



ALEXIS: ZERO TOLERANCE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

After reports that more female students at the UMAC were victim of sexual harassment, Secretary Tam stated perpetrators should be punished

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ARTISTS WELCOME CNY WITH CREATIVE GOAT SCULPTURES

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IS EXTENDS HOSTAGE DEADLINE UNTIL SUNDOWN

Japan said it was putting its trust in Jordan to help gain the release of a Japanese journalist held by militants of the Islamic State

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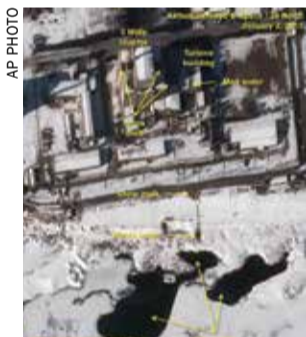


"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

MALAYSIA's government declares the crash of Flight 370 an accident to pave the way for compensation claims, angering victims' families still waiting for evidence, while officials said the search for wreckage will go on. [More on p12](#)

INDONESIAN investigators say the co-pilot of the crashed AirAsia jet was in control when he struggled to recover the aircraft as stall warnings sounded. The Airbus A320-200 crashed into the Java Sea on Dec. 28, halfway from Indonesia's city of Surabaya to Singapore. [More on p11](#)



NORTH KOREA may be attempting to restart its main nuclear bomb fuel reactor after a five-month shutdown, a U.S. research institute says. If true, the finding, which is based on recent commercial satellite imagery, will be an added worry for the United States and the North's neighbors at a time of increasing animosity over recent U.S. sanctions against the North and Pyongyang's fury about a U.N. push to punish its alleged human rights abuses.

SPAIN The head of France's air force says the crash of a NATO jet in Spain that left 11 people dead, including nine French airmen, came after the Greek crew tried to eject from the plane during a failed takeoff. Gen. Denis Mercier said yesterday the crash was entirely accidental and no additional measures could have prevented it.

[More on backpage](#)



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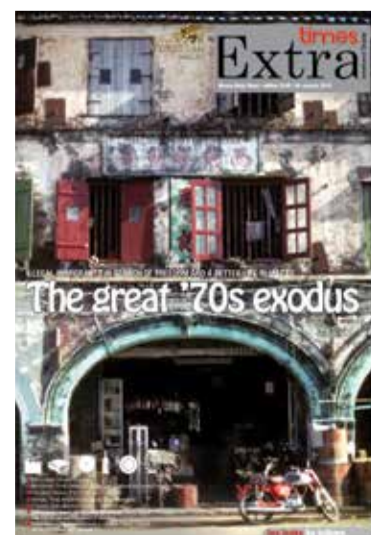
Gov't announces full smoking ban in casinos

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ADELSON IN TOWN NEXT WEEK TO MEET NEW GOV'T

Las Vegas Sands profit up 25 pct overall in 4Q2014

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weekend Guide
INSIDE

‘NO SMOKING’

Gov't to propose full ban in casinos, including VIP rooms

Catarina Pinto

THE Health Bureau (SSM) is aiming to introduce a full smoking ban in casinos. This would mean that that smoking would be prohibited not only on mass gaming floors, but also within VIP rooms. Current smoking lounges would also be forced to close if the bill is approved.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, announced yesterday that SSM is working on revising the Tobacco Prevention and Control Law, and will suggest the implementation of a full smoking ban in the city's casinos.

He added that SSM is hoping to finish revising the legislation and to submit it to the Legislative Assembly in the first half of 2015.

“The Macau government has made a decision and it's unanimous: [we are calling for] the implementation of a full smoking



ban in casinos. We know that there has been a decline in gaming revenue. But because of the desire for more revenue from gaming taxes, the government will not be harming citizens, casino employees and tourists' health,” Mr Tam told a press conference yesterday.

The government's decision is based on the main findings of a report on the tobacco prevention and control scheme, which was released yesterday.

The report shows that over 70 percent of Macau residents back a full smoking ban. The survey also indicates that about 80 percent of casino workers agree with a full smoking ban that includes VIP rooms; about 85 percent of surveyed tourists also said that they are not against a full smoking ban.

Mr Tam revealed that the government met with the executives of casino operators to understand their views on the full smoking ban. Casino companies are hoping that the government will allow them to keep current smoking lounges, like those found in international airports which provide smokers with a sepa-

rate smoking area.

However, the Secretary stressed that the government stands firmly in its plan to implement a full smoking ban, meaning that smoking will be prohibited within the entire premises of casinos' resorts, and that smoking lounges will therefore not be allowed.

“The six operators are vowing to keep smoking lounges, but even with ventilation systems, this could still trigger negative health effects. It's what operators want, but we are vowing to defend citizens' health,” said Mr Tam, who acknowledged that there's still much to be discussed.

The Times contacted casino operators to hear their opinions on the government's decision. MGM Macau said that the company would not comment on the matter.

Mr Buddy Lam, vice-president of public relations in the corporate office at Galaxy Entertainment Group, said, “GEG supports the Macau government on the Smoking Control Act, as the health and well-being of our staff and guests are very important to us; and since the gaming floor smoking ban came into force on

October 6, 2014, we have been in full compliance with the relevant rules and regulations.”

“So far, our smoking lounges have been well received, and the feedback from labor unions, staff and customers has been positive,” he added.

The operator stressed that it is hoping to be able to maintain its current smoking lounges: “As the government mentioned in the report released today [Wednesday], the six operators already expressed on January 21 that we hope to keep the smoking lounges inside casinos.”

“We will continue to work closely with the government to ensure that, while we can provide a healthier environment to our staff and customers, we can also serve them better by offering a choice to both smokers and non-smokers,” Mr Lam concluded.

On the other hand, the Secretary argued that casino resorts are part of entertainment services, and, like restaurants or nightclubs, they too should be enforcing a full smoking ban: “Casinos are also from the rendering services sector. So we cannot

have differentiated treatment for casinos and restaurants, for instance. It's impossible to respond to society's needs if we maintain some smoking areas in the casinos, but we do not allow them in night clubs, restaurants or massage parlors.”

The report – which was conducted by the Health Bureau and unveiled yesterday – assessed the implementation of the tobacco prevention and control scheme between 2012 and last year. The report concludes that a full smoking ban in casinos should be put into force, while also providing a few other recommendations, including: a significant increase on tobacco tax; an increase in the severity of fines applied to illegal smoking; and restrictions on tobacco imports.

Head of the Health Bureau Lei Chin Ion clarified that currently there is a 33-percent tax applied to tobacco, but the World Health Organization suggests that the tax should be set at 70 percent.

The government is also discussing increasing the fines applied to citizens caught smoking in prohibited areas.

The Gov't has made a decision and it's unanimous: [we are calling for] a full smoking ban in casinos

ALEXIS TAM
SECRETARY

MELCO CROWN TO APPEAL OVER ‘NO SMOKING’ SIGNS FINE

MELCO CROWN Entertainment has said that a recent fine that was issued to the company for failing to place ‘no smoking’ signs in its City of Dreams casino “is debatable.”

“The legality of the government's recent actions related to non-smoking signs is debatable. The company intends to pursue a judicial review of this matter to ensure proper implementation of the smoking regulations as they now stand,” said Melco in a statement to The Times.

The Health Bureau revealed on Wednesday that it would apply a MOP100,000 penalty to Melco

Crown Entertainment for placing a smoking zone on the mass gaming floor of City of Dreams.

“Melco Crown operates its casinos in compliance with Macau legal requirements and requisite governmental approvals,” the company added.

The head of the Health Bureau, Lei Chin Ion, told a press conference yesterday that the government complied with the law when issuing the fine. The Bureau had warned the operator before, but, following a surprise inspection, found that the casino had still failed to put in place the ‘no smoking’ sign.

Health Bureau to launch 50 recruitment processes

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has revealed that the Health Bureau (SSM) has been given the green light to hire at least 529 health professionals by the end of the year. Fifty recruitment processes will be launched to hire 386 medical staff (including 18 general practice doctors, 14 medical specialists, 161 nurses and 28 pharmacists, among other professionals) and 143 administrative work professionals.

“The Health Bureau has enough [room in the] budget to hire more professionals. Now [SSM] has to speed up the

administrative process to recruit them. The Health Bureau needs to work more and be faster,” said Mr Tam.

The head of the Health Bureau, Lei Chin Ion, said that medical staff will also be hired overseas, namely in Portugal, Taiwan and China.

The Bureau revealed yesterday that it is launching a set of measures to help reduce waiting time at the S. Januário public hospital. These measures include the launching of a mobile phone app (now available in Portuguese and Chinese), which will provide patients with real-time information on the number

of people waiting to be seen by a doctor at the emergency room of S. Januário, the private hospital Kiang Wu, or the Workers' Medical Clinic.

Mr Tam said that the Bureau is still working on an English version of the app. The app is already available for Android, but management is still awaiting permission from Apple to be used by iPhone or iPad users.

SSM will also be providing subsidies to Macau residents who already have access to free healthcare services. In this context, the public hospital will cooperate with the Kiang Wu private hospital

and non-profit medical units to provide external medical appointments.

If they come across a long waiting list for appointments at the public hospital, this group of Macau citizens will be able to access Kiang Wu services and be granted a MOP230 subsidy for the appointment; or access non-profit medical entities while receiving a MOP110 subsidy. The new measures address individuals aged 65 or above, residents aged 10 or below, primary and secondary students, pregnant women, people with disabilities, individuals facing economic woes, civil servants and their relatives, professors, and holders of the healthcare services card that is issued by S. Januário. **CP**

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Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas

MACAU couldn't bring the Las Vegas Sands' spirits down. As the Asian gambling hotspot cools off amid a government corruption crackdown that scared off VIP gamblers and efforts to make the destination's casinos smoke-free, the casino empire's executives assured analysts yesterday that tales of Macau's demise are unfounded.

"The new Macau is a little different than the old Macau, but still a wonderful Macau," said Robert Goldstein, Las Vegas Sands president and chief operating officer during the call.

Las Vegas Sands reported higher fourth-quarter net income of USD721.3 million and annual profit of \$2.84 billion.

The last four months had been unsettling, but the company's leaders presented a confident voice.

"We believe very much in this

Las Vegas Sands beats profit forecasts, still keen on Macau



AP PHOTO

The new Macau is a little different than the old Macau, but still a wonderful Macau

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN
PRESIDENT AND COO, LVS

market," Goldstein said, calling it the best gambling environment in the world. The company owns and operates The Venetian and The Palazzo resorts on the Las Vegas Strip, the Sands Bethlehem in Pennsylvania and several properties in Asia where it derives the bulk of its revenue.

Executives made much of the company's non-gambling offerings, but of its fourth-quarter and annual revenue, casino ga-

mes accounted for 80 percent and 82 percent, respectively.

Sheldon Adelson, the founder, chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands, rattled off his casino empire's fourth-quarter and annual performance in Asia — highlighting EBIDTA that doubled at its Marina Bay Sands in Singapore — and twice asking rhetorically if he had heard someone say things were looking down in the Asian gambling market.

He pointed to the company's focus on offerings outside of the slot machines and casino floor, including a 15,000-seat arena for rotating performances, hotel room sales, shopping and the convention and meeting business.

On a per-share basis, the Las Vegas-based company earned 90 cents. Earnings adjusted for non-recurring costs came to 92 cents per share. The results topped Wall Street expect-

tations. The average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 81 cents per share.

The casino operator posted revenue of \$3.42 billion in the period, which fell short of Street forecasts. Analysts expected \$3.55 billion, according to Zacks.

For the year, the company earned \$2.84 billion, or \$3.52 per share. Revenue rose to \$14.58 billion.

In Las Vegas, The Venetian and The Palazzo resorts saw its casino, hotel room and restaurant revenue drop in the fourth quarter leading to EBITDA — or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization — of \$78 million versus \$88 million a year ago. Its Sands Bethlehem property in Pennsylvania, though, had a positive fourth quarter in every category.

Las Vegas Sands shares rose 3.8 percent to \$58.12 in after-hours trading following the release of the report.

Asked by an analyst about his decision to assume the title of CEO at Sands China Ltd., too, versus strengthening the corporate mantle of executives, Adelson said to laughter, "Listen, I haven't done too bad." AP

Sands China earnings miss estimates as VIPs stay away

SANDS China Ltd reported earnings that missed analyst estimates after China's clampdown on graft and illicit fund flows into the city deterred high-end gamblers.

Profit fell 15 percent from a year earlier to USD713.2 million in the fourth quarter based on adjusted property earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, according to parent Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s earnings statement. That compares with the median estimate of \$728 million from 10 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign has contributed to seven straight months of revenue declines for the former Portuguese enclave's casino industry. Sands China said yesterday it will open its fifth casino in 2016, after initially saying



Sheldon Adelson

it would do so as early this year.

The new resort is among a slew of planned properties offering entertainment features such as Batman and Broadway aimed at wooing mass-market tourists. Casinos are betting on entertainment to help offset the decline in high rollers.

"We don't have an opening date yet," Adelson said in a conference call. "It'll be some time in

2016."

Adelson said he would travel to Macau this coming week to meet the city's newly installed government.

Sands China fell 0.5 percent to HK\$39.45 as of 1:53 p.m. in Hong Kong trading. The benchmark Hang Seng index lost 1.2 percent. Las Vegas Sands fell 1.6 percent in New York trading, before the results.

Net income in the quarter declined to \$535.3 million from \$655.6 million a year ago, and net revenue slumped 16 percent to \$2.12 billion.

Gambling at VIP tables plunged across all four of the company's Macau casinos, according to a Sands China statement issued to the Hong Kong exchange yesterday.

Rolling chip volume, referring to wagers at VIP tables, dipped 40 percent

to \$10.1 billion at Venetian Macao and 52 percent to \$8.4 billion at Sands Cotai Central. The projects are Sands China's top two earners. Non-rolling chip drop, or gambling money used at tables aimed at the mass market, fell between 7 to 14 percent at three of the resorts, with only Sands Cotai Central posting an 11 percent gain.

Macau's government has imposed more scrutiny over junket operators, the middle-men who bring in high-rollers and loan them money to gamble, hitting the VIP sector in the city. Fourth quarter volume of Macau's VIP junkets last year was the lowest since the same period in 2010, Adelson said.

Adelson, 81, is due to take direct charge of Las Vegas Sands' China unit as Macau recorded its first annual casino revenue slump in the wake of

government actions that included a crackdown on illicit currency conversions linked to mainland debit cards.

He will become chief executive officer of Sands China on March 6, in addition to his existing role as chairman. The appointment

Adelson said he would travel to Macau this coming week to meet the city's newly installed government

came after Sands China chief Edward Tracy said he will retire in March.

Xi visited Macau in December, coinciding with plans to crack down on illicit funds the government has said are funneled

through the city, the only place in China where casinos are legal.

Sands China is building the \$2.7 billion Parisian Macao, which will have about 3,000 hotel rooms and features an Eiffel Tower replica. When completed, Sands China's room supply will increase to almost 13,000, representing about 45 percent of total hotel rooms in Macau, Adelson said.

The company will compete with a series of new projects being constructed in the city's Cotai Strip, including a \$3.2 billion Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. resort that seeks to woo vacationing Chinese with a family entertainment center that includes a Batman ride. The project is part of the company's plan to shift resources away from high rollers.

Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. also announced on Jan. 23 that it will invest about HK\$57 billion (\$7.4 billion) to expand in Macau and will recreate New York's Broadway theater district to attract more visitors. MDT/Bloomberg

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Lawmakers agree on typhoon insurance rate for employees

João Pedro Lau

MEMBERS of the Legislative Assembly (AL) First Standing Committee reached consensus with the Macau government yesterday regarding a mandatory additional typhoon insurance rate for employees. The rate would apply to people who must travel to work when typhoon signal No. 8 or higher is hoisted. Lawmakers were also united in arguing for a voluntary additional insurance rate to cover employees who go to work on foot.

The committee discussed the amendment to the Compensation Regime for Damages Arising from Workplace Accidents and Occupational Diseases yesterday. Kwan Tsui Hang, president of the committee, said in a post-meeting press conference that the government initially proposed to set the mandatory insurance rate at 0.4 percent



Kwan Tsui Hang

of the amount of a worker's employment insurance. However, the government eventually agreed to the lawmakers' advice and lowered the rate by 0.1 percentage point.

Under the current legislation, if an employee is traveling to

work when typhoon signal No. 8 or above is hoisted, they are only covered by their employment insurance if they are taking the transportation provided by their employer. The employee will not be covered by the insurance if they walk to work during

typhoon No. 8 or above.

Nevertheless, the employer can choose to pay an additional 0.4 percent of the employment insurance. In this case, the employee will be covered in any weather conditions if they travel to work by means other than the transportation provided by the employer.

If the amendment is passed, it will be mandatory for employers to pay the 0.3 percent additional charge if they require their employees to go to work in all weather conditions. Employees can also choose to travel to work by any means under typhoon signal No. 8 or above, and will still be covered by the insurance. Moreover, the amendment will extend the time limit that is assigned to employees to go back to work after typhoon signal No. 8 or above is dropped from two hours to three hours.


As for commuting under nor-

mal weather conditions, the amendment will give employers a choice to pay an extra 0.1 percent insurance fee, so that an employee will be covered when they commute to work by means not provided by their employer, including walking. However, this means that the lawmakers will also have to amend Ordinance 236/95/M.

Furthermore, some lawmakers have asked the government representatives whether an employee can refuse to go to work when typhoon signal No. 8 or above is hoisted if their employer did not buy the extended insurance package. Kwan Tsui Hang said that if there is a special and urgent situation when it is necessary for the workers to go back to work, then the workers cannot refuse. Nevertheless, the employer, instead of the insurance company, will be the party that is liable for any damages arising.

The president said that lawmakers from both the business and labor sectors are united in supporting such an amendment that will see greater insurance coverage for workers. She also suggested that it is very important for the government to promote this amendment to businesses so that employers will understand the changes.

AD



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Health Bureau extends coverage of beneficiaries receiving medical services in subsidized non-profit medical institutions
Launching mobile app to facilitate triage of patients in emergency services


From 29th January 2015, the Health Bureau extends the coverage of beneficiaries receiving medical services in subsidized non-profit medical institutions. Depending on their personal health situation, eligible individuals may choose to utilize the western medicine outpatient service in non-profit medical institutions subsidized by the Health Bureau or emergency service in Kiang Wu Hospital, with a fixed amount of subsidy granted by the Health Bureau. Details as follows:

Through mobile apps, website, electronic displays in relevant medical institutions or 24-hour hotline 28313731, residents may access to the waiting list in medical institutions in order to choose a nearby institution or one with a shorter waiting list.


QR code for Android app



Macao Health Info Kiosk



QR code to access the waiting list via website



Waiting status in emergency, outpatient clinics and health institutions

iOS app for iPhone, iPad will be released soon. Users can still access to the waiting status through our website.

Visiting the designated 8 subsidized non-profit medical institutions for medical consultation:
 Eligible persons may enjoy one subsidized outpatient service every 48 hours in value of MOP110; the user should pay the excess amount by oneself, if any.

- Workers' Clinics of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (Tamagnini Barbosa, Rua do Bispo Medeiros, Praça de Ponte e Horta, Bairro Iao Han)
- The Medical Center of People subordinated to the Aliança de Povo de Instituição de Macau (Bairro da Areia Preta, Fai Chi Kei)
- Son Vo Health Care Centre of the Macao New Chinese Youth Association
- Clinic of the Association of Returned Overseas Chinese Macau

Visiting the emergency department of Kiang Wu Hospital (Macao or Taipa) for medical consultation:
 Eligible persons may enjoy one subsidized emergency service every 48 hours in value of MOP230; the user should pay the excess amount by oneself, if any.

Current eligible beneficiaries	A) Eligible permanent and non-permanent residents of the Macao SAR: children aged 10 years or below, students of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools holding "formal education" student card issued by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, seniors aged 65 or above, holders of subsidy beneficiary card issued by the Social Welfare Bureau, as well as pregnant women, parturients and women in the first month of postpartum holding healthcare handbook for pregnant women or relevant documentary proof B) Macao SAR permanent residents holding valid disability assessment registration card
Extended beneficiaries	C) Civil servants and their dependents holding healthcare access card (commonly known as the green card) D) Holders of academic staff card, education institution staff card and healthcare access card for previous academic staff indicating "entitlement to free healthcare", issued by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau E) Holders of healthcare card (also known as the yellow card) issued by the Social Welfare Unit of the Conde de São Januário General Hospital, except individuals who are entitled to fee exemption for specific specialty or service F) Holders of healthcare card (also known as the blue card) issued by the Patient Services Division of the Conde de São Januário General Hospital

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Alexis Tam stresses zero tolerance on sexual harassment in university

REGARDING the reports that a growing number of female students at the University of Macau (UM) have fallen victim to sexual harassment, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, stressed that the government will not tolerate sexual harassment in college, and that the perpetrators should be punished.

Tam said that he felt unhappy about the sexual harassment incidents coming to light in UM con-



secutively, and expected a rigorous investigation into the trend. He added that the university's specifications for preventing and punishing sexual harassment should be open and transparent so that students are being protected.

As for reporters' complaints that the UM rector, Zhao Wei, tended to ignore their repeated questioning, Tam said that not only UM, but other governmental departments should communicate closely with the media and

respond to their questions.

In response to this criticism, Mr Zhao said that he will definitely strive to cooperate [with the media]. He revealed that a total of four complaints have been received since his taking office as rector. Three of them were received in the second half of last year and are still undergoing preliminary investigation. He stated that UM has zero tolerance for sexual harassment, and would punish perpetrators severely. **BY**

TUI confirms gov't not liable for swimming pool death

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has ruled that a contracted life-saving company must compensate the family of a 26-year-old local who drowned in the Carmo Swimming Pool in June 2006.

Court documents suggested that the Court of First Instance ruled in 2010 that the lifesaver who was on duty

when the accident occurred was not guilty of negligent homicide. As such, the damage claim brought by the victim's parents against the lifesaver was rejected. However, the Court ruled that the Macau government and the lifesaving company must compensate the family a total of MOP3.49 million.

All three parties launched appeals

after the sentencing, landing the case in the Court of Second Instance (TSI). The TSI ruled that the Macau government, as the owner of the pool, was not liable, but confirmed that the life-saving company must bear responsibility. Nevertheless, the TSI reduced the amount of compensation owed by MOP1.88 million.

The family then appealed the case to the TUI, which also confirmed that the lifesaving company is the only party liable for the accident. The TUI has increased the compensation stipulated by the TSI by MOP200,000.

Recycling company staff members sell wasted oil to lard factory

Two staff members from a recycling company are reported to have sold untreated waste oil to a lard production factory. Since March last year, the two suspects have sold the company 50 barrels of wasted oil totalling 50 kilos per barrel, which they collected from local restaurants. The recycling company specializes in kitchen waste and wasted oil; its manager discovered the incident and reported the two staff members to the police. The police have written to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Health Bureau and Economic Services are set to follow up the reports.

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Artists welcome CNY with creative goat sculptures

RESIDENTS and tourists will be able to see 38 goat sculptures throughout Macau between February 6 and March 1. They have been decorated by local artists from a diverse mix of cultural backgrounds.

The exhibition, titled “Creative Creatures – Art and the Chinese Zodiac”, is being presented in support of the local art project “Anno Caprum”, where artists have each hand-decorated a 1.3-meter-high fiberglass goat to celebrate Chinese New Year (CNY). The exhibition is supported by the Macau Government Tourist Office and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau. Twenty of the goats will be displayed throughout Macau, while 18 of them will be displayed at the outdoor area at the Venetian Macao.

Some of the artists are still working very hard on their pieces in the venue provided by Venetian, including Thomas Lo. Born in Macau and having graduated from the department of communication design in Shih Chien University, Taiwan, Lo named his creation - which is partially covered with shiny gems “G.pupa”. According to Loh, the name is intended to convey the feeling of rebirth. He said that he had never tried this art form before, and wanted to create something unique.

Painting the body of his goat black, Lo wanted people to realize that the colour does not symbolise hopelessness, even in the darkness. “It is a sign of



a new beginning,” he said, adding that the piece also shows the conflicts and inconsistencies of human nature.

Another artist, Miguel Botelho, said that his goat will allow the audience to see the old and new Macau from his perspective. Having finished high school in Macau and acquired his university degree in Portugal, Botelho will apply several patterns and elements that he believes are associated with the old Macau and his childhood on the bottom half of the goat. He will then cover the upper half with gold, which represents the new Macau.

Botelho said that he had held the idea to create a patterned piece for more than a year, and had spent around a week coming up with the current design. He hopes that audiences who are familiar with the old Macau can associate with the goat.

Apart from individual artists, two local tertiary institutions, including the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), have taken part in the project. Francisco Leandro, assistant professor from the USJ Faculty of Creative Industries, said that the university wants students other than those who have studied the visual arts to

take part in the project. As a result, he said that they have decided to put 32 QR codes on the goat. Audiences will be directed to different webpages showing current affairs when they scan the codes with their cell phones. In fact, the team has already made the QR codes with their 3D printer as a symbol of technological advancement. Nevertheless, it is difficult to put the printed codes on the body of the goat, especially because the goat will be displayed outdoors.

After March 1, all 38 goats will be on display in squares and other locations throughout the city. **JPL**

Sydney-Nagasaki cruise with free stays in Macau, Hong Kong



“Spend one night in cosmopolitan Hong Kong and two nights in the gambling mecca of Macau for free as part of a new holiday package to Asia from Cruiseist. Departing 18 August 2015, the deal includes a flight from Hong Kong and one free night of pre-cruise accommodation at the Regal Oriental,” says a note from the cruise company. Travellers will then depart on a 7 night cruise visiting Xiamen (China), Jeju Island (South Korea) and Nagasaki (Japan) on Royal Caribbean’s “Voyager of the Seas.” The cruise is priced from USD2299 per person twin share from Sydney. Following the cruise, passengers will embark the TurboJET ferry from Hong Kong to Macau, where they will enjoy two free nights of post-cruise accommodation at the Regency Hotel in Macau before returning to Hong Kong for the flight home.

Overnight visitors to Hainan hit 40 million in 2014

Overnight tourists to South China’s Hainan Province exceeded 40 million in 2014, up 10.6 percent, the local statistics bureau said this week. The total included 39.9 million tourists from other parts of China and 661,400 tourists from abroad. Tourism generated 48.5 billion yuan (USD7.8b) in 2014, up 13.2 percent. Overnight foreign tourists to the province fell 12.6 percent year-on-year to hit 421,500. Visitors from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan also dropped 6.3 percent to 239,900, Xinhua reported.

Tourism showcases the city in Delhi

Macau tourism authorities (MGTO) is promoting the city as a leisure and business tourism destination at India’s main travel show, South Asia’s Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE) 2015, which opened yesterday in New Delhi. On the eve of the opening of the event, MGTO also held an inauguration of its office in the Indian capital with a new representative. This year, MGTO is SATTE’s solo “Feature Destination Partner”, with MGTO Deputy Director Cecilia Tse addressing attendees at both the opening ceremony and welcome dinner of the leading travel show. At the opening ceremony, Cecilia Tse noted that “India is an important international visitor source-market for Macau.”



REAL ESTATE MATTERS

What To Expect When You Are Renting Clarifying Costs For Tenants

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



JULIET RISDON

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Renting a property is usually the first option for young couples, foreign workers as they arrive in a new location, and of course families who find themselves priced out of the property ownership market. Whilst it may require less money than buying an apartment, renting is usually not in any way 'cheap'.

There are many costs to consider if you want to rent a property, and this article is about making sure you know what to expect. You can consider costs in three areas;

- Administration Costs - Hotel Fees, Deposits, Agency Fees etc
• Renting Costs - The cost of the property itself

- Property Costs - Improvements and furnishing

Administration Costs

1- Hotel Costs Unless you are willing to rent a property without seeing it, you will have to stay in a hotel. The average length of time between arriving and moving in to a property is 2-4 weeks. If you are fortunate this expense can be covered by your company, but if not you will need to budget accordingly.
2- Deposits

You will be asked to pay a deposit to hold the property initially, and this is usually equal to one month's rent. The deposit is often non-refundable if you choose not to proceed with the apartment. This deposit will later become part of the two month refundable security deposit described in the next section 'Renting Costs'.

3- Agency Fees Agent fees vary from country to country. In Macau, the standard agency fee is equivalent to one month's rent when renting an apartment.

Renting Costs

1- Current Month Rent in advance Once you have found a property and signed the contract, you will be asked to pay the current months rent in advance. In some cases that means paying until the last day of the current month. In others it means paying a full month and having your rent due mid-month for the duration of the contract.

2- Refundable Security Deposit You will also be asked to pay a security deposit equal to two months rent prior to moving in. It is worth noting that this deposit is fully refundable, and may not be

used to cover rents during the term of the agreement.

3- Current Bills You may also need to cover the first utility bills as they come in, then reclaim the portion that does not belong to you from the owner. This is to ensure that bills get paid in a timely fashion and you do not get cut off

Property Costs

1- Furnishing Even when a property is furnished, it may not contain cutlery, plates and cups etc. Many people prefer to purchase their own utensils prior to moving in rather than using anything supplied with the property

2- Improvements Whilst it is not your property, it is your home. You may want to invest some money in improving the place given the amount of time you are going to spend there, especially if you have a family. Painting walls, upgrading bedding, new TV and audio equipment are all popular ways of improving your surroundings. Lets face it, if you are here for a while, you may as well make the most of it!

Next Week: Clarifying costs for Owners & Landlords

PokerStarsMacau Home to Asia's best live poker tournaments

PROJECT POKER

BY VICTOR RAMDIN

Is Poker a selfish game? Not always.

The end of the year, that time when people start to think about the holidays and also giving to charity. Not coincidentally, there are several different charity poker tournaments happening these days, and it just so happens I'm writing in the middle of some of them.

The first was the MS Turek Charity Classic in Harrison, New York, a tournament that raised a lot of money to help with the fight against multiple sclerosis. There were a number of pros there besides myself, among them Bernard Lee and Matt Matros. A very nice group of people came out, and the event was run very well. It was the 11th year they've had it, and I was glad to have been able to take part.

A few nights after that I was playing another charity event in New York, this time with Phil Hellmuth, Dan Shak, Andy Frankenberger, and a number of others. It was the All in for Kids Poker Tournament at the Mandarin Oriental to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

A total of \$910,000 was raised for research into the causes of and treatments for food allergies at that event. It was another terrific get-together as well as another good cause.

Finally there is another charity event coming up that I'll be playing, again one for which the charity is aimed at helping children. This one is being put

together by poker pro Brandon Steven and his brothers. It's called the Aces for Kids - Brandon Steven Motors Annual Charity Tournament and it will be raising money for the Genesis Foundation for Fitness and Tennis. I believe Daniel Negreanu is going to be there, too, along with Dennis Phillips, Joe Cada, and a number of others.

I'm someone who is always looking for opportunities to give to worthwhile causes and help where I can, and it's nice to be able to combine that sort of effort with my other love -- poker -- as I get to do when getting involved with these kinds of events.

As anyone who has ever played poker seriously well knows, it's a game that in a lot of ways is "selfish" or at least self-interested. You play to win money for yourself, and of course you can't win without other people losing.

But poker can also be a great way to be selfless, too, such as with charity events like these. More and more poker players are starting to look for ways to give back to their communities or to those in need, and the game can be a great way to get people to think of others.

If you're someone who likes poker and are also looking for ways to be charitable as the holidays arrive, take a look around -- you might find a charity tourney in which you can take part, too.

AD

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Candice Choi, Food Industry Writer, New York

AP PHOTO



MCDONALD'S CEO Don Thompson is stepping down as the world's biggest hamburger chain fights to hold onto customers and transform its image.

The company said Thompson, who has been CEO for two-and-a-half years, will be replaced by Steve Easterbrook, a company veteran who rejoined McDonald's as its chief brand officer in 2013.

McDonald's Corp., which has more than 36,000 locations around the world, is struggling amid intensifying competition and changing attitudes about food. Customer traffic at established locations in the U.S. fell 4.1 percent last year, following a 1.6 percent decline in 2013. It's also trying to recover after a supplier scandal in China that damaged its reputation.

On Wednesday, McDonald's said Thompson will retire March 1 after nearly 25 years with the company. Thompson, 51, was the first African-American to head the company since it was founded in 1955.

"It's tough to say goodbye to the McFamily, but there is a time and season for everything," he said in a statement.

A representative for McDonald's said an unspecified number of employees at the company's headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois and elsewhere were also notified of layoffs on Wednesday. In after-hours trading, shares of McDonald's jumped 3 percent to USD91.79. The stock has declined about 6 percent in the past year while broader markets are up in the double digits.

With Easterbrook's promotion, McDonald's is continuing its tradition of promoting from within, noted

McDonald's CEO steps down as sales decline

Darren Tristano, a restaurant industry analyst with Technomic. That could be a drawback for a company that is struggling to keep up with a rapidly changing industry.

"Sometimes, you need fresh perspective," Tristano said, adding that the competition has been "evolving faster than McDonald's products have been."

Despite the pressures McDonald's is facing, the timing of Thompson's departure was a bit of a surprise considering the numerous revitalization efforts the company recently announced, said Richard Adams, a consultant for McDonald's franchisees. And he

noted the CEO change leaves open the question of whether McDonald's will shift course on those initiatives.

"Is everything going to change, or are Don's plans going forward?" Adams said.

Here's a look at the challenges Easterbrook, 48, will inherit as McDonald's new CEO, and the changes that are already under way.

FAST FOOD IS JUNK FOOD

McDonald's is trying to shake perceptions that fast-food is cheap, greasy and made with mysterious ingredients.

To dispel myths about its food, the company recently

launched a campaign inviting people to ask frank, sometimes squeamish questions about its menu offerings, such as "Does McDonald's beef contain worms?" and "Do McDonald's buns contain the same chemicals used to make yoga mats?"

Part of the problem for McDonald's and other traditional fast-food chains is that people are gravitating toward food they feel is more wholesome or made with higher quality ingredients. And newer places like Chipotle and Panera are positioning their food as just that.

Mike Andres, president of McDonald's USA, said last

month that the company is looking at shrinking the number of ingredients it uses and employing different cooking procedures to enhance the appeal of its food.

"Why do we need to have preservatives in our food?" Andres asked. "We probably don't."

BLOATED MENU, CLUMSY SERVICE

McDonald's has conceded its menu in the U.S. has gotten bloated. In just the past decade, the company has said it added 100 items to its menu. That slows down service because it takes customers longer to figure out what they want, while also complicating kitchen operations.

It also increases the chances that orders will be wrong.

As such, McDonald's has said it's looking at a simplified menu that reduces the number of Value Meals, and trims items that may be repetitive, such as variations of the Quarter Pounder with different toppings.

PICKIER CUSTOMERS

The ability to customize orders is gaining popularity. At Chipotle, for instance, people like that they can walk down a line and dictate exactly what goes into their bowls and burritos.

In hopes of giving customers more flexibility in adjusting their burgers, McDonald's rolled out new prep tables that can hold more condiments and toppings. It also has more dramatic plans in the works.

McDonald's says it will roll out an option that lets people build their own burgers at 2,000 of its more than 14,000 U.S. locations later this year. The food takes a bit longer to prepare, but the company is hoping customers will think it's worth the wait. **AP**

corporate bits

MACAU AND HK MOVIE PREMIERE OF DREAMWORKS ANIMATION'S 'PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR'



The four hilarious penguins from the 2005 hit movie "Madagascar" are back with their own big screen production: "Penguins of Madagascar." Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao will host an exclusive red carpet event for the Macau and Hong Kong movie premiere of DreamWorks

Animation's latest 3-D animated action comedy at The Venetian Macao. The event is part of the DreamWorks Experience at Cotai Strip Macao. Presented in RealD 3D, the premiere promises an immersive experience for the attending guests.

The four dubbing artists of

the Cantonese version: Donald Tong, Bob Lam, Joyce Cheng and Tyson Chak will attend the red carpet event along with other celebrities, including Edmond So, Calvin Choy, Edmond Leung, Lo Man Chong, Chan Kwok Pong, Cheung Shung Kei, Cheung Shung Tak, Lau Mei Kuen and HunterZ. Also on the red carpet will be undefeated local boxer "The Macao Kid" Ng Kuok Kun and undefeated Hong Kong boxer "The Wonder Kid" Rex Tso. Both boxers will step back into the ring at The Showdown at Sands at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena on March 7, 2015.

GALAXY MACAU PRESENTS WEDDING PACKAGES



Galaxy Macau is offering additional privileges and packages to ensure couples' big day is the most romantic event.

Couples who book and confirm their weddings at Galaxy Hotel's Oasis with a deposit paid before 28 February 2015 will receive a cash discount.

In addition, Bank of China or Tai Fung credit card holders who are going to have their weddings at Galaxy Hotel, Hotel Okura Macau or Banyan Tree Macau can enjoy interest-free installment and double gift points rewards.

At Galaxy Hotel, couples

can select a Chinese Wedding with banquets; a Western Wedding with festive barbecue buffets; or the Love Blossoms Garden Party, a lawn wedding where parties of 50 or more can indulge in canapés and drinks while enjoying Galaxy Macau's gardens.

At Hotel Okura Macau, extra offerings include a Chauffeur-driven bridal limousine service, free flow of soft drinks, and a 1-night stay in a Deluxe Room.

And at Banyan Tree Macau, select the Happiness Wedding Package, Romance Wedding Package or the Glamour Wedding Package and star in a pre-wedding photo shoot at a poolside cabana and enjoy an overnight stay in a Grand Cotai Suite.

Officials call attention to baby, gender imbalances



FOR decades, most urban Chinese families could have only one child. Now, officials in China's biggest city are telling young couples: Please have more children.

Fan Hua of Shanghai's family planning commission said this week that far fewer people than expected had taken advantage of a recent rule change that lets

more households bear a second child.

The Qianjiang Evening News quoted Fan as saying that 90 percent of the city's women of child-bearing age were eligible for a second child under the change made in late 2013, but that only 5 percent had applied. Shanghai officials urged more households to do so.

China's birth rate is among the lowest of developing countries, nearly four decades after the country restricted most urban couples to having one child.

That aging society threatens to slow down China's still booming economy and overload its pension system when too few workers will be supporting growing numbers of the elderly.

"It's very clear that the next 10 to 15 years down the road will not be so good-looking," said Yong Cai, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "China should have changed this policy at least 10 years earlier when the economic and social situation was quite different. My view is quite pessimistic, that the policy change announced last year was too little too late."

The governor's office of Shandong province, one of the country's most populous, also called attention this week to the consequences of the one-child rule, noting that Shandong had about 20 percent more men than women, according to the China Youth Daily newspaper. Many couples restricted to one child abort female fetuses until they have a male baby.

Such ominous figures have contributed to speculation that the Chinese government will further relax regulations on family sizes.

Many Chinese couples are refraining from having more than one child as education and other costs around the country soar, Yong said. Birth rates in neighboring Asian countries as well as in Hong Kong and Taiwan have also dropped. **AP**

Apple's CNY sales may bring second holiday boost

APPLE, which posted 70 percent revenue growth in China last quarter, may get another boost from the shopping season tied to the Chinese New Year in February.

The holiday, which falls on Feb. 19 this year, is regarded as the most important one in China and is traditionally celebrated with gifts, especially luxury goods.

"This quarter is a heavy gifting quarter because of Chinese New Year so it's in essence the Christmas for the rest of the world," said Ben Bajarin, an analyst at Creative Strategies Inc. The iPhone in "China is easily going to do better than the U.S. this quarter," he said.

Some analysts had predicted Apple would sell more iPhones in China than in the U.S. in the quarter that ended in December. That hasn't happened yet, even though iPhone unit sales doubled in mainland China for that period, Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri said Tuesday in an interview. Shipments of the smartphone rose 44 percent in the U.S. in the quarter, he said.

"We have a lot of momentum in China," Maestri said. "Chinese New Year is a very important part of the cycle in China, and so we hope to take advantage of that."

The company began selling its biggest smartphones yet, the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, in China in October. Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook, who has said he expects the country to eventually overtake the U.S. to become Apple's largest market, announced plans that same month to boost the number of retail stores there to about 40 from 15 in the coming years.

"When I look at China, I see an enormous market where there are more people graduating into the middle class than any nation on earth in history, and just an incredible market where people want the latest technology and products that we're providing," Cook told analysts on an October conference call. "And so we're investing like crazy in the market." **Bloomberg**

First circuit court established in Shenzhen

A new court was inaugurated in south China on Wednesday as part of a reorganization designed to better allocate cases and work across the country's court system.

The First Circuit Court of China's Supreme People's Court (SPC), inaugurated in Shenzhen City in Guangdong province, will mainly handle major administrative, civil and commercial cases which should be heard by the SPC, in the provinces of Guangdong and Hainan, and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

A Second Circuit Court will be set up in Shenyang in northeast China's Liaoning Province to cover the provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, according to a document issued by the SPC on Wednesday.

Both courts will start to take and hear cases from Sunday.

It was decided to establish the circuit courts at the fourth plenary session of the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee in late October, 2014.

The SPC has said they will facilitate the filing of cases by the public in local communities and get their disputes solved more quickly and locally. They will also free up SPC headquarters to concentrate on judicial policies and trying more complex cases that "have profound significance in



unifying the application of law," according to the SPC.

The circuit courts are adjudicatory organs designated by the SPC and their judgments, orders and decisions equal those of the SPC, said Wednesday's document.

It stipulated 11 categories of case that will be handled by the circuit courts, including nationwide administrative cases of first instance, civil and commercial cases of first instance with significant influence across the country, cases transferred by

the higher people's courts due to jurisdiction, administrative, civil and commercial cases and judicial assistance cases concerning Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, as well as other cases the SPC decides to be tried by the circuit courts.

Intellectual property rights, foreign-related commercial, maritime, death penalty review, national compensation, ruling enforcement as well as cases of protests lodged by the SPC will still be handled by SPC headquarters. **Xinhua**

Elaine Kurtenbach and Karin Laub,
Tokyo

JAPAN

Islamic State extends hostage deadline until sundown

JAPAN said it was putting its trust in Jordan to help gain the release of a Japanese journalist held by Islamic State militants, after the latest message purportedly from his captors extended until sundown yesterday in the Middle East (this morning Macau time), the deadline for the Jordanians to release an Iraqi prisoner.

The message, read in English by a voice the Japanese government said was likely that of hostage Kenji Goto, was released online late Wednesday after Jordan offered to hand over the al-Qaida-linked would-be suicide bomber to the Islamic State group in exchange for Jordanian air force pilot Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh.

The recording says Jordan must present Sajida al-Rishawi, an Iraqi woman convicted of involvement in deadly Amman hotel bombings in 2005, at the Turkish border by sunset yesterday, in exchange for Goto's life or the pilot would be killed. It wasn't clear what Goto's fate would be if the woman wasn't returned.

The message clearly stated the deadline was sundown in Mosul, Iraq, the largest city held by the militant group.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the contents of the recording, which was distributed on Twitter by Islamic State-affiliated accounts.

In Tokyo, government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said yesterday the government was in close communications with the Jordan government. He said Japan was doing its utmost to free Goto, working with nations in the region, including Turkey, Jordan and Israel.

"As the situation is developing, I shouldn't comment on details. But, Japan and Jordan are dealing with the matter based on an extremely trusting relationship," Suga told reporters.



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks to reporters after a meeting on the hostage crisis, at his official residence in Tokyo

Efforts to free al-Kaseasbeh and Goto gained urgency after a purported online ultimatum claimed Tuesday that the Islamic State group would kill both hostages within 24 hours if Jordan did not free al-Rishawi.

Japan has scrambled to deal with the crisis that began last week with the release of a video by the Islamic State group showing Goto and another Japanese hostage, Haruna Yukawa, kneeling in orange jumpsuits between a masked man who threatened to kill them within 72 hours unless Japan paid a USD200 million ransom.

That demand has since shifted to one for the release of al-Rishawi. The militants have reportedly killed Yukawa, 42,

although that has not been confirmed.

"This heinous terrorist act is totally unforgivable," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in parliament yesterday.

Goto, a freelance journalist, was captured in October in Syria, apparently while trying to rescue Yukawa, who was taken hostage last summer.

In Tokyo, Goto's mother, Junko Ishido, has been desperately pleading for the government to save her son.

"I know Mr. Abe is someone who can handle this matter. I trust Mr. Abe and I can do nothing but rely on him," she said.

In his announcement that Jordan is ready to trade al-Rishawi for the pilot, government spokes-

■ The message [was] read in English by a voice the Japanese government said was likely that of hostage Kenji Goto

man Mohammed al-Momani made no mention of Goto.

Releasing the would-be hotel bomber linked to al-Qaida would breach Jordan's usual hardline approach to the extremists and set a precedent for negotiating with them.

It would also be a coup for the Islamic State group, which has already overrun large parts of neighboring Syria and Iraq. Jordan is part of a U.S.-led military alliance that has carried out airstrikes against the extremist group in Syria and Iraq in recent months.

The Islamic State group has not publicly demanded prisoner releases before and Jordan's main ally, the United States, opposes negotiations with extremists.

Jordanian King Abdullah II faces growing domestic pressure to bring the pilot home. The pilot's father said he met on Wednesday with Jordan's king, who he said assured him that "everything will be fine."

The pilot's capture has harde-

ned popular opposition among Jordanians to the air strikes, analysts said.

"Public opinion in Jordan is putting huge pressure on the government to negotiate with the Islamic State group," said Marwan Shehadeh, a scholar with ties to ultra-conservative Islamic groups in Jordan. "If the government doesn't make a serious effort to release him, the morale of the entire military will deteriorate and the public will lose trust in the political regime."

Jordan reportedly is holding indirect talks with the militants through religious and tribal leaders in Iraq to secure the release of the hostages. In his brief statement, al-Momani only said Jordan is willing to swap al-Rishawi for the pilot. He did not say if such an exchange is being arranged.

The 26-year-old pilot, al-Kaseasbeh, was seized after his Jordanian F-16 crashed in December near the Islamic State group's de facto capital of Raqqa in Syria. He is the first foreign military pilot the militants have captured since the coalition began its airstrikes in August.

Previous captives may have been freed in exchange for ransom, although the governments involved have refused to confirm any payments were made.

The Islamic State group broke with al-Qaida's central leadership in 2013 and has clashed with its Syrian branch, but it reverses the global terror network's former Iraqi affiliate, which battled U.S. forces and claimed the 2005 Amman attack. **AP**

INDONESIA

Investigators: Crashed AirAsia jet flown by co-pilot

Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

INDONESIAN investigators announced yesterday the co-pilot of the crashed AirAsia jet was in controls when he struggled to recover the aircraft as stall warnings sounded.

The Airbus A320-200 crashed into the Java Sea Dec. 28, halfway from Indonesia's city of Surabaya to Singapore. All 162 people on board were killed.

Chief investigator of the National Transportation Safety Committee Marjono Siswosuwarno said that the cockpit voice recording indicated that the

co-pilot, French national Remi Emmanuel Plesel, was flying the plane while Indonesian Capt. Iriyanto was monitoring.

Iriyanto, who like many Indonesians uses a single name, was a former fighter pilot with more than 20,500 flying hours, while less experienced Plesel had about 6,000 hours.

Siswosuwarno said the black boxes retrieved from the seabed provided a pretty clear picture of what went wrong in the last moments of AirAsia Flight 8501, as the plane was struggling to recover and stall warnings soun-



A portion of the tail of AirAsia Flight 8501 is seen on the deck of a rescue ship after it was recovered from the sea floor on the Java Sea

ded until the end of the recording.

"However, we are still examining many other

things on the issues," Siswosuwarno told a news conference.

Another investigator,

Ertata Lanangalih, said that based on the voice recorder, the captain was monitoring and communicating with air traffic control while Plesel was flying the plane.

"But it is normal practices, both pilots can exchange their roles with each other," said Lanangalih.

Investigators concluded that the plane was in airworthy condition prior to the crash.

Both flight and cockpit data recorders showed that the jet was stabilized cruising at the height of 32,000 feet before the

pilot contacted ground control saying they were turning left, and a minute later sought permission to climb to 38,000 feet. The ATC at Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta airport asked them to stand by.

Siswosuwarno said that the weather satellite images at the time showed a formation of storm clouds reaching up to 44,000 feet. He added that flight data showed that the jet was in a dangerously fast climb and stalled before going down slowly into the last position of 24,000 feet high recorded on the radar. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Aviation chief says MH370 crash an accident to clear compensation claims

MALAYSIA'S Civil Aviation Authority yesterday officially declared the crash of Flight 370 an accident, fulfilling a legal obligation that will allow efforts to proceed with compensation claims.

Malaysia civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said that the search for the Malaysia Airlines jet that disappeared on March 8, 2014, on the way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, "remains a priority."

"It is therefore with the heaviest heart and deepest sorrow that we officially declare Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 an accident," he said in a pre-recorded message broadcast on Malaysian television, adding that all 239 passengers and crew on board are presumed to have lost their lives.

Azharuddin said that Malaysia, China and Australia had spared no expense and resources in their search for the plane, presumed to have crashed in the southern Indian Ocean



Silhouetted men look on as aircraft operated by Malaysian Airline System Bhd. (MAS) stand on the tarmac at Kuala Lumpur International Airport

off the coast of western Australia. The hunt resumed in October after a four-month

hiatus with more sophisticated sonar equipment.

Azharuddin said the searchers pursued every credible lead and reviewed all available data that tracked the plane to

a remote corner of the southern Indian Ocean, but were still unable to locate it.

He said that Chapter 1 of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, commonly referred to as the "Chicago Convention," states that the definition of the term "accident" includes "the aircraft is missing".

"It also states that 'an aircraft is considered to be missing when the official search has been terminated and the wreckage has not been located.'"

Azharuddin said the investigation by the safety team and Malaysian police were ongoing, but both were limited by the lack of physical evidence at this time, particularly the flight recorders.

"At this juncture, there is no evidence to substantiate any speculations as to the cause of the accident," he said, adding that an interim report detailing the progress of the safety investigation will be released soon. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Inquest: Sydney café hostage killed by police bullet

Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

A hostage who died during a siege in a downtown Sydney café was killed when she was struck by fragments of a bullet fired from a police officer's gun as authorities stormed in to end the 16-hour standoff, a lawyer told an inquest yesterday.

Katrina Dawson, a 38-year-old lawyer who was among 18 people taken hostage last month by a gunman, died after being hit by six fragments of a police bullet that had ricocheted off a hard surface, Jeremy Gormly, a lawyer assisting the coroner, told the Glebe Coroner's Court. One fragment struck a major blood vessel and she quickly lost consciousness, he said.

Another hostage, 34-year-old café manager Tori Johnson, was killed after gunman Man Horan Monis forced him to kneel on the floor and then fired a bullet into the back of his head with a sawed-off shotgun,



In this Dec. 15, 2014 file photo, a hostage runs to an armed tactical response police officers for safety after she escaped from a cafe under siege at Martin Place in the central business district of Sydney

Gormly said. He is believed to have died immediately. A police sharpshooter witnessed Johnson's killing, prompting police to move in, Gormly said.

The details of the deaths of Dawson and Johnson came on the opening day of the inquest into last month's siege at the Lindt Cafe. Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric with a long criminal history, took the customers and workers captive and forced them to outline his demands in a series of on-line videos — including that he be permitted to speak to the prime minister and be

delivered a flag of the Islamic State group.

The standoff ended when police stormed the cafe in a barrage of gunfire to free the hostages. Monis was killed, along with Dawson and Johnson.

Officials had previously refused to say whether the hostages died at Monis' hand or were caught in police crossfire. The coronial inquest — a court-like proceeding convened after unusual deaths in Australia — is aimed at determining how they and Monis died, and whether the tragedy could have been prevented. **AP**

NORTH KOREA

Kim Jong Il demanded USD10 billion for summit: ex-Seoul leader

Hyung Jin-Kim, Seoul

LA TE North Korean leader Kim Jong Il repeatedly pushed for summit talks with South Korea before his 2011 death but the plans failed because Pyongyang demanded USD10 billion and large-scale shipments of food and fertilizer, a former South Korean president says in a memoir to be published next week.

Parts of the memoir by ex-President Lee Myung-bak, provided to reporters in advance, reveal that senior intelligence officials from the two Koreas made secret visits to each other's countries to explore summit possibilities in 2010, when two deadly attacks blamed on Pyongyang killed 50 South Koreans. Lee says a North Korea envoy who visited Seoul that year was later publicly executed after returning to the North.

The memoir comes as both countries float the idea of a possible summit between Kim's son and current leader, Kim Jong Un, and Lee's successor, President Park Geun-hye. It would be the third summit meeting since the two Koreas were divided 70 years ago, although chances seem low as the countries bicker over the terms for talks.

The first summit in 2000 prompted an era of cooperation between the ri-



In this Oct. 10, 2010 photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il applauds following a massive military parade

vals, but also became a source of criticism in South Korea. Conservatives said Seoul's then "sunshine policy" of providing generous economic aid to Pyongyang with few strings attached supported the North's nuclear and missile development.

Lee, a conservative who ended a decade of liberal rule in South Korea in 2008, halted such aid and refused to implement rapprochement projects signed in the second summit in 2007. His actions earned him public loathing in North Korea, where state media called him a "rat" and a "traitor."

Lee writes in his memoir that the "sunshine policy" was tarnished because North Korea diverted aid to nuclear and missile development and continued to stage provocations against South Korea. **AP**

ZOU SHIMING FIGHTS TO CLAIM A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR CHINA

ZOU SHIMING AMNAT RUENROENG

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Maria Cheng,
Medical Writer, London

EBOLA

WHO: Response shifts to ending epidemic

HEALTH officials are now focused on ending the biggest-ever Ebola outbreak rather than just slowing the deadly virus' spread, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

The U.N. health agency said the three most affected countries — Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia — have reported fewer than 100 cases in the past week, for the first time since June.

Still, WHO also reported that only 30 percent of new cases in Guinea are known contacts of Ebola patients, meaning officials have no idea how most patients are getting infected. In Liberia, that figure is 50 percent, while no data are available for Sierra Leone. The death rate for hospitalized patients is about 60 percent.

The outbreak is believed to have killed more than 8,000 people since it started in March.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, who is leading WHO's Ebola response, warned that despite the progress



Health workers load a suspected Ebola patient into the back of an ambulance in Freetown, Sierra Leone

made, the virus still isn't under control.

"This is like being in bed with two cobras, and one of them is dead," Aylward said. "You still have an incredibly dangerous situation." He added that Ebola outbreaks often come in waves.

"We cannot say the epidemic is under control," said Jerome Oberreit, secretary general of Doctors Without Borders. At a WHO Ebola meeting on Sunday, Oberreit said there is virtually no sharing of Ebola information about the risks of cases crossing the borders among the three countries in West Africa.

He said surveillance teams lack even basic resources to track down Ebola patients and blamed "international negligence" for the inability to contain the outbreak.

Researchers at the Institut Pasteur in Paris have begun studying whether the virus has undergone any significant mutations since the outbreak began. Viruses like Ebola evolve constantly and it's hard to tell if any genetic changes make a difference to how people get infected or how sick they become. **AP**

CUBA

Raul Castro: US must return Guantanamo for normal relations



A photograph of Fidel Castro hangs under the Spanish word "Welcome"

Javier Cordoba and Michael Weissenstein, San Jose

CUBAN President Raul Castro demanded on Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time) that the United States return the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, lift the half-century trade embargo on Cuba and compensate his country for damages before the two nations re-establish normal relations.

Castro told a summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States that Cuba and the U.S. are working toward full diplomatic relations but "if these problems aren't resolved, this diplomatic rapprochement wouldn't make any sense."

Castro and U.S. President Barack Obama announced

on Dec. 17 that they would move toward renewing full diplomatic relations by reopening embassies in each other's countries. The two governments held negotiations in Havana last week to discuss both the reopening of embassies and the broader agenda of re-establishing normal relations.

Obama has loosened the trade embargo with a range of measures designed to increase economic ties with Cuba and increase the number of Cubans who don't depend on the communist state for their livelihoods.

The Obama administration says removing barriers to U.S. travel, remittances and exports to Cuba is a tactical change that supports the United States'

unaltered goal of reforming Cuba's single-party political system and centrally planned economy.

Cuba has said it welcomes the measures but has no intention of changing its system. Without establishing specific conditions, Castro's government has increasingly linked the negotiations with the U.S. to a set of longstanding demands that include an end to U.S. support for Cuban dissidents and Cuba's removal from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

On Wednesday, Castro emphasized an even broader list of Cuban demands, saying that while diplomatic ties may be re-established, normal relations with the U.S. depend on a series of concessions that appear highly unlikely in the near future.

The U.S. established the military base in 1903, and the current Cuban government has been demanding the land's return since the 1959 revolution that brought it to power. Cuba also wants the U.S. to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in damages for losses caused by the embargo. **AP**

USA

Laser co-creator Charles Townes, Nobel laureate, dies

Lisa Leff, Berkley

CHARLES H. Townes' inspiration for the predecessor of the laser came to him while sitting on a park bench, waiting for a restaurant to open for breakfast.

On the tranquil morning hours of April 26, 1951, Townes scribbled a theory on scrap paper that would lead to the laser, the invention he's known for and which transformed everyday life and led to other scientific discoveries.

Townes, who was also known for his strong religious faith, famously compared that moment to a religious revelation.

The 99-year-old Nobel Prize-winning physicist died Tuesday.

In 1954, his theory was realized when Townes and his students developed the laser's predecessor, the maser (microwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation).

"I realized there would be many applications for the laser," Townes told Esquire magazine in 2001, "but it never occurred to me we'd get such power from it."

The laser paved the way for other scientific discoveries that revolutionize everything from medicine to manufacturing, including DVD players, gun sights, printers, computer networks, metal cutters, tattoo removal and vision correction.

"Charlie Townes had an enormous impact on physics and society in general," Steven Boggs, the chairman of



Charles Townes

the physics department at Berkeley, said Wednesday.

Townes shared the 1964 Nobel Prize in physics with Russian physicists Aleksandr M. Prokhorov and Nicolai G. Basov.

A devoted member of the United Church of Christ, Townes drew praise and skepticism later in his career with speeches and essays investigating the similarities between science and religion.

"Science tries to understand what our universe is like and how it works, including us humans," Townes wrote in 2005 upon being awarded the Templeton Prize — worth more than USD1.5 million — for his contributions in "affirming life's spiritual dimension."

"I feel that very rarely have I done any work in my life," he told Esquire. "I have a good time. I'm exploring. I'm playing a game, solving puzzles, and having fun, and for some reason people have been willing to pay me for it." **AP**

GREECE

Bailout in focus as EU parliament head visits Athens



An employee of the Stock Exchange walks next to a display showing stock price movements in Athens

Elena Becatoros, Athens

THE European Parliament's president arrived in Athens yesterday for a visit closely watched for signs of a potential clash between Greece's new left-wing government and its bailout lenders.

Martin Schulz is the first European Union official to meet Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, whose new Cabinet alarmed the Greek stock market Wednesday with promises to renege on a series of key budget commitments made by previous administrations in exchange for 240 billion euros in rescue loans.

Schulz will meet government and opposition officials a day ahead of Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the chairman of eurozone finance meetings.

On Wednesday, incoming ministers announced they would scrap several major privatizations, restore the minimum wage to previous levels and rehire some suspended public workers. All were budget cuts demanded by bailout creditors — other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund.

The statements prompted a quick warning from EU officials and sent local investors into panic on the prospect that Greece might be cut off from its financial lifeline. The Greek stock exchange fell by more than 9 percent Wednesday.

Ahead of his visit, Schulz said there was no issue of Greece leaving the euro or of being forced out.

"This is in no one's interest," Schulz wrote in an

online article. "Yet, Prime Minister Tsipras needs to realize that to succeed he must reach out for compromise both inside and outside the country."

Schulz noted Greece's economy was more stable than it was when the country's financial crisis began five years ago, but warned that "if the newly formed Syriza government will be a government of 'no to everything', then Tsipras' momentum might be short-lived."

European officials have also been alarmed by a public rebuke sent by Tsipras' office Tuesday, before his government had even been sworn in, to the EU over a joint statement threatening further European sanctions against Russia over developments in Ukraine.

Tsipras' office said Greece had not been consulted on the declaration, and didn't consent to its content.

Although Greece wasn't the only EU member state annoyed by how the statement was issued — Cypriot officials have also said publicly they were not given enough time to comment on the document — it was the only one to issue an official complaint.

New Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias was to attend yesterday's extraordinary foreign affairs meeting in Brussels to discuss the sanctions. Tuesday's public statement had raised fears that Greece might veto a sanctions decision, potentially as a means of a new government flexing its muscles.

But such a move was unlikely, analysts said. AP

LUCK & LOVE

Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year are fast approaching and Sands Shoppes has all you need to celebrate, whether it's to bring good fortune for the year ahead, or to show a loved one that you care.

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 11.15am, Thursday 26 February, Shoppes at Four Seasons
 2pm, Thursday 26 February, Shoppes at Cotai Central
 5pm daily, 19-28 February, St Mark's Square, Shoppes at Venetian

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 For women who love to travel without sacrificing style, Weekend Max Mara offers elegant Italian fashion. Shop 608, Shoppes at Venetian

GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI DESIGN
 Giuseppe Zanotti worked for Valentino, Dior and Roberto Cavalli before launching his own line of chic shoes. Shop 2808, Shoppes at Four Seasons

KITON
 Kiton's founder Ciro Paone's creates suits from the finest fabrics, and his stores are full of the latest styles and shades to suit every gentleman. Shop 1220a, Shoppes at Four Seasons

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 Esteemed American fashion designer and former creative director of Louis Vuitton, Marc Jacobs' own label is cutting edge, sleek and contemporary, with its range of apparel, accessories, beauty products and watches coming soon to Sands Shoppes. Shop 2838, Shoppes at Four Seasons

GUCCI WATCH + JEWELRY
 Globally renowned Italian fashion brand Gucci's new dedicated Watch + Jewelry boutique offers superior quality Swiss-made watches in a range of style, as well as exquisitely crafted rings, bracelets, necklaces and other jewellery pieces. Shop 801, Shoppes at Venetian

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FRIDAY

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 RTPi Live
- 18:10 Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
- 19:00 TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
- 19:30 Soap Opera
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:20 Revenge S1
- 22:10 Brazil Avenue
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Feature Films
- 01:05 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

- 10:30 Documentary Serie
- 10:50 Young Adult
- 11:40 Conch Bay
- 12:30 Cooking
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Soap Opera
- 19:00 Contest
- 19:50 Miscellaneous
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:10 Drama
- 22:10 Situation Comedy
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Shorts
- 00:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

- 11:00 Sunday Mass
- 12:00 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Animation
- 15:35 Documentary Series
- 16:15 Comedy
- 16:40 Miscellaneous
- 19:40 Comedy
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 22:00 Sugar vs Fat
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 News
- 23:45 Miscellaneous
- 00:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

offbeat

HUNTINGTON ACQUIRES LOUIS PASTEUR'S NOTES ON BREWING BEER

People interested in what kind of beer the guy who invented pasteurization kicked back with after work will want to pay a visit to San Marino's Huntington Library.

The Huntington, whose treasures include a First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays, announced this week it has acquired French scientist Louis Pasteur's beer-brewing notes.

The extensive writings from the 1870s were acquired earlier this month by the Huntington's Library Collectors Council, a group of 37 families who support the Southern California institution by helping buy materials it could not otherwise afford. Also acquired were several unpublished letters and poems by family members of Jane Austen, and writings, drawings and paintings by the 19th century New England seaman known as Wicked Ned.

Pasteur's notes will be added to the Huntington's already prolific collection of works by the famous French scientist.

Melissa Lo, the Huntington's history curator, said these papers show Pasteur was not only trying to develop a better beer, but also working on concepts he would apply to such scientific breakthroughs as disease-preventing vaccinations. He developed vaccines for both rabies and anthrax.

His most famous accomplishment, developing pasteurization, kills disease-causing microbes in substances like milk.

cinema



CINETEATRO

29 JAN - 04 FEB



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



NIGHTCRAWLER
ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Dan Gilroy
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo, Riz Ahmed, Bill Paxton
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 117min

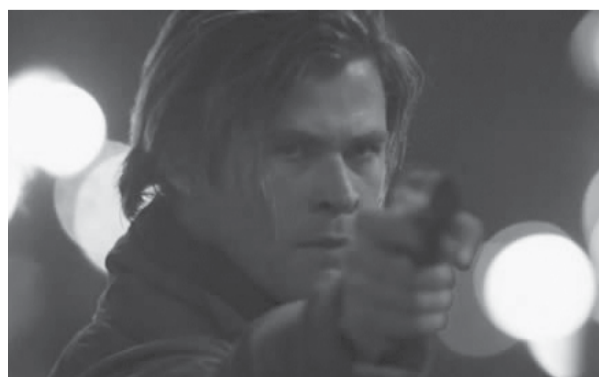


AMERICAN SNIPER
ROOM 3
2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm
Director: Clint Eastwood
Starring: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Kyle Gallner
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 132min

MACAU TOWER

29 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



1952 KOREA TRUCE TALKS HIT STALEMATE

Truce talks aimed at ending the fighting in the Korean War remain deadlocked.

After more than 50 meetings in the past few weeks in Panmunjom, the village which straddles the border between North and South Korea, the two sides seem no closer to agreement.

One of the latest sticking points is deciding where 6,000 displaced Koreans should live.

The Communists have also objected to allied proposals about the composition of neutral nation observer teams.

Initially the truce talks stalled over North Korea's insistence on being allowed to rebuild its damaged airfields.

The allies eventually proposed shelving discussion of the airfields in the hope of making more progress in other areas of the talks.

The row has now focussed on the two sides agreeing the number of observers to be included in the inspection teams. The UN originally put forward a figure of 70,000 - which it later reduced to 40,000.

The Communists have raised their offer from an original 5,000 troops to 25,000.

The composition of the neutral nation observer teams has proved another sticking point. Sweden, Switzerland and Norway have been proposed by the Allies.

The Communists have so far failed to come up with any recommendations of their own but it seems likely they will propose the Soviet Union - which would be totally unacceptable to the Allies.

Although the Soviet Union has not intervened militarily in the Korean conflict, it has offered political backing for North Korea and China.

On 27 November 1951 the two sides provisionally agreed on the 38th parallel as the demarcation line between North and South Korea.

Fighting has continued since then. Figures for the past month show the Allies have lost more aircraft than in any other month since the war began in June 1950.

Allied airmen shot down 31 enemy jet fighters in January - but in the same period the United Nations has lost 52 aircraft. Most of the planes were brought down by ground fire.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A few days later negotiators were able to claim the two sides had moved closer to an armistice following what was described as "the most productive" of their meetings so far.

However, negotiations once again stalled over the Communists' insistence on the Soviet Union being one of the neutral observer nations and there were also problems over the repatriation of Prisoners of War.

In May 1952 the UN Command decided to mount a new aerial offensive in an effort to kickstart the truce talks.

Air raids were launched against enemy airfields, railways and other lines of communication. The strategically-important Suiho hydro-electric plant and other power stations were also hit.

In the end it was two external factors - the election of President Dwight Eisenhower and his threat of nuclear force as well as the death of Soviet leader Josef Stalin - which caused a slight power shift in favour of the UN and the allies and finally secured the armistice.

It was signed on 27 July 1953 - but a peace deal has never been reached. American troops remain stationed in the de-militarized zone on and around the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You are at the forefront of something new, bold and exciting - so talk it up! You need fellow pioneers to help you explore every inch of this new territory, and there are plenty who are willing to help.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You have got to be more careful with other people today - their feelings are more fragile and they may have agendas of their own. Think about how your actions are going to impact theirs.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your brains are making life a lot more interesting today - so follow up on all those great ideas! You may find that you need to take a little break at some point for mindless entertainment, and that is just fine!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You are feeling just a wee bit self-involved today, which could mean that you need to hang out on your own. It's one of those times when you may find greater value in solitude.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 All this terrific energy has to be put to use - so make sure that you're out there, exploring and digging up new ways to have fun! Your people are sure to follow along for the spectacle.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You feel a bit of cabin fever - no matter where you are! It may seem as if you're just restless, but there's more going on, so make sure that you have an outlet for these pent-up feelings.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to communicate more closely with your peers today - so make sure that they hear what you're trying to tell them! Things may get a little strained, but it's all for the best in the long run.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You are feeling totally wrapped up in whatever you're doing today - so try to make the most of it! Even if it's sad or less than fun, you can still wring some spiritual growth out of it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are feeling a surge of great energy that keeps you happy and engaged with life. Make the most of it - this kind of goodness doesn't come along every day, and you could use the lift!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your big ideas need structure today - and that's one of your specialties! Just make sure that you check in with one or two key players so you're not flying blind. Things should take off soon!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to tap a few friends to help out with your big project - or that disaster in the making! Your energy is focused, which is somewhat unusual for you, but you need help to get anything done.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Open your eyes! Things are weird and getting weirder, but that doesn't mean you can just ignore your problems. They aren't going away, but you can spot a few clues that can help you to really deal with them.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 5, 3, 8, 2, 7, 2, 2, 6, 5, 3, 8, 6, 4, 4, 1, 9, 3, 7, 2, 7, 6, 3, 6, 1, 4.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 2, 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 1, 5, 3, 6, 3, 9, 4, 1, 6, 7, 3, 9, 3, 2, 8, 5, 9, 3, 8, 8, 9, 1, 7.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 6, 3, 2, 7, 8, 1, 4, 5, 9, 2, 1, 3, 8, 4, 6, 8, 4, 1, 3, 7, 1, 3, 7, 9, 2, 7, 5, 6, 8.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 7, 1, 8, 6, 1, 7, 6, 2, 8, 5, 4, 8, 1, 5, 6, 8, 1, 2, 3.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

WORLD

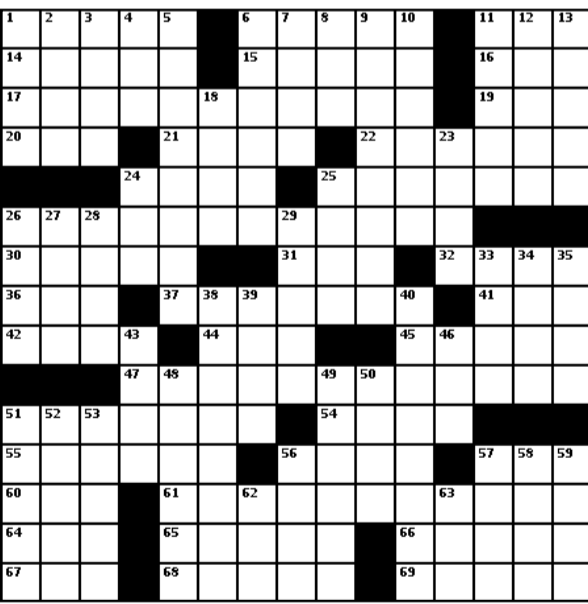
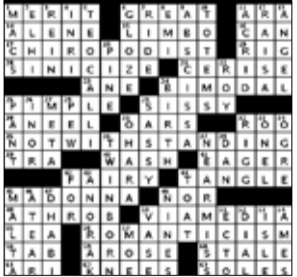
Table listing weather for various world cities: Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Donkeys; 6- Actor Romero; 11- Droop, sink; 14- Smidgen; 15- Sheeplike; 16- Application; 17- Compassionate; 19- HBO alternative; 20- Born; 21- Unstable particle; 22- Chocolate cake; 24- E.g., e.g.; 25- Marketing; 26- Gossip; 30- Having wings; 31- Back muscle, briefly; 32- Female horse; 36- Albanian coin; 37- Natives of the Middle East; 41- Attach by stitches; 42- Notion; 44- Monetary unit of Bulgaria; 45- Stickum; 47- Seesaw; 51- Failure to attend; 54- Architect Saarinen; 55- Say again; 56- Flesh; 57- Proverb ending?; 60- Sister of Zsa Zsa; 61- Incompatible association; 64- Rainy; 65- Like Humpty Dumpty; 66- Urns; 67- Golfer Ernie; 68- Marry again; 69- Wear down, physically or emotionally;

DOWN: 1- Org.; 2- Hebrides isle; 3- Unspecified in number; 4- Clairvoyant's claim; 5- Scene of destruction; 6- Accomplice; 7- Square; 8- Canine command; 9- Sweet liqueur; 10- Remember; 11- Japanese dish; 12- Gray; 13- Conductor Solti; 18- Pipe; 23- Skelton's Kadiddlehopper; 24- ABA member; 25- Sports figure; 26- Anklebones; 27- Three Lives; 28- Grasp; 29- Not dead yet; 33- Gal Fri.; 34- Nerve network; 35- Decorative pitcher; 38- Optional; 39- Dole (out); 40- Playful; 43- Suit to; 46- From ___ Z; 48- Captivate; 49- Staggered; 50- Blue hue; 51- ___ there yet?; 52- Cut at an angle; 53- Tiffs; 56- Spouse; 57- Not ___ many words; 58- Breezed through; 59- ___ majeste; 62- Spotted; 63- Swiss river

Yesterday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Justin Bergman, Melbourne

TENNIS

Expletives and in-your-face tennis at the Australian Open

ANDY Murray's four-set win over Tomas Berdych at the Australian Open yesterday will be remembered more for the tension between the players than the shot-making on the court.

There were the usual expletives from Murray, but this time his fiancée, Kim Sears, appeared to mouth several from the player's box, too.

Asked at a news conference about Sears using "Anglo-Saxon adjectives," Murray said media hype in the lead up to the match added to the tension for everybody involved.

"It's completely normal that, yeah, the whole first set everyone was tight. My physical trainer, physio ... Even Tomas, who very rarely says anything on the court, there was tension there for him, as well," Murray said. "Yeah, in the heat of the moment you can say stuff that you regret. And, yeah, that's it."

There were also complaints from Berdych about the balls — the umpire checked them, no problem. And then there was an attempt by Berdych at some mild-mannered trash talking as the players swapped ends after he captured the first set.

Berdych muttered something as the two men crossed, causing an annoyed Murray to complain loudly to the umpire, Pascal Maria. When Maria asked Berdych



AP PHOTO
Andy Murray of Britain

what he said, he responded, "Good play, Tomas. That's all I said."

That was pretty much the end of the good play from Berdych in the match. The Czech player went on to lose his fourth Grand Slam semifinal — and second in a row at the Australian Open —

6-7 (6), 6-0, 6-3, 7-5.

Murray will be playing in his fourth final at Melbourne Park against either Novak Djokovic or Stan Wawrinka, who play their semifinal on Friday. He's still looking for his first title here.

Tensions were high before the

match because Murray's former coach, Dani Vallverdu, is now in Berdych's camp performing the same duties. Murray acknowledged the acrimony on the court, but blamed the media for making a bigger deal of Vallverdu's move from Murray to Berdych in November.

"You wanted there to be tension," he said after the match.

"A lot was made of Dani, my ex-coach, working with him. I felt was a little unfair and unnecessary. This is sport, there's more to life than sport. It was a little unfair and created extra tension."

Murray had trained with Vallverdu for five years before parting ways with the Venezuelan to work more closely with new coach Amelie Mauresmo. Soon after, Berdych hired Vallverdu to be his coach.

The No. 7-ranked Berdych, widely considered one of the best players never to have won a Grand Slam title, had previously tried to hire Murray's other former coach, Ivan Lendl, but the eight-time major winner turned him down.

After the match, Murray gave special acknowledgment to Mauresmo, telling the crowd at Rod Laver Arena, "I think so far this week we've showed women can be very good coaches, as well."

He said he felt Mauresmo had been unfairly slighted after he split with Vallverdu.

"A lot of people were also criticizing her at the end of last year, like the way I was playing was her fault," he said.

As for Berdych's comment on the changeover, he was surprised more than anything.

"He said something literally as we were walking right past each other change of ends," Murray said. "The thing is because there's cameras and microphones everywhere players don't say stuff to the opponents."

Berdych, subdued after yet another Grand Slam letdown, said he was just trying to pump himself up as he walked to his chair.

"I think I'm allowed to do that when I win a set," he said. "What, I have to be worried about every word that I'm going to say?" AP

FOOTBALL

Thai seafood magnate set for takeover of Sheffield Wednesday

A seafood magnate from Thailand was close to becoming the latest foreign owner of an English football club on yesterday after agreeing to a takeover of second-tier team Sheffield Wednesday.

Dejphon Chansiri, whose family controls Thai

Union Frozen Group, has been in talks with Wednesday since the end of 2014 and has already made funds available for the club to recently bring in two players on loan.

Financial details of the deal to buy out current owner Milan Mandaric were not disclosed.

Dejphon said he was attracted by the potential of a club whose Hillsborough stadium has a capacity of about 40,000 and is one of the biggest, most high-profile grounds in the country.

"I can assure all our supporters that I will be working extremely hard

to bring the success that I already sense from my short time in your city our supporters so desperately crave," Dejphon said in a statement on the club website.

The northern team has not been in the Premier League since 2000 and won the last of four top-

flight titles in 1930. Its last major trophy was the League Cup in 1991.

The takeover is subject to approval by the Football League, which runs the three divisions below the Premier League.

Thai Union is the world's largest producer of tuna, according to Sheffield

Wednesday. International brands controlled by the company include John West, King Oscar, Petit Navire, Parmentier, Mareblu, and Century.

Another English team, Premier League Leicester, already has Thai owners — the Srivaddhanaprabha family. AP

AD



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opinion

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EVERYTHING IN STYLE

This is an ancient dilemma: which one should prevail, substance over form or the opposite? For a very long time substance was always the one considered to be the most important. Getting an education used to mean being "elevated" by the teaching of the classics, and that knowledge was provided through the tedious study of the original texts, the teacher acting as the sole guarantor of compliance. In France, today still, primary and secondary students are called "élèves", the ones being elevated—students have to make the extra effort to reach the teacher's level. Up to the early years of the twentieth century in China, imperial exams were based on the perfect recitation of the Confucian classics and the complete subjugation to extremely formal literary styles—writing poetry usually came later, either after having fallen from grace or resigning from the civil service. In business, because of the industrial nature of our societies, the quality of the product used to be everything: the longevity of goods, for example, was the decisive testimony of engineering prowess. Stockings for women were meant to resist the hardship of any labor in the 1950s still, even while working the fields!

Things have changed, and not only because more than half of the world's population is now living in urban areas. With the advent of mass education in the 1960s, the challenge has been to get a majority of the community up to a given level, and to a certain extent—the battle is not over—form prevailed: student-centered education became imperative, and what was to be taught became second to what had been learnt. For sure, the "middleisation" of society has had its virtues and benefits. With the advent of a consumerist society, the marketing and packaging of merchandise came to play a dominant role. Durability was no longer the crux of the matter: products were to be enticing and pushed to shoppers in order for consuming-cycles to be reduced. Quite a significant number of sophisticated goods, because of fast technological advance, are today meant to be renewed on a yearly basis—think iPhone 6, oops! Sorry, the 6S is already out! But then, you would be branded an environmental criminal if you had kept your car or your washing machine from 10 years ago! Ultimately—and this is true wisdom—one has to find a balance.

In politics, things are not much different, and Macao is of course no stranger to the need of striking a balance between form and substance. Take the misogynistic and phallogocentric outbursts of legislator Fong Chi Keong who publicly advocates a good beating for spouses who talk back to their husbands: this is both unprincipled and devoid of any underpinning. If you add to that the flowery language, the burlesque act and the gravelly voice, not much form is left either, unless you consider crudeness as a proper stylish demeanor for a representative of the highest authority. Then, take our new secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam. What a change! Superman Tam, as he is often referred to, is not only a workaholic but also an avid communicator. Interviews are given to the Portuguese press—in Portuguese—and mind you, for the first time ever, All About Macao, one of the few Chinese-speaking liberal newspapers in town, got to be graced with a one-on-one interview. Short-term measures for both healthcare and education are already being announced, more than two months prior to the policy address. A vision is given for the next five years: could that be the end of short-termism? And then, City of Dreams gets to nag the Health Bureau over smocking areas at a time when the government is reviewing the tobacco control rules: the bureau's director, under Mr Tam's benevolent gaze, immediately announces that fines could soon become really deterring—how many times the MOP\$100,000 already imposed? Chui Sai On himself could weigh in: after all, he can decide to simply terminate the smoking sections for repeat offenders. Well, everything is possible, even taxis have stopped fishing... That makes us look good!

THE BUZZ THE BEST SINCE 2008: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BOOST VEGAS TRAFFIC

A 12.5 percent increase in the number of international travelers last year helped push passenger traffic at McCarran International Airport to its highest level in six years.

The 42.8 million passengers who arrived and departed at the airport in Las Vegas last year was a 2.4 percent increase from 2013.

It marks the fourth-consecutive year of growth and the most passengers since more than 44 million in 2008.

Clark County Aviation Department Director Rosemary Vassiliadis says domestic carrier traffic has remained mostly even in recent years, while the biggest gains have been seen in the international markets with expanded service to Mexico, Canada, Europe and Latin America.

Flights connecting Vegas with airports in Latin and South America posted a 57 percent gain between 2013 and last year.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN A spate of Taliban attacks across Afghanistan kills at least 17 people, the latest violence that comes as insurgents increasingly target local police and Afghan forces after most foreign combat troops withdrew at the end of last month.

AFGHANISTAN An Afghan official says at least 23 people died and 31 were injured when a bus crashed into a fuel truck on a narrow road in southern Zabul province.

SRI LANKA's new government plans to give back military-held private land in the country's war-ravaged north and release detainees, a minister said, in apparent moves at post-civil war reconciliation with ethnic minority Tamils.

INDIA The Indian government has fired its top foreign ministry official, replacing her with its current ambassador to the United States.

MYANMAR An extensive survey of birds in Myanmar has revealed nearly two dozen not known to have existed in the country, including a large black seabird with a ballooning red neck sack and a tiny black and white falconet with a surprised, panda-like expression.

PHILIPPINES A Philippine official says the country no longer deserves to be branded the "sick man of Asia" after its economy grew more than 6 percent for a third consecutive year. Hampered by natural disasters, growth of the USD300 billion economy slowed to 6.1 percent in 2014, but still outpaced most other countries in Asia, officials said.

JORDAN yesterday demanded proof from Islamic State militants that a Jordanian pilot they are holding is still alive, despite purported threats by the group to kill the airman at sunset unless an al-Qaida prisoner is freed from death row in Jordan. The militants' deadline passed without word on the fate of the pilot, Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, and a fellow hostage, Japanese journalist Kenji Goto. *More on p11*

ITALIAN lawmakers were casting ballots yesterday for a new president in a test of Premier Matteo Renzi's ability to rally his fractured party behind a candidate who would also be palatable to opposition leader Silvio Berlusconi, whose support is needed for the government's ambitious reform agenda.



Police inspect a demolished film set where a worker died in an accident at a film lot during preparations for the shooting of a new Martin Scorsese movie titled "Silence," in Taipei

Worker dies on Taiwan film lot to be used for Scorsese movie

A worker was killed in an accident yesterday at a Taiwanese film lot during preparations for the shooting of a new Martin Scorsese movie, media reports said.

Taiwan's Central News Agency said Chen Yu-lung was killed and two other men were injured when scaffolding around a building suddenly collapsed. All three were Taiwanese contractors hired by the film's producers.

The lot belongs to the

Scorsese is in Taiwan to shoot the film, but it wasn't known if he was on the lot

Chinese Culture and Movie Center, which issued a statement saying the contracting film crew bore

responsibility for health and safety in the accident.

The news agency said shooting had not yet begun on the movie, a historical drama titled "Silence" about two Jesuit priests in 17th century Japan, based on a 1966 novel by Japanese author Shusaku Endo. The cast includes Liam Neeson and Andrew Garfield of the "Amazing Spider-Man."

Scorsese is in Taiwan to shoot the film, but it wasn't known if he was on the lot.

Leslee Dart, the spokeswoman for the film, said an existing structure on the backlot of the studios had been deemed unsafe, and a third-party contractor was hired to reinforce it.

"Sadly, during this process, the ceiling collapsed, resulting in the death of one of the contractor's employees and injuries to two others," she said in a statement. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade

Safe fashion. Models showcase creations made with condoms during a condom fashion show held to raise awareness on practicing safe sex in Mumbai, India, yesterday.