements on the West Bank as well.

Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab nations to have made peace with Israel since 1967.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Whether you're laughing or crying, you're getting very emotional. Don't suppress it today. But do put a tight lid on it before going back to the office on Monday.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Some days are a time to recalibrate. Don't you dare think about going into the office or working from home. Do what you have to do to feel happy and content, without involving work.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you're not the type to be moody when you don't get what you want, then maybe you should learn to be less adaptable. You don't let people walk all over you at the office. Why should you do it at home?

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Emotions are all over the board at the office, lately. It feels good to be at home, where you can be your old self. It's a day of new beginnings, even if that only means leaving work baggage at the office for the weekend.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your actions don't have to be as controlled today, but do be sensitive to those around you. An honest desire to maintain goodwill should be a two way street in your house.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Not sure you can deal with an upcoming office gathering? Look to your friends or coworkers for support. Better yet, bring them along. The time to ask is now.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Don't let anxiety about work seep into your time off. Spend your days off focusing on friends and family. Blocking out all thoughts of the office is the healthiest approach.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you're making lists, don't waste time using your intuitive powers to do it. You don't have to enter into any deep conversations to fill that list. Clues are in every conversation if you try not to control their direction.

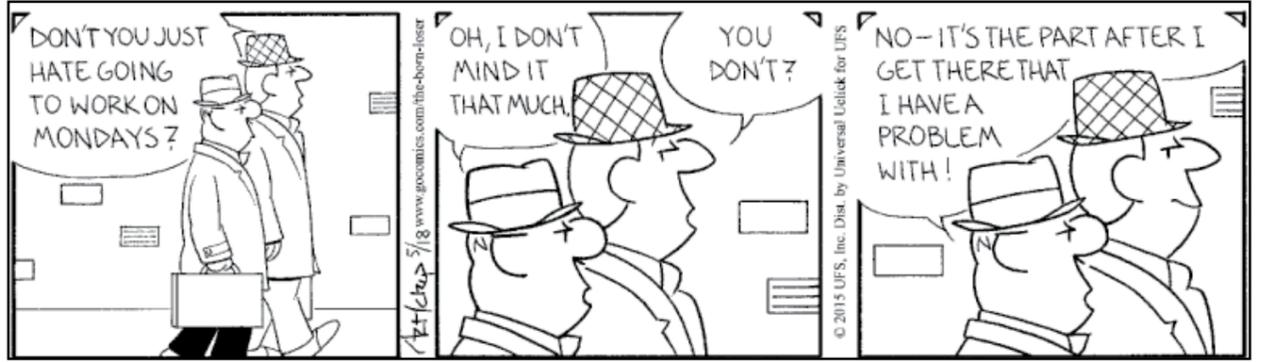
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's not the right time to be questioning things like relationships. You have enough uncertainty in other areas of your life (namely: At the office). Let things go, even if they're not ideal.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've been longing for home all day. When you're there, don't waste time wanting to be somewhere else. The problem could be focusing on only one person. Invite people over and be social instead.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Don't let anything get in the way of enjoying your time off. Stop thinking about work. Just do it. Focusing on health routines or pets is the best way to get your mind off of the office - and keep it off.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You'll be called on to do a bit of acting and find that you're quite good at it. Why is not a mystery: You perform from nine to five, Monday through Friday. Enjoy being appreciated by others.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Easy+ Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Medium Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Hard Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Head and shoulders sculpture; 5- Pave over; 10- Storage shelter; 14- Barbarous person; 15- Use a soapbox; 16- Jewel ___; CD container; 17- Variable; 19- "Casablanca" role; 20- Beasts of burden; 21- Requests; 23- Tic-___toe; 25- Software buyers; 26- Nile nippers; 29- "___ you dare!"; 31- Red fluorescent dye; 35- Paving material; 36- Yes ___?; 37- Layers; 38- Range of vision; 40- Ragtime dance; 41- Pants measurement; 42- Go after; 43- Anger; 44- Polite denial; 45- Venture; 46- Discounted by; 47- Chairman's hammer; 49- Actress Charlotte; 51- Kitchen vessel; 54- Name on a bomber; 58- Burt's ex; 59- Partly serious and partly comic; 63- Cube maker Rubik; 64- Agenda entries; 65- Four-star review; 66- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 67- Office subs; 68- "___ Tu": 1974 hit;

DOWN: 1- ___ Raton; 2- Sounds of disgust; 3- Ladies of Sp.; 4- Beliefs; 5- Fish eggs; 6- Notable period; 7- Bar bill; 8- Finally; 9- Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"; 10- Cutting instrument for paper; 11- One of two equal parts; 12- Canadian gas brand; 13- Expensive; 18- Govt. property overseer; 22- Indonesian cigarette; 24- Software medium; 25- Numero ___; 26- Had dinner at home; 27- Decline; 28- Squeeze; 30- Thunder Bay's prov.; 32- French composer Erik; 33- Anatomical passages; 34- Scruffs; 36- Tara family; 37- Twisted expression?; 39- Feudal lord; 40- ___ the ramparts we watched...; 42- Gal of song; 45- Erase; 46- "The Raven" maiden; 48- Be a guest; 50- Former nuclear agcy.; 51- Peter Fonda title role; 52- Ripped; 53- Feminine ending; 55- Actor Epps; 56- Reside; 57- Breezes through; 60- Sleep stage; 61- Mischievous child; 62- CIA predecessor Pinafore; 64- Wide shoe size

Thursday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68.

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
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FOOTBALL | EURO 2016

Portugal superstar Ronaldo takes on Iceland minnows

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

THERE could not be more different teams than Portugal and Iceland at the European championships.

A well-established European soccer power, Portugal is relying heavily on the prowess of Real Madrid star striker Cristiano Ronaldo, who hopes to take advantage of the competition to show the world how good he is.

Iceland, on the other hand, qualified for the first time and has no star player in its squad apart from the aging ex-Barcelona and Chelsea striker Eidur Gudjohnsen. The tiny Nordic island's best player is Gylfi Sigurdsson, the Swansea creative midfielder whose work ethic, and shooting skills are not getting much attention outside of the Premier League.

While team spirit is essential for Iceland, Ronaldo epitomizes the individualization of football. Following Real Madrid's latest Champions League



In this March 25, 2016 file photo, Cristiano Ronaldo shoots a free kick during a friendly soccer match between Portugal and Bulgaria in Leiria

triumph, he missed Portugal's friendly defeat to England at Wembley and only joined his teammates after taking some time off on a yacht with friends. The three-time world player of the year is as famous for his goals as he is for his perfect abs, and each of his public appearances makes headlines.

There is no such fuss surround-

ing the Iceland squad, which makes its debut in the tournament against its Group F rivals on Tuesday (Wednesday, Macau time) in Saint-Etienne.

"We've got good players who can score goals and create goals but I think our great strength is how good we are defensively and how hard we work for each other," Sigurdsson said in a TV

documentary about the Iceland team's recent success.

With such a mindset, Iceland defied the odds in qualifying to become the smallest nation to reach a major final soccer tournament. With a population of 330,000, Iceland finished second in its group behind Czech Republic and above Turkey and the Netherlands, defeating the Dutch twice.

The team usually plays in a classic 4-4-2 formation in which every player works defensively to retrieve the ball quickly and launch counterattacks.

"Everyone is leading by example, it's fantastic to have players like that in a squad," said Heimer Hallgrímsson, who is coaching the team alongside Swedish technician Lars Lagerback. "We have had our best games against the best teams. And luckily there are only good teams in the finals."

Particularly Portugal, which is making its sixth straight appearance at the Euros and reached the final of the 2004 tourna-

ment it hosted. The Portuguese won their last seven competitive matches and never failed to qualify for the knockout rounds.

Apart from Ronaldo, Fernando Santos' side is lacking top-notch strikers and the former Man United striker should be playing upfront alongside Nani or Ricardo Quaresma in a 4-4-2 system.

In France, Ronaldo will be looking to equal Michel Platini's record of nine goals during the finals. Ronaldo has already scored six in 14 European Championship matches.

Quaresma has been challenging Nani for a starting role in Fernando Santos' team recently, scoring twice in Portugal's final friendly game before the tournament, a 7-0 thrashing of Estonia.

The win boosted confidence within the Portuguese ranks, but keeping a low profile will be key to progress from a group also featuring Austria and Hungary, said defender Cedric Soares.

"We know it will be a difficult game [against Iceland]. They have a good, solid defense and you don't win 0-0," Soares said. "We looked good versus Estonia and we need to continue in that vein. We know football goes from game to game and we have to be focused on Iceland. It's a hard task." AP

The remaining groups

The Times continues to present the remaining groups after Thursday's introduction to groups A, B and C.

Group D

CROATIA

Croatia's reputation as a football power is growing, with the team having qualified for the European Championship for the fourth consecutive time. The reputation of its fans, though,

is only getting worse. Croatia was docked one point in qualifying and ordered to play two matches in an empty stadium after a swastika was painted on the field before a match against Italy this year. It wasn't the first time that the country's core of right-wing supporters — who identify with the WW II-era Ustasha regime — caused trouble, and Croatia's traveling supporters are likely to be closely monitored in France. Croatia won its first game of the group stage last night, defeating Turkey 1-0



Boosted by new coach Pavel Vrba, who took over after the failure to advance to the 2014 World Cup, the Czech Republic is back on a winning track. The team won its qualifying group — helping eliminate the Netherlands along the way — to maintain a record of reaching every European Championship since Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. Vrba, who led his Viktoria Plzen to the Champions League twice in three years, has managed to combine veteran stars like goalkeeper Petr Cech and playmaker Tomas Rosicky with lesser known players from the domestic league.



Cup in 2010. But its shock elimination in the group stage of last year's World Cup raised doubts about its supremacy. Many said the elimination in Brazil marked the end of an era, but several of the stars who helped La Roja thrive in the last few years will try to bring the team back to the top in France.

TURKEY

Turkey has a point to prove in Euro 2016. The country reached the semifinals of the World Cup in 2002, finishing third, and again made it to the last four in Euro 2008, thanks to a string of last-gasp wins that became the signature style of the hard-fighting Turks. But it took them another eight years to get back to a major tournament, and only after a new round of drama. Selcuk Inan scored a free kick in the 89th minute for Turkey, beating Iceland 1-0 in their final match to advance as best third-placed team and push the Dutch into shock elimination. Veteran coach Fatih Terim has redrawn the Turkish defense, brought in younger players and watched his team climb back up the world rankings.



Group E

BELGIUM

Brimming with attacking flair, Belgium is a who's who of Premier League talent and one of the teams to avoid. Not since the 1980s has Belgium had such a promising side, with the skill of Chelsea star Eden Hazard and Manchester City's wing-sensation Kevin De Bruyne giving defenders nightmares. There is confidence running through a balanced side, although the defense may be a concern with captain Vincent Kompany out injured. Belgium finished runner-up at the European Championship in 1980 and reached the World Cup semifinals in 1986, only to stumble across Diego Maradona's Argentina. This is Belgium's best chance to win a major honor.



CZECH REPUBLIC

There will be more than another title at stake for Spain at the Euro 2016. The two-time defending champion will be playing to re-establish itself as a dominant force in the game. Spain was the team to beat after winning consecutive European Championships in 2008 and 2012, along with the World



ITALY

The mood in Italy was despondent after the Azzurri went out of the 2014 World Cup at the group stage, leading to the resignation of coach Cesare



Trevor Huggins, Paris

Fighting in Marseille overshadows football again

FIGHTING fans, tear gas and riot police returned to the streets of Marseille on Saturday, before and after England's 1-1 draw with Russia at the European Championship.

Clashes between England and Russia supporters even broke out inside the stadium at the final whistle, after Vasily Berezutsky headed the equalizer in stoppage time. England had taken a 73rd minute lead through a superb free kick by Eric Dier.

The fighting at Stade Velodrome came on a third straight day of hooliganism in the Mediterranean port city. The latest incidents prompted police to use water cannons on the trouble-makers.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said one British citizen was "seriously injured" in the clashes.

"Once again, as over the last 30 years, an international football competition has been the scene of clashes between violent people claiming to be supporters of their national



A man is arrested by police officers in downtown Marseille on Saturday as part of a continued campaign against football-related violence in the city

team," Cazeneuve said in a statement.

UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, also condemned the fans, saying "people engaging in such violent acts have no place in football." It will launch an investigation into the clashes.

The violence overshadowed a second day of the tournament that saw Wales make a winning return to tournament football after 58 years with a 2-1 victory over Slovakia. Switzerland opened with a 1-0 win against Albania.

Two weeks after helping Real Madrid win the Champions League, Gareth Bale stamped his mark on Euro 2016 by scoring the opening goal for Wales with a swerving free kick in the 10th minute.

Ondrej Duda equalized for Slovakia just a minute after coming on

as a substitute, but Hal Robson-Kanu's scrappy goal secured victory in the country's first major championship match since the 1958 World Cup.

"We've got the three points, which is fantastic, but the important thing was the performance," said Wales coach Chris Coleman, who highlighted Bale's all-round performance.

"Everybody will look at his goal but some of his best moments were at

People engaging in such violent acts have no place in football.

UEFA

the end of the game, his football intelligence... He understands what is needed of him and he delivers, and the end result is three million Welsh people loving him."

Fabian Schaer headed Switzerland's winner after just five minutes of a game that made a slice of European Championship history.

For the first time, two brothers played for opposing sides as Granit Xhaka helped the Swiss to victory over an Albania side that included his older brother Taulant.

"It was rather bizarre," said Granit, who was recently signed by Borussia Monchengladbach to fourth place in the Bundesliga last season.

"We gave everything for our country, both of us. We're both very happy, me a bit more because we won." AP

Prandelli and the president of the Italian football federation. Antonio Conte took over and steered Italy to top spot in its qualifying group for the 2016 European Championship, booking a spot in the tournament with a game to spare. Conte is looking for a perfect send-off at the Euros — he is taking over at Premier League side Chelsea after the tournament.

IRELAND

After scraping into next year's European Championship through the playoffs, Ireland's mission is to avoid another embarrassing appearance at the finals. Giovanni Trapattoni's team failed to get a single point from its three group games in Poland and Ukraine in 2012. Ireland also failed to advance from the group stage at its other appearance in 1988. For a group of stalwart players, including goalkeeper Shay Given (39), defender John O'Shea (34) and Robbie Keane (35), this could be their last chance to make an impression on a tournament.



AP PHOTO

SWEDEN

For Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the European Championship is probably the last chance to do something big on the international stage. For that



AP PHOTO

to happen, though, he'll need to get a bit more help from the rest of a Sweden squad that is often overly reliant on the towering striker. Sweden enters the Euros looking more than ever like a one-man team, as Ibrahimovic scored 11 of the team's last 15 goals in qualifying — including a double in the second leg of its playoff against Denmark to secure a spot in France. Sweden does have a promising new generation coming through as its under-21 team won the European Championship last year. But those players are relatively untested at the senior international level.

Group F

AUSTRIA



AP PHOTO

Despite what some skeptics might say, Austria's first ever qualification for a European Championship is not down to UEFA's decision to enlarge the tournament from 16 to 24 teams in 2016. With nine wins and a draw, the team based around captain Christian Fuchs and playmaker David Alaba comfortably topped a group that also included Russia and Sweden. Only England enjoyed a better qualifying campaign with the maximum 30 points. Austria appeared at Euro 2008 as a co-host with Switzerland but hadn't qualified for a finals tournament since the 1998 World Cup.

HUNGARY



AP PHOTO

Hungary was once one of world football's giants, but those days are long gone. In France, Hungary will be at its first major tournament for 30 years and its first European Championship since 1972. The current team bears little similarity with the "Magic Magyars" of old. Whereas once the likes of Ferenc Puskas and Nandor Hidegkuti dazzled the crowd, Hungary's preliminary squad for the championship features only one player from any of the top five-ranked European leagues, Werder Bremen's fringe midfielder Laszlo Kleinheisler. Qualifying was a struggle, beating Norway 3-1 on aggregate in the playoff round after coming third behind Northern Ireland and Romania in what many considered one of the easier groups.

ICELAND



AP PHOTO

Iceland has never played in a major tournament before, but more established teams would be wise not to underestimate the newcomer at the European Championship: Just ask the Netherlands. Iceland stunned the Dutch twice in an impressive qualifying campaign that also included wins over the Czech Republic and Turkey to reach the Euros. It is the culmination of the team's rapid improvement under Swedish coach Lars Lagerback, who narrowly failed to take Iceland to the 2014 World Cup as the team lost in a playoff to Croatia. Lagerback has set Iceland up to be defensively solid, conceding just six goals in 10 qualifiers.

PORTUGAL

Think of Portugal and one name immediately comes to mind: Cristiano Ronaldo. Naming any other Portuguese players, though, is a bit harder. And that lack of squad depth has long been Portugal's problem. Ronaldo admitted after Portugal's disappointing group-stage exit at the 2014 World Cup that maybe the team was just average, despite often being high in the FIFA rankings. The Real Madrid striker makes a competent but ordinary Portuguese team shine. He leads a side that reached the semifinals at Euro 2012 and lost the 2004 final on its own turf, against Greece.



AP PHOTO

opinion

Tech views

Leonid Bershidsky

APPLE AND GOOGLE CAN'T STAND APP STORE CHAOS

Apple and Google own the platforms that define 29% of the time we spend staring at our screens, the share of our attention spent on mobile devices. Yet it's developers, most of them independent, who control our experience using these gadgets. We use apps 89% of our "mobile time." The platform owners don't really run their app universes, and it's hard for them to predict how much money they will make from apps.

Now, however, both Apple and Google are trying to nudge developers toward the most predictably lucrative business model - selling subscriptions. Just filling the app stores and hoping that will drive consumers to buy devices is no longer a viable strategy.

Last year, both Apple's iOS App Store and the Google Play Store, which offers Android apps passed the 1.5 million app mark. The statistic is almost meaningless: 63% of Americans only use one to five apps on a daily basis. Hardly anyone uses more than 20 apps with any regularity. And only about a quarter of apps downloaded from either store is retained for a day or more.

This creates a problem for developers: It's hard for them to get their products noticed, much less used, and harder to make money from these products. According to Developer Economics.com, which tracks the state of the app industry, most developers "still persist in trying to make money via the simplest revenue models to implement - paid downloads and advertising." These two easy models hardly work anymore: 51% of developers, mostly selling the apps themselves or ads in them, subsist below the "app poverty line" - USD500 of monthly revenue.

Since both Apple and Google make money by taking a cut of developers' revenue, paid downloads and ads are a less reliable source of cash for them, too. Their hope is that developers concentrate on better ways of extracting money from customers.

One of these is in-app purchases - all sorts of virtual goodies in games, additional services or features within an app. Apple and Google take a 30% bite from these purchases, just as they do from paid downloads. This business, however, works better for developers than it does for the platform owners. These are one-off purchases that are hard to predict and plan for, and large public companies like to be able to do that. Subscriptions are the revenue model the store owners like best: money comes in on a monthly basis, and many people are too lazy or too forgetful to cancel subscriptions they no longer need.

So Apple has moved to make it more profitable for its developers to build subscription-based products, reducing its cut of subscription revenue to 15% from 30% once a subscriber has stayed with a service for one year. Google, which does its utmost to stay level with Apple in offering the same apps, immediately went it one better, letting developers keep 85% of revenue from day one.

Both platform owners are trying to kick their dependencies on a certain revenue stream: iPhone sales for Apple, ad sales for Google. The app stores are important for these efforts, but boosting subscription revenue won't make a huge difference to the giants' overall sales. Rather, the platform companies appear intent to regulate what happens within the app stores.

Allowing the app economy to develop chaotically has led to incredible clutter. The stores are full of apps nobody wants or needs. One would expect market forces to sort that out, but human nature - millennial nature, in this case - has stubbornly resisted such winnowing: people build what they like or what they find it easy to build, and business model considerations take a back seat. So, Apple and Google are taking the lead in showing developers where the money is both for them and for the platform owners.

These moves won't immediately transform the kinds of new offerings that we'll find in the app stores. Eventually, however, we'll have to contend with a growing number of subscription-based products, which, incidentally may give a boost to media organizations that make money from readers or viewers. The services that weed out unwanted subscriptions should flourish, too.

THE BUZZ VISA OVERSTAYERS COULD SEE DETENTION LAST 90 DAYS

The Public Security Police is currently considering a proposal that would hike the detention period from 60 to 90 days for people caught overstaying their Macau visas. The authority said that there has been a decrease in the number of crimes committed by people illegally overstaying the length of time permitted by their visas, though it is not clear whether the number of people overstaying is on the rise.

Those caught with an expired visa or having entered the region illegally are required to agree to terms outlined on immigration forms which normally specify a court appearance. They are later repatriated to their country of origin.

However, according to a TDM current affairs forum program, critics say that there are loopholes within the current non-resident worker system, which could pose a threat to the job security of Macau residents.

"The migrant worker mechanism of Macau has loopholes," complained Ao Jeong Kuong Kao, president of the Macau Overseas Employment Agency Association, speaking to TDM. "They [migrant workers] can look for jobs during their stay."

BOXING

Sparse Chinese presence at Zou's US debut

Samantha Pell, New York

BOB Arum was right. The CEO of Top Rank and Chinese icon Zou Shiming's promoter predicted a sparse Chinese fan turnout Saturday night at the Theater at Madison Square Garden. And for the first time in Zou's professional career, the stands he fought in front of weren't filled to the brim with new, yet energetic Chinese boxing fans.

Instead, in a packed house, the majority of the electric crowd was filled with flag-waving Puerto Rican fans supporting Felix Verdejo and Roman "Rocky" Martinez, who co-headlined the championship.

Fighting at the theater provided Zou's smallest capacity venue to date. But despite the small Chinese turnout, a handful of Chinese flags waved in the stands. "The crowd yelled loudly and made me feel like it was a home match and not away," Zou said.

Giving the millions of Chinese boxing fans watching at home something to cheer about, Zou (8-1, 2 KOs) easily beat 19-year-old Jozsef Ajtai (15-3, 10 KOs) of Hungary in a 10-round unanimous decision. "My competitor's objective was to stand to the last minute of the fight," Zou



Zou Shiming punches Jozef Ajtai during the second round of a WBO flyweight title boxing match

said. "He was afraid of the competition."

Sheng Li, CEO of Sports Entertainment Content Activation (SECA) in Shanghai, said Saturday prior to the fight he didn't know how big Zou's fan turnout would be, but predicted approximately 100.

"It will be different with this crowd, but this is what he wants," Sheng said. "At Madison Square Garden, every boxer wants to fight here. He [Zou] has fought in China eight times and now he wants to fight outside of China."

Fighting seven times in Macau at Cotai Arena, Zou sold out the 12,000-15,00-seat venue, and in Shanghai he did the same in his most recent fight on Jan. 31 in an arena that can accommodate about 10,000 fans, according to Sheng.

Zou's win Saturday will boost his stardom in China even more, according to Ye Chen, part of Shenzhen Me-

dia Group in China that broadcasted the fight back to Zou's homeland.

Ye was one of a handful of Chinese media making the flight from China to attend Zou's bout. About 600,000 people watched the fight on LeTV through mobile, desktop and television.

The Chinese media predicted a large viewing audience, mostly on mobile devices due to Zou's fight taking place when it's Sunday morning in China, and the Chinese people work Sunday morning because of a Chinese holiday break Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

"Despite the time, Zou has the most audience for fighters in China," said Weiwei Wu, a member of LeTV.

Zou's stardom was showcased on season 3 of "Dad, Where Are We Going?" in China. The season aired from July-October 2015.

"The reality show is him taking his son fishing and various activities, and it's the highest-rated reality TV show in China," Arum said.

Zou and his wife, Ying Ying Ren, a presenter on China television, make up one of China's most popular couples. Zou also made a cameo in the Hollywood blockbuster "Transformer 4: Age of Extinction." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



People watch a dragon boat parade at Lychee Bay in Guangzhou last week.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

BANGLADESH Authorities have rounded up about 1,600 suspected petty criminals, including some alleged to be Islamist radicals, in raids aimed at halting a wave of deadly attacks on minorities and activists. More on p12



INDIA is rejoicing over news that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brokered deals with U.S. officials to bring New Delhi closer to its long-held dream of joining an elite group of nations allowed to control the global trade in nuclear materials, equipment and technology.

THAILAND A passenger van overturned and caught fire on a highway in Thailand, killing 11 school teachers inside, news reports said Saturday. The Nation newspaper said the teachers were trapped in the burning vehicle after the Friday night crash on a highway in Chonburi, southeast of Bangkok. The Khaosod newspaper said the victims were school teachers.

FRANCE Air France, hobbled by a strike involving more than a quarter of its pilots, said about 80 percent of its flights would operate yesterday and today. Air France-KLM Group's French arm will honor 83 percent of its scheduled long-haul flights and 86 percent of its domestic ones yesterday, the company said in a statement.



FRANCE Fighting fans, tear gas and riot police returned to the streets of Marseille on Saturday, before and after England's 1-1 draw with Russia at the European Championship. Clashes between England and Russia supporters even broke out inside the stadium at the final whistle. More on p19