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The Future Pavilion showcases products and services from 12 Portuguese enterprises that are eyeing the Chinese market

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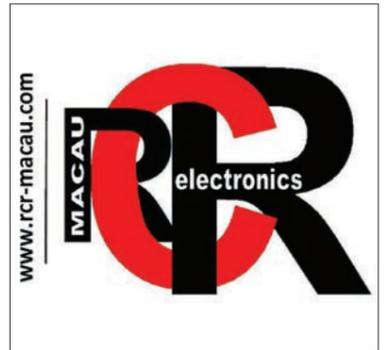
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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

### WORLD BRIEFS



**SINGAPORE** yesterday sentenced two German men to three strokes of a rattan cane and nine months in prison after they were found guilty of vandalizing a public train carriage, according to court documents. The two men were identified as 22-year-old Andreas Von Knorre and 21-year-old Elton Hinz.

**CHINA** Jackie Chan might still be popular in China, but nowadays the pro-Beijing actor is as well-known as fodder for jokes as he is for his gritty martial arts and slapstick humor on screen. His latest contribution to the country's mass culture and entertainment: "duang." More on p10

**MYANMAR** Police have cracked down on students and other activists opposing Myanmar's new education law, charging protesters with batons and dragging them into trucks at a landmark pagoda in the heart of the old capital, Yangon.

**UKRAINE** A rebel-held city scarred by months of conflict in eastern Ukraine suffers more tragedy when a methane gas explosion in a coal mine kills at least 24 workers and leaves nine missing. As rescue efforts stretch past sundown, separatist authorities are accused by Ukraine's government of failing to do enough to save the lives of the miners.

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# Asian casinos woo Chinese as corruption drive hits Macau



At the oceanfront Ramada Plaza hotel on South Korea's Jeju island, about a hundred Chinese gamblers huddle around felt-topped tables, wagering as much as 5 million won (USD4,500) at baccarat. Shouts in Mandarin - "Beautiful!", "Good!" - ring out as bettors with winning hands slam their cards on the green table-tops.

Asian casino operators from South Korea to Australia are pulling in China's gamblers as the country's corruption crackdown scares many away from Macau, the world's biggest gambling hub. They are capitalizing on a downturn in the city's gaming industry, which last month suffered its worst drop ever.

Operators such as Paradise Co. in South Korea are hiring Mandarin-speaking staff and offering VIP treatment including free flights, limousines and hotel stays to big spenders. Echo Entertainment Group Ltd. of Sydney and NagaCorp Ltd. in Cambodia cater to the junket operators who organize trips for Chinese gamblers with perks such as higher commissions, lower taxes and private jets.

"Premium mass players can be recognized as VIP players and treated better than in Ma-

cau," said Lee Hyuk-Byung, vice chairman of Paradise, in an interview in Seoul. "And we have other attractions in Korea such as culture, fashion, food."

Macau casino revenue fell last year for the first time and may decline another 8 percent this year, according to analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. By contrast, South Korea and the Philippines will grow 16 percent and 33 percent respectively this year, gaining from the spillover of Chinese gamblers, Deutsche Bank analyst Karen Tang wrote in a note.

Li Gang, director of China's Macau Liaison Office, yesterday reiterated President Xi Jinping call for the city to diversify from casinos.

"The anti-corruption measures are discouraging some

**Premium mass players can be recognized as VIP players and treated better than in Macau**

LEE HYUK-BYUNG

people from traveling to Macau, and as a result we are seeing a slight shift in travel from Macau to other destinations," said Aaron Fischer, a Hong Kong-based analyst at CLSA Ltd. "Vietnam and Philippines will likely benefit as they are the closest. Korea will pick up people in the northern parts of China."

Paradise shares closed 1.6 percent higher in Seoul trading, while the benchmark Kospi index was little changed. Macau casino shares mostly fell in Hong Kong trading, with Wynn Macau Ltd. closing down 3.5 percent, Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. down 2.6 percent, and Sands China Ltd. down 2.3 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index closed 1.1 percent lower.

Gamblers who bet at least USD50,000 at Paradise's casinos qualify for freebies usually available only to VIP players, Lee said. In Macau, the minimum needed to get similar perks from junket operators is about \$500,000, according to CLSA data. The company also draws Chinese gamblers to the celebrity-obsessed country by touting its pop culture and offering recommendations of top Korean plastic surgeons, Lee said.

Operators have more ris-

qué offerings too. A gambler who exchanges 300,000 yuan (\$48,000) worth of chips can receive free flights to Jeju, tours with a Mandarin-speaking guide, and the companionship of a "third-tier" Korean actress or model, according to an e-mailed brochure from Shanghai-based tour operator CNS. A CNS travel agent, who would only give her name as "Xiao Qi", confirmed the services when contacted by phone.

It's illegal for foreign companies to advertise casino operations in China and Paradise avoids public solicitations, Lee said. Its staff reaches out to high-stakes gamblers recommended by existing customers and makes frequent trips to major Chinese cities including Beijing and Shanghai, he added.

Companies are able to sidestep China's ban on casino marketing by advertising non-gaming aspects such as a concert or entertainment show held on its venue, said Grant Govertsen, an analyst at Union Gaming Group in Macau.

"Junket operators own restaurants, night clubs, they sponsor golf tournaments and other getaways," Govertsen said in an interview. "There is

plenty of stuff a junket could advertise in a mass-market sort of format."

Still, foreign operators' efforts to attract China's gamblers have caught the notice of local authorities, which announced last month a crackdown on representative offices that "attract and recruit Chinese citizens" to casinos.

Manila's members-only Signature Club in Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd.'s City of Dreams casino has entrance signs in both English and Chinese, while Mandarin-speaking staff direct guests to cashiers, shops, and restaurants. The neighboring Solaire Resort and Casino owned by Bloomberry Resorts Corp. has suckling pig and Peking duck on the menu, catering to Chinese palates.

"There are a lot of excuses to go the Philippines; we always promote the Philippines not on the casino but the whole package," Cristino Naguiat, chairman at gaming regular Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp., said in an interview. "Even with the crackdown in China, we still had higher volume in terms of gross gaming revenue and in terms of junket and VIPs," he said last month in Manila.

South Korea is preparing to welcome more Chinese gamblers after tourist arrivals from the country rose last year to 6.1 million, with new casinos planned including at Incheon Airport.

On Jeju island, junket operators have set up shop to offer gambling chips on loan, a service common in Macau that helps bettors sidestep China's limits on taking currency out of the country.

Competition between the island's eight foreigner-only casinos has led to a flourishing of more than 100 unlicensed junket operators and their agents on the island, said Seo Won-Seok, a hotel and tourism management professor at Kyunghee University in Seoul.

As Chinese gamblers become more important, there's a need to better regulate the growth of the junket operators that bring them, he said. "Our casino industry may be too dependent on the Chinese market and that means there is always risk from China's government policy," Seo said. "I think that's the downside -- too many Chinese in Korea."

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# Li Keqiang supports 'one country, two systems' principle

CHINA'S premier Li Keqiang yesterday expressed support for the "one country, two systems" principle governing Hong Kong and Macau, unlike last year when he chose not to address such matters.

Delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the annual National People's Congress meeting, Li Keqiang stressed that the "one country, two systems" policy should continue governing both SARs. He recalled that Macau and Hong Kong enjoy "a high degree of autonomy in strict compliance with the Basic Laws."

The Chinese premier also expressed support for the government and the Chief Executives of each SAR. Mr Li called for "governance in accordance to the Basic Law, as well as the promotion of democracy; economic development and harmony to offer residents a better quality of life."

Meanwhile, he encouraged Macau, Hong Kong and China to further cooperate in various sectors.



Mr Li believes that with the central government's support, Macau and Hong Kong can boost their competitiveness to ensure a period of prosperity and stability in the longer term.

Li Keqiang's speech focused mainly on economic issues as he set out the country's economic goals. He unveiled a lower growth target while pledging tighter environmental controls, the BBC reported.

Li Gang, director of China's Macau Liaison Office, yesterday reiterated Chinese president Xi

Jinping's call for the city to diversify from casinos. Gambling revenue in Macau declined by 48.9 percent last month as the anti-graft crackdown meant officials didn't dare to visit, coupled with stricter rules and the country's economic slowdown he said during a session of the NPC meeting held in Beijing.

Macau's process to diversify its economy will take between 20 to 30 years to complete, and the government should strengthen its efforts to achieve this, Li Gang added. CP

## Rental rates stabilizing due to fall in gaming revenue

According to JML Property, the first quarter of this year saw a slowdown in rental rates, which was largely attributable to the city's decreasing demand for rental property, as some resort hotels and casinos have reduced costs spent on staffing in the face of plummeting gaming revenues. Nevertheless, the territory's overall demand for budget apartments of MOP15,000 and under still remains high. It is expected that for the upcoming months rental rates will likely still stay constant and stabilized.

## January hotel occupancy down 8 percent year-on-year

Hotel occupancy has fallen by 8 percent year-on-year in January, with a total of 803,000 guests recorded checking into hotels and guesthouses, according to the latest data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The figures indicate that the number of guests from mainland China has decreased by 2.6% to 533,000, while those from the neighboring SAR tumbled by 31.7% to 76,000. Tourists' average length of stay stayed stable at 1.4 nights. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses dropped by 1.5% points year-on-year to 79.4%, with five-star hotels leading at 80.6%, down by 2.5% points.

## HK-bound flights divert to Macau, Shenzhen

Strong winds at Hong Kong International Airport led some HK bound flights to divert to nearby cities yesterday, according to the city's Airport Authority. Between 6 a.m. and 3 p.m., 10 incoming flights were diverted to Macau or Shenzhen because of weather problems. Six flights approaching the airport had to circle above due to the influence of strong winds, the HK Civil Aviation Department said.

### ONE SHOT NEWS



Chui Sai On poses for a group photo with Macau's deputies to the NPC in Beijing yesterday



The CE with local members of the National Committee of the CPPCC

AD

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## EPM launches Open Day

The Portuguese School of Macau (EPM) will be holding an Open Day tomorrow addressing its current student community, prospective students and the public in general, said vice-principal Zélia Mieiro. The school will be open between 10am and 5pm, with a series of activities planned to capture the attention of different visitors. Ms Mieiro revealed that specific activities were planned for prospective students looking to enroll or know more about the school's Preparatory Year for foreign students. The Preparatory Year, which was implemented in 2009/2010, is an intensive one-year program comprising mainly of Portuguese classes for foreigners. Ms Mieiro said that two students enrolled in the Preparatory Year, one in elementary and the other already in secondary school, will be sharing their experience with those visiting the school tomorrow. Other activities include musical and theatre performances, and the inauguration of a rock-climbing wall. Currently, the school has about 557 students from 22 different nationalities.

## Mandarin Oriental probes potential credit card breach

Upscale hotel chain Mandarin Oriental says that it is investigating a potential credit card breach at its hotels. "Unfortunately, incidents of this nature are increasingly becoming an industry-wide concern," the company said in an emailed statement. Mandarin Oriental said that it is cooperating with credit card agencies and forensic specialists. The company didn't disclose how many hotels were affected, nor how many customers had reported fraudulent charges on their credit cards. Mandarin Oriental operates hotels across the world, including in Paris, Shanghai, Hong Kong, London, New York, Miami, San Francisco, Prague, Boston, Las Vegas, Macau and Barcelona.

## FUTURE PAVILION

# Portuguese companies showcase the future of technology

Catarina Pinto

A fog screen projection and an interactive shop window that allows us to quickly access product information and prices are just two of the technologies on display at the Future Pavilion, which is open until today at the Friendship Square.

Brought to town by LoginPT, a Portuguese platform for the promotion of tech companies, which was created by the National Association of IT and Electronics Companies (ANETIE), the fair opened on Wednesday and showcased products and services from 12 Portuguese enterprises that are eyeing the Chinese market.

Eduardo Pinto, project manager of visual arts studio "We Are Interactive," told reporters yesterday that his company had been invited to display some of their multimedia products here. Among them is a fog screen projection, which easily cap-



tures the attention of those dropping by the Pavilion.

Also known as a vapor screen, it displays messages and videos through a system that uses haze machines or water vapor to create a semi-transparent wall – a kind of thin "fog curtain" – that serves as a translucent projection screen.

"We produce multimedia content, especially for corporate events or for brand-launching events. We are not only sitting at a computer and designing stages; we strive to create interactive products that are custom-made," he stressed.

Mr Pinto acknowledged that LoginPT's project helped them to get a first sense

of the market here: "This is our first step into this market. We have already made a few contacts, and let's see if they bear fruit."

The vice-president of ANETIE, António Ramos Costa, stressed that the Pavilion helps companies to showcase recent technologies that have been developed in Portugal. "These are existent technologies that will be part of our future on a daily basis one day. Some of these technologies will take more time to mature, while others are quite cemented," he added.

According to Mr Costa, these technologies – the first non-military water drone is among them for instance – address a global market, as

they can be used and implemented across the globe.

The Future Pavilion has been to other cities across the world, namely Madrid, Warsaw, Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town and Maputo. Macau wraps it up as the Future Pavilion's roadshow comes to an end. Mr Costa stated, "Macau is the right place to start off in China, as there's a connection with the Portuguese community here," which he says facilitates communication and perhaps will allow a smoother entry for these companies into the mainland Chinese market.

Having opened yesterday to mainly address companies interested in this type of technology, the Future Pavilion opens today to the general public.

LoginPT was launched three years ago as a platform for the promotion of IT companies.

The Future Pavilion project was funded by ANETIE and by European Union funds.

AD



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Catarina Pinto

**H**IT Andrew Lloyd Webber musical “Cats” returns to town tonight, with its famed characters taking the stage at The Venetian Theatre for a set of shows running up until March 15. The senior vice president of marketing at Sands China, Scott Messinger, told the Times in an interview that the operator will be focusing on Broadway-style entertainment as part of its strategy to strengthen Sands China’s non-gaming offerings.

“A new facet [of our strategy] is bringing Broadway-style entertainment here, which is a concept that our sister company in Singapore has done very effectively,” he stressed.

Mr Messinger added, “Cats” is almost like a no-brainer to bring to Macau,” particularly since it is regarded as one of the most successful shows of all time, being celebrated not only on Broadway and West End stages, but also on others across the globe.

“It’s probably the most successful touring show in China, whether it’s Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou, over the years. So, it’s our pleasure to be able to bring this caliber of production to Macau over the course of 13 performances,” he reiterated.

The senior vice president of marketing emphasized that the operator is striving to focus on both ends of the consumer spectrum, through aiming to provide affordable ticket prices. “The average price overall is very low and that’s not by mistake. Frankly, we don’t want to bring this kind of entertainment to Macau and price it in a way that it’s out of [the population’s] reach,” he added.

He highlighted Sands China’s commitment to providing non-gaming options to both tourists and residents. Through its community outreach program, the operator attempts to encourage team members, and at ti-

SCOTT MESSINGER

# ‘Cats is almost like a no-brainer to bring to Macau’



Scott Messinger



The cast of Cats

mes even performers, to engage with the local community.

Composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, “Cats” premiered in London on May 11, 1981, at the New London Theatre. In the following year, the show premiered at Broadway’s Winter Garden Theatre. The music would remain on Broadway until September 2000, having been performed 7,485 times. This gave “Cats” the title of the longest-running musical in Broadway’s history for almost ten years, before the show was overtaken in 2006 by Lloyd Webber’s “The Phantom of the Opera”.

“Cats” debuted in Macau at the Cultural Centre over the Christmas of 2007. The show returns here with Paul White as musical director. White has worked on several major productions over the past 25 years.

Some of the show’s characters

## ■ Sands China will be focusing on Broadway-style entertainment as part of its strategy to strengthen the operator’s non-gaming offering

were based on T. S. Eliot’s “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats” (1939), which Lloyd Webber has recalled as a childhood favorite. It tells the story of the “Jellicle Cats” who come out to play at night in a rubbish dump. Mr Messinger stated that The

Venetian’s premises are geared with the type of resources that a show like “Cats” demands. He acknowledged that the operator has a lot of resources dedicated to the show, but that team members are also looking into other non-gaming elements and entertainment events simultaneously.

“We have an enormous advantage because of our physical plan; there are not many venues like the Venetian theatre in this part of the world. It’s loaded with the kinds of right technology, [enabling] a show like ‘Cats’ but also an awards ceremony,” he stated.

Furthermore, Mr Messinger noted that the MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions) sector is in the company’s DNA. “So, the property and our entire infrastructure is geared toward pulling off large-scale productions, large-scale integrated events (...),” he added.

As Macau’s government urges operators to enhance their non-gaming offerings, Sands says that it hopes to continue exploring new opportunities in order to bring events and activities that run separately to its casino operations. “I think everyone is aware of ‘Beauty and the Beast’, which will be coming here for a six-week extended stay,” Mr Messinger pointed out, ad-

ding that the operator will focus on bringing both Western and Asian acts.

“Our principal costumers are coming from mainland China. They like to see the concert shows, and I’d say most of the time they’re looking to see Asian stars,” he acknowledged.

Mr Messinger hinted that it’s been difficult to balance Western and Asian acts. However, the operator always needs to take Western tour schedules into consideration and to see whether they will be heading here.

“The challenge is more to understand if the Western tours are going to come through this area. A lot of them come through with very elaborate and very costly productions, and we have to determine whether we can monetize that stop. Because it doesn’t do as much good to bring in a very expensive act and then expect either the Hong Kong residents or the mainland Chinese tourists to pay a very heavy ticket price,” he recognized.

The “Cats” performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, running from March 6–15, 2015 (no show on March 9). Tickets are priced at HKD/MOP680 (A Reserve), 480 (B Reserve) and 280 (C Reserve).

## ‘Now You See Me 2’ to be filmed in The Venetian Macao

**T**HE American production “Now You See Me: The Second Act” will be filmed in The Venetian Macao later this month. Sands China’s Senior Vice President of Marketing, Scott Messinger, revealed in an interview with the Times. “We will be filming a major motion sequel here. I believe it’s the first time we’ve made a major Hollywood production here.”

“I think everyone will be pleased to see what’s happening here. It very positively showcases Macau, and it will be something we look forward to seeing,” he added.

The Times had reported last month that “Now You See Me: The Second Act” would be filmed in Macau. Producers are already recruiting movie extras to play clients and ca-

sino employees, Lusa news agency reported. The first instalment, “Now You See Me,” was released in 2013 and, according to IMDb, depicted the story of an FBI agent and an Interpol detective tracking down a team of illusionists who pull off bank heists during their performances and reward audiences with the money. The sequel’s plot is yet to be disclosed.

Sands China’s strategy to enhance non-gaming elements, namely related to cinema, include another film festival this year, Mr Messinger revealed. “We will be announcing later in the year a major film festival [that will be] built around a noted actor of Chinese heritage,” he stated.

### ‘MAJOR WESTERN STAR’ PERFORMS IN SEPT

**THE SENIOR** Vice President of Marketing at Sands China, Scott Messinger, has told the Times that “another major Western act” will be coming to the Venetian in September this year. “We will continue to focus on Western acts, like the Katy Perry [concert in May]. I can’t announce acts that have not been signed, but I suspect you’ll see another major Western star performing here in September,” he revealed.

Brook Yang

BOXING

# Zou Shiming ready to make history in first world title fight

A champion gold belt will finally be within reach for China's Olympic hero, Zou Shiming, when he takes on defending International Boxing Federation (IBF) flyweight champion Amnat Ruenroeng on Saturday evening in Macau's Cotai Arena.

"This March 7 is going to be a moment when I make and witness my own history," Zou said at the pre-fight press conference, which was held in The Venetian Macao yesterday. "For this battle, I have put in a painstaking effort with my trainer and my team."

"Today happens to be my coach Freddie's birthday. I know the perfect birthday gift for you and I'll get it for you on March 7," Zou said to his trainer Freddie Roach.

Zou (6-0, 1 KO), as the rated world number one flyweight contender, will attempt to become the first Chinese Olympic gold medalist to win a professional world title when he challenges Ruenroeng (14-0, 5 KOs) from Thailand.

Since his debut in Macau in April 2013, Zou has shown remarkable pace, making his way towards the world title bout in only six pro fights. He said that his trainer and team have felt a little overwhelmed at the speed of his rise.

"Only I myself know how tough it has been to go through every hour of training. One day, I told



## 'The Macau Kid' aims to extend his winning streak

Freddie that I wanted to take a rest because I was so exhausted. But I couldn't. They had to ask more of me in training, because we were aiming for [me to become] a world champion. That normally takes three to four years to achieve," said the boxer.

Aware of his own effort, Zou said he believes that his ability fits that of a world champion. "It's just a matter of time," he said. "This fight I'm definitely going to win."

In 2012, when Zou Shiming carried on his form in amateur boxing to win another gold medal for China, Ruenroeng turned professional. Beginning with a victory to win the belt he now wears, Ruenroeng wrapped up a highly successful 2014, in which he defended his title twice with two hard-fought split-decisions.

"I cannot give the belt to Zou Shiming, I'll bring back the belt to

Thailand. I'm confident," Ruenroeng responded to his challenger.

On Saturday's "Showdown at Sands" fight night, the arena will also see seven undercard bouts, including: an IBF light welterweight title eliminator, which features unbeaten Chinese puncher Ik Yang; a WBA international super flyweight title bout, featuring Hong Kong's Rex Tso; and a NABO junior middleweight title contest between Australian Daniel Dawson and American boxer Glen Tapia.

The local sensation, "The Macau Kid" Ng Kuok Kun, is aiming to extend his winning streak to seven successive wins by defeating Thailand's Chinghai Kiatpracha

in a six-round super welterweight bout.

"Having achieved a longer unbeaten record brings greater pressure, but I'll regard it as encouragement for me to win all the way and achieve my goal of ten successive victories," he said.

Prior to the final press conference, Top Rank CEO Bob Arum announced that "The Wonder Kid" Tso has joined Zou Shiming and Ik Yang as one of the promoter's signed Chinese boxers, and that Tso will have his first world title fight in Macau this July.

"We are doing a lot of fights now in mainland China, and hopefully we'll have a whole group of very good Chinese fighters," said the promoter.

### UNDERCARDS SHOWCASE SKILLS IN OPEN WORKOUT

UNDERCARD BOXERS participated in an open workout session at The Venetian Macao's West Lobby yesterday morning, attracting a number of visitors to the casino resort who gathered to witness the fighters' ring skills ahead of the upcoming fight night.

AD



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# Sin City water grab pits Mammon against Mormons as West dries up

Edvard Pettersson

**I**T'S Mammon versus Mormon as Las Vegas and its glittering towers of glass and greed seek to quench their growing thirst by draining billions of gallons of water from under the feet of ranchers whose cattle help feed the church's poor.

The biblical battle across 275 miles of treeless ridges and baked salt flats comes as the western U.S. faces unprecedented droughts linked to climate change.

The surface of Las Vegas's main source of water, Lake Mead, sits more than 100 feet below Hoover Dam's spillways after reaching the lowest mark last summer since the dam was filled. As it seeks new sources, the city's water supplier is waging a court fight over plans to suck as much as 27 billion gallons a year from the valley that is home to the Mormon ranch and its 1,750-head herd, as well as three other rural valleys.

Casino resorts, five of which are Southern Nevada's largest commercial water users, labor unions and the developer of a 22,500-acre mini-city west of Las Vegas argue their future depends on the water supply that the church, Indian tribes and environmental groups say is needed by local communities.

The fight, likely to echo across the increasingly arid West, conjures up the Los Angeles water grab, made famous in the 1974 movie "Chinatown," that turned the once prosperous Owens Valley into a dust bowl.

As cities including Denver



AP PHOTO

and Phoenix look to secure water for growing populations and economies, the prospect of mega-droughts, more severe and sustained than any in the 20th Century, looms over Nevada's court battle, with one pipeline opponent calling it the "poster child" for future showdowns.

The 7,000-acre Cleveland Ranch, established in Spring Valley in 1873 by Maine native Abner "Old Cleve" Cleveland and bought in 2000 by the Mormon Church, sits atop an aquifer a dozen-plus miles to the north of Route 50, known

from postcards as "America's Loneliest Highway."

The ranch, owned by the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, is worked by a combination of paid employees, church missionaries and other volunteers, according to a history of the ranch. The calves, after they are weaned, are shipped to an Idaho feed lot and then to a processing plant, where some of the meat is frozen or canned as stew and beef chunks for distribution around the world.

If the Southern Nevada Water Authority wins in court, its proposed groundwater project may leave the valley to sage brush and coyotes, according to lawyers for the church and environmentalists.

"This is a huge project that raises fundamental questions," said Paul Hejmanowski, a lawyer for the church. "Can we sacrifice an ancient way of life for a growing metropolis?"

So far, the ranch and other project opponents have fended off Las Vegas, convincing a judge in 2013 that there was

insufficient scientific evidence for the state engineer's decision to award the water rights.

The Nevada Resorts Association, the Nevada AFL-CIO, representing members of 120 unions, and developer Howard Hughes Corp. have thrown their support behind the water authority's and state engineer's petitions to the state Supreme Court for help. A hearing before the court hasn't been scheduled.

"There are no other alternatives available, and it would increase the region's water security," said Virginia Valentine, president of the casino and resort trade group. "Our infrastructure needs to be there."

The five resorts – the Wynn Las Vegas, Mandalay Bay, Venetian, Bellagio and Caesars Palace – consumed 2.4 billion gallons in 2013, according to the water authority. Other large users include the golf and country clubs that surround Las Vegas, an area whose population has almost tripled since 1990 to 2 million.

The leisure and hospitality sector employs 28 percent of Nevada's workforce and the taxes it pays make up 47 percent of the state's general fund.

Those economics may doom Cleveland Ranch even if pipeline opponents have a good case, said Jeffrey Dintzer, a lawyer specializing in water-rights issues with Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP in Los Angeles who isn't involved in the dispute.

"Money talks," Dintzer said. "Nevada gets a huge amount of its revenue from gaming."

**Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MACAU CITY OF DREAMS "IMPERIAL KITCHEN" WITH GUEST CHEF PHILIPPE ARRAMBIDE

Located in the City of Dreams Crown Towers Macau, Michelin star restaurant "Imperial Kitchen" will be specially inviting a guest chef from the Michelin-starred restaurant Les Pyrenees in southern France on March 20-21 (Friday-Saturday). Chef Philippe Arrambide, together with "Imperial Kitchen" Executive Chef Guillaume Galliot, will together to present a series of French delicacies to the public.

The two-day, six-course dinner, in full Michelin star French authentic style, will include mussels and smoked salmon with green lentils with asparagus foam, crayfish with caviar cream with green apple and parsley, slow-cooked French lobster with saffron risotto and squid ink, French roast pigeon with bacon and green onions with beans and a special dessert.



### ZHONGSHAN EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN BUSINESS FORUM

Organized by the Zhongshan Foreign Affairs Bureau, supported by Delta Bridges, The Zhongshan European and American Business Forum will take place on Saturday 28th March 2015 at the Zhongshan Expo Center and the Dasin Convention Center Hotel.

Senior municipal government officials will attend the Forum, including Mr. Xue Xiaofeng, Party Secretary of Zhongshan, and Mr. Chen Liangxian, Zhongshan's Mayor.

The objective is to connect international business and technology related service providers with the 300 local Zhongshan companies that will attend the Forum.

The Forum is part of a larger event, the Zhongshan Trade and Investment Fair, taking place at the same location and lasting from Saturday 28th March until Monday 30th March.

### TENMASA AT ALTIRA KAISEKI RYORI JAPANESE HAUTE CUISINE BY GUEST CHEF FUMIHIRO SUGURO

Kaiseki Ryori is a traditional Japanese haute cuisine. The term also refers to the collection of skills and techniques that allow the preparation of each course, and are reminiscent of haute cuisine.

Fumihiko Suguro, Director Chef of Shizuoka Hotel Century in Japan, is coming to Macau to collaborate with Chef Takenori Noguchi, Tenmasa's Chef de Cuisine, bringing Japanese cuisine of utmost delicacy – Kaiseki Ryori for two nights only on March 19 and 20. Intricately tied to Japanese culinary philosophy, Kaiseki Ryori features the best ingredients of the season, prepared to highlight their distinctive flavors and textures.



REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The Most Important Questions To Ask..... Final Part

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

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JULIET RISDON

Over the last two weeks we have covered 11 important questions for buyers to ask. In case you missed the earlier articles, here is a quick reminder about the series: All property transactions are sizeable when compared with most other decisions. It follows that you would give these transactions the time and effort that they warrant, but this does not always happen. It sometimes isn't so much an issue of motivation, but rather a case of now knowing the right questions to ask. This series deals with the key questions for each party. Knowing the answers to these questions should help to avoid misunderstandings and in many cases will save time, money or both.

When you are buying a property Making a few notes on the questions below may save you hundreds of thousands of dollars on the price of property, but more importantly they may save you from making a bad decision one way or the other. We have already covered 11 important questions. If you missed them, please do send us an e mail at the address at the bottom of the page and we will be happy to send them through to you.

1. What offers have they had so far? The agent is likely tell you if there have been other offers, but may not tell you how much they were. They have a big incentive to agree a price

and make a deal happen, so they may drop some hints or just come out and tell what's on the table. If you can find out about the other offers, it obviously makes it easier to know what you should offer.

2. When do the sellers have to move out? Have the sellers found another home yet? If not you may be able to offer extended closing terms to give them more time, and help your negotiations in the meantime.

3. Do you have noisy neighbors? If the homeowner has lodged any complaints with the police about neighbors, they should disclose this fact to you. Even with good neighbors, there is no guarantee they are going to stay that way, but its better that you know the facts so you can make an informed decision.

4. Before paying a deposit, ask if there are similar properties available? If there are similar properties on the market and the price is less, now is the time to find out. If you pay a deposit and then change your mind, it's too late.....under Macau Law you will forfeit the deposit if you pull out of the deal.

5. Before signing a contract, ask if furniture is included? If the answer

is yes, ask what furniture is included and what isn't? Knowing which pieces of furniture are included in the deal is important, and can save you a lot of headaches. As the buyer, you can specify what stays and what goes, and the more clear you are with this, the better. Don't forget that one of the major costs in Macau is demolition and removal. The limited space, cost of transport and people makes any such exercise a difficult one, unlike other parts of the world where a large skip can be left outside the building with relative ease, and all rubbish dumped in there over the course of the removal.

6. Once a contract is signed, ask the lawyer if they are going to pay the stamp duty for you? Stamp duty must be paid within 30 days of signing an agreement. The law office should take care of this for you, but bearing in that the government will impose a penalty on anyone not paying within the 30 days and the duty is quite expensive (approx 3% of the purchase price), it would be a VERY costly mistake to make.

This concludes this series of important questions for buyers. Over the coming weeks we will be looking at other important questions for tenants, landlords and sellers.



PROJECT POKER

BY CELESTE 'LADYMACE86' ORONA

Unboxed memories

I am not the kind of person who loves traveling. Even though I like visiting new places and meeting new people, after a while I miss my modest apartment and the mundane things of life, like lying on the sofa with my cats or a nice homemade meal. However, going to the Bahamas was a completely different story: I wanted to stay there forever.

It was my first time in the Bahamas and the first time I met most of my fellow Team Pro Online members. Everyone on the team is very nice I had a great time hanging out with them. I was pleasantly surprised to see how down to earth some of the best poker players in the world can be, something that might be rare in a sport like this. It was a huge learning experience for me and it has inspired me to work even harder on my goals and projects. But there was another reason why going back home wasn't the most attractive option this time. As soon as I arrived I had to start packing again, because I'm moving house.

It is often said that moving is one of life's most stressful events after the death of a family member. I have already moved a few times and honestly I don't think it is that bad unless you are an extremely unorganized person. But the idea of trying to make your life fit into boxes is never a pleasant one no matter how many times you have done it before. If you hire a mover like I did, you need to coordinate a

group of people, and there are deadlines to meet. As a poker player I am not exactly proficient in any of those skills.

But this post is not about how much I hate moving. Every cloud has a silver lining, and for me it was something I found while checking old paper piles:

Among my college notes and books I found my very first opening ranges chart. It is so ridiculously tight and outdated it makes me feel ashamed of myself, but that piece of paper brought back so many memories. Only a couple of years ago I was living a double life: I had a serious corporate job, but when I was home I was grinding the micro-stakes trying to make my poker dream come true. I didn't have much free time, so I had to make the most of it. I printed some charts and poker articles to read on the bus on my way to the office. It was a busy time of my life, and there were many times when I thought it was too difficult and I was not going to make it, but I was very motivated and kept going.

A piece of paper is just that: a piece of paper. It means nothing in itself. But having it in my hands brought back lots of emotions and renewed that motivation I once had. It reminded me that I've come a long way from where I was and that there is still a lot to come. Today it's a new house, but I'm really curious to see what tomorrow brings. Hard work and big dreams are the key.

AD

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ANGOLA

# Takeover bid opens way to consolidation in the banking sector

**C**ONSOLIDATION of operations in the Angolan commercial banking sector, long-awaited by analysts, may experience its most important consolidation to date as a result of the tender offer on Portuguese bank BPI.

Angolan businesswoman Isabel dos Santos has almost 20 percent of BPI, the target of a takeover bid by Spain's La Caixa bank, and this week is expected to announce if the stake is up for sale, and Angola is considered key to coming to an agreement.

The Africa Intelligence Monitor newsletter said Isabel dos Santos is only interested in selling the BPI stake through a prior agreement to ensure Santos can purchase the 50.01 percent that BPI owns in Banco Fomento Angola, which has a leading position in the Angolan banking market.

The possibility of an agreement to that effect is considered high, according to the Africa Intelligence Monitor, and the plan is further down the line to merge BFA, in which Santos has had a



Customers exit a Banco BPI SA bank branch in Lisbon, Portugal

49 percent stake since the end of 2008, with the bank that she already controls, BIC.

The merger would create the largest commercial bank in Angola, of a size that would enable it to compete regionally, something that is currently lacking from even larger financial institutions, which are still far smaller than South Africa's Standard Bank, ABSA and Nedbank.

The Africa Intelligence Monitor said La Caixa has shown little interest in the Angolan banking market, which incidentally has been a focus of recent concerns.

The implementation of European rules to the exposure it has to BFA led BPI to announce in December a decrease in its capital ratio, which has an impact on all its financial activities.

The penalty follows the European Commission's exclusion of Angola from the list of third countries with regulation and supervision equivalent to the European Union.

The result was that Deutsche Bank gave a "sell" recommendation on BPI shares for "because of the risk for the results obtained from Angola focused on oil and the impact of high exposure to

the country's sovereign risk, via its BFA subsidiary."

At the end of last year, the S&P rating agency pointed to exposure to Angola as a major factor in their pessimistic outlook for BPI. A recent report by the Eaglestone consultancy said the existence of 29 banks in Angola was "unsustainable" and predicted "several short to medium term consolidation movements."

The drivers of consolidation, it said, would be foreign players, but also the need of some banks to gain in size, or to meet the new and more stringent capital requirements and the current shareholder structure of Angolan banks.

In banks such as BIC, CNI, BCH and Banco Valor, managers are still major shareholders, and there is room to find an international partner or even directly sell a stake.

The Angolan press has reported a possible merger of the two largest banks in the country, BIC and BFA at a time when a merger of BPA and Russian-owned VTB Africa, is already underway. **MDT/Macauhub**

BRAZIL

# Embraer delivers 208 aircraft in 2014

Brazilian aeronautical company Embraer ended 2014 with the delivery of 92 commercial aircraft and 116 executive jets, reaching the targets set for the year, the company said in a statement issued Wednesday. Last year, Embraer delivered to its commercial aviation customers one E170, 62 E175s, 19 E190s and ten E195s and in the business aviation segment it delivered 92 light jet aircraft and 24 large jets. In the fourth quarter of 2014, deliveries totalled 30 aircraft for commercial aviation and 52 jets to the executive segment, of which 38 were light and 14 large. The company's net revenues in 2014 amounted to 14.935 billion reais (about US\$5 billion) and net income reached 796 million reais (US\$269 million), or about one real per share.



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# Beijing to boost security spending as Xi fights dissent, terrorism

**C**HINA plans to raise central government spending on domestic security by nearly 11 percent, more than the increase in defense spending, as President Xi Jinping clamps down on corruption, dissent and separatist violence.

The central government plans to spend 154.2 billion yuan (USD24.6 billion) on public security in 2015, up from last year's target of 138.9 billion yuan, according to a Finance Ministry report distributed yesterday before the start of the annual session of the National People's Congress.

Total spending on public security, which includes everything from spying on dissidents and journalists to defending against terrorist attacks, is actually much higher as the bulk of the outlays come from China's regions and provinces. Deadly attacks that the government has linked to ethnic Uighur separatists have spurred spending at a time when Xi is also using the security apparatus to rein in public challenges to Communist Party rule.

"Most of the terrorism expenditure has gone into place by 2015," said Li Wei, head of security and anti-terrorism research at the China Insti-



Chinese military officers arrive at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

tutes of Contemporary International Relations. "That has covered anti-terror facilities and technology, and personnel training."

The Chinese government has plunked down "a massive amount of public money" in upgrading its counter-terrorism capabilities after two high-profile terrorist attacks, the first in Tiananmen

Square in 2013 followed by the 2014 assault on a train station in the southwestern city of Kunming that killed dozens, Li said. The attacks also led the government to prepare the country's first anti-terrorism law, which will expand domestic intelligence gathering operations. The bill is likely to be passed later this year.

The increase in central government spending on security compares with a 10.1 percent boost in defense spending to 886.9 billion yuan in 2015. Still, total security spending may be even more than the outlay for the military when the region and provincial expenditures are factored in.

Yesterday's report did not

give those contributions, and the government has been playing down the total spending number in recent years, because money spent in "weiwen," or maintaining stability, has fueled talk of a surveillance state, said Hu Xingdou, an economics professor at Beijing Institute of Technology.

Presenting only the central government spending level "can somewhat dilute the negative impression that's usually associated with weiwen," Hu said.

Premier Li Keqiang in his speech to the legislature yesterday said the increase in the public security budget this year marked an rise of 4.3 percent, without explaining the discrepancy with the 11 percent rise in the Finance Ministry figures. Li may have been comparing the 2015 target with actual 2014 spending, rather than what was originally budgeted.

The domestic security spending had risen rapidly between 2007 and 2012 under former Politburo Standing Committee member and security chief Zhou Yongkang. Zhou is now in detention after becoming the highest-profile target of Xi's anti-corruption campaign. **Bloomberg**

Didi Tang, Beijing

**J**ACKIE Chan might still be popular in China, but nowadays the pro-Beijing actor is as well-known as fodder for jokes as he is for his gritty martial arts and slapstick humor on screen. His latest contribution to the country's mass culture and entertainment: "duang."

It's not a word, but a sound he made in an old TV commercial meaning something like "ta-da!" A new mash-up video of the old ad has made "duang" a trending topic on China's social media.

The sound began circulating days before the rubberstamp legislature was called into session this week, and some observers see it as a way for the public to question the credibility of delegates and express dissatisfaction with the political system. Chan, now a quasi-politician appointed

## 'Duang!' Mainlanders poke fun at Jackie Chan with nonsense word



In this March 3, 2014 file photo, Hong Kong movie star Jackie Chan, center, is escorted by officials as he is surrounded by journalists upon arrival at the Great Hall of the People to attend the opening session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)

to a legislative advisory panel, has been singled out not only because of his celebrity status but for his reputation among many Chinese as someone who has been mercurial in aligning himself

politically with China's Communist Party to tap the mainland's movie market.

Though the tone of the phrase is more derisive than fun, Chan has been a good sport. "It's quite

funny," he told reporters on the steps of Beijing's Great Hall of the People this week.

Chan used the sound in a 2004 infomercial to sell shampoo. In the ad, he maintains there was no "duang" — or special effects — to make his hair look blacker, shinier and softer, but that the shampoo itself was responsible. Authorities later ruled that the commercial made false claims, and Chan's reputation suffered.

The word "duang" — in its Romanized form — has become one of the hottest expressions in Chinese cyberspace, and parodies of Chan's shampoo endorsement are spreading online. Someone has even proposed a Chinese character for the

sound by overlaying the two characters of Jackie Chan's name, though modern Chinese does not officially incorporate new characters.

Chan is one of just a few well-known faces connected to the legislature, a body the public has little influence over.

"When the legitimacy of these delegates gets questioned, celebrities such as Jackie Chan are the first to be targeted, because the public does not know other delegates," said Beijing-based independent commentator Shi Shusi. "Those jokes relay a sense of anxiety."

Chan has been a polarizing figure on his own as well. In 2009, he spoke against freedoms in Hong Kong and Taiwan,

saying, "The Chinese need to be supervised, or they will do whatever they please." Last year, he spoke against Hong Kong's democracy protests. In 2013, Beijing appointed Chan to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, or CPPCC, the highest advisory body to the national legislature.

"What Jackie Chan has said shows he does not have the sense of right or wrong, but the sense of interest," said Beijing economics professor Hu Xingdou, who called for a boycott of Chan in 2009.

Jokes suggesting slyness and snobbery on Chan's part have surfaced one after another in China's cyberspace over the past several years. When his son, Jaycee Chan, was arrested on drug charges last year, the public gloated, pointing out the irony that the father has served as China's anti-drug ambassador. **AP**

Joe McDonald  
Business Writer, Beijing

NPC

# Party lowers growth target, promises to open industries

CHINA set a lower economic growth target for this year and promised to open more industries to foreign investors as it tries to make its slowing, state-dominated economy more productive.

The growth target of about 7 percent, down from last year's 7.5 percent, is in line with efforts to create a "moderately prosperous society," said Premier Li Keqiang in a report yesterday to China's ceremonial national legislature. Last year's actual growth was 7.4 percent, the lowest since 1990.

The ruling Communist Party is in the midst of a marathon effort to guide the world's second-largest economy to slower but more self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption and services. It is trying to replace a worn-out model driven by trade and investment in construction and heavy industry that has left China's air and water badly polluted.

"We need to maintain a proper balance between ensuring steady growth and making structural adjustments," said Li in the report to the National People's Congress in the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

The full session of the 2,964-member NPC usually is limited to endorsing policy decisions already made by the ruling party but serves as a platform to publicize reform initiatives and set a tone for government work.

Communist leaders say they are comfortable with the slowdown that President Xi Jinping, invoking an American phrase, has dubbed "the new normal." But in a sign they are afraid of a politically dangerous spike in joblessness, they have tried to spur activity with two interest rate cuts since November and a reduction in business taxes.

Li promised to give entrepreneurs and foreign investors a bigger role in an economy that after three decades of market-oriented reforms still is dominated by government-owned banks, oil producers and other companies.

Beijing will cut in half the number of fields in service and manufacturing industries in which foreign investment is restricted, the premier said. He gave no details but the change has long been sought by foreign companies that face a thicket of restrictions and feel increasingly unwelcome.

The chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, James Zimmerman, said in an email its member companies "share the premier's hopes for a stable, fair, transparent and predictable

XINHUA



Deputies to the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) arrive at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

business environment" and look forward to the promised streamlining in regulation.

China's growth has declined steadily since it peaked at 14.2 percent in 2007. Much of that reduction was intentional as Beijing tried to cool inflation and a debt-financed boom in construction and investment. Efforts to promote consumer spending have been slow to gain traction at a time when many workers are uneasy about their financial futures.

The International Monetary Fund expects growth to fall to 7 percent this year and a Cabinet think tank, the Development Research Center, says growth will decline to 6 percent next year.

"I don't think there's too much to worry about," said Yi

Yanli, an NPC delegate from the northeastern province of Jilin who is CEO of Adayo Group, a maker of automotive electronics. "I think it's headed in a pretty good overall direction and that hasn't really changed."

China's slowdown has cut demand for iron ore and other commodities that drove economic booms in Brazil, Australia and other countries. But if Beijing succeeds in building up a consumer market, that could boost demand for other imports ranging from higher-quality food to Hollywood movies.

In a separate report, the Cabinet's planning agency promised to "improve the environment for consumer spending" by improving social

welfare systems to reduce the need for Chinese households to save so much to pay for retirement and medical care.

Li, the premier, warned China's economy still faces problems including a scarcity of credit for private companies and a low level of innovation.

Li's most concrete promises were in areas that are considered politically easy. He avoided detailed promises in more fraught areas such as changing the status of politically influential state companies that benefit from subsidies, monopolies and other favors. Reform advocates say they are a drag on development and their privileges must be cut back.

Li said projects led by state companies will be opened to

private investment but gave no indication whether outside investors will be given any voice in management.

"There was relatively little new information today on reforms. Mr. Li largely reiterated the reform goals laid out at previous meetings," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

The premier set a 6 percent target for growth in trade, a field that employs millions of Chinese workers. Last year's total growth in imports and exports was just 3.4 percent due to weak demand, triggering factory closures and labor tension in the export-dependent southeast.

■ The growth target of about 7 percent, down from last year's 7.5 percent, is in line with efforts to create a 'moderately prosperous society'

Li also promised changes in China's state-owned banking industry. He said qualified private investors will be allowed to set up small and medium-size banks, though he gave no details.

He also promised to cut pollution that is choking China's cities and improvements in a range of social areas, including education and poverty alleviation. He said Beijing aims to reduce carbon intensity, or emissions per unit of economic output, by 3.1 percent.

In the countryside, authorities will try to finish bringing electricity to the homes of the remaining 200,000 people who still lack it, the premier said.

Li gave no update on the status of anti-terrorism crack-downs being waged by Beijing in restive ethnic minority areas in Tibet and the northwestern Muslim region of Xinjiang. He repeated the Communist Party's stance that it has improved livelihoods there and is protecting traditional culture. AP

## SOUTH KOREA

## US envoy slashed in knife attack

Foster Klug and Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert was in stable condition after a man screaming demands for a unified North and South Korea slashed him on the face and wrist with a knife, South Korean police and U.S. officials said yesterday.

Media images showed a stunned-looking Lippert examining his blood-covered left hand and holding his right hand over a cut on the right side of his face, his pink tie splattered with blood.

The U.S. State Department condemned the attack, which happened at a performing arts center in downtown Seoul as the ambassador was preparing for a lecture about prospects for peace on the divided Korean Peninsula.

The U.S. Embassy later said Lippert was in stable condition after surgery at a Seoul hospital.

In a televised briefing, Chung Nam-sik of the Severance



U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert placing his right hand on his face leaves a lecture hall for a hospital in Seoul

Hospital said 80 stitches were needed to close the facial wound, which was 11 centimeters long and 3 centimeters deep.

He added the cut did not affect his nerves or salivary gland.

Chung said the knife penetrated through Lippert's left

arm and damaged the nerves connected to his pinkie and tendons connected to his thumb. Lippert will need to be

treated at the hospital for the next three or four days and may experience sensory problems in his left hand for several months, Chung said.

The attack will shock many outsiders because the United States is South Korea's closest ally, its military protector and a big trading partner and cultural influence.

But the reported comments of the suspect, 55-year-old Kim Ki-jong, during the attack — "South and North Korea should be reunified" — touch on a deep political divide in South Korea over the still-fresh legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, which is still technically ongoing because it ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. Some South Koreans blame the presence of 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the South as a deterrent to the North for the continuing split of the Korean Peninsula along the world's most heavily armed border — a view North Korea's propaganda machine regularly pushes in state media. AP

## INDONESIA

## Gov't rejects Australia offer of swap to stop executions



Indonesian officers lead Australian drug smuggler Myuran Sukumaran

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

INDONESIAN officials said yesterday they will reject an Australian offer to swap prisoners as part of a last-ditch attempt to save the lives of two Australian drug smugglers expected to face a firing squad within days.

Minister of Justice and Human Rights Yasonna Laoly said prisoner swaps might be possible for other crimes in the future, but not for people sentenced to death under Indonesia's tough anti-drug laws.

"When it comes to this crime, we will say no," he told reporters after meeting with President Joko

"Jokowi" Widodo.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said earlier yesterday that she made the proposal to her Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi, who had agreed to convey it to Widodo. Bishop said she had yet to hear back.

"What we are seeking to do is have an opportunity to talk about options that might be available in the area of prisoner transfer or prisoner swap," Bishop told reporters at a dawn vigil outside Parliament House.

Bishop has offered to repatriate three convicted Indonesian drug criminals in return for the lives of the Australians, Andrew

Chan, 31, and Myuran Sukumaran, 33, The Australian newspaper reported yesterday.

The proposal was made in a phone call Tuesday night after Indonesia announced the men would be transferred Wednesday from their prison home of a decade on the resort island of Bali to their place of execution on a maximum-security prison island, the newspaper said.

Bishop and Prime Minister Tony Abbott were among 40 lawmakers who gathered near the front doors of Parliament House for a candlelight vigil for the death row prisoners.

Abbott said he had requested another phone conversation with Widodo, a week after his last personal plea for the Australians' lives.

"I can't guarantee that the request will be met, but I've certainly put in a request because the government and the people of Indonesia need to know that this is important to us," Abbott said.

"We respect Indonesia, we honor the friendship that we have with Indonesia, but we stand up for our values and we stand up for our citizens and these are Australian citizens in extremis," he added. AP

## NORTH KOREA

## After Ebola ban, Pyongyang opens marathon to foreigners

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

AFTER lifting travel restrictions imposed because of concerns over the Ebola virus, North Korea says foreigners can now take part in one of its most popular tourist events — the annual Pyongyang marathon, a travel agency said yesterday.

Even though no cases of Ebola had been reported anywhere near North Korea, the country shut out foreign tourists in October with some of the strictest Ebola regulations in the world, including saying that only local runners would be allowed into the marathon in April.

But Uri Tours, one company that takes tourists into North Korea, said on its website yesterday that it had been informed that North Korean authorities had "decided to re-open the doors to foreign amateur runners for the 2015 Pyongyang Marathon."

Earlier this week North Korea lifted its restrictions on travelers that virtually closed its borders to foreigners last October, halting all non-essential visas and requiring those few foreigners allowed in to undergo three weeks of quarantine. The rules applied to diplomats, NGO workers and even senior North Korean officials returning from overseas trips.

The Uri Tours statement said that registration for the April 12 race had



been extended to March 20.

Last year's race through the streets of Pyongyang, including a 10-kilometer competition and a half marathon along with the full course, was opened up to foreign recreational runners for the first time and was a big success. Elite runners from around the world are usually brought in for the main event, but it was not immediately known if there is enough time to arrange that this year.

Known officially as the Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon, the race is sanctioned as a bronze-label event by the International Association of Athletics Federations and has been held annually for 27 years. It is held in conjunction with a series of sporting competitions, arts festivals and cultural events marking the birthday of North Korea's founder, Kim Il Sung, on April 15. AP



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USA

# House committee subpoenas Clinton emails

Jack Gillum and Ted Bridis  
Washington

A House of Representatives committee has issued subpoenas for the emails of Hillary Rodham Clinton, who used a private account exclusively for official business when she was secretary of state — and also used a computer email server now traced back to her family's New York state home.

The subpoenas issued Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time) indicate Republicans want questions about Hillary Rodham Clinton's use of a private email account to follow her into a widely anticipated second presidential campaign. Republicans, who control the investigative powers of Congress, say the revelations reaffirm their long-held portrayal of Bill and Hillary Clinton as secretive and playing by their own rules. Democrats dismiss the accusations as trivial, but they were fast becoming a distraction for Clinton.

"The American people deserve all of the facts," Republican House Speaker John Boehner said.

Congressman Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, intends to investigate whether Clinton, by using a personal email account, may have violated federal



In this Oct. 18, 2011, file photo, then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton checks her Blackberry

requirements that written communications of officials are preserved.

Democrats question whether the emails will resonate with voters in an election 20 months away. But as the presidential nominating season begins, Clinton's use of a personal email account for State Department business has stoked questions about transparency that threaten to cloud her early steps as the Democratic Party's overwhelming favorite

White House prospect.

The subpoenas from the Republican-led Select Committee on the deadly 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, demanded additional material from Clinton and others, spokesman Jamal D. Ware said. The panel also instructed technology companies it did not identify to preserve any relevant documents in their possession.

The questions follow recent reports about the Clinton family foundation's raising of

money from foreign governments, while she was the country's top diplomat, to benefit the nonprofit's philanthropic mission.

The development at Congress came the same day AP reported the existence of a personal email server traced back to the Chappaqua, New York, home of Clinton. The unusual practice of a Cabinet-level official running her own email server would have given Clinton significant control over limiting

access to her message archives.

The practice also would complicate the State Department's legal responsibilities in finding and turning over official emails in response to any investigations, lawsuits or public records requests. The department would be in the position of accepting Clinton's assurances she was surrendering everything required that was in her control.

Congress said it learned last summer about Clinton's use of a private email account to conduct official State Department business during its investigation of the Benghazi attacks on a U.S. mission in which four Americans died, including the ambassador to Libya.

Democrats called it a fishing expedition. They say the latest probes are throwbacks to the 1990s when they say Republicans overplayed their hands pursuing President Bill Clinton.

The questions about Clinton's email practices left the Obama administration in an awkward position. At one point, the State Department directed reporters to contact Clinton, who has not publicly commented about her emails. The White House said it was her responsibility to make sure any emails about official business weren't deleted from her private server.

Clinton — who emailed so frequently using her BlackBerry as secretary of state that it became an Internet meme — is particularly sensitive about disclosures of personal files based on her experiences in confronting congressional investigations and civil lawsuits during her husband's election and presidency and her own roles as first lady, senator, presidential candidate and Cabinet official. AP

Denise Lavoie  
Legal Affairs Writer, Boston

IT didn't take long for prosecutors in the Boston Marathon bombing trial to convey the sense of fear, pain and grief caused by the 2013 attack, as three women testified about the severe injuries they suffered.

On the first day of testimony in the trial of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, whose lawyer admitted he committed the crime, the women described their memories of the blasts, their wounds and the terror they felt.

Three people were killed and more than 260 hurt when two shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs exploded near the finish line. Tsarnaev, then 19, was accused of carrying out the attacks with 26-year-old Tamer-

## Jurors hear graphic accounts of Boston Marathon bombing



In this Jan. 5, 2015, file courtroom sketch, Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, left, is depicted beside U.S. District Judge George O'Toole Jr., right

lan, who was killed in a shootout and getaway attempt days later. Authorities contend the brothers — ethnic Chechens who arrived from Russia more than a decade ago — were driven by anger over U.S.

wars in Muslim lands.

Two of the women who testified Wednesday had to have their left legs amputated and all of them spoke in graphic detail. It gave the jury a glimpse of the kind of agonizing testimony they can expect to hear in the coming months.

Sydney Corcoran, 17 at the time of the bombings, told the jury how she and her parents went to the marathon on April 15, 2013, to see her aunt run the race for the first time.

She recalled happily waiting to see her aunt cross the finish line one minute, then being immersed in smoke the

next. She said she passed out and when she regained consciousness, she was lying on her back and men were tying tourniquets to her thigh.

"I was getting increasingly cold and I knew I was dying," she said.

Corcoran's femoral artery had been severed and she nearly bled to death on the pavement. Later, in the hospital, a nurse told her she was going to wheel her mother into her room, but needed to warn her about something.

"Your mother doesn't have her legs anymore," Corcoran said the nurse told her "I just said, 'I

don't care, I just want my Mom.'"

Tsarnaev, shaggy-haired and goateed, slouched in his seat and showed little reaction as the case unfolded. The defense did not ask a single question of the victims who testified.

Their emotional accounts came after a blunt opening statement by Tsarnaev's lawyer, who flatly told the jury that the 21-year-old former college student committed the crime.

"It WAS him," said defense attorney Judy Clarke, one of the nation's foremost death-penalty specialists.

But in a strategy aimed at saving Tsarnaev from a death sentence, she argued that he had fallen under the malevolent influence of his now-dead older brother, Tamerlan. AP

ZOU SHIMING FIGHTS TO CLAIM A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR CHINA

ZOU SHIMING AMNAT RUENROENG

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## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:20	Revenge S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:45	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

10:20	Documentary Serie
10:40	Young Adult
11:30	Conch Bay
12:20	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
19:00	Contest
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:10	Comedy
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

## SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
15:40	Miscellaneous
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:00	Miscellaneous
17:15	Miscellaneous
18:40	Miscellaneous
19:30	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary Series
23:00	TDM News
23:30	News
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live

## offbeat

## SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS REFUNDS CUSTOMERS AFTER BUNGLER



It looked like a steal: USD72 for a round-trip business class ticket on South African Airways between Johannesburg and Abu Dhabi.

The online offer, part of a promotional sale at the end of February, was inde-

ed too good to be true.

The airline said Thursday that it erroneously published the incorrect fare and that it was refunding customers who had snapped up the tickets. It says 640 bookings were affected.

South African Airways says a regular ticket on the same route in business class sells for about \$3,400.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

05 MAR - 11 MAR

## STAND BY ME DORAEMON\_

ROOM 1  
(2D) 3.55, 5.50 pm  
(3D) 7.45 pm  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)  
Duration: 95min



## FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2\_

ROOM 1  
2.00, 9.45 pm  
Director: Jing Wong  
Starring: Nick Cheung, Yun-Fat Chow, Daniel Garcia  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 90min



## CHAPPIE\_

ROOM 2  
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
Director: Neil Blomkamp  
Starring: Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 120min



## LUCKY STAR\_

ROOM 3  
2.30, 4.15, 6.00, 9.30 pm  
Director: Ching Long  
Starring: Eric Tsang, Wong Cho-lam, Ella Chen  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 86min

## PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR\_

ROOM 2  
2.00, 3.45, 7.45 pm  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)  
Duration: 127min

## MACAU TOWER

05 MAR - 18 MAR

## CHAPPIE\_

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm  
Director: Neil Blomkamp  
Starring: Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 120min

## this day in history



## 1993 ANGOLANS DIE IN BATTLE FOR HUAMBO

More than 350 people have died in a battle between Unita rebels and Angolan government forces in the city of Huambo, according to Angolan army reports.

The government of the southern African country also said that up to 1,500 people had been injured in the fighting.

Diplomats say the battle is "vicious", with neither side taking many prisoners.

According to the radio station of Angola's rebel movement Unita, government troops are fleeing from the city and large amounts of arms and ammunition have been seized, including several Russian-built tanks.

The government garrison in the city has been cut off for several weeks and is being supplied by occasional air drops. Fighting around Huambo has intensified after Unita brought in troop reinforcements from Bie province, which is around 165km away to the east of the city.

Unita radio also reported that its leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi, would address the nation on the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Since January there has been no running water or electricity in Huambo, which is home to 400,000 people, and many areas have been flattened by artillery shells.

The battle for the key city is seen as more symbolic than strategic.

The fighting in Huambo comes after the breakdown of a 1991 peace agreement which was aimed at ending 16 years of civil war in the former Portuguese colony.

Huambo is home to the Ovimbundu, the people who gave Mr Savimbi's Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) movement its main support.

Earlier, UN officials admitted defeat in their diplomatic attempts to halt renewed civil war in Angola, calling the outcome a "bitter disappointment".

Unita failed to attend UN-sponsored peace talks in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, last week, but proposed fresh talks in Geneva.

Local aid agencies have described the health situation in Angola as "dramatic" - with a child dying every two hours in the paediatric hospital in the capital Luanda.

Most of the main aid agencies have left the country after Unita launched an abortive coup attempt in Luanda last November.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Two days after the gun battle started in Huambo, Unita announced it had seized the country's second city and was in complete control after capturing government positions.

More than 10,000 people are estimated to have died in the two-month battle for Huambo.

The rebel leader of Unita, Jonas Savimbi, died in a gun battle with government forces in February 2002.

Unita went on to become a political party and signed a ceasefire with the Angolan government in April 2002.

In 2003, Unita apologized for its part in Angola's 27-year civil war and asked for forgiveness.

Unita's secretary for political affairs, Abilio Camalata Numa, said his movement took responsibility for the many lives lost but he defended what he called the "political project" which had been the reason for the war.

**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
A child plays an important role in the day's affairs. Make sure that you're paying careful attention to whatever the little ones are saying — at least one of them has a message for you.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Your high spirits could be mistaken for arrogance, so watch out for others' reactions. It should be pretty easy for you to set people straight if they start to get the wrong idea, but only if you notice.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You're having more fun than you would have expected, even though you're surrounded by folks who disagree with you. That turns into a game — figuring out how to persuade them scores you points!

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Push for an upgrade — or just plunk down the money to step things up a bit. You don't have to settle for the standard package. People are much more willing than usual to give you discounts, too!

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Your self-confidence is spiking right now — so much so that you could find yourself pushing toward a new victory you had never seen coming. Get ready to adapt to changing circumstances.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
One person starts leaning on you a little too hard — and then others join in! That's no fun, but the good news is that you're on track to score some serious karma if you can accommodate their needs.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
It's vital that you're active today — and preferably as social as you can be. That is likely pretty easy for you, but if you're feeling shy, push yourself to go to that party or networking event.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
An ego clash makes you wonder what's really going on, but you could find that things start to get too ugly to keep worrying about all that. Just hold your own, as this should be over soon.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Your lucky streak is still going strong — but it's hard to direct, so don't just assume that you can go buy a pile of lottery tickets and then retire. Accept the good fortune that comes your way graciously.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You can't be too sure of yourself today — and that's especially true of your perceptions. It's not like you're hallucinating, but you may see things as you wish they were instead of how they really are.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Try to let go of fixed ideas — this is one of those days when you can see them for what they really are. You feel a bit torn up, but you can still figure out a way to get past this phase.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
A fight erupts nearby, but you need to keep your cool and do whatever you can to ignore it. You can only inflame things, which doesn't help anyone. See what you can do to de-escalate.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

8				2	9			
		9	4	1		3		
7				6	1			
5							8	
			2	5	9			
	7							1
		7	1					2
8			6	5	9			
9	6							7

**Easy+**

		3	8					6
		8	7		6		4	1
	4			2				8
						5	7	
	1	5	8				3	
7	4							
7				5			8	
4	8		6		3	2		
3				4	1			

**Medium**

		7		1	5	6		
5				8	3			
9			5			2		
6		3						
	8	5				3	7	
				8				4
1			3					2
			4	2				9
2	6	9				7		

**Hard**

		3	5					2
	1							
				9				
6	7					8		4
2		3						
5							9	
7				8		4		
			1					

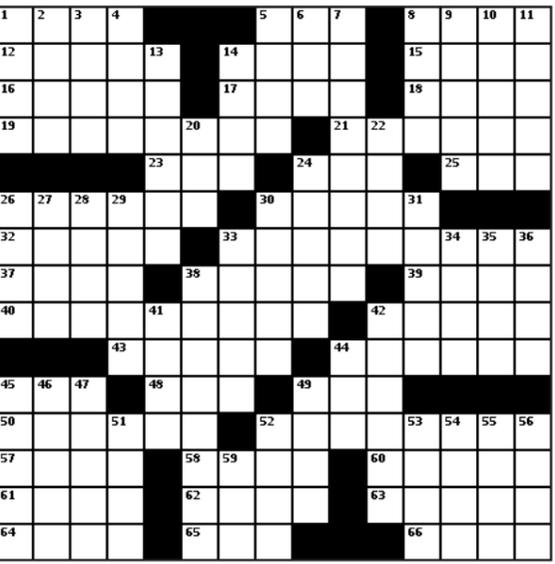
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-3	11	smoggy/clear
Harbin	-8	5	clear
Tianjin	1	12	cloudy
Urumqi	-6	3	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	0	11	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	-2	11	cloudy/clear
Chengdu	3	12	overcast
Chongqing	8	13	overcast
Kunming	10	23	clear
Nanjing	2	8	overcast/drizzle
Shanghai	4	8	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	0	7	cloudy
Hangzhou	3	6	sleet/drizzle
Taipei	16	22	drizzle/overcast
Guangzhou	14	17	drizzle
Hong Kong	16	18	shower
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-6	1	flurry/sleet
Frankfurt	0	6	drizzle
Paris	-2	9	clear/cloudy
London	5	10	drizzle/cloudy
New York	-8	3	moderate snow/drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Racetrack boundary; 5- Spring mo.; 8- Harmony; 12- Beginning; 14- Actor Morales; 15- Small dam; 16- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 17- Snakes; 18- Archipelago part; 19- Doubt; 21- Sigh; 23- Half a fly; 24- Calendar abbr.; 25- Sugary suffix; 26- Solitary; 30- Nonsense; 32- Accustom; 33- Carnival; 37- Apex, pinnacle; 38- Old sailors; 39- Garment of ancient Rome; 40- Middle Eastern salad; 42- "John Brown's Body" poet; 43- Viscounts' superiors; 44- Gun; 45- Aliens, for short; 48- Bond, for one; 49- Intelligence; 50- "Fiddler on the Roof" setting; 52- Millennialism; 57- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 58- Spillane's "\_\_\_ Jury"; 60- China's Zhou \_\_\_; 61- Send forth; 62- First son of Adam and Eve; 63- Brings up; 64- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 65- PC panic button; 66- Bad mood;

**DOWN:** 1- Highway; 2- The King \_\_\_; 3- Egyptian goddess of fertility; 4- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 5- Gal Fri.; 6- Baby food; 7- Meat-balls; 8- Big gulp; 9- Kind of question; 10- Frasier's brother; 11- Minotaur's home; 13- Tortoise; 14- Alleviate; 20- Function; 22- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 24- Hilarity; 26- Show to a table; 27- South American Indian; 28- Deprived of sensation; 29- Diving bird; 30- Bundles; 31- Adlai's running mate; 33- Inspire anew; 34- Cry of a goose; 35- Arch type; 36- Unit of power; 38- Loose-fitting white vestment; 41- Kiln for drying hops; 42- Male servant; 44- DI doubled; 45- Ruhr city; 46- Topic; 47- Flight of steps; 49- At what time; 51- This, in Tijuana; 52- Fashionable; 53- Supermodel Sastre; 54- Astronaut Shepard; 55- Delhi dress; 56- Fog; 59- Univ. aides



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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
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- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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# Things to watch in the new F1 season

Chris Lines

**W**ITH everyone looking to challenge Mercedes this year in Formula One, former world champions Sebastian Vettel and Fernando Alonso will do so with new teams. Here are some things to look out for in the upcoming season, which begins in Melbourne, Australia, on March 15:

**BEST OF ENEMIES** - Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg went into last season on about as good a terms as any teammates can be at a top team, yet the inevitable pressures of fighting each other for the drivers' championship strained their relationship to near breaking point.

A collision between the pair at the Belgian Grand Prix forced Hamilton out of the race and left Rosberg 29 points clear at the top of the standings and seemingly headed for the championship. However, Hamilton responded by winning six of the seven remaining races to earn his second career title.

Preseason testing indicates Mercedes will continue to excel into the new season, at least in the early part, so another Hamilton vs. Rosberg title showdown looms.

Red Bull driver Daniel Ric-

ciardo was the only man to take race wins off Mercedes last year, and the team is banking on an improved Renault engine to narrow the gap to Mercedes, but faces an uphill task to surpass the silver cars.

Ferrari, too, will be hoping for better things with the arrival of four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel, but it also has a lot of ground to make up in terms of engine development.

F1 fans would have been hoping for a broader mix of title contenders, but will likely have to settle on another intra-team battle. Rosberg will feel it is his turn this year, but can ill afford to give way to Hamilton, whose thrives on confidence.

**PATIENT WAIT** - On paper, the combination of McLaren, engine supplier Honda and two world champion drivers in Alonso and Jenson Button promises much.

McLaren won half of its eight constructors' titles with Honda, which is returning to the sport in 2015 after six years.

Alonso, having made way for Vettel's arrival at Ferrari, is also making a McLaren reunion, after one unhappy season with the team in 2007.

He and Button have competed in more than 500 F1 races between them, and are both drivers renowned for getting the most out of underperforming

cars. That's a strength they may need to draw upon more than ever before as Honda plays catch-up on the design of the complex V6 hybrid-power engines.

Preseason testing exposed a slew of predictable teething problems, and things got even worse when Alonso suffered a concussion in a crash. The lingering effect of the concussion means he will sit out the season-opening race in Australia, to be replaced by Kevin Magnussen.

**F1 HAS A NOSE JOB** - After the major technical changes of 2014, when the sport ushered in its complex new engines, this season will have relatively minor alterations to the rules governing cars and racing.

The most apparent change is a return of noses tapering down to a low front wing, as the high fronts of recent years have been outlawed. It may have created a lot more work for aerodynamic designers, but is much more aesthetically pleasing.

The restriction on pit-driver communication will be stepped up this year, with teams forbidden from sharing technical data like settings for fuel use. In a sport where exploitation of loopholes can often be the difference between success and failure, expect to see teams sailing close to the wind on that one.

The late afternoon start times

for several races have been moved forward in response to the crash of Jules Bianchi last year in Japan. The French driver suffered severe head injuries when crashing into a trackside mobile crane in gloomy and wet conditions late in a race that finished near dusk.

Bianchi remains hospitalized in critical condition.

**COLOR CO-ORDINATION** - A year after from introducing individualized driver numbers, Formula One now wants to force the sport's stars to stick with iconic helmet designs.

The proposed rule would severely restrict the number of design changes to helmets each season, to make drivers more identifiable both at the track and on television. The plan still has to be ratified by the World Motor Sports Council.

Sebastian Vettel regularly changed his helmet design when he was at Red Bull, with some innovative displays, and was not the only one to do so. Chopping and changing designs attracted interest, sparked discussion on social media and brought in some short-term sponsorship boosts, but for the watching public it also caused confusion as to which driver was which.

Some drivers have already grumbled about curbs on self-expression and restraint of tra-

de, but the broader interest of fans and the sport seem likely to win out.

Bigger numbers on the cars could be the next step to helping fans.

**MIND THE MANOR** - Manor, the team that has raced under the names Virgin and Marussia in its five years in Formula One, is making a late bid to join the 2015 championship.

After sitting out the closing races last season with huge debts, the team looked to be following Caterham onto the long list of failed F1 ventures.

However, new ownership in the form of Stephen Fitzpatrick, head of the Ovo energy company, has arrived, chief creditor and engine supplier Ferrari has been appeased and the team is hastily preparing for the season ahead.

It has named Will Stevens — who drove in the final race of 2014 for Caterham — as one of its two drivers. No second driver has been named yet, and the late resolution of its 2015 entry and absence of preseason testing makes its claims of being ready to race in Melbourne seem very ambitious.

Teams can miss three races in a season without penalty, meaning Manor has until the Bahrain Grand Prix — the fourth race of the season — to be up and running. **AP**

opinion

**Kapok**  
Eric Sautédé



**BETTER TOMORROWS**

Schizophrenia seems to be a pathological feature of our modern time, and present day Macau is no exception. On the one hand, gaming revenues have been taking an ever steeper dive for a continuous nine-month streak; on the other, the body of citizens appears to be unfazed by this fairly distressing situation – at least it would be distressing in any other part of the world – and still profess to be mainly and overly concerned by social and welfare issues in anticipation of the Chief Executive's policy address of March 23. What is wrong with the people, some ask? Is it blindness? Are people too spoiled? Have they lost track of reality and become impervious to imminent danger because of recent (tremendous) successes? Or is it the confidence that they have in the government? Are the soothing words of Chui Sai On and Lionel Leong Vai Tak that powerful? Or is this unfazed reaction due to the casino tycoons' take on the situation that everything is "according to expectations" and in line with the necessary "adjustment", which seems to be the new fashionable buzz word accommodating the "new normal" formula for Macao? Could it be the situation itself – not as catastrophic as some would want it to be, but still more challenging than some would like it to be?

Let's be honest, the results of a survey that was conducted by the Association of Macao New Vision (澳門新視角學會) about the concerns of the people and what they expect from the coming policy address came as a bit of a surprise. The ten most pressing issues, in order, are: First, a hastening of the construction of public housing; second, the strengthening of the supervision of bus services in order to solve traffic congestion issues; third, the extension of measures to control the real-estate market; and thereafter, in order, the acceleration of healthcare reform, measures to rein in inflation, controlling labor imports and protecting local employment, increasing social welfare spending, strengthening people's training, improving education and (lastly!) promoting a diversification of the economy. When probed according to categories, people want public policies addressing social issues (72.4%), with economic policies coming a distant second (16.6%) and political and legal demands a very distant third (3.6%). As the survey was conducted in February, before the official announcement of the February plunge in gross gaming revenues (the worse drop in the past nine months), one could reasonably assume that the results could prove slightly different if the survey was to be conducted now.

Lionel Leong, being the Secretary for Economy and Finance, was the first one to react and downplay the flashing red numbers on March 3: What is characterized as a simple "decline" is said to be "in line with expectations" and a recovery – deemed not so miraculous – should occur "within one or two months." The next day, it was Chui Sai On's turn to comment, with the CE strongly insisting that the decline was not a threat to state capacity, and that sufficient fiscal reserve would allow the government to allocate public expenditure to welfare measures as budgeted (as if anybody doubted that, given the fact that Macao's government is endowed with the equivalent of eight years of expenditure at constant spending, and that without even receiving any revenue). Then, of course, casino moguls, most of them in Beijing for the "two meetings" (兩會), commented that the "adjustment" was needed and that no sacrifice would be sufficient for making the dream of transforming Macao into a "world center" (for tourism and entertainment) and a "platform" (for cooperation, both regionally and with Portuguese-speaking countries) come true.

Ultimately, with an actual unemployment rate desperately locked at 1.7%, the prospect of some 20,000 new jobs created by Galaxy Phase III and Macau Studio City, and with the number of visitors having passed the 30-million threshold – why would the people worry that much about a few junkets closing down (there's clearly too many of them anyway) and plummeting gaming revenues, when in this miserable month of February 2015 these are still roughly the same as the whole year of 2002? And then, it is very fine for Macao residents to have (on paper) the fourth-highest GDP per capita in the world, and yet only be endowed with public services that are not even a match for, let's say, the capital city of Guangxi, Nanning. Confidence in the government, as shown in a Hong Kong University survey back in December, was in the doldrums, so it does not seem that much of a surprise that people would now trust the new team, which was ushered in less than two months ago, to take the right steps in addressing some very pressing issues.

**THE BUZZ** 3 FORMER DIRECTORS OF SPANISH CLUB OSASUNA ARRESTED

The regional court of northern Navarra says a former president of Spanish soccer club Osasuna and two other ex-board members have been arrested. The court says Miguel Archanco, Txuma Peralta and Angel Vizcay were arrested yesterday by National Police and will likely have to appear before a judge within 24 hours. All three are expected to remain in custody un-

til today. The arrests come as police investigate the disappearance of at least 2.4 million euros (USD2,746,000) from the club's coffers between November 2013 and June 2014. Current club director Pedro Baile Osasuna has acknowledged a government sports council audit last year uncovered an unaccounted-for payment made by the club.

**Paradise Entertainment shares join Hang Seng**



**E**lectronic gaming solutions provider Paradise Entertainment Ltd. announced yesterday that it has been selected to join several stock indexes that are managed by the Hang Seng group from March 9.

"This important recognition from Hang Seng is a vote of confidence for the company's health and growth, and highlights our expanding presence in the Asia-Pacific gaming marketplace as players embrace our innovative electronic gaming solutions, such as the Live Multi-Game

terminal," said chairman and managing director of Paradise Entertainment, Jay Chun, in a statement.

Mr Chun added, "We believe our inclusion in several of Hang Seng's key indexes will create more awareness of the company's equity, and potentially improve the liquidity of trading in Paradise shares."

On March 9, Paradise joins several Hang Seng indexes, such as the Hang Seng Broad Consumption Index, which reflects the performance of Hong Kong-listed stocks whose companies provi-

de goods and services to consumers. The group also joins the Hang Seng Global Composite Index, which serves as a benchmark for the overall performances of all companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Finally, it also joins the Hang Seng Composite Index, which offers a comprehensive benchmark that covers the top 95 percent of the total market capitalization of companies that are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange's main board.

Each of the indexes managed by Hang Seng uses a free-float-adjusted (FAF) market capitalization weighted methodology, and each constituent has an estimated free-float-adjust factor, which is reviewed quarterly. Paradise Entertainment will enter with a FAF of 45 percent, the company revealed in a statement.

**'The Man From Macau 2' tops China's box office**

**D**IRECTED by Wong Jing, "The Man From Macau 2" trumped competing Chinese movies last week at the mainland Chinese box office, hauling in USD70.6 million over the second half of the Chinese New Year holiday, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Also known as "From Vegas to Macau 2," the Hong Kong-Chinese crime comedy film stars Chow Yun Fat, Nick Cheung, Carina Lau and Shawn Yue Man-Iok. Its cumulative gross sales amounted to over USD115 million, according to the LA Times.

Shawn Yue Man-Iok plays Vincent, an Interpol agent who is seeking the help of Ken (played

by Chow Yun Fat) to bust the mastermind of an international crime ring.

"A good deal of explosive action takes place in The Land of Smiles. There are also farcical scenes aplenty, notably one in which Mark (played by Nick Cheung) pretends to be Chow's 'God of Gamblers' chocolate-chomping character – in a rare departure from [Cheung's] general straight-man role here – and those that have Ken going a few rounds in the ring with a champion Muay Thai fighter (Ken Lo Wai-kwong)," wrote Yvonne The in a film review for the South China Morning Post.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Lui Siu Wai



Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor seen yesterday involved in dense fog

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	35-55 Moderate

SOURCE: D5M/G

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**INDONESIAN** officials said yesterday they will reject an Australian offer to swap prisoners as part of a last-ditch attempt to save the lives of two Australian drug smugglers expected to face a firing squad within days. More on p12



AP PHOTO

**INDIA's** home minister said yesterday that the government would act against the British Broadcasting Corporation after it ignored a court order and aired a documentary about a fatal gang rape in which one of the attackers blames the victim. The BBC aired "India's Daughter" by British filmmaker Leslee Udwin in the United Kingdom late Wednesday.

**AUSTRALIA** Six men were charged in Sydney with drug smuggling and more than 480 kilograms of cocaine and methamphetamine have been seized in Columbia and Australia in a joint Australian-Colombian police operation, officials said yesterday.

**IRAN** U.S. officials seek to tamp down expectations of a preliminary nuclear deal with Iran by the March deadline while working to move past the political dust kicked up by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's criticism of an emerging agreement's contours.

**LIBERIA** has released its last Ebola patient, a 58-year old English teacher. Beatrice Yardolo was released yesterday from the Chinese-run Ebola treatment center in the Paynesville district of Monrovia, the capital. On her way home she told The Associated Press she was "one of the happiest persons on earth today." Yardolo said had been admitted on Feb. 18.