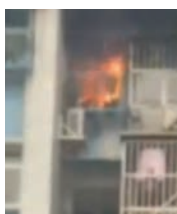




#### AUTHORITIES SUGGEST AT-HOME PARENTING

The Social Welfare Bureau encourages parents to consider at-home parenting amid the limited availability of child nurseries

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#### TWO FIRES BREAK OUT AT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Two fires broke out yesterday in two separate residential buildings, both of them caused by household electrical appliances

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

AD



## Gov't blames light rail delay on contractor

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#### WORLD BRIEFS



**MALAYSIA** revived detention without trial when lawmakers approved an anti-terror law Tuesday that the government said was needed to fight Islamic militants, but critics assailed as a giant step backward for human rights in the country. [More on p13](#)

**PHILIPPINES** Armed men have abducted the mayor of a southern Philippine town from her house and fled with her on motorboats, officials said yesterday. [More on p13](#)



**KENYA** He was a soccer player with a fighting spirit, a talented keyboard player with "golden fingers" who was intent on succeeding in life, his guardian (pictured) said. But Bryson Mwakuleghwa, a 21-year-old student at Garissa University College in Kenya, never had the chance to make his dreams happen. [More on p14-15](#)

More on backpage



#### LITTLE MISS VIOLET

## The craft of fashion blogging

P7



## Macanese painter wins prize in London



Filipe Miguel das Dores with Andy Wood, the president of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours

A young Macanese painter has received an award in London from the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours. Filipe Miguel das Dores, aged 25, won the prize with a painting entitled "Mario Night," which portrays a landscape at night in Macau. The accolade was awarded recently in a ceremony held at the London Arts Center. "It was a surprise to win a prize that constitutes an incentive to keep working and taking part in exhibitions both in and outside of Macau," commented Filipe Miguel das Dores, who is still studying visual arts at the Macau Polytechnic Institute.

## Bus 71X to begin operating

A new bus route connecting the University of Macau's (UM) Hengqin Campus with the Taipa downtown area, 71X, will begin operating tomorrow. The bus route will run every 15 minutes from Monday to Friday in two time periods: one between 7.30 a.m. and 10 a.m.; the other between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. It will only stop on the campus and at Taipa's Edf. Chun Luen and Avenida Olímpica. The Transport Bureau said that such an arrangement is intended to ease the passenger flow during the peak hours. The route will be operated by the Macau New Era Public Bus Company. Currently, the 37U is the only public bus route that connects the UM with Taipa, while the 71 and MT3U connect the campus with the Macau peninsula. The MT3U extends to the North District. The new bus route will replace the university's shuttle bus, which runs through the campus and Taipa.

## Sports ground near Sai Van Lake to open

A new free sports ground located next to the Sai Van Lake will be open to the public from tomorrow. It will be open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. The sports ground consists of a standard badminton court, a standard basketball court, a basketball shooting area, as well as outdoor fitness equipment. According to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), the construction of the new sports ground was aimed at optimizing the Sai Van Lake's lakeside recreation area, which is situated at the Avenida Panorâmica do Lago Sai Van beside the Sai Van Bridge. From tomorrow, the sports ground next to the Barra Bus Terminal at Barra will be closed due to demolition work. There are currently 15 free sports grounds administered by the IACM, with 11 of these located on the Macau peninsula and four in Taipa and Coloane.

## EDUCATION

# With the lack of nurseries, authorities suggest at-home parenting

**T**HE Social Welfare Bureau is encouraging local parents to consider half-day childcare services for their children amid the limited availability of child nurseries in the city. It also suggested that families with children under the age of two should resort to at-home parenting instead of using childcare services.

As of March this year, there were a total of 48 nurseries available across the city, with roughly 8,300 places available. However, this number can only allegedly serve 40 percent of the local infant population. Experiencing difficulties in responding to the city's mounting demand for daytime childcare services, the bureau has urged parents to turn to half-day services or to take care of their children themselves, providing that their family conditions are allowing.



According to a report published by Macau Daily News, studies on infant development suggest that the younger the children, the more individual care they need from their families in their upbringing, especially those aged under two.

The Social Welfare Bureau states the parents who wish for their children to socialize with those of a similar age, in order to prepare them for the next level of schooling, could resort to half-day services to meet this purpose.

The city's unified recruitment for daycare services will commence in two periods: from April 1 to May 31; and then again from May 1 to August 20. Around 80 percent of the government-funded crèches will announce their

admission results on or before May 20 in the first period. According to the bureau, the number of nurseries that offer an online application process has soared from 15 last year to 26 this year.

Currently 37 of the local childcare service providers are located on the Macau peninsula, while the rest are in Taipa. The ratio of full-day services to their half-day counterparts is around seven to three. To optimize the government-funded childcare centres' admission procedures for local parents, the bureau has established a set of "procedure guidelines" for the city's daycare providers. This is in order to prevent parents from queuing outside their premises, and to enhance the transparency of information in admission services. **Staff reporter**

## Two fires break out at residential buildings

**T**wo fires broke out yesterday in two separate residential buildings. Both of these fires had been caused by household electrical appliances.

The first incident occurred near the Red Market at around 3 a.m. The blaze at the Edifício Pac Tat, located in the Avenida do Almirante Lacerda, is suspected to have been caused by an over-heated electrical fan. It was extinguished within several minutes with a water jet. Twelve residents were evacuated from the building and no injuries were caused. The two residents of

the household, aged 50 and 60, were sent to hospital after reporting discomfort due to smoke inhalation.

Another fire broke out in the residential district of Toi San at around 4 p.m., allegedly because of a television short circuit. According to fire services, the fact that the television had been in a standby state for an extended period contributed to the fire, which was extinguished shortly after the arrival of firefighters. Around one hundred residents fled the building. Some neighbors claimed that an explosive sound had been



audible, which the firemen attributed to the exploding television. No injury was reported in the second case.

## ARTS & CULTURE

# IC opens call for submissions to Macau Printmaking Triennial

**T**HE 2nd Macau Printmaking Triennial is now open for submissions, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) stated in a press release. The event, which is organized by IC in cooperation with the Printmaking Research Center of Macau, will be held in November.

The gold prize has been increased to MOP250,000, while the silver and bronze

awards are set at MOP80,000 and MOP50,000, respectively. This edition will again be coordinated by printmaker James Wong, and aims to encourage the submission of "outstanding works from all over the world."

The IC has opened a call for local and foreign submissions, and will accept works from June 1 to 30.

The Bureau held the 1st Ma-

cau Printmaking Triennial in 2012, hoping "to enhance the development and exchange between printmaking artists."

The IC is accepting entries of different printmaking types and production techniques, but works must have been produced in the last five years and can't have been exhibited in the previous edition. The size of the works on paper must not exceed one square

meter, and each individual may only submit a maximum of two works. They must be kept flat and well wrapped up for delivery to the Art Square, ground floor of the Handover Gifts Museum, the Bureau added.

Meanwhile, IC said that it had invited a number of renowned printmakers from China and other countries" to serve as judges.

Rules and regulations, as well as application forms, are available on IC's website (www.icm.gov.mo) and at the Macau Printmaking Triennial's official website (www.triennialmacau.com).

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Brook Yang

**T**HE Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) has slammed the contractor responsible for building the depot superstructure of the Taipa section of the Light Rail Transit (LRT), blaming delays in the construction process on the contractor's apparent inaction.

The Depot Superstructure is one of the five projects comprising the Taipa section of the LRT. It is situated east of the Cotai Strip and south of the airport, with the Avenida do Aeroporto on its west side. The project will cover an area of approximately 130,000 square meters, consisting of an operation control center, a factory and maintenance building, an area for trains to be parked and cleaned, as well as a 600-meter train-testing track.

GIT stressed that the Depot Superstructure is "the heart of the entire LRT system." The office criticized the contractors on the grounds that "the construction progress of the Depot Superstructure is severely lagging behind, because the contractor didn't actively fulfill its contractual obligations."

GIT's substitute coordinator, Ho Cheong Kei, stated in a response to a written inquiry made by lawmaker Si Ka Lon: "The LRT is Macau's first ever railway transport system project; it is a new thing to Macau residents, the technical personnel and the government. During its planning and construction, we indeed face difficulties and challenges brought by various uncertainties."

The lawmaker urged the authorities to provide concrete reasons for the delays in construction, as well as to outline all accountable personnel and to propose solutions. Following this, GIT stated that these recommendations had been made to the contractor in a variety of forms; the contractor was even allegedly penalized over MOP10 million. "However, the contractor so far still hasn't actively im-

# GIT blames Taipa LRT delay on contractor's 'being inactive'



proved, and this has become the key factor that's affecting the entire construction progress of the Taipa route," said Ho Cheong Kei.

Ho indicated that the government has been negotiating with the contractor to solve the problem as soon as possible. "The government has

always risen to the challenges, made improvements and conducted follow-ups with real actions, such as strengthening communication with the project consultants, supervision companies and contractors, as well as requesting a full review and assessment of the present construction

conditions from the technical team," he stated.

As for the lawmaker's suggestion that public housing projects

**The contractor so far still hasn't actively improved, and this has become the key factor that's affecting the entire construction progress of the Taipa route**

HO CHEONG KEI

be built above the future Depot Superstructure, Ho responded by saying that the project's design and construction would have to be restarted, thus further postponing the completion of the project. "If the Depot Superstructure can't be built, the trains can't be delivered and tested, and Macau's LRT won't be able to operate," he stressed.

## Changing lifestyles in Hengqin

**T**HE lives of those who have resided in Hengqin before the start of its new development phase have been radically changed. Prior to this, the island was scarcely populated. Now its longtime residents say that their traditional lifestyle is fading quickly.

"Life used to be more relaxed here. Now there is more traffic and more people. Things are developing quite rapidly. We are located between the mountains and our lifestyle used to be more natural. Now we see many high-rise buildings. Simple things have been lost. Concurrently, modern things have been brought here. There are gains and losses," Mr Zhang, who grew up in a Hengqin



village, told TDM. He added that the neighboring island is looking better as a result of the new projects, although social infrastructure is still lagging behind.

Mr Zhang is expecting more residents from Macau to visit and even live in Hengqin: "If they bring their purchasing power to Hengqin, the commodities prices will surely go

up," he suggested.

Another Hengqin resident, Ms Su, noted the recent housing arrangements for underprivileged residents. "Before, we lived in Chimelong [where a vast resort, visible from Coloane village, now stands]. Now you can see that we are living in flats and there are good roads and cars. There are buses nearby and people older than 50 receive a subsidy of RMB1,000."

The island is becoming densely populated and there has been ample infrastructural growth. The Cotai border has begun operating at all hours, and a local shopper, Mr Chai, expects his grocery business to thrive. "The 24-hour border will bring more business opportuni-

ties and tourists. We can't run a shop without potential customers, can we?"

Hengqin covers an area of 106.46 square kilometers, more than three times as large as Macau. The island is made up of

**Things are developing quite rapidly. We are located between the mountains and our lifestyle used to be more natural**

MR ZHANG

one town, three communities and eleven villages.

The Hengqin New Area was officially established on December 16, 2009. In the subsequent years, it has enjoyed great economic expansion. The coastal area of Hengqin is now home to a satellite campus of the University of Macau and several state-owned banks, including the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China and Bank of China.

According to the general planning of Hengqin, there will be approximately 200,000 people living in Hengqin in 2020. The director-general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Niu Jing, predicted recently that more than one-third of the population on the nearby island will be made up of Macau residents by then.



# Thai Smile intends to suspend Macau-Bangkok route



**THAI** Airways International's budget airline, the Thai Smile, is considering the suspension of its two daily flights between Macau and Bangkok between May 16 and September 30. The airline attributed this move to a low occupancy level that has not met expectations.

The company's CEO, Woranate Laprabang, told the Macau Business Daily that the route's occupancy currently stands at 50 percent. It has therefore

failed to meet the anticipated occupancy of 65 to 70 percent, which was suggested when the number of daily flights was increased to two per day in last October.

The CEO noted that the passengers are basically all travelers from Thailand, which is most likely due to the fact that the brand receives full support from its local partners in Thailand. "Thai Smile is relatively new and we have quite limited

exposure in Macau. We don't have enough support from Macau travel agencies. We need to find the right partners there first," he explained, as quoted by the newspaper.

In an attempt to boost its Macau-Bangkok route, which is currently not fully utilised by the Macau market, the airline is seeking business partners in mainland China, namely travel agencies in Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen. In a separate statement, the South China chief of Air Macau revealed that the local airline's three daily flights between Macau and Bangkok are normally loaded at about 80 percent. During the Easter and Ching Ming holidays, tickets are allegedly "hard to get".

The local airport states that it has been working towards accommodating diverse airliners in Macau. Currently, there are two other airlines operating the Macau-Thailand routes, namely Air Macau and Air Asia. The Times contacted the Macau International Airport Company yesterday to discuss this matter, but received no reply by press time.

## ARTS

# Filmmakers can submit projects to 'Local View Power' contest



**I**N another edition of "Local View Power" (LVP), the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) is challenging Macau directors to submit their latest cinematic proposals. In this edition, LVP will commission up to MOP 270,000 to individual candidates. Its format welcomes candidates spread across three experience tiers: "Advanced" and "Open" levels, aimed at directors aged 18 or above, and the "Freshman" level, open to all enthusiastic filmmaker wannabes. The project is divided into the categories "Documentary," "Short Feature" and "Animation".

The project was first ini-

tiated in 2007 to stimulate and nurture creative works by both emerging and established filmmakers.

According to a press release issued by CCM, the previous seven editions were "enthusiastically received with participants submitting over 320 proposals, a dynamic flow that has resulted in more than 75 finalized works, some of them awarded overseas, confirming LVP's useful and productive path."

Selected teams will be given financial and technical support to complete their productions and all works will be premiered at the "Macau International Film and Video Festival 2016".

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A portion of the MSAR's financial reserves could be transferred to mainland China for investment purposes. The government intends to introduce the measure in order to boost bilateral cooperation. It also expects the return of the investment to potentially reach 4 percent, which would be higher than the 2 percent recorded last year but still significantly lower than the inflation rate.

According to a TDM report, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, plans to transfer between MOP10 and 20 billion from the region's reserves to be invested into projects overseen by the Sino-Portuguese Speaking Countries' Development Fund managed by the China Development Bank. The development fund was created through the Forum Macau to finance projects in some of the basic in-

# Gov't to transfer reserves to China Development Bank fund

PHOTO ARCHIVE



Lionel Leong

frastructural, agricultural and manufacturing areas.

On a separate note, the local authorities are in talks with the Guangdong Province in order to investigate investment opportunities.

Commenting on Lionel Leong's plan, Lawmaker Si Ka Lon noted that governments from other regions in China use agencies to make investments. "We buy bonds and stocks via agencies. The risk [involved in those investments] would be high, but we want a steady investment. Thus, if the government supports China's development, and the cooperative

## We want a steady investment

SI KA LON  
LAWMAKER

development between Guangdong and Macau, it would be a normal practice," he said.

According to a local economist, in the instance that the government intends that the return of financial reserves catch up with inflation, there

would be higher risks associated with the investment. Rose Lai, professor of finance at the University of Macau, says that the region should avoid pursuing short-term investments. "Long-term investments would do us more good. If we invest in high-return [financial] products to catch up with inflation, the risk would be high. Do we want that? I believe a responsible government should consider whether we should bear that risk."

Ms Lai argued that the government should officially elaborate on these plans to the public once they have been drafted.

## Fisherman's Wharf development plan under fire

THE New Macau Association (ANM) says that the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) plans to raise the height limit and to relax the density

restrictions for new buildings to be built at the Fisherman's Wharf. In a press conference yesterday, the association said that the plan runs counter to the government's desi-

re to protect world heritage sites.

ANM argues that these decisions are in conflict with the Cultural Institute's suggestion about the area's height limit of 60

meters, which was made last year. The association urged the government to extend the public notice period and to revise the Chief Executive's instructions – which were issued

in 2008 – to restrict the heights of buildings in the buffer areas surrounding the Guia Lighthouse. According to this regulation, part of the Fisherman's Wharf is limited in height to 90 meters, while the other part cannot exceed 60 meters (see image).



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Catarina Pinto

LITTLE MISS VIOLET

# Striving to make a living out of fashion blogging

**A**LMOST five years ago, when fashion bloggers started to rival traditional magazines in Europe and the United States, Macau-born Carla Florendo started her own website, which first detailed art in general, and is now solely dedicated to fashion (carlaviolet.com).

The creator of "Little Miss Violet," Carla Florendo, acknowledges that her ultimate goal is to make a living from her blog. "Initially it wasn't really about fashion. What I wanted was to include all my hobbies in one website. So it was about art... I liked to draw and also made my own clothes before (...) but the more I tried to create content for the blog, it seemed fashion was the one that stood out," Florendo said in an interview with The Times.

Fashion bloggers first started to be recognised as an important part of the industry back in 2010 and 2011. "As New York Fashion Week gets under way, fashionistas will be relying less on magazines and more on bloggers to tell them what they'll be wearing come spring," the BBC reported in 2011.

While in Europe and the United States, fashion bloggers have already proven vital to the fashion industry, in Macau the fashion blogging scene is still developing.

**For summer I always look up Los Angeles based bloggers, because I love LA and California's style. It's a very laid back style**

CARLA FLORENDO



"When I started I looked through mostly international blogs and I wanted to achieve that standard, but nowadays – because the fashion industry is booming in Hong Kong, Macau and the rest of Asia – I am trying to focus on adapting my blog to the local market," said Carla.

Meanwhile, the young blogger is also trying to succeed in Hong Kong by meeting fellow fashion bloggers and new designers. "I have been attending events in Hong Kong and am hoping that the industry in Macau will also be able to evolve," she stressed.

Carla acknowledged that her readership still draws mainly from the United States and Europe, although she's positive that "Macau and Hong Kong, as well as the whole Asian market, have potential."

"Right now it's about 70 percent readership from overseas

countries and 30 percent local, but I am trying to shift that," she said.

Carla works for a consultancy company providing services to Wynn Macau. For now, blogging is still a job that she can only focus on in the late evening after work, but Carla's goal is to make a living out of fashion blogging.

"Ultimately, that's the goal. But I don't think it will happen any time soon," she noted. She added that, "if I were in the US or in Europe, maybe that would be a lot easier because I see a lot of bloggers doing that right now. They are just full-time bloggers. I think probably in Hong Kong as well. But in Macau I don't think it will happen any time soon."

Currently Carla feels as if she is working "two full time jobs at the same time," as blogs tend to require a large amount of work

to maintain.

"I work 9am to 6pm at the office. The evening is the only free time I have to blog. But blogging is not just about taking pictures and posting them. You have to think about the content, what to write...editing the pictures takes a lot of work too. Also putting on clothes, matching the clothes and coming up with the outfits ... all of that takes time. I

put in a lot of effort and it's like a second job to me," she acknowledged.

Carla said she feels inspired mostly by other fashion bloggers in Europe and the US. "I really love European street style as it's not very common, it has a lot of layers and colors. But for summer I always look up Los Angeles-based bloggers, because I love the style in California. It's a very laid-back style," she recalled.

Although acknowledging that she doesn't draw much inspiration from Macau, Carla stressed that the local fashion industry has recently begun to change. "I think people here are opening up to new styles, so I think it's improving. Also, before if I were to mention fashion bloggers, people wouldn't know what I was talking about, but now I think the mindset has become more open," she added.

Nevertheless, people in Macau are still drawing inspiration mainly from Korean-style clothing. "It's very feminine, a lot of pastel colors and light materials, so it's very creative. It's mostly about Japanese and Korean fashion. But it will probably change in a few years as we start to have all the international brands coming in," she said.

## LOCAL FASHION BLOGGER TO CONTRIBUTE TO VEGAS MAGAZINE

**LOCAL FASHION** blogger Carla Florendo has landed a job as a contributor with a Las Vegas-based magazine, titled "Mogul 18," to be launched this summer. "They contacted me last year to become a contributor. They moved the launch date to this summer. I wrote

a couple of articles for them, and then we signed a contract," she said, adding that, "it's a big deal for me because it's a way to start monetizing the blog." "If my ultimate plan is to have a job out of the blog, this way I will be half-way to reaching my goal," she acknowledged.





# YouTube Kids app criticized as deceiving

Anne Flaherty, Washington

**T**HE new YouTube Kids mobile app targets young children with unfair and deceptive advertising and should be investigated, a group of consumer advocates told the U.S. Federal Trade Commission in a letter yesterday.

Google introduced the app in February as a "safer" place for kids to explore videos because it was restricted to "family-focused content."

But the consumer activists say the app is so stuffed with advertisements and product placements that it's hard to tell the difference between entertainment and commercials. One example is a 7-minute video of Disney's "Frozen" characters who appear as dolls inside a toy McDonald's, eating ice cream and drinking Sprite.

## Google introduced the app in February as a 'safer' place for kids to explore videos

The activists say digital media should be subject to the same rules as television, which limits commercial content on kids' programming.

"As a consumer, you should have the right to know who is trying to persuade you," said Angela Campbell with the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown Law, who provided legal counsel to the coalition.



In young children especially, "it takes unfair advantage of their trusting nature and lack of experience," she added.

In a statement early yesterday, YouTube said: "We worked with numerous partners and child advocacy groups when developing YouTube Kids. While we are always open to feedback on ways to improve the app, we were not contacted directly by the signers of this letter and strongly disagree with their contentions, including the suggestion that no free, ad-supported experience for kids will ever be acceptable. We disagree and think that great content shouldn't be reserved for only those families who can afford it."

Since its inception in 2005, YouTube has become the world's most popular online video site, with more than 1 billion users. For parents, it's become an easy way to find Elmo song clips or full episodes of "Barney & Friends." But when searching for Elmo or Barney, it's easy to pull up other user-generated content aimed at adults, such as the two puppets cursing or wa-

ving guns.

"Now, parents can rest a little easier knowing that videos in the YouTube Kids app are narrowed down to content appropriate for kids," wrote Shimrit Ben-Yair, the app's product manager, in a February blog post.

According to the consumer groups' letter, the videos mingle commercial and entertainment content in ways that wouldn't be allowed on television. Search for "My Little Pony," for example, and the first several options are lengthy advertisements for My Little Pony Play-Doh and toy kitchen sets, including one Play-Doh segment stretching 19 minutes.

Groups that signed the letter were the Center for Digital Democracy, the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Children Now, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Watchdog, Consumers Union, Corporate Accountability International and Public Citizen. **AP**

# FedEx to buy TNT for USD4.8b after UPS blocked in 2013

Mary Schlangensten, Richard Weiss and Elco van Groningen

**F**EDEx Corp. agreed to buy Dutch parcel-delivery company TNT Express NV for 4.4 billion euros (USD4.8 billion), predicting it can succeed where bigger rival United Parcel Service Inc. was blocked by regulators in 2013.

TNT investors will receive 8 euros a share in cash, 33 percent more than the closing price on April 2, the most recent trading day. UPS in January 2012 offered 9.50 euros for each TNT share before pulling out of the transaction a year later. TNT Chairman Antony Burgmans said the lower price in part reflects the fact that there will be fewer synergies with FedEx.

FedEx, calling the deal a "match made in heaven," said the timing was right for the approach, with a stronger dollar and a budding European recovery providing the necessary support. FedEx has a chance to succeed where UPS failed as it has less overlap with TNT and has agreed to shed TNT's airline operations in an effort to win approval. The companies said there is a "high level of deal certainty," that it will be completed.

"FedEx will know the pitfalls UPS faced," said Damian Brewer, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets in London, adding the price is in line with similar deals. While FedEx's offer is lower than what UPS was prepared to pay at the time, financial metrics at the Dutch company have deteriorated since, he said.

TNT rose as much as 31 percent in Dutch trading while FedEx jumped 5.5 percent in pre-market trading in New York.

UPS scrapped its bid after European competition regulators moved to block the deal, arguing that it would limit some shipping customers' choices for next-day deliveries to just UPS and DHL, a unit of Deutsche Post AG. The watchdog formally blocked UPS's TNT bid because the Atlanta-based company failed to find a suitable buyer for parts of TNT to ensure that competition for delivery services wouldn't be squelched.

Adding TNT will bolster the European ground network for FedEx, the operator of the world's largest cargo airline. Expansion in Europe is one pillar of Chief Executive Officer Fred Smith's 2012 plan to boost profit by \$1.7 billion.

"We have long identified Europe as an area where we were focused on for growth because of our relatively small market share when compared to other parts of the world," said Patrick Fitzgerald, FedEx senior vice president for marketing, in an interview. "It will drastically lower our costs to serve European markets by increasing density in our pickup and delivery operation."

FedEx and TNT said they're "confident that antitrust concerns, if any, can be addressed adequately in a timely fashion," and that they expect to conclude the transaction in the first half of 2016. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

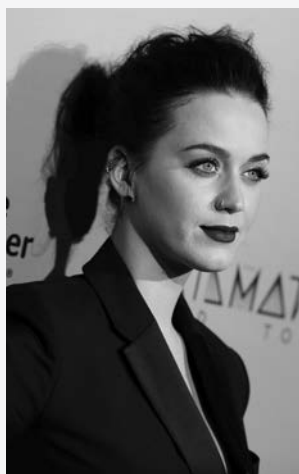
### KATY PERRY'S WORLD TOUR EVENTS IN MACAU TO FEATURE THE DOLLS

The internationally renowned American singer-songwriter Katy Perry will invite the female DJ duo The Dolls to be her special guests at her upcoming "Prismatic World Tour" events in Macau, which will be held at the Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena on May 1 and May 2. The duo will also open Perry's concerts in Tokyo, Manila, Jakarta, Singapore and Bangkok later, while Ferras will open her Taipei show.

Since May last year, Perry has played 129 shows and has toured throughout the United Kingdom, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Europe.

Having spent the last three years DJ-ing around the world, The Dolls recently re-

leased their debut single "Summer of 93," which featured Margot on vocals. Their follow-up single, "Southern Swing," features The Original Pinettes Brass Band, the only all-female brass band, which hails from the New Orleans. Together, The Dolls have curated musical performances inside both The Louvre and the Guggenheim museums, have opened for Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder, have toured the US with Eve, and have landed on the Billboard charts for their remixes of songs by Katy Perry, Cat Power, Robyn and Rye Rye. The duo was named "Paper" magazine's DJs of the year, and garnered accolades from the "Wall Street Journal," "Teen Vogue," "Elle" and "Bill-



board Magazine," which referred to their musical debut as a "Nostalgic, moody, and gorgeously crafted indie-pop tune."

### SAMSUNG SHOWS SIGNS OF EMERGING FROM EARNINGS SLUMP

Samsung's quarterly operating earnings have fallen 31 percent from a year ago. The drop wasn't as big as expected, signifying that the smartphone and computer chip giant may be emerging from its profit slump. The company yesterday estimated its January-March operating profit at 5.9 trillion won (USD5.4 billion), exceeding the average 5.5 trillion won that was forecast in a FactSet survey of analysts.

Samsung did not give a breakdown of its financial performance. Analysts have noted the robust demand for Samsung's mobile chips, and that improvements in its smartphone business were the driving force behind the company's relative improvement. It will release its full quarterly results later this month.

The company's operating profit



was an improvement from the previous two quarters, when its mobile business – which accounts for two-thirds of Samsung's income – suffered a slowdown in sales. Samsung estimated that its sales fell 12 percent to 47 trillion won (USD43 billion) during the first quarter.

Analysts believe that the South Korean company's profits reached their lowest point during the third quarter. They expect a recovery in Samsung's bottom line in the current quarter, as the company is set to launch the latest version of its flagship smartphone, the Galaxy S6, this Friday.

After criticism about the cheap appearance of their phones and the fact that they are far from user-friendly, Samsung ditched plastic, opting instead to use aluminum and glass for the body of the new flagship smartphone. The company also removed many apps installed on the phones that critics said cluttered screen space and lacked usefulness.

Solid demand for semiconductor devices that are used as components for mobile gadgets will continue to help drive a recovery in Samsung's profits, according to analysts. Samsung is the world's largest maker of memory chips. For the upcoming Galaxy S6 smartphone, the company is supplying its own mobile processor that works as the brain of the phone. Samsung's share price remained unchanged in Seoul trading.



# Billionaire Cohen said to sell USD25m Dubuffet's 'Paris'

Katya Kazakina

**B**ILLIONAIRE money manager Steven A. Cohen is selling a dense, vibrant 1961 Jean Dubuffet painting valued at USD25 million, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Christie's said it will offer Dubuffet's "Paris Polka" at a special evening auction, "Looking Forward to the Past," on May 11. The estimate exceeds the late French artist's auction record of \$7.4 million set in November. Cohen, 58, is the seller, said the person, who asked not to be named because the information is private.

The postwar and contemporary art auctions in New York in May are shaping up to produce record prices. Christie's is also offering Pablo Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger (Version 'O') for \$140 million. A Francis Bacon triptych is the most expensive artwork sold at auction, fetching \$142.4 million at Christie's in 2013.

Global sales of art and antiques hit a record 51.2 billion euros (\$56 billion) in 2014, up 7 percent from the previous year, as collectors drove up prices for trophy works by modern, postwar and contemporary artists, according to an annual report published in March by the European Fine Art Foundation.

"There's a premium for the best of the best," said Loic Gouzer, a Christie's specialist for postwar and contemporary art who came up with the idea of masterpiece-studded auc-



Steven "Steve" Cohen, chairman and chief executive officer of SAC Capital Advisors LP

tion that spans the entire 20th century instead of focusing on individual categories.

Gouzer declined to comment on the identity of the seller. Jonathan Gasthalter, a spokesman for Cohen at Sard Verbinen & Co., declined to comment.

The auction house said it has guaranteed the seller an undisclosed minimum price regardless of whether or not the work sells.

Cohen converted his hedge-fund firm SAC Capital Advisors into a family office called Point72 Asset Management after settling insider-trading charges against the firm in 2013. Cohen, whose net worth of \$11 billion ranks him 112th on Bloomberg Billionaires Index, is based in Stamford, Connecticut.

He's also known as an active art trader, frequently buying and selling at auctions, dealers

said.

In November, he sold a 1958 Franz Kline painting, "King Oliver" for \$26.4 million at Christie's. That same month he was the buyer at Sotheby's of Alberto Giacometti's \$101 million painted sculpture of an elongated goddess standing on a chariot.

In 2013, he sold a group of paintings for at least \$77 million at Sotheby's. The priciest was Gerhard Richter's 1986 abstract painting "A.B. Courbet," which fetched \$26.5 million.

In 2012, Cohen bought Picasso's "Le Reve" for \$150 million in a private transaction from casino owner Steve Wynn. In

**■ In 2012, Cohen bought Picasso's "Le Reve" for USD150m in a private transaction from Steve Wynn**

2011, Cohen consigned Andy Warhol's 40-inch-square 1963 canvas "Liz #5" to Phillips. It sold for \$26.9 million.

Not all of Cohen's sales have been successful. In 2012, his 1983 painting by Richter, estimated at \$9 million to \$12 million, failed to reach its undisclosed reserve price at

Christie's.

"Paris Polka" is an unusually cheerful example by Dubuffet (1901-1985), who is better known for his raw, expressionistic canvases, earthy palette and haunting stick figures.

The work is part of the "Paris Circus" paintings and drawings he created when he returned to the city after several years in the countryside.

"He is a man in love with Paris, modernity, youth," said Brett Gorvy, Christie's chairman and international head of postwar and contemporary art. Gorvy declined to comment on the seller.

The pink, red, blue and green composition -- at more than 6-feet-tall and 7-feet-wide -- is densely filled with buildings, cars and human figures.

The seller bought it from literary agent Morton Janklow, Christie's said.

"I owned the painting for a very long time," Janklow said, declining to be more specific. "It contains all the imagery for which he was famous. There are lots of colors. It's very joyous."

Dubuffet's auction record was set in November at Sotheby's for the 1963 "Cite Fantoche," according to auction price database Artnet. A small Dubuffet painting sold privately for \$15 million in the past six months, but not at Christie's, the auction house said.

Christie's considers Dubuffet one of the most undervalued postwar artists, Gorvy said. "Paris Polka" is among the four largest works in the series, and the other three are in museums, the auction house said.

At recent auctions, Dubuffet's works have attracted bidders from Asia and the Middle East as well as more traditional markets in Europe and the U.S., Gorvy said.

Dubuffet's elation over Paris was short-lived.

"It lasts for about a year and a half," Gorvy said. "Then he goes back to darker colors."

Bloomberg

## OCBC's Tsien gets biggest 2014 raise among Singapore bank CEOs

Chanyaporn Chanjaroen

**T**HE head of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. received the biggest pay rise last year compared with his counterparts at Singapore's two other major banks.

Chief Executive Officer Samuel N. Tsien's total compensation rose 12 percent to S\$9.89 million (USD7.3 million) in 2014, with gains mostly driven by increases in his bonus and share package, according to the bank's annual report released Monday. Tsien's annual salary remained unchanged at S\$1.24 million.

Despite the larger increase, Tsien's compensation package for 2014 remained slightly smaller than those received by his counterparts at United Overseas Bank Ltd. and DBS Group Holdings Ltd., the country's two other large banks.

UOB CEO Wee Ee Cheong saw his total package rise 11 percent to S\$10.2 million, while DBS CEO Piyush Gupta's compensation rose 10 percent to S\$10.1 million, according to the two banks' annual reports.

OCBC's net income rose 25 percent to S\$3.45 billion in 2014, excluding one-time items, as the \$5 billion purchase of Hong Kong's Wing Hang Bank grew OCBC's presence in Greater China. DBS net income advanced 10 percent to S\$3.85 billion while UOB saw an 8 percent advance to S\$3.25 billion.

DBS's share price rallied 20 percent last year to S\$20.6 apiece, compared with OCBC's 5.5 percent gain and UOB's 15 percent advance. Bloomberg

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# New labor activists emerge from migrant workers

AP PHOTO



Wu Guijun



Qi Jianguang



Ji Jiansheng

Didi Tang, Shenzhen

A new crop of labor leaders is emerging in China as migrant factory workers increasingly demand their rights and a fair share of the country's now-slowing economic boom.

Disillusioned with China's officially sanctioned labor union, workers are electing their own representatives and launching strikes and protests at a rate that has doubled each of the

**On moral grounds, what I do is right**

WU GUIJUN, 42

past several years to 1,300 in 2014. Here are some of these new leaders.

At 27, Qi Jianguang is one of the youngest of these worker representatives.

After working eight years at a golfing equipment factory in southern Shenzhen, he and other workers discovered that management had failed to make social security contributions, a common lapse long, often ignored by authorities.

The plant's 3,000 workers elected 13 representatives to negotiate with management, and Qi was the youngest at age 26. "Maybe it's my personality," said Qi, a tall and lanky man. "I felt like someone should come forward."

After failed negotiations, workers went on strike last

**I felt like someone should come forward**

QI JIANGUANG, 27

July. Qi was briefly detained by police and then released. The strike ended after two days when management agreed to all the workers' demands, a victory they celebrated with a feast, Qi said.

Seven months later, the company fired Qi over accusations that he smeared its reputation and engaged in an illegal strike. Qi is challenging the dismissal at a labor bureau but has little

hope.

"We sought help from the official union, but they were finding excuses not to meet us," Qi said. "The government has been useless. Instead, it's cracked down on us."

As with many ordinary Chinese, Ji Jiansheng started first learning about labor issues through online chat rooms. Energized, he began researching the law and was soon elected to be a worker representative at the same golfing company at Qi.

"I felt some pressure because rights activism is sensitive in China," he said. "My friends were behind me and reassured me everything would be OK as long as we acted within the law."

The two-day strike paid off,

but like Qi he was fired several months later, ostensibly because his hearing was unfit for work. He's looking for a new job.

Ji said he has never told his family about his activism, but vows to press on.

The movement needs "unity and organization" because otherwise it is like "loose sand."

**I felt some pressure because rights activism is sensitive**

Ji JIANGSHENG

Wu Guijun, 42, spent about a year in jail on a charge linked to his participation in a May 2013 strike but was eventually released without a conviction. He now devotes himself to helping workers learn their rights.

The furniture factory where he worked decided to shutter its Shenzhen operations while offering only a fraction of the required severance. Government agencies declined to intervene.

Wu led a strike of 400 workers — and was jailed and arrested on the charge of gathering crowds to disrupt traffic. "I almost collapsed because I lost my freedom," Wu recalled. "The conditions were poor. I was very depressed and felt hopeless."

Wu went on trial but was released a year later without any conviction. He received USD11,000 in state compensation, which he now uses to help spread legal knowledge among workers.

"I don't regret it," Wu said of his time in jail. "And I have less fear now because I have been there. On moral grounds, what I do is right, and I will keep doing it even if they try to frame me." AP

FUJIAN

## Blast at chemical plant in Zhangzhou injures at least 6

SIX people were hospitalized and hundreds of firefighters deployed to fight a hydrocarbon fire following an explosion at a plant in southern China that produces the toxic chemical paraxylene, officials said yesterday.

Authorities said there were no leaks from the plant's three tanks of burning hydrocarbon liquids and no signs of contamination of the environment following the blast

Monday evening at Goure PX Plant in Zhangzhou, Fujian province — the second explosion to hit the factory in 20 months.

Concerns over the safety of plants that make paraxylene, or PX, a chemical used for producing fibers and plastics, have prompted several protests in China in recent years. Exposure to the chemical can cause eye, nose and throat irritation.

Zhangzhou Deputy



A rescuer evacuates residents near the site of a chemical plant blast in Zhangzhou

Mayor Zhang Yiteng told reporters that one person was injured at the blast site and five hurt by broken glass. The official Xinhua news agency said strong tremors were felt up to 50 kilometers away.

Authorities deployed 177 fire trucks and 829 firefighters to fight the blaze and all nearby residents were evacuated, Zhang said. The fire was under control, and authorities were monitoring the en-

vironment for any contamination, Zhang said.

The plant attracted protests even before it was built. It was slated for the densely populated city of Xiamen in Fujian, but protests in 2007 by residents concerned about potential health hazards succeeded in getting it moved to a less populated area in Zhangzhou.

Several other cities around China have seen similar protests. AP



## SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Xi welcomes top Vietnamese delegation to mend ties

Tran Van Minh, Hanoi

**C**HINA has welcomed a high-ranking Vietnamese delegation of Communist Party officials and Cabinet ministers on a visit to mend ties following strains over rival territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Chinese President Xi Jinping greeted Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong with full military honors yesterday at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of the legislature in the heart of Beijing.

Trong is being joined on the four-day trip by Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh and Minister of Public Security Tran Dai Quang.

The Communist Party's Nhan Dan newspaper said in a front page editorial that Trong's visit "creates favorable conditions" to resolve problems between the countries, although it did not mention the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Relations between the communist neighbors plunged to its lowest point in years after China parked a giant oil rig last May near the Paracel Islands, which are also claimed by Vietnam.

The incident triggered a near breakdown in ties and sparked the risk of a naval standoff as well as widespread anti-China demonstrations in Vietnam that turned violent and left at least four Chinese nationals dead.

After two months of drilling, China withdrew the billion-dollar rig last July but made clear it was doing so because it had completed



Xi Jinping (left) and Nguyen Phu Trong

its work, not because of the criticism of its actions. China's foreign ministry also cited the typhoon season as a reason for moving the rig.

The rig's deployment was widely seen as part of a strategy by China to gradually stake out its claims in the South China Sea, all or part of which are also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

The spat exposed Vietnam's lack of options when dealing with its giant neighbor. Hanoi's workings are shrouded in secrecy, but it has long been assumed that the Communist Party is split between a faction that favors a tough line against Beijing — and consequentially stronger ties with the United States and

its allies — and those who believe a quiet compromise can be reached with their ideological allies in China.

## Xi Jinping greeted Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong with full military honors

Trong is also expected to visit the United States as Vietnam seeks closer ties with other countries in the face of China's growing territorial assertiveness. US

Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius has said Trong will visit Washington, but no official date has been given.

Vietnam has strongly protested China's building up of reefs and atolls in the South China Sea, saying that violates Vietnam's sovereignty and threatens regional peace and international maritime navigation.

Tran Cong Truc, former chairman of the government Borders Committee, said he hoped the visit to China can yield a breakthrough on the territorial disputes.

"The fact that they are meeting, regardless of the result, is a good sign and should be welcomed," he said, adding Vietnam has no intention of sparring with its powerful neighbor. **AP**

## XINHUA FOCUS

## Booming city clusters, new growth engines

**N**EWLY approved measures to create more city clusters could be new engine for China's economic growth and urbanization.

The State Council, China's cabinet, unveiled a plan to develop city clusters along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, China's longest river and one of the busiest rivers for freight traffic worldwide.

Covering an area of 317,000 square kilometers, the clusters will mainly consist of cities around Wuhan in Hubei Province, the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan city group in Hunan Province and clusters around Poyang Lake in Jiangxi Province.

Unlike the three existing huge city clusters - Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei, the Yangtze and Pearl River deltas - the new groups have more potential and abundant resources.

The provinces concerned grew over 2 percentage points faster than the country as a whole last year.

Qin Zunwen, deputy head of Hubei Academy of Social Sciences, said the plan heralds the "rise of central China" with regional advantages in land, manpower resources, the environment and markets.

"The new clusters will have a large area, requiring more in regional communication and infrastructure," said Wu Xinmu of the regional development department in Wuhan University.

The "rise of central China" strategy was first put forward in 2004 in a bid for more balanced development and last year an economic belt along the Yangtze was conceived to coordinate urbanization along the river and boost inland regions. Rising in southwest China's Yunnan and emptying into the sea at Shanghai, the Yangtze flows through nine provinces and two municipalities. These clusters are considered crucial to the Yangtze belt.

Wu pointed out the most serious problem in developing the clusters was weak market competition.

Ye Qing, deputy director of Hubei's Bureau of Statistics, said breakthroughs are more likely to achieve in the poorer parts of the three provinces.

"These places provide more opportunities for better infrastructure, education, medical care, culture and tourism," Ye said. "Cooperation in tackling poverty will expand the plan to a larger area."

Wu said that the current fashion for reduced red tape and administrative intervention should stimulate more city clusters. **Xinhua**

# Beijing to keep track of its tourists' unruly behavior abroad

**C**HINA says it will try to convince its citizens to behave themselves while traveling abroad by requiring authorities back home to keep records of people doing anything illegal or inappropriate while in other countries.

Provincial and national authorities will contact tourists when they return home and work with them on fixing their conduct, the China National Tourism Administration said on its

website this week. Police, customs officers, border control and even bank credit agencies should be contacted if necessary, it said.

Chinese tourists have made headlines recently with their disruptive behavior while traveling inside and outside the country. Several have opened the cabin doors of planes to protest flight delays. The official China Daily newspaper noted the arres-

ts of three Chinese tourists over the weekend for taking lewd photos while vacationing in Japan.

Higher incomes have allowed millions of Chinese to start taking vacations outside their country in recent years.

The administration said yesterday in a separate post that "tourism reflects on the country and the people's image," which means that more "social supervision" of tourists is required. **AP**



# Defense secretary says US opening new phase of Asia pivot

AP PHOTO



Defense Secretary Ash Carter

Robert Burns, Tempe (Ari.)

**T**HE Obama administration is opening a new phase of its strategic "rebalance" toward Asia and the Pacific by investing in high-end weapons such as a new long-range stealth bomber, refreshing its defense alliance with Japan and expanding trade partnerships, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said yesterday.

"I am personally committed to overseeing the next phase of the rebalance, which will deepen and diversify our engagement in the region," Carter said in a speech outlining the administration's rationale for trying to devote more at-

tention to Asia.

At a time of increasing conflict and uncertainty across the Middle East, as well as growing concern about Russian intervention in Ukraine, Carter's remarks seemed designed to convince Americans, and perhaps more im-

■ ■  
[Asia's] the defining region for our nation's future

ASH CARTER  
US DEFENSE SECRETARY

portantly, the country's Asian allies, of the American commitment to the so-called Asia pivot.

His speech at Arizona State University's McCain Institute touched on themes he expects to raise on a week-long trip to Asia, his first since becoming Pentagon chief in February. He will visit Japan and South Korea for meetings with top government officials and also spend time with U.S. troops.

Carter urged Congress to give President Barack Obama authority to complete a free trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-nation accord that Carter said holds "enormous

promise" for jobs and economic growth in the United States. He said it is expected to increase U.S. exports by USD123.5 billion in the next decade.

He called the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, one of the most important parts of the administration's effort to shift more attention to Asia and the Pacific after more than a decade of focusing on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said TPP is as important to him as a new aircraft carrier.

He described the Asia-Pacific trade arrangement as an urgent priority. "Time is running out," he said, as countries in the region forge their

own trade agreements without the U.S.

The Obama administration is not the first to tout the importance of building stronger relationships in Asia; the George W. Bush administration made similar arguments while expressing the same concerns about the implications of China's rapid military modernization.

Yet Bush launched the Iraq and Afghanistan wars that would consume his administration and limit his options in Asia. Obama came into office committed to ending the wars, but the rise of the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, as well as the collapse of Yemen, has raised new obstacles.

Carter, who advocated strongly for shifting more U.S. attention to Asia when he served as the deputy secretary of defense in 2011-2013, said in his Arizona State speech that the Asia-Pacific is "the defining region for our nation's future." He rattled off numerous statistics meant to highlight the importance of Asia to America's future, including what he called an expectation that half of the world's population will live there by 2050.

Carter, who is expected to visit China later this year, said the U.S. is deeply concerned about some aspects of Beijing's increasingly assertive approach, and he said the central strategic challenge of today's generation of Americans is to assure peace and prosperity across the Asia-Pacific "as China continues to rise."

He dismissed the prediction by some that China will attain predominance over the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific or that its economic growth will squeeze out opportunities for younger Americans. He asserted that the U.S. and its Asian allies have spent more than \$16 trillion on defense since the end of the Cold War in 1990, which he said is about 10 times more than the next highest spending country, China.

"I reject the zero-sum thinking that China's gain is our loss because there is another scenario in which everyone wins, and it is a continuation of the decades of peace and stability anchored by a strong American role in which all Asia-Pacific countries continue to rise and prosper," he said. **AP**

## THAILAND

# 4 men killed in raid in the south were not insurgents

**O**FFICIALS in Thailand's violence-plagued south say four men who were killed during a recent raid by government security forces were

not insurgents, and that the authorities involved should be prosecuted.

Police had said the four were killed and 22 other suspects detained on

March 25 in the raid carried out by paramilitary troops, police and local officials in Thung Yang-daeng district of Pattani province.

More than 5,000 people have been killed since an Islamic insurgency erupted in 2004 in Thailand's three southernmost provinces of Yala, Pattani and

Narathiwat, which are the only Muslim-majority areas in the predominantly Buddhist country.

Pattani governor Weerapong Kaewsuan said yes-

terday that a fact-finding committee led by a provincial Islamic leader found that the four dead men were neither insurgents nor their sympathizers. **AP**



Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

# Parliament revives detention without trial with new law

**M**ALAYSIA revived detention without trial when lawmakers approved an anti-terrorism law yesterday that the government said was needed to fight Islamic militants, but critics assailed as a giant step backward for human rights in the country.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act bill was passed by Parliament's lower house in the wee hours of the morning after hours of debate, with 79 votes in favor and 60 against. The law allows authorities to detain suspects indefinitely without trial, with no court challenges permitted.

The government said the measure was needed because dozens of Malaysians have been arrested since 2013 for suspected links to the Islamic State group. Authorities on Sunday arrested 17 people, including an Indonesian militant, accused of planning to rob banks and attack police stations and army camps to obtain weapons.

Critics said the new law was a revival of the Internal Security Act, which was repealed in 2012. New York-based Human Rights Watch called it a "giant step backwards for human ri-

AP PHOTO



Malaysia Police special force unit tries to break into a bus during an exercise against a terrorist attack at a police training camp in Kuala Lumpur

ghts" in Malaysia, and said it raised concerns that the government will once again use the law to intimidate and silence vocal critics.

"By restoring indefinite detention without trial, Malaysia has re-opened Pandora's Box for politically motivated, abusive state actions that many had thought was closed when the abusive Internal Security Act was revoked in 2012," the group's deputy Asia director, Phil Robertson, said in a statement.

Home Minister Zahid Hamidi, however, said the new law was crucial to curb the rise of Islamic militants. "This is a real

threat, and prevention measures are needed," he said during the debate.

It will take weeks before the bill becomes law, as it needs approval from the upper house and royal assent by the king, but those are considered formalities.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said the 17 people, aged from 14 to 49, were arrested during a secret meeting Sunday to plot attacks in Kuala Lumpur and in the administrative capital of Putrajaya.

The group was planning to kidnap several high-profile individuals, rob banks for money,

raid police stations and army camps for weapons, and procure more firearms from another terror group in a neighboring country, Khalid said in a statement yesterday.

The senior member of the cell is a man who was arrested in 2001 under the former Internal Security Act and has undergone militant training in Afghanistan and Indonesia, Khalid said. Another key member is a 38-year-old religious teacher.

Khalid said both men were in Syria last year for militant training and returned to Malaysia in December.

"The aim for this new terror

group is to form an Islamic state in Malaysia," he said.

Also arrested Sunday were two army personnel, a security guard who has access to firearms and an Indonesian militant who is skilled in handling weapons, Khalid said.

The government has proposed another new law, to be debated by lawmakers this week, that would empower authorities to suspend or revoke the travel documents of any citizens or foreigners believed to be engaging in or supporting terrorist acts. Other proposals would increase penalties for terror-related acts. **AP**

## By restoring indefinite detention without trial, Malaysia has re-opened Pandora's Box

PHIL ROBERTSON  
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

## ONE SHOT NEWS: NEPAL



Demonstrators shout slogans against the government during a strike called by the alliance of 30 political parties led by UCPN Maoist in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. The disgruntled opposition parties called the strike to pressure on the ruling parties to promulgate a new constitution on the basis of consensus.

PHILIPPINES

## Gunmen abduct mayor of coastal town in Zamboanga

**A**RMED men have abducted the mayor of a southern Philippine town from her house and fled with her on motorboats, officials said yesterday.

Five armed men kidnapped Mayor Gemma Adana of Naga, a coastal town in the southern province of Zamboanga Sibugay, from her house while she was with friends late Monday, Interior Secretary Mar Roxas said.

Roxas condemned the abduction and said a manhunt was underway. A provincial crisis committee has been convened.

Naga police officer Wilprim Timsan says the unidentified abductors have so far not communicated with Ada-

na's family nor made any ransom demand.

Abu Sayyaf militants, kidnap gangs and other criminal groups operate in the province.

Police said five men barged into the mayor's house while a sixth, who operated their boat, waited.

The military said the kidnappers headed toward the mountainous Kaliantana Island, which is part of the Naga municipality, where three children abducted late March from nearby Zamboanga del Sur province also were taken. It is uncertain whether the children's kidnappers were also involved in the kidnapping of the mayor. **AP**



## KENYA MASSACRE

## Attack victims had big plans for life

Christopher Torchia, Nairobi

HE was a soccer player with a fighting spirit, a talented keyboard player with "golden fingers" who was intent on succeeding in life, his guardian said. But Bryson Mwakuleghwa, a 21-year-old student at Garissa University College in Kenya, never had the chance to make his dreams happen.

Mwakuleghwa was among 148 people who were killed in an attack by Islamic militants Thursday on the college in Garissa, near the border with Somalia, where the al-Shabab extremist group is based. Yesterday, relatives of the dead converged on a funeral parlor in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, for the grim task of identifying the dead. Some grieved quietly, while others emerged from viewing bodies of lost family members in physical distress, wailing as Red Cross officials escorted and even carried them to tents for counseling.

Several mourners interviewed by The Associated Press outside the Chiromo Funeral Parlour of the University of Nairobi spoke wistfully of those they lost, sometimes using the same words — humble, devout, studious and a role model — to describe youths who were trying hard to forge a career, leaving home and traveling many hours by bus to Garissa to take advantage of the education opportuni-



An unidentified relative, center, is carried by Red Cross workers as she is overcome with grief after identifying the body of one of those killed in the attack in Garissa, at the Chiromo Funeral Parlour in Nairobi, Kenya

ties there.

"I knew Bryson as a young man who grew up in the church" and performed in its choir, said his guardian, Ginton Mwachofi.

The young man's death hit hard in Taita-Taveta, the coastal county where he grew up, Mwachofi said.

"It was a big blow for the people of Taita-Taveta because we

don't have enough people studying in university," said the guardian, who also coached the youth in soccer. "They can't believe that Bryson is no more."

Mwakuleghwa, who was studying education, was a stoic who rarely revealed whether he was happy or sad, hungry or thirsty, Mwachofi said.

Four gunmen died in Thursday's attack after security for-

ces entered the campus to stop the slaughter of the students. Survivors said the gunmen targeted Christians and said they would spare Muslims and women, though there were numerous accounts of indiscriminate shooting.

Virginia Simiyu, who was 24 years old when she died in the attack, was a long-distance runner on her high school team, a leader of a Christian group at the Garissa college and was "born to be nice," said her aunt, Phyllis Wabuke. Simiyu, a student of "human resource management," was also a role model to her three younger siblings and promised her mother that she would help lift the family out of poverty once she got a job, Wabuke said.

"Mama, I'll build you a house," Wabuke quoted Simiyu as telling her mother. According to Wabuke, Simiyu's mother had hopes for her oldest child, saying: "If this one makes it, my life will be different."

Now Simiyu's mother is "broken down" with grief and "is not in a state of mind that would recognize anything now," Wabuke said. The mother is sometimes tied down with ropes to control her hysteria and is being counseled by professional helpers, she said.

Another 21-year-old victim, Romana Chelagat Sambu, was studying commerce at the Garissa college and "had a vision

of finishing her education," said her uncle, David Tomno Ngetich. Sambu was focused, could endure hardship and was good at "talking to people" about responsibility and the Christian faith, he said.

The last time Ngetich saw his niece was several months ago in Nairobi before she headed to Garissa to resume her studies. He recalled that his wife noticed his niece was wearing nice sandals and asked her to bring back a pair on her return from Garissa.

Despite periodic shrieks from weeping, collapsing family members, the scene outside the funeral home was relatively calm as people waited their turn to enter the building or sat quietly outside on plastic chairs.

"If there is anybody amongst us who has not gone through the identification, kindly come," a voice said over a loudspeaker. The pungent smell of the bodies wafted in the breeze around the building and some people wore surgical masks to ward off the odor.

A sign on the building said: "Body Reception. Embalming Laboratory. Cold Storage Room."

Mwachofi last saw Bryson, the young pianist with "golden fingers," at Christmas.

The guardian recalled: "He promised that he would succeed, that he would do anything possible to succeed in life." AP

## USA

## Dean: Rolling Stone story rife with bad journalism

ROLLING Stone's "shock narrative" about a culture of sex assaults at the University of Virginia was rife with bad journalistic practice, and "Jackie," the student at the center of the story, is not to blame for the magazine's failures, Columbia Journalism School Dean Steve Coll said yesterday (Macau time).

The magazine pledged to review its practices and removed the discredited article from its website, but publisher Jann S. Wenner said he won't fire anyone despite the leading journalism school's blistering critique of his magazine's reporting and editing failures.

Wenner said any failu-

res were isolated and described Jackie as "a really expert fabulist storyteller" who managed to manipulate the magazine's journalism process.

"Obviously there is something here that is untruthful, and something sits at her doorstep," he told The New York Times.

But Coll said blaming Jackie would lead people to take the wrong lesson from this entire saga.

"We do disagree with any suggestion that this was Jackie's fault," Coll said at a news conference in New York, calling the article an object lesson in what not to do when reporting, writing and editing about complex issues.

"The editors made judg-

ments about attribution, fact-checking and verification that greatly increased their risks of error but had little or nothing to do with protecting Jackie's position," the report found.

University President Teresa A. Sullivan said the article hurt efforts to fight sexual violence, tarred the school's reputation, and falsely accused some students "of heinous, criminal acts and falsely depicted others as indifferent to the suffering of their classmate."

Some students called for Sullivan to pursue disciplinary action against Jackie. Others worried that other women will suffer because of the magazine's failures.



Students participating in rush pass by the Phi Kappa Psi house at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va.

Jackie's lawyer, Palma Pustilnik, told The Associated Press that "we are not making any comment at all at this time."

The university has not said how many rape reports it has received since the article was published last November. But in a response to a public records request from The Associated Press, it said five sex assaults had been reported to its Dean of Students office from the start of school through Nov. 23, 2014. That followed an increase in

reports from 16 to 31 to 40 in the previous full academic years.

The Columbia review presented a broad indictment of the magazine's handling of the story, which horrified readers, unleashed protests on the Charlottesville campus and sparked a national discussion about sex assaults. Police suspended their separate investigation two weeks ago for lack of any evidence supporting Jackie's claims.

The review was requested by Rolling Stone Ma-

naging Editor Will Dana, who issued another apology yesterday as he retracted the article. Author Sabrina Rubin Erdely also apologized, saying she would not repeat the mistakes she made when writing "A Rape on Campus."

But Sheila Coronel, the journalism school's dean of academic affairs, said "nothing ever disappears on the Internet," and some University of Virginia students said nothing will erase the repercussions.

The fraternity where Jackie said she was gang-raped announced this week that it will "pursue all available legal action against the magazine" now that the review "demonstrates the reckless nature in which Rolling Stone researched and failed to verify facts in its article that erroneously accused Phi Kappa Psi of crimes its members did not commit." AP



Christopher Torchia, Tom Odula,  
Nairobi

## AFRICA

# Kenyan airstrikes hit suspected militant camps in Somalia

**K**ENYAN warplanes bombed militant camps in Somalia, officials said yesterday, following a vow by President Uhuru Kenyatta to respond "in the fiercest way possible" to a massacre of college students by al-Shabab extremists.

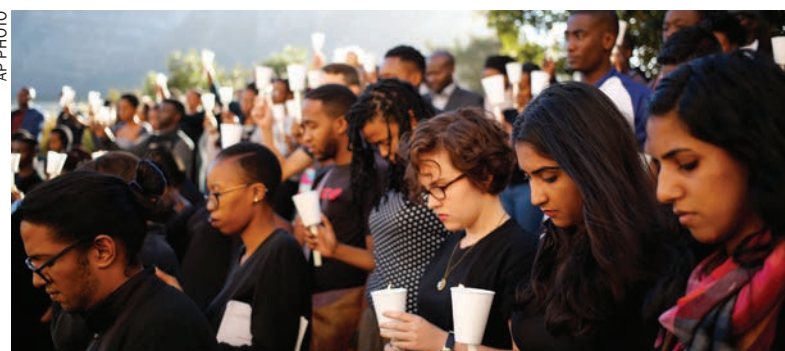
The airstrikes Sunday and Monday targeted the Gedo region of western Somalia, directly across the border from Kenya, said Col. David Obonyo of the Kenyan military.

The al-Shabab camps, which were used to store arms and for logistical support, were destroyed, but it was not possible to determine the number of casualties because of poor visibility, he said.

The Somalia-based militant group claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack at Garissa University College in northeastern Kenya in which militants killed 148 people, most of them students.

Hawa Yusuf, who lives in a village near the town of Beledhawa that is close to the Kenyan-Somali border, said the warplanes "were hovering around for a few minutes, then started bombing." She didn't know if there were any casualties, she said by phone.

Another resident of the village, Ali Hussein, said the airstrikes



Students attend a vigil for people killed in an attack on a college by Islamic militants in Garissa, Kenya, at the University of Cape Town

hit a grassland "where nomads often take their animals for grazing."

"We are not aware of any military camps located there. They dropped bombs on the whole area," he added.

Al-Shabab fighters often use shrubby areas to conceal fighters and vehicles.

Airstrikes and other conventional military operations have hurt al-Shabab, but analysts say better intelligence is needed to thwart an extremist group that has proven effective in infiltrating civilian populations and

carrying out attacks on so-called "soft" targets in urban areas.

The extremist group said the Garissa attack was in reprisal for Kenya sending troops into Somalia in 2011 to kill its members who took part in cross-border raids and kidnappings.

Kenya's troops in Somalia are part of an African Union force and are also shoring up the beleaguered Somali government. Kenya has conducted airstrikes in Somalia before.

The four al-Shabab attackers who stormed the university were killed by Kenyan security forces,

and their bullet-riddled bodies were displayed in Garissa. Five people have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the attack, a Kenyan official said.

The al-Shabab group has struck several times on Kenyan soil, although last week's assault was the deadliest. Other attacks have occurred elsewhere in northeastern Kenya last year, as well as at the upscale Westgate shopping mall in the capital of Nairobi in which 67 people died in 2013.

The group pledged to strike again against Kenya, saying: "No amount of precaution or safety measures will be able to guarantee your safety, thwart another attack or prevent another bloodbath."

In a nationally televised address over the weekend, Kenyatta vowed that his administration would retaliate against the extremists.

"We will fight terrorism to the end," he said. "I guarantee that my administration shall respond in the fiercest way possible."

Obonyo noted that the air-

trikes were "part of continuing operations, not just in response to Garissa."

Kenyatta has been under pressure from the political opposition to deal with the security threat from the Islamic extremists. In December, he finally fired the interior minister, who was ridiculed for a slow response to the Westgate attack, and accepted the resignation of the national police chief.

A leading member of parliament, Aden Duale, said that work must be done to prevent Kenyan youths from becoming followers of extremism.

"Some of our youth have fallen victim to this evil ideology of al-Shabab," he said. "We will embark on an immediate, massive and sustained campaign to win back the hearts and the minds of our youth within our constituencies and the countries as whole. We recognize that some of our religious institutions have had some role in radicalization and propagation of this ideology."

He also called for the closure of the Dadaab Refugee Camp, which houses nearly 500,000 who have fled Somalia.

The camp is the center for "the training, the coordination, the assembling of terror networks," Duale alleged, and he urged that the refugees be relocated across the border. **AP**

AD



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## what's ON



LMA PRESENTS - MA DI LIVE IN MACAU 2015  
TIME: 9:30pm  
VENUE: Avenida do Coronel Mesquita 50 - 50A,  
Edf. Industrial San Mei 11/B  
ADMISSION: MOP 130  
ORGANIZER: Live Music Association  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 7511

FLORES DA PRIMAVERA — INK, OIL AND PASTEL  
PAINTINGS BY MARCO SZETO  
TIME: 10am-6:30pm  
(closed on 5-6/4 and every Monday)  
UNTIL: April 30, 2015  
VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store and  
art gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A,  
Edifício San Chak, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

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

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

## Offbeat

### CAMBODIAN CINEMA PUTS BRAKES ON ‘FURIOUS 7’ COMPETITION

A cinema chain in the Cambodian capital has apologized for what it called a “Fast and Furious Competition,” which was criticized for encouraging participants to drive fast and post online photos of their speedometers.

Legend Cinemas had launched the competition ahead of the April 13 release of “Furious 7” in Cambodia, the latest film in the blockbuster Hollywood franchise known for its high-speed driving and outrageous auto antics.

The cinema chain posted a message last week on its Facebook page that called on drivers of motorcycles and cars to photograph their speedometers and post the pictures with the tagline, “I’m the fastest like #Fast&Furious7.”

Di Lant, a cinema spokeswoman, said that the posting immediately drew complaints from people who misinterpreted the nature of the competition.

“It was purely a game. We were not encouraging people to commit traffic violations,” Di Lant said. “But to avoid any misunderstanding, we have removed the advertisement.”

Within two hours of being posted, she said the campaign was taken down. A new message that was posted later said: “We do apologize for our Fast & Furious competition ... It was a shame that we made it happen.”

Cambodia’s transportation ministry says that about six people die each day in traffic accidents on Cambodia roads.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	The Pope’s Revolution
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portugal Cup: Braga - Rio Ave (Repeated)
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

### CINETEATRO

02 APR - 08 APR

#### FAST AND FURIOUS 7

ROOM 1

(2D) 2:15, 4.45, 9.45 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: James Wan

Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min



#### TWO THUMBS UP

ROOM 2

2.15, 5.45, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Lau Ho-leung

Starring: Francis Ng, Simon Yam, Leo Ku, Patrick Tam, Cheng Ho-nam

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min



#### HOME

ROOM 2

4.05 pm

Director: Tim Johnson

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 94min

#### SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER

ROOM 3

(2D) 4.00, 5.45 pm

(3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Paul Tibbitt

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 92min

### MACAU TOWER

02 APR - 22 APR

#### FURIOUS 7

2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

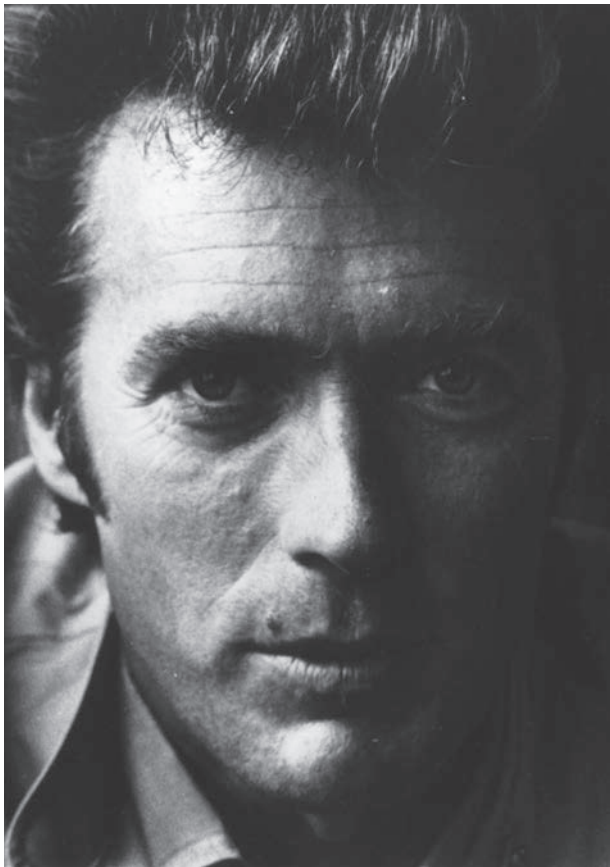
Director: James Wan

Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min

## this day in history



### 1986 EASTWOOD VOTED MAYOR BY LANDSLIDE

Residents of the Californian town of Carmel have overwhelmingly voted for actor Clint Eastwood as their mayor.

The turnout was double the norm in the picturesque seaside town, 80 miles (128 kilometres) south of San Francisco.

The 55-year-old Hollywood star got nearly three-quarters of the vote.

He polled 2,166 against the 799 votes cast for current mayor Charlotte Townsend, a former librarian.

Two of Clint Eastwood’s supporters were also elected on to Carmel’s local council, giving him control of the five-member body.

Mr Eastwood, a resident of Carmel for 14 years, decided to run for mayor after a series of clashes with the council.

After being refused planning permission to renovate his restaurant, the movie star took legal action and had the decision overturned.

His campaign centred on relaxing the strict controls on business in the town of 4,000 residents.

His famous Dirty Harry movie catchphrase “Make my day” was put to good use on bumper-stickers and T-shirts urging voters to back him.

The millionaire actor spent more than \$40,000 on his campaign compared to the \$3,000 spent by Mrs Townsend who has been the town’s mayor for four years.

After his victory, Clint Eastwood said his first priority would be to restructure some of the “punitive” by-laws in the town, such as those against fast-food restaurants and frisbee throwing.

But he said he was not aiming to emulate Ronald Reagan and make the transition from acting to US president.

Mr Eastwood said being mayor of Carmel was his highest priority.

“I’m taking a two year hiatus from films. This is one politician who doesn’t have ambitions to leave Carmel. This is where I belong,” he said.

Clint Eastwood takes over as mayor on Tuesday.

The monthly \$200 (£133) salary is a big pay cut from the \$6m per movie he usually commands.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In spite of a promise to devote himself full-time to Carmel, Clint Eastwood made two films while serving as the town’s mayor.

He decided not to run for a second term and stepped down in 1988.

Other US celebrities to enter public office since Ronald Reagan include former singer Sonny Bono who became a congressman in 1994 and movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger who was elected governor of California in 2003.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The worst in humanity bubbles to the surface when times get tough. Everyone has different qualities they keep in check, and you have yours. For your own sake, keep an lid on your hostility.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Why probe into unknowable fields? The future is up in the air, so don't let yourself get sick worrying about it. Focusing on the present will help both your checkbook and your health.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

If you look beneath the surface, you're bound to find more than worms. Plotters lurk there, but so do those who are loyal to you. So don't be afraid to look at the issues deeply.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You may be feeling selfish, but the more you spend, the more will come back to you. That's the theory, anyway. So dig into your pockets – and dig deep – today. It's not the time to let opportunities slide.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The economy is, at its core, a social system and how people feel affects everything. If you are feeling moody and slow, then chances are so are others. Can you see how that affects your bottom line?

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You may feel like you're in a dream,. Your portfolio may not be galloping ahead, but that's nothing you have to share with the neighbors. Keep the curtains shut, in your waking life at least.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Even finance is subject to fads and phases. Just how the current climate was created has everything to do with product popularity. But that's one band wagon you shouldn't climb on if it were the last stage coach in town.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Desperate measures aren't the best approach. Don't let emotional uproar make you feel like you have to sign away the farm. You have enough time to wait until you are sure, so register any indecision.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself. That goes for finding out where to invest, so don't waste time believing or disbelieving those with different views. You can find out all you need on your own.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

People count on your vision. Everyone wants to know what will happen next, and that makes them drawn to you. Radiate confidence in the future, even if it's ill-founded.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

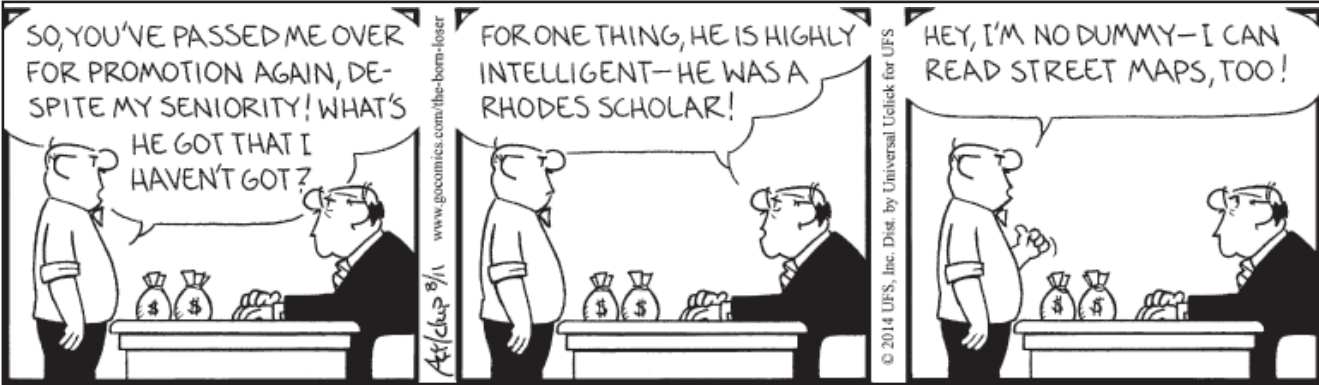
Money can have a trickle down effect, but can power? Only if it's shared, and that's less likely. You'll have to grab what you can, because those above you aren't giving any away.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Everything has become much more confusing. Business deals are especially fuzzy. Be extra cautious with what money there is, and don't sign anything you are unsure of.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Goneril's father; 5- Black-and-white cookie; 9- Capital on the Gulf of Guinea; 14- Draft classification; 15- Soft ball brand; 16- Tribe ruler; 17- Longfellow's bell town; 18- Delhi wrap; 19- Provide food; 20- A lobe or full type of assault; 22- Underwater missile; 24- Soothing; 26- \_\_\_-de-sac; 27- On the beach; 30- Highly regarded; 35- Reduces speed; 36- Must've been something \_\_\_; 37- "Chicken of the sea"; 38- Swiss river; 39- Unappreciative one; 42- Old Ford; 43- Sibilate; 45- Chime; 46- Rationed (out); 48- Cozy; 50- Pertaining to the number six; 51- China's Chou En-\_\_\_; 52- Performance; 54- An individual without wealth; 58- Echo; 62- Rubber gasket; 63- "Exodus" author; 65- Nastase of tennis; 66- \_\_\_ de Leon; 67- Rubber overshoe; 68- Hawaiian goose; 69- Villain's look; 70- Poet \_\_\_ St. Vincent Millay; 71- Will of "The Waltons";

DOWN: 1- Goof off; 2- \_\_\_'acte (intermission); 3- Dynamic beginning; 4- Multicolored; 5- Marked down; 6- Kingdom; 7- Be off; 8- Think nothing \_\_\_; 9- Gather over time; 10- Head garland; 11- Make reference to; 12- Vibrating component of a woodwind instrument; 13- Big do; 21- Foot bones; 23- Eight singers; 25- Longed for; 27- Japanese beer brand; 28- Killed; 29- Actor Buchholz; 31- Deer sir; 32- Muslim teacher; 33- Computer key; 34- Father; 36- \_\_\_ Rhythm; 40- Marsh of mystery; 41- Paradises; 44- Absence of sound; 47- Continuing; 49- Trough from which livestock eat; 50- Midday nap; 53- Rigel's constellation; 54- Jumps on one leg; 55- "East of Eden" brother; 56- Grape plant; 57- Pipe; 59- Peter Fonda role; 60- Baseball team; 61- Antlered animal; 64- Slender bar

Yesterday's solution															
A	M	P	S	A	C	N	E	A	B	A	B	A			
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62							63	64			65			
66							67				68			
69							70				71			

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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## OLYMPICS

## Tokyo turns focus to delivering 'sustainable' 2020 Games

**O**RGANIZERS of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics have promised the most innovative, impeccably run and "sustainable" games ever. With just a little more than five years to go, doubts are growing whether they will deliver on the last pledge.

Yesterday, the World Wide Fund for Nature and others backing use of renewable energy and other standards, including Masato Mizuno, the sports-goods magnate who led Tokyo's bid for the games, issued a formal call for faster action.

Tokyo was declared host for the 2020 Games in Sept. 2013, and "at this point, a sustainability plan has not been made, so that is cause for concern," said Taruyuki Ohno, a former Tokyo government official who helped draft the bid.

A year after London was awarded the 2012 Games, it had a sustainability plan for energy conservation, environmentally sound construction standards, ethical procurement of supplies, and environmentally friendly handling of the huge volumes of waste from the event, among other requirements.

Tokyo needs to specify in detail the standards it intends to meet, said Shaun McCarthy, who headed London's effort to make those games as sustainable as possible.

"What gets measured gets done," said McCarthy, who now runs a London-based consultancy, actionsustainability. "You need specific standards and you can translate them into contractual requirements for your supply chain."

"What I've seen so far are some very general statements. That doesn't make it happen. There needs to be the next stage of being very explicit as to what

AP PHOTO



Participants form human letters "2020" during a countdown event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in Tokyo

Tokyo will deliver," he said. "That's something that needs to be done quite urgently."

The Olympics is at something of a crossroads as potential host cities reconsider the costs and benefits of staging such a major event. While the London Olympics was successful in many respects, there was room for improvement, McCarthy said in an interview.

The Beijing 2008 Olympics put grandeur ahead of environmental and other sustainability issues, leaving in its wake derelict, abandoned stadiums.

Organizers of the 2016 Olympics in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro are under fire for a raft of problems, from a failure to clean up waterways, construction of

an Olympic golf course inside a nature preserve and forced evictions of slum dwellers for urban renewal and roads. Delays have raised worries some venues and infrastructure won't be ready in time.

WWF Japan and Japan Renewable Energy Foundation urged planners to make the 2020 Games as transformative for Japan's stagnant economy as the 1964 Games were for the country's ascent as an industrial power.

"The Olympics cannot be held without regard for the environment," said Takejiro Sueyoshi, a former banker who is on the board of the renewable energy foundation. It was set up by Masayoshi Son, founder and CEO

of telecommunications and Internet company Softbank Corp.

The decision to demolish Tokyo's 51-year-old National Stadium and replace it with a massive, futuristic facility designed by award-winning British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid, raised complaints. A canoeing venue is being moved due to protests over the potential disruption to a wetland habitat on Tokyo Bay.

Japanese contractors are facing scrutiny over their use of plywood from Malaysian rainforests as molding for concrete.

But overall, one of Tokyo's strongest selling points has been its plan to use many existing venues, in a city whose public transport and other infras-

tructure is generally first class.

Other options for improving the impact of the games might include setting targets for local job creation, certification requirements for sourcing of construction materials, and for other supplies such as food and equipment to be used during the games.

But for some construction, it may be too late to incorporate very ambitious sustainability standards into the contracting process, McCarthy said.

"If you try to do these things retrospectively, the price will go up," he said. "If you put it into a competitive contractual situation from day one, the price will stay the same. They'll just compete around a new paradigm." **AP**

## ATHLETICS

## 2004 Olympic hurdles champ Liu Xiang confirms retirement

**F**ORMER Olympic champion hurdler Liu Xiang confirmed his retirement yesterday, citing age and injuries 2 1/2 years after his last race.

The 31-year-old Liu wrote in a lengthy statement on his microblog titled "My Track, My Hurdle" that he was "truly unwell and old and can no longer run and jump with you."

"Although it's sad, although it's painful, I really have no other choice," Liu wrote.

Liu became the first Chinese man to win Olympic gold in athletics at the



Liu Xiang, Olympic gold medalist and delegate to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), arrives for the closing ceremony of the CPPCC at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

2004 Athens Games in the 110-meter hurdles, in a then-world record time. He set another world record in 2005, and won at the world championships in 2007.

The Shanghai native hasn't competed since withdrawing at the London Olympics in 2012 after rupturing his Achilles tendon.

He pulled out of the 2008 Beijing Games with a similar injury, and years of treatment have apparently failed to fix the problem.

Given his experiences at the Beijing and London

Games, Chinese sports officials said Liu would not return to competition before making a full recovery. However, Achilles injuries are difficult to heal, and many sprinters never return to their previous best.

In his statement, Liu said he hoped to recover after London, but "my foot told me no again and again, and there was no way it was going to be able to handle intense training and competition."

"I hate my foot, I love my track and my hurdle so much, and if I hadn't injured my foot ... but then there are no 'ifs' in this world, I injured myself, and can only accept it silently."

Over his career, he became one of China's highest-earning sports stars, joining the elite ranks

of former NBA star Yao Ming and tennis champion Li Na.

Liu's plans to retire had been long expected, and were reported by a Shanghai newspaper last week.

Regarding his future, Liu, who began hurdling at age 13, said he planned to "begin a new journey" by completing his education, and hoped to contribute to Chinese sports development, and increase China's international influence in the athletics world.

Liu had already announced he did not expect to compete at the world championships in Beijing in August, although he said he hoped to "take part in the event in another role." Last month, he appeared at a promotional event for the competition but left without speaking to the media. **AP**



opinion

World Views

Tom Mitchell, The Financial Times

CHINA'S SHIFT TO 'SOFT POWER' BRINGS BACKERS TO INVESTMENT BANK

The Chinese government can scarcely believe its own luck. Heaping Asian insult upon Capitol Hill injury, last week Benjamin Netanyahu committed Israel to join Beijing's new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

While there is no love lost between the Israeli prime minister and US president Barack Obama, who was embarrassed by Mr Netanyahu's congressional address on March 3, Beijing could not have expected to attract such a longstanding US ally when it first conceived of the institution.

What began as a seemingly quixotic defection to the AIIB by the UK - the first US partner to turn a deaf ear to American protestations about the bank - has turned into an unalloyed strategic triumph for Beijing.

More than 50 countries, including traditional US military allies such as Australia and South Korea, have signed up. Only Japan has - so far - stood by Washington's side, echoing the Obama administration's concerns about governance and transparency standards at the new bank.

Beijing's success is not just luck, but the fruit of a smart policy adjustment. From its declaration of an air defence identification zone over the East China Sea in November 2013 to its deployment of an oil rig near Vietnam last May, China's assertion of "hard power" seemed to be putting it on a collision course with almost all its regional neighbours.

In private, Chinese foreign policy experts acknowledge the violent protests that erupted across Vietnam after the over-reach in the South China Sea provided a wake-up call. With the annual Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit scheduled to be held in Beijing just six months later, the Chinese government ditched hard-power projection in favour of soft-power persuasion.

At Apec, the Chinese government backed down from a looming confrontation with Japan over the contested Senkaku or Diaoyu islands; signed unexpected environmental and military accords with the US; and unveiled a USD40bn fund to support an infrastructure-focused "New Silk Road" linking Asia to Europe. The AIIB will contribute at least another \$100bn to this initiative in which Beijing intends to assume the role once held by Venetian bankers along the old Silk Road.

China's strategic volte face has benefited from an almost comic series of missteps by its great geopolitical rival. US congressional reluctance to sign off on reforms giving China and other developing nations a greater role at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund has been compounded by the Obama administration's inability to, as they like to say on Capitol Hill, "count the votes" on the AIIB.

It is one thing to oppose an institution behind the scenes and fail quietly; it is quite another to do so brazenly. Worse for Mr Obama, his standing in the Asia-Pacific region will deteriorate even further if he cannot secure "fast-track" authority to seal the deal on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade talks, which pointedly exclude China.

Should TPP fail, then the economic component of the US president's "pivot" towards Asia will - to Beijing's surprise and delight - have completely unravelled. But President Xi Jinping cannot celebrate just yet. While 2015 may have begun as an annus mirabilis, an evolving diplomatic mess in Sri Lanka is a reminder of how quickly the momentum can change. China's crisis in Colombo is largely of its own making, having bankrolled some \$5bn-worth of projects on the assumption that Mr Xi's erstwhile ally there, Mahinda Rajapaksa, had a firm a grip on power.

Mr Rajapaksa's shock election defeat in January has exposed China's Sri Lankan infrastructure investments - and related lending packages - to unwelcome scrutiny from the new government in Colombo. If proven, the accusations there of a lack of transparency and worse will perfectly illustrate Washington and Tokyo's fears of potential governance lapses at the AIIB.

Beijing's challenge now is to ensure the mistakes in Sri Lanka are not repeated under the auspices of its new bank. **MDT/FT Exclusive**

THE BUZZ FRENCH EX-MAYOR FOUND DEAD BEFORE CHINESE WEDDINGS TRIAL

A former mayor of Tours was found dead yesterday in a suspected suicide, right as he was to go on trial over suspected kickbacks involving Chinese group weddings in the picturesque French city in the Loire Valley.

Minutes into the trial, a lawyer for former mayor Jean Germain announced that a colleague had found a suicide note, and his body was found later in town, attendees said. The court abruptly adjourned the case until October.

The apparent suicide quickly reverberated

through France's political class, and appeared likely to cast a pall over a fairytale tradition among some Chinese couples who chose Tours as a romantic getaway spot for tying the knot.

A half-dozen people are on trial over alleged kickbacks linked to €750,000 (USD\$15,000) that the city spent from 2008 to 2011 to lure Asian visitors, officials said. The city splashed out tens of thousands of euros to set up a stand at the Shanghai World Expo in 2010 and send a delegation of dozens of representatives, one defense lawyer said.



A woman who goes by Martha War sits by the pool during the Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekend in Las Vegas

VEGAS

Vintage style invades Sin City for rockabilly fest

THIS isn't your 1950s bubble gum and poodle skirts rock 'n roll. The Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekend is a flashback to classic cars, vintage pinups, Tiki drinks, tattoos and a fashion aesthetic that balances high heels with just as high hair.

"It's good clean fun, with a hint of naughty," said Tara O'Hara of Chicago.

Thousands of fans of the era gathered over the weekend for musical performances and a car show off the Strip at The Orleans Hotel and Casino.

"It's the culture, the lifestyle, the attire, the cars, the music and the old mannerisms," says Tino

Pacheco of Rialto, California, when asked what attracts him to rockabilly.

At the center is rock 'n roll.

Publicist Alisha Alexan-

It's gotten a lot bigger. You have people from all over. Germany, Austria, Mexico, Italy

TINO PACHECO

der said yesterday that some 8,500 people attended the festival and about 17,500 people visited the car show. She says the retro weekend has grown so large, organizers have added a second music-only event - the Rockabilly Rockout - in October at the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino that harkens back to the event's roots.

"It's gotten a lot bigger. You have people from all over. Germany, Austria, Mexico, Italy," said Pacheco who has attended the weekend for about 15 years. "A lot of us come here to keep the culture alive, to keep it going. And that's what makes it unique." **AP**



Women wait in line before taking part in a bathing suit contest



The One and Only Inga performs during a burlesque show



Wind blows the hair of Carl Schreiber, of Chicago

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	35-55 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**IRAN** Dozens of Iranian hard-liners rallied yesterday against the framework deal struck last week between Iran and six world powers on curbing Tehran's nuclear program. The gathering of about 200 hard-liners took place in front of the parliament in the Iranian capital without permission by authorities, IRNA reported.



**YEMEN** Fighting intensifies in Yemen's second largest city, Aden, leaving streets littered with dead bodies, as Shiite rebels and their allies wage their strongest push yet to seize the bastion of supporters of the country's embattled president.

**USA-IRAN** Facing deep skepticism on multiple fronts, President Barack Obama ramps up lobbying for a framework nuclear deal with Iran, one of the toughest sells of his presidency.

**CUBA-USA** American hopes of opening an embassy in Havana before presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro meet at a regional summit this week have been snarled in disputes about Cuba's presence on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terror and U.S. diplomats' ability to travel and talk to ordinary Cubans.



**USA** Sen. Rand Paul, a favorite of the ultraconservative tea party movement and frequent antagonist of Republican Party leaders, is ready to declare his candidacy for U.S. president. Paul, a first-term senator for Kentucky, is set to begin his White House campaign today, kicking off the presidential run with a rally in his home state.

**USA** A small study suggests that a brain-scanning technique might one day help identify people with a disease linked to concussions in football and other sports, an illness now diagnosed only after death.