



10 STILL MISSING AFTER BOAT CAPSIZES OFF COLOANE

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UM PLEDGES TO REVIEW STAFF HOUSING SCHEME

The University of Macau said it will take effective measures to tackle issues highlighted in a Commission of Audit report

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WORSENER FORTUNES AS CNY GAMBLERS VANISH

Players failed to materialize during what is traditionally one of the busiest weeks of the year

P7 REPORT

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA indicated Friday that it opposes a U.S.-drafted resolution that would open a path for U.N. sanctions against those blocking peace and promoting violence in South Sudan. China's U.N. Ambassador Liu Jieyi told a news conference that he saw no "logic" behind the proposed resolution at a time when the South Sudan government led by President Salva Kiir and opposition led by rebel leader Riek Machar are negotiating a peace agreement.

JAPAN Britain's Prince William rings a bell of hope after witnessing from a hilltop the scope of the destruction by the March 2011 tsunami in northeastern Japan, and visiting with parents whose children died in the disaster. *More on p13*

MALDIVES An opposition lawmaker in the Maldives says her party will press on with street protests until the government frees a former president and current opposition leader.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Vietnam opens door to hard money and soft power **F1**

Dragon baby boom causes rush for local kindergartens

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Hong Kong arrests 33 in protest against Chinese shoppers

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10 missing as boat carrying 'illegal gamblers' capsizes off Coloane

A speedboat allegedly smuggling several mainland Chinese gamblers into Macau capsized off the Grand Coloane Resort on Friday. Authorities revealed in a press statement that at least 17 people were on board.

An air and sea search-and-rescue operation was implemented before dawn on Friday, state-run news agency Xinhua reported. Macau Customs (SA) said it found two women and four men. One of them was admitted to hospital for treatment, TDM recounted.

Among the people discovered was the alleged smuggler, who was caught as he tried to escape by swimming to Zhuhai. The other five are believed to have swum ashore. According to their accounts, there were 17 to 18 people on board the seven-meter-long vessel, all of whom were heading to Macau to sightsee and gamble.

Customs revealed that two other smugglers are believed to have escaped along with three other passengers.

"Our investigations have found they came from Zhuhai to sightsee and gamble," said Leong Wa Kan, from Macau Customs, as quoted by South China Morning Post.

All About Macau reported that each person on board the vessel was required to pay RMB3,000 to be smuggled.

The Judiciary Police (PJ) alerted Macau Customs at 4.50 a.m. and a search and rescue operation was launched soon afterwards. Authorities believe the boat sank as it was hit by heavy wind and waves.

The vessel was taken to shore, with authorities declaring that the force of the wind had hampered rescue operations. In addition, they found that the boat presented faulty modifications,

and that it was designed to carry only five to six people.

AP news agency quoted a Macau Government Information Bureau statement, saying that the marine authorities had only been notified that a boat had sunk at 5.50 a.m. It added that the vessel was carrying over 10 people, including citizens suspected of entering Macau illegally.

A senior Public Security Police (PSP) officer revealed that in 2014 there were 1,409 cases of illegal entry into Macau from mainland China. Authorities added that the number is rising.

They have also noticed a change in people's intentions when entering Macau illegally. While in the past, mainlanders would come to Macau for illegal work in construction sites, there is currently a growing number of mainland citizens who enter the territory illegally to gamble. This has emerged as authorities in

mainland China have implemented stricter rules on travel documents.

Neighborhood associations told TDM that mainland and Macau authorities should collaborate further to impose stricter control on vessels and to combat illegal activities.

Macau authorities revealed that a petrol vessel, which usually monitors the area where the boat capsized, had been deployed to the Inner Harbor to participate in another operation.

Macau Customs also revealed that about 20 percent of illegal immigrants from mainland China usually disembark in areas near the Border Gate, and Avenida da Ponte da Amizade. They use the latter due to ongoing construction works for the development of reclaimed land sites, and because smugglers like to take advantage of large vessels stationed near by to conceal their

activities.

In September last year, a vessel registered in Hong Kong, which was carrying either illegal immigrants or gamblers, sunk off the coast of Macau. Although the boat was only designed to carry four people, a man rescued by a fisherman said that nine other people had been on board.

During an operation at the beginning of last year, customs officials fired four warning shots when chasing illegal immigrants at the exit of a trail in Coloane. Three illegal immigrants who had traveled to the location from Hengqin in a speedboat were arrested. Another arrest was made in May after a man was caught trying to transport a female illegal immigrant from the mainland to Macau using a motorboat. The pair was spotted and intercepted by an SA patrol vessel as they attempted to disembark near Avenida da Ponte da Amizade. CP

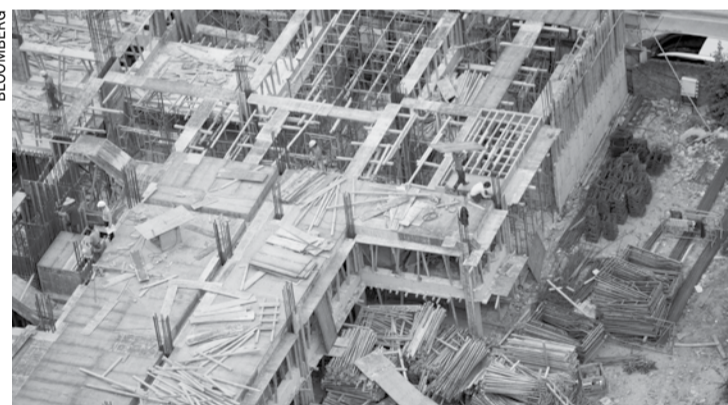
DSSOPT

More private housing available on the market

THE fourth quarter of last year has seen 10 construction projects involving private residential buildings being granted with user licenses. According to the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), more than 800 residential units will be made available through these projects.

In a press release issued yesterday, DSSOPT stressed that both the usable areas and unit numbers of the 14,800 residential units in 112 projects either completed or under construction have soared by 50 percent year-on-year, with 90 percent of units in 22 projects belonging to class MA (higher than 50 meters) and the rest in the remaining 90 projects below Class A (under 50 meters).

Among the 112 construction projects, 20 of them have already been completed and



Laborers work at a construction site in Macau

are being subjected to building inspections, while 92 are currently under construction. The rest have been granted the permit for using. Such projects are expected to generate some 11,500 parking areas for private cars, and more than 4,100 for motorcycles to the city.

The 92 construction projects under construction involve a total of 13,500 units and

14,400 parking areas, with 76 projects in the Macau Peninsula, 6 in Taipa and 10 in Coloane.

Still, according to DSSOPT, the construction projects involving private residential buildings in the planning stage over the past quarter reached a total of 221, providing roughly 23,400 residential units and more than 27,800 parking areas.



2,000 job vacancies on offer at IFT job fair

THE Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) launched its "Career Day 2015" on Friday. Twenty companies participated in the event, which featured 2,000 job offers in the hospitality industry.

According to a statement, IFT said that companies from the tourism and services industry were the main participants, namely several casino resorts, as well as international brands such as Louis Vuitton. The job fair addressed about 400 students who will graduate in the current school year.

IFT's employment rate is high, having attracted nearly 88 percent of last year's graduates. A student completing her degree

in Event Management told Radio Macau that she believes that "it is not difficult to find a job that we like." IFT president Fanny Vong advised students to choose companies with an international profile: "Macau is rather small for our students, and many local students have not had the opportunity to work abroad."

According to a survey, 76.2 percent of IFT-employed graduates worked in the tourism and hospitality sectors with a median salary of MOP13,900. IFT's career day aims to offer a platform for students to have a glimpse into Macau's job market, and to increase their opportunities for landing a position.

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Macau Rugby Football Club holds rugby day

Macau Rugby Football Club (MRFU) held its Macau Rugby Day yesterday at The International School of Macau, with the Macau Seniors Team and the Guangzhou Rams facing each other for the first time on a new field. Apart from the friendly atmosphere, the event, which started at 10 a.m., also featured a mini-rugby tournament. The local mini-rugby team, the Macau Bats, participated, along with five rugby teams from Hong Kong. The tournament was divided into two categories – the under-10s and the under-12s. The Macau Rugby Team beat the Guangzhou Rams 42 to 28 in the 90-minute friendly. For the under-12s category, the Sai Kung Stingrays maintained its unbeaten record in all their games this season, while the Hong Kong Football Club and the Sai Kung Stingrays shared the same title in the under-10s category, with both winning three out of their four games. MRFU also presented an honorary jersey at the game to MGM Macau's CEO, Grant Bowie, for the group's continued sponsorship and support for the event.

UM pledges to review staff housing scheme



The University of Macau said it will take effective measures to tackle issues which have recently been highlighted in a Commission of Audit (CA) report slamming the institution's management of public resources. The university handed its own findings to the cabinet of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, stressing that it will be revising its staff housing allocation criteria.

"Following CA's report, UM's management held numerous discussions and carried out a careful review of the issue. UM will examine the staff housing allocation criteria, particularly with respect to the priority given to those who already own a property in Macau," the university said.

The CA released a document

last month claiming that UM had failed to effectively manage public resources when granting housing units to academic staff who already owned a home in Macau. "UM's actions are in clear breach of the government's social housing policy principle, while going against the principle of good management of public resources," the report read.

The text raised criticism not only over UM's management of its staff housing scheme, but also over the handling of a research institute, based in Zhuhai, and the University of Macau Development Foundation. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, then requested that the university further clarify issues pointed out in the CA report.

UM released its findings last

week stating that it will "try its best to put forward a suggestion for improving the staff housing policy" as soon as possible.

The CA report had questioned UM's actions upon creating the UMacau Research Institute in Zhuhai and registering it as a "private non-business entity" – the legal framework of which prevents it from applying for specific funding.

UM now said that it will be committed "to studying the possibility of changing the way the research institute is currently registered and managed through a Guangdong-Macau mechanism." The university goes even further to suggest that if their attempts to change the institute's

legal framework are unsuccessful, it will consider closing it.

Meanwhile, the university said that it welcomed CA's opinions regarding the University of Macau Development Foundation, and it will carry out a comprehensive review of its current charter and legal framework. This "is to make sure that all activities of the UMDF, and the donations it receives, are under strict supervision of the government and the UM, thus avoiding any potential risks." The foundation was created in 2009 as a legal entity (under private law). As such, the UM was not a part of it, and is not entitled to intervene or to supervise its activities, the CA report had pointed out. **CP**

120 DAYS TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES

THE SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has given a 120-day deadline for the University of Macau to implement a set of measures that will rectify management flaws identified in a recent Commission of Audit report. Mr Tam reminded UM of the impor-

ance of managing public resources efficiently. He also requested that the university "immediately review" its staff housing allocation scheme, recalling that the program is operated using public money, and that staff cannot be granted higher benefits than those established by law.

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Brook Yang

Rush for local kindergartens

THE latest baby boom that emerged in the Year of the Dragon is starting to show its effects in the fierce competition for school places. Over the past weekend, several popular local kindergartens have seen lines of anxious parents queuing at the gates eager to secure a place for their newly-school age baby dragons.

Although some kindergartens only started to distribute registration forms yesterday morning, parent lineups had reportedly appeared as early as Friday.

Over a hundred people had queued outside a premier school affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School Friday evening, following oversubscription for school places and a limit on applications.

Holding her three-year old daughter in her arms, Ms Si Tu reluctantly joined the lineup at Hou Kong and queued overnight. On Sunday, the family went out again to check their preferred schools one by one.

"I had to bring her to the overnight queue, otherwise no-one could look after her. We don't want to take her wandering around either, but there's nothing else we can do in this situation," she told the Times.

Responding to the overnight queues, some kindergartens launched online forms for download while some annou-



register at the Sacred Heart College because we live nearby, but it only offers forms online," the mother complained.

In Macau, Catholic schools such as the Sacred Heart College and the Perpetual Help College are usually a popular choice for infant education, as well as kindergartens that are operated by traditional associations.

The Fu Luen School, opened by the Women's General Association, is one of the hot spots. Its supervisor, Ms Wong Lai Heng, told the Times that when choosing kindergartens, parents would mostly consider the ones that are renowned or close to home.

"Macau's Catholic schools usually pay more importance to English language and bilingual teaching. Another advantage is that they usually offer an integrated system from kindergarten to high school level so the students don't need to transfer," she explained.

"Speaking overall, every school in Macau has its own features in operation. Besides considering the teaching quality, parents also want a school climate where children are taught to be reasonable and well behaved in society, they can see the children in school uniforms in the streets," the supervisor added.

For Mr Liang, the father of a new immigrant family, the ethos of the integrated system especially resonated. "The admission to kindergarten is the most important admission for the child, because basically the child can move up to primary school, middle school until high school levels within one school's own system. So you must get into the good ones for the first-time admission, otherwise you have to apply again when reaching the next level," he stressed.

It's such a messy situation where we won't know if the child has been admitted until after one to two months' waiting

MS SI TU

nced a cancellation of the ceiling on the forms' distribution and submission.

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) also tried to ease parents' anxiety by reiterating that there are "sufficient" school places for the baby boomers.

According to DSEJ, there are 59 schools offering a total of 7,900 kindergarten spaces in the new academic year, whereas the estimated number of new students is 1,500 fewer.

Nevertheless, many families still chose "the more secured approach" of queuing, vying to pick up the forms as soon

as the gates of their preferred schools were open.

A lineup of some hundred parents outside the kindergarten affiliated to Chan Sui Ki Perpetual Help College refused to dissipate on Saturday night, even though the school had decided to cancel its pervious limit on applications.

"It's not that we parents want to make it this insane, but the government didn't plan it well and now it's such a messy situation where we won't know if the child has been admitted until after one to two months' waiting," Ms Si stressed. "We've been worried sick that

our child would miss out on a school place. We can only rest assured when we have registered her at five or six schools," she said.

She said so far they've only signed up at the Hou Kong premier school, as the family "couldn't reach the conditions to register for others." "Because we don't have a computer at home," she explained, staring at a notice board at the closed gate of the Colegio de St. Rosa de Lima.

"Some schools, like this one, restrict the registration by requesting online registration mandatorily. We want to

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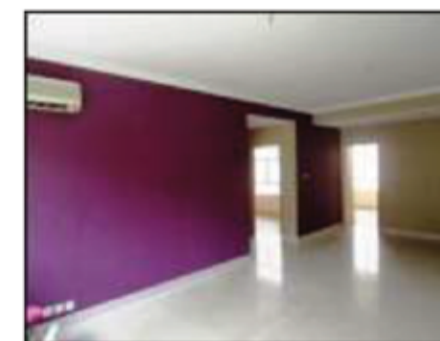
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XU Meihua joined hundreds of thousands of fellow Chinese tourists who traveled to Macau over Lunar New Year last week. She wasn't there to gamble though. The 58-year-old accountant dropped by casinos owned by Wynn Macau Ltd., Sands China Ltd. and SJM Holdings Ltd. to snap photographs and window shop. Traveling with her sister and husband, she was more interested in taking in sights than spending money at the baccarat tables.

"I don't plan to gamble at all; I don't have that much money," said Xu, recording a dancing water fountain with her smartphone on Feb. 23. "Why would I risk thousands of yuan?"

Macau's troubles are turning from bad to worse. A slide in gambling revenue last year is threatening to turn into a rout as middle-income consumers join high rollers in pulling back. As so-called VIPs avoid the former Portuguese enclave amid a government clampdown on graft and money laundering, China's economic slowdown, as well as new restrictions on visas and cigarette smoking, have also deterred mass market gamblers.

Players failed to materialize during what is traditionally one of the busiest weeks of the year, prompting analysts to slash their estimates for gambling in February. Casino revenue is now projected to plunge 53.5 percent for the month, according to the median estimate from eight analysts surveyed by Bloomberg, compared with the 40 percent drop forecast before the holiday started.

That would mark the ninth straight month of decline, the longest losing streak since monthly records started in 2005. The city's casino regulator is expected to release monthly gaming data by March 4.

The Lunar New Year which started Feb. 19 was "shockingly bad" for Macau gaming, DS Kim, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co., wrote in a note on Feb. 25. Gambling numbers over the holiday period were "very disappointing to us, as it was nearly 40 percent below what we had anticipated".

While a decline from VIP gambling was expected as these high-stakes players tend to

Fortunes go from bad to worse as New Year gamblers vanish



Visitors walk past stores in Shoppes at Cotai Central, operated by Sands China

arrive a week later to avoid the crowds, "we understand even premium mass demand remained very muted, primarily due to the deteriorated player mix", Kim wrote, cutting his February forecast to a slump of as much as 55 percent, from a 45 percent expected drop.

This holiday, the Year of the Goat, is in sharp contrast to the Year of the Horse last February. That month was the Macau casino industry's best ever as they raked in 38 billion patacas (USD4.8 billion). This year's downturn comes despi-

It won't work if you only get retail customers but very few VIP gamblers as they fail to boost the gross revenue

VICTOR YIP

te a record high of more than 800,000 Chinese tourists flooded Macau in the first seven days of the Year of the Goat.

"Perhaps the Year of Goat isn't a lucky year for casinos," said UOB-Kay Hian Holdings Ltd analyst Victor Yip in an interview, adding that the VIP gambling business still accounts for at least 60 percent of Macau's gambling revenue. "It won't work if you only got retail customers but very few VIP gamblers as they fail to boost the gross revenue."

The recent wave of mainland Chinese visitors also spend less than before, a further blow to the fine-dining eateries, luxury retail malls, and high-end hotels that casinos have set up next to their gambling halls. Excluding gambling, per-capita shopping expenses by Chinese tourists dipped 32.8 percent to 1,079 patacas in the fourth quarter of 2014, according to data from the Macau government.

Average occupancy at 3-star to 5-star hotels for the so-called Golden Week period of Chinese holiday, which ran from Feb. 18 to 24, fell 6.9

percentage points to 87.5 percent, while average room rates declined 15.4 percent, the Macau Government Tourist Office announced on Feb. 26.

Analysts had looked to the opening of new projects on Macau's Cotai strip from later this year by operators such as Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. as a glimmer of hope. Even those prospects are starting to look questionable amid concerns the Macau government would allow fewer gambling tables at the new resorts.

"We envisage a scenario where the Macau government could lower the allocation of tables to indicate it is more serious about 'controlling' growth in gaming," Anthony Wong, an analyst at UBS Group AG, wrote in a report Feb. 24, citing concerns raised by corporate management teams.

"We believe a low allocation for the first project could negatively impact sentiment on all future projects initially," he wrote, noting that while table capacity of new projects are in the 400-500 range, "the recent concern has been that

some new projects might obtain well below 200 tables".

Insufficient tables means a new casino resort can accommodate fewer gamblers, hitting revenue. There are also "soft factors", according to Wong, pointing out that insufficient tables could make a large casino floor "look empty and lack energy, impacting player sentiment".

China's President Xi Jinping in December urged Macau to wean itself off its reliance on casinos and turn the city into a world tourism and leisure center. Xi's campaign against graft began within weeks after he became head of the ruling Communist Party in late 2012, and has snared more than 100,000 "flies and tigers," or low- and high-level officials, according to official data.

The tourist Xu, for one, is cheering on the Chinese president's crackdown. "I'm proud of President Xi because he's doing something significant and difficult," Xu said. "Who knows whose money those guys in casinos are spending; if they're officials, they could be spending mine." **Bloomberg**

Retail sales increase only 1 pct in 2014

THE sale of retail goods increased only by 1 percent in 2014 year-on-year, reaching MOP67.66 billion, figures from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) show.

The value of retail sales from watches, clocks, and jewelry (MOP17.14 billion) accounted for 27 percent of the total, whereas goods in department stores (9.92 billion) ac-

counted for 15 percent. The volume of retail sales in 2014 also increased by 1 percent year-on-year.

The value of retail sales for the fourth quarter of 2014 totaled MOP17.04

billion, up by 8 percent compared with the previous quarter.

Fifty-three percent of retailers said that sales volumes in the fourth quarter of 2014 increa-

sed or held stable from the previous quarter. Forty-seven percent reported a decrease in sales volume. Sixty-seven percent of retailers said that prices remained

stable, while 10 percent said they had noticed an increase and 23 percent reported a decrease.

About 24 percent of retailers predict that sales volumes will increase from the fourth quarter, while 44 percent expect sales to remain stable. Thirty-two percent foresee a decrease.

Hong Kong rolls out measures to cool booming property market

Michelle Yun and Billy Chan

HONG Kong introduced more measures aimed at cooling the property market and protecting financial stability after home prices rose to a record last year.

Buyers of properties valued at up to HKD7 million (USD900,000) will have to make larger down payments, while mortgage rules for second-home purchases will be tightened, Norman Chan, the head of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, said at a briefing on Friday. The measures take effect immediately.

Rounds of cooling measures from 2012 have failed to tame the market, fueling complaints that the rising prices are worsening Asia's largest wealth gap. While Chan acknowledged that the steps will hurt first-home buyers, he cited a duty to protect the stability of the banking system.

"From a risk-management perspective, the policy is correct," said Raymond Yeung, an economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. in Hong Kong. "However, young couples will find it more difficult to fulfill their basic housing needs."

A government index of residential home prices surged 13 percent to a record in 2014, driven by gains among



smaller properties. Prices have more than doubled since 2009, spurred by record-low mortgage rates and money flowing in from mainland China. Mortgage loans approved in January surged by 21.4 percent from the previous month to HK\$30.3 billion, the HKMA said in a separate statement.

Property prices in Hong Kong may drop 3 percent in the short term after the new measures, Centaline Property Agency Managing Director Louis Chan wrote in an e-mailed statement. He expects transaction volumes to "shrink drastically" in the next three months.

The Hang Seng Properties Index of developers in Hong Kong reversed gains

in late Friday trading to close 1 percent lower, the biggest decline since Feb. 3, in advance of the HKMA's statement on the measures. The gauge climbed 6.9 percent in the past three months.

"People will take profit because the run-up in Hong Kong property developers' stock prices has been quite good," Lee Wee Liat, a Hong Kong-based analyst at BNP Paribas, said by phone. The government isn't enacting any "significant kind of measure, but incremental measures, trying to contain the pace of the price increase or the demand increase."

The maximum amount that can be borrowed for homes meant for personal use and

valued at less than HK\$7 million will be reduced to 60 percent of the purchase price from 70 percent, HKMA's Chan said.

Borrowers buying a second home for personal use must also now be able to service their mortgage payments with a maximum of 40 percent of their income, down from 50 percent previously. The new mortgage-servicing ratio also applies to properties bought for non-personal use including commercial and industrial sites, and car-park spaces.

The steps will "safeguard the stability of the banking and financial system given the renewed signs of overheating in the property market, particularly the small-sized residential units," Chan said. He added that the ratio of household debt to gross domestic product had climbed to a "historic high."

Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying is struggling to find enough land to build homes quick enough to meet demand, after pledging to increase the total housing stock by 18 percent over the next 10 years.

The city has the least affordable housing of 378 metropolitan areas in nine countries, with the median home price 17 times household income, according to an annual study by consultancy Demographia. **Bloomberg**

China said to tax past capital gains by international funds

CHINA plans to collect capital gains taxes from foreign money managers that invested in mainland markets during the five years through November 2014, a move that may compel funds to claw back more than USD1 billion from investors to pay the government.

Authorities plan to collect the 10 percent tax on so-called QFII and RQFII funds, according to people with knowledge of the matter who asked not to be identified as they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the rules. The levy means managers of public QFII funds may need to claw back \$1.2 billion, an amount that could triple depending on how the tax is calculated, according to research firm Z-Ben Advisors Ltd.

While the plan would saddle some funds with a one-off bill, it also brings more clarity to Chinese tax laws that have led to confusion among international investors and spurred MSCI Inc. to keep mainland shares out of its global indexes last June. Authorities in the world's second-largest economy said three months ago that foreigners would get a "temporary" tax waiver on trades executed from Nov. 17, 2014.

"It's a disappointment," Ryosuke Kawahata, a Tokyo-based money manager at Mizuho Asset Management Co., which oversees about \$37 billion, including QFII money, said by phone from Tokyo. "There's not many examples around the world where you're chased for your past tax."

Taxes will be collected on individual transactions, and funds will be barred from consolidating gains and losses over several trades. The levies won't apply to debt securities, while taxes on convertible bonds will only be collected after the debt is converted, the people said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM MACAU GIVES BEDDING TO UNDERPRIVILEGED GROUPS



In addition to the annual "Spring Clean for the Elderly" program, as part of the "Delivering Warm Wishes" initiative,

MGM Macau has specially designed and produced 1,200 sets of premium bedding items as gifts to the underprivileged.

As a way to celebrate the Chinese New Year, the Volunteer Team has always given out gifts to the community. This time around, MGM has tailor-made 1,200 sets of bedding set items with microfiber material, as a giveaway to a number of organizations. Centro de Dia Brilho da Vida, Good Shepherd Centre, S. José Ká-Hó Children and Youth Home, Jardins Dom Versiglia Youth Home, as well as organizations and low-income families under Caritas Macau. The bedding giveaway is led by Mr. Nichols Cheung, Director of HR Partner & Employee Services and the volunteer team. Every set includes one flat sheet, duvet cover and two pillowcases.

HYUNDAI RECALLS 263,000 CARS DUE TO POWER-STEERING PROBLEM



Hyundai is recalling about 263,000 cars in the U.S. and Canada because a sensor problem could cause drivers to lose power-assisted steering. The company has not reported any injuries or

accidents. A representative for Hyundai Motor America says it plans to notify owners and that dealers will fix the control unit of the electronic power steering at no cost.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says a sensor in the affected cars

could detect a discrepancy in the steering input and signals and disable power-assisted steering as a result. Cars would revert to manual steering and require greater effort to steer at low speeds, raising the risk of a crash.

Hyundai Motor America says it plans to notify owners and that dealers will fix the control unit of the electronic power steering at no cost.

The affected cars include model years 2008 to 2010 of Elantras made between June 1, 2008 and April 30, 2010 and Elantra Touring vehicles made between Nov. 1, 2008 and April 30. The recall includes nearly 205,000 cars in the U.S. and about another 58,000 in Canada.

Angola takes on loan from South Africa

ANGOLA will borrow USD216 million from the Rand Merchant Bank, South Africa, to be used to finance the project to repair two national roads, according to a presidential order.

The order of 20 February justifies the borrowing with the “need to ensure the implementation of the projects listed in the Public Investment Program, promoted by the Ministry of Construction, through the Angola Road Institute (INEA), as part of a recovery of road infrastructure of the country.”

The two national roads in

■ **The loan will be used to finance the project to repair two national roads**

PAULO BARBOSA



question are the EN180 and EN225, and repair of 180 kilometers of the EN180, between Saurimo and Moxico, began in 2008 and is still not complete.

In the same area of the North

of Angola, the reconstruction of EN225 involves about 500 kilometers and, in addition to paving, includes construction of 14 new bridges and 24 culverts. **MDT/Macauhub**

Portuguese-speaking countries approve projects for Guinea-Bissau

THE Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) has approved projects in the areas of vocational training and health for Guinea-Bissau, the Director of Cooperation of the CPLP Executive Secretariat said Thursday in Lisbon.

“It was important to be able to hear the expectations and priorities that the Guineans identified for future cooperation activities with Guinea-Bissau in the context of the CPLP,” Manuel Lapão told Portuguese news agency Lusa.

■ **One of the projects focuses on small-scale women entrepreneurs**

Lapão said a project had been approved including the CPLP Indicative Cooperation Plan (PIC) for the health sector and which will be carried out in Quinara (southern Guinea-Bissau), implemented by Portuguese non-governmental medical organization Assistência Médica Internacional.

The other project, which “results from the ‘Together Against Hunger’ CPLP campaign” (in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), will be carried out in Cacheu, also in Guinea-Bissau, focusing on women entrepreneurs, small-scale entrepreneurs who work in rice production in the area, giving them training from a business point of view and for food production. **MDT/Macauhub**

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XINJIANG FERTILE GROUND FOR ISLAMIC STATE RECRUITERS

Three hundred Chinese citizens, members of the country's Uighur ethnic group, have recently traveled to the Middle East to join Islamic State. Those Uighurs are part of a broader Muslim migration, spurred by a government crackdown, away from China's western province of Xinjiang, where Muslims have lived for over 1000 years. Although they were designed to dampen Islamic separatism, Chinese policies in the region are creating fertile ground for Islamic extremism.

In 1949, 82 percent of the people living in Xinjiang were Uighurs. In the decades since, a government-sponsored influx of Han Chinese has changed the province's ethnic makeup. By 2010, Xinjiang's 10 million Uighurs accounted for just 46.3 percent of the population, according to that year's census.

Uighurs claim that the government favors Han when handing out licenses to start businesses or use the region's natural resource such as coal, oil and gas, and iron ore. Uighur resentments have turned violent. During the 1990s, and again in the late 2000s, ethnic riots and protests were frequent. Street violence in July 2009 was the deadliest in China since the Cultural Revolution, resulting in the deaths of more than 180 people, mostly Han.

In response, the Chinese government began a crackdown that has yet to relent. Over the past year, especially, the Chinese government has focused on Uighurs' practice of Islam as a potentially subversive threat.

In July, during Ramadan, the state not only prohibited the religiously prescribed fast, but coerced many Muslims to eat. For example, some university students were forced to eat lunch with their professors. Beards and mustaches have been banned. Women are barred from wearing veils and head coverings in public in much of Xinjiang - including, as of Feb. 1, in the provincial capital, Urumqi.

The crackdown is happening in parallel with the rise of conservative Islam, according to several reports. It may also be contributing to it. Only a decade ago, the veil was rare in Xinjiang; these days, it's become a popular symbol of religious devotion and political disobedience.

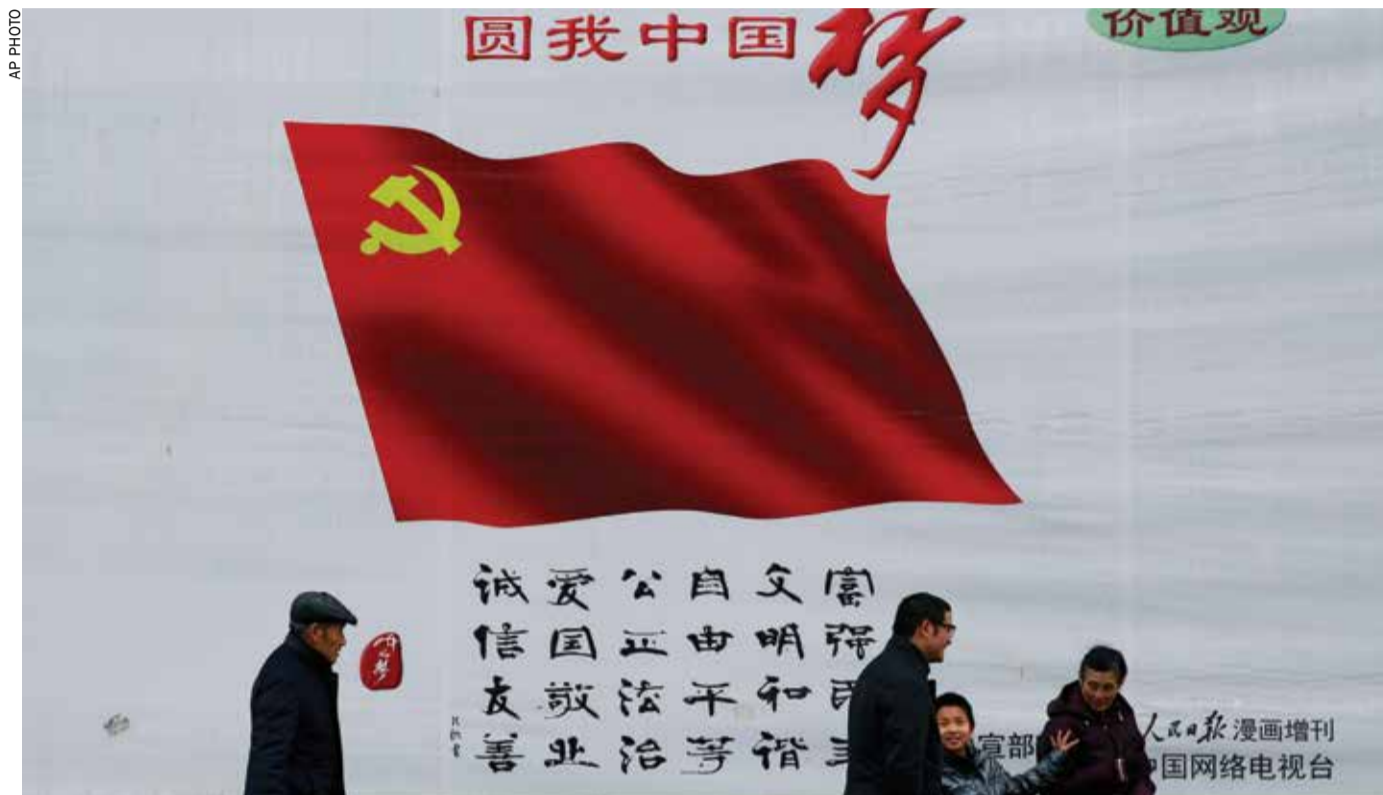
Terror is increasingly common, too. In March 2014, knife-wielding Uighurs killed 31 people and injured 140 in a train station in Kunming, 1,500 miles southeast of Urumqi. Last Monday, Radio Free Asia reported that a suicide bomber had killed eight in southern Xinjiang the previous week. Government retaliation for attacks has been brutal. In August, Chinese state media reported that police officers had "gunned down 59 terrorists and arrested 215 others" in response to a late July terror attack that killed 37 civilians and injured 13 others.

Many Uighurs are choosing to emigrate. Last month Bloomberg News reported that there were 260,000 Uighurs living in Kazakhstan, driven there from Xinjiang by a search for religious freedom. Likewise, the news website Al-Monitor reported that there are "about 6,000" Uighurs living in poor conditions in Turkey.

Among these emigrants are the 300 Uighurs whose destination has been the Islamic State. The Al-Monitor report, for example, highlighted the story of a Uighur family that had gone to live in Islamic State - and then fled back to Turkey when they didn't like what they found there. They have no plans to go back to China.

That probably won't reassure Chinese authorities determined to make Xinjiang - and China - safe from the threat of Islamist terror. Other Uighurs who spend time in Islamic State, after all, might take a path that leads home.

Central bank cuts rates again to boost economy



A Chinese family walk past a China Dream billboard, showing messages pushed by Chinese President Xi Jinping's administration on display in Beijing

CHINA'S central bank cut interest rates for the second time in three months Saturday, adding to signs the country's leaders are worried the economic slowdown is deepening too sharply.

The People's Bank of China announced a rate cut on one-year loans by commercial banks by 0.25 percentage point to 5.35 percent. The interest rate paid on a one-year deposit was lowered by 0.25 point to 2.50 percent.

Rates were last cut on Nov. 22. The new rates took effect yesterday.

Last year, China's economic growth fell to 7.4 percent - the lowest since 1990. It is expected to decline further this year, and a steep economic decline can raise the risk of politically dangerous job losses.

The latest round of cuts follow a string of tax reductions and other measures aimed at propping

up growth. The government cut business taxes last week and has announced a pay hike for civil servants.

The lower rates are expected to reduce financial costs for state-owned companies and are a signal to state-owned banks to boost lending to them.

Economic growth in the world's second-largest economy has slowed down steadily over the past two years, mostly as a result of government efforts to steer the economy to more self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption and to reduce reliance on trade and investment.

Eswar Prasad, an economics professor at Cornell University, noted that China has been a primary driver of global economic growth and that the slowdown will have a negative ripple effect throughout the world.

Still, Jay Bryson, global economist for Wells

Fargo Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina, emphasized that China's economy is still growing, just at a slower rate.

"China is not collapsing. You're looking at a country that was growing at double digits, and now it's only going to grow 6 to 7 percent," he said.

"We're talking about slower global growth, not another 2009," he added, referring to the global fi-

nanial crisis.

The impact of the slowdown will vary depending on a country's exposure to China. In the U.S., Bryson said most people won't notice the impact at all. While U.S. exports to China total about \$100 billion a year, he said that's less than 1 percent of the gross domestic product of the U.S., which has a \$17 trillion economy. AP

MANUFACTURING MEASURE SHOWS CONTRACTION FOR FEBRUARY

AN INDEX that measures China's manufacturing activity went up slightly in February but still showed contraction amid China's economy slowdown, according to official data released yesterday. The latest monthly purchasing managers' index up to 49.9 from January's 9.8, China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing reported. The index uses a 100-point scale

on which numbers below 50 show activity contracting. February's reading meant activity contracted from the previous month. The gauge dropped below 50 in January for the first time since October 2012. Last month's reading of 49.9 is the second consecutive reading showing contraction and signals downward pressure on the economy.

Party jails ex-vice governor 17 years on graft charges

A former Chinese vice governor known for his appetite for jade and arts was sentenced to 17 years in prison on corruption charges on Saturday, a Chinese court said.

Ni Fake, former vice governor of the eastern province of Anhui, was found guilty of taking more than USD2 million in bribes, the Municipal Intermediate People's Court for the eastern city of Dongying said in a sta-

tement.

He also failed to explain the sources for nearly \$1 million of additional assets, the court said.

China is in the midst of a sweeping anti-graft campaign under President Xi Jinping, who has warned that widespread corruption has threatened the rule of the Communist Party.

The campaign, now in its third year, has shown no sign of relaxing, with the

party's disciplinary officials vowing to root out the scourge that has alienated the party from the public.

Ni was known for his connoisseurship of jade and arts, and those seeking his favors bribed him with the precious stone and scrolls of calligraphy and paintings, in addition to cash, according to the court. It said that Ni confessed and would not appeal the verdict. AP

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Police arrest 33 in protest against mainland shoppers

HONG Kong police arrested nearly three dozen people yesterday after scuffles broke out at a protest in a border town, in the latest example of heightened tensions over the growing influx of mainland Chinese shoppers in the city.

Police officers wielded batons and used pepper spray on the crowds after the demonstration turned unruly, as demonstrators clashed with crowds of village residents opposed to the event who taunted them along the route.

Police said 33 people were arrested, including a 13-year-old boy.

Hundreds turned out for the latest protest to target the mainland shoppers, who have been blamed for voracious buying habits that distort the local economy.

The protesters marched in the suburban district of Yuen Long, near the border with mainland China, in a neighborhood where there are dozens of pharmacies selling baby formula to cater to mainland shoppers.

Numerous food safety scares in China have made baby formula a hot commodity for mainland visitors to Hong Kong, which has a reputation for authentic and high-quality goods. The protesters complain



Police officers try to control the confrontation between activists demonstrating against mainland Chinese shoppers and local villagers at a suburban district of Yuen Long

that the mainlanders' shopping sprees drive up retail rents and force out ordinary shopkeepers. "There is a lot of anger from

other people on Chinese smugglers because we just don't like how they drive up all the prices, drive up everything, create a

lot of chaos, and we aren't benefiting from it," said protester Kelvin Lee, who was with Hong Kong Indigenous, one of the

two groups that organized the demonstration.

He said residents of the suburban towns were fed up with the traffic jams and piles of garbage created by the mainland Chinese shoppers. Last year, 47.3 million people from mainland China visited Hong Kong.

Many shopkeepers rolled down their storefront shutters ahead of the protest and few mainland Chinese visitors were seen on the streets, drawing complaints from local residents.

"They've made it so that everyone has had to close up shop, and they can't do business. People have to pay rent," said Choi Wai-leung, 61.

There have been at least two other rowdy shopping protests in Hong Kong's suburban towns this year, including one last month inside a shopping mall.

The shoppers often work for shadowy networks that organize the resale of the goods across the border for a profit, in what's known as parallel trading. **AP**

Hong Kong woman gets 6 years in Indonesian maid abuse case

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

AHong Kong mother of two was given a six-year prison term Friday for abusing her Indonesian maid in a case that aroused widespread outrage over its brutality.

Law Wan-tung was sentenced after her conviction earlier this month on eight charges of assault, grievous bodily harm and criminal intimidation against 24-year-old Erwiana Sulistyaningsih in a case that highlighted the vulnerabilities of migrants working as domestic staff across Asia and the Middle East.

Law, 45, had no reaction as the sentence was handed down by District Court Judge Amanda Woodcock, who said "the seriousness of the charges and circumstances of the offences means a lengthy prison time is appropriate."

The judge fined Law 15,000 Hong Kong dollars (USD1,930) for 10 charges of failing to pay wages or grant time off. She had earlier pleaded guilty to one other charge of failing to buy insurance.

Sulistyaningsih's case came to light when graphic pictures of her injuries started circulating among Indone-

sians in Hong Kong, showing her face, hands and legs covered with scabs and lacerations, and blackened, peeling skin around her feet.

"I am so happy because finally my employer is in prison although only for six years. But for me, finally justice is delivered," Sulistyaningsih, through an interpreter, told reporters outside court.

Sulistyaningsih worked for Law, who has two teenage children, for about eight months starting in June 2013.

The court heard that Sulistyaningsih suffered broken teeth, scratches all over body and blows to her head at the hands of Law, who also jammed a metal vacuum cleaner tube into her mouth, causing her lip to bleed. On one occasion, Law also forced Sulistyaningsih to stand naked in the bathroom during winter while she splashed water on her and pointed a fan at her.

Woodcock said Law had a definite "lack of compassion" and her "contempt was reserved for those she saw as beneath her."

About half of Hong Kong's 330,000 foreign domestic helpers come from Indonesia, almost all of them female and earning a minimum wage of about \$500 a month. **AP**

WILD giant pandas in China are doing well.

The latest census by China's State Forestry Administration shows the panda population has grown by 268 to a total of 1,864 since the last survey ending in 2003.

Nearly three quarters of the pandas live in the southwestern province of Sichuan. The remaining pandas have been found in the neighboring Shaanxi and Gansu provinces.

"The rise in the population of wild giant pandas is a victory for conservation and definitely one to celebrate," said Ginette Hemley, senior vice president of wildlife conservation for World Wildlife Fund.

Hemley credited efforts by the Chinese government for the increase. The survey shows 1,246 wild giant pandas live within nature reserves. There are 67 panda reserves in China, an increase of 27 since the last survey.

"The survey result demonstrates the effectiveness of nature reserves in boosting wild giant panda numbers," said Xiaohai Liu, executive program director for WWF-China.

Latest survey finds increase in wild giant pandas



Panda triplet cubs play with sheep toys at the Chimelong Wildlife Park in Guangzhou in south China's Guangdong province

But the survey also points to economic development as a main threat to the rare animal. It says 319 hydro-power stations and 1,339 kilometers of roads have been built in the giant panda's habitat.

WWF said it is the first time that large-scale infrastructure projects such as mining and railroads get referenced in the sur-

vey. Traditional threats such as poaching are on the decline, WWF noted.

China began surveying its giant pandas in the 1970s. The latest census began in 2011 and took three years to complete.

The number of giant pandas in captivity grew by 211, more than double the previous survey figure, according to the census released Saturday. **AP**

MH370 ANNIVERSARY

No plane, many discoveries in yearlong search for flight

Nick Perry, Wellington

THE yearlong search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 has turned up no sign of the plane, but that doesn't mean it's been unproductive. It has yielded lessons and discoveries that could benefit millions, including coastal Australians, air and sea travelers and scientists trying to understand ancient changes to the earth's crust.

The knowledge gained so far is of little comfort to family and friends of the 239 people still missing from the plane, which vanished last March 8 during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. While finding the plane remains the top priority for searchers and investigators, what they're learning along the way may prove valuable long after the search ends.

Benefits of the work so far include:

NEW UNDERWATER MAPS

In the Indian Ocean west of Australia, where experts believe the plane crashed, scientists have been mapping the sea floor to aid in the search for wreckage.

Previous maps relied on satellite data, which gave only rough estimates of the ocean's depth. Now, using sonar readings from ships, scientists have mapped an area the size of Nebraska and have discovered previously unknown trenches and underwater mountains that rival the height of any on Australia's surface.

Searchers are getting even more detailed sonar readings using small underwater vehicles called "towfish" that are towed just above the sea floor.

Scientists from around the world are eagerly anticipating the release of the three-dimensional maps and data once the search is completed.

BETTER TSUNAMI PREDICTION

Stuart Minchin, a divisional chief at Geoscience Australia, said that when the maps are released and further analyzed, they will give scientists a better understanding of areas that during earthquakes are susceptible to underwater landslides, which can create or exacerbate tsunamis.

He said the information will help scientists pinpoint areas along Australia's west coast that are particularly vulnerable to tsunamis and enable better warnings and predictions for coastal residents.

IMPROVED SEARCH AND RESCUE

Knowing the topography of the ocean floor also helps scientis-



In this April 13, 2014 file photo taken from the Royal New Zealand air force (RNZAF) P-3K2-Orion aircraft, pilot and aircraft captain, Flight Lt. Timothy McAlevey looks out of a window while searching for debris from missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, over the Indian Ocean off the coast of western Australia

ts predict ocean currents, said Minchin. That can help with everything from predicting where a disabled boat might drift in a search-and-rescue mission to understanding how marine species spread to new areas.

He said it can even help scientists understand how heat is distributed through the ocean, which could be used by meteorologists to help fine-tune weather forecasts.

BETTER PLANE TRACKING

One thing the airline industry learned from Flight 370 is that more tracking is needed, even for planes expected to fly over land for their entire journeys.

The International Civil Aviation Organization, which is part of the United Nations, has proposed that airlines be required to get position updates from each of their planes every 15 minutes. That requirement is expected to be in place by November 2016.

A more stringent requirement would seek updates every minute if a fire is detected or the plane makes an unusual move, such as suddenly dropping or climbing in elevation. That would apply only to jets manufactured after 2020.

Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss said yesterday that

his government's airspace agency will work with Malaysia and Indonesia to test a new method, which would enable planes to be tracked every 15 minutes, rather than the previous rate of 30 to 40 minutes. However, even if such a system had been in place for Flight 370, it would not have made it possible to track the plane because the transponder and other equipment were switched off.

Because investigators still don't know what happened to Flight 370, airlines have no information to help them update their mechanical systems or flight-training techniques.

IMPROVED MULTINATIONAL SEARCHES

Capt. Chris Budde, maritime operations director for the U.S. Navy 7th Fleet, said that when it helped out on a multinational search for another missing plane in December, things went more smoothly thanks to lessons learned from the hunt for Flight 370.

The latter search was for AirAsia Flight 8501, which plunged into the Java Sea near Indonesia, killing all 162 people aboard.

Budde said tasks like establishing common radio frequencies between nations and determining who to contact onshore for search assignments were completed more efficiently after

■ The yearlong search for Flight 370 has turned up no sign of the plane, but that doesn't mean it's been unproductive. It has yielded lessons and discoveries that could benefit millions

Indonesia studied and learned from Malaysia's experience.

"These events are tragic, but they do help build cooperation and regional stability as militaries work together," he said.

He said the U.S. Navy fleet also managed to modify its technology on the fly in the search for Flight 370, by tweaking its sonar equipment to detect, at short range, pings from an airplane's black boxes. It was able to use

that tweak a second time in the search for the AirAsia plane, he said, albeit without success in either instance.

POSSIBLE SATELLITE IMPROVEMENTS

The search exposed some of the limitations of satellite images, said Joseph Bermudez Jr., the co-founder of Longmont, Colo.-based AllSource Analysis. Over the long term, he said, it may prompt companies to improve the technical capabilities of their satellites — for instance, by having them detect different and enhanced light wavelengths.

Many people assumed that, like in the movies, they could scour satellite images to see the plane veering off course or spot its wreckage. In reality, Bermudez said, commercial satellites aren't generally aimed to take images over remote stretches of ocean and when they do, the images are often unclear and need experts to decipher them.

He said there was such high interest in the plane's disappearance that amateurs around the world studied satellite images on crowd-sourcing websites to identify between 2 million and 3 million possible sightings of the plane or its debris.

"Not one of them was correct," he said. He added that people need to be better trained in reading such images before they are turned loose on the task. Improved image quality, he added, could also help.

A WINDOW INTO HISTORY

Robin Beaman, a marine geologist at Australia's James Cook University, said the underwater maps will help show scientists how Earth's crust stretched and pulled apart millions of years ago, a process that is continuing today and is slowly pushing Australia away from Antarctica.

"It's fitting the pieces of the puzzle back together. And it's not just an academic exercise," Beaman said. "The great gas resources for Australia are in the west, and if you fit that jigsaw back, you get more of a picture of how those gas resources were created."

Dave Gallo, the director of special projects at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, said less than 8 percent of the underwater world has been explored.

"It's more daunting than looking on Mars because there's no light," he said. "So we're in a completely unknown world in mountains that are the most rugged on earth. There's no maps, so it's all basic, pure exploration with a mission that not only are we exploring, but we're also looking for an aircraft."

Minchin said that everybody involved in the search continues to hope the plane will be found.

"If not, there is a silver lining," he said. "The data will be useful to science for many years to come." AP

Yuri Kageyama, Ishinomaki

JAPAN

Prince William gets close look at tsunami disaster

BRITAIN'S Prince William stood atop a hill in northeastern Japan yesterday, and stretched below him was barren land known as the "Bay of Destruction," which was swept by a tsunami four years ago.

On the last leg of his four-day visit to Japan, William laid a bouquet near a shrine gate that overlooks the bay, to commemorate the victims. Of the nearly 19,000 people who died in the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, nearly 3,300 were residents of the coastal town of Ishinomaki. About 22,000 lost their homes.

The tragedy of Ishinomaki has been repeated across the shoreline, where communities are still trying to rebuild, mourning lost lives and worried about the future, as the younger generation leaves in droves. Thousands of people are still living in temporary housing, and many are dependent on aid for food and clothing.

William, who earlier visited more lively and modern spots in Tokyo, had insisted that his first-ever trip to Japan include the tsunami-stricken region.

Teruko Sekiguchi, a 42-year-old housewife and Ishinomaki resident, waited for the prince's arrival on top of the hill in the cold rain for more than an hour. She said she was touched that he would come all the way out to the disaster region.

"He is gorgeous. You can feel his kindness," she said.

When the tsunami hit, Sekiguchi fled to a nearby junior



Britain's Prince William looks at Chime of Hope as he rings the bell in a neighborhood destroyed by the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Onagawa

high school and waited for a week, feeling miserable, not even knowing whether her husband, a schoolteacher,

had survived. When he finally came to find her, she was so overjoyed she just cried and couldn't even walk toward

him, she recalled.

Although the area below the hill, previously filled with small homes, has been cleaned of debris, no one will live there again. Plans are still being studied to turn it into a park.

"It's like the area has been finally cleaned up enough into a white canvas so we can start painting on it," said Kimio Abe, 76, who heads a company that installs heating and air conditioning units.

Abe was also among the crowd of about 80 people waiting on the hilltop for the prince. Abe's home, near the hill, was half destroyed by the tsunami, but he fixed it and still lives in one room with his wife.

Earlier in the day, William visited a local newspaper that had produced handwritten newsletters right after the tsunami to keep communication going.

William wanted to know what the journalists had done, what the rescue operation was like, as well as the personal background of Hiroyuki Takeuchi, a journalist, now retired, at the Ishinomaki Hibi newspaper, who gave him a guide of the newsroom.

"It remains with you forever," William told Takeuchi. "You remember where you were. It must have been unbe-

lievably terrifying for you and all the others."

After the visit, Takeuchi said he was moved by the intense interest William had shown in the region's plight. "I am happy and I am honored," he said.

William also met Shinichi and Ryoko Endo, who lost their three children, Hana, Kana and Kanta, all of them under 12. Endo, a carpenter working on the reconstruction of the area, gave William a wooden charm made of tsunami rubble.

William later went to another tsunami-hit coastal town, Onagawa, where he was welcomed by a traditional lion dance to the cheerful music of wooden flutes and drums.

At a humble shopping area that sold local goods by storekeepers trying to turn their lives around, he rang a bell that had survived the tsunami, called the "Chime of Hope."

"His visit will not only provide a much-needed boost in morale for the people living in the region, but also reassurance that their plight has not been forgotten," said Akemi Solloway, founder of London-based Aid for Japan, which supports tsunami orphans.

William returned by bullet train to Tokyo, where he later left for Beijing. **AP**

INDIA

Hindu ruling party forms coalition government in Muslim Kashmir

Aijaz Hussain, Srinagar

INDIA'S ruling Hindu Nationalist party formed a coalition government in Kashmir yesterday, marking the first time it will hold a leadership position in the disputed Muslim-majority region.

Leaders from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Peoples Democratic Party were sworn into office in the state's winter capital of Jammu amid tight security in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PDP leader Mufti Mohammed Sayeed will

be the region's chief minister and the BJP a junior partner in the new government.

No single party managed to win a clear majority needed to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir state during the elections, which took place in several phases in November and December.

The PDP emerged as the single-largest party with 28 seats in the region's 87-strong state legislature, while the BJP got 25 seats — all in Hindu-dominated districts.

Sayeed and Modi finalized the deal at a meeting in New Delhi after

prolonged and difficult negotiations. The two parties hold diametrically opposite views on several issues, such as laws that exclude Indian military personnel from criminal prosecution the violence-wracked Himalayan region. The PDP wants the Draconian laws scrapped, but the BJP supports the army's presence.

Traditionally, the BJP has also opposed a special constitutional status for Kashmir, which allows the region to make its own laws, while regional parties including the PDP defend it.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a top Kashmiri separatist

leader, said that "it hardly matters which party is in power in Kashmir, as India has been ruling here through its proxies."

"The fact remains that decisions related to Kashmir are always taken by the security establishment, which is under New Delhi's direct control," Farooq said.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, which is divided between the neighbors but claimed by both in its entirety.

Since 1989, rebel groups have been fighting against Indian rule. More than 68,000 people have been killed in the rebel upri-



Janata Dal (United), a powerful group in eastern Bihar state, chief Sharad Yadav, right, speaks to Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed at his residence in New Delhi

sing and a subsequent Indian military crackdown. Incidents of violence have largely been suppressed by Indian forces. However, public opposi-

tion to Indian rule remains deep and in recent years has found expression in street protests marked by youths hurling stones at security forces. **AP**

Olga Tanas

RUSSIA

Opposition gathers in Moscow to honor murdered Nemtsov

RUSSIA'S opposition gathered in Moscow for a march that will be a test of its support two days after a key leader was gunned down near the Kremlin.

Protesters began assembling yesterday afternoon for a vigil honoring Boris Nemtsov that will run through the city center and end at the bridge near St. Basil's Cathedral where the 55-year-old critic of President Vladimir Putin was slain Friday.

Organizers distributed posters with Nemtsov's picture and carried signs with slogans that read "he was fighting for a free Russia" and "those shots were in each of us." The former deputy prime minister, who played a prominent role after the Soviet collapse before falling out of favor, had been helping plan an anti-Putin rally for yesterday.

"I'm here because Boris Nemtsov was fighting against corruption and probably some people from the top didn't like his speeches," said Valeriy Tsaturov, a 63-year-old entrepreneur from the Moscow region who was wearing a black coat with the word "corruption" on it. "It's a big shame for Russia that it happened at Red Square to a person who was very competent and could have done a lot of good."

Nemtsov's killing potentially further weakens the president's foes who have struggled to gain



People carry portraits of opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, who was gunned down on Friday, near the Kremlin, with words reading 'he died for the future of Russia!' in Moscow

traction as the government has taken control of independent media and Putin has enjoyed

near-record approval ratings following his annexation of the Crimean Peninsula last year

from Ukraine.

Two opponents who helped organize the original rally won't

even be allowed to attend the vigil. Alexey Navalny is serving a 15-day sentence for handing out leaflets at a metro station, while former Yukos Oil Co. chief Mikhail Khodorkovsky is outside the country in exile after being freed from prison.

Putin's critics nonetheless are betting that an unfolding economic crisis will spark a spring revolt on a scale last seen during the winter protests of 2011-2012, the largest since the collapse of communism 20 years earlier. Buckling from international sanctions over Ukraine and a collapse in oil prices last year, the economy of the world's biggest energy exporter is on the brink of a recession.

Yesterday, mourners poured into the city center buying flowers and carrying handmade signs that read "I am Boris" as scores of police kept watch over the gathering protest.

"This march is important for the country," said Sergey Kleschevnikov, a 59-year-old road worker. "People see that something is wrong in Russia." **Bloomberg**

VENEZUELA

Gov't to shrink US Embassy staff, require tourist visas

Hannah Dreier, Caracas

VENEZUELA will shrink the size of the U.S. Embassy staff, limit the activities of U.S. diplomats and require American citizens to apply for visas if they want to come bask on the beach.

Speaking before a crowd that rallied to protest imperialism, President Nicolas Maduro said Saturday that "gringo" meddling had forced him to adopt the series of restrictive measures, which include requiring U.S. diplomats to seek approval from the Foreign Ministry for meetings they conduct here.

Maduro said he was imposing the new tourist visa requirement for national security reasons, saying that in recent days authorities had detained several U.S. citizens who he alleged were involved

in espionage, including an American pilot.

The president and other officials gave no specific information on any Americans in custody, and the U.S. Embassy did not respond to a request for comment. Earlier in the day, Venezuela released four missionaries from North Dakota who had been detained several days ago for unknown reasons. They were banned from coming back for two years.

Relations between the two countries have been rapidly deteriorating as Maduro blames U.S. plotting for the host of economic and social woes plaguing the socialist-governed country. He recently accused the U.S. of working with local opposition groups to stage a coup that involved bombing the presidential pala-

ce. Washington called the accusation ludicrous.

The two countries have not exchanged ambassadors since 2010, but have continued to exchange diplomatic staff. On Saturday, Maduro said the U.S. has far more officials in Venezuela than his government has in the U.S.

Maduro addressed Obama directly, saying the U.S. president has "arrogantly" refused to engage in conciliatory talks.

"I'm very sorry, Mr. President, that you have gone down this dead end," he said during a speech that all Venezuelan television and radio stations were required to carry.

Venezuela will charge Americans the same tourist visa fees that the U.S. charges Venezuelans and it will require payment in dollars, which are increasingly scarce in Venezuela. **AP**

EGYPT

Court declares Hamas a 'terrorist organization'

Brian Rohan and Fares Akram, Cairo

AN Egyptian court declared Hamas a "terrorist organization" on Saturday, further isolating the blockaded rulers of the Gaza Strip once openly welcomed by the country's toppled Islamist-dominated government.

The ruling is unlikely to have any immediate effect on Hamas, still reeling from last summer's war with Israel and choked by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade set up in 2007. Moussa Abu Marzouk, Hamas' No. 2 leader, is based in Cairo and is receiving medical treatment there, members of the group say.

The move underlines Egypt's increasing hostility to Hamas, which the court blamed for violence in the country's restive Sinai Peninsula. The secretive movement, founded in Gaza in 1987 as an offshoot of the region's Egyptian-originated Muslim Brotherhood, faces a growing cash crunch and has yet to lay out a strategy to extract Gaza from its increasingly dire situation.

"There is no doubt that Hamas is being pushed into the corner further and further," said Mkhaimar Abu

Sada, a political science professor at Gaza's Al Azhar University. Hamas' relationship with Cairo has "reached a point of no return" and is unlikely to be salvaged, he said.

The ruling Saturday by Judge Mohamed el-Sayed of the Court For Urgent Matters said Hamas had targeted both civilians and security forces inside the Sinai Peninsula, and that the group aimed to harm the country. Sinai has been under increasing attack by extremists since the Egyptian military ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

"It has been proven without any doubt that the movement has committed acts of sabotage, assassinations and the killing of innocent civilians and members of the armed forces and police in Egypt," the court wrote, according to state news agency MENA.

The ruling said that Hamas' fighters had used heavy weapons against the army, and that the group was colluding with the Muslim Brotherhood, which Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has described as the root of extremism. Morsi belonged to the Brotherhood. **AP**



Registration Measure for First-time Kindergarten Students

To facilitate the student recruitment of the academic year 2015/2016 and under the principles of optimising services and providing convenience to parents, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau continues to implement the "Registration Measure for First-time Kindergarten Students" (hereinafter referred to as "the measure"). Parents must submit the registration slip to the school in which they decide to enroll their children.

Objectives:

- Under the principle of parents and children's freedom of choice, the measure sets the dates for schools to release the admission list and for enrolment, so that parents can make their decisions as early as possible to enroll their children in kindergartens for the first time.
- Under the principle of schools' autonomy in recruiting students, this measure simplifies the schools' administrative work, and informs the schools about the number of new students as early as possible so that they can be well prepared towards the new academic year.

Eligibility:

Macao residents and non-Macao residents* aged between 3 and 5 by 31st December 2015 (born between 2010 and 2012) who will be enrolled for the first time in the kindergartens in Macao.

Information about grade repetition of the kindergarten level:

In accordance with the provision of Clause 3 of Article 7 of Law No. 9/2006 – the "Fundamental Law of Non-tertiary Education System", "Unless requested by the parent, students at the kindergarten level should not be required to repeat any grade level."

Except for special circumstances, parents should not require their children to repeat any grade level.

- Registration status
- Parents can check the registration status of their children on the DSEJ website.
 - enquiry
 - For details, please refer to newspapers, leaflets or visit the DSEJ website.

Hotline: 8397-2309

DSEJ Website: <http://www.dsej.gov.mo>

* Non-Macao residents refer to children who meet the requirements for attending infant education and possess a stay or residence permit for over 90 days issued by the authorised entity of the MSAR.

Timeline:

Application for admission	From 1 st March 2015
Release of admission list/ waiting list by schools	Admission list: before 25 th March 2015 Waiting list: 1 st April 2015
Printing registration slip	From self-service kiosks/ DSEJ website: 14 th March to 31 st March 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macao residents: With the child's identity card, the registration slip can be printed out at the self-service kiosks used for printing out medical vouchers. (Each registration slip can only be printed out once. Photocopies are invalid.) Non-Macao residents: The registration slip can be printed out after the relevant information has been successfully registered on the DSEJ website. DSEJ counter (for special cases): 14 th March to 30 th April 2015
Submission of registration slip	Students on admission list: 25 th March to 31 st March 2015 (during school's office hours) Students on waiting list: 1 st April to 30 th April 2015



Informal Dinner with Historian Jason Wordie
at
Grand Lapa, Macau Club Lounge, 17/F
Tuesday, 10th March
7.30 – 10 pm



Macao – People and Places, Past and Present

Members: MOP/HKD 550.00
Non-Members: MOP/HKD 650.00

A few books will be available for sale at event: HKD 400 (cash only)

RSVP to bbam@britchammao.org or phone +853 8798 9697

PLAYMATE'S CLUB



No admission under age 18

Business hours:
8:00PM-04:00AM

Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: **28532081** www.macauplaymatesclub.com

what's ON



TRANSCEND

— WORKS BY LAI SIO KIT AND SYLVIYE LEI

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: March 7, 2015

VENUE: Estrada da Areia Preta No. 52, Edifício da Fabrica de Baterias N.E. National, 3rd Floor, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

“SEE AND TOUCH”

- TOUCHABLE ARTS EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community Development Association / Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

EXHIBITION ‘FOAM TIP BY ARLINDA FROTA AND TRANSMUTATION BY CAROL KWOK’

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: SIGNUM Living Store, Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

VOICE IN THE MURK BY PAPA OSMUBAL

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: March 14, 2015

VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

Offbeat

2 LOOSE LLAMAS LASSED AFTER RUNNING AMOK IN ARIZONA



Two quick-footed llamas that dashed in and out of traffic in a Phoenix-area retirement community were captured by authorities last week, causing a stir in the streets and on social media.

Television footage showed a large white llama and a smaller black llama darting through the streets of Sun City during the lunch hour. Cars and golf carts stopped in their tracks because of the wayward animals.

The fugitive llamas were part of a trio that was making a therapy visit to residents at an assisted living facility.

Their televised breakout quickly inspired a Twitter account and several hashtags including #LlamasonTheLoose, #llamadrama and #TEAMLLAMAS.

Social media users shared running commentary and even photos of people gathered around a screen to watch the llama saga unfold.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	Brazil Avenue (Repeat)
18:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:00	Portuguese Music
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

26 FEB - 04 MAR

STAND BY ME DORAEMON

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.00, 5.55 pm
(3D) 7.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 95min



FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2

ROOM 1
3.50, 9.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 90min



PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR

ROOM 2
2.00, 3.45, 7.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 127min



KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE

ROOM 2
5.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Matthew Vaughn

Starring: Colin Firth, Michael Caine, Samuel L. Jackson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 127min

TRIUMPH IN THE SKIES

ROOM 3
2.00, 3.45, 9.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 127min

FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2

ROOM 3
5.30, 7.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 90min

MACAU TOWER

19 FEB - 04 MAR

12 GOLDEN DUCKS

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Matt Chow

Starring: Eason Chan, Louis Koo, Sandra Kwan Yue Ng

Language: Chinese (Chinese)

Duration: 92min

this day in history



2000 PINOCHET ESCAPES TORTURE TRIAL CHARGES

Former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet is heading home after being told the UK would not extradite him on torture charges. After 16 months of legal wrangling, General Pinochet was told earlier today by UK Home Secretary Jack Straw that he was free to leave.

A Chilean Air Force jet took off from RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire at 1315 GMT with the 84-year-old general on board. General Pinochet was arrested in London in October 1998 at the request of Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon who is seeking to put him on trial for human rights abuses during his 17-year rule in Chile. He is expected to arrive in Chile to a hero's welcome from supporters.

But campaigners for alleged victims of his regime were bitter about the decision. Chile Democratico, a group of Chilean exiles in Britain, said the Home Secretary had "failed the cause of human rights" and accused the British and Chilean governments of a "stitch-up".

Only a last-minute legal challenge could have delayed the general's departure. But Spain, Switzerland, Belgium and France - the countries seeking his extradition - said they would not, or could not, appeal. Mr Straw made his decision after re-examining a medical report filed on General Pinochet in January.

Speaking to MPs in the House of Commons shortly after General Pinochet's departure Mr Straw said he was aware the general was now unlikely to stand trial.

"I was driven to the conclusion that a trial of the charges against Senator Pinochet, however desirable, was simply no longer possible," Mr Straw said.

The Conservatives have welcomed today's decision, but leader William Hague accused Labour of incompetence.

He said £4m of public money had been wasted on "moral posturing" which had achieved nothing.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Augusto Pinochet never stood trial. In July 2002 Chile's Supreme Court upheld a controversial verdict that found him mentally unfit to stand trial for human rights crimes. A few days later General Pinochet resigned his post as senator-for-life in Chile's parliament citing health reasons. General Pinochet died aged 91 in Santiago in December 2006. Despite his human rights record, many Chileans loved him and said he saved the country from Marxism. But even many loyal supporters abandoned him after it became clear in 2004 that he had stolen about \$27m in secret offshore bank accounts that were under investigation at the time of his death.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've got to take your time today - there's no point in rushing!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your diplomatic nature is making life easier and sweeter for you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You can't quite get your family to understand your feelings today - which can be really hard on you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your eye for detail is strengthened today, so see if you can make the most of it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You aren't feeling very extravagant today - maybe because of your recent binges.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your systems for keeping organized are paying off today - so make the most of them!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Can you keep still and avoid action today? If so, you should be just fine - but otherwise, things might start to get really weird for you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 New information comes your way that shakes things up - most likely for the better!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are getting on your nerves today - so much so that you may want to run away screaming!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone needs to hear your voice - most likely someone you haven't spoken with in months!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Details are all-important, and you need to work through them today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can get more out of your relationships than you may expect - thanks to at least one important person who gives you the key to understanding.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Ready to hit; 6- Money; 10- December day, briefly; 14- A bit, colloquially; 15- Winglike parts; 16- Aviation prefix; 17- ___ by land...; 18- Ike's ex; 19- At no time, poetically; 20- Index finger; 22- Flat...; 23- Author Hunter; 24- A Kennedy; 26- Texas dance; 30- Codes of ceremonies; 34- Ancient Greek colony; 35- Bath powder; 36- VCR button; 37- Very, in Versailles; 38- Inexpensive cigar; 40- "Whip It" band; 41- Smile center; 42- The Stooges, e.g.; 43- Cartoon part; 44- Agent of retribution; 46- Covered with frost; 48- ___ Aviv; 49- Weapons; 50- Flood survivor; 53- Pert. to the sense of hearing; 59- K-12; 60- Me neither; 61- Start of a Dickens title; 62- Actor Baldwin; 63- Etta of old comics; 64- Scores; 65- Hightails it; 66- An apple ...; 67- Dadaist Max;

DOWN: 1- Beginning on; 2- Up ___ good; 3- Uncle Remus title; 4- End in ___ (draw); 5- Lustrous fabric of silk; 6- Doze; 7- Set straight; 8- Completely without madness; 9- Cordially; 10- Place of contentment; 11- Bump into; 12- Domain; 13- Rifle (through); 21- "___ had it!"; 25- List ender; 26- Saturn's largest moon; 27- More unfavorable; 28- Late bedtime; 29- Bro's counterpart; 30- Sleazy paper; 31- Ain't right?; 32- Embankment; 33- Reprimand; 35- As well; 38- Ceylon, now; 39- ___ the season...; 40- ___ Kapital; 42- Half a fly; 43- Mail charge; 45- Morals; 46- Resembling fruit; 47- Apt. divisions; 49- Artery that feeds the trunk; 50- Oscar winner Patricia; 51- Earthen pot; 52- Excuse me; 54- Like some dorms; 55- Like ___ not; 56- James of "The Godfather"; 57- ___ well...; 58- For fear that



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact information.

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau and Taipa, including details like location, size, and price.

JML Property logo and branding, including the text '卓雅物業' and 'Since 1994'.

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185 ps and 7-speed +/- CVT transmission seal, reduce the fuel consumption by 22.3% to 13.7km/L. Monitored by the omniscient 360° multi-view camera system and Smart Parking Assist System. The 300mm ultra low platform design provide convenience for kids and elderly.

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Honda Macau



Blatter concerned by Russian soccer racism before World Cup

Rob Harris

FIFA President Sepp Blatter is concerned by a study that highlighted the scale of Russian soccer's racism problem ahead of the 2018 World Cup, warning there "must be some sanctions" if the extremism is not eradicated.

A report produced by the Fare network, an organization that combats discrimination in football, and the Moscow-based SOVA Center showed that Russia is plagued by a racist and far-right extremist fan culture. "I am aware of the report," Blatter told The Associated Press. "We are concerned, definitely."

Blatter's approach to combating racism faced criticism before FIFA eventually introduced tougher sanctions in 2013, which can see a team being banned from a tournament for repeat offenses by a club or its fans.

Blatter spoke last July to Russian President Vladimir Putin about making the tackling of racism a priority, but cases have continued to blight the 2018



Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure (pictured) called on UEFA to take action against CSKA Moscow after he was subjected to racist chanting during his team's 2-1 win in the Champions League

World Cup host nation, including in high-profile Champions League games.

"Education, definitely is required, and if it does not stop then there must be some sanctions," Blatter said on the sidelines of meeting of football rule-makers. "We have started a big education program with them. They are aware of the situation."

The "Time for Action" report on Russian racism, which the AP revealed on Friday, details

dozens of cases of discriminatory behavior linked to Russian football over two seasons and warned that "it will be difficult to ensure the safety of visitors" to the World Cup. It followed Tokyo Sexwale, an adviser to FIFA's anti-racism task force, telling the AP recently that black people are "scared of going to Moscow."

The Fare network wants sanctions for discriminatory conduct consistently applied by the Russian football authorities, a plan created to take on far-right groups and diversity actively promoted in host cities.

"Racism is one of the items which is on my agenda on the very top, every day," Blatter said. "But every day unfortunately, we have racist demonstration somewhere in the world and we have to fight that."

"I just have a discussion with Tokyo Sexwale on this matter and we will have somewhere a meeting at the end of March because there must be some ways to have solutions because it cannot (go on)." AP

NBA

Anthony Mason, New York Knicks star for hometown, dies at 48

ANTHONY Mason, a mainstay on the defensive-minded New York Knicks team that finished one win from a National Basketball Association title in 1994, has died. He was 48.

The Knicks announced his death on the team's website Saturday, calling him "an iconic member of the franchise during his five-year stint for the orange and blue." The 6-foot-7, 250-pound forward known as "Mase" underwent surgery at a New York Hospital following a heart attack last month.

Mason, who played high school basketball in the city, starred on his hometown Knicks for five of his 13 NBA seasons and became known as a relentless defender.

He was an integral part of the 1993-1994 Pat Riley-coached team that included Patrick Ewing and John Starks. Mason's haircuts, often featuring "Mase" or "Knicks" shaved into the side of his head, reflected his on-court flair.

New York rap trio Beastie Boys mentioned him in their 1994 song "B-Boys Makin' With the Freak

Freak," singing "I got my hair cut correct like Anthony Mason, then I ride the IRT right up to Penn Station." Mason also was featured in the group's "Root Down" music video.

Anthony George Douglas Mason was born on Dec. 14, 1966, in Miami. He was raised in Queens, New York, by his mother, Mary Mason, who worked as a switchboard operator in Manhattan's garment district, according to a 1995 profile in Newsday.

A left-hander with a passing touch uncommon in players his size, Mason became a fan-favorite in New York for his background and bruising play both offensively and defensively. The Knicks defense allowed the fewest points in the NBA in 1992-93 and 1993-94.

"As a competitor there was none fiercer than Anthony Mason," Knicks President Phil Jackson said in a statement.

Over his career, Mason averaged 10.9 points, 8.3 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game. He played in 96 postseason games with four different franchises. **Bloomberg**

AD

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第九部份
PARTE 9

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澳門特色兔仔燈籠
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LANTERNAS DO COELHINHO
TRADICIONAIS E CRIATIVAS
Uma Exposição de Carlos Marreiros e Amigos

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A PLACE ALL CAN CALL HOME

*"A weed from catholic Europe, it took root
Between some yellow mountains and a sea,
Its gay stone houses an exotic fruit,
A Portugal-cum-China oddity.*

*Rococo images of Saint and Saviour
Promise its gamblers fortunes when they die,
Churches alongside brothels testify
That faith can pardon natural behavior."*

W.H. Auden

Sometimes, after leaving the newsroom late at night, I like to have a stroll in the old Macau. I pass the house where someone once told me the poet Camilo Pessanha lived, and then I head to Senado Square, enjoying the fact that the beautiful Mediterranean square is so quiet and almost empty at that hour. I then walk through the arched sidewalks of the avenue known as "San Ma Lou" (which could be translated as new horse street) and gaze upon the decrepit commercial mansions that stand there. The imposing Hotel Central, once described as Asia's biggest and most luxurious casino (or, as 007 creator Ian Fleming wrote, "the largest house of gambling and self indulgence in the world"), is still operating. Hookers whistle at me as I pass on the opposite sidewalk, evidence that the place "long ago started its descent into shabbiness and eventual demolition," like Wes Anderson's Grand Budapest Hotel.

Some of the mansions here are of Portuguese style, while others – like the Tak Seng Pawnshop – are clearly of Chinese origin, reminiscent of Macau's mixed soul.

Turning left, I enter the famous Rua da Felicidade (Happiness Street), which is deserted at night. The words about the street's heyday uttered by the late Macanese writer Henrique de Senna Fernandes come to mind:

"By day, the Rua da Felicidade was like any other street in the Bazaar. The windows of the 'flower houses' remained shut, because their residents were fast asleep after the previous night's harvest. In the early afternoon, one could hear the clacking of mah-jong tablets and the plucking of string instruments as pupils set out on their apprenticeship to become sing-song girls. As evening fell, the lanterns were lit, and one by one, the houses were illuminated. That was when the sing-song girls, or *pei-pa-chais*, began to get dressed, to put on their carmine make-up, and perfume themselves. The fussiest among them spent hours in this ritual, surrounded by *mui-tchais* and the apprentices, who later on would become sing-song girls themselves." [translated by David Brookshaw from the book *Nam Van*]

I walk down the street and head to the Inner Harbor. Once a hub for fishermen and "tanca-reiras" (tanka women), the place has lost the close relationship with the waterfront it once had. A lot has been destroyed in the district. Centenary houses were replaced by uncharacteristic buildings. But some of the ancient residences are still there, magnificently beautiful at night, transporting us to former times. My stroll ends close to the churches of St Joseph and St Lawrence, at the heart of what was once called the "Christian City."

Macau strikes me as a vintage place where these old remnants and stories mix with the effervescence of the casinos and the neon exuberance. Religious and debauched at the same time. Decadently old but still full of novelties and surprises. It is sometimes incomprehensible for those who try to decipher its multiple layers, yet a place all can call home.

THE BUZZ ZIMBABWE'S MUGABE CELEBRATES 91ST BIRTHDAY

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe marked his 91st birthday by speaking for more than an hour on his feet Saturday, delivering a characteristically defiant speech in which he threatened to take over land and animal sanctuaries still in the hands of whites. Mugabe's robust performance during a lavish party in the resort town of Victoria Falls seemed designed to dispel any speculation that old age was slowing him down

following a recent fall at Harare's main airport. Mugabe's birthday was on Feb. 21.

Thousands of people packed the grounds of a hotel to praise the man who has led Zimbabwe since independence in 1980, and youth officials who organized the event encouraged Mugabe to rule until he dies. Mugabe won disputed elections in 2013; he would be 94 during the next elections in 2018.

Police launch probe into baby's death at public hospital



Catarina Pinto

POLICE authorities have launched a probe into the death of a five-month-old baby who died after consuming prescription medication from Conde de São Januário Central Hospital (CHCSJ) on February 19, the Health Bureau said in a statement.

The bureau added that it is also investigating the case internally. As a police investigation is now underway, it cannot "disclose any further information at this stage."

According to Hong Kong's Apple Daily, the baby died on February 19 after being prescribed with the antiemetic Domperidona, and the anti-allergy medicine Dime-tindeno. Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho revealed that his office has assisted the parents in filing a complaint

with the Judiciary Police.

The lawmaker told The Times that the baby's parents contacted his office for assistance. Coutinho and Leong Veng Chai's office will be holding a press conference regarding the case this afternoon.

"We would like to have further details on the baby's cause of death because the autopsy report only states that he died from 'sudden infant death syndrome,'" Coutinho said in a phone interview.

Furthermore, the lawmaker recalled that the autopsy report does not provide information on what happened at the hospital.

The Times reported last week that the family have cast suspicion over a doctor who they believe might have misunderstood the infant's condition. Hong Kong news-

paper Apple Daily reported that the boy's parents had brought him to the hospital after regurgitating milk on the morning of February 19. There, he was allegedly prescribed with the antiemetic Domperidona and the anti-allergy medicine Dime-tindeno.

His condition, however, did not improve and his lips turned purple two hours later. He was sent back to CHCSJ, where another doctor diagnosed him with sepsis. The baby then went into shock and died that evening.

Coutinho also stressed that the family was required to wait for some time on both occasions when they rushed to the public hospital's emergency room. He stressed his concern about the baby's cause of death, and that the infant's parents were questioning whether the treatment was appropriate. The boy's father, quoted by Apple Daily, said that the baby had always been healthy, although he suffered from favism (a genetic disorder triggered by the lack of a specific enzyme) and from a minor heart problem. He questioned whether the first doctor had underestimated the seriousness of his son's condition, thus failing to prescribe the proper medication.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

UK Newly published emails suggest the man who became known as "Jihadi John" had suicidal thoughts before leaving Britain for Syria. In an email exchange with the Mail on Sunday five years ago, he talked of taking too many sleeping pills and sleeping forever as a way to get away from British security service scrutiny. Mohammed Emwazi told a journalist at the newspaper in an email that he felt like a "dead man walking."

GERMANY-GREECE Germany's finance minister says he trusts Greece's current government to fulfill the conditions for the bailout deal, but also made clear the country would not receive any further money if it didn't. German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble told German newspaper Bild am Sonntag yesterday that "I trust them to implement the needed measures ... and to ultimately fulfill its obligations."

USA NASA astronauts ventured out yesterday on their third spacewalk in just over a week to complete an extensive, tricky cable job at the International Space Station.



SIERRA LEONE's vice president has put himself in quarantine following the death from Ebola of one of his security guards. Vice President Samuel Sam-Sumana is set to become acting president later Sunday when President Ernest Bai Koroma leaves Sierra Leone to attend a European Union conference on Ebola in Belgium. Sam-Sumana will carry out his duties as president from his home.

VENEZUELA will shrink the size of the U.S. Embassy staff, limit the activities of U.S. diplomats and require American citizens to apply for visas if they want to come bask on the beach. More on p14

BRAZILIAN authorities said Saturday they arrested a self-professed minister put on a U.S. most-wanted list for allegedly molesting two girls in a "Maidens Group" at his religious fellowship in rural Minnesota.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The "Parade for the Celebration of the Year of the Ram", organized by the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO), made its second appearance in the northern Macau district Saturday night in a bid to continue the city's festive ambience for locals and tourists alike.