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Secretary Alexis Tam said that more financial resources should be allocated to develop primary and secondary schools

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA recorded its first drop in coal production since 2000 last year, as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter pulls back on its use of the fossil fuel and switches to cleaner energy sources. According to the country's national coal association, China produced 3.5 billion tons of coal in the first 11 months of 2014, 2.1 percent less than the same period in 2013. The association estimates the drop for the entire year will reach 2.5 percent.

HONG KONG's Civil Human Rights Front, organizer of a rally planned for Feb. 1 calling for universal suffrage, has rejected conditions set by police to stage the event. Police gave approval for the rally, while asking the organizers to disperse people who occupied public spaces and provide information about groups that might get involved in illegal activities during the event, spokesman Johnson Yeung told reporters yesterday. Civil Human Rights Front will appeal the police conditions, he said.

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A WEEKEND OF PROTESTS

Hundreds march against appointed lawmakers; for animal rights

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Hundreds rally against CE-appointed lawmakers

HUNDREDS of protesters took to the streets on Saturday, urging the Chief Executive to repeal appointed lawmaker Fong Chi Keong from the Legislative Assembly (AL). His statements on domestic violence have caused a public outcry.

Under banners reading "Love me, don't beat me" and "Abolish appointed lawmakers," the protestors demanded political reform that favors the abolition of the CE-appointed lawmaker seats in the AL.

"We urge for an open apology from Fong Chi Keong, and for the initialization of the political reform process by [CE] Chui Sai On to repeal the CE-appointed AL seats that don't represent the public opinion at all," stated the civic group Macau Conscience, which led the protest.

Having been known for making anomalous remarks on public affairs at the AL, the lawmaker recently shocked the public with statements backing domestic violence, such as, "The wife wouldn't have been beaten if she hadn't talked back," and "He wouldn't beat you if he doesn't love you."



"His understanding of gender equality and protection of family harmony is very little," stressed Scott Chiang, a group member. "We hope the AL can have better-qualified lawmakers and we should

der equality and protection of family harmony is very little," stressed Scott Chiang, a group member. "We hope the AL can have better-qualified lawmakers and we should

a group member. "We hope the AL can have better-qualified lawmakers and we should

ld have ways to kick out those who are not qualified. But currently our only appeal is that the CE won't appoint him as a lawmaker again," he said.

According to the organizers, the rally started with nearly 400 participants at Tap Seac Square, and gathered a peak number of 850 protestors when delivering a petition to Fong's office.

In response to the protestors' appeal, Chui Sai On stressed yesterday that the MSAR government should "respect and strictly abide by the Basic Law-stipulated regime that forms the AL through direct election, indirect election and CE's appointment."

"We are willing to listen to the public and media's opinions, but I need to reiterate one thing: changes to [Macau's] political system – no matter the initiation or decision-making – are in the hands of the Central Government," he said.

Talking as if Fong's provocative statement has harmed the government's prestige, Chui responded, "The appointed lawmakers are, like other lawmakers, serving at the AL. Lawmakers' [right to] expressing their opinions at the AL is protected and we highly respect that. Therefore, from my point of view, [Fong's statements] didn't affect my governance or my administrative team." **BY**

Group marches to hurry animal protection legislation

João Pedro Lau

HUNDREDS of residents yesterday afternoon participated in a protest organized by the Abandoned Animals Protection Association of Macau (AAPAM), demanding that lawmakers pass the Animal Protection Bill as soon as possible.

The protestors gathered at Tap Seac Square at around 3.30 p.m. before marching to the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The AAPAM president, Yoko Choi, admitted to the crowd that the number of participants in yesterday's protest might not have been as



high as expected, because some residents wrongly believed that the Animal Protection Bill had already been passed. She said that the bill is still in the legislative process and cautioned protestors

that lawmakers might stall the legislation if residents do not persist with the issue.

Lawmaker Au Kam San, who joined the protest yesterday, assured the protestors that under the new law, animal

abuse will be a criminal act and perpetrators may face jail time. As a member of the AL First Standing Committee, which is responsible for reviewing the drafted legislation in detail, he said that the committee has already been investigating the bill in detail, and has estimated that the review is expected to reach completion within two to three months. Au also called on protestors to read the draft themselves on the AL website to ensure that the quality of the legislation meets the demands of the public.

On the sidelines of the demonstration, Yoko

Choi said that she hopes the AL committee can review the legislation prudently and speedily. She also pointed out that there are issues that require clarification in the draft. For example, Choi is not certain whether the public should approach the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) or the police upon discovering cases of animal abuse. "For us as residents, we think that it is more effective to call the police than the IACM. When encountering [animal abuse], we think that police can provide a more efficient and effective way to su-

pport us," she said.

The Times spoke to Jack Wu, a local artist who previously helped organize an AAPAM fundraising event and also took part in yesterday's demonstration. He believes that every resident will support the Animal Protection Bill, as it is necessary to defend the rights of animals in Macau. He also hopes that the police authorities will help in enforcing the future animal protection laws.

AAPAM claimed that around 800 people joined their demonstration yesterday, while the police claimed that the number was about 380.

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Visitor arrivals decrease by 1.8 pct



Visitor arrivals decreased by 1.8 percent year-on-year to 2,540,070 in December 2014, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) revealed. Same-day tourists accounted for 54 percent of the total number of arrivals, DSEC said. Visitors from mainland China increased by one percent year-on-year to 1,638,854, coming mainly from Guangdong and Fujian provinces. Mainland tourists traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme increased by six percent, reaching 740,906. Visitors from South Korea (47,346) increased by two percent year-on-year, while the numbers coming from Hong Kong (545,772) and Taiwan (78,150) decreased by four and ten percent respectively. Long-haul tourists from the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom recorded a year-on-year decline. The average length of stays decreased by 0.1 days year-on-year to 0.9 days in December. Overnight and same-day visitors had average stays of 1.9 days and 0.2 days respectively.

Bus-only lanes to take road during peak hours

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) plans to launch bus-only lanes during peak hours along the Inner Harbor route connecting the A Ma Temple and the Border Gate. Starting from August, the time-bound bus-only lanes will be implemented from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., when only buses and emergency vehicles are allowed to pass on the road. DSAT said that it would consider whether or not taxis would be allowed to join the lanes after a period of implementation. At a transport advisory meeting, the Bureau indicated that there are currently more than 30 bus routes passing through the area, including buses that carry the biggest passenger volumes.

SSM refutes blood shortage rumors

The Health Bureau (SSM) released a statement on Saturday, countering an Internet rumor by stressing that the city is not currently suffering from a blood shortage. The rumors claimed that Macau was lacking in blood and suggested that there were only five units of type AB blood in the Macau Blood Transfusion Service. Storage below ten is usually considered a dangerous level. In the statement, SSM said that the blood stock level in Macau is normal and that there are more type AB blood supplies in the two local hospitals. The Health Bureau also explained that the patients with type AB blood can receive transfusions from any blood types, while people with other blood types cannot take type AB blood. Given that blood expires after 42 days, the Blood Transfusion Service usually would not store too much type AB blood.

CE plays down VIP room closures

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On said that it is "normal" to see adjustments in the number of VIP rooms in Macau following a slump in gaming revenue in recent months. However, he refused to comment on the rumors regarding the issuing of a seventh gaming license by the MSAR government.

The CE made the comment during a press conference yesterday before he headed to Beijing to meet with mainland authorities. He said that the gaming industry in Macau has been developing rapidly since 2003. Therefore, he said that it is normal to see the current changes to the number of VIP rooms. "There are many rumors [regarding the number of VIP rooms that will close]. But, of course, I will only



Chui Sai On



Lionel Leong

trust Secretary Lionel Leong. He has already given me the data that the government has received and published. I believe that it is normal to have changes or adjustments to the number [of VIP rooms] in the future," he said.

Moreover, Chui Sai On was asked about the prediction made by two analyst firms re-

cently that the Macau government may grant a seventh gaming concession to a local Chinese enterprise. He did not answer the question directly, and only said that there are always academic and research institutes, as well as consultants, that pay attention to the development of Macau's gaming industry. Therefore, it is

difficult to comment on every report. He also reiterated that the task for the government now is to prepare for the review on the gaming industry.

The CE also suggested that close attention be paid to the development of the Guangdong-Macau Free Trade Zone, and revealed that he will be visiting Guangdong with Lionel Leong and another Secretary, Raimundo Rosario, in the future.

During his trip to Beijing, Chui Sai On will be visiting the Chinese State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Ministry of Commerce to discuss the development of the Guangdong-Macau Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park in Hengqin, as well as trade liberalization. **JPL**

COMPANY ANNOUNCES INTERIM DIVIDEND OF 99 CENTS PER SHARE

Sheldon Adelson takes over as CEO of Sands China



CASINO magnate Sheldon Adelson is taking over as chief executive officer of Sands China Ltd. from March 6, the company announced in a statement on Friday.

Robert Goldstein, chief operating officer of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp., will be appointed interim president of Sands China and his position re-designated as executive director of the company. They will be replacing Edward Tracy, whose retirement had been announced earlier this month.

Mr Tracy, who is currently the president and chief executive officer of Sands China, will remain engaged by the company as a consultant from March 7, according to an announcement filed with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

"Business strategy has always been decided by Mr Adelson all this while,

so in terms of strategy, I wouldn't expect any change," said Goh Shengyong, a Hong Kong-based gaming analyst at BNP Paribas, as quoted by Bloomberg. "It would be more of re-aligning and getting Macau and Singapore to report directly to Vegas."

Mr Adelson has been chairman of the board of Las Vegas Sands, as well as being its chief executive officer and director since April 1988, when Las Vegas Sands was established in order to own and manage operations of the former Sands Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Mr Adelson has extensive experience in the convention, trade, tour and travel business, the company said in a statement.

Robert Goldstein, 59, is currently a non-executive director of the company, also serving as president and chief operating officer of Las Vegas Sands from January 2015. He served as Las Vegas Sands' president of global gaming operations from 2011 to 2015. Before joining LVS in 1995, Mr Goldstein had been involved in casino-hotel business development in the United States and the Caribbean.

Sands China also announced on Friday an interim dividend of HKD0.99 per share, representing a 13.8 percent increase over the last year. A total of approximately HKD7.99 billion in capital will be returned to eligible shareholders through this dividend. It is expected to be paid on February 27 this year, the company said in a statement.

Mr Tracy said that "2014 was a year of record earnings and a year of record service and quality awards. The combination of quantitative and qualitative achievements speaks to the strength of the integrated resort model and the teams that operate them." **CP**

Sands China and Macao Chamber of Commerce hold briefing with SMEs

SANDS China and the Macao Chamber of Commerce held a briefing on Friday with the aim of enhancing dialogue with local Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

Some 100 local SME representatives attended the meeting, which was intended to provide a glimpse into new opportunities for business development and cooperation between the casino operator and local enterprises, Sands China said in a statement.

"The operators of the SMEs, who are members of the Chamber, had the opportunity to discuss all aspects of the procurement procedure – from the scope of purchasing to the supplier code of conduct – with Sands China's procurement representatives," the statement said.

"It is very important for Sands China to continue supporting local SMEs and suppliers, and to help them grow," said Jaehong Choi, vice president of Procurement and Supply Chain for Venetian Macau Limited. "We believe SMEs are an essential part of a healthy economy, and we want them to remain competitive in the marketplace."

Seeking to give priority to local suppliers, Sands China launched the Sands Supplier Excellence Awards, whose winners have included various local SMEs. "Sands will continue to create opportunities to integrate local products and services into its procurement and supply chain, as part of the company's commitment to supporting Macao's business community," the company said. **CP**

Galaxy pledges diversification efforts as it opens new hotels in May

Catarina Pinto

GALAXY Entertainment Group (GEG) said that it is committed to diversifying its offerings with the news that it will be opening three new hotels, while expanding Galaxy Macau into its second phase. On Friday, the group unveiled its plans for the Broadway Hotel, which will be located in the former Grand Waldo, as well as for phase two of Galaxy Macau. Both projects will open on May 27.

The group said that it invested HKD43 billion "in a planned HKD100 billion commitment to Macau." In an initiative that will see the size of its Cotai property doubled to over 1.1 million square meters, the casino operator will add a 3,000-seat entertainment theater with live entertainers, performances, and 120 bars and restaurants.

Galaxy Macau will include six hotels providing 4,000 rooms, suites and villas, as well as two spas. The luxury hotels, the Ritz-Carlton (over 250 suites), the JW Marriott (1,000 rooms) and the Broadway Hotel (320 rooms) will be added to the already existing Banyan Tree Macau, Hotel Okura Macau and Galaxy Macau. A skytop aquatic adventure river ride and a wave pool are part of the new offering, too.

"What we'll do is make it more diverse, from entertainment and leisure, to culture and art; we will continue to expand," Lui Che Woo, the group's chairman, said at a press conference. "This is to meet the requests from the country and Macau," he added.

Part of Galaxy Macau's expansion involves the creation of "The Promenade," providing 200 luxury and lifestyle retail brands, including H&M, Burberry, Alexander Wang, Moncler, Qeelin, Bvlgari, Lanvin, and Louis Vuitton, among others.

GEG's vice-chairman Francis Lui highlighted the company's willingness to follow the Macau government's wishes to diversify the industry. "We hear that visitors are spending an average of 1.9 days here and that's a very good sign. It means they won't just spend money on gambling; they will also spend it on entertainment, shopping, food and beverages. Galaxy in recent years has been moving forward in this direction," he said.

As the emerging Chinese middle-class has shown a willingness to travel, Mr Lui assured that they are not just interested in gambling and "that's why we want to offer them other experiences."

Macau's gaming revenue saw



Lui Che Woo

What we'll do is make it more diverse, from entertainment and leisure, to culture and art

LUI CHE WOO
GALAXY GROUP CHAIRMAN

its first annual decline last year and at least one junket group announced that it would close some of its VIP rooms in the city. Nevertheless, Mr Lui said the group did not feel overly affected,

speaking on behalf of VIPs: "We always work with capable intermediaries for both the mass and VIP markets. We do not feel a great impact on the VIP side because we are heading in the right

direction."

"If we just focus on figures, it seems that the non-gaming business is not meaningful (...) but the growth of non-gaming business is very impressive (...) so, looking to the future, we will see further improvements in the non-gaming sectors, and we will see changes due to the diversification of the industry," he noted.

Mr Lui acknowledged that the group has to further develop its conventional approach to business logistics and transportation matters.

Macau's current gaming concession contracts expire in 2020 and 2022. The government announced last year that it would start reviewing the licenses with casino operators this year. A pos-

sible increase on gaming taxes has been discussed, but GEG's vice-chairman said on Friday that they believe the government "will think very carefully" before making such a move.

"We are realistic to say that the government will look into all aspects before making a decision. This is a major decision to be made and I think the government will be making it very carefully. They would need to hear the opinions of the general public before making a decision. This is not a small business (...)," Francis Lui stated.

Galaxy Entertainment Group is controlled by billionaire Lui Che Woo, who has a net worth of USD11.7 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Galaxy and gov't still discussing number of gambling tables

THE vice-chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), Francis Lui, said that the operator is still discussing with the government on the number of gambling tables that it will acquire following the opening of Galaxy Macau phase two and the Broadway Hotel.

He stressed that the group is confident that it will get the necessary number of gaming tables to generate profits, as they've "been very much aligned with the government's vision [of diversifying the industry]" since the opening of Galaxy Macau. "We understand the importance of the mass market and the

non-gaming elements. We have been heading in that direction," he added.

The chief financial officer for GEG, Robert Drake, added: "Our intention is to begin our operations as we've done historically – with phase one. As far as tables are concerned... we're now going through that process of working with the government on the submissions. But we are quite confident that we will get a sufficient amount of tables to generate the returns we have been forecasting."

The group is also confident that it will manage to recruit 8,000 people by May to work in the new hotels and entertain-

ment facilities. Francis Lui said that they have already hired 1,000 workers and are looking to recruit a further 7,000.

"So far, we've recruited 1,000 people and we are hoping to recruit the rest of them before the opening," he said. He also added that they will likely need "quite a few thousand" foreign workers.

"But it very much depends on the vacancies that will be given to local people first. We are publishing advertisements in the newspapers now and, depending on the feedback we get from locals, we will consider offering the job to non-locals," he clarified.

Mr Lui recalled that Galaxy Entertainment is offering competitive salary packages. As such, they are confident that they will achieve a good result in terms of personnel recruitment.

Alexis Tam pledges more investment in education sector

Catarina Pinto

THE government is planning to invest further resources in the city's education sector, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, announced on Friday.

He acknowledged that more financial resources should be allocated in order to help develop Macau's education sector, mainly primary and secondary schools.

"We need more resources, namely financial resources, to help support our educational sector. We need a policy. We will elaborate on this and unveil our plans in March when we deliver this year's Policy Address," he explained.

Speaking on the sidelines of the re-opening ceremony of a school hall at Saint Paul's School, Mr Tam mentioned that he has recently visited several associations. All of



these associations have outlined the lack of human resources and land, which are recurring problems in Macau among various sectors.

"We need to plan ahead, and, regarding the lack of schoolteachers, I believe we can facilitate the labor import policy, as we do not have enough professionals to teach children with special needs, for instance," he stressed.

Mr Tam noted that Macau's government pays great attention to the development of a more "advanced and modern" education system, hoping to provide residents with proper vocational opportunities.

The Secretary said that the authorities are also developing plans to improve residents' professional training in close collaboration with

the Talents Development Committee. Respective policies and measures will be announced at a suitable time, he added.

Saint Paul's School re-opened its Clementina Leitão Ho School Hall on Friday.

Alejandro Salcedo, the school's principal, said that the hall has played an important role in the school's history. "Built 27 years ago, this hall has witnessed countless gatherings, staff meetings, conferences, graduations, performances and cultural activities," he said.

Saint Paul's School is known for rejecting paper almost entirely in order to develop an e-learning curriculum. Today, its students learn in e-classrooms, using tablet computers. More interactive lessons were introduced to replace "the good old days" of textbooks and blackboards.

Mr Salcedo said that the school has the ability to adapt to the changing needs and times, which he believes has kept them alive. "Today we take pride in re-opening this state-of-the-art school hall, and not only securing Saint Paul's School traditions of excellence and innovation, but also inspiring and hopefully meeting students' expectations," he said.

Contractor 'regrets' winning LRT bid

A contractor involved in the local Light Rapid Transit (LRT) construction claims that they regret bidding for the contract, and has suggested that the delay in LRT construction is due to a limited willingness to finish it in time.

During yesterday's TDM Forum, Top Builders International representative Tang Hon Cheong claimed that there was little to no delay in the local casino projects because all of the casino operators have a very strong desire to see the construction process finish in time. This is in contrast to the LRT construction.

On the sidelines of yesterday's event, Mr Tang said that Top Builders International has lost millions of dollars due to the year-long delay, and claimed that the company is "100 percent not responsible" for the delay. He also claimed that it is "pretty difficult" to coordinate with the Transportation Infrastructure Office.

Moreover, Tang said that they regretted bidding for the LRT contract. He said that Top Builders thought building the LRT would be an honor. It, in fact, turned out to be a disappointment due to the financial losses, the delay in construction and the government's dissatisfaction. **JPL**

AD



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TODI KONG DE SOUSA

‘Metamorphosis:’ sculpting the changes of the human being

Catarina Pinto

Todi Kong de Sousa has always found the arts enticing. Drawing rapidly became a hobby for her, and although she later worked as a civil engineer, sculpture would become a part of her life too.

She opened her first exhibition, “Metamorphosis,” last week at Casa Garden, comprising thirteen sculptures of female figures intended to represent the different changes a human being goes through as time passes by.

The thirteen sculptures represent female figures and exude a sense of calm.

I tend to represent a slim and slender figure, which we associate with women

“I tend to represent a slim and slender figure, which we associate more with women. It’s just an inclination to represent slim figures, so that’s why all these sculptures are women,” she said.

Todi Kong de Sousa was born in Mozambique and moved to Macau in 1986. At an early age she realized she liked to draw. However, as time passed by, life took a different path, and civil engineering would become her day job. Still, her interest in the arts never really faded away and she decided to take painting lessons once she settled in Macau.

A few years back, Todi gave sculpture a try, awakening a particular interest in this form of art. While still employed as a civil engineer, Todi worked on these thirteen sculptures for two years, now on display

in an exhibition organized by the Orient Foundation.

“Metamorphosis” is related to the constant changes human beings experience throughout life. So I tried to showcase some of these changes through these sculptures,” she recalled.

Serenity is another word that comes to mind when she thinks of the exhibition: “Whatever someone is going through, I think, with serenity you can overcome any situation. There’s a common element to each sculpture: serenity.”

Indeed, the thirteen slim figures guide us through a serene atmosphere. And its shadows, inadvertently created in the Casa Garden’s gallery walls, become an extension of the exhibition in itself.

“Metamorphosis” is also intended to address “the mystery of life,” Todi stressed, because “since the moment we are born until the moment we die, we go through so many changes.”

“We also tend to think about what is our role throughout life,” she added.

The artist highlighted one particular sculpture at the center of the exhibition, which represents what “we are all looking for: our ‘Inner Peace.’”

In some other sculptures, Todi used fabrics or metallic nets to help her showcase the different changes a human being goes through. “I used epoxy for the molding of these sculptures, which is a self-hardening material. As it does not need to go into an oven, it gives me more freedom to shape the sculptures without depending on other elements. I did the molding and after a while they would harden,” she recalled.

Todi is determined to continue working on other sculptures, now that her job as a civil engineer is on a part-time basis.

The exhibition will be on display at Casa Garden’s gallery until February 21. It is open to the public every day from 10am to 7pm, except on Mondays and public holidays.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Begins the New Year in Touch with the Community

Events continue the company’s philosophy and honour those who get involved

Sands China Ltd. prides itself on being part of the Macao community. It is one of the largest employers in the city and as such knows it has certain responsibilities to society. As a result the company is involved in many community events, often lending material and financial support to a multitude of organizations serving all aspects of society.

Earlier this month Sands China lent its support – this time in the form of sponsorship and the hands-on participation of Sands China Care Ambassadors – to the Macau Special Olympics (MSO). The event saw the organization offer free health screening services to around 100 athletes on Jan. 11 as part of its “Healthy Athletes Program.”

Sands China assumed sponsorship of MSO in September 2014 and helped establish the “Special Olympics Care Foundation.” One of the aims of the foundation is to provide free health check-up services such as dentistry, podiatry and physiotherapy to member athletes on a regular basis. Athletes can also apply for subsidies to cover post-screening medical expenses.

Sands China’s support of MSO includes the efforts of its team of volunteers in the Sands China Care Ambassador programme. The programme regularly plans community events for various groups and non-profit organisations in Macao, including activities aimed at giving MSO athletes memorable and fun experiences while building their self-esteem. With a current membership of 500 volunteers, the Sands China Care Ambassador programme has contributed over 4,800 voluntary hours of community service, and has organized and participated in more than 60 community activities since the programme was founded in 2009.



Athletes from Macau Special Olympics get free health check-ups as part of the Sands China-sponsored Special Olympics Care Foundation.



Fourteen Sands China team members received awards as part of International Volunteer Day.

Bureau, Social Welfare Bureau, Macau Foundation and Sands China Ltd., with the ceremonies awarding a total of 132 local volunteers for their invaluable contribution and outstanding efforts in the community.

Earlier this month, Sands China participated in the annual Caritas Macau Charity Dinner. In addition to sending representatives to the Jan. 10 event, Sands China also made a MOP 150,000 donation to the non-profit organization to support its operational expenses. Winnie Wong, Vice President and Assistant General Manager of Sands Cotai Central, presented the check on behalf of the company to Caritas Macau Secretary-General Paul Pun Chi Meng at the dinner. Since 2004, Sands China has contributed more than MOP 3.3 million to Caritas Macau through charity dinners and bazaars, supporting its efforts to develop and implement social services in the community.



Winnie Wong, Vice President and Assistant General Manager of Sands Cotai Central, presents a check to Caritas Macau Secretary-General Paul Pun Chi Meng on behalf of Sands China at the annual Caritas Macau Charity Dinner.

Alibaba would only share data for criminal probes, Jack Ma says

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. will only share user data with Chinese authorities if they're investigating terrorism or other crimes, founder Jack Ma pledged, as the e-commerce giant strives to reach 2 billion customers.

The Alibaba chairman said in an interview with Charlie Rose aired on Bloomberg TV that he would draw the line if governments requested access to information about buyers and sellers using the company's online malls and auction sites without convincing safety or security reasons. Ma, who is China's richest man, spoke Friday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"I tell them, any government, if you come here for the national security, anti-terrorist - anywhere anti-terrorist - we work together," Ma said. "It's a criminal, we work. The rest, no."

Ma, a one-time English teacher who started the e-commerce business in his apartment in 1999, saw Alibaba become Asia's largest Internet company in September after a record-breaking \$25 billion initial public offering in New York. Alibaba - like competitors Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Baidu Inc. - is trying to diversify and expand beyond China, investing in companies that do everything from book taxis and sell goods to develop software and make movies.

Alibaba posted revenue of

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Jack Ma

16.8 billion yuan (USD2.7 billion) in the quarter ended Sept. 30, a 54 percent increase from a year earlier.

Chinese Internet companies face the challenge of building brand recognition overseas and attracting foreign customers while operating under increasingly strict censorship at home.

Alibaba wants to work with 10 million small businesses outside China with a goal of reaching 2 billion customers, Ma said. Maintaining users' privacy was a top priority for the Hangzhou-based company.

"I say we are a business, the

data is so precious," he said. "If we give to anyone, it's going to be a disaster."

Ma also said he wasn't worried about slowing growth in Alibaba's home market. The Chinese economy expanded 7.4 percent last year, the slowest pace since 1990, and President Xi Jinping has been referring to a "new normal" of moderate expansion as China pursues structural changes to the economy.

"I don't worry about it," Ma said. "I think China's slowing down is much better. China should pay attention to the quality of the economy."

Bloomberg

China said to plan punishment of 4 fund firms for front running

CHINA'S securities regulator plans to punish four fund-management firms for insider trading, according to people familiar with the matter.

China Asset Management Co., the nation's third-largest fund manager, will be banned from issuing new products for six months, while Harvest Fund Management Co., China Universal Asset Management Co. and HFT Investment Management Co. will be barred for three months, said the people, who asked not to be identified before a public announcement by the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

The companies will be penalized as their employees were found to have been front running, the people said. The firms lack proper controls to prevent such behavior by employees, they said. Front running refers to the practice of profiting from advance knowledge about a transaction expected to influence prices.

China is cracking down on insider trading it seeks to lure foreign investors to invest in the stock market, which became the world's

second biggest after a 64 percent rally for the benchmark index over the past year. The CSRC this month said it has referred 125 individuals and three institutions to the police for insider trading since the second half of 2013.

The four fund companies will be notified of the punishment this month, one of the people said. The CSRC said in a Dec. 26 statement that China Asset Management and HFT were among the 20 companies it was investigating for illegal trading.

The CSRC press official declined to comment. Chen Qian, deputy head of the marketing department of China Asset Management, said the company has yet to receive any notice from the securities regulator. Press officers at China Universal and HFT also said they've not yet received any notifications. Calls to Harvest's press department went unanswered yesterday.

China Asset Management, with 356.6 billion yuan (USD57 billion) in assets, trails top-ranked Tianhong Fund and E-Fund, while Harvest is ranked fifth, according to fund-tracker Howbuy. **Bloomberg**

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corporate bits

MGM PASTRY CHEF JOINS CHINA NATIONAL TEAM AT LA COUPE DU MONDE DE LA PÂTISSERIE 2015



MGM Macau's Pastry Sous Chef Micky Ma, one of the senior members of the Hotel's elite chef's team, has been selected to represent the China

National Team at the finale of La Coupe du Monde de la Pâtisserie 2015 as top chefs from around the world compete for the World Pastry Champion

title. This competition is widely renowned as the Olympics of the culinary world and globally recognized as one of the most demanding and rewarding contests of its kind for pastry chefs.

Participating as a member of the China National Team, MGM's Chef Ma will collaborate with two other expert chefs from China to compete for national glory in this prestigious culinary event. Each team must finish a total of six creations in nine hours, and Chef Ma will be responsible for producing three items, including "Artistic creation made of chocolate", "Frozen dessert" and "Plate dessert". Of the 560 total points for adjudication in the contest, Chef Ma's three creations will compete directly for a hefty 380 of them.

Hong Kong Cantopop diva Joey Yung made "a dazzling return to The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena" Friday and Saturday night. According to a note from the organizers, "she enthralled the audience with a two-night run of her Suncity Group presents Joey Yung in Concert 1314 Macao show with her alluring melodies." The show was "a great spectacle, and often had the crowd up on their feet, clapping and singing along."

Yung kicked off the concert with "Disheartened," which is one of her most-loved tunes, showing her trademark dynamism and powerful voice. That fired up the crowd for Yung's set which presented some of her greatest hits including "Skylight," "My Pride," "Sequel" and "Wallpaper."

JOEY YUNG RETURNS TO THE VENETIAN MACAO



Yung's legion of fans packed into the Cotai Arena and were clearly delighted by her concert, which was full of surprises and a great way to kick off 2015.

Enthusiasts were obviously thrilled to see Yung back at The Venetian and rocking the arena once more, just as she did back in 2012 as part of her Joey Yung Concert Number 6 - Macao.

Joey Yung started her career as a singer in 1999. Her vocal talent has gained her a loyal following and many accolades in the last 15 years, and her impressive record sales and the 90 concerts she has performed as part of this tour are testament to her enduring popularity.

Manufacturing picks up, lifted by stimulus measures

A Chinese manufacturing gauge recovered lost ground in January, suggesting stimulus measures have helped stabilize the world's second-largest economy.

The preliminary Purchasing Managers' Index from HSBC Holdings Plc and Markit Economics was at 49.8, exceeding the median estimate of 49.5 in a Bloomberg survey and up from December's 49.6. Numbers below 50 indicate contraction.

China's gross domestic product increased 7.4 percent in 2014, the slowest full-year pace in 24 years, and provinces are lowering targets for this year's expansion. Along with data this week showing industrial output and retail sales improved in December, the first reading of the economy's momentum in January may alleviate concerns of a deeper downturn.

"The gain likely reflects positive impact from monetary easing," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, an economist at Credit Agricole CIB in Hong Kong. "The manufacturing PMI reading suggests that industrial output will continue to expand at a solid pace in coming months."

Readings on output and new orders improved in January.

BLOOMBERG



A worker assembles a Beijing Hyundai Motor Co. car on the production line at the company's plant in Beijing, China

Friday's report, known as the Flash PMI, is based on 85 percent to 90 percent of responses to surveys sent to more than 420 manufacturers.

"The economy still faces headwinds, particularly from the property sector," Julian Evans-Pritchard, China economist at Capital Economics Ltd., wrote in a note. The central bank

is likely to wait for the stock market to cool before taking "more meaningful" measures such as cutting bank's required reserve ratios or lowering benchmark interest rates, he wrote.

The Shanghai Composite Index added 0.3 percent Friday. It has surged about 35 percent since the central bank surprisingly cut interest rates on Nov. 21.

Reiterating recent comments on its stance, the central bank will promote financial reform while carrying out pre-emptive adjustments and fine tuning, the People's Bank of China said in a statement before a news briefing in Beijing on Friday. New monetary tools don't necessarily replace adjustments to banks' reserve ratio require-

ments, PBOC Deputy Governor Pan Gongsheng said at the briefing.

"Do not hold your breath" awaiting major monetary easing, said Liu Li-Gang, head of Greater China economics at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. in Hong Kong. "The PBOC will continue to use the 2014 monetary operation model for a while. A RRR cut will have to wait until a below-7 percent first quarter growth looks likely and the risk of deflation becomes real."

China will avoid a hard landing and is focused on ensuring long-term medium-to-fast growth, Premier Li Keqiang told global leaders in Davos this week. In a panel discussion in the Swiss town, central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan said a moderation in growth is "good news" if it results in a more sustainable expansion.

China's regions are setting lower economic growth targets as policy makers adjust to the "new normal" of a slower expansion pace for the world's second-largest economy.

Of seven provinces, municipalities and regions that have so far published 2015 growth targets, six have cut the rates. Economists expect the central government will lower its national target to about 7 percent from last year's 7.5 percent at the People's Congress in March.

GDP will rise 7.2 percent this year and consumer prices increase 1.8 percent, according to forecasts from a research center under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. **Bloomberg**

Ting Shi

HONG KONG

HONG Kong has dropped out of the world's top 30 most-livable cities because of poor air quality and social unrest caused by the Occupy Central movement, according to a survey by consulting firm ECA International for Asian expatriates.

The city's livability ranking fell 16 spots to the 33rd, one of the steepest slides in the survey, while another Asian financial hub, Singapore, topped the list for the 16th straight year, according to a report posted on ECA's website on Thursday.

While Hong Kong remains highly ranked, "Air quality remains a lot poorer there than many other parts of the region," the report cited Lee Quane, ECA International's regional director for Asia, as saying. "In addition, Hong Kong's socio-political score worsened this year as a result of the unprecedented unrest

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there in recent months and the restrictions placed on movement."

Pro-democracy protesters occupied swathes of the city in the last quarter, clashing with police

and obstructing traffic in Hong Kong's biggest political crisis since its return to China's rule in 1997. While pollution levels showed slight improvement last year, they

still fell short of standards from the World Health Organization, according to the report by Clean Air Network Ltd., an environment monitoring group.

In Asia, Hong Kong

ranks sixth for livability, behind Singapore and the Japanese cities of Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo and Yokohama, according to ECA's annual survey.

"We are confident that the international community regards Hong Kong highly as one of the most favored cities in terms of attracting businesses and talent," the government's Information Services Department said in an e-mailed response to a request for comment.

It cited the World Bank's latest assessment, which rated Hong Kong as the third easiest place to do business globally, as one of the examples that "have vividly reflected the attractiveness of our free and open economy in the global arena."

Shanghai, ranked 110th globally, is mainland China's most livable city

followed by Beijing, which is ranked 122th globally. Southwestern metropolis Chongqing and southern city Shenzhen saw the most improvement over the year.

Quane cited improvements in "housing, goods and services, recreation, healthcare" for the ascendancy of the Chinese cities on ECA's ranking list, while noting that improvements have been tempered by "problems associated with the country's rapid growth including pollution, infrastructure, corruption and food safety."

Australian cities were featured heavily in the top 10 places in the ranking. Adelaide and Sydney were tied in second spot, followed by Osaka, Brisbane, Wellington, Canberra, Copenhagen, Denmark, Nagoya and Perth. **Bloomberg**

City falls out of top 30 most-livable cities



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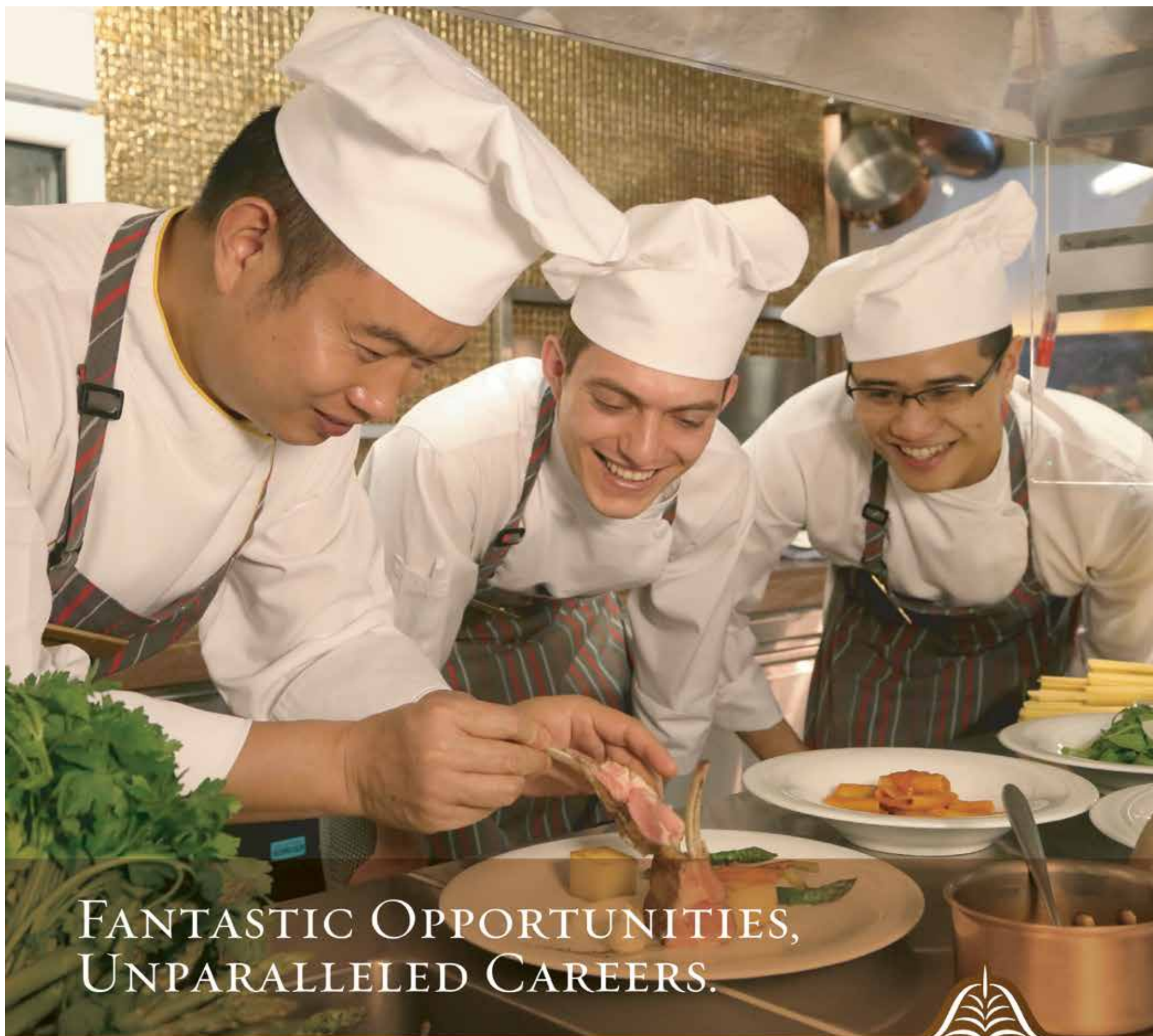


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TRAFFICKING

Paraguay tries to stop execution of drug mule in Beijing

Jack Chang, Beijing

ROSALIA Amarilla stepped into the international terminal of Beijing's cavernous main airport on the afternoon of July 24, 2012, wearing more than 3 kilograms of cocaine stuffed into her underwear and bra.

An acquaintance named Carlos had given the 31-year-old Paraguayan the drug-filled undergarments to wear in Sao Paulo, Brazil, before she boarded a flight to Doha, Qatar, and then Beijing. Security officials nabbed her before she could meet two Chinese waiting for her outside the airport.

Chinese prosecutors and her defenders agree that is how the clothes vendor ended up in a women's prison far from home, awaiting execution on drug trafficking charges. Paraguayan prosecutors and diplomats, as well as human rights activists, argue that Amarilla was forced to carry the narcotics and should not be put to death.

Her plight has become a cause celebre in her small South American home country and a controversy internationally. Paraguayan senators have signed letters demanding her release, and her friends and former high school classmates have marched through the streets of the capital of Asuncion demanding she come home. Earlier this month, the country's top diplomat brought up Amarilla's case with his Chinese counterparts during a meeting in Beijing of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, according to Paraguay's Foreign Ministry.

Santiago Fiorio, an official with the ministry's human rights department, said the Chinese have revealed the courts will review the case in July. The Chinese Foreign Ministry added more details in a statement, saying the Beijing High Court approved a two-year suspension of her death sentence in July 2013. Judicial authorities in China often commute death sentences to life in prison or other non-capital punishments after such suspensions. Amarilla's court-appointed Chinese defense attorney, Bai Baoli, declined to comment.

Back at home, the woman's older sister Patricia Amarilla said her family is hoping the campaign to save Rosalia will shed light not only on her case, but on those of other Paraguayan women who have been forced to serve as drug mules for international traffickers, usually under threat.

Patricia said the family lost

AP PHOTO



Arminda Escobar de Amarilla holds a 2011 family photo of her daughter Rosalia Amarilla, in Nemby, Paraguay

■ Paraguayan Rosalia Amarilla was detained for drugs trafficking in Beijing airport in July 24, 2012, and faces a death sentence

contact with Rosalia for about six months before learning that she had been sentenced to death — a typical punishment in a country where drug offenses are severely disciplined.

"We want this to be an example so that there are no more women in this situation," the sister said. "We're hoping that we will see Rosalia coming home."

Elba Nunez, the regional coordinator of CLADEM, a Latin American women's rights group, said it's unknown how many women share Amarilla's plight but called the trafficking of Paraguayans in particular a "grave and very dangerous problem."

Fiorio said some 3,000 Paraguayans now sit in foreign jails but couldn't say how many were being held for drug trafficking.

With Paraguay already a regional smuggling hot spot for everything from electronics to illicit cash, it's also a source country for women and children subjected to the sex trade, and for forced la-

bor, according to the U.S. State Department.

A clip from Chinese TV news shows another Paraguayan woman, Eulalia Duarte Estigarribia, caught at Beijing's airport with cocaine stuffed into her undergarments. Neither Nunez nor Fiorio knew the circumstances of Duarte's arrest, and neither could say whether she had been forced into carrying the drugs.

In Amarilla's case, Paraguayan prosecutors have identified her as a victim of human trafficking even as they continue investigating how she was brought from Paraguay to China, said Alice Resquin, an official in the prosecutors' human trafficking department.

Rosalia Vega, the executive director of human rights group

Amnesty International in Paraguay, said, "We know she's been threatened, as have her family."

Nunez said CLADEM has devoted itself to locating and aiding such people caught in trafficking rings.

"It's mainly women who are victims, who are looking for better work," she said. "We want to know how many cases there are in China and in the region. These are extremely dangerous international networks who make a practice of doing this."

Nunez said Amarilla was first approached by an acquaintance in Paraguay in 2012 to travel with him to buy clothes in Brazil that she could sell back home. According to a document from the Beijing 2nd Intermediate People's Court provided to the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry and then translated into Spanish, the acquaintance, Carlos, told Amarilla she could travel on to China to buy more goods but, a day before her departure from Sao Paulo, asked her to wear weighted-down undergarments.

The court document said Amarilla suspected the undergarments held drugs but was promised USD7,000 if she delivered them to China. While acknowledging Amarilla was ordered to carry the drugs by third parties, the court maintained her death sentence, although with a two-year suspension, due to the offense's "level of damage to society."

In its report on Amarilla's case, CLADEM said her traffickers were also being sought in the cases of other Paraguayan women who were trapped "under severe threat" and "who remain for weeks and even months under their traffickers' control."

Once in court, Amarilla was not given an opportunity to talk to her attorney, Bai, before the session and at least one of two hearings was not translated into Spanish, Nunez said.

"She didn't understand what was going on around her," Nunez said. "She didn't receive a proper trial."

Further complicating the case, Amarilla's family had to work through the Argentine Embassy in Beijing because Paraguay doesn't have official diplomatic relations with China.

Now, Amarilla's sister said, the family has learned that she's being forced to work in a Beijing prison manufacturing sofas and chairs in exchange for room and board, again a common practice in China's justice system. The Beijing 2nd Intermediate People's Court didn't respond to requests from AP seeking comment.

With the case review coming up and her execution still a possibility, Paraguayan prosecutors are rushing to finish detailed investigations into exactly how Amarilla ended up in Beijing and who brought her.

"It's a big problem here," Vega said, "and many people are watching this case now." **AP**

JAPAN

Video claims death of 1 of 2 IS hostages



This file image taken from an online video released by the Islamic State on Tuesday shows Kenji Goto Jogo, left, and Haruna Yukawa, right

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

FROM prime minister to ordinary people, Japanese responded with shock yesterday at a video purportedly showing one of two Japanese hostages of the extremist Islamic State group had been killed.

With national attention focusing on efforts to save the other hostage, 47-year-old journalist Kenji Goto, some also criticized Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's drive for a more assertive Japan as responsible for the hostage crisis.

A somber Abe appeared on Japanese public broadcaster NHK early yesterday demanding the militants release Goto unharmed. He said that the latest video was likely authentic,

although he added that the government was still reviewing it. He offered condolences to the family and friends of Haruna Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer taken hostage in Syria last year.

Abe declined to comment on the message in the video, which demanded a prisoner exchange for Goto. He said only that the government was still working on the situation, and reiterated that Japan condemns terrorism.

"I am left speechless," he said. "We strongly and totally criticize such acts."

Yukawa's father, Shoichi, told reporters he hoped "deep in his heart" that the news of his son's killing was not true.

"If I am ever reunited with him, I just want to give him a

big hug," he said.

President Barack Obama condemned what he called "the brutal murder" of Yukawa and later yesterday offered condolences to Abe after arriving in India. Obama's statement didn't say how the U.S. knew Yukawa was dead.

He said that the United States will stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Japan, and also called for the immediate release of the second hostage.

The Associated Press could not verify the contents of the video message, which varied greatly from previous videos released by the Islamic State group, which now holds a third of both Syria and Iraq.

Patrick Ventrell, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said U.S. in-

telligence officials were also working to confirm whether it was authentic.

Criticism of Abe has touched on his push for an expanded role for Japan's troops — one that has remained strictly confined to self-defense under the pacifist constitution written after the nation's defeat in World War II.

The threat from the Islamic State group coincided with Abe's trip to the Middle East, where he announced USD200 million in humanitarian aid to the nations fighting the militants.

Obama condemned what he called "the brutal murder" of Yukawa and offered condolences to Abe

Reflecting widely held sentiments here, Jun Hori, an independent journalist, bemoaned Abe's directly mentioning the Islamic State in announcing the aid.

The Islamic State addressed Abe and cited that same figure as ransom demand in its video Tuesday that threatened to behead Yukawa and Goto within 72 hours.

"I feel Abe's misguided shallow acts have trigged this ransom demand," said Toshiko Okada, a former English school administrator, who has been stunned by the news and praying for the hostages' lives. "Maybe he should be attending to problems at home."

Hori believes Japan, restric-

ted by its constitution, has held a slightly different position from the U.S. and Europe on the Middle East, and had up to now fared better at avoiding Western-style terrorist attacks.

"Japan has its own path of peaceful diplomacy that it should take," Hori said.

Abe reiterated yesterday his earlier comments that the government of Japan will not succumb to terrorism and will continue to cooperate with the international community in the fight against it.

He spoke by phone with Jordanian King Abdullah II on Saturday, Japanese officials said, without elaborating on what they discussed. He also called the two hostages' families.

Goto's mother, Junko Ishido, was skeptical about the voice on the video claiming to be her son's.

"I'm petrified," Ishido told NHK. "He has children. I'm praying he will return soon, and that's all I want."

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the audio was still being studied, but there was no reason to deny the authenticity of the video.

Yukawa was captured last summer, and Goto is thought to have been seized in late October after going to Syria to try to rescue Yukawa.

Kent Calder, director of the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at SAIS/Johns Hopkins University in Washington D.C., said the "communalistic" and conformist aspects of Japanese society makes events like the hostage crisis played up in the mainstream media and is particularly emotionally disturbing for its people.

"That trauma is compounded by the fact that I don't think most Japanese saw this coming," he said in an email. "Many will realize out of this that they too are a part of global society, rather than an isolated island nation." **AP**

Julie Pace,
White House Correspondent,
New Delhi

INDIA

Obama begins state visit, seeks policy advances

PRESIDENT Barack Obama was greeted in India yesterday with an elaborate welcome at the country's sprawling presidential palace, then he solemnly laid a wreath at a memorial honoring the father of India's independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi.

The president arrived in New Delhi under hazy skies yesterday morning. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was waiting for Obama at the steps of Air Force One and the two men shared a hug, underscoring the

warm relationship they have formed in the short time Modi has been in office.

The president and prime minister were to spend much of yesterday holding talks on climate change, defense and economic ties. Today, Obama was to be the guest of honor at India's Republic Day festivities, making him the first U.S. president to attend the anniversary of the

enactment of country's democratic constitution.

"It is a great honor," Obama said after reviewing an Indian honor guard formation at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the presidential palace. "We are so grateful for the extraordinary hospitality."

Following their meetings, Obama and Modi were to issue statements and address reporters.

A massive security presence was in place for

Obama's visit, with numerous roadblocks and armed men lining the streets.

While much of Obama's trip here was to be symbolic, the White House was seeking to make progress on numerous policy matters. Relations between the U.S. and India have been strained in recent years, but have been improving since Modi took office last year. **AP**



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, center, U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama wave to the gathering at the Palam Air Force Station in New Delhi

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Elena Becatoros, Athens

GREECE

Anti-bailout party the favorite as citizens cast critical vote

GREECE voted yesterday in an early general election that could alter the course of the country's struggle with crippling debts, with a radical left party poised to win by promising to rewrite the terms of its international bailout.

The Syriza party led by Alexis Tsipras has remained firmly ahead of conservative Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' New Democracy party in opinion polls throughout the election campaign, which was called two years ahead of schedule.

But those polls also have shown that a significant portion of voters remained undecided until the last minute, and suggest that Syriza might struggle to win enough parliamentary seats to form a government on its own.

"These elections are crucial for our future and for the future of our children," Samaras said after he cast his ballot in a southern Greek town. "Today we decide whether we will go forward with strength, with security, with assuredness, or whether we will



Alexis Tsipras, leader of Greece's Syriza left-wing main opposition party casts his vote at a polling station in Athens

head into adventures."

Samaras said he was optimistic of victory given what he called the "unprecedented large number" of undecided voters. He said they would determine the outcome.

Tsipras was mobbed by a media throng as he voted in Athens. "The Left's time has come!" chanted a nearby pack of his party's youth activists.

A relaxed-looking Tsipras joked with journalists jostling for quotes and photos to calm down. "We've been waiting for this moment for five years. You can wait for another five minutes," he said.

"Today, the Greek people are called to decisively make the remaining step toward the return of hope, the end of fear, the re-

turn of democracy and dignity in our country," he said outside the polling station. He said a vote for Syriza would ensure that Greece negotiated "a tough bargain to rejoin Europe on an equal basis. I am optimistic this will be a historic day."

Syriza has promised to renegotiate the country's 240 billion euro (USD270 billion) international bailout deal. It has pledged to reverse many of the reforms that international creditors demanded in exchange for keeping Greece financially afloat since 2010.

Syriza's promises to end Greece's era of crushing austerity have attracted many voters infuriated by the deterioration in their standard of living and ever-increasing tax bills. **AP**

SAUDI ARABIA

Leaders head to Riyadh after King Abdullah's death

Abdullah al-Shihiri
and Aya Batrawy

WORLD leaders and top dignitaries began arriving in Saudi Arabia on Saturday to give their condolences following the death of King Abdullah, who died early Friday at age 90 after nearly two decades at the helm.

Despite deep tensions and rivalries between the nations, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was among the first to arrive to the Sunni-ruled kingdom on Saturday where he was greeted at the airport by the late king's son, Prince Turki, who is governor of Riyadh. Saudi state TV showed Zarif walking with the prince down a red carpet on the tarmac.

The newly enthroned King Salman is also expected to receive in the coming days U.S. President Barack Obama, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito, Spain's King Felipe VI, Jordan's King Abdullah, Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik, Dutch King Willem-Alexander, and the United Kingdom's Prince Charles. Morocco's Prince Moulay Rachid will pay his respects on the behalf of his brother King



French President Francois Hollande, left, offers his condolences to Saudi Arabia's new King Salman Saturday

Mohammed VI.

Talk of Zarif visiting Saudi Arabia last year quickly dissipated after Iran protested comments made by Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal in which he called on Tehran to withdraw its "occupying forces" from Syria, Yemen and Iraq. Iran insists it has no combat forces on the ground in any of the three countries, though it says it has sent senior commanders as advisers to Syria and Iraq.

The diplomatic squabble, in many ways, exemplified how Abdullah's most pressing priority was to confront the Shiite powerhouse across the Gulf. The multiple conflicts across the re-

gion deepened Sunni-Shiite hatreds and fueled militancy during his reign.

The king, who ascended to the throne in 2005 but had been de-facto ruler for a decade before that, was buried Friday afternoon in an unmarked grave after a prayer service in the capital Riyadh. The Muslim-only funeral was attended by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and the rulers of Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

In line with the Wahhabi interpretation of Islamic tradition observed in the kingdom, he was buried in an unadorned, beige cloth without a coffin in an unmarked grave. There was no memorial service. **AP**

UKRAINE

Rockets kill 30 in Mariupol as rebels launch offensive

Peter Leonard, Kiev

INDISCRIMINATE rocket fire slammed into a market, schools, homes and shops Saturday in Ukraine's southeastern city of Mariupol, killing at least 30 people, authorities said. The Ukrainian president called the blitz a terrorist attack and NATO and the U.S. demanded that Russia stop supporting the rebels.

Ukrainian officials rushed to defend the strategically important port on the Sea of Azov, beefing up military positions with more equipment and sending in more forces.

The separatists' top leader declared that an offensive against Mariupol had begun — then later toned down his threats as the scale of the civilian casualties became clear.

President Petro Poroshenko held an emergency meeting of his military officials and cut short a trip to Saudi Arabia to coordinate the government's response.

"The time has come to name their sponsors. The help given to militants, weapons deliveries, equipment and the training of manpower — is this not aiding terrorism?" Poroshenko said in a recorded statement.

Russia insists it does not support the rebels, but Western military officials say the sheer number of heavy weapons under rebel control belies that claim.

The rocket attacks came a day after the rebels rejected a peace deal and announced they were going on a multi-prong offensive against the government in Kiev to vastly increa-



Two dead bodies lay on the ground in a residential area in Mariupol

se their territory.

Mariupol, a major city under government control, lies between mainland Russia and the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula. Heavy fighting in the region in the fall raised fears that Russian-backed separatist forces would try to capture city to establish a land link between Russia and Crimea.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said three separate strikes from Grad multiple-rocket launchers hit Mariupol and its surrounding areas Saturday.

The Donetsk regional government loyal to Kiev said at least 30 people — including a 15-year old girl and a five-year old boy — died in the attacks. A Ukrainian military checkpoint near the city was also hit and one serviceman was killed, the Defense Ministry said. **AP**

what's ON

STARTING POINT – DENIS MURRELL
AND HIS YOUNG ARTIST'S PAINTINGS

TIME: 10am-7pm (Mondays to Fridays)

3pm-7pm (Saturdays, closed on Sundays
and public holidays)

UNTIL: January 30, 2015

VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery,
Avenida da Praia Grande, n° 749, r/c

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

EXHIBITION OF OIL PAINTINGS & COLLAGES
BY MARCO SZETO

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: February 18, 2015

VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store
and art gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A,
Edifício San Chak, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

HENGQIN TODAY PHOTOS
AND VIDEOS CREATIVE EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: February 8, 2015

VENUE: Ox Warehouse,
corner of Avenida Do Coronel Mesquita
and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

KOREAN ART EXHIBITION OH YOUNG SOOK
AND KIM YEON OK

TIME: 11am-7pm

UNTIL: February 15, 2015

VENUE: IAOHIN Gallery, Rua da Tercena no. 39a

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 1908

PENGUINS UNDERCOVER ICE WORLD
WITH THE DREAMWORKS GANG

TIME: 11am-8pm

UNTIL: March 8, 2015

VENUE: Cotai Expo

ADMISSION: MOP120

ENQUIRIES: 2882 8818

Offbeat

DANCING GENITALS CLIP NOT
PROGRESSIVE ENOUGH FOR
SOME SWEDES

In socially liberal Sweden, an educational video for children featuring dancing genitals has become an online hit — and even drawn criticism for not being progressive enough.

The one-minute animated video by public broadcaster SVT, promoting a television series about the human body, has been seen by more than 4 million YouTube viewers.

Producers say many parents found it a great way to explain about private parts to children, though some called it inappropriate for a program aimed at children aged 3-6.

Programming director Peter Bargee said the clip also drew “unexpected” criticism from some Swedes, who said portraying the penis with a mustache and the vagina with long eyelashes reinforced gender stereotypes.

Bargee said the video was meant to be fun and not a “statement on gender politics.”

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | RTPi Live |
| 17:35 | Brazil Avenue (Repeat) |
| 18:30 | Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated) |
| 19:30 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Sports |
| 22:10 | Brazil Avenue |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Documentary Serie |
| 00:40 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

cinema

CINETEATRO

22 JAN - 28 JAN



BLACKHAT

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Michael Mann

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis, Wei Tang

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 133min



INTO THE WOODS

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Marshall

Starring: James Corden, Emily Blunt, Meryl Streep

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 125min



AMERICAN SNIPER

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Clint Eastwood

Starring: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Kyle Gallner

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 132min

MACAU TOWER

24 JAN - 4 FEB

BLACKHAT

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Michael Mann

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis, Wei Tang

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1950 INDIA BECOMES A REPUBLIC

The independent republic of India is officially born today, after nearly 100 years of British rule.

A public holiday has been declared throughout the country, and millions of people have been celebrating with processions and ceremonies to hoist the new flag of India for the first time.

India has been running her own affairs since the actual transfer of power from British to Indian hands on 15 August 1947.

But today's ceremonies mark the cutting of her last ties to Britain. India's first president has been sworn in, replacing the King as the country's head of state, and the new constitution ratified.

In the capital, Delhi, the day began with the 34th and last Governor-General of India, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, reading out a proclamation announcing the birth of the Republic of India.

The new President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, then took the oath of office.

Dr Prasad was a key campaigner in the nationalist movement of Mahatma Gandhi, along with India's interim Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The president then addressed the crowd first in Hindi, and then in English.

“Today, for the first time in our long and chequered history,” he said, “we find the whole of this vast land... brought together under the jurisdiction of one constitution and one union which takes over responsibility for the welfare of more than 320 million men and women who inhabit it.”

Dr Prasad then drove through the streets in his state coach, greeted by thousands of people along the way.

The crowds were jubilant, but restrained - a marked change from the highly-charged atmosphere of August 15 1947, when the British finally left India.

Then, there were scenes of total chaos as the police struggled to control the crowd, and riots broke out across the city.

Over the next two years, hundreds of thousands died in the terrible violence that followed partition - the division of the British colony into two nations, the secular but Hindu-dominated India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Then in 1948 the man who steered India to independence, Mahatma Gandhi, was assassinated.

Today, the place where he was cremated on the banks of the River Jumna became a site of pilgrimage for thousands of people.

Dr Prasad visited the spot soon after daybreak and joined in paying homage to the memory of the man now known as “the father of the nation”.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Dr Rajendra Prasad served for 12 years as India's president, retiring in 1962. He died in February 1963. Jawaharlal Nehru became India's first elected prime minister in the first general election in 1952.

He governed the country until his death in 1964, and remains a towering figure in India's early political history.

He broke new ground by following a non-aligned policy, steering a difficult course between the two main power blocs of the communist East and capitalist West during some of the most difficult years of the Cold War.

He dreamed of a socialist society, and created a vast public infrastructure.

He also ran a virtually closed economy, a policy which was strongly criticised in later years.

In the 1980s and 1990s, India began to open up to the outside world, encouraging economic reform and foreign investment.

India is now a regional superpower, with nuclear capability and a burgeoning middle class, although it is still riven by inter-religious and inter-ethnic tensions.

January 26 is marked with an annual public holiday in India, known as Republic Day.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your energy is too good to let it go to waste — so start something big and fun! Your great energy is perfect for all sorts of shenanigans, but if you try anything business-related, it's sure to go well.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Try not to throw money at your problems — things just can't be easily solved that way right now. It may involve some serious effort or even a cry for help, but you can get past this.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

A close friend needs a word with you — they've got some advice you can't afford to miss! Listen carefully, but you may need to wait for a while before taking action. You'll know when the time is right.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Though you feel incredibly rushed, you need to just slow down and take your time. Things should start to make a lot more sense once you can see where you are without the blur of constant motion.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Take a class or explore online — you need to engage your learning centers! Your terrific energy means that you're ready to absorb new information, so pick a direction and follow it wherever it may lead.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

A small problem with a colleague (current or former) makes life really weird for you both. It's not a good time for you to start a fight, so try to sit with it until it resolves or you find a better way.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

If you're feeling low today, than you need to check your attitude. It may be something as small as a lingering resentment from childhood, but you can let go today and get on with life.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You're in the middle of a great situation — in fact, you may be too distracted to notice when those nagging symptoms start to manifest. You may have a cold or something more irritating, but you have to take care of it.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You've got to make good use of this energy — make the day playful! You may find that your people are looking to you for advice, and the best you can do is to show them how to have fun.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Something ends today — so that something can begin tomorrow. Don't see it as a loss, because you can tell that things have just run their course. It's a great time for you to help others.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You can't stand on formality today — things need to be just the way you like them or you'll be too awkward to move. It's a good time for you to ask to do things your way. Just this once!



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You need to shake off this mental haze that's descended on you before it brings down your mood. You may be able to deal with today's events running at half power, but a little caffeine couldn't hurt.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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| 4 | | | | | | 5 | 7 | |

Easy+

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| | 5 | | | | 8 | | | |
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Hard

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| | 6 | | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | 2 | | | | | 7 |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- At ___ for words; 6- Author Morrison; 10- Dissolve; 14- Continue a subscription; 15- I'd hate to break up ___; 16- Geographical expanse; 17- In spite of; 20- DI doubled; 21- Killer whales; 22- Greek letters; 26- Accessory; 30- Halt in the growth of small organisms; 34- Capital of Canada; 35- Disencumber; 36- Society page word; 38- "Mule Train" singer; 39- Distress call; 40- Mammary gland in cows; 42- Latin 101 verb; 43- Suffix with ball; 44- Lament; 45- Permeate; 49- Elderly person; 50- Slaughter of baseball; 51- Lasso; 54- Show stoppers?; 56- Think about; 64- Rich soil; 65- Hydroxyl compound; 66- Boarded; 67- Terminates; 68- Like custard; 69- "Silas Marner" author;

DOWN: 1- Prince Valiant's son; 2- The Lion; 3- Thunder Bay's prov.; 4- Attach by stitches; 5- Do the crawl; 6- Falafel sauce; 7- CIA forerunner; 8- Open mesh fabric; 9- Give ___ rest; 10- Light cotton fabric; 11- Slang expert Partridge; 12- Musical Home; 13- License plates; 18- Ornamental coronet; 19- Vincent Lopez's theme song; 22- Deadly virus; 23- Japanese mat; 24- Director's shout; 25- Ollie's partner; 27- Small crown; 28- Egyptian goddess of fertility; 29- Old Ford; 31- Female sheep; 32- Native of Hyderabad or Mumbai; 33- Taken care of; 37- Some Art Deco works; 39- Soaks (up); 40- Last; Abbr.; 41- Be bold; 43- Old California fort; 44- Lost in Paris?; 46- Clan emblems; 47- Airline since 1948; 48- Tidily; 51- Rub the wrong way; 52- A party to; 53- Somewhat; 55- Wise; 57- Shelter; 58- Chang's twin; 59- Gear tooth; 60- Chat room chuckle; 61- "Lord, is ___?"; Matthew; 62- Animal park; 63- Med. specialty



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PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 1990 992

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HKD 9,702sq ft
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FOOTBALL

Bookmaker-funded Ginola campaign could breach FIFA rules

Rob Harris
Sports Writer, London

EVEN if David Ginola gains the nominations required by Thursday's deadline to stand against Sepp Blatter, his improbable bookmaker-funded campaign could be scuppered by FIFA's gambling rules.

Ginola's campaign is being organized by stunt-prone Irish bookmaker Paddy Power, which is paying the former France international 250,000 pounds (USD375,000) to seek the FIFA presidency.

And ahead of Thursday's deadline to enter the race, FIFA has issued an election guide that stresses that official candidates are bound by its ethics code. One regulation, designed to protect the integrity of football, states: "Persons bound by this code shall be forbidden from taking part in, either directly or indirectly, or otherwise being associated with



David Ginola

betting, gambling."

Asked if the betting rule applied to presidential campaigns, FIFA told The Associated Press yesterday: "It will be part of the eligibility assessment of prospect FIFA presidential candidates by the Ad-Hoc Electoral Committee in accordance with the electoral regulations."

Ginola's activities would only fall under the code if he gained five nominations from FIFA's 209 national federations by Thursday.

Asked about the betting rule, Paddy Power said in a statement to the AP: "Both the heading and the content of the rule clearly relate to the integrity of football matches and competitions."

It did not respond to further questions on the issue.

Ginola is yet to gain the public backing of a single federation since launching his campaign on Jan. 16 at a chaotic media conference, where he struggled to answer questions about FIFA

and Paddy Power branding featured heavily.

After the bookmaker was questioned about its role in the campaign, the company said it will stop contributing financially before the deadline.

"Paddy Power assisted by getting this campaign off the ground in the run up to Ginola getting on the ballot and will not be contributing financially beyond 27th Jan," the company said.

The TeamGinola.com website currently says campaign cash is being held by Rebooting Football — "a subsidiary of Paddy Power plc, who is the primary sponsor of the Campaign."

The crowd-funding website says it is trying to raise 2.3 million pounds (\$3.4 million) by Feb. 28 — by which time the former Paris-Saint Germain and Tottenham winger would hope to be several weeks into the official FIFA campaign period.

"We have always been clear this needs to be a fan-backed cam-

paign," Paddy Power said. "Indeed crowd funding is required to continue campaigning once he is an official candidate."

Ginola's website says that "pledges are non-refundable," even if he does not make it onto the FIFA ballot." But Paddy Power now insists "in case David doesn't make it through, we will look to fully reimburse fans who have donated to the campaign."

As well as gaining five nominations, Ginola has to prove to FIFA that he has carried out an active role in football in two of the last five years.

The 47-year-old Ginola will be relying on his consultancy work for French amateur club Etoile Frejus, which plays in the third tier. Club president Alexandre Barbero told the AP that Ginola worked with him "mainly over the phone" over the past six years and is unpaid.

Blatter is seeking a fifth four-year term as FIFA president in the May election. **AP**

AD



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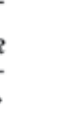



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opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



DAMAGE CONTROL MODE

Even erstwhile unapologetic legislator Fong Chi Keong, aka the firing cannon (Fong Cannon), knew it was time to limit the damage piling up over his latest inadmissible comments on domestic violence. We take it as tasteless stuff dressed up as commentary on social harmony supposedly according to Chinese traditional thought.

Not only public outrage is/was growing, but the anger public feel/felt against the notorious appointed legislator was enough to assemble 12 different groups willing to call a public demonstration to demand an apology from FCK.

Fong Chi Keong, the Legislative Assembly 'bête noir', sensed he had to call a get-together with the press to condemn actual domestic violence and recant the comments that may have offended third parties. He promised to be careful when speaking in public. That is to say, the veteran lawmaker would go as far as changing his wording, but not to change his mind on zero-tolerance. Like it or not, this is classically Fong Chi Keong. He who quarreled with former AL president about the pros and cons of soliciting, or he who capped off problems related to Macau hospitals by stating that if somebody got sick they had better go to Hong Kong - today, ironically, the president of the Kiang Wu Hospital charitable association - would not reconsider comments he made unless a major political imperative came into play.

Sulu Sou Ka Hou, the leader of the Macau democrats, under "Macau Conscience", an umbrella social organization, saw the easy political points NMA could score from the domestic violence controversy and the rejection of Fong Chi Keong's stand. On the one hand, the situation was hot enough to promote a march under a social flag; on the other, the situation was abrasive enough to proceed by leveraging from Fong's language to judgments on his appointed legislator quality, this way reinforcing the reasons or excuses to ask for the abolition of these anachronistic seats in the Legislative Assembly. At the same time, the 'leverage' would translate itself into a proxy denunciation of Chui Sai On: the CE picked Fong.

FCK also foresaw the window opening on the NMA political agenda. The legislator was said to be worried that "certain people" could take advantage of the situation, and call for the abolition of appointed lawmakers as well as indirectly-elected ones. Sulu did...on the former.

Probably, it is not important, but Fong Chi Keong seems to be adding the indirect seats to the appointed ones mentioned by Macau Conscience. However, Fong Chi Keong has consistently held onto seats in the Macau Legislative Assembly since 1996, both indirectly-elected and directly-elected ones. Only in 2013, in its fifth legislature, did he become an appointed legislator. He has come a long way...!

Probably, it is important to recall that Fong Chi Keong has been Legislative Assembly enfant terrible since he took his place on the floor back in 1996; from day one, he has been working on his trademark, his brand as a no-sweet-talking legislator. However, he was the one to be called to carry out critical roles on a number of important pieces of legislation, such as the controversial Security Law, as it was required under Article 23 of the Basic Law. Fong was the president of the AL standing committee chosen to draft the law that prohibits acts of treason, secession and subversion against the Central Government and see it through to its final approval on 25 February, 2009.

Finally, we have to say that Fong's outrageous comments and sexual innuendo are not exactly a case of freedom of speech, although they offer a good excuse to test protocol and the rules of immunity in the house. According to item number six of article 71 of the Basic Law on Functions and Powers, the Legislative Assembly has the power to "receive and handle complaints from Macau residents", although the house is little known to act courageously. One more one million dollar question: who is betting on Fong's fall? Who wants to be appointed?

PS: No need to raise Voltaire's "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to death your right to say it". When suddenly everybody seems to be Charlie...Je suis Candide.

THE BUZZ FAKE SCHOOLS DRAW SCRUTINY OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS

Federal investigators are cracking down on what they say are sham universities that exploit the visa system for foreign students.

At least half a dozen schools have been shut down or raided by federal authorities in recent years over allegations of immigration fraud. Like Tri-Valley University in Pleasanton, California, they had obtained permission from immigration officials to admit foreign students.

But investigators say most offered little or no ins-

truction or didn't require all students to attend classes, instead taking advantage of the visa system for profit.

Government watchdogs say the recent visa fraud cases have exposed gaps in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement oversight of schools that admit foreign students — a problem the agency says is being corrected.

Experts say they also hurt the U.S. higher education system's reputation.

Al Pacino looks to diversify, not retire from acting

Lauri Nerr, New York

AL Pacino says he can relate to Simon Axler, the lead character in his film 'The Humbling' — about an aging actor who worries he's lost his craft and his appetite for acting.

That's partly why he made the film. "I thought I had a better chance of making a movie that was effective because it was about a world I understood," the Oscar-winning actor said in a recent interview to promote the film.

Adapted from Philip Roth's 2009 novel, "The Humbling" was directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barry Levinson ("Rain Man") and co-stars Golden Globe nominee Greta Gerwig ("Frances Ha").

At 74, Pacino says that at times he feels his age. "I do feel differently. I don't quite get up from this table the same way. I may want to but I don't."

Yet the actor says the similarities end there. Simon may be ready to give up acting but Pacino is not.

"Acting, especially if you've done it as long as I have," he said, "it becomes such a part of your nature you rarely ever think about quitting or anything like that."

The star of such iconic films as "The Godfather"



trilogy and "Scent of a Woman," which won him his 1992 best actor Oscar, says he's convinced there's another big role ahead of him, but adding, "I don't know if it's going to be in movies. ... Acting, it can take on different forms."

Pacino was scheduled to perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra this weekend, doing Shakespeare and personal readings. "That's a variation on a thing that takes acting and it's a little different," he explained.

Pacino will return to Broadway this fall to appear in David Mamet's latest work "China Doll," even if he won't do the standard eight

performances a week. "I wouldn't do eight performances if you paid me," he said. "It's too much. I gave that up a long time ago."

Television remains in Pacino's acting future, as well.

The two-time Emmy winner ("You Don't Know Jack," "Angels in America") says he's looking into an episodic series that could stream on a service like Netflix or Amazon about Napoleon's final days on the Island of Saint Helena.

"I always found it was really interesting the last days, the last months of his life," said Pacino. While he's been offered a lot of different scripts, he said he's "never found the right vehicle" until he recently read "one of those series types."

He says the project is still in the "talking stages" but that Michael Radford, who Pacino worked with on the film "The Merchant of Venice," is interested in directing.

The actor says maturing has also presented him with a new way to look at family, specifically how to raise his 14-year-old twins, Anton and Olivia, with actress and former girlfriend Beverly D'Angelo. Pacino, who also has a 25-year-old daughter with acting coach Jan Tarrant, says he has the younger children 50-percent of the time. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Wynn Resorts



Spot the difference... No, it's not Wynn Macau. This architectural rendering released by Wynn Resorts shows an evening view of a redesign of its proposed Massachusetts Casino in Everett, unveiled last week, at the state gaming commission meeting in Boston.

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Roadside | 65-95 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 65-95 Moderate |
| Ambient | 60-80 Moderate |

SOURCE: D5M6G

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA President Barack Obama opens a three-day visit to India aimed at turning his personal chemistry with Prime Minister Narendra Modi into progress on climate change, defense and economics. More on p13

PHILIPPINES A town mayor says more than 30 police commandos have been killed in a clash with Muslim rebels while hunting a top terror suspect in the south. It was the biggest single-day combat loss for Philippine forces in many years. Mayor Tahirudin Benzar Ampatuan said that dozens of police special action force members entered the village of Tukanalipao in Mamasapano town at dawn yesterday to capture a notorious bombing suspect but had a "misencounter" with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which signed a peace deal with the government last year.



NIGERIA In fierce fighting yesterday, Nigerian troops clashed with Islamic extremists who attacked Maiduguri, the biggest city in northeast Nigeria. Dozens of combatants have been killed and wounded, soldiers and hospital workers said. The attacks come the day U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is expected in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, more than 1,500km southwest of Maiduguri.

UKRAINE Indiscriminate rocket fire slams into a market, schools, homes and shops in Ukraine's southeastern city of Mariupol, killing at least 30 people, authorities say. The Ukrainian president calls the blitz a terrorist attack and NATO and the U.S. demand that Russia stop supporting the rebels. Ukrainian officials rush to defend the strategically important port on the Sea of Azov. More on p15

YEMEN Tens of thousands of Yemenis marched in protest against Shiite rebels who hold the capital, amid a power vacuum in a country that is home to what Washington describes as al-Qaida's most dangerous offshoot.