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 "We are ready to work with Macau to actually help it diversify the economy," says Alessandro Paolicchi

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Leaders of Beijing's bid for the 2022 Winter Olympics said Wednesday the capital's notorious air pollution will be much improved by the time of the games. The vice president of the bid committee, Zhang Jiandong, told reporters that air quality at the rural sites for the skiing and sliding events was already very good. The problem, he said, was Beijing's urban core where the main athletes' village will be located, along with the indoor arenas for skating, hockey and curling. Zhang said Beijing's urban center expects a 25% reduction in PM2.5 pollutants under a five-year plan begun in 2013 to close coal-fired power plants and other major polluters.

VIETNAM's prime minister orders a swift investigation into a scaffolding collapse that killed 13 workers and injured dozens, while a unit of South Korea's Samsung Group involved in the construction project offered initial assistance to victims' families. *More on p14*

INDIA Police arrest two suspects in the gang rape of an elderly nun in a missionary school which focused attention on sexual violence in India despite tough anti-rape laws introduced two years ago. *More on p14*

CAMBODIAN officials inaugurate a memorial at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum to remember more than 12,000 people tortured at the site when it was a Khmer Rouge prison.

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TOURISM CAPACITY STUDY

Macau capable of receiving more visitors

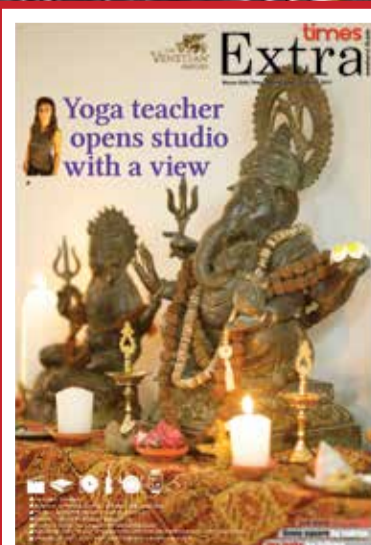
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GERMANWINGS TRAGEDY

Alone at controls, co-pilot sought to 'destroy' the plane

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Extra times
 weekend Guide
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MIECF 2015

Gov't advised to change development patterns and energy use



Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong (3rd right, front row) and Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Rosário (2nd right, front row) tour the exhibition hall of 2015 MIECF

Brook Yang

ENVIRONMENTAL experts and practitioners have called for local governments to make new plans and take action in terms of transforming urban development patterns and energy use into a greener and cleaner fashion.

At the 8th Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF) yesterday, speakers at the forum stressed that policies, regulatory measures, and citizen participation are urgently needed to curb emissions and waste, reduce energy demands and consumption, and promote renewable technologies.

In the event's keynote speech, former Norwegian Prime Minister, Ms Gro Harlem Brundtland, hailed as the "mother of sustainable development," indicated that

Development patterns in this region will indeed influence not just the millions living here, but the impact on a larger, global scale

GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

the current global development model is unsustainable and that we now urgently need to step up the pace of change.

"Here in the Pearl River Delta (PRD), we are in an emerging megacity of nearly 60 million people characterized by The World Bank as the largest urban area in the world, both in size and population. Development patterns in this region will indeed influence not just the millions living here, but the impact on a larger, global scale, for the future of humanity and its relationship with Planet Earth," she told the audience.

The speaker cited the Chinese Ministry of Environment's report, recognizing the PRD region as the most polluted area of the country, both for air and water. However, she added that 7 of the 10 cities that have the best air quality in China are located there.

"No doubt, there are great challenges, and clearly policies, such as those here in Macau, need to be put in place towards its already stated goal: 'a green, low carbon city,'" she advised, adding that "public decision-making, governmental regulations and determination to direct the change we need [are] essential."

Another speaker, João Marques da Cruz, from the EDP - Energias de Portugal provided statistical data to demonstrate that, environmental-wise, a lot remains to be done here: "The 2.5PM index in Macau is 150, which is very unhealthy [and] is mainly caused by transportation, pollution and can be avoided," he said.

As for the solutions for the region's poor air quality and urban environment,

MGM SUPPORTS GREEN WEEK

FOR THE sixth year running, MGM Macau has supported the "Macao Green Week" campaign, organized by IACM. Over 40 Golden Lion Team volunteers, led by MGM's management team, participated in a "Tree Maintenance and Protection" program at Parque de Merendas da Barragem de Hác-Sá on March 18, in an effort to inform the public about environmental protection and to help nurture a fresher Macau under the theme of "Green City. Ideal Home."

speakers suggested that much pollution could be avoided if transportation is made cleaner and more efficient. Meanwhile, construction sites need to be regulated for dust reduction, whereas hotels and restaurants could reduce emissions and waste. Moreover, experts indicated that the city's power generation needs to be upgraded and decentralized, and people's use of water and energy must be streamlined with the use of sustainable technologies.

According to Ms Brundtland, the world will need at least 45 percent more energy and 30 percent more water by 2030. Therefore, changes in development patterns, as well as the generation and use of waste and energy, are emphasized as a necessary and inevitable trend.

"We now need to undo old-fashioned policies that create the wrong incentives and keep us locked in unsustainable ways of doing business," said Ms Brundtland. She then called for a subsidy reform, warning that subsidies for fossil fuels globally are six times higher than those directed towards renewable energy.

"The marketplace has to reflect the full ecological and human costs of economic decisions and establish price signals that make the consequences of both action and inaction transparent. This means: pollution, including carbon emissions, can no longer be free; subsidies should be made transparent and phased out for fossil fuels by 2020; we must build new ways to measure development beyond GDP," she suggested.

The speaker further argued that the business now needs more government action to inspire innovation and sustainable solutions, which calls for public policies that can stimulate markets, remove barriers, level the playing field, and establish clear targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Melco booth showcases recycled electronic devices

EXPERTS speaking at MIECF have stressed the necessity for the business community to be socially and globally responsible in order to achieve sustainable development. As the only prime exhibitor from the green hotel category at the fair, gaming operator Melco Crown told the Times that the company feels the responsibility to take the lead in energy-saving.

Participating in MIECF for the fourth time, the company set up its booth with used and obsolete electronic devices including electronic chips, computer hard disks and CDs on the façade, wine boxes collected from restaurants as flooring, and recycled plastic bottles for the reception desk.

The company's Vice President, Property Services, Joshua Ho, explained that the booth is aiming to help raise awareness of the increasing e-waste problem in Macau. Moreover, he said that the company has invested over MOP100 million in recent years in order to save energy.

"As a gaming company in Macau's major industry, we have a big entertainment resort, we use a lot of different utilities, so we believe it's our role, our responsibility to take the lead in energy saving," he stressed.

The company has set up an environmental management committee that is chaired by the company's Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Lawrence Ho. Every month, managers from all departments gather together to talk about how to improve on the company's environmental issues.

"We constantly look for innovative solutions to minimize our impact to the environment while developing our business. We strive to pursue a sustainable future for our society," said Lawrence Ho yesterday in a press release.



SANDS CHINA TAKES PART IN EARTH HOUR INITIATIVE

SANDS CHINA Ltd. properties are supporting Earth Hour this March 28 by switching off exterior lights and non-essential indoor lights for one hour starting at 8:30 p.m. For the seventh consecutive year, the company is partici-

pating in the worldwide green initiative, which aims to raise global awareness of climate change by encouraging eco-conscious individuals, communities, households and businesses to switch off their lights for one hour.

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EU trade commissioners 'ready to work with Macau'

WITH industrial diversification becoming an inevitable direction for Macau's economic breakthrough, the European Union's trade commissioners have seen great potential in local markets implied by the city's transformation.

Over ten of the 17 trade commissioners from EU states who are represented in the SARs, gathered for a meeting with the local government yesterday at Macau's annual environmental fair. According to the Head of Trade Section of the EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao, Mr Alessandro Paolicchi, the meeting was organized for commissioners to learn about Macau's demands for industrial diversification, and in particular its plan in tourism development.

"For a long time we are ready to work with Macau to actually help it diversify the economy, and now it's the right time to



Alessandro Paolicchi (center)

do it; the consolation alignment indicates that the authorities must diversify. So we are here to listen what the plans are and to offer our cooperation, to explore both business and regulatory opportunities for cooperation," he explained to the Times at the EU Pavilion of the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF).

The diplomat indicated that the EU wants to be "a partner to the Macau government in helping diversify the economy," and thus needs to know what Macau wants, so that they can narrow down the

fields of expertise that the EU can provide.

"We have experience, especially with the new member states that joined the European Union in 2004. We are talking about countries going through in the span of decades or less a massive reform process, successfully, most of them," he said.

The Trade Commissioner from the Czech Republic also recognized Macau's inevitable path into economic diversification and its demand for sustainable infrastructure, where lies a large market potential in green technologies and tourism-related products.

Austrian Trade Commissioner and Consul, Mr Christian H. Schierer, also told the Times that the European countries "have a lot to offer" not only in fast moving consumer goods, but also in the fields of high-tech, environmental technologies and sustainable construction.

"We have quite a number of Austrian products exhibited: fast moving consumer goods, but people want to see more water treatment, for example. And infrastructure, raise traffic; [there are] a lot of opportunities, and we want to show Macau that Europe is a great provider for this kind of technology in business," he said.

"Green technology is huge in Europe, and the European companies are the best in the world. So if Macau is interested in looking into the environment and green sector to diversify its economy, we can work together," added Mr Paolicchi. **BY**

DSEJ responds to alleged embezzlement case

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has issued a statement following the alleged embezzlement of educational grants committed by a high-ranking official from a school in the São Lourenço district. In response to the accusations made by the New Macau Association (ANM), the bureau reiterated that the school, which receives the educational funds for admitting students with special needs, is under tight supervision. However, the statement failed to mention if an inquiry would be launched into the claim. According to ANM, a local school has been taking educational grants worth MOP6 million, however, the teaching staff responsible for students with special needs there received around MOP20,000 as remuneration while the salary of the top management could reach 6 digits.

Dealer steals chips worth MOP120,000

A laid-off croupier allegedly turned himself in to the Judiciary Police (PJ) after successfully stealing MOP120,000 worth of casino chips from the casino where he used to work. His surrender on Tuesday came after the casino filed a crime report complaint with the police. According to the PJ, the perpetrator, a local surnamed Iu, aged 29, sneaked into the casino located in Cotai through a staff passage and pretended to be working at a gaming table during the shift change after donning a dealer's uniform. He then snatched the chips before fleeing the scene. The man was said to have been unemployed since his dismissal by the casino at the end of last year.

AD

2015 Macau Eco TrailHiker Wellness Evening - Complimentary Invite

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ROBERT KIRBY will kick-off the evening with the **2015 Macau Eco TrailHiker Event briefing** followed by guest speakers **ALDRIN HO**, a personal trainer and a Certified Rehabilitation and Corrective Work Specialist from Singapore who will speak on nutrition for injury prevention and recovery. **CORINNE MACKAY**, owner of Inception Health & Fitness Macau will talk about planning your training program and why resistance training should be incorporated. We will also have a representative from **Macau Trail Runners Group** to share his experience on his recent 100km Translantau race.

Seating is limited. Please email ASAP with names to confirm your seat(s) today at inquiries@macau-trailhiker.com.

The 6th Edition – Sands China Eco TrailHiker will take place on Saturday, 31st October 2015. Team entries open 1st June 2015.



POLICY ADDRESS | SONIA CHAN

Restructuring of public services 'is a complex task'

Catarina Pinto

THE restructuring and reshuffling of public services is yet again a priority for the Secretary for Administration and Justice's Office. Sonia Chan presented her cabinet's action plan for 2015 yesterday, noting that the restructuring of government departments "is a complex task."

Lawmakers were keen to learn further details of Ms Chan's plans at yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting, namely regarding the restructuring of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), as some of its duties are due to be reassigned to the Sports Development Board (ID) and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

Ms Chan, however, did not provide lawmakers with any comprehensive details on her plans for administrative reform, asking instead for their understanding, as "the restructuring is a difficult and complex task comprising of many functions, services and facilities, as well as [a comprehensive amount of] legislation."

"For the sports area alone, there are at least six laws or regulations involved," she added.

In her initial speech, Ms Chan pledged to progressively implement measures to reorganize human resources within the different government departments while also simplifying administrative procedures.

"[We] will provide clarification on the distribution of powers and responsibilities, while coordinating and simplifying procedures, reducing not only investment in resources but also improving the overall government performance," she stated.

**GOV'T PONDER
BUILDING FOOD
MARKET IN NAPE**

LAWMAKERS YESTERDAY voiced their concerns over food safety issues, recalling several incidents with imported goods last year. Sonia Chan pledged to work on the prevention of these incidents by improving the inspection and supervision mechanisms of food produce brought to Macau. The president of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Alex Vong, also revealed that the government is investigating the possibility of building a new food market in the NAPE area.



Sonia Chan (center)

Similar to last year's debate with then-Secretary for Administration and Justice Florinda Chan, lawmakers again voiced their concerns regarding overlapping services and functions within several public departments.

"There are several similar services being provided by different departments (...) [By] the end of 2015, we'll be reaching 35,000 civil servants, which represents about 8.8 percent of Macau's workforce. Expenditure [for] personnel continues to rise and is not likely that this will change," lawmaker Ho Ion Sang stated.

Legislator Kou Hoi In also stressed that some of these issues have dragged on since Macau's handover. "How can we properly reassign staff [within the different services]? The number of civil servants is reaching 35,000 but how can we solve or ease some of these problems? We should focus on improving quality. The most important thing isn't reducing or firing employees. We need

to optimize the number of civil servants: some services might not need that many workers. We need to control the overall number of civil servants," he reiterated.

Victor Kwan likewise added, "We know IACM is a public department that was subjected to restructuring, but its duties are very broad. I don't know what the nature of this public service is. What kind of duties and powers does IACM have and how does it execute its powers?"

Sonia Chan told lawmakers that the government will take measures to boost civil servants' morale, and also work on a proposal to serve as a reference for the administrative reform. "We are hoping to first restructure IACM, transferring some of its tasks to ID and IC. And then we will restructure the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), and after that, the Law Reform and International Law Bureau," she added.

Ms Chan hinted that the government will not take too long to implement its restructuring

plan for IACM and DSAJ. "The restructuring of these two entities will be conducted this year. It won't take too long. When it comes to staff, employees' rights will not be harmed," she stressed.

Ms Chan revealed that a specialized committee has been created to study the optimization of public services. She stressed that the implementation of a restructuring and

reshuffling plan cannot take away from the overall services provided to Macau's population. "We cannot reduce the number [of civil servants] in some particular services, for instance, for the new border checkpoint planned."

"However, [the government] will only increase the number of public servants if needed." Ms Chan added that the administration will unify civil servants'

“We are hoping to first restructure IACM, transferring some of its tasks to ID and IC

SONIA CHAN

rights and working conditions. The secretary revealed that her cabinet is conducting an overall study regarding public services and examining which role the legal services could play in their restructuring.

Sonia Chan was the first to present her action plan following the chief executive's delivery of the Policy Address on Monday. Lawmakers today will continue to discuss Ms Chan's cabinet policies. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, will attend the AL's plenary meeting on Monday to discuss his action plan for this year.

MUNICIPAL BODY TO HELP MACAU BECOME A 'CENTER AND PLATFORM'

SONIA CHAN unveiled a few more details on the establishment of a municipal body holding no political power, which was announced by the CE on Monday. Asked by lawmakers to provide details of the body's duties and composition, Ms Chan recalled that an inter-departmental group will be created to study its establishment. "This can help Macau [in its goal to become] a center and a platform," she said,

adding that its main duties are ultimately centered on "serving Macau's population and working as a consultative body providing opinions to the government." "Upon creating this entity, we will take into consideration similar duties already performed by other [public] departments. We haven't yet come up with a concrete plan, but when we do, we will provide further details," Ms Chan concluded.

Gov't plans mechanism to perfect legal system

SONIA Chan revealed that her cabinet plans to implement a mechanism to better coordinate the legislative process. Unveiling further details of her action plan at the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ms Chan clarified that the government will set up "a legal coordination plan" to improve the legislative process, from the moment a law is drafted until it is passed by lawmakers.

Several legislators reiterated the need to update Macau's laws, and called for government action on improving the city's

legal system. Lawmaker Melinda Chan recalled that some laws "are outdated" and penalties are "too light." Legislator Lei Cheng I also stressed that legislation related to public housing, for instance, needs revising, lest it "bring difficulties [to] the city's population."

"Lawmakers say that the population's livelihood is being affected by outdated laws. In the current scheme, each service proposes an amendment to a particular law. We will be launching a legal coordination plan, and my cabinet will be

responsible [for overseeing] the coordination of the legislative work," Ms Chan stated.

The secretary added that this mechanism will help her cabinet oversee the legislative process from the beginning until its end. She concluded that, "as Ms Lei Cheng I said, until now the [legislative work] is being done in a rather diffused way, and sometimes there's a need to create new laws. We want to launch this new regime to better supervise the whole legislative process." **CP**

MANY complain that the city has reached the limits of its capacity to receive tourists, but a research study commissioned by the government indicates that, although the region faces “capacity issues”, it could have received more visitors last year. According to the study, which aims to determine the optimum number of tourists that Macau could receive per day, the region had the annualized capacity to host between 32.62 and 33.70 million visitors in 2014.

According to the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO), the total number of visitor arrivals in 2014 was 31.5 million a 7.5 percent increase compared to 2013. The office predicts that annual visitor arrivals will grow by 5 percent in 2015.

The IFT study, mentioned this week by Chui Sai On during the Policy Address presentation, was commissioned by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture to the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) and presented yesterday. It includes several recommendations that aim to enhance Macau’s tourist capacity in the long run.

“It is important that the physical capacity growth of key infrastructure and facilities is coordinated, balanced, and synchronous. Additional room capacity provided by recent (and upcoming) new hotel properties, for example, will not prove efficient if there is no corresponding increase or enhancement in other areas such as public transport and improvements in service quality,” the study reads.

Other recommendations made by the IFT study include the “continued expansion of service infrastructure and facilities as well as availability and diversity of attractions” and the definition of long-term development zones, “clearly delineating areas where tourism development can be more concentrated as well as segregated from residential areas.”

Leonardo Dioko, director of

TOURISM CAPACITY

Gov’t commissioned study welcomes more visitors



■ New hotel properties will not prove efficient if there is no corresponding increase or enhancement in other areas such as public transport

IFT’s Tourism Research Center, said that the tourist capacity has adjusted over time. “More hotels are being built but over the years, what we have observed is that there has been a slowdown, so we have reached a saturation point. It seems both residents and tourists are having negative experiences,” he pointed out on the sidelines of the presentation.

“We are not saying we should cut tourism altogether, everybody is free to visit. What we can

do is organize promotional actions in order to influence the visitors [and let them know] about the best time to come. We can plan and coordinate all the tourist events in order to manage the rate of visitations,” he added. In order to reach that goal, Leonardo Dioko said that more has to be done to schedule events more evenly throughout the year and during each day, in order to distribute demand.

The study’s estimate of an optimum number of visitors is based on two key concepts, namely the social carrying capacity (SCC) and the physical carrying capacity (PCC). The first uses “subjective measures perceived and experienced by residents and visitors” such as perceived level of crowdedness, satisfaction with the quality of the environment, satisfaction with transportation services, service quality, satisfaction with tourist attractions and satisfaction with border immigration clearance.

The physical carrying capacity

evaluates the physical and service carrying capacities of eight major tourism-related infrastructures and services, including hotel accommodation, restaurant and dining facilities, public buses, taxis and major non-paid visitor attractions.

Regarding SCC’s approach, the study suggests that the region’s capacity to absorb visitors may have reached a saturation point in 2014. “From a social perspective, this is likely due to residents beginning to grow weary of the effects of continued tourism growth on important quality of life issues, such as deteriorating experience with public transport and perceived overcrowding in the street, as well as deterioration in visitors’ travel experience caused by over-crowding and a possible decline in tourism service quality in F&B and retail outlets, as well as immigration borders,” it reads.

Noting that the authorities implemented several measures to increase capacity (such as in-

creasing the opening times of the border entry points and crowd control measures during peak periods of visitation, like the Chinese New Year golden week holiday period), the study claims that the effects of these measures were disproportionate to the continued increase. “Thus it is likely that both residents and visitors perceive an overall deterioration in overall conditions.”

Concerning the physical carrying capacity, the IFT study points out that several tourism services and facilities were able to increase their capacity to service visitors in 2013 and 2014, but there were also setbacks like a sub-optimal number of hotel rooms, and capacity issues affecting Macau’s major visitor attractions and restaurants during peak periods of the year.

“There are certain periods during the year in which service capacities of these sectors are adequate but on other days could be insufficient to meet the demand,” the study reads. **PB**

“We are not saying we should cut tourism altogether, everybody is free to visit

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Young entrepreneurs launch local federation

Catarina Pinto

ABOUT 20 entrepreneurs' associations and chambers of commerce have joined forces to establish a federation in Macau, the president of the Young Entrepreneurs Association Portugal-China (AJEPC), Alberto Carvalho Neto, revealed on the sidelines of a workshop held recently at the Portuguese Consulate.

Mr Neto confirmed that AJEPC and other entrepreneurs' associations from China, Portugal and Spanish-speaking countries gathered to launch a federation in Macau, a city often portrayed as a business platform between the Portuguese-speaking countries and China.

He said that by creating a federation here they're hoping to translate ideas into actual business opportunities.

"Macau is what brings us together. This time we also have Spanish-speaking countries joining [the federation] because of our relationship with Latin America and Spain. So we thought it could no longer be just about the Portuguese and Chinese, as [this way] we can create more synergies," he stressed.

According to Mr Neto, the federation will not only be comprised of



young entrepreneurs' associations, as the experience and knowledge of other organizations is equally being valued. He added that associations from different sectors are joining the federation.

So far, about 20 organizations will be the founding members, but Mr Neto stressed that the grouping welcomes more associations interested in joining the project.

Mr Neto added, "The federation will be established very soon."

A workshop, titled "Macau, an International Platform," held at the Portuguese Consulate on Wednesday, brought together AJEPC, AICEP Portugal Global – Trade & Investment Agency, the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), as well as the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries (Forum Macau), among other

entities.

Mr Neto said that Macau still needs to step up efforts to fully enjoy its role as a platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

He recalled that, "China could see Macau as a logistics center. However, Macau does not have enough space to store [products]. [But if it had] we could store [products] here before sending them to China. So this would actually be good for Macanese logistics companies, if they could have the autonomy and the capacity to deal with customs procedures," he said.

As the city's gaming revenue declined for nine consecutive months, he believes that this is the right time to take advantage of opportunities in others sectors.

"Macau has to go through this transition phase. We need to take the opportunity and Portuguese entrepreneurs need to realize that Macau is their ally and wants to help them. China does not really need Macau to reach the Portuguese-speaking countries, but the Portuguese-speaking countries need Macau to reach China. And it shouldn't be embarrassing to admit it. We should work with government departments [that can promote that exchange] like AICEP or IPIM," he stated.

Mr Neto recalled that IPIM and Forum Macau recently created an e-commerce platform that could be helpful in assisting medium-sized enterprises, particularly from Portugal, reach consumers within this region.

CRIME

27 helpers kept under house detention

THE Judiciary Police apprehended a man and a foreign domestic helper for being accomplices in an illegal detention scheme conducted by a Hong Kong-based company offering private household employment services.

According to the authorities, a total of 27 foreign domestic helpers, all from Hong Kong, were collectively held in an 800 square foot residential apartment with only three rooms and denied exits, with their passports withheld. Among the detainees, aged between 29 to 55 years old, were 16 Indonesians and 9 Bengalis, as well as two from the Philippines. One of them was allegedly kept inside the flat for over two months.

It was reported that the employment consultancy company, which was behind the illicit detention, intended to send the sacked housekeepers to Macau before new employment arrangements were made for them in Hong Kong. Fearing that the detainees would escape to seek other working opportunities in the city, the company appointed an Indonesian woman, also a local domestic helper, as a watcher for the group, and she was responsible for their meals. Another man involved in the case was said to be a Hongkonger, aged 48.

The detention came to light after one of the newer captives reported the crime to the local police.

AD

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'Superman' Li bets USD15b Brits will buy mobile alone



Amy Thomson and Jonathan Browning

LI Ka-shing's USD15 billion takeover in the U.K. is a bet that Britons want just one thing from their telecommunications provider: mobile-phone service.

While his competitors in the U.K. are adding television and broadband offerings, the Hong Kong billionaire plans to create Britain's biggest wireless carrier by combining his Three unit with Telefonica SA's O2. No TV. No discounted broadband packages. Just mobile.

If the 86-year-old - dubbed "Superman" by Hong Kong media for his investment acumen - gets it right, Hutchison will focus on its more than 30 million customers without the distraction of bidding for expensive TV content or luring broadband subscribers. The risk is that customers will switch to the bundled offers such as those by BT Group Plc, the landline behemoth that on Wednesday introduced consumer wireless service with packages starting at 5 pounds (\$7.40) a month.

"In a couple of years, you would expect the majority of people to be looking for quad-play offering, with all services under one operator," said Stephanie Beyazian, an analyst at Raymond James Euro Securities in London. "If this happens, Hutchison will be in a difficult position."

Some investors whom Hutchison has invited to take a stake in its British venture are hesitant, highlighting the risks in its strategy, according to people familiar with the matter. When announcing the O2 deal on Tuesday, Hutchison said it was still in talks with potential partners.

The deal - creating a company that serves 44 percent of all U.K. mobile-phone subscribers - deepens a push into the European telecommunications industry that Hutchison entered more than a decade ago. While rising demand for faster mobile connections has helped Hutchison sign up users, offerings combining TV, Internet, landline and wireless service have recently gained popularity in Europe as consumers access video, music and social media on multiple devices. **Bloomberg**

Local junket operator, Chow Tai Fook Enterprises plan USD4b Vietnam casino

ONE of Macau's top casino junket operators, a Vietnamese investment group and Hong Kong property-to-jewelry conglomerate Chow Tai Fook Enterprises will team up to develop a USD4 billion casino resort in Vietnam, Reuters reported yesterday.

According to the news agency, the resort, to be located in the central province of Quang Nam, is headed by Vietnam-based VinaCapital and will forge ahead despite a ban on gambling by Vietnamese citizens that has deterred other big international operators.

Casino operators in Macau have been shifting to other Asian locales in search of more lucrative growth prospects as revenues have plummeted.

As detailed by Reuters, Macau's Suncity confirmed its involvement in the project while VinaCapital confirmed the participation of Chow Tai Fook Enterprises, which replied in an email to the newswire that it had no comment and was conducting preliminary studies. The government has set a minimum capital investment of \$4 billion for large casino resorts.

Genting Bhd's Genting Malaysia Berhad pulled out of the project in 2012



Henry Cheng, chairman of Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd.

due to the local gambling restrictions, and Las Vegas Sands Corp Chairman Sheldon Adelson said he would invest in a multi-billion-dollar resort in the country if the prohibition is eased.

The Vietnamese government is mulling changing legislation to allow local residents to gamble but has yet to come up with a concrete plan, meaning the casino project may initially rely on business from tourists and locals with foreign passports.

Vietnam's location, near many Asian capitals and within easy reach of wealthy Chinese who provide the lion's share of the re-

gion's gaming revenue, gives it the potential for annual gaming revenues of \$3 billion should the laws be loosened, Reuters reports industry analysts and executives as saying.

China's crackdown on corruption is keeping wealthy mainland gamblers away from Macau's 35 casinos, while other Asian destinations are rolling out the red carpet and offering anonymity.

According to Reuters, Suncity, which lures wealthy gamblers to Macau's casinos, arranging credit and accommodation, has been developing its base in the Philippines, assigning hundreds of local

staff in Manila.

Similarly, Vietnam's landmark casino project Ho Tram, about two hours by car from Ho Chi Minh City, has benefited from slowing revenues in Macau, as have five small Vietnamese properties which make most of their revenue from Chinese gamblers, say Vietnamese casino executives.

Chow Tai Fook Enterprises, an affiliate of Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group, the world's largest jewelry retailer by stock market value, has committed to work on casino resorts in Brisbane, Australia, and South Korea, the news agency states. **MDT**

corporate bits

TWO RESTAURANTS AT SANDS RESORTS COTAI STRIP MACAO RECOGNIZED BY SCMP

The Venetian Macao's Canton restaurant and Conrad Macao's Dynasty 8 restaurant have been recognized by the South China Morning Post (SCMP) in the 2015 edition of its "100 Top Tables - a CEO's Dining Guide," a handbook to the best restaurants in Hong Kong and Macau for top executives.

Canton's recognition by the SCMP follows its selection as one of Hong Kong Tatler's Best Restaurants in 2015. Dynasty 8's accolade comes off the back of a commendation in the Best Chinese Restaurant category at the 2014 Target Taste Awards hosted by Target Magazine, and its designation as one



of Hong Kong Tatler's 2015 Best Restaurants in 2015. Canton and Dynasty 8 are among the only 20 Macau restaurants in 2015 to receive a 100 Top Tables award by the SCMP.

"It is an honor to have two of our popular restaurants recognized for consistently delivering outstanding experiences to our guests," said Charles Newland, Senior Vice President of Food and Beverage and Director of Paiza Operations for Sands China Ltd. "We take pride in our award-winning outlets, and will continue to maintain the highest standards of quality and excellence for our guests as part of the many wonderful experiences to be enjoyed at our integrated resorts."

SAKE COCKTAIL PROMOTION AT THE NAGOMI LOBBY LOUNGE AND BAR - HOTEL OKURA MACAU

Throughout April, the Nagomi Lobby Lounge and Bar, which is located in the main lobby of Hotel Okura Macau, is offering three Japanese Sake Cocktails: Cosmo Sake Cocktail, Frozen Sakura Blossom and Sake Sunrise. Each cocktail will be served with one plate of Smoked radish with cheese.

According to a press release from the hotel, Japanese themed cocktails are experiencing a surge in popularity. Rather than just drinking sake with sushi, sophisticated drinkers are looking for a little more action. With these cocktails, Hotel Okura's Sake Sommeliers will take you on a historic, story-telling journey to the exotic.



REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The 25 questions you must ask as a tenant renting a property - Part 3

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

The most important questions to ask...

If you have not seen the earlier articles on this subject, here is a brief introduction to the series. Of course you can find the articles online on the Macau Daily Times website.

With the high costs and the potential happiness of your family at stake, it is natural to be concerned that you are both making a good decision and getting value for money.

The trouble is you may find yourself renting a property whilst starting a new job, moving your family to a new country and enrolling the kids in a new school all at the same time.

Of course it is important to do your homework about any potential property you are considering to rent, and with so many things going on you also have to remember to ask your agent the most important questions about the property you are considering.

The list below is in no particular order, and is intended as a starting point to help identify which questions to ask.

This week we start with...

Will I get good cellphone reception/WiFi connectivity?

What is the strength of signal you get in the apartment?

It might pay to know where the dead spots are in the apartment before you sign a lease in case you have to consider going 'old-school' and getting a landline installed.

For wi-fi, the thickness of the walls and strength of the signal will determine whether you can get wireless connectivity in the apartment with one router.

If not, you might need to get additional equipment which can be both frustrating and expensive.

The connection speeds vary tremendously dependent on the type of service available. Some of the older low-rise buildings do not have a high speed connections, whilst most of the newly built high-rises may offer the high speed service as a service or an option.

What do you do if something goes wrong in the apartment?

The procedure for getting things fixed should be fully documented in the lease, and if not it's certainly worth asking about.

Some buildings have on-site building management company on-site, and they will be able to recommend someone when the faucet leaks.

Some landlords hire a property management or administration company to assist with maintenance, usually during business hours.

In some cases the landlord might ask you to call him directly, in which case you may have to ask a friend or colleague that speaks Cantonese to liaise with the owner on your behalf.

How do you handle emergency repairs?

No one wants to deal with a burst pipe at midnight on a Tuesday, but it's a repair that has to be handled ASAP.

You need to know how the owner wants you to respond in an genuine emergency: Fixing a running toilet on your own because it was driving you nuts and the manager didn't respond quickly enough may leave you stuck with the bill.

Before choosing an apartment it's important to know how all kinds of repairs are handled as mentioned in point 13, but particularly the emergencies.

Can I paint?

You may assume the answer is "yes, of course!" because you think "This is MY apartment!"

But you'd be wrong. Most leases stipulate that when you move out, the apartment must be restored to the same condition you got it in.

If you painted the walls purple, you could be expected to repaint them to their original boring beige. And covering over purple paint

isn't such an easy task.

Some landlords have a clause in the lease that says written permission is required before painting or decorating.

Putting up pictures, driving nails into the walls to hang artwork, all things that might need to be pre-approved and/or reversed when you move out.

Basically, the landlord will accept normal wear-and-tear to occur in the apartment, and everything else is on the tenant.

Before moving in you may be able to do a walk-through with photos to record the actual condition of the property.

It is important. Don't forget that damages to the apartment will be deducted from your security deposit. Do you still want deep purple walls?

Can I have a pet?

Many owners simply forbid any cats or dogs.

Those that DO allow pets usually have a clause to say the apartment must undergo a deep clean upon termination of the agreement, and funds will be withheld to take care of this (a deep clean typically costs around HKD2,000).

Check your landlord's policies, and while not all landlords refuse to allow pets, many say they do for financial reasons.

Dogs can scratch up doors and hardwood floors, and not every pet can handle long hours left alone in an apartment while their human is at work.

Barking also disturbs neighbours, and accidents can stain carpets, cause hygiene issues and wreck flooring.

If the landlord and the building management does allow pets, you may be asked to pay an extra pet security deposit. And of course pet owners are absolutely expected to clean up after their animals.

Next Week: "Where's the exit" and others...



PROJECT POKER

BY ADRIENNE "TALONCHICK" ROWSOME

Take a drive on the other side

When I was studying to become an Occupational Therapist, one of my favourite courses was Neuroscience - learning about the brain and all the intricacies of how it works. I was fascinated by neuroplasticity and the complexities of the central nervous system. This fall, while we were touring around Ireland, introducing Carrick to his extended family, my brain was put to the challenge.

The challenge I faced was driving. Now, I have been driving for twenty years, so operating a vehicle isn't an extraordinary challenge in itself. Having visited Ireland many times in the past, I was familiar with the aggressive style of driving, the winding roads and mostly manual transmissions. Those things didn't intimidate me, what I was most concerned about was driving on the left hand (or 'wrong side) of the road!

From the moment I got into the driver seat and reached with my left hand to the gear shift, until I parked the car and turned the ignition off at the car return, I was focused. Undoubtedly, while driving in Ireland, I demonstrated more focus and attention than when driving at home. My intentional focus reminded me how easy it is to fall into routine and become complacent with daily activities. I knew that while driving on the left, if I didn't pay close attention it would be easy

for me to fall into routine and wind up on the right hand side of the road.

Poker is no different. You can play your best game the same way you played it yesterday and make 'auto-pilot' moves. While those moves will work the majority of the time, is that good enough?

The realization I came to while driving on the left was that I play on 'auto-pilot' all too often, whether distracted by the television or various forms of social media. In an attempt to combat that, I have been choosing to play from the mobile app with greater frequency. Ironically, despite the freedom it gives me to move about, I have found that end up committing more to one or two tables and don't digress as often. It is these sessions where I really focus and keep my brain active and poker minded. In turn, these sessions don't feel like such a grind because my mind is busy. Those inevitably end up being the days of which I am most proud and I often achieve my highest goals.

If something that you're doing doesn't challenge you, then it doesn't change you. It feels good to challenge yourself to make sure you are constantly paying attention and thinking about each action. Strengthen and build new neural pathways! Take a new approach to your current game. Try a new game...just not while driving!

AD



PLATINUM SERIES

ACOP PLATINUM SERIES VIII. HKD \$500,000 GUARANTEE PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN A SEAT AT THE ASIA CHAMPIONSHIP OF POKER

From 21-26 April, 'PokerStars LIVE at the City of Dreams' will host the ACOP Platinum Series VIII which will have six Official Asia Player of the Year events and features the HKD \$500,000 Main Event.

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MOZAMBIQUE

Travel agency transactions total USD30m per month



MEMBERS of the Mozambican Travel Agents and Tour Operators Association (Avitum) are registering overall turnover of USD30 million every month, the association said in a statement sent to Macauhub.

The volume of transactions includes domestic and international air tickets, accommodation, tourist transfers, car hire, excursions and other activities such as conferences and seminars, said Noor Momade, president of Avitum, cited in the press release.

Momade, who was recently reappointed to the post of president of the association, at the 7th Avitum Annual General Meeting, also said that the association currently has 62 member employing 434

workers.

Commenting on the development of tourism in Mozambique, the official stressed that the sector is "not progressing at the same pace as investments" made in new hotels, car rental companies and tour operators, since demand is less than growth in supply. In this context, Momade called for more attention from the government to the sector, suggesting that border visas should be easier to get, "similar to what happens in Angola nowadays."

The president of Avitum also pointed out the need to reduce the cost of domestic flights, as well as increasing their frequency, in order to encourage tourists within Mozambique. **MDT/Macauhub**

Chinese company wants to invest in wind farms in Brazil

CHINA General Nuclear Meiya Power Holdings Corporation, headquartered in Hong Kong, is in talks to invest USD638 million (2 billion reais) in Brazil in wind power, financial news agency Bloomberg reported.

According to the agency CGN Meiya intends to acquire a minority stake in two wind farms of Brazilian company Casa dos Ventos, which will be completed in September of this year and will have a capacity of 392 megawatts.

Casa dos Ventos has projects in the states of Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Piauí, Pernambuco, Bahia, Mato Grosso do Sul and São Paulo, and owns the largest portfolio of wind projects in Brazil.

In 2011 Chinese company Sinovel Wind Group Co. supplied Engevix Engenharia SA's Desenvix with turbines to produce 35 megawatts of power.

The State Grid Corporation of China has more than 6,000 kilometres of power transmission lines in Brazil and China Three Gorges Corporation also has power plants in Brazil following the purchase of a 21.35-percent stake in EDP-Energias de Portugal. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

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It's handbag heaven at Sands Shoppes. Don't miss these new, limited and exclusive bags, in styles, shapes and sizes to suit all.



BOTTEGA VENETA
Thirteen years after the debut of Bottega Veneta's Cabat bag, this season's contemporary version, the Pale Karung Sfumato Cabat, combines discretion, quality and craftsmanship. Made from Karung leather, it is a roomy, unstructured tote, entirely woven and seamlessly put together by hand, and is exclusive from early April to Shoppes at Four Seasons.
Shop 2842/2845, Shoppes at Four Seasons



DOLCE & GABBANA
Each Dolce & Gabbana Mix Sicily bag is one-of-a-kind. Created from exotic skins – calf, python and crocodile, each one in different colours ranging from pastel tones to the most vivid hues, with luxurious satin linings, no two bags are the same. A range from the limited edition capsule collection is available exclusively at Shoppes at Four Seasons.
Shop 2850a/2856, Shoppes at Four Seasons



MICHAEL KORS
Carefully curated details like a tortoise-tone chain-link and leather handles put Michael Kors' new Cynthia satchel in a league of its own. Hook the chic Saffiano leather piece over your arm for the office, then go hands-free with the optional shoulder strap for after-hours fun.
Shop 1019a, Shoppes at Cotai Central



ANTEPRIMA
Bold, bright tones add a splash of playfulness to the strong silhouettes of Anteprima's fabulous new leather bag collection. Available in four shapes, each one created from the finest premium Italian textured calf leather, think elegant, sophisticated, functional and versatile, all qualities of these classic yet modern designs.
Shop 943, Shoppes at Venetian



VALENTINO
Hot off the Spring/Summer runways, Valentino's IT bag for this season is the Garavani Single Handle bag. The striking printed calfskin leather will ensure you stand out from the crowd.
Shop 2840-2841, Shoppes at Four Seasons



A TOAST TO SPRING
Known for lustrous, perfectly spherical pearls placed in exceptional jewellery designs, Mikimoto's spring recommendations include the exquisite Flower Blossom collection. Explore the pieces and spend over HKD50,000 before 19 April and receive a complimentary bottle of Mikimoto Rosé champagne.
Mikimoto, Shop 1002, Shoppes at Venetian



SUMMER SCENTS
Spend MOP1,500 and save MOP120 on fragrances (excluding Chanel and Christian Dior) at The Atrium from now until 30 April. Find your perfect scent for summer!
The Atrium, Shop 203, Shoppes at Venetian

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER
Moments of Love, the new collection from TSL, incorporates the infinity symbol into its design, exquisitely crafted from 18 carat white and rose gold adorned with sparkling diamonds. From 27 March to 30 April enjoy 15% off the collection which includes necklaces, earrings, rings and bangles.
TSL, Shop 317, Shoppes at Venetian



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Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, left, shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a signing ceremony in the Great Hall of the People

Xi moves to boost sway in Sri Lanka to counter India shift

Anusha Ondaatjie

CHINESE President Xi Jinping moved to boost China's influence over Sri Lanka to counter the island nation's shift toward India under President Maithripala Sirisena.

Xi signed four agreements with Sirisena on the Sri Lankan leader's first trip to China since winning elections in January. The pacts include cooperation on health and urban development.

"We will continue to make efforts toward building the relationship toward a new era," Xi said at a joint briefing with Sirisena in Beijing yesterday.

While his predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa courted Chinese investment during his decade-long rule, Sirisena has promoted ties with the government in New Delhi. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi - on the first visit to the island by an Indian leader since the 1980s - agreed this month to shore up financial ties and build up infrastructure to counter China's sway.

"China still plays an important role in the Sri Lankan economy as a source of capital and construction and operational

expertise," Sasha Riser-Kositsky, Asia Associate at Eurasia Group, said by e-mail. Sirisena will try to "communicate that Sri Lanka is not turning its back on China but that it is simply rebalancing its relations to a more even keel vis-a-vis India, and, to a lesser extent, the West."

The Chinese and Sri Lankan leaders were expected to discuss Colombo Port City, a USD1.4 billion Chinese-funded city planned to be built on reclaimed land, the island's finance minister said in Colombo earlier this week. Rajapaksa and Xi last year signed an agreement for talks on a bilateral free trade agreement.

During Modi's visit, the central banks of India and Sri Lanka agreed to a \$1.5 billion currency swap, mirroring a deal Xi reached with Rajapaksa last year.

Sirisena, who visited New Delhi in February on his first overseas tour, has suspended the Colombo Port City plan pending a review into whether the project was being implemented with relevant approvals.

China has emerged over the past decade as Sri Lanka's se-

cond-largest trading partner behind India. China has also invested heavily in Sri Lanka infrastructure projects and supported Rajapaksa in the face of a U.S.-led inquiry into human rights abuses allegedly committed during the end of the island's 26-year civil war.

Modi is seeking to prevent China from establishing a military foothold in a region his nation has dominated for decades. He's called for a "climate of trust," in ensuring the security and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region.

India, which has a large Tamil population, will also support Sri Lanka's efforts to find equitable peace within a united country, Modi said.

Chinese submarines docked twice in Sri Lanka last year, triggering protests from India and fueling doubts that China's strategy of building ports in the region was purely economic.

"China has always placed Sri Lanka in an important diplomatic position in region," Xi said yesterday. "I believe during this visit, we will again promote and elevate the China-Sri Lanka relationship to fulfill an important purpose." **Bloomberg**

Beijing to invite foreign militaries to take part in parade

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

IN an unusual step, China's insular military will invite foreign armed forces to take part in a lavish military parade in Beijing this fall marking the 70th anniversary of victory over Japan in World War II, an official said yesterday.

Defense Ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng told reporters that foreign government and military leaders would be invited as observers. Members of their armed forces would be welcome to march in the parade, Geng said.

The comments were the ministry's first official remarks on the long-anticipated event.

The parade plans have drawn speculation that Beijing wants to emphasize what it sees as a lack of Japanese contrition for its wartime aggression, and its warnings that Tokyo continues to threaten the region - in part to distract from Beijing's own growing assertion of territorial claims in the region.

That combination of factors may make foreign militaries hesitant about participating if they risk being seen as endorsing China's perspective.

Geng said the parade aimed not to celebrate the victory, but to memorialize victims of the conflict that China refers to as "The Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression."

"Through the military parade, China hopes to demonstrate our firm stance, join hands with the rest of the world, safeguard the victorious outcome of World War II, maintain world peace and stability and create a better future for mankind," Geng said at a monthly news conference.

Geng said the parade will take place on or around the Sept. 2 anniversary of Japan's formal surrender, but that plans are still being drawn up. China's Foreign Ministry has also confirmed the event but released few details.

Invitations will go out to countries that fought in the conflict as well as some with no direct connection, Geng said, without mentioning individual nations by name.

The participation of foreign armed forces is almost unprecedented for such events, which in the past have taken place once per decade to mark the founding of the People's Republic on Oct. 1, 1949. China invited 21 vessels from 14 countries to take part in a ceremonial naval display on National Day in 2009.

The parades feature aerial displays and China's latest weaponry rolling down Beijing's main boulevard, passing by Tiananmen Square, where the People's Liberation Army violently crushed student-led pro-democracy protests in 1989.

Despite China's enthusiasm for the event, numerous questions surround the issue of foreign participation. Some among the U.S. and its allies might view China as a potential future adversary and thus feel awkward about accepting the invitation.

Geng declined to comment on whether invitations would be issued to Japan, whose prime minister, Shinzo Abe, is loathed in China for his hawkish views, or to Taiwan, regarded by China's ruling Communist Party as a renegade province since it drove Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists - who had battled Japan for eight years on the mainland - to the island in 1949. **AP**



Chinese military cadets in July 1940



Chinese women wearing military costumes dance during their daily exercises at a square outside a shopping mall in Beijing

'Dancing grannies' irk neighbors, face new rules

Jack Chang, Beijing

ALONG with two dozen of her fellow "dancing grannies," 60-year-old Zhang Jinsu twirls and steps her way every night across a central Beijing plaza, sometimes gliding over the pavement like a butterfly, at other times marching with a plastic rifle.

But when new Chinese government instructions on such hugely popular — and loud — senior dances take hold, Zhang may need to learn a new routine.

Zhang is part of a senior health trend that's filled squares and apartment courtyards across China, winning the admiration of medical experts but upsetting neighbors over the noise level.

"It's never quiet," said Gan Xuehua, a 31-year-old man whose apartment in the southern city of Nanchang overlooks a plaza where the women dance. "These grannies play music all day ... and every night from 7 to 9. It culminates with 70 to 80 people gathering with two 75-centimeter-tall speakers. The music is really loud!"

This week, Chinese officials stepped into the fray by announcing the imminent arrival of

new regulations on where seniors can dance and how loud they can blast their music. They also unveiled 12 officially sanctioned square dance steps set to such popular songs as "Little Apple" and "China is Beautiful"

■ **The senior health trend has filled squares and apartment courtyards across China, winning the admiration of medical experts but upsetting neighbors over the noise level**

— although an official said the steps were not compulsory and merely a suggestion.

To some, the square-dance clampdown was a step too far for an increasingly restrictive government that has tightened controls on everything from

college classroom lectures to the lavish spending of top government officials.

"You're even going to tell us how to dance?" asked Yang Tao on the social media service Weibo.

As a precaution, Zhang said her fellow dancers who gather in front of the Raffles Center in downtown Beijing have already stopped all dances by 9:30 p.m. And to show a government afraid of any sort of organized action, they have started re-enacting ultrapatriotic World War II-era skits where they act like Chinese soldiers apprehending Japanese and German bad guys, to the rhythm of a live band.

"There have been people who have criticized us, but we all came to an understanding and solved the problem," Zhang said. "We do more theatrical dancing, different from the plaza dancing where everyone stands in their own square meter. These new regulations have been discussed for a year now, but we've chosen an appropriate place to dance."

An official at the national General Administration of Sport who would only give her surname Yao said the new steps were not mandatory and had been created by experts.

"Apart from those 12 dances,

we are also asking people to suggest other dances too," Yao said. "The original goal is to help people exercise in a healthier and more scientific way. We invited health experts to be involved in the choreographing, just to make sure the dances are not too active, because they might not be good for some people with neck problems or heart problems."

She said her department was also working with the Culture Ministry on "specific guidelines on the volume of music" played at the dances and other details.

The enormous popularity of the Chinese square dances, which have been spotted even in Moscow and New York, springs from an urban landscape lacking enough parks and other public spaces that pushes people to gather in front of shopping centers or in playgrounds, said Caroline Chen, an environmental planning expert at the University of California at San Diego who wrote her dissertation on the dances.

Those same factors help explain the ire occasionally sparked among nearby neighbors, including one Beijing man who did prison time after he fired a rifle into the air and released three dogs on several dancers in 2013.

In the coastal city of Wenzhou last year, people pooled more than USD40,000 to buy a military-grade loudspeaker to retaliate against women dancing to boom boxes in a tit-for-tat escalation of noise.

Gan, whose apartment overlooked the dancing women, started an online discussion group about noise pollution. He said he's complained to local authorities, police and even the National People's Congress.

"There's nothing that can stop them from dancing. I thought it would be an easy problem to solve because everyone knows it's not good to disturb others, but I was too naive," he said.

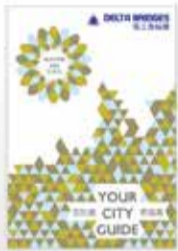
The dances' popularity also reflect China's rapid aging society, and meeting the health needs of that growing elderly population will be one of China's biggest challenges, Chen said.

"I'm concerned that when there are rules and restrictions put down on how one can dance, that free flow of creativity and spontaneity can be squashed," Chen said. "I see it as more of a practical issue of the sound of the music and people not having enough space."

For 52-year-old Huang Shihui, the nightly dances have gotten her out of the house and introduced her to a whole new set of friends. She said she didn't mind the restrictions, as long as the music didn't stop.

"If I didn't dance, I'd just eat and watch TV," she said before donning a red beret and olive-green military uniform to hit the plaza. "To dance, everybody's together, everybody's much happier." AP

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US: Thailand must end slavery in its fishing fleets

THE U.S. government and major business leaders are renewing their call on the Thai government to crack down on slavery in its fishing fleets...

The State Department, the U.S. seafood and retail industries and a member of Congress reacted swiftly Wednesday to an Associated Press investigation published this week that found slave-caught fish clouds the supply networks of major supermarkets, restaurants and even pet stores in the United States.

"It has become increasingly clear that workers in the fishing industry, many of whom are migrants, are exploited at multiple points along the supply chain, from harvesting to processing," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said at a briefing Wednesday.

The State Department blacklisted Thailand last year for failing to meet minimum standards in fighting human traffi-



In this Thursday, Nov. 27, 2014 image from video, workers from Myanmar load fish onto a Thai-flagged cargo ship in Benjina, Indonesia

cking. Psaki did not say whether current trade talks with Thailand include labor rights.

The National Retail Federation, the Retail Industry Leaders Association and the National Fisheries Institute, in a letter to the ambassadors of Thailand and Indonesia, also demanded to know what will be done to free the slaves described in AP's coverage and bring their

masters to justice. The industry leaders said that in the past they have asked the Thai government to address forced labor, but have lacked specific allegations.

"The AP article changes this dynamic," they wrote.

The Thai government says it is cleaning up the problem and has laid out a plan to address labor abuse, including new laws that mandate wages, sick leave and

shifts of no more than 14 hours.

Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement issued Wednesday that at least 1.6 million foreign migrant workers, most of them employed in the fishing industry, are now registered with the government and have the same labor protections as Thai workers.

The ministry said Thailand's military leader, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, "has designated this issue as a top national priority and directed all relevant agencies to integrate their work in order to expedite anti-trafficking efforts."

On Wednesday, however, Prayuth asked the media not to report on human trafficking without considering how the news will affect the country's seafood industry and reputation abroad.

Thailand's biggest seafood company, Thai Union Frozen Products, announced Wednesday that it immediately cut ties with a supplier identified in the AP report after determining it might be involved with forced labor and other abuses.

In the U.S., many companies that sell seafood from Thailand have said they are already taking steps to prevent labor abuse in their supply chains. Gavin Gibbons, spokesman for the National Fisheries Institute, which represents about 75 percent of U.S. seafood sellers, said AP's reports of labor abuses "have been particularly painful for the seafood community."

He added that his members now plan to follow up using details from the report.

"Pointing to specific boats, producers and processors gives us the ability to push for aggressive investigation and enforcement," said Gibbons. AP

AD



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SINGAPORE

Bakery pulls Lee Kuan Yew bun after social media roasting

A bakery chain apologized for a bun commemorating Singapore's long-time leader Lee Kuan Yew and pulled it from stores after being accused of poor taste. BreadTalk said on its Facebook page that its bun was intended to show respect for Lee but it now understands it was an insensitive way to remember his legacy. The death of Lee at age 91 on Monday has been met with an outpouring of grief in Singapore. Lee was Singapore's prime minister for 31 years until 1990 and is regarded by Singaporeans as the architect of the city-state's economic success. "We would like to convey our deepest apologies with regard to the commemorative bun," the company said in the Facebook post dated Wednesday. The nondescript bun caused a wave of criticism on social media though also some came to BreadTalk's defense. The company expected sales of the bun to total 30,000 Singapore dollars (USD22,000) and said it will still donate that amount to charity. Tens of thousands of Singaporeans are queuing for hours to pay respects to Lee before a state funeral on Sunday.

PHILIPPINES

Manila says China rushing construction in disputed sea

The Philippines' top diplomat says China has been rushing construction projects including massive land reclamations in the disputed South China Sea in hopes of forestalling any legal moves against its vast territorial claims. Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told a news forum yesterday that the Chinese construction boom aims to bolster its territorial claims and control to virtually the entire South China Sea. Del Rosario says China's territorial claims are invalid and excessive and is in violation of international law. The Philippines has filed an arbitration case and protested China's reclamations in submerged reefs, which are also claimed by Manila and China's other neighbors. The Chinese Embassy did not immediately comment but in the past, Beijing has asserted its right to undertake any activity in territories it has claimed.

INDIA

Police arrest 2 suspects in gang rape of elderly nun

Manik Banerjee, Kolkata

POLICE arrested two suspects yesterday in the gang rape of an elderly nun in a missionary school this month in a crime that focused attention on the scourge of sexual violence in India despite tough anti-rape laws introduced two years ago.

The suspects were arrested after a nationwide hunt, one of them was found hiding in the western city of Mumbai and the second from West Bengal state, said a police officer said who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The nun, in her 70s, was hospitalized in serious condition. She has since recovered and left the hospital.

Christian leaders say a series of attacks on churches since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's right-wing Hindu government came to power in May have created a sense of fear in the community. Christians comprise 2 percent of India's more than 1.2 billion people.

Police also are looking for other suspects who attacked the Convent of Jesus and Mary School in eastern India's West



An Indian Christian nun sings devotional songs during a protest against the gang rape of a nun at a Christian missionary school in eastern India, Kolkata

Bengal state on March 14, ransacked the chapel, destroyed religious items and stole cash.

The attackers tied the school's security guards with ropes and entered the nuns' room, where the women were sleeping. They took the elderly nun to another room when she tried to block their way and then raped her, police said.

One of the suspects,

Mohammad Salim Shaikh, denied the rape charge, but acknowledged that he was part of the gang which attacked the school in Nadia district, 80 kilometers northeast of the West Bengal state capital of Kolkata, the officer said yesterday.

India has a long history of tolerance for sexual violence, but the December 2012 fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old

woman aboard a moving bus in New Delhi caused outrage across the nation.

The outcry led the federal government to rush legislation doubling prison terms for rapists to 20 years and criminalizing voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women. The law also makes it a crime for officers to refuse to open cases when complaints are made. **AP**

VIETNAM

Gov't orders quick probe after scaffolding fall kills 13



Rescuers work through the rubble trying to find survivors after scaffolding collapsed in an economic zone in Ha Tinh province in central Vietnam

Minh V. Tran, Hanoi

VIETNAM'S prime minister yesterday ordered a swift investigation into a scaffolding collapse that killed 13 workers and injured dozens, while a unit of South Korea's Samsung Group involved in the construction project offered initial assistance to victims' families.

All the victims were Vietnamese subcontractors working on a seaport breakwater project in the Vung Ang economic zone in central Vietnam, about 400 kilometers south of the capital, Hanoi.

More than 40 workers were on the scaffolding for nearly an hour Wednesday when it shook twice, sending them running to an elevator before someone

stopped them saying there was no problem, laborer Dinh Ninh Dan, 27, told The Associated Press by telephone.

"After 10 more minutes, the scaffolding, which was about 20 meters high, suddenly collapsed. I quickly grabbed an iron bar but fell free," Dan said from Ky Anh General Hospital in Ha Tinh province, where he was being treated for hip pain along with 19 others, 15 of them with serious injuries.

"People were screaming, calling for help from the rubble," said Dan. "I was very lucky to survive."

A total of 13 bodies were pulled from the rubble, said deputy provincial police chief Bui Dinh Quang. Earlier reports said 14 had died because one victim was counted twice, said police officer Nguyen Sy Quan.

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung urged authorities to investigate the cause of the collapse and "deal with it in a serious manner" according to the law.

Samsung C&T Vietnam, a unit of South Korea's Samsung Group, promised to cooperate fully with the investigation and offered initial support of 30 million dong (USD1,400) for the family of each victim, state-run newspaper Tien Phong reported.

The Son Duong seaport is part of the Vung Ang economic zone, where Taiwan's Formosa Plastics Corp. is building a multi-billion dollar steel complex.

The site was the scene of an anti-China riot last May that left three Chinese dead following Beijing's deployment of an oil rig in South China Sea waters also claimed by Vietnam. **AP**

Lori Hinnant and Dave McHugh,
Paris

GERMANWINGS TRAGEDY

French prosecutor: Co-pilot wanted to 'destroy' the plane

AS a frantic pilot pounded on the cockpit door and passengers screamed in panic, the Germanwings co-pilot "intentionally" sent Flight 9525 straight into the side of a mountain in the French Alps, a prosecutor said yesterday.

In a news conference in Paris, Marseille prosecutor Brice Robin laid out the horrifying conclusions reached by French aviation investigators after listening to the last minutes of the Tuesday morning flight from Barcelona to Duesseldorf. The Airbus A320 began to descend from cruising altitude after losing radio contact with ground control and slammed into the remote mountain, killing all 150 people on board.

It was the co-pilot's "intention to destroy this plane," Robin said.

He said the pilot, who has not been identified, left the cockpit, presumably to go to the lavatory, and then was unable to regain access. In the meantime, co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, a 28-year-old German, manually and "intentionally" set the plane on the descent that drove it into the mountain.

Robin said the commander of the plane knocked several times "without response." He said the door could only be blocked manually.

He said the co-pilot's responses, initially courteous, became "curt" when the captain began the mid-flight briefing on the planned landing.

The information was pulled from the black box cockpit voice recorder, but Robin said the

co-pilot did not say a word after the commanding pilot left the cockpit.

"It was absolute silence in the cockpit," he said.

During the final minutes of the flight's descent, pounding could be heard on the cockpit door as plane alarms sounded but the co-pilot's breathing was normal throughout the whole time, Robin said.

"It's obvious this co-pilot took advantage of the commander's absence. Could he have known he would leave? It is too early to say," he said.

He said Lubitz had never been flagged as a terrorist and would not give details on his religion or ethnic background. He said German authorities were taking charge of the investigation into Lubitz.

Robin said just before the plane hit the mountain, the sounds of passengers screaming could be heard on the audio.

"I think the victims realized just at the last moment," he said.

The families of victims were briefed about the shocking conclusions just ahead of the announcement.

"The victims deserve explanations from the prosecutor," Robin said. "(But) they have having a hard time believing it."

Robin said the second black box still had not been found but remains of victims and DNA



Rescue workers work on debris at the plane crash site near Seyne-les-Alpes, France

identification have begun, he said.

In the German town of Montabaur, acquaintances told The Associated Press that Lubitz showed no signs of depression when they saw him last fall as he renewed his glider pilot's license.

"He was happy he had the job with Germanwings and he was

doing well," said a member of the glider club, Peter Ruecker, who watched Lubitz learn to fly. "He gave off a good feeling."

Lubitz had obtained his glider pilot's license as a teenager, and was accepted as a Lufthansa pilot trainee after finishing a tough German college preparatory school, Ruecker said. He described Lubitz as a "rather quiet"

but friendly young man.

Lufthansa said the co-pilot joined Germanwings in September 2013, directly after training, and had flown 630 hours.

The captain had more than 6,000 hours of flying time and been a Germanwings pilot since May 2014, having previously flown for Lufthansa and Condor, Lufthansa said. **AP**

YEMEN

Saudi airstrikes target rebel Houthi bases

Ahmed Al-Haj, Sana'a

SAUDI Arabia bombed key military installations in Yemen yesterday after announcing a broad regional coalition to oust Shiite rebels that forced the country's embattled president to flee. Some of the strikes hit positions in the country's capital, Sana'a, and flattened a number of homes near the international airport.

The airstrikes, which had the support of nine other countries, drew a strong reaction from Iran which called the operation an "invasion" and a "dangerous step" that will worsen the crisis in the country.



People carry the body of a woman covered with a blanket from under the rubble of houses destroyed by Saudi airstrikes near Sana'a Airport

Iran "condemns the airstrikes against Yemen this morning that

left some innocent Yemenis wounded and dead and considers this action

a dangerous step," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham

said in a statement. She said military action would complicate and worsen the crisis in Yemen.

"This invasion will bear no result but expansion of terrorism and extremism throughout the whole region," she said.

The Saudi airstrikes came hours after President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, a close U.S. ally, fled Yemen by sea after rebels pushed their way toward the southern port city of Aden where he had taken refuge.

The back-and-forth between the regional heavyweights was threatening to turn impoverished Yemen into a proxy battle between the Middle East's Sunni powers

and Shiite-led Iran.

Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya News reported that the kingdom had deployed 100 fighter jets, 150,000 soldiers and other navy units in "Operation Decisive Storm."

The Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, were calling on their supporters to protest in the streets of Sana'a yesterday afternoon, Yemen's Houthi-controlled state news agency SABA reported. TV stations affiliated with the rebels and their ally, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, showed the aftermath of the strikes yesterday morning in what appeared to be a residential area.

Al-Masirah TV, affiliated with the Houthis, quoted the ministry of health as saying that 18 civilians were killed and 24 were injured. **AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Documentary Series
15:00	Debate on Administration and Justice Policy Report for 2015
20:00	News
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:30	Revenge S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:00	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:10	Documentary Serie
10:30	Young Adult
11:20	Boonie Bears
12:20	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
17:00	Miscellaneous
17:20	David Beckham - Into the Unknown
19:00	Contest
20:00	FFF - Fashion Film Factory
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)

SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
16:10	Miscellaneous
19:20	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
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live
02:45	UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifiers: Portugal - Serbia (Live)

offbeat

WINFREY'S NETWORK TO DO SERIES ON DAD WITH 34 CHILDREN

Oprah Winfrey's OWN network said Wednesday it is making a television series on the life of an Atlanta man who claims to have fathered 34 children with 17 different women.

The series, set to premiere in September, is a spin-off of the network's "Iyanla: Fix My Life" series where the spiritual life coach tried to help the man, a video producer named Jay Williams, get his life in order. The untitled new series will follow Williams as he tries to establish new connections with his children and their mothers.

OWN said the "extreme situation" will challenge Williams' intentions to live up to his responsibilities.

Winfrey's network said it will also premiere another series following someone's life. "Evelyn" will feature Evelyn Lozada of "Basketball Wives" and her life with baseball player Carl Crawford and their first child. The series is due to premiere in July.

The network's "Oprah's Master Class" series will feature Winfrey interviewing Ellen DeGeneres, Robert Duvall, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Smokey Robinson within the next year.

cinema



CINETEATRO

26 MAR - 01 APR



CINDERELLA

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Starring: Lily James, Richard Madden, Cate Blanchett

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min



THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Theo James

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 119min

LOST AND LOVE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Peng Sanyuan

Starring: Andy Lau, Jing Boran, Sandra Ng

Language: Mandarin (English and Chinese)

Duration: 106min



RUN ALL NIGHT

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra

Starring: Liam Neeson, Ed Harris, Joel Kinnaman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 114min

MACAU TOWER

19 MAR - 1 APR

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Theo James

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 119min

this day in history



1989 MILLIONS OF RUSSIANS GO TO THE POLLS

Millions of Russian voters have gone to the polls, with early results suggesting that a number of Communist candidates have been rejected by the electorate.

The Soviet parliamentary election was the first opportunity citizens ever had of casting their ballots for any but the official Communist Party candidates.

Election data available so far shows a net gain to unofficial candidates in the voting for 1,500 seats in the new Congress of People's Deputies.

Some Communist Party officials have failed to gain election and despite the absence as yet of many provincial results, there appears to be a swing against the party establishment.

These included five members of the central committee and one Politburo member.

President Mikhail Gorbachev has urged Russian newspaper and broadcasting editors "not to dramatise" the results, according to the official Tass news agency.

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov described the results as a "victory for glasnost and perestroika".

Government newspaper Izvestia welcomed early results and referred to a new era of "the dictatorship of democracy".

In a predicted landslide, Boris Yeltsin has been elected as a representative to the CPD, which was established by Mr Gorbachev.

Mr Yeltsin won in the all-Moscow constituency against the official party candidate with 89% of the vote.

The biggest majority of all in the polls was won by Te-lman Gdlyan, a senior prosecutor who exposed a notorious corruption case in Uzbekistan in 1988, with 86.4% of the vote.

The next biggest majority in the polls went to Valentin Dikul, once a famous trapeze artist, with 72%.

Among other elected representatives are retired ice hockey champion Anatoly Firsov, who was seeking to improve health and sports facilities.

Tass described the defeat of one regional Communist party chief in Uzbekistan in Central Asia as a "vote of no confidence".

In the Ukraine, five regional party chiefs were rejected by the voters. Among others who failed to secure their seats were the party chief in Minsk, capital of the western republic of Byelorussia.

It is reported that a Central Committee inquest is under way into the election results.

Mr Gorbachev was reported as saying that economic problems, including the budget deficit and shortages of food and consumer goods, were reasons why the authorities were criticised during the election.

One Muscovite said: "There's been nothing like this for 72 years ... and for all that time it's been nothing but blood, blood, blood."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 1989 election saw many senior Communist Party officials defeated.

This was seen as revolutionary at the time because internal critics of the Soviet regime were able to receive a hearing and to get themselves elected.

According to the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia, turnout in most regions stood at between 80% and 85%, which was not as high as official figures for previous elections.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You have to do something about your clutter - or maybe all that empty space in your house! You've got to balance your possessions with your needs, and if it takes all day, so be it.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your intensity makes life great for you and your people - you don't let go of anything good, while forcefully dismissing all the bad. It's one of those days when you really need to revel!

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

This is not the time to issue demands or otherwise expect the world to match your pace. Instead, you need to deal with your own issues while you wait for everyone else to catch up with you.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to throw a party - or an intimate gathering - so invite folks over for dinner or more. You know how to make people feel welcome, and once you get things rolling, it becomes unstoppable!

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You can't believe what you're hearing today - about yourself! It's one thing to know others talk behind your back, but another thing entirely to actually catch them in the act.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your thoughtful, philosophical side is out on display today, and you couldn't be happier. It's a great time to dig deeply into big issues and see what comes of them. The little details can wait for another day.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You are more attractive than usual - which is really saying something! Make sure that you're speaking to the right people and letting the universe know what - and whom - you want.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You need to be a little more open to new possibilities - which isn't all that hard for you, fortunately. Of course, you may not like what you've got to do at first, but it is sure to grow on you!

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You need to be a little more open to new possibilities - which isn't all that hard for you, fortunately. Of course, you may not like what you've got to do at first, but it is sure to grow on you!

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your softer side is on the surface now, and you may find that you can more easily tell your sweetie (or crush) how you feel. It's a really good time for romance, so go for it soon!

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

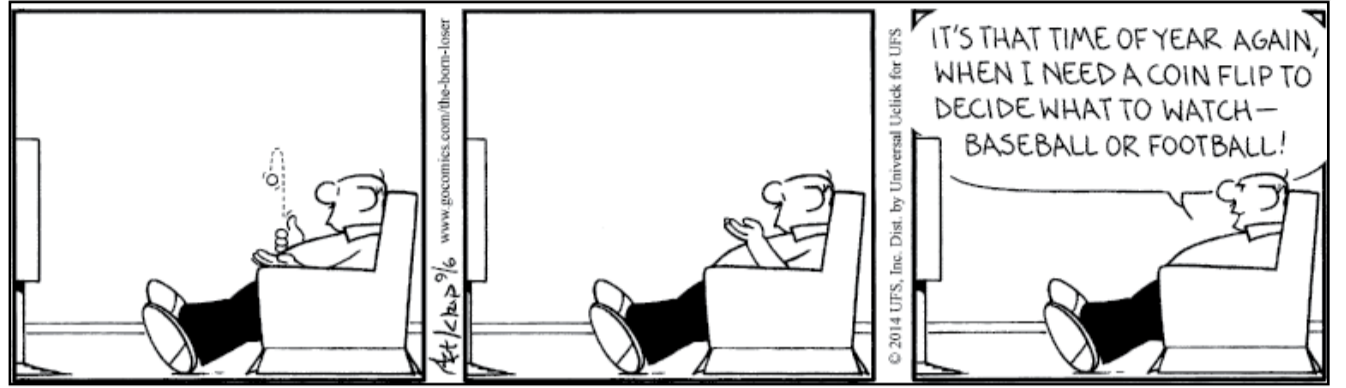
The past is catching up with you - but that can be a good thing! As long as you don't just wallow in nostalgia or regret, you can take pride in your accomplishments and ensure that the future is bright.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Your attractiveness is heightened today - so go fishing for a new romance or a new job! You can make a great first impression without trying very hard, and your new confidence is amazing!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

CHINA

Table with 4 columns: City, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

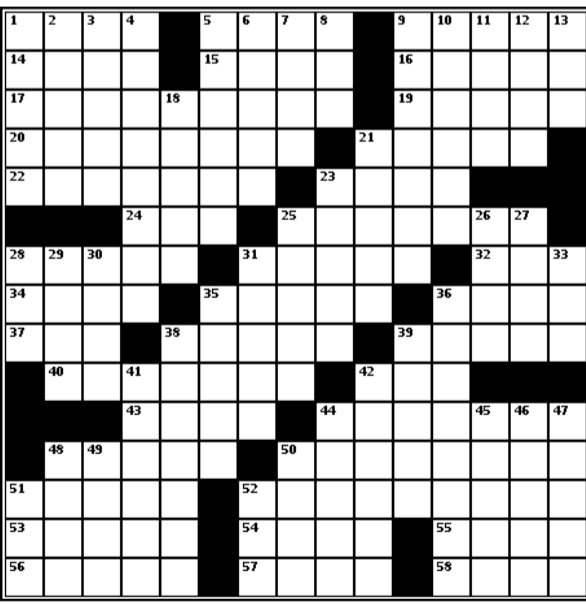
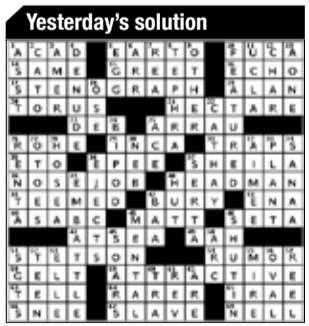
WORLD

Table with 4 columns: City, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Protracted; 5- Clublike weapon; 9- Related to the kidneys; 14- Bacchanalian cry; 15- about (approximately); 16- Actress Verdugo; 17- Infringement; 19- Spoil; 20- Historian; 21- Holmes's creator; 22- Restless; 23- Maize; 24- " had it!"; 25- Tank; 28- California border lake; 31- Loses color; 32- Conger; 34- all-time high; 35- Feels for; 36- Gather, harvest; 37- Moines; 38- Chest or closet material; 39- Vends; 40- Ornamental shoulder piece; 42- Eureka!; 43- Grating; 44- Least fresh; 48- Perfect Sleeper maker; 50- Star-shaped; 51- Sleep disorder; 52- Essays; 53- Doctrine; 54- French summers; 55- Noteworthy achievement; 56- Poke fun at; 57- Hamlet, for one; 58- Building additions;

DOWN: 1- Burton of "Roots"; 2- Sheeplike; 3- High times?; 4- Freezing; 5- Accompanier of means and opportunity; 6- Licorice-like flavoring; 7- Codger; 8- East ender?; 9- Snappy comebacks; 10- Comic Boosler; 11- Singer Sedaka; 12- Actress Heche; 13- Back muscle, briefly; 18- In play; 21- Prescribed amounts; 23- Apple juice; 25- Unit of weight in gemstones; 26- Lively dance; 27- Oscar winner Patricia; 28- Wee bit; 29- To (perfectly); 30- Clasp for a door; 31- Like old jeans; 33- CD forerunners; 35- Salsa singer Cruz; 36- Reality; 38- Shortened; 39- Biblical verb; 41- Concur; 42- Comfortable; 44- Dutch painter Jan; 45- Stand used by painters; 46- Pilfer; 47- Trials; 48- Graf; 49- Sicilian resort; 50- Mex. miss; 51- ABA member; 52- A Kennedy;



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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Justin Bergman, Shanghai

FIGURE SKATING

Tuktamysheva lands triple axel, takes women's lead at worlds

ELIZAVETA Tuktamysheva has been so far ahead of the rest of the women's figure skating field this season, she didn't think twice about adding a much more difficult element to her repertoire of high-flying jumps.

It was far riskier to attempt it in the most important event of the year.

The 18-year-old Russian landed a triple axel on her first leap of the figure skating world championships yesterday, opening up a big lead over the rest of the field after the short program.

"When I landed the triple axel, I got goosebumps and I thought, 'Is this a dream or did I really just do the triple axel at the world championships?'" Tuktamysheva said.

In the pairs event, Canadian duo Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford wrapped up a perfect season by holding off two Chinese teams in the free skate to capture the gold. It was Canada's first pairs title since Jamie Sale and David Pelletier won in 2001.

Only a handful of women skaters have successfully landed a triple axel in international competition, among them Tonya Harding, Midori Ito and Mao Asada. Tuktamysheva landed the difficult jump in one of the big-



gest competitions of her career after only practicing it for a couple months.

"It's 50 percent I could land it and 50 percent I could miss it, anything could happen with this jump," Tuktamysheva said.

Skating to Maurice Ravel's "Bolero," Tuktamysheva dazzled not just with her jumps — her footwork was crisp and her spins tight and blisteringly fast.

She scored 77.62 points, the

third-highest short program tally since the International Skating Union changed its judging system in 2004. Sixteen-year-old Elena Radionova of Russia was more than eight points behind in second, while Satoko Miyahara of Japan finished third on her 17th birthday.

While the Russians were out in front as expected, the skaters believed to be their biggest challengers, the Americans, faltered.

Both Gracie Gold and Ashley Wagner struggled with their opening triple lutz-triple toe loop combinations. Gold, the bronze medalist in Sochi, took an extra step on her triple lutz and didn't perform the second jump, and three-time U.S. champion Wagner fell on her toe loop.

Gold was in eighth place after the short program, just behind American teammate Polina Edmunds. Wagner was in 11th place.

For Gold, it was yet another disappointment in a season she'd rather forget. After pulling out of the Grand Prix Finals in December with a stress fracture in her foot, she failed to defend her title at U.S. Nationals and finished fourth at the Four Continents Championships.

"Knowing that I can be in the top and I'm not there is frustrating," Gold said. "I've just had so many ups and so many downs, it's not like me."

Wagner, too, was hoping for

more consistency to break the United States' nine-year medal drought at worlds.

"Today was a horrible day, there's no other way to say it," Wagner said.

Duhamel and Radford, who are two-time world bronze medalists, overcame a shaky performance to take home the pairs gold.

After a seventh-place finish at the Sochi Games last year, the pair decided to continue their careers and skate another year — and haven't lost since. They've won all six international events they've entered this season, including the Grand Prix Finals and Four Continents.

"This is a very personal victory. Every single victory along the way this season had a very special meaning," Duhamel said.

Sui Wenjing and Han Cong of China finished second, and 35-year-old veterans Pang Qing and Tong Jian, competing in their 16th world championships, took home the bronze. **AP**

AD



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opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



A LOAD OF RUBBISH AND THE MINIMUM WAGE

Our heroes: during my childhood we called them dustmen. They were fit and strong, and ran beside the trucks flinging lids off metal dust-bins heaving the contents over shoulders into trucks. We would leave them something each Christmas, mostly a crate of beer, for theirs was a dirty, smelly job; one that we really appreciated. Now along the same streets are one-man trucks that do the heavy lifting of 80-litre bins. The rubbish man stays in the comfort of an air-conditioned cab. But this is first-world hygiene and we might call them sanitation or resource recovery officers: Is this euphemism, status inflation or a symbol of a change in our values?

There are many who go out in all seasons cleaning up after us. They are sometimes admired for their hard labour, oft-times disregarded. The Huffington Post published a quaint story the other day about a two-year old who finally got to meet his idols. Each week on collection day they would wave to him from a distance. Then, one day, after successful potty training, he'd been (appropriately) rewarded with a toy garbage truck, and was overwhelmed with joy when he got to show off his new toy to his gallant heroes and see them and the big truck up close.

Closer to home, a friend told me she gives a HKD2,000 red packet at Chinese New Year to the man that collects her rubbish. That's an impressive sum and goes to show the level of gratitude.

Much of what is written in the developed world on waste removal is about the environmental impact of rubbish but the underlying, more important and often forgotten aspect in affluent societies is sanitation and hygiene, the first step in disease prevention and health management. Without services of cleaners, recyclers and waste removal providers our streets and corridors would be choked with debris and filth. Although, these menial, low-skilled jobs are generally low paid and undervalued, they are essential.

I find it fitting that if Macau's minimum wage bill is to be tested with any group of unskilled worker prior to universal roll-out that it be with our cleaners. The rationale given for focusing the legislation on cleaners and security guards employed by property managers is that they constitute almost 50% of those receiving the government's low-income subsidy. This raises least two concerns: the government is effectively subsidizing the firms which is unfair to taxpayers (though a potential boon to the direct users, if the companies happen to pass on the benefits). Secondly, as per one argument for minimum wages, if wages fall at or below social security levels, there is little incentive to work. As we need our cleaners, that would be problematic. Fong Chi Keong, a government appointed AL member, is either keen to see the continuation of the effective corporate subsidies (in the vicinity of MOP5 million per quarter to this sector) or does not regard highly our hygiene workers: during last July's debate over the first reading of the bill, he implied that there are some "types of people" in our society who don't need to be treated equally. Two other reasons for the minimum wage, a) reducing pay inequalities and b) promoting equitable treatment of the working poor, don't appear to be priorities for this AL member either.

Given the specifics of the Macau trial, reasons generally mooted against the minimum wage are effectively negated. 1. It encourages outsourcing to low-wage countries – these jobs are localised and our immigration policies will preclude this. 2. If it is set too high it discourages upskilling – MOP30 is still effectively less than the existing government safety net assuming a 36-hour week. 3. It may lead to automation, increasing unemployment – at Macau's 1.7% unemployment rate, this is not a substantial concern. 4. It makes unskilled workers too expensive, increasing unemployment – we might see some minor adjustment in staffing but offset by higher productivity and capital investment due to the essential nature of the service. Rubbish is a good place to start with the Minimum Wage. Apart from a cautious, positive step forward, it says something good about values.

THE BUZZ KENYA'S PRESIDENT APOLOGIZES FOR GOVERNMENT'S PAST WRONGS

Kenya's president has apologized to the Kenyan people for past wrongs committed both by his government and past regimes.

President Uhuru Kenyatta told parliament during his state of the nation address yesterday that time has come to bring closure to the country's painful past. He mentioned the 2007-08 postelection violence, the 1984 massacre of hundreds of Kenyan-Somalis and

unsolved murders among other historical injustices.

Kenya's Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission report had recommended that the president apologize to the public. The report names the president and his deputy as being among those suspected of planning and financing Kenya's 2007-08 postelection violence in which more than 1,000 people died.

Illegal logging, fear haunt remote Peru village



A camp recently built by illegal loggers in an area of the jungle where dozens of Ashaninka Indian hamlets are located

Martin Mejia, Frank Bajak, Saweto

ILLEGAL logging persists unabated in this remote Amazon community where four indigenous leaders who resisted it were slain in September, and the fear remains palpable.

Even a police post the government established with 25 officers provides no comfort, villagers and environmentalists say.

"It has neither the mandate nor the desire to start protecting the community," American philanthropist Alexander Soros told reporters last week after visiting Saweto by helicopter with activists from the Global Witness environmental group.

Edwin Chota and the three other slain Ashaninka leaders campaigned for more than a decade for title to the community's ancestral 80,000-hectare tract bordering Brazil.

Margoth Quispe, a former

regional ombudsman advising the community, said only a few bureaucratic hurdles remain to obtain the title, but it's "no guarantee against illegal logging."

Trees are felled a two-hour walk from Saweto, where loggers have base camps and drag trees to the Putaya River for transport.

A villager serving as a guide said the site was too dangerous to visit, but he paddled a visiting photojournalist up the Putaya, where freshly cut logs floated downriver accompanied by three men in a dugout. Diana Rios, a daughter of Chota, later identified two of those men as illegal loggers from a photograph.

Rios and other villagers complained that the investigation into the killings has been slow. Two men arrested shortly after the slayings as suspects are widely believed to have acted on behalf of others.

The case was reassigned to an organized crime prosecu-

tor less than a month ago.

"It's not a simple murder," the new prosecutor, Julio Cesar Reategui, told The Associated Press from Pucallpa, the regional capital.

"Investigating a criminal organization, if it exists, can't be done in a short time," he said, asking for patience. "The economic power of these (illegal) loggers is enormous and corruption abounds."

Violence springing from such corruption has made Peru, by Global Witness' count, the world's fourth most dangerous country for environmental activists, after Brazil, Honduras and the Philippines.

It certainly casts a shadow on Saweto, where the fear compounds the complications of rudimentary living conditions.

The community lacks running water and electricity. All its children attend school in the same one-room hut, taught in Ashaninka by a single teacher. The nearest store selling soap and cooking oil is a 30-minute boat ride.

Saweto's population officially stood at 106 before Chota and the others were slain, Quispe said. Since then, several dozen people have moved away out of fear, some to Pucallpa, others to a sister Ashaninka village across the border in Brazil. Less than 70 remain. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	65-85 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDONESIAN President Joko Widodo has been too busy during the past three weeks to accept a phone call from the Australian prime minister to plead for the lives of two death row prisoners, an Indonesian envoy says.

IRAN Nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran enter a critical phase with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meeting his Iranian counterpart less than a week away from an end-of-month deadline to secure the outline of a deal.



ISRAEL The human rights group Amnesty International said in a report yesterday that Palestinian militants committed war crimes during the 2014 Gaza conflict by killing both Israeli and Palestinian civilians using indiscriminate projectiles. The report comes after two other reports issued in late 2014 that accused Israel of war crimes for attacks on multistory civilian buildings and Palestinian homes during the war.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron and Prince Charles expressed dismay Thursday at a Supreme Court ruling that paves the way for publication of Charles' letters to government ministers. A spokesman for Charles said "Clarence House is disappointed the principle of privacy has not been upheld." The case involves letters Charles has written to seven government departments. They are believed to contain strong personal views.

TUNISIAN police have arrested 23 people so far from the group behind the attack on the museum that killed 21, but Moroccan and Algerian suspects are still at large, said the country's top security official yesterday. Interior Minister Najem Gharsalli told journalists that the arrests included a woman and the group was connected to the al-Qaida-linked Oqba Ibn Nafaa brigade.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty



Nina O'Brien, of Vail, Colo., skis to victory in the women's giant slalom ski race at the U.S. Alpine Championships, yesterday, at Sugarloaf Mountain Resort in Carrabassett Valley, Maine.