



MIECF 2015 DRAWS OVER 9,600 VISITORS

The three-day MIECF attracted over 9,600 visitors, with an increase in the number of trade visitors compared to last year

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SONIA CHAN PLEDGES TO CREATE 'HEALTHY ELECTION CULTURE'

Sonia Chan returned to the Legislative Assembly on Friday for a second consecutive day of discussions with lawmakers

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XI JINPING PROMOTES REGIONAL VISION AT BOAO FORUM

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A flood in a shale mine in central China has left six miners dead, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. Xinhua said the shale mine flooded Monday night, but the weekend report didn't indicate what caused the flooding. Rescuers found one body late Friday and five others Saturday, Xinhua said.

CHINA China's central bank chief said that the nation's growth rate has tumbled "a bit" too much and that policy makers have scope to respond, underscoring forecasts for further monetary easing in the world's second-largest economy. "China's inflation is also declining, so we need to be vigilant to see if the disinflation trend will continue, and if deflation will happen or not," People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan. *More on Boao Forum on p10-11*

INDONESIA The number of foreign fishermen stranded on several remote eastern Indonesian islands has spiraled to 4,000, including some revealed in an Associated Press investigation to have been enslaved. *More on p13*

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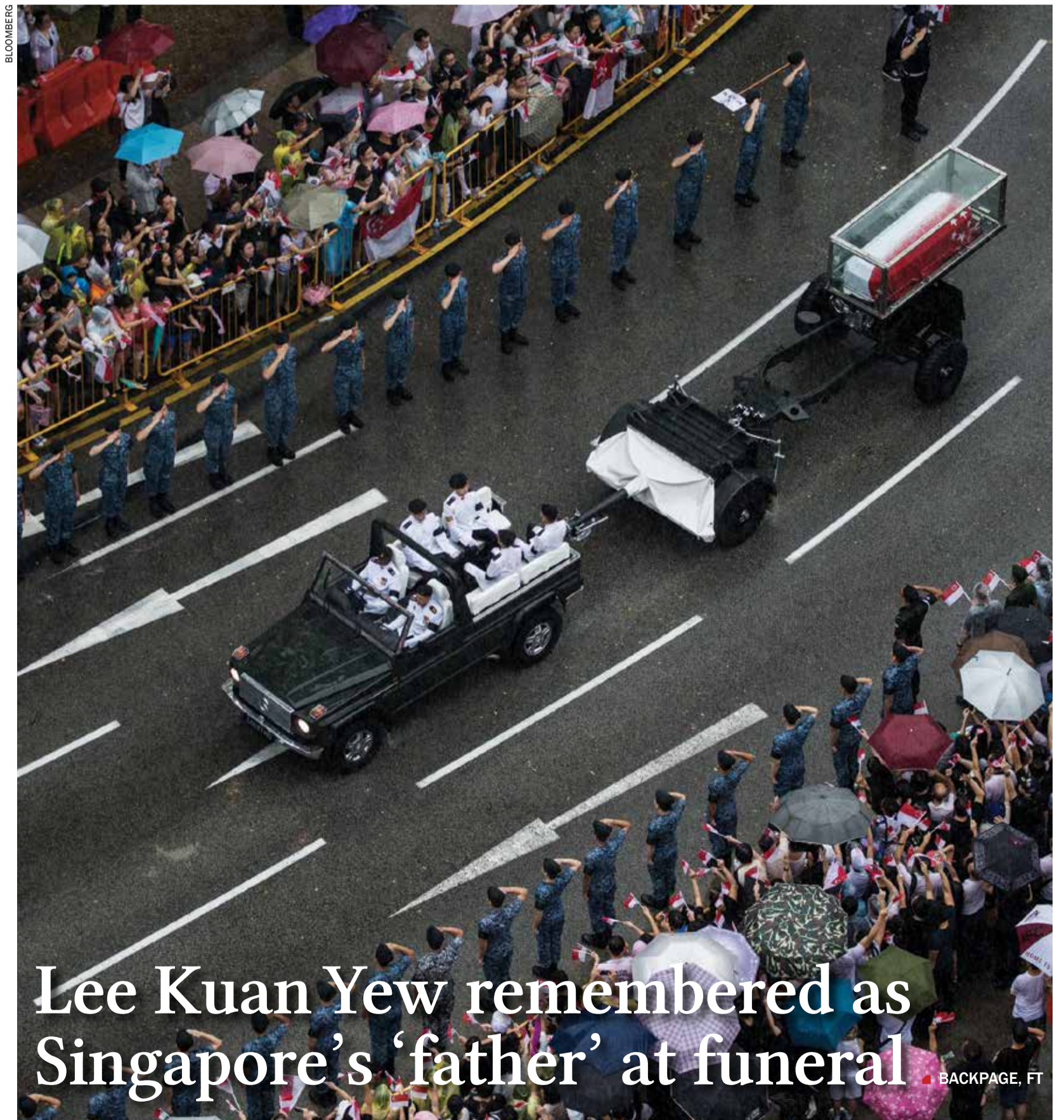
FINANCIAL TIMES

China's rise confounds a splintered west

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San Miu sold to Dairy Farm for 1.3 billion

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Lee Kuan Yew remembered as Singapore's 'father' at funeral

BACKPAGE, FT

GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND | MIECF

'Local, regional, national, and global, it's all linked together'

THE 8th Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF), focused on solutions for clean air, concluded last Saturday.

The fair's keynote speaker, Ms Gro Harlem Brundtland, the "mother of sustainable development" and former Prime Minister of Norway, suggested that Macau could "absolutely" implement the same measures that Norway did six years ago, and should think and act from a regional and global perspective in its solutions to curb air and environmental pollution.

Speaking to local media last Friday, Ms Brundtland detailed Norway's successful experience in the implementation of electric cars and other aggressive environmental protection measures, which help reduce emissions and air pollution.

"Norway has the highest level of electric car [usage] in the world; it has more electric cars than Germany, and Germany is ten times bigger than us in populations," she said proudly.

"But first of all, what is planned here [...] public transportation in trains [Light Rail Transit] is the best. It's not be-



Gro Harlem Brundtland

tter to have electric cars when every individual citizen wants to own a car, it's better to have public transportation as much as possible," she stressed.

"But people will still be using cars in certain circumstances. Then, they should be electric and operate on gasoline-based battery."

The expert said that the widespread usage of electric cars has had a significant positive effect, but the improvement in air quality was also attributed to a stricter regulation on gasoline cars.

When discussing how to tackle Macau's air pollution, she said there has to be regional cooperation.

"I know that there are plans to make Macau a green city, and generally, the Pearl River Delta is highly polluted, including Macau. Local, regional, national, and global, it's

all linked together. (...) Local is important, but we have to collaborate regionally, and globally in order to get good results," she stressed.

The expert further suggested that there are too many cases of unregulated use of energy in China, but it can transform the use of coal to clean energies "much more quickly" as the technologies are "available and possible."

"China doesn't need to spend 30 years to get where Norway is, because now the technologies are available. (...) You don't need to get through all the stages of changing technology, which we had to do. We had to regulate and force the industry to make changes. Now those changes have been made, so China can take up technologies and types of solutions already existing in the market, which China itself can produce and use," she said. **BY**

MIECF 2015 DRAWS OVER 9,600 VISITORS



THE THREE-DAY MIECF, which concluded Saturday, attracted over 9,600 visitors, with an increase in the number of trade visitors compared to last year. According to the organizer, agreements of 28 co-operation projects were signed, and participants'

feedback indicated that "MIECF has successfully played its role as a green platform to promote regional and international development and co-operation." A total of 296 green matching sessions were held at the business matching area; hosted buyers recommended by the event project manager participated in 1,149 business negotiation sessions. The "Green Public Day", held on the last day of the event, attracted over 2,400 visitors, with over 500 teachers and students from 12 schools joining in. The next MIECF will take place from 31 March to 2 April 2016.

CCAC

Marine and Water Bureau high-ranking officials involved in graft case

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has initiated a series of judiciary measures against two high-ranking officials at the Marine and Water Bureau who were suspected of being involved in bribery acts, according to its statement released last Saturday night.

The statement was only released to the public after local media enquired with the bureau. It has triggered public skepticism of the watchdog's transparency when dealing with cases involving top-level government officials.

The two suspected officials currently under investigation were said to

be "a supervisor and an official from the bureau's higher management", whose identities have yet been withheld by the CCAC. Both were denied exit of the city and suspended from their posts during the inquiry.

The Marine and Water Bureau also issued two statements later over the

weekend in immediate response to the released statement, claiming that the overall operation of the bureau was unaffected by the pair's suspension, as they would arrange personnel to fill the vacancies to minimize the impact of the incident.

According to the online media outlet, All about Macau, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Rosário, responded to the media's questions yesterday over the dilemma of manpower shortage for high-ranking official positions in the departments under his control, joking that it could be due to bad fengshui in the secretariat.



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FAMILY BUSINESS

Dairy Farm buys San Miu supermarkets for MOP1.3 billion

Paulo Coutinho*

THE Dairy Farm Company has acquired the Macau-based supermarket operator, San Miu Supermarket Ltd for MOP1.3 billion patacas, a source told the Times.

The sale was announced last week by the parent company Dairy Farm International Holdings in a disclosure to the Singapore stock exchange, without details of the money involved in the transaction.

Currently, San Miu operates 15 mass-market supermarkets with an average gross store size of 9,500 sqft. The company was set up in 1990 and opened its first shop in 1998 in the populous Iao Hon district in northern Macau. From 2008 to 2013, the company enjoyed a period of great expansion as a result of the gaming and tourism boom in the region. San Miu also owns two trading companies for imports, exports and wholesale and has two offices in the Zhuhai muni-



RENATO MARQUES

cipality. According to its website, the company also owns a 50,000 sqft warehouse, a bakery factory and an egg plant, having more than 400 employees overall.

San Miu Supermarket Ltd is wholly owned by a local Chinese family. Upon the patriarch's death, the company - which has a share capital of only MOP500,000 - was inherited by the widow and the three si-

blings born of the marriage. Following a local tradition, the eldest son owns the lion's share, which is 80 percent of the whole business, our sources revealed.

San Miu (新苗, which means "new seeding" in Chinese) is the second largest supermarket chain in Macau after Royal Group, holds a 15% share of the mass-market supermarket business, which grossed around 4

billion patacas in 2014, according to the latest statistics. San Miu will operate under the Wellcome brand, the second largest supermarket chain in Hong Kong and the leader in online grocery shopping.

"The acquisition of San Miu reinforces Dairy Farm's retail presence in Macau, and complements its well-established convenience store and health and beauty businesses in the territory," Dairy Farm said in the abovementioned regulatory filing to the Singapore stock exchange last Wednesday.

According to the 2013 annual report, reviewed by MDT, the pan-Asian retail giant owns in Macau 44 7-Eleven outlets, 16 Mannings' stores and 8 Maxim's restaurants.

Dairy Farm International Holdings, along with its associates and joint ventures, operates more than 6,100 retail outlets in Asia, including supermarkets, hypermarkets, convenience stores, health and beauty stores, home furnishing stores, and restaurants. The company, a member of the Jardine Matheson Group, has a primary listing in London and a secondary listing in Singapore. It is also incorporated in Bermuda.

*Brook Yang contributed to this report.

Gov't predicts falling casino tax revenue



The amending budget proposal, which will be voted upon at the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, includes a 30 percent cut in revenues derived from gambling taxes. According to the proposal, the government expects to cash in MOP84 billion derived from the casino tax revenue. In the budget announced in November 2014, revenue was estimated to be around MOP115 billion. The note accompanying the budget proposal indicates that the gaming revenue is facing a downward trend, but no motives are given. It is indicated, however, that "there are substantial changes to the economic environment." The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, will present the relevant policy address at the Legislative Assembly today.

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Unemployment rate steady

The unemployment rate remained stable at 1.7 percent between December and February over the period of November 2014 to January 2015. According to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the number of unemployed people reached 6,900, up by 200 over November 2014 to January 2015. Fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job accounted for 9.2 percent of the total unemployed, down by 2.1 percentage points. Total labor force numbers reached 404,400 and labor participation rate stood at 74 percent. Total employment was 396,500, representing a decrease of 1,300 from November 2014-January 2015. Analyzed by industry, employment in hotels, restaurants, and construction saw a decrease, DSEC said.

UM hosts first open day on new campus



The Open Day organized by the University of Macau (UM) yesterday attracted more than 8,000 visitors, including parents and secondary students seeking tertiary studies. The day-long activity, which also

featured an International Food Festival held by the university's exchange students from around the world, offered them opportunities to explore various new faculties and residential colleges on the new Hengqin campus. The university's rector Wei Zhao mentioned in his opening speech that this year UM has caught the attention of many of the best local students, as a large number of applications have been received. Of the 329 students admitted by the program of Principals' Recommended Admission, 31 were ranked the top within their own schools. The number, as Mr. Zhao said, reflected the recognition of the university's educational philosophy. Booth games, exhibitions from different departments, and students' performances were also on the itinerary.

HEALTH

Preliminary report finds doctor 'negligent' over baby's death

A public hospital doctor who treated a five-month-old boy was found negligent over his death, a preliminary report shows. According to a statement issued by the government, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, revealed that disciplinary action will be taken against the doctor.

According to the report, the baby's death was not related to medication administered after he sought medical treatment.

The baby died on February 19 after being allegedly prescribed with the antiemetic Domperidona, and the anti-allergy medicine Dimetindeno.

He was brought to the hospital on the morning of February 19 as he was regurgitating milk. After returning home and taking the medication, his condition failed to improve and his lips turned purple around two hours later. The baby was sent back to Conde São Januario hospital, where another doctor diagnosed him with sepsis. The baby then went into shock and



died that evening.

The parents have cast suspicion over the doctor, whom they believe might have misunderstood the infant's condition. The baby's parents later pressed charges against the hospital for malpractice. Meanwhile the Judiciary Police (PJ) has launched an investigation into the boy's death.

Mr Tam revealed on Friday that the Health Bureau had already submitted its internal report on the baby's death. The report revealed that a pediatrician on call that day "was not in the emergency room for over an hour" while the baby was waiting for treatment.

The report indicates that the baby's death was related "to the fact that the doctor failed to fulfil his duties."

The secretary said he agreed with the launch of disciplinary action against the doctor, and has already informed the baby's parents.

Regarding the baby's cause of death, Mr Tam said that the pathology report and the autopsy results will only be available within three months. The Secretary added that there is no more room for mistakes in the future.

In addition to an investigation launched by police authorities, the Health Bureau said it had launched an internal investigation into the baby's death as well, and therefore could not provide further information on the case.

The baby's father told a press conference early this month that, "We arrived at the hospital at around 2:30 p.m., but it took two hours for the specialist doctor on duty to come for my son's treatment." He added that the pediatrician had to be called back to work. **CP**

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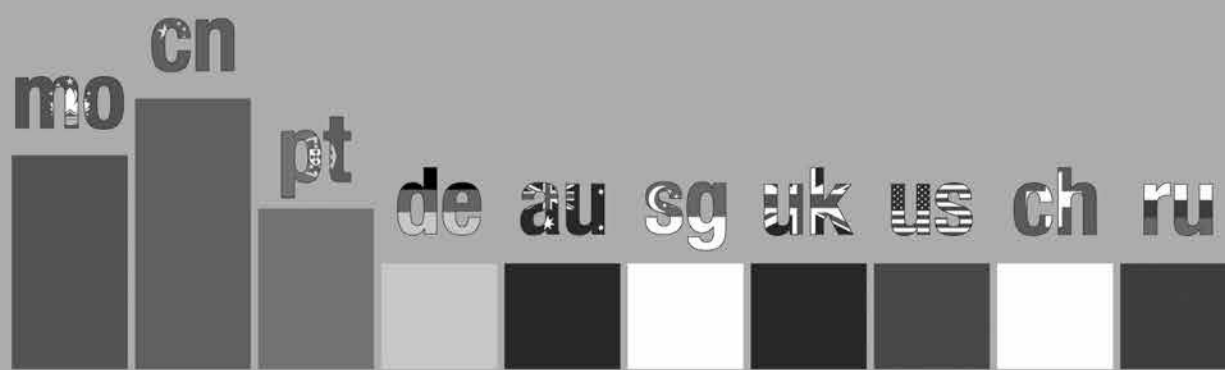
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POLICY ADDRESS

Sonia Chan pledges to create 'healthy election culture'

Catarina Pinto

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, has pledged to promote a healthy election environment, as lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong urged the government to address the population's call for universal suffrage.

Ms Chan returned to the Legislative Assembly (AL) on Friday for a second consecutive day of discussions with lawmakers on her cabinet's action plan for 2015.

"The Chief Executive said he would be listening to people's demands on Macau's political development. In this particular field, I believe that your cabinet's work is very limited," said lawmaker Ng, asking the secretary whether she knew the number of residents wanting universal suffrage for both the Chief Executive and AL elections. "Isn't the secretary willing to work in accordance with the population's desires?"

Ms Chan recalled that Macau introduced political reform in 2012, which allowed for more directly elected lawmakers' seats and an increased number of members in the Electoral College, which elects the Chief Executive.

Furthermore, she stated that Macau's political development has to be achieved "in compliance with the Basic Law and with the [opinions of



AMENDMENTS TO PRIVATE RENTING LAW NEED 'CONSENSUS'

THE DIRECTOR of the Labor Affairs Bureau, Liu Dexue, said that the law regulating private housing rental could only be amended once "there's a broad social consensus." He acknowledged that high rent prices are one of the Macau's population's concerns, but recalled that this is a free market, and that renting is also closely related with the transaction of housing units.

Leonel Alves suggests outsourcing of 'complex lawmaking tasks'

LEONEL Alves has suggested that the government request the support of universities in Macau, Hong Kong or even abroad when faced with complex lawmaking tasks. The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, agreed and added that her cabinet would commission studies on legal matters to universities outside Macau when needed.

"There are many legislative tasks and I fear that the government, internally, does not have the capacity to deal with legislative processes that are very technical," the lawmaker stated at the AL plenary meeting on Friday.

"There's a need to fearlessly face this issue. There are complex laws, such as the consumer rights law, the law regulating Macau's financial regime... we must have the courage to request outsourcing. We could ask the universities in Macau or even, if have enough courage, ask for the help of overseas universities for legal support," lawmaker Alves said.

He added that, "we have done it before and given Macau's small scale and [the fact that we have] an insufficient number of talents, if there's a need to draft a law quickly, we must have the audacity to ask universities either in Macau or outside to assist us on this matter."

Ms Chan recalled that the government has collaborated with scholars on legal matters over the past years.

Lawmaker Alves recalled that there are legal actions still running in Macau's courts that have dragged on for about 15 years. He hopes the government starts the revision of the Civil Code this year.

On the other hand, Mr Alves alerted the secretary to the revision of the Criminal Code, which he believes is more complex. He advised further: "Please do not think this isn't a simple matter, [that could be solved] with public consultation, through which non-experts can provide their judgments, as happens often with important legislation."

They wish that at least 50 percent of lawmakers are directly elected. How will you put in motion this political reform?" he asked.

Ms Chan reassured lawmakers that her cabinet will follow up on the issue of political reform, reiterating that it has to be achieved in accordance with the Basic Law and respecting NPC's thoughts on the matter.

"We are reaching a consolidation phase after the changes were introduced in 2012. Taking Macau's reality into account, we need to find our own political development path and this requires time. It's a matter of needing a consensus from different sectors and the population," she stressed.

“We need to find our own political development path and this requires time

SONIA CHAN

Calling for a change in Macau's political system to allow for universal suffrage, lawmaker Ng took the chance to also reiterate that members comprising a municipal body holding no political power, which was announced by the Chief Executive upon delivering his 2015 Policy Address, should be directly elected by Macau's people.

"According to clause number 95 of the Basic Law, the members of a municipal body should be elected through universal suffrage. I hope the members will be directly elected," he stated.

The secretary pledged to work on the establishment of the municipal body in accordance with the Basic Law. "We are still in an assessment phase," she added.

On Thursday, Ms Chan unveiled a few more details of the new municipal body, stating that it would help Macau in its goal to become "a center and a platform." On Friday, she added that the government will require services from this municipal body, mainly in the cultural sector.

the] NPC (National People's Congress), especially taking into account four main principles," namely maintaining stability, and protecting the different layers of society.

"The government has been stepping up its efforts to promote the social and economic development of Macau. We will improve electoral laws, namely by improving the competitiveness in indirect elections and [enhancing] transparency. We will be creating a healthy election culture," said Ms Chan.

The Secretary's answers were not enough to reassure lawmaker Ng, who reiterated that Macau's society has evolved, yet its political system is lagging behind.

"It will be causing problems. A survey conducted in Hong Kong showed that [Macau] residents want universal suffrage for the chief executive and AL elections.

COUTINHO OFFERS MEAT-SHAPED STONE TO IACM

PEREIRA COUTINHO offered a meat-shaped stone to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau president, Alex Vong, at Friday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting. The lawmaker called on

the government to put an end "to the monopoly" behind the city's wholesale markets, which Mr Coutinho says has contributed to increasing the overall price of food produce.



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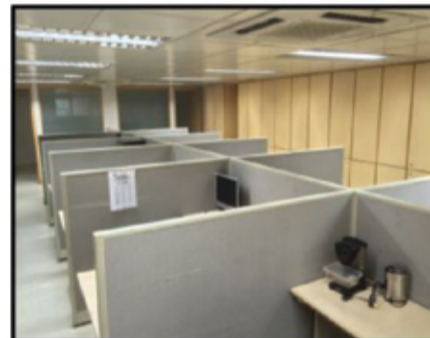
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THE founder of a Chinese transaction company defended the "bitcoin" in Macau, suggesting the virtual currency has potential for use in the territory and its gaming industry. "Macau is an international gaming destination. The pataca is not widely recognized, not very popular outside Macau. The Hong Kong Dollar [currency used in casinos] has more influence. It is therefore very simple: bitcoin may allow travelers to Macau and visitors, especially for the gaming industry, a means of transferring funds, regardless of their countries of origin, to come play in casinos," said Bobby Lee, founder of BTC China during a France Macau Business Association breakfast meeting event last week, where he shared his view on the topic "Will Bitcoin Revolutionize the World?" Lee spoke to reporters on the sidelines of his presentation, where he defended the gains of

Bitcoin has potential for the gaming industry, expert says



Bobby Lee

digital currency created six years ago. He suggested that gamblers coming to Macau can bring bitcoins instead of converting to local currencies, noting that the system follows the same procedure for Chinese, Filipino or Thai customers.

In June last year, local press reported the opening of the first vending machine for virtual currency, installed in Sands China, but the gaming operator has denied knowledge of the kiosk's existence, according to Radio Macau.

Asked about the gaming industry's possible fear of bitcoins, Bobby Lee said that could be justified by the possibility of pressure from regulators. "All transactions with bitcoins are very transparent," he said during the FMBA breakfast meeting. As for the association between bitcoin, money laundering and terrorist financing - which have been reported by central banks and monetary authorities of some countries and territories, including Macau - Bobby Lee said that these problems happen "with or without" bitcoins. "To solve this problem you need to catch criminals. The bitcoin already exists. (...) Blaming something that was already invented is not useful. I think we should better our efforts to provide better regulation. Obviously financing terrorism is bad, but how do we stop it? The way to stop is to catch the terrorists, not shut down the online payment network." **MDT/Lusa**

Gov't cultural fund member probed

THE president of the Cultural Industries Fund's Administrative Committee Fund, Leong Heng Teng, denied media claims that the fund's mechanism might have loopholes, in the wake of a suspected case involving its members.

"Are there loopholes in the mechanism? No. The mechanism is strict. All of the committee members who should do interest avoidance have done it," Leong Heng Teng told TDM.

The committee head declined to make further comments on the case, citing that it was just an isolated incident, which has not yet been verified. He also stressed that the grants were under strict protection against any illicit favor transfer, but that there was still room for improvement. The 67-year-old likewise claimed that the initial

investigation conducted by the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture's office was no more than a "preliminary investigation" and not a disciplinary procedure.

A member at the managerial level from the fund committee is allegedly involved in favorable allocation of funds to a company owned by his direct family members. Secretary Alexis Tam later confirmed the allegation on the sidelines of an event, adding that a probe was underway. It was said that the government official involved in the scandal has been allowed to keep his post for now. The fund has been launched for a year, with a total of 86 approved applications from the city's cultural sector, amounting to a MOP110 million. The Cultural Industries Fund has MOP200 million available for cultural

projects.

During a session of the fund's administrative committee, Leong Heng Teng said that the independent committee assesses applicants fairly. Applications for grants involving more than MOP500,000 thousand have to be passed to the "trust committee" for decisions.

However, some applicants of the fund claimed that the assessment process is not fair or transparent, and that there is no clear standard on who should receive grants. "Our achievements have been spoken highly of, overseas, but the fund gave us a very low score. This is really discouraging," said Conchita Vong, CEO of Connoisseurs Society of China Art. Leong Heng Teng revealed that he cannot comment on individual cases as he has no detailed information about them.

ARTS

Photography exhibition by Ieong Man Pan opens at MAM

UNFOLDABLE Map II, a photography exhibition by Macau-born Ieong Man Pan, is on display at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM) until May 10.

The artist showcases a series of street corners and back alleys, "faithfully representing images different from the banal urban stereotype," MAM said in a statement.

Ieong Man Pan was born in Macau in 1985. He holds a Bachelor's degree in advertising from Jinan University and a Master's Degree in Photography Studies from the College of Arts of Chongqing University. He has previously displayed his works at the Albergue SCM and Casa Garden.

According to MAM, instead of

addressing urban development issues, the photographer intentionally leads viewers to trace the city's original landscapes, as he presents us with all the small details emerging from the city, which people tend to forget in their busy daily lives.

"His work prompts the audience to reflect upon the city's history through an objective perspective, while triggering one's imagination and future expectations," MAM said.

The exhibition is organized by the Macau Museum of Art, as part of the Macao Arts Window 2015. Unfoldable Map II opened on Thursday with a sharing session and will run until May 10. The exhibition has a MOP5 entrance fee, but admission is free on Sundays and public holidays.

AD



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MEDIA

Latin beauties lure TV viewers who find Super Bowl less exciting

Patricia Laya

DURING the Super Bowl broadcast last month, a Spanish-language reality series about a beauty contest was the most-watched TV show in the U.S. after the championship game itself.

Univision Communications Inc.'s "Nuestra Belleza Latina," or "Our Latin Beauty," outperformed ABC, CBS and Fox in both the 18-to-34 and 18-to-49 age groups, according to Nielsen. NBC aired the Feb. 1 New England Patriots' victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

The results mark the third time in five years that a Spanish program placed second as the Super Bowl played out, underscoring Univision's success in creating content for Hispanic audiences in the U.S., with average viewers about 13 years younger than its American competitors. And unlike those rivals, whose viewers increasingly turn to the Web for programming or record shows on DVRs, as much as 90 percent of Univision's audience watches programs live, making it more appealing to advertisers.

"Nuestra Belleza Latina" features contestants vying for cash prizes and hosting gigs and is viewed by about 3 million people a night. The Super Bowl drew more than 114 million.

"We're doing everything we can to make sure our talent is really engaging with the audience," Rick Ehrman, Univision's executive vice-president of corporate business development, said in an interview. "It's fun, it's



a bunch of beautiful women."

Univision doesn't disclose its ad rates and declined to comment on whether ads that run during "Nuestra Belleza Latina" cost more than those for its other programs.

Univision, part-owned by Grupo Televisa SAB, plans to go public this year, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The largest Spanish-language broadcaster in the U.S., it averaged about 1.8 million prime-time viewers ages 18 to 49 during the July ratings period known as the sweeps, beating Walt Disney Co.'s ABC and the Fox division of 21st Century Fox Inc. for the second year in a row, according to Nielsen. Ratings during this period help determine advertising prices.

The trend will probably continue as Hispanics are estimated to make up 29 percent of the U.S. population by 2060, up from 17 percent last year, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report. Growing demand for content tailored to this audience has led English-language producers

such as Lifetime to create more programs featuring Hispanic actors like "Devious Maids," a drama based on a hit Televisa series "Ellas son la Alegria del Hogar."

With younger audiences watching its programs live, "Univision is swimming right against

■ The results mark the third time in five years that a Spanish program placed second as the Super Bowl played out

the trend of the wider industry," said Ed Barton, a TV analyst at market researcher Ovum in London. The broadcaster has a "set of broad-based, mass

market entertainment channels, and that's exactly the reason why it's getting those incredible rating numbers."

Ratings for all Spanish-speaking TV in the U.S. increased by about 20 percent last year, according to Magna Global research. In the first half of 2014, events including the World Cup drove more than \$100 million of incremental ad sales, bolstering Spanish-language networks' revenue gains by 43 percent in the period.

Last week, Univision launched a mobile casino game application based on "Nuestra Belleza Latina," taking advantage of research that shows Hispanics in the U.S. are more likely to own smartphones or tablets compared with the total population, according to data from Frank N. Magid Associates Inc., a media research company.

"They spend more time and money on average on mobile gaming than the typical American consumer," Huuuge Games Chief Executive Officer Anton Gauffin said in an interview

from New York. "It became a strategic experiment to see how well the marriage of a reality TV show and a mobile game can work."

The union is paying off. The game, which updates as the reality series progresses and offers prizes such as personalized videos from contestants, has been downloaded more than 100,000 times. And after a week, it's already the 8th most popular game of its kind, according to researcher App Annie.

New York-based Univision, whose co-owners include Saban Capital Group Inc., may seek to raise at least \$1 billion in a U.S. initial public offering, people with knowledge of the matter said this month.

Televisa Executive Vice President Alfonso de Angoitia said on a conference call in February that an IPO was likely to take place "in the next 12 months to 18 months." Televisa has an 8 percent equity stake in Univision and debt that could be converted into an additional 30 percent holding.

Univision's high leverage of 7.9 times net debt over Ebitda, or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, could generate valuation concerns for its investors, according to Paul Sweeney, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence in New York.

"The peer companies for Univision -- CBS, Viacom, 21st Century Fox -- have spent a long time paying down debt and deleveraging," Sweeney said. "That will be a challenge for Univision." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA TURNS OFF LIGHTS FOR EARTH HOUR



Sands China Ltd. properties switched off their exterior and non-essential lights for one hour Saturday at 8:30 p.m., joining businesses and homes around the world for Earth Hour for the seventh consecutive year. The annual event aims to raise global awareness of climate change. All Sands China properties supported the lights-out event.

Sands China's participa-

tion in Earth Hour is part of the ongoing environmental sustainability efforts of Sands ECO360°, the global sustainability program of Sands China's parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp. In 2013, Sands China spearheaded the Earth Hour, Every Month campaign, which enjoyed support from hotels throughout Macao and beyond.

GALAXY PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING

Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has provided the online training program for more than 9,000 team members since last month to advocate responsible gaming with a more effective approach. The targeted participants come from departments of Table Games, Security, Cage, Surveillance and Electronic Games at Galaxy Macau, StarWorld Hotel and City Clubs of GEG. According to a press release issued by the gaming operator, within four months, team members may access the online course at any time where learning content include photos and animations, thus, providing a more flexible, productive and lively learning environment. Serving as a refresher course for team members on their knowledge of responsible

gaming, the training program enables them to provide effective assistance to guests suffering from gambling disorder.

Furthermore, GEG stated that it is striving to enhance the awareness of responsible gaming among team members at assistant-manager level or above where two experts, Professor Davis Fong, Director of Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming at the University of Macau, and Mr. Lawrence Lee, an addiction specialist, were invited to deliver a three-hour training course for nearly 20 members of GEG's Responsible Gaming Committee last week. The training focused on problem gambling causes, the history of its evolution, behavioral symptoms, treatment methods and the latest development and related measures.

MGM JOINS WORLD OBSERVANCE OF EARTH HOUR

MGM Macau once again joined the global effort in the observance of Earth Hour on Saturday, together with MGM Resorts International's properties in Las Vegas, by switching off lights within its property for one hour to raise awareness of climate change. Organized by the World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF), Earth Hour has grown into a global movement with millions of supporters in more than 7,000 cities across 162 countries since its inception in 2007.

On Saturday, March 28, at 8:30pm, MGM Macau turned off its exterior lights for one hour, including the "MGM Macau" signboard light on the building, fountain at the main hotel entrance, exterior façade



de floodlights, spotlights at the Lion statue and LED screen at the North-East casino entrance. At Six Senses Spa, all treatment rooms opted for ambience candles instead of electric lighting equipment.

ANGOLA

Chinese companies invited work closely with local partners



An Angolan trader bargains with a Chinese retailer in Guangzhou

THE Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Angola (CCCA) called on Chinese companies operating in the country to work more closely with local partners in order to deepen economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported.

cial responsibilities in order to benefit both Angola and China.

CCCA reminded the Chinese companies operating in Angola that they must comply with the laws of the country, international standards and practices in terms of trade and the principles of fair competition whilst boycotting and fighting any kind of corruption in business.

The statement also called on the members of the chamber to guarantee and protect the legitimate interests of Chinese and Angolan workers so that they too can benefit from the development of their companies.

Xinhua said CCCA also asked that more attention be paid to environmental protection while promoting sustainable development projects that will benefit future generations in Angola.

Over 2,500 Chinese companies are established in Angola with a total of about 300,000 workers. **MDT/Macauhub**

Over 2,500 Chinese companies are established in Angola with a total of about 300,000 workers

A statement from the CCCA, issued in Luanda on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the creation of the chamber, urged Chinese companies to fulfil their so-

Angola and China assess cooperation

THE Foreign Minister of Angola, Georges Chikoti and the Special Representative of the Government of China for African Affairs, Zhong Jianhua met in Luanda to analyse bilateral relations.

Ambassador Zhong Jianhua said after the meeting that relations between the two countries had seen positive results in terms of economic and trade cooperation.

According to Angolan news agency Angop the Chinese diplomat also said the two governments were confident about the future development of bilateral relations.

China is one of Angola's largest trading partners and the largest importer of Angolan oil.

Over the years China has provided loans for the reconstruction of Angola, which was devastated by colonial and civil wars. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China and The Philadelphia Orchestra's Harmonious Relationship

Latest effort brings best cultural curators from around the world to Macao

The Philadelphia Orchestra remains one of the preeminent orchestras in the world. Renowned for its distinctive sound and admired for an unrivalled legacy of "firsts" in music-making, the orchestra is inspiring the future and transforming its rich tradition of achievement and sustaining the highest level of artistic quality. It is for these reasons, and many more, that Sands China first began its association with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 2012. They have returned to Macao each year since – most recently in February for a unique performance of "Ode to Humanity," a collaboration between the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra and the Macao Orchestra.

Dedicated Creators of Culture

Seeking out the world's best creators of culture, Sands China has the enviable ambition of bringing the best entertainment to our city. As the one of Macao's leading providers of entertainment, retail and food and beverage offerings, Sands China is a major stake holder in the future of Macao. The company fully understands its role and responsibility in being a provider of culture to both visitors to Macao and the local residents.

Diversity is a key term for Sands China. The company is happy to bring the best boxing events, the best singers and the most innovative attractions to Macao. The Philadelphia Orchestra combines two of the company's most desired assets when deciding what to bring to Macao: entertainment and cultural diversity, and there is no shortage of either. And events such as last month's "Ode to Humanity" are clear examples of this, as are the cultural and entertainment offerings from other renowned performers and troupes, including the National Ballet of China's performance celebrating the 50th anniversary of Chinese classical ballet at The Venetian Macao in June 2014, the visit of the legendary Count Basie Orchestra in December, and the Tan Dun Martial Arts Trilogy in December.

Sands China was very pleased to sponsor The Philadelphia Orchestra's residency and tour of China in 2012, including a performance and community events in Macao in June, marking its historic return to the Middle Kingdom – in 1973 the Orchestra earned the distinction of being the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic. Sands China sponsored the Orchestra's China residency and tour again in 2013, and arranged two full orchestra performances at The Venetian Macao and two community events supported by the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau, giving locals and people of different communities the chance to enjoy the performance of one of the world's best orchestras, including a free chamber performance at Macao's historic Dom Pedro V Theatre.



The Philadelphia Orchestra returned to Macao in February for "Ode to Humanity" at The Venetian Theatre under the watchful eye of Macao-born conductor Lio Kuokman.



As part of the Philadelphia Orchestra's 2014 China Residency & Tour of Asia a brass ensemble from the world-renowned orchestra appeared at the Ruins of St. Paul's, surprising locals and visitors with a 30-minute pop-up performance.

Last year the orchestra returned to team up with the Macao Orchestra to play another distinct programme as part of The Philadelphia Orchestra and Macao Orchestra Together in Concert, which featured two unique concert nights at The Venetian Macao supported by the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau, a 30-minute pop-up performance at the Ruins of St. Paul's to surprise locals and visitors, and a 60-minute chamber concert at Macao's historic Dom Pedro V Theatre for individuals with visual impairments and local students. The 2014 tour also covered major cities in mainland China including Beijing, Shanghai, Changsha and Shenzhen, as well as engagements in Taiwan and Japan. Such has been the success of these events, both as musical performances and as opportunities to explore cross cultural relations, the company also sponsored a cultural exchange in the opposite

direction when the China National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra travelled to Philadelphia in November as part of its 2014 US and Canada Tour. This tour was of particular significance to Sands China as the chief conductor for that North American tour was Lü Jia, who is also the music director and principal conductor of the Macao Orchestra.

While there are many factors involved in deciding which events or organizations to sponsor, one of the major ones is how it will impact and benefit the community. Cultural exchange is the short answer. If there is an opportunity to enrich the cultural landscape of Macao then the company gives a great deal of consideration to that opportunity. Bringing prestigious cultural producers to Macao is a responsibility that Sands takes great pride in, and helping organizations such as the China National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra and people like Macao's own Lü Jia is all part of the company's commitment to the future of Macao and to creating a platform for cultural collaboration between Macao, mainland China and the United States, which it is hoped will extend well beyond music.



With The Venetian Macao as Platinum Sponsor for The Philadelphia Orchestra 2014 China Residency & Tour of Asia, the Philadelphia Orchestra returned for the third consecutive year.

Sands China is bringing the world to Macao and Macao to the world.

BOAO FORUM

Zhou warns on growth slowdown, says PBOC has room to act

CHINA'S central bank chief said that the nation's growth rate has tumbled "a bit" too much and that policy makers have scope to respond, underscoring forecasts for further monetary easing in the world's second-largest economy.

"China's inflation is also declining, so we need to be vigilant to see if the disinflation trend will continue, and if deflation will happen or not," People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan, 67, said in remarks at the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual conference on the southern Chinese island of Hainan. "China can have room to act," both with interest rates and "quantitative" measures, he said.

Zhou's remarks followed fresh signs that China slowed further in the first quarter, after recording its weakest expansion since 1990 last year. A gauge of manufacturing slid to an 11-month low in March, a private report showed last week. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg News expect the PBOC will lower both benchmark lending rates and banks' required reserve ratios, adding to cuts made in recent months.

China's leadership is trying to wean the economy off debt-fueled property investment and old-line polluting industries, shifting toward services and domestic-consumption led growth. While President Xi Jinping has repeatedly said his nation is comfortable with a



Zhou Xiaochuan

"new normal" of less-rapid expansion, officials are also wary of the slowdown weakening too much.

Premier Li Keqiang earlier this month set a growth target of about 7 percent for this year, while pledging action if it slows toward the lower limit of the range and cuts into jobs and income. Zhou said at Boao Sunday that the economy had slowed "a bit too sharply," while adding that patience was needed to see the effect of steps already taken.

Even with a more moderate pace than in the past, Xi told Boao attendees Saturday that his nation "will continue to provide countries including Asian nations more markets, growth, investment and cooperation opportunities."

China is building its influence even amid the slowdown, championing new lending institutions, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which saw additional nations signing up in recent days. U.S. allies including the U.K., Australia and South Korea are among the supporters of the AIIB, after they set aside American opposition.

Zhou at Boao Sunday highlighted how China is working on reform of its currency, the yuan, which has been subject to limits on capital flows and restricted movements against counterparts. China will revamp foreign-exchange regulation "relatively radically" this year, the PBOC chief said. Earlier this month, he pressed the head of the International

Monetary Fund to consider the yuan for inclusion as an official reserve currency -- by adding it to the fund's special drawing rights unit.

In addressing the risk of deflation, Zhou's concerns reflect those of many counterparts around the world. Japan saw its benchmark gauge of inflation stagnate in February, according to a report released on Friday. European monetary policy makers have stepped up easing to combat the danger of falling consumer prices, which can inflate the real burden of loans.

"Further policy easing is on the way, there's no doubt about that," said Guan Qingyou, chief macro-economic researcher with Minsheng Securities Co. in Beijing. "The central bank seems to realize that it's better to act sooner than later given consideration to China's deepening slowdown and deflationary pressure."

The major economy with perhaps the least concern on that score is the U.S., which has enjoyed a strengthening job market in recent months. As a consequence, the Federal Reserve has been preparing the ground for its first interest-rate increase in years, a shift that has seen the dollar climb since the middle of last year.

Zhou told an audience that included central bankers from Japan and Germany that by many nations easing policy, the dollar could become too high. Officials will need to be cautious

about capital flows, he said.

The governor said that patience is needed to observe the impact of monetary measures. The PBOC announced its first interest-rate cut in two years in November and followed with another reduction Feb. 28. It also lowered banks' reserve ratio requirements last month.

China's disinflation eased in February after the central bank stepped up easing and the Lunar New Year holiday pushed up food and transport costs. The consumer-price index rose 1.4 percent from a year earlier, compared with January's 0.8 percent, data from the statistics bureau show.

The government set a 2015 consumer inflation target of 3 percent in its annual work report earlier this month.

The room the country has to move on monetary policy "is not necessarily for quantitative easing," Zhou said. There is scope "on both the price side and the quantitative side," he said.

Chen Yulu, an academic member with the central bank's monetary policy committee, an advisory body, was quoted by Chinese journal Caixin as saying Sunday that the "non-conventional" policy in China means "continuous policy relaxation."

"In the monetary policy committee, the discussion is always about looking for new structural tools to use, including targeted easing," Chen was quoted as saying. **Bloomberg**

Winter Olympics inspectors positive after Beijing visit

IOC inspectors left Beijing yesterday after offering praise for the Chinese capital's bid for the 2022 Winter Olympics that, if successful, would make it the first city to hold both the winter and summer games.

The inspectors' departure follows a news conference at which Evaluation Commission chairman Alexander Zhukov affirmed Beijing's embrace of the IOC's goals for a more frugal, sustainable and athlete-centered games.

Beijing's bid relies heavily on the experience and infrastructure gained from hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics,

as well as expanding the appeal of winter sports in the world's most populous nation.

"From this visit we can see that your Games in 2008 have left a profound legacy," Zhukov said. "We can also see the legacy of 2008 in the level of expertise and knowledge of the Beijing 2022 bid team," Zhukov said.

Beijing's inspections and presentations appeared to go off without a hitch, although the city's air pollution remained at high levels throughout the inspectors' visit.

The visit was a crucial test of Beijing's status as the front-runner in the bid race against Al-

maty, Kazakhstan. The International Olympic Committee will select the host city on July 31 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Oslo, Norway and other global cities dropped out of the race after local opposition to the costs involved.

The IOC Inspectors visited sites within Beijing, as well as the Yanqing and Zhangjiakou ski areas north of the city. As a further enticement to television audiences, some of those venues would lie beneath portions of the Great Wall of China.

While the venues' distance from Beijing has been a concern, organi-

zers say a high-speed rail line now under construction will reduce the current three-hour travel time to just 50 minutes.

Air pollution and a lack of natural snow have also been raised as issues surrounding the bid, although Beijing plans to tackle the problem by making snow, closing polluting industries and taking older vehicles off city roads. They say that would bring a 25 percent reduction in the very small and extremely unhealthy PM2.5 pollutants under a five-year plan begun in 2013.

As they did in the run-up to the 2008 Summer Olympics, human rights

groups have argued that the communist government's restrictions on civil and political liberties make it an unfit candidate to host the games. Pro-Tibetan and other groups say the IOC raised the bar for candidate cities by strengthening support for basic human rights in its Olympic Agenda 2020 adopted last year. Those groups have also called for Kazakhstan's record to be scrutinized.

Following ballooning price tags, the IOC has made lowering costs a key criteria for prospective hosts. After a visit by inspectors to Almaty in February, Kazakh

organizers announced venue changes they say will save more than \$500 million.

In all, Beijing plans to spend USD3.9 billion on infrastructure and operations, a tiny fraction of the \$51 billion spent by Russia on the 2014 Sochi Games. That, however, does not include key infrastructure such as sports facilities and the rail line to the ski areas that Beijing says would be built regardless of whether the bid is successful.

Beijing also says it's open to tinkering with the games' arrangements based on IOC recommendations. **AP**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping argued for strong China-led efforts to promote Asian economic and political cooperation while opening a major regional economic conference.

Xi delivered the keynote address at the Boao Forum on Hainan island in the country's south, at which he lauded the promise of the Chinese economy despite slowing growth.

He celebrated what he said was a multipolar world in which all countries play equal roles in regional development and security. The comment comes as China challenges U.S. leadership in Asia by promoting its own projects such as the U.S.-shunned Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank and assertively staking territorial claims around the continent.

With hundreds of regional leaders listening, Xi said Asia needed to build "a community of common destiny" that would contribute to world prosperity.

"We need to make sure all countries respect one another and treat each other as equals," Xi said. "Countries may differ in size, strength, level of development, but they are all equal members of the international community with equal right to participate in international affairs."

At the same time, Xi sought to reassure leaders about the health of China's economy, which has shifted to annual economic growth levels of about 7 percent, the slowest in two decades. He said Chi-

BOAO FORUM

Chinese president promotes regional vision



A view of the Boao Forum in its opening in Boao on Hainan island in southern China

na would emphasize quality and efficiency in its economy rather than rapid expansion

and will import USD10 trillion in goods over the next five years.

"This new normal of the Chinese economy will continue to bring more opportunities

for trade growth and development for the countries of Asia and beyond," Xi said.

Australia signs up to negotiations on Chinese-led bank

AUSTRALIA announced yesterday that it would join negotiations to establish a new Chinese-led Asian regional bank that has emerged as a potential challenge to United States influence in a part of the world where the Obama administration has tried to forge stronger ties.

The U.S. has expressed concern the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, or AIIB, will allow looser lending standards for financial transparency, the environment and labor rights. The U.S. also worries the new bank will undercut the World Bank, where the U.S. has the most clout, and the Asian Development Bank, where it is the second-largest shareholder after Japan.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Treasurer Joe Hockey said in a joint statement that the govern-



Tony Abbott and Xi Jinping

ment will sign a memorandum of understanding that will allow Australia to participate as a prospective founding member in negotiations to set up the bank.

"Good progress has been made on the bank's design, governance and transparency over the past few months, but we still have issues that we will address through ongoing consultations," the statement said.

"Key matters to be resolved before Australia considers joining the AIIB include the bank's board of directors having authority over key investment decisions, and that no one country control the bank," it added.

Beijing has pledged to put up most of the initial \$50 billion in capital for the bank, which is expected to be set up by year's end. It is intended to help finance

construction of roads and other infrastructure.

Working with institutions such as the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank, the AIIB has the potential to play a valuable role in addressing infrastructure needs and boosting economic growth in the region, with potential benefits for Australia, the joint statement said.

India and all 10 members of Southeast Asia's regional bloc are among the more than 30 governments that have so far sought to join the bank before a March 31 deadline.

While Japan, which has tense relations with China, is still holding out, the Obama administration appears increasingly at odds with sentiment in the very region where it has tried to strengthen its relationships over the past five years.

Abbott said last week that he expected skeptical countries including the United States and Japan would also join if China gave required assurances on transparency and board management. **AP**

Brazil joining Beijing-backed infrastructure investment bank

BRAZIL says it has accepted China's invitation to join a Beijing-backed international infrastructure bank.

A short statement emailed by the presidential office over the weekend says the Brazilian government "accepted China's invitation to participate in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as a founding member."

"Brazil is very interested to be part of this initiative aimed at guaranteeing financing for infrastructure projects in Asia," the statement says.

The new bank reflects both China's desire to push investment in the region and its frustration with U.S., Japanese and European dominance of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank.

The new lender would fund the construction of roads, railways, power plants and telecommunications networks in Asia that global finance officials say are needed to keep the region's economies humming.

ANALYSIS

Japan's long wait to address US Congress

Matthew Pennington,
Washington

WASHINGTON honors America's closest friends by inviting their leaders to address a joint meeting of Congress. But until Thursday, when House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner invited Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, no Japanese leaders had been invited. That's striking considering the tight U.S.-Japan alliance in the 70 years since World War II ended. British, South Korean and German leaders have been invited multiple times. So have two Liberian presidents and a Latvian one - more than 100 invitations overall since the war. So why not Japan? The answers have to do with underlying friction that has been a part of U.S.-Japanese relations and, more recently, frequent changes of Japanese leaders.

The modern practice of a fo-

reign leader speaking to both houses of Congress began with Winston Churchill in December 1941, just after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. After the war, Japanese leaders were not entirely shunned. Abe's grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, in 1957 addressed Congress, but it was to just one chamber, which was still common for visiting foreign leaders until the 1960s. Kishi had been detained as a war crimes suspect but was never indicted for his role as a wartime Cabinet minister. However, he became a strong advocate of closer relations with Washington, like his grandson, pushing through a 1960 security treaty that shaped the alliance as it stands today, committing the U.S. to assist Japan if it comes under attack. Kishi's successor, Hayato Ikeda, made a very short address to the House in 1961. No Japanese premier has since.

Since 1951, Japanese prime ministers have made 37 working or official visits to the United States, according to a State Department tally. While defense and diplomatic relations have been very close, from the 1970s through to the 1990s there was trade friction and American anxiety that its economy could be eclipsed. Some lawmakers have also expressed concerns over Japan's attitude to its wartime past. When Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited in 2006, there was expectation he would be invited to address Congress, an honor given to other U.S. allies in the Iraq War. But Rep. Henry Hyde, chair of the House International Relations Committee, objected in a letter to the House speaker, saying Koizumi should forgo future visits to the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo where war criminals are among those memorialized. Japan denied it



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

ever requested that the prime minister to speak to Congress. Koizumi still made an impression in America — by impersonating Elvis Presley on a trip to Graceland.

Abe also has hawkish views, and a December 2013 visit to Yasukuni angered neighboring China and South Korea, raising tensions and complicating U.S. diplomacy. But Abe is the first prime minister since Koizumi to stay in office more than 16 months, and he has invested

considerable political capital to forge stronger ties with the U.S. Despite domestic opposition, he propelled Japan into negotiations on a pan-Pacific free trade pact, and plans to loosen the binds on the nation's military under its pacifist constitution. That could allow Japan for the first time to come to the defense of U.S. forces. U.S. lawmakers still have been quietly urging that Abe should address the war's legacy when he makes his speech April 29. **AP**

AD



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Margie Mason & Robin McDowell,
Jakarta

THE number of foreign fishermen stranded on several remote eastern Indonesian islands has spiraled to 4,000, including some revealed in an Associated Press investigation to have been enslaved.

Many are migrant workers abandoned by their boat captains after the government passed a moratorium on foreign fishing five months ago, according to the International Organization for Migration, which released the figure last week. However, others have been trapped on the islands for years, after being dumped by fishing boats or escaping into the jungle.

"This is the worst moment in our life right now," one former slave told the AP, which is not releasing the names of the men for their safety. "It is even worse than being in hell. We have to work every day to survive. ... There is no hope for us anymore."

The AP reported earlier this week that slaves — some of them beaten and locked in cages — are forced to fish, and their catch ends up in the supply chains of American supermarkets and restaurants. The migration agency said that the report follows several years of close work with Indonesian authorities to rescue hundreds of fisherman identified as victims of trafficking.

Many of the stranded are men from Myanmar who went to neighboring Thailand in search of work. They were taken by boat to Indonesia, which has some of the world's richest fishing grounds. Others left behind on the islands are Cambodian and a few from the poorer parts of Thailand.

Steve Hamilton, IOM's deputy chief of mission in Indonesia, said for every man they've already rescued, many more now need help. With the fishing ban, boats have docked or fled, ditching their crews.

"It is reasonable to expect many are victims of trafficking, if not outright slavery," he said.

"But for the first time in possibly several years, their feet are touching dry land and there is a real possibility for them to go home, once we and the authorities locate and process them," he said.

About a quarter of the men are in Benjina, a town that straddles two islands in the Maluku chain, according to an Indonesian official who recently visited the area. These men, some abandoned five, 10, even 20 years ago, load and unload fish off boats for food and pocket money, or cut and sell logs in the forest of surrounding areas.

AP PHOTO



Ngwe Thein, 42, who has been living on an island near Benjina, Indonesia for three years, after being forced to work on a fishing trawler with inadequate food and little or no pay

About 4,000 fishermen stranded on Indonesian islands

When the AP showed up, asking the men to share their stories, only a few emerged at first out of fear. Then, more and more filtered in, until a group of around 30 formed. Most squatted or sat on the ground, others stood around them as they recounted the horrors they had witnessed at sea. Then one after another,

It is reasonable to expect many are victims of trafficking, if not outright slavery

STEVE HAMILTON
IOM

they expressed their desperate desire to go home, saying they were sure their families thought they were dead..

"Our body is here but our mind is at home," one dockworker said. "If it was possible to walk back home, we would do it right away."

Another wiped tears as he spoke, his voice quivering.

"Our lives have no more value than a dog," he said, adding no one cared if they lived or died.

The AP is not using the men's names for their safety.

The moratorium was declared by Indonesia's new Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti to determine which ships are not properly licensed and crack down on illegal foreign boats. Poaching drains billions of dollars from the country, and Pudjiastuti said Friday that stamping it out is key to addressing labor abuses. She added she was horrified knowing fishermen are being enslaved in her country.

"We are not letting this happen," she said. "In the past, it's been a normal practice. Not now. I'm not allowing it."

The Indonesian government has pledged to take legal measures to address what is happening in Benjina and other islands. Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha also acknowledged the AP story and said his government was stepping up efforts to prosecute those responsible.

"If they still continue to exploit their fellow human beings, they should not be given any licenses to operate businesses in Thailand, and they must receive the punishment they deserve," Prayuth said in a written response to questions submitted by the Bangkok Post.

However, earlier this week, Prayuth urged journalists not to report on human trafficking

without considering how the news would affect the country's seafood industry and reputation abroad.

The U.S. State Department last year blacklisted Thailand for its handling of labor abuses, putting it on par with countries including North Korea and Iran. The Thai government says it is cleaning up the problem and has laid out a plan, including new laws that mandate wages, sick leave and shifts of no more than 14 hours. On Thursday, Thai lawmakers voted unanimously to create tougher penalties for violating the country's anti-human trafficking law, including the death penalty.

On Friday, 21 Thai fishermen who had been stranded in Indonesia returned home to their families, and the government is working to repatriate more.

Major leaders in the U.S. seafood and retail industries sent a letter to the ambassadors of Thailand and Indonesia this week, demanding to know what will be done to free slaves in the seafood industry. Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, also urged Thai authorities to tackle the scourge.

"The Thailand government has made repeated verbal commitments to get tough with traffickers but every time real follow-up has been lacking,"

Robertson said in an email. "The question now is whether the revelations in AP's article will finally be enough to push Thailand to take long overdue action against fishing vessels that are systematically using slave labor to catch the seafood ending up in America's kitchens."

In the meantime, Ngwe Thein, 42, is one of the thousands of men who are waiting. Thein has been living on an island near Benjina for three years, after being forced to work long hours on a fishing trawler with inadequate food and little or no pay.

He said he left Myanmar, otherwise known as Burma, eight years ago when his country was still under military rule. He did not know about the political and economic changes that began sweeping his country in 2011 or that the oppressive and brutal junta was gone. He asked if Nobel prize-winning opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was still under house arrest.

Hours after the AP talked to him, he got a haircut and changed into a crisp shirt, saying he had hope for the first time that he might get to go home.

"I don't know whether our country is good or bad now," he said. "There is just always a problem for us to survive wherever we are." AP

Matthew Lee, George Jahn,
Lausanne

IRAN

Officials: nuke talks solving some issues, not others

IRAN may accept new constraints to its uranium enrichment program at nuclear talks but is pushing back on how long it must accept limits on technology it could use to make nuclear arms, Western officials told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The officials spoke less than four days ahead of Tuesday's target date for a preliminary agreement. That accord is meant to set the stage for a further round of negotiations toward a comprehensive deal aimed at imposing long-term curbs on Iran's nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

Foreign ministers and other representatives of Iran and the six powers it is negotiating with have said that despite significant obstacles, the talks have a chance of succeeding by Tuesday. The two officials demanded anonymity in exchange for outlining the state of the talks because they are not authorized to discuss them publicly.

The sides are advancing on limits to aspects of Iran's uranium enrichment program — which can be used to make the core of a nuclear warhead, they said. Iran over the past weeks moved from demanding it be allowed to keep 10,000 centrifuges enriching uranium, to agreeing to 6,000. The officials said Sunday that it now may be ready to accept even less.

Tehran also is ready to ship out all of the enriched uranium it produces to Russia — a change from previous demands that it be allowed to keep a small amount in stock, the officials said. One of them however cautioned that Iran had previously agreed to this but changed its mind.

Uranium enrichment has been

the key concern in over more than a decade of international attempts to cap Iran's nuclear programs. Tehran says it wants to enrich only for energy, science, industry and medicine, but many nations fear it could use the technology to make weapons-grade uranium.

The United States and its allies are seeking a deal that stretches the time Iran would need to make a nuclear weapon from the present two to three months to at least a year.

The officials said differences on the length of an agreement remains one of the main disputes. Iran, they say, wants a total lifting of all caps on its activities after 10 years, whereas the U.S. and others at the talks — Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — insist on progressive removal after a decade of pervasive limits.

One official said the two sides may give differing interpretations of any deal — the Iranians insisting that they are free to do what they want after 10 years, the others listing areas where restrictions remain.

Limits on Iran's research and development of centrifuges also remain unresolved, said the officials. Tehran has created a prototype centrifuge that it says enriches uranium 16 times faster than its present mainstay model. The U.S. and its partners want to constrain research on such and other advance models, because it would greatly increa-



US Secretary of State, John Kerry, 2nd left, and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, 2nd right, and others wait for the start of talks at an hotel in Lausanne

se the speed that Tehran could make enough weapons-grade uranium for a bomb, once limits on its programs are lifted.

One of the officials said Russia remains opposed to American insistence that any U.N. sanctions lifted in the course of a deal be quickly re-imposed in case Tehran reneges on any commitments, saying Moscow fears establishing a precedent. Both said monitoring remains a problem, with Iran resisting attempts to make inspections and other ways to make sure there is no cheating as intrusive as possible.

There is tentative agreement

on turning a nearly-finished reactor into a model that gives off less plutonium waste than originally envisaged. Plutonium, like enriched uranium, is a pathway to nuclear weapons.

Iran and the U.S. are discussing repurposing an underground bunker Iran used to enrich uranium to let Iran run centrifuges there. Instead of enriching uranium, the machines would produce isotopes for peaceful applications, they said.

With the deadline close and problems remaining, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry cancelled plans Sunday to return to the United States for an event

honoring his late Senate colleague Edward Kennedy and negotiators were meeting multiple times in various formats.

Kerry has been in discussions with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in the Swiss town of Lausanne since Thursday. The foreign ministers of France and Germany arrived on Saturday and the foreign ministers of Britain, China and Russia are due to arrive on Sunday.

Israel is critical of what it views as a bad deal with arch-foe Iran, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his "deep concern" Sunday over provisions of the looming agreement. **AP**

TUNISIA

Leading suspect in museum attack killed

TUNISIA'S prime minister said yesterday a leading suspect in a deadly museum attack on foreign tourists has been killed in anti-terrorist operations, as tens of thousands of Tunisians marched through the capital to denounce extremist violence.

State news agency TAP cites Prime Minister Habib Essid as saying that Khaled Chaieb, also known as Abou Sakhr Lokman, was killed overnight in an operation in the Gafsa region near the Algerian border.

Chaieb is believed a prominent militant in al-Qaida's North African arm,



Tourists and visitors from the Bardo museum are evacuated in Tunis

and suspected of leading or helping lead the March 18 attack on the National Bardo Museum.

Twenty-two people, mainly foreigners, and two gunmen were killed in the March 18 attack on

the National Bardo Museum.

French President Francois Hollande, Italian Pri-

me Minister Matteo Renzi and several foreign ministers and legislators from other countries are joining an anti-terrorism ceremony in Tunis after the march.

The Tunisian government called on all major political parties to join the march from the seat of government at Bab Es-Saadoun to the museum.

The international visitors are showing solidarity with Tunisia, whose fragile new democracy was deeply shaken by the museum attack, for which the Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

Tunisian protesters un-

leashed revolts across the region known as the Arab Spring, and Tunisia is the only country to have built a democratic system as a result.

Authorities are struggling with scattered extremist violence linked to various radical Islamic groups, largely linked to neighboring countries Algeria or Libya.

Interior Ministry spokesman Ali Aroui said yesterday that nine suspected "terrorists" were killed when security forces clashed with the suspects in the southwest region of Sidi Aich, near the Algerian border. He said several extremists were wounded in another clash in the northwest region of Kef, as part of security operations around the country ahead of the march. **AP**

GERMANWINGS TRAGEDY

Struggle to explain what motivated co-pilot in doomed flight

Maria Cheng
Medical Writer

A disgruntled worker shoots up a workplace. A student opens fire at a high school. A pilot crashes a plane full of people into a mountainside.

There may never be a convincing explanation for such devastating acts of violence, but experts say certain personality disorders such as extreme narcissism can help push people who want to take their own lives to take those of others at the same time.

But as German prosecutors search for what might have motivated co-pilot Andreas Lubitz to deliberately smash the Germanwings plane carrying 149 other people into the French Alps, many experts caution against speculating on a diagnosis.

"We don't have a clue what was going through his mind," said Dr. Simon Wessely, of the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London. "Even if we had all of his me-



Inhabitants pay tribute to the victims in front of a stele, a stone slab erected as a monument, set up in the area where a Germanwings aircraft crashed

dical records and had conducted interviews with him, it would probably still be impossible to explain such an inexplicable act."

Ripped-up sick notes from a doctor found at Lubitz's home by German prosecutors suggest the 27-year-old had an illness he hid from his employers at Germanwings. Medical documents showed he had an existing illness — which wasn't specified — but no suicide note was found. A Dusseldorf hospital confirmed Friday that Lubitz had been treated recently, but didn't say for what.

Neighbors of Lubitz were shocked at allegations he could have deliberately smashed the plane and said he had seemed thrilled with his job at Germanwings. They described a man whose physical health was excellent and records show Lubitz took part in several long-distance runs. Germanwings said he had passed all required medical check-ups.

Some experts said it was possible that people who commit such horrific acts of violence might be suffering from mental illnesses like

narcissism or psychosis.

Dr. Raj Persaud, a fellow of Britain's Royal College of Psychiatrists, says that in cases of mass murder, people sometimes suffer from personality disorders that make them extremely self-centered. He and others were speaking generally and had no personal knowledge of the Lubitz case.

"People feel that something so terrible has been done to them that this catastrophic act is warranted in exchange," he said. "To them, it feels like the correct balance to equal what they suffered."

Others said that preventing such chilling acts of violence may be nearly impossible if there aren't any obvious warning signs or if the person is able to hide their symptoms.

"People can become quite skilled at masking their problems because it's socially undesirable," said Dr. Paul Keedwell, a psychiatrist who specializes in mood disorders at Cardiff University.

Keedwell said it would be unwise to assume Lubitz's deliberate pla-

ne crash was an aggressive act.

"It's difficult to understand, but what if he was just so wholly preoccupied with ending his own life he didn't have any regard for the other people on the airplane?" he said.

He likened it to people who throw themselves in front of trains without considering the trauma that might inflict on the driver and other passengers.

Some experts said mass murders are intended by the killer to do maximum damage, to draw attention to themselves.

"The subject wins fame by doing something the world will remember, even if it's as a negative hero," said Dr. Roland Coutanceau, president of the French League for Mental Health.

He said such acts are sometimes committed by paranoid people angry with their employer or with society at large.

"This is a destructive act that (gives) him some kind of immortality," Coutanceau said. "Death is therefore part of his script." AP

AD

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what's ON



PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION OF KO LAI CHI

TIME: 10am-7pm
UNTIL: April 8, 2015
VENUE: UNESCO Centre of Macau, Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS OF TIANJIN AND CHONGQING MUNICIPALITIES

TIME: 9am-9pm
UNTIL: April 12, 2015
VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau / Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro No.163
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

HOMAGE TO MASTERS WHO INSPIRED US – WORKS BY 10 HONG KONG AND MACAU ARTISTS

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: May 10, 2015
VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)
ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen
ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25
Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50
Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

"START" – EXHIBITION OF PIXEL ART BY 2UP STUDIO

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: April 19, 2015
VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

WATER AURORA

TIME: 24 hours daily
VENUE: MGM Macau, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

AIRBNB BECOMES SPONSOR OF 2016 OLYMPICS IN RIO

Rio de Janeiro's hotel bed shortage was eased on Friday, as online home share startup Airbnb inked a deal to be the official "alternative accommodations" sponsor of the 2016 Olympic games.

The deal, which saw Airbnb pay an undisclosed amount to local Olympic organizers, means official Olympic sites will feature a link to Airbnb's site and encourage spectators traveling to Rio for the games to use the service to rent space in private homes and apartments.

This marked the first time the Olympics has had an alternative accommodations sponsor, said officials with the local organizing committee.

Rio's notoriously poor hotel infrastructure has been long been considered a critical issue. When the city won the Olympic bid in 2009, it had just half the 40,000 beds required for the games. Since then, new infrastructure has been built, and the city now has the 42,000 spots needed to house members of the "Olympic family," including athletes and their entourages, the media and sponsors.

Airbnb's around 20,000 offerings in Rio – rooms, apartments, and houses scattered across the width and breadth of this chaotic seaside megacity – will be aimed primarily at Olympic visitors, officials said.

"When we started all that (Olympic bidding process) several years ago, the major problem was hotels. How are we going to host so many people," Sidney Levy, CEO of the Rio 2016 organizing committee, said at a news conference.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Documentary Series
15:00	Debate on Economy and Finance Policy Report for 2015 (Live)
20:00	News
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:00	UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifiers: Portugal - Serbia (Repeated)
01:45	RTPi Live

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



1981 PRESIDENT REAGAN IS SHOT

President Ronald Reagan has been shot and wounded after a lone gunman opened fire in Washington. He is currently undergoing emergency surgery at George Washington University Hospital but there are unconfirmed reports he walked in unaided. Initial reports claim he may have a punctured lung.

Five to six shots were fired as he left the Washington Hilton Hotel where he had been addressing a union convention, about one mile from the White House. A man, firing at close range, also wounded White House Press Secretary James Brady in the head.

A Secret Service official and a Washington policeman were also injured before the gunman was pushed to the ground by police. The president had appeared from the hotel smiling and walked towards his limousine turning momentarily to acknowledge calls from the waiting press.

A burst of gunfire was then heard before the president was bundled into a bullet proof limousine and whisked away.

First Lady Nancy Reagan is understood to be on her way to the hospital to visit her 70-year-old husband. The attacker is described as being in his twenties and blonde.

He was pinned to the wall by secret service agents and he has now been arrested. The assassination attempt has sent shock waves around the country where memories of the murder of president John F Kennedy remain vivid.

President Reagan has only been in office for 69 days and the attack leaves the running of the country in some confusion as his vice-president George Bush is currently on his way back from Texas.

Until the arrival of Vice-President Bush it is unclear who is in charge. The American Stock Exchange has stopped trading and the Academy Awards have been postponed until tomorrow night in the wake of the attacks.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The president initially appeared to have escaped serious injury, but had been hit by a ricocheting bullet as he was bundled into his limousine by Secret Service Agents.

He was operated on and made a fast recovery. Mr Brady suffered severe head injuries, and policeman Thomas Delahanty and Tim McCarthy of the Secret Service were also injured.

John Hinckley, 25, the son of an affluent oil industry executive, was charged with trying to assassinate the president fuelled by an obsession with actress Jodie Foster and a desire to impress her.

The following June, Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was committed to hospital.

Ronald Reagan went on to win a second term in office by a wide margin almost four years later.

He died in June 2004, aged 93, after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for 10 years.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Perseverance is the keyword of the day. You should stick to whatever plan you had hatched, even if things start to go south pretty quickly. If you stick to it, you can salvage quite a lot!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take on something big and bold and wonderful – and maybe a little decadent! You deserve the best, and you can find it with ease if you push yourself to follow your impulsive mood.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your accounts are not quite in order – and today's thrilling task is to reset them. You should find that you're better able to handle these things if you cut off all distractions.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You've got some crazy ideas – and you need to get them out there today! People are open to anything wild, but the mundane is sure to get ignored. Your pet project may finally get moving!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You may be involved in a legal dispute today – though likely as a distantly related party. Be as direct as you can be about it, as wrangling for position is just not auspicious at this time.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Do your homework today – things are terrific, but you may need to learn a little more in order to make the most of this energy. Ask big questions and check out the behind-the-scenes story.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Keep looking for clues today – your detective skills are enhanced. It's one of those days when you can be sure that there's more going on than meets the eye, so you ought to be able to step up.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You don't have everything you want – even if it feels like quite a lot! Now is a good time to grab for more and see if you can exploit this time of weird energy to get further ahead.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've been sailing merrily along on your course, but now the water is choppy and you have to make some tiny corrections. It's not so hard, but it may take more time than you had hoped.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to take care of business today, even if you would rather just chill out and do nothing at all. Your great energy is perfect for handling chores that no one else is willing to do.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 A sudden interest in genealogy has you digging through old records or phoning older relatives. It may be a funny picture or a question about genetics, but your interest is insatiable.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Make something nice for your friends or family. It could be a big dinner or a night out on the town – your creativity knows no limits. It's important to you to bring people together.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Not a dup.; 5- Back muscle, briefly; 8- Indigo source; 12- Laugh loudly; 13- Defamation; 15- Choir attire; 16- Austen novel; 17- Each partner; 18-Simmer; 19- Public assembly; 22- ... be an honor; 23- Animal foot; 24- Gator's kin; 26- Mischievous person; 29- Forms; 31- Moo ... pork; 32- Blow one's top; 34- Clock faces; 36- Pianist Myra; 38- Fear greatly; 40- Auction site; 41- Kett and James; 43- Keyboard key; 45- Old Ford; 46- Three-legged support; 48- Wears away; 50- Sometimes you feel like ...; 51- Munched on; 52- Proverb ending?; 54- Accountable; 61- What ... mind reader?; 63- Label anew; 64- Earth's satellite; 65- Capricorn's animal; 66- Fit to be tied; 67- Oil of ...; 68- Yes ...?; 69- Baseball bat wood; 70- Body of an organism;

DOWN: 1- City near Provo; 2- Actress Downey; 3- Alpo alternative; 4- Understands; 5- Reside; 6- Assist, often in a criminal act; 7- Actress Garr; 8- Horace's " ... Poetica"; 9- Noteworthy; 10- Skeptic's scoff; 11- Obscene; 13- Lee side; 14- Execute illegally; 20- Clublike weapon; 21- Alum; 25- Mayberry kid; 26- Role for Clark; 27- Nellie Melba, for one; 28- Enticed; 29- Cabinet department; 30- Blind parts; 31- Cow or doe; 33- Compose; 35- Barrett of Pink Floyd; 37- Spahn teammate; 39- Make insane; 42- Boot attachment; 44- Spoils; 47- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 49- Moon of Mars; 52- Othello villain; 53- Latin love; 55- Lab fluids; 56- School orgs.; 57- Swear words; 58- String tie; 59- Rich soil; 60- "Only Time" singer; 62- From ... Z;



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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
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Vettel wins Malaysian GP to end Mercedes streak



FEARS that Mercedes would dominate the 2015 Formula One season were swept aside in a flash of Ferrari red yesterday as a tearful Sebastian Vettel won the Malaysian Grand Prix and announced himself as a genuine title contender. Most observers were gloomily predicting another one-sided season after Mercedes recorded a comfortable one-two finish in the season opener in Australia, but two weeks later the picture was very different as Ferrari capitalized on searing track temperatures and some rare Mercedes mistakes to take a drought-breaking victory.

It was Ferrari's first victory since the 2013 Spanish Grand Prix. The 30-race gap between wins was the longest Ferrari drought for 21 years.

Vettel — in only his second race for the team after leaving Red Bull — recorded his first win since the 2013 Brazilian Grand Prix and the four-time world champion was overwhelmed in a way probably not seen since his first title in 2010.

RUGBY

Fiji reclaim Hong Kong 7s title beating NZ 33-19 in final

FIJI reclaimed the Hong Kong Sevens title when it routed defending champion New Zealand 33-19 in the final yesterday.

Fiji blasted to a 21-0 lead in the first half, taking the tension out of the 12th final matchup between the tournament's most successful sides.

Each time New Zealand rallied, Fiji had a reply, and even denied New Zealand the last say when Fiji's Vatemu Ravouvou and Apisai Domolailai bundled out Rieko Ioane just shy of the left corner flag.

"Tactically, we were really astute," Fiji coach Ben Ryan said. "I'm really pleased with the way they managed the final."

The win was Fiji's third in four years in the Hong Kong Sevens, and a record-extending 13th in the tournament it prizes above all others.



Fiji team members celebrate after winning the final match against New Zealand of the Hong Kong Sevens rugby tournament

Fiji's third win from six tournaments in the sevens world series also lifted it above New Zealand into second place, two points behind leader South Africa, and in position to win a first series in nine years.

New Zealand, also defending the series title, was one point behind. The Japan Sevens is next weekend in Tokyo.

Great support play set up

Savenaca Rawaca for the opening try, then Semi Kunitani stole ruck ball from New Zealand and sent in Jerry Tuwai. New Zealand tried a five-man attacking lineout, but then trying to back up the sole player out wide ended up giving an intercept try to Rawaca.

Beaudine Waaka's try just before halftime put New Zealand on the board, and Scott Curry's immediately

after raised hope. But it was dampened by a try by Jasa Veremalua for 28-12 with seven minutes to go.

Curry scored his second try after Sam Dickson took in three defenders, but Ravouvou swept around the left and gifted Domolailai the fifth and last try for Fiji.

"That's a great Fijian side," New Zealand coach Gordon Tietjens said.

Fiji did well merely to survive its quarterfinal. It led England 14-5 with a penalty try, then lost a man to the sinbin, too. England, at 14-12 down, gave James Rodwell a chance in the right corner, but Rawaca pulled off a brilliant try-saving tackle.

Fiji blasted to a 21-0 lead against South Africa in the semifinals then just managed to hold on 21-15 in another thriller.

South Africa finished third, beating Samoa 26-5. **AP**

AD

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opinion

Insight
 Paulo Barbosa



**POLICY ADDRESS:
 MORE OF THE SAME**

The chief executive went to the Legislative Assembly (AL) last week to deliver his much anticipated policy address. It was highly disappointing for those who expected a new impetus given the fact that Macau has a "new government."

Some secretaries may have a reformist purpose, but, as sociology explains, if reformism is not induced from the top, it risks becoming dead letter.

The policy address is more of the same. Besides the announcement of further social welfare measures directed at the elderly population (which suffers most with the rising inflation) and regional cooperation policies that seem to be made in Beijing, there isn't a long-term plan to develop the region. The speech made by the CE was often vague and resorted to platitudes about economic diversification to compensate the fall in gaming revenue. This year there was not even a strong idea that could be sold by political marketeers, like the investment in the "local talent" training announced last year. And the new measures, like the creation of consultative municipal bodies, are presented without clarity or plausible justification (the Basic Law has large shoulders). There are also some pernicious ideas being repeated 'ad nauseum,' like the politically correct emphasis of the protection of local work above all else. I say pernicious because it gives residents a certain assurance that they are entitled to a job only because they hold a card. Or, in other words, that they have a divine entitlement to a job. The consequence of this line of thinking is a spiral of incompetence and self-indulgence.

If we reflect on the policy address for the 2014 fiscal year, entitled "Enhancing Comprehensive Strength and Promoting Sustainable Growth" and presented to the AL on 12 November 2013, we find most of the same topics addressed this year and also the same vagueness: "The areas of priority for Macau SAR Government in 2014 include: accelerating construction of long-term mechanisms and working hard to promote livelihood projects; striving to achieve a blueprint for social development and continuously promoting moderate economic diversification; improving the efficiency of the public administration, and improving the quality of public services." [source: IPIM]

In the blueprint of the politics for 2014 we can also find the announcement of some ideas that I compare to the "municipal bodies" now proposed. They can easily go up in smoke after some public consultation sessions: "In his speech, the Chief Executive stressed the well-known motto "Macau land for Macau people," hinting that the government is studying the concept to provide housing and its conclusion is foreseen for 2014, followed by the launch of public consultations. However, it was not clear if Chui Sai On was referring to allowing some of the houses to be sold only to Macau residents." [MDT, November 11, 2013]

What has been made of this "Macau land for Macau people" policy? What resulted from it?

And then there is the decreasing quality of the parliamentary debate. The fault of this, of course, does not lie solely with the government. Some lawmakers, included appointed ones, lack culture, common sense or knowledge of the law. They simply don't know what they are talking about. The conscious citizen should watch the policy address sessions broadcast by TDM with consternation.

To give one of many possible examples, lawmaker Zheng Anting asks secretary Sonia Chan if it is possible to include information related to the bus card (MacauPass) in the ID cards. That would, he said, make the residents the only beneficiaries from the bus fare discounts – a reformulation of an old idea of his; he once advocated a fleet of buses only for residents, Dubai style. Secretary Chan wisely points out that the bus card is in plastic money and asks one of her advisers to elaborate. The adviser says that there is no consensus on the matter which is, I guess, a Chinese way of saying no.

Perhaps this time good sense will prevail, but this is just one example of the issues brought out by lawmakers during the policy address.

THE AUSTRALIA BEATS NZ TO WIN ITS 5TH CRICKET WORLD CUP TITLE

Michael Clarke raised his bat to acknowledge the massive crowd, and nodded to a fallen teammate he credited for inspiring Australia's run to a fifth World Cup title that culminated with an emphatic win over New Zealand.

Clarke scored 74 and shared a 112-run partnership with Steve Smith (56 not out) as the skipper and the likely future captain spearheaded Australia to the winning target of 184 in

the 34th over at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

It didn't end absolutely perfectly for Clarke, who also played in the winning team in 2007, when he was bowled by Matt Henry nine runs short of the target in his 245th and last one-day international. But it was close enough. Smith hit the winning runs as Australia reached 186-3 for a seven-wicket victory.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Good
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	65-85 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

Lee Kuan Yew eulogized as architect of Singapore

Stephen Wright & Jeannete Tan, Singapore

SINGAPOREANS bid farewell to longtime leader Lee Kuan Yew on Sunday with an elaborate procession and a three-hour state funeral at which his son, the current prime minister, eulogized the statesman and declared that the wealthy city-state he helped build is his monument.

Undeterred by heavy rain, about 100,000 people lined a 15-kilometer route through the city to catch a glimpse of the funeral cortege. Lee's coffin, draped in Singapore's red and white flag and protected from the downpour by a glass casing, lay atop a ceremonial gun carriage that was solemnly led past city landmarks from Parliament to a cultural center where the state funeral was held.

Along the way, crowds of people chanted "Lee Kuan Yew," snapped photos with smartphones and waved Singapore's flag. Four howitzers were fired in a nearby field, air force fighter jets streaked over the island, with one peeling off in a "missing man" formation, and navy patrol ships blasted horns.

"To those who seek Mr. Lee Kuan Yew's monument, Singaporeans can reply proudly: Look around you," Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in the first of 10 eulogies



AP PHOTO
 Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, holds back his tears as he delivers his eulogy during a state funeral of the late Lee Kuan Yew

at the funeral, which was attended by more than 2,000 people, including schoolchildren, Singapore's elite, world leaders and royalty.

Occasionally drawing tears and laughter, Lee said an important part of his father's legacy is that "Singapore's voice is heard and we enjoy far more influence on the international stage than we have any reason to expect."

As the service neared its conclusion, civil defense sirens blared across the island to signal a minute's silence. The government had asked trains and buses to stand still. People flocked to a crematorium where a private cremation will be held for a final glimpse of the cortege.

During a week of national mourning that began last Monday after Lee's death at age 91, some 450,000 people lined up for hours to briefly view the statesman's coffin at Parliament House. A million people visited tribute sites at community centers around the city.

The expansive show of emotion is a rare event for Singapore and its 5.5 million people. The island nation is known around the world as a wealthy trade and finance center with a strict social order that includes a ban on chewing gum and caning for some crimes.

Lee was Singapore's prime minister for more than three decades, ruling with an iron grip until 1990. He is regarded by Singaporeans as the architect of their nation's prosperity and harmonious relations among ethnic Chinese, Malay and Indian populations. But his authoritarian rule and crushing of dissent has also left a legacy of restrictions on free speech, a tame media and a stunted democracy.

"He did everything for us Singaporeans regardless of race, language or religion," said Jennie Yeo, a teacher who arrived at 7 a.m. to stake out front row positions with two friends. "Education, housing, everything you can think of, he's taken care of for us." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti



Holy Week. Hooded penitents from the La Paz brotherhood wait outside the church to take part in a procession in Seville, Spain, yesterday. Hundreds of processions take place throughout Spain during the Easter Holy Week.

WORLD BRIEFS



SRI LANKA President Maithripala Sirisena's youngest brother has died two days after he was attacked with an ax in what authorities said was a personal dispute. Priyantha Sirisena, 42, died in a private hospital in Colombo on Saturday after he was airlifted from his hometown following the attack on Thursday. The attacker has surrendered to police. Sirisena was in China on an official visit when the attack took place. He returned to attend his brother's funeral today.

FRANCE Ripped-up sick notes from a doctor found at pilot Lubitz's home by German prosecutors suggest the 27-year-old had an illness he hid from his employers at Germanwings. Medical documents showed he had an existing illness — which wasn't specified — but no suicide note was found. A Dusseldorf hospital confirmed that Lubitz had been treated recently, but didn't say for what. More on p15



EGYPT's top prosecutor yesterday named 18 Muslim Brotherhood members, including the group's leader and his deputy, as terrorists in the first implementation of an anti-terror law passed earlier this year. In a statement, chief prosecutor Hisham Barakat said the decision follows a February court ruling that convicted Brotherhood leader Mohammed Badie; his deputy Khairat el-Shater; the head of the group's political party Saad el-Katatni and others of orchestrating violence in 2013 that killed 11 people and wounded over 90 outside their office.

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that he has "deep concern" over a pending nuclear deal the West appears close to signing with Israel's arch-enemy Iran. Netanyahu said that he conveyed those fears to visiting American lawmakers, warning that the looming deal appears to "corroborate all our concerns and then some." More on p14