



URBAN RENEWAL POLICIES LACKING

The protection of Macau's old buildings and alleys is not guaranteed, architect Joy Choi alerted yesterday

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FIFA OFFICIALS ARRESTED ON CORRUPTION CHARGES

Swiss federal prosecutors opened criminal proceedings related to the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-UK Buckingham Palace says Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife have accepted an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to make a state visit to the United Kingdom in October. The palace said yesterday that Xi and Peng Liyuan will reside at Buckingham Palace in central London during the visit.

CHINA-TAIWAN Mainland authorities have ruled out the possibility of its citizens being allowed to gamble in Taiwan, as casinos are mooted on one of a number of Taiwanese islands which have recently been made more accessible to mainland tourists. Mainland regulations and cross-strait agreements are consistent in prohibiting mainland tourists from gambling in Taiwan, said Fan Liqing, spokesperson with the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, at a regular press conference yesterday.



MYANMAR Several hundred protesters led by monks yesterday denied that boat people arriving on Southeast Asian shores are Rohingya Muslims, a religious minority the government and many others in the predominantly Buddhist nation say does not exist. About 30 radical Buddhist monks led the rally in Yangon.

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PHASE 2 AND BROADWAY OPEN

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SCHOLAR

Mindset change needed to promote disability acceptance



Wong Meng Ee (left)

Legislation called for to enforce inclusive education

MACAU's implementation of inclusive education is still hindered by an overwhelming feeling of reluctance among schools and teachers to admit special needs students. Some suggest that legislation is needed to ensure that all schools accept these kids.

Since the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) rolled out a subsidy scheme in 2006, the number of students receiving inclusive education has surged from 60 to 806 as of this academic year. The number of private schools that participated in inclusive education schemes has also increased from 17 to 29, along with 8 public schools.

However, the surge in student admissions has not been met with a growth in teaching staff. According to the DSEJ's guideline,

a specialized teacher is assigned to eight special needs students, whereas the city currently only has around fifty specialists to assist schools in conducting inclusive education programs.

According to a Macao Daily News report, with sufficient numbers of "normal students" over recent years, many schools are becoming understaffed to attend to those with disabilities. Some are also inclined to favor the "normal students" in admission, whilst some schools are wary of being categorized a certain way by practicing inclusive education.

Many teachers are reportedly reluctant to accept kids with emotional and learning difficulties, due to the concomitant workload. As a result, nearly 40 percent of special students are likely to fail to be admitted to secondary education. **BY**

Brook Yang

SCHOOLS need to become more welcoming in order to further the city's inclusive policy when it comes to children with disabilities, suggested assistant professor Wong Meng Ee of Singapore's National Institute of Education (NIE).

The scholar gave a lecture at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) last week on the topic of special needs education, highlighting the fact that exclusionary practices and policies are often carried out unwittingly.

"Sometimes 'inclusion' suggests that society or the school is doing a favor to the person with disabilities, or the teacher has to do extra things to help. I think we need to try to move away from that mindset," he explained to the Times.

"Too often, when people are working with individuals with disabilities, we tend to come from a position where, yes, we want to be helpful, but sometimes how do we approach that specific help or support?" said the scholar. "The first step can be a very simple way to begin the support process, depending on what the child needs," he added.

Mr Wong also mentioned that children's special needs are incredibly diverse, and they require assistance in areas such as reading, listening, seeing and making friends. Nevertheless, efforts as simple as moving the class furniture or installing one more light can be made in order

to foster inclusiveness.

"Most people would say: I don't know how to be inclusive. (...) For a school that has never thought about being inclusive, maybe the initial step is to ask: are you a welcoming school? And if they say yes, that sets the wheel turning in motion, because they will open their arms and have people to come to the school."

The scholar said such a change in perspectives would also alle-

It is worrisome that a teacher thinks a person struggling has no potential

WONG MENG EE

viate the pressure experienced by teachers who have a limited background in helping students with disabilities.

"We want to start from the very basic things: how do we get teachers to foster a welcoming spirit within the classroom? Before we talk about inclusion, are you a welcoming teacher?" he asked.

The professor – a Cambridge PhD who himself suffers from visual impairment – pointed out the fact that another phenomenon rooted in schools' inclusive education practices is that teachers often reserve their expectations on a student with disabilities.

"It is worrisome that a teacher thinks a person struggling has no potential. (...) I think having high expectations is an important thing, because then in a sense you think this person can perform, you think they have potential and they can unlock the potential to improve themselves even more," he stressed.



Number of non-resident workers increases by 18 pct

THE number of non-resident workers in Macau reached 176,777 by the end of April, representing a 18.47-percent increase year-on-year.

The Human Resources Office recorded that by the end of April there were 115,565

non-resident workers from mainland China, up by 21.67 percent year-on-year. A total of 22,352 were from the Philippines, representing an increase of 12.17 percent, while 13,661 non-resident employees were from Vietnam, up by 7.78

percent.

Figures also show that 48,551 non-resident employees work within the construction sector, representing a 41.5-percent increase year-on-year. The number of non-resident workers in the retail sector reached

18,438 in April, up by 15.34 percent. A total of 44,187 employees work within the hospitality industry, up by 11.6 percent.

Non-resident workers account for 44.24 percent of Macau's total employment (399,500 people). **MDT/Lusa**

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

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Brook Yang

Architect calls for suitable urban renewal policies

IN search of urban spaces that both embody optimum conditions for business and values for heritage conservation, local architects have noticed that there is big potential waiting to be unlocked in the revamping of the city's old neighborhood.

Explaining why many old buildings have been left idle, veteran architect Joy Choi pointed to the absence of suitable laws and policies as something that is hindering urban renovation. The lack of a clear list of valuable architecture to protect and the inadequate education on cultural awareness are other factors.

"Buildings that are over thirty years old account for about 60 percent of those in Macau, and they are mainly for residential purposes," she told the Times, in light of the old streets' potential for urban transformation and activating economic planning.

"As the buildings are mostly private properties, the Kai Fong (General Union of the Neighborhood Associations) holds a key role there, in terms of finding out about utilization situations and contacting the owners," she explained. "Another key party is the charitable societies, as a lot of the histori-



Joy Choi

cal properties belong to them." Ms Choi indicated that "the government must be proactive, as it holds the key to several gates in the process." Apart from reaching out to those associations, she urged the authorities to experiment by setting a pilot site for feasibility testing.

"If the planning is done with the participation of the area's residents, investors, the government and the academia, the chance of success would be very

high. It would be a tailor-made reconstruction and development plan," she stressed.

Macau's old buildings and alleys – due to their distinctive features – request suitable laws and regulations, from alignment approving and business licensing, to reconstruction guidelines and fire safety.

Furthermore, neighborhood revitalization also depends on incentive policies such as affordable rent, tax reductions, tourism publicity, as well as traffic control and planning, she suggested.

Ms Choi stressed that all those aspects could be attended to through a tailor-made planning process. "We have all kinds of means to solve the technical problems. For instance, a staircase inside a house might be too narrow to meet the general requirements on fire safety, but we can build a 'crawling channel' for escape like how it's done in Japan," she explained.

Speaking at yesterday's France Macau Business Association (FMBA) breakfast meeting, Ms Choi reviewed the city's architecture preservation measures through reference to her own architectural practice and others, drawing from the time before Macau's historical center was inscribed on the world heritage list.

The urban planning advisor further recognized the Cultural Institute's efforts in preserving the region's inscribed heritage. However, she also acknowledged a lack of protection for buildings with historical values that are not on the relics list.

"If the developers decide to demolish those buildings, they'll just be gone. The last update on the relics list was from 1992, but it should have been updated every ten years," she argued, adding that the bureau should also be granted more power so that it can extend protection to more historical architecture.

Ms Choi emphasized that a

set of hierarchical lists classifying old buildings must be established, while another crucial step is in carrying out education among the younger generations, so that eventually the developers and the markets would take more of an interest in heritage conservation.

During the speech, she introduced to the audience a series of reconstructed buildings for commercial use, some of them located in the Old Taipa Town. "They are a success in business, whilst also enhancing the historical site," she said.

The architect further emphasized that "conservation of built heritage is inseparable from humanistic culture." "Those old neighborhoods are attractive because there are people living there; they are alive. Visitors are not there only to see the building itself. If they just want to see the architecture, they could just go to Fisherman's Wharf – there are various styles, but why aren't there many visitors?"

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More mainland health professionals slated to counter staff shortage

CHINA'S healthcare department is willing to offer a helping hand to the Macau government, after it requested medical human resources from the mainland authorities to cope with the city's surging demand for specialized medical professionals. Some of the physicians to be recruited would serve at the city's second public hospital, whose construction is facing possible delays due to revisions made to the architectural blueprint.

After the opening ceremony of the second health center in Taipa yesterday morning, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, who officiated at the event, disclosed to



Alexis Tam (center)

the media that during his stay in Geneva for the 68th edition of the World Health Assembly last week, he had spoken with Li Bin, a Minister and Secretary of the Party Leadership Group of China's National Health and Family Planning Commission. They discussed the manpower shortage crippling the local public medical service, with Tam

reporting that the national healthcare department had welcomed the government's request for medical professionals and would provide full support accordingly.

"As you all know, in the coming few years, there will be another new hospital. By the time it's constructed, and considering the city's aging and dense population, under the circumstan-

ces, locals or visitors might have certain demands. We don't have sufficient numbers of physicians that are trained in certain fields. For the time being, training also takes some time," said Tam. "Their response was so positive, and they immediately promised to offer us assistance."

Fanny Ho, Deputy Director of the Health Bureau, who also attended the hour-long media interview session, told journalists that the government expected a total of 24 new migrant professionals to serve the city at the public hospital this year, half of whom are already in town or else are prepared for arrival. Among them, five are said to be from Por-

tugal and one is from the United States.

Professionals specializing in vascular surgery, chest surgery, oncology and gynecology were direly needed, according to the newly appointed hospital head, Kuok Cheong U, who claimed that the request to the mainland for manpower was meant to fill these shortages.

Responding to the media's question concerning progress of the second public hospital's construction, the Health Bureau head

Lei Chin Ion ascribed the possible delay to "advice [received last year] from overseas consultants" on the island hospital construction. Much of the planned readjustment stated in the bureau's press release, which was issued two days ago, is meant to allow for further development in the forthcoming 30 years, according to the bureau head, who claimed that the revised design plan might hopefully come in August, together with an increased budget. **Staff reporter**

TAM KEEPS FULL SMOKING BAN STANCE

ALEXIS TAM brushed aside the survey by a junket association showing overwhelming support for introducing smoking rooms into casinos, asserting that employees' livelihood was more important than gaming revenue, despite the continual nosedive observed for the eleventh month. In addition, Tam was upbeat about the government's policies to lure in more non-smoking visitors and believed that a full smoking-ban would not do much harm to the already plummeting gaming earnings.

SURVEY ON MANPOWER NEEDS AND WAGES

Average earnings increase during Q1

AT the end of the first quarter of 2015 hotels in Macau had 45,817 full-time employees, up by 2.6 percent year-on-year, according to the Survey on Manpower Needs and Wages released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The survey indicated that average earnings (excluding bonuses and allowances) of full-time employees in March rose by 8.4 pct to MOP16,430. Restaurants had 25,260 full-time employees, up by 10.9 pct year-on-year, with the average earnings rising by 4 pct to MOP8,850.

One of the other sectors covered by the survey, manufacturing, had 9,399 full-time employees, whose average earnings in March rose by 18.5 pct year-on-year to MOP10,620.

Child-care and elderly care had 1,092 and 641 full-time employees, up by 21.3 pct and 3.7 pct respectively year-on-year. In March, average earnings of full-time employees in child-care (MOP12,360) increased by 13.6 pct year-

on-year, and earnings of those working in elderly care (MOP12,070) rose by 13 pct.

At the end of the first quarter of 2015, hotels and restaurants had 1,451 and 2,381 vacancies, down by 1,525 and 635 respectively year-on-year. Job vacancies in manufacturing totaled 1,614, recording an increase of 479.

In the first quarter of 2015, the employee turnover rate (4.2 pct) and the employee recruitment rate (4.1 pct) in hotels stood at similar levels, while the job vacancy rate (3.1 pct) stayed relatively low, indicating that manpower availability is remaining stable. In restaurants, the job vacancy rate (8.6 pct) and the employee turnover rate (5.3 pct) decreased by 3.1 and 2.2 percentage points respectively year-on-year, indicating a slight improvement in employee turnover.

As regards vocational training in the surveyed industries, a total of 21,314 participants attended training courses provided by the establishment in the first quarter of 2015.

New health center in Taipa opens

TAIPA'S second health centre finally came into service yesterday with a total of around 80 civil servants working at the unit, covering an area of 7,449 square meters, on the ground floor of the Edificio do Lago public housing complex.

Among the medical personnel of the new staff that have been hired for the centre, as Cheang Seng Ip, Deputy Director of the Health Bureau (SSM) revealed, some were employed a few years ago and placed at other health centers for training, before being sent to the current one. Meanwhile the rest gained enough experience at other health centers. However, the official stressed that the manpower displacement has caused no strain to other facilities, and that there was "no problem" in handling cases with the manpower available.

Apart from the prolonged hours of four specialized outpatient ser-



vices on a three-month trial basis reported earlier, the authority raised the feasibility of making all the health centers extend opening hours to cater to citizens' needs.

"We are now looking into which districts would not run as an experiment, as four [outpatient services] of our public hospital would start trials this July 1 in extending their opening hours," said Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture. "And now

let's challenge the health centers as well, as we need bilateral cooperation [from both sides]."

The top official also expressed hopes that such an initiative would be well received throughout society.

The authorities once again defended the integrity of the assessment centers that dealt with public complaints over malpractice committed by public medical workers. Earlier, one citizen had complained on TDM's call-in show that his wife almost lost their baby due to a doctor's false diagnosis, and later wrote about it online with many claiming to have experienced similar stories. However, SSM head Lei Chin Ion stressed that the hospital welcomes any malpractice complaints, as their independent body composed of medical professionals from Hong Kong and mainland is able to assess cases impartially. **Staff reporter**

UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS AT RECORD LOW

BOTH THE unemployment rate (1.7 pct) and the underemployment rate (0.3 pct) for February-April 2015 remained at a record low, according to DSEC. The total labor force was 405,800 and the labor force participation rate stood at 74 pct. Total employment decreased slightly by 500 from January-March 2015, at 399,000. Analyzed by industry, employment in restaurants and similar activities, as well as real estate and business activities, saw a decrease, while construction registered an increase.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Many companies and individuals took part in the World Challenge Day yesterday, an annual activity promoted by the Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA) and the Asian Sport for All Association (ASFAA). Pictured, the Macau Airport staff exercised for 15 minutes. The aim of the worldwide event is to motivate people to be physically active.

GALAXY PHASE 2 AND BROADWAY OPEN

Mass market will be 'the new normal,' says Francis Lui



Lui Che Woo, chairman and founder of GEG, second right, and the company's deputy chairman Francis Lui, second left, share a toast during Galaxy's phase 2 opening

Catarina Pinto

AS Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) opened Macau's first new projects in three years on the Cotai Strip, its vice-chairman Francis Lui stressed

yesterday that the mass market will become "the new normal," and as a result less than 40 out of 150 new-to-market gaming tables that were recently granted to GEG will be allocated to the VIP sector.

Galaxy Macau Phase Two

and Broadway Macau, featuring three new hotels and two casinos, officially opened their doors yesterday. The new developments represent HKD43 billion out of a HKD100 billion investment commitment to Macau.

Full smoking ban 'not the perfect solution'

THE full smoking ban that Macau's government is planning to implement in the city's casinos "might not be the perfect solution," Galaxy Entertainment Group's vice-chairman, Francis Lui, told a press conference yesterday.

Galaxy has just become the first casino operator to open new establishments on the Cotai Strip since 2012, as Galaxy Macau Phase Two and Broadway Macau officially opened their doors yesterday.

Asked about the potential impact of a full smoking ban on the industry, Mr Lui said, "We feel that, in this market where tourism is very important, if we fail to attract customers, there will be huge losses." He added, "If you ask my personal view, (...) if we think of a full smoking ban, that might not be the perfect solution."

The company's vice-chairman hinted that the

six gaming operators could reach a better solution to please both staff and customers, particularly given that all gaming companies have invested substantial amounts of money in setting up smoking lounges within mass gaming floors.

Furthermore, Mr Lui said that the company conducted a survey with employees and found that "they don't really have any strong objection to the setting up of smoking lounges."

Mr Lui recognized that there is still room for improvement in the lounges' ventilation systems, as they were given just a few months to set them up last year. He concluded by stating, "As long as there's a consensus I trust that the six major players can come up with a system that's going to be more satisfactory to everyone, including staff and customers." **CP**

On the sidelines of a press conference held yesterday, the company's vice-chairman reiterated Galaxy's interest in shifting its business into the mass market as the mass sector "will be the new normal."

In addition to providing further non-gaming elements, the company will also be allocating a vast majority of its new gaming tables to the mass market, as previously announced. Vice-chairman Lui recalled that both the market and the customer have evolved over recent years: "Today, we feel it's not just about the number of gaming tables [anymore]."

Asked whether the 150 new tables granted by the Macau government are sufficient, given that the company had requested 400, Mr Lui said that the market has evolved and having a high number of gaming tables might not necessarily translate into a bigger profit. "Things have evolved; [now] it's about how to wisely use the tables in the face of new challenges," he conceded.

Nevertheless, he acknowledged, "When it comes to tables, I will never say, 'that's too many,' but I think that for the current market 150 is very much acceptable."

His father and chairman of GEG, Lui Chee Woo, also reiterated at the press conference that Galaxy "is a patriotic company," thus remaining loyal to the central government's push to turn Macau into "a world center for tourism and leisure."

He added that Galaxy is mo-

ving forward and continues to focus on the Pearl River Delta's region, which he believes presents unprecedented development opportunities. GEG's chairman confirmed last year's announced intention of expanding into Hengqin Island. "We have made a RMB10 billion investment in Hengqin for a mega-scale sports and leisure resort, which will serve to promote the development of the Pearl River Delta and foster communication between Macau and Hengqin," he stated.

Vice-chairman Lui acknowledged on the sidelines of yesterday's press conference that "some of the non-gaming strategy that we want may not be able to happen in Macau alone." "Hengqin in the long-term is going to be hopefully merged together with Macau's development. The question is we need to have the government support from both sides... We need government strategy and policy to make it [work] for us," he told reporters.

Francis Lui did not disclose any calendar for Galaxy's development project in Hengqin. Yesterday's opening ceremony, attended by Chief Executive Chui Sai On, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong, and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, marked a new chapter for Galaxy, and represents the first of a series of new projects opening in Cotai in the coming two years.

Galaxy Macau now features six hotels, providing 4,000 rooms, suites and villas, as well as two spas. Broadway Macau is Galaxy's entertainment precinct comprising a 3,000-seat theatre and a hotel. Luxury hotels the Ritz-Carlton, JW Marriott and Broadway Hotel have now been added to the existing Banyan Tree Macau, Hotel Okura Macau and Galaxy Macau.

GALAXY CONFIDENT ON CONCESSION RENEWAL

GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT Group's vice-chairman, Francis Lui, said yesterday that the company is confident of its position in the market now that the gaming concessions are under revision. Asked whether Galaxy is confident that its concession will be renewed, Mr Lui

remarked, "It's not really up to me; it's up to the government to decide. But I would say I am confident that we have been continuously observing the government issues on what the concessionaires should do, and we have been trying to do the best we can."



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ARTS

Carving wood to raise environmental awareness

Catarina Pinto

FOR French artist Mickael Obrenovitch, carving wood isn't just about completing an artwork. He's also hoping to raise awareness of environmental issues, particularly regarding deforestation in Indonesia.

"Human Roots," an exhibition showcasing several of his teak wood sculptures, is now on display at the IaoHin gallery and will remain open to the public until July 2.

The artist shuttles between Bali, Indonesia, and La Reunion, a small island close to Madagascar. While on a trip to Bali, Mr Obrenovitch had the unique opportunity to carve a stack of wood a friend had given him.

Having studied applied arts and design, he first pursued a career in advertising, but soon developed a passion for organic sculpture.

"This is a collection I have been working on for three



Mickael Obrenovitch

years. I have had the concepts for a really long time. I started working in wood carving fifteen years ago but I used to work in advertising during that time. It was difficult to make the change," the artist acknowledged.

On the sidelines of the exhibition opening ceremony on

Friday, Mr Obrenovitch said that his art is also intended to raise awareness of environmental issues, with a particular focus on protecting the Indonesian rainforest. "We hear about [the same problem in] Amazonia, but

in Indonesia this is an even bigger problem," he stressed.

One of his artworks will be auctioned off, and 30 percent of the profit will be donated to the Save Indonesian Rainforest campaign.

The Human Roots collection comprises 46 pieces. Although each has its own special meaning, the artist said that together, they portray a single forest.

"I don't see the pieces individually; it's about a collection because I think of it as a forest. It's like all the individual trees and together they make a forest. I try to connect to people and raise awareness of this issue," he said.

Having already displayed his work in Asia, Mickael Obrenovitch recalled that he felt the need to start off in Bali, because that's where he's based most of the time. Moreover, he's grateful to the island for what it has given him so far. "I wanted to display my work around Asia because I believe the deforestation problem in Indonesia is still not very well-known. We do not speak about it that often," he added.

The exhibition will be on display at the IaoHin gallery until July 2, as part of the Le French May festival program.

Exhibition opens at the Orient Foundation

LINE – An Exhibition by Tank Kuok Hou, opened yesterday at the Orient Foundation gallery. The exhibition comprises part of New Visions, a long-term project initiated by the cultural organization in 2014, which aims to identify artistic talents in Macau and to offer talented upcoming artists the opportunity to present a solo exhibition for the first time in their careers.

Tang Kuok Hou was born in Macau in 1989 and holds a degree in Sociology from the University of Macau. In 2014, he was awarded a Merit of Excellence at the 9th Black & White Spider Awards - Abstract Professional, Merit of Excellence and has also received an Honorable Mention in the Orient Foundation Annual Art Award. In 2013, the artist received first prize at the Creative Macau 10th Anniversary Celebration Competition.

Tang has participated in several joint exhibitions including the 14th China Pingyao International Photography Festival and Heartscape - Photography of Macao Post -1980s in Macau.

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World Series of Poker starts this week with new events

BLOOMBERG



Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas

IF the World Series of Poker is lucky, the popularity of the Las Vegas championship's newest event could cause a poker chip shortage.

The annual set of 68 tournaments at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino that rewards millions of dollars to the best card sharks began yesterday with a new event dubbed the Colossus expected to attract at least 10,000 players.

The Colossus represents the lowest buy-in in 35 years with players ponying-up USD565 each to win their share of a \$5 million prize pool, with the winner likely walking away with nearly \$600,000.

The 45-year-old event now owned by Caesars Interactive Entertainment Inc. is also spreading the wealth for its \$10,000 no-limit Texas Hold 'em main event and hosting an online tournament that will end with a live poker matchup.

The World Series of Poker drew 82,360 players last year with 10 percent winning some of the \$227.7 million in prize money.

Lance Bradley, the editor in chief

of poker news site Bluff.com said the series has long worked to widen its appeal. But this year appeared to be unusually ambitious, catering to the regular guy who doesn't mind parting with \$565 but would blush at spending \$1,000, while still attracting "the pros who don't want to play against those guys."

If everyone expected shows up, there will never have been a larger live poker tournament. World Series of Poker spokesman Seth Palansky said the logistics won't be as challenging as managing the large number of players who might be new to the tournament because of the cheaper entry fee.

"Your eyes are a little bigger and you walk a little slower," Palansky said of those new to the overwhelming event. That's why the World Series of Poker has been encouraging advance registration to cut down on the time players might wait in line to pay. The tournament can fit about 24,800 poker players in the single event if need be, Palansky said.

The World Series of Poker set the last record for largest live poker tournament with 8,773 people vying for

the top prize in the 2006 main event.

"My biggest concern is actually having enough physical poker chips," Palansky said.

The World Series of Poker is also aiming to bridge the online and offline worlds of poker in a tournament that will start on WSOP.com and take the final six players to a table at the Rio for the win, appealing to a generation of poker players who have grown up playing online.

"You can be in your pajamas anywhere at home in Nevada," or a hotel room, or coffee shop, or anywhere just so long as you're physically in Nevada, Palansky said of the new event.

Why all the changes?

"Poker does have an ecosystem and you must continue to bring new players in the game," said Palansky. That said, last year the event had its most entries ever, some 82,360, a massive number compared with the event's humble beginnings at a small single table in 1970 at Benny Binion's Horseshoe Casino, where the players ultimately voted on the winner in the end.

"It's never been more popular," Palansky said. **Bloomberg**

Samsung's Lee tightens grip on conglomerate in USD9.3b deal

Seonjin Cha and Rose Kim

SAMSUNG Group heir apparent Lee Jae Yong solidified his control of South Korea's biggest conglomerate through the purchase of a construction subsidiary in a deal valued at USD9.3 billion.

Cheil Industries Inc., the de facto holding company of Samsung Group and which counts Lee as the largest shareholder, agreed to acquire Samsung C&T Corp., according to a filing Tuesday. Cheil, with interests spanning construction and a theme park, will offer 0.35 share for each Samsung C&T share.

Samsung Group is revamping businesses as its leadership transitions to a new generation amid pressure from the South Korean government to simplify the chaebol's organization. Lee, 46, is exerting more influence throughout the conglomerate a year after his father suffered a heart attack that has kept him from involvement in company operations.

"The merger will help expand Lee Jae Yong and the Lee family's grip on the overall Samsung Group," said Park Joong Sun, an analyst at Kiwoom Securities Co. in Seoul. "The merger provides clear messages to the market that it will play a key role in Samsung Group."

The combined entity will use the Samsung C&T name and be South Korea's fifth-largest company by market capitalization, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It targets about 60 trillion won in revenue in 2020, compared with 34 trillion won for both companies last year. **Bloomberg**



corporate bits

SANDS CHINA TEAM MEMBERS GET ACTIVE FOR WORLD CHALLENGE DAY 2015



Around 160 Sands China team members from all properties came together yesterday at Sands Cotai Central to participate in World Challenge Day, with an activity organized by the Macau Sport Development Board and the Macau Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

Sanctioned by the Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA) and the Asian

Sport for All Association (ASFAA), World Challenge Day is an annual event in Macau. Its aim is to motivate people to be physically active for 15 minutes to generate awareness of the importance of exercise in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Representatives from the Macau Sport Development Board were present yesterday to lead Sands China team members in an exercise routine.

JW MARRIOTT AND RITZ-CARLTON CELEBRATE MACAU OPENINGS

Marriott International, Inc. marked a new milestone yesterday with the opening of JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton, Macau. The properties are located within Galaxy Macau.

"Marriott International sees unlimited potential in the future of Macau," said Henry Lee, Greater China Chief Operations Officer for Marriott International. "The launch of JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton, Macau with Galaxy Macau are long-term investments that will perfectly complement Macau's evolving tourist landscape. The region has undoubtedly changed significantly in recent years and we are seeing the city transform from a gaming destination to one with a more diverse range of entertainment and recreation options for guests of all ages."



"The opening of the JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton, Macau with their exceptional service, superb facilities and spectacular culinary experiences will add an extra dimension to Galaxy Macau, creating the ultimate destination for unlimited leisure and enjoyment. The two hotels – each with their distinct brand identities – are sure to enhance the Macau experience and will redefine the meaning of luxury in the region," said Rauf Malik, Vice President of Operations at JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton, Macau.

CTM PARTICIPATES IN "WORLD CHALLENGE DAY" FOR 9TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR



Co-organized by the Macau Sports Development Board and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, "World Challenge Day 2015" was held yesterday, where CTM continued to demonstrate its full support for the 9th consecutive year by encouraging its staff to actively participate in this sporting event. This year Macau was pitted against the city of Jerusalem, capital of Israel, with the objective to promote the importance of physical

exercise.

More than 100 staff members gathered at CTM's TEC Building in Taipa yesterday morning to take part in a set of 15-minutes-long physical exercises under the instruction of the coaches from the Macau Sport Development Board. Other staff members who were not able to join the group exercise session also participated in the event by conducting any kind of physical exercise for 15 minutes on the same day.

Portuguese group buys Angolan state coffee company

ANGONABEIRO, an Angolan company under the Portuguese Nabeiro group, will invest USD1 billion in the purchase of the entire share capital of Angolan state coffee company Liangol, said the managing director of the company.

José Carlos Beato told Portuguese news agency Lusa that the decision follows a joint executive decree of the Ministries of Economy and Industry, on 13 November, authorizing the privatization of this unit, located in Cacuaco, on the outskirts of Luanda.

"The Nabeiro group came to Angola in 2000, at the invitation of the Angolan government, with a view to revitalizing the coffee industry, which included the recovery of a factory. This was done and we were in Angola under a management contract [of the



A worker spreads out harvested robusta coffee cherries to dry in the sun on a coffee plantation

old Liangol], but there was the prospect that the asset would be privatized one day and that's what happened," said the managing director of Angonabeiro.

Since 2001, the subsidiary of the Portuguese group has taken over the management

of the Liangol factory, after also ensuring its recovery and modernization, taking into account that it had been at a standstill since 1984.

The company covers an area of 4 hectares, with a storage area, roasting and packing area, where the Nabeiro group produces and sells 250 tons of coffee (2014) under its own brand Ginga, which is the market leader in Angola.

Before independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola was a major world producer with 4 million bags or 240 tons of coffee per year, but the civil war between independence and 2002 destroyed almost all the country's coffee plantations.

In Angola, the Portuguese group's business has been driven by the sale of the Delta brand capsules and by the Ginga brand, made from 100 percent Angolan coffee. **MDT/Macauhub**

CAPE VERDE

Airports receive new satellite navigation system

AIRPORT safety company ASA of Cape Verdean plans to install a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) at the international airports of São Vicente and Boa Vista, the chairman of the state company said.

Sandro de Brito told Cape Verdean weekly newspaper A Semana that the GNSS provides positioning data to the aircraft, facilitating approaches, landings and take-offs in a timely manner, especially in adverse conditions.

But the biggest advantage, the chairman of ASA said, is that the installation of this system does not require a physical infrastructure with high purchase, assembly and maintenance costs, fully taking advantage of the existing infrastructure.

"At present, when pilots approach São Vicente they have to decide whether to continue or abort the trip when weather conditions are adverse, with cases where the air-

craft does not even take off at the source because of poor visibility conditions at the destination airport, and the GNSS will significantly reduce the number of cancelled flights," said Sandro Brito.

The newly appointed chairman of the public company also said that studies for the installation of the system had already begun and the process should be completed in October.

Meanwhile, the airport authorities in Providence, Rhode island (USA) announced that everything is in place for the launch of international flights by Cape Verdean airline TACV on 2 June for flights between Praia and Providence.

T.F. Green Airport, the main airport in the state of Rhode Island, received investments of USD110 million to prepare it for international flights, and on 18 June Germany's Condor Airlines plans to start flights from Frankfurt to Providence. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Police catch 175 looters in biggest artifact find

Chinese police have caught 175 looters who broke into a Neolithic archaeological site in what officials are calling the country's biggest recovery of stolen artifacts. The Ministry of Public Security announced Tuesday that the operation rescued 1,168 cultural relics worth more than 500 million yuan, or about USD80 million. The looters are suspected of illegally excavating in Niuheliang, a site in northeastern Liaoning province that includes tombs and other facilities, the ministry said. Authorities found artifacts such as a coiled jade dragon, which is one of the earliest known representations of the mythological creature. The ministry said the looters were split into 10 gangs that handled everything from site excavation to sales. More than 1,000 police from six provinces took part in the recovery operation. The statement did not say when the recovery operation took place.

Court fines chemical company USD12m for polluting, jails staff

A court in eastern China fined a manufacturer of weed killer 75 million yuan (USD12 million) and imprisoned employees of the company and its contractors for discharging wastewater that severely polluted streams. The fine levied by the Longyou county court on Jinfanda Biochemical Co., which makes glyphosate, was the largest ever for a polluter in Zhejiang province, state media reported Tuesday. Zhejiang is one of the most prosperous but also most polluted provinces in China. The Longyou county government said Jinfanda hired four unqualified companies that dumped 35,000 tons of hazardous waste into streams. The county court convicted the company on May 18 following a lengthy trial involving 15 defense lawyers, and it fined the company 75 million yuan and one of the contractors 4 million yuan, the government statement said. The court also sentenced 18 defendants to prison for 17 months to six years, the government said. The individuals were each ordered to pay fines from 10,000 yuan to 1 million yuan.

FT: Official raises prospect of South China Sea air defense zone



Chinese fishing boats sail in the South China Sea

CHINA has mooted the possibility of controlling the airspace over the disputed South China Sea, as it ratchets up rhetoric in response to a US over flight of an island claimed by China earlier this month, the Financial Times reported yesterday.

According to an article by Charles Clover in Beijing, a senior foreign ministry official spoke yesterday about the possibility of implementing an Air Defense Identification Zone over the sea, a move that would be widely regarded as an effort to stamp its sovereignty over a series of islands it claims. An ADIZ requires all aircraft flying through it to identify themselves to the controlling government.

"China has the right to establish ADIZs," said Ouyang Yujing, director of boundaries and oceanic affairs for the foreign ministry, in an interview published in a Chinese newspaper.

"Whether or not China will establish a South China Sea ADIZ will depend on factors such as whether China's air safety is under threat, and the seriousness of the threat," he said. However, he added, the area remained stable for the time being.

The FT further detailed that while it's not the first time a Chinese official has broached the topic of an ADIZ, exper-

ts say it was significant that it has come at a time of heightened tensions this month following an over flight of China-claimed islands by a US P-8 spy plane carrying a camera crew from CNN.

The US is also considering flying surveillance missions even closer to the islands, as well as sailing warships within a few miles of them, as part of a new, more robust US military posture in the area.

Rory Medcalf, head of the National Security College at the Australian National University, told the newspaper that the re-emergence of the prospect of a new ADIZ was a calculated signal from Beijing.

"It is significant for a senior Chinese official to not categorically deny that the ADIZ is an option [for the South China Sea]," he said, "and it's significant for a Chinese official to link this to the actions of other states. In effect they are laying the diplomatic groundwork for such a move if China is not happy with the way the tensions play out."

A South China Sea ADIZ would be its second over a disputed maritime area. In November 2013, China stunned its neighbors when it announced an ADIZ over the East China Sea covering islands that are also claimed by Japan.

Dozens of islands — most no more than remote coral atolls — dot the South China Sea and are claimed by China, Vietnam, the Philippines and other neighboring states. China has brought in advanced dredging equipment to reclaim land and has nearly built an airstrip on one island known internationally as Fiery Cross Reef.

Gary Li, an independent expert on international security matters in Beijing, told the FT that the announcement of a possible ADIZ appeared to be a "tit for tat" in response to the US over flight this month. "This is probably them saying 'if you're going to car-

ry on doing that, then we're going to push forward this plan — now we might actually do it'," the paper quoted him as saying.

Experts link the airstrip on Fiery Cross to eventual ambitions to set up an ADIZ. "I don't see them going ahead with this until they can enforce it, and the only way they could enforce it is with this runway," said Mr Li, although he said basing interceptors would be an "extremely provocative step".

When it announced the East China Sea ADIZ, China was unable to enforce it days later when the US flew two B-52 bombers through the zone.

FILIPINO, VIETNAMESE TROOPS PLAY GAMES ON SPRATLY ISLAND

FILIPINO AND Vietnamese troops played football and tug-of-war yesterday to foster camaraderie at a Philippine-held island in the South China Sea, where territorial rifts have escalated following China's island-building activities. Navy spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said officials from both navies spoke at a ceremony and the two sides also exchanged "symbolic handshakes." The activity on Northeast Cay island was followed by volleyball, football, tug-o-war, sack race and centipede race. Results of the games

were not immediately known. Arevalo said yesterday's games were to reciprocate a similar event in June last year at the Vietnamese-occupied Southwest Cay about 4 kilometers from Northeast Cay, which the Philippines calls Parola. He said the activity was conducted independent of other countries and "it does not intend to pick on China." China last year criticized the games as "clumsy farce" and reiterated Beijing's "irrefutable sovereignty" over the islands in the South China Sea.

AT least 12 people connected to the privately run home for the elderly in central China where 38 people died in a fire earlier this week have been taken into custody by the police, state media reported yesterday.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that the 12 included the legal representative of the Kangleyuan Rest Home, and that police were searching for another three employees.

The fire broke out Monday night in the facility, which housed 51 residents in the city of Pingdingshan in Henan province, the province's work safety administration said in a statement. In addition to the dozens who died, six people were injured, including two in serious condition, the statement said.

A photo of the fire scene released by Xinhua showed that many sections of the facility appeared to have completely burned. Xinhua said the cause of the fire was unclear.

"I was in my bed at the time. Suddenly, I saw a worker run out of a room on fire and he shouted 'Run! Run!' to me, so I dashed out," Guo Xin, 78, was quoted by Xinhua as

12 detained after fire kills 38 at seniors' home



saying.

Another survivor, 82-year-old Zhao Yulan, said only two of the 11 people living in her room made it out alive, Xinhua reported. Some of the remains of people killed in the fire were burned beyond recognition, the news agency said.

The fire destroyed a part of the home housing people who were completely dependent on others for care. Xinhua quoted 80-year-old resident Chen Runsheng as saying not enough caregivers were working at the facility.

Premier Li Keqiang called on officials across the country to "draw lessons from the accident, checking all potential safety hazards to avoid similar incidents," Xinhua said. Fire officials were ordering inspections of nursing homes, kindergartens, child-care centers, hospitals and what Xinhua called "welfare houses" across the country. **AP**

XINJIANG

Authorities tout success of crackdown in restive Muslim region

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA said yesterday that it has foiled 181 terror plots since it started a crackdown a year ago on Islamic separatists in the northwestern region of Xinjiang that was prompted by a surge of violence that reached as far as Beijing.

However, it was unclear what scale of terror organization is reflected in the tally, because authorities have given neither extensive details on the plots nor a clear definition of what they would include, and some analysts suggest small-scale or even nonviolent incidents might be on the list.

Xinjiang is largely closed to foreign journalists and substantial information about security in the region is difficult or impossible to collect and verify.

Touting the crackdown's success, state broadcaster CCTV yesterday showed paramilitary troops conducting drills featuring fleets of helicopters, simulated building assaults and heavy weapons including anti-tank guns and flamethrowers.



A Uighur woman rests near a cage protecting heavily armed Chinese paramilitary policemen on duty in Urumqi in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang

The report said 96 percent of the foiled plots were still in the planning

stages. It said 112 suspects have turned themselves in, but no figures were given on those captured or killed by police. Some critics have raised concerns of summary executions in the crackdown.

Authorities also have

targeted the distribution of video and audio recordings promoting extremism, along with outward signs of religious conservatism among the native Muslim Uighur population such as the wearing of long beards by men and veils by women. In addition, authorities have tightened controls on both legal and illegal border crossings into neighboring Central Asian states.

The crackdown was launched after a bomb attack last May 22 on a crowded market in Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi, in which 39 people were killed. That followed an extremely rare attack in Beijing in which five people were killed, including three attackers, when a Jeep mowed down pedestrians in front of iconic Tiananmen Gate.

A knife attack at a train station in the southern city of Kunming about a year ago claimed 29 lives, further marking a departure from the mili-

tants' previous targeting of government offices, police stations or other symbols of rule by the ethnic Han Chinese majority.

Violent conspiracies in Xinjiang generally involve only a few people, so it was unlikely that China had uncovered any "wide-ranging networks," said David Brophy, a Xinjiang historian at the University of Sydney.

The exact nature of the plots also is hard to assess, since China tends to broadly define terrorism to include acts that might otherwise be seen as ordinary religious or cultural practices, he said.

And while reports of major violence have largely disappeared from China's state-controlled media, Brophy said he was aware of incidents involving "quite large numbers of casualties that can't really be explained."

Beijing says unrest among Uighurs is caused by extremist groups

with ties to Islamic terror groups abroad, but has provided little direct evidence.

Uighur activists say public resentment against Beijing is fueled by an influx of Han settlers in the region, economic disenfranchisement and onerous restrictions on Uighur religious and cultural practices.

The rise of the Islamic state group in Iraq and Syria is seen as further complicating matters, with China increasingly concerned about Uighurs crossing borders to fight with the group — and the potential for them to return to carry out attacks in Xinjiang, said Ahmed A.S. Hashim, a terrorism expert at Singapore's Nanyang Technical University.

"Creating a narrative of success in Xinjiang could be a way to say, 'Listen, terrorists, there is no fertile ground here for your nefarious activities,'" Hashim said.

He warned, however, that even if the crackdown is successful, less bloodshed in Xinjiang does not mean Beijing has won over the Uighur population to its policies. "Reduction in violence does not mean a resolution of the matter." **AP**



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AUSTRALIA

Abbott warns children of foreign jihadis risk charges

AN Australian boy who was photographed holding the severed head of a Syrian soldier could reportedly return to Australia with his mother and siblings, prompting the prime minister to warn yesterday that children as well as adults who break terrorism laws face prosecution.

Sydney-born convicted terrorist Khaled Sharrouf horrified the world last year by posting on his Twitter account from Syria a photograph of his 7-year-old son clutching the severed head.

Fairfax Media newspapers reported yesterday that the Australian family of Sharrouf's Muslim convert wife, Tara Nettelton, was trying to help her and her five children return to Sydney.

Asked about the family, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said if the children had committed a crime, they would be treated by the Australian courts the same way as other juvenile offenders.

"But the point I want to stress is that criminals will be punished whether they're young, whether they're old, whether they're male, whether they're female, whether they're criminals abroad or criminals at



ISIS jihadist fighters marching in Raqqa, Syria

home," Abbott told reporters. "Criminals will be punished and to participate in the kind of barbarism that we have seen so often in the Middle East is just

wrong. It's morally wrong and it's a crime under Australian law and it will be punished," he said. There is no evidence that Sharrouf, who slipped out of Aus-

tralia in late 2013 using his brother's passport because his own had been cancelled, wanted to return to Australia, the newspapers reported. Police have con-

firmed he faces an arrest warrant in Australia on terrorism offenses.

Nettelton later brought their three young boys and two teenage daughters to Syria, flying with return tickets via Malaysia to hide from Sydney Airport officials their intended destination.

Australia used controversial new counterterrorism laws in December to make even visiting the Islamic State movement's stronghold of al-Raqqa province in Syria a criminal offense punishable by 10 years in prison.

Australia has cancelled the passports of scores of suspected terrorists, preventing would-be jihadis from leaving the country and stranding foreign fighters overseas.

Australia also plans to pass a law soon to give the government the power to strip citizenship from dual nationals who are suspected terrorists even if they are not convicted of a crime. **AP**

KOREAS

Envoys from South, US, Japan discuss N Korean nuke threat

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

THE top nuclear envoys from South Korea, the United States and Japan agreed yesterday on the need to increase pressure on North Korea and urged the country to engage in serious negotiations on its expanding nuclear weapons program.

The one-day meeting in Seoul follows a recent North Korea claim that it had tested a new type of missile from a submarine and a reiteration that it had built a nuclear warhead small enough to be mounted on a long-range missile. Outside analysts are skeptical about both claims, but they believe the North has built a small but growing nuclear bomb arsenal and advanced its missile program since international nuclear disarmament talks stalled in early 2009.

Seoul, Washington and Tokyo are members of now-dormant six-nation negotiations aimed at ending North Korea's nu-



South Korea's Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Hwang Joon-kook, center, answers reporters' questions

clear weapons program in return for aid and political concessions. The other members are Pyongyang, Beijing and Moscow.

Yesterday's meetings are part of a series of such talks meant to coordinate a unified stance on North Korea's growing arsenal. Prospects are slim that larger disarmament talks with Pyongyang will happen soon.

"We reaffirmed our commitment to continuing the closest possible trilateral coordination and consultation," U.S. envoy Sung Kim told reporters after the meeting. "We agreed on the importance of enhancing pressure

and sanctions on North Korea even as we keep all diplomatic options on the table and open."

South Korean envoy Hwang Joonkook described yesterday's meeting as "particularly timely" because of uncertainty in North Korea.

South Korean and U.S. envoys are to fly to Beijing later this week to hold individual talks with their Chinese counterpart, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry. China is the North's only major ally and main aid benefactor, and is often mentioned as the key to pushing the North to give up its nuclear ambitions. **AP**

AVIATION

Singapore Airlines investigates engine problem during flight

SINGAPORE Airlines said yesterday that it is investigating how one of its jets suffered a loss of power in both of its engines over the weekend, falling 3,962 meters before regaining altitude en route from Singapore to Shanghai.

The Airbus A330-300 was carrying 182 passengers and 12 crew members when the incident occurred Saturday, the airline said in a statement. The jet lost power in both engines after hitting bad weather 3 1/2 hours into the flight. Power was restored after "the pilots followed operational procedures to restore normal operation of the engines," the statement said.

Data from FlightRadar24.com and

a report in the Aviation Herald revealed that the plane was cruising at 11,887 meters, about 260 kilometers from Hong Kong, when both Rolls-Royce Trent 772 engines stopped working.

The jet dropped to 7,925 meters before power was restored, and climbed back to 9,510 meters before it landed safely in Shanghai about 1 hour, 40 minutes later, the report said.

Singapore Airlines said that no "anomalies" were detected in either of the engines, and that it is reviewing the incident with Rolls-Royce and Airbus.

The plane later took off to return to Singapore after a two-hour delay, the Aviation Herald reported. **AP**



GAZA

Amnesty: Hamas tortured, killed Palestinians in 2014 war

Ian Deitch, Jerusalem

A leading international watchdog yesterday accused the militant Hamas group of abducting, torturing and killing Palestinians during the war in the Gaza Strip last year, saying some of the actions amount to war crimes.

Amnesty International detailed the abuses in a report entitled "Strangling Necks: Abduction, torture and summary killings of Palestinians by Hamas forces during the 2014 Gaza/Israel conflict."

According to the London-based human rights group, some 23 Palestinians were shot and killed and dozens more were arrested and tortured by Hamas, which rules Gaza. The Palestinians targeted were either political rivals of Hamas, including members of the Fatah party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, or people the militant group had accused of cooperating with Israel, Amnesty said.



In this Dec. 14, 2014, file photo, a masked Palestinian gunman of the Hamas militant group holds a weapon during a rally to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the group in Gaza City

Yesterday's report highlighted a particularly brutal incident, which it said took place in Gaza on Aug. 22.

"In one of the most shocking incidents, six men were publi-

cly executed by Hamas forces outside al-Omari mosque ... in front of hundreds of spectators, including children," Amnesty said. Hamas had announced the men were suspected "col-

laborators" who had been sentenced death in "revolutionary courts," the rights group added. "The hooded men were dragged along the floor to kneel by a wall facing the crowd, then each

man was shot in the head individually before being sprayed with bullets fired from an AK-47," the report said of the August incident.

Hamas violently seized Gaza from forces loyal to Abbas in 2007, leaving Palestinians bitterly divided — Hamas ruling Gaza and Abbas governing parts of the West Bank. Since then, Hamas has launched thousands of rockets at Israel and fought three wars with the Jewish state. Over 2,200 Palestinians were killed during the 50-day war last summer. On the Israeli side, 67 soldiers and six civilians were killed.

Hamas used the war to "ruthlessly settle scores, carrying out a series of unlawful killings and other grave abuses," Amnesty's Philip Luther said. "These spine-chilling actions, some of which amount to war crimes, were designed to exact revenge and spread fear across the Gaza Strip."

The report said 16 of the people killed by Hamas were already being held by the militant group when the conflict erupted and many of them were waiting to hear the verdict of their Hamas-organized trials. "Many had been sentenced after trials before courts whose proceedings are grossly unfair. A number had said they had been tortured in order to extract 'confessions,'" the report said. **AP**

IRAQ

Multiple IS suicide attacks in Anbar kill 17 troops

Sinan Salaheddin, Baghdad

ISLAMIC State extremists unleashed a wave of suicide attacks targeting the Iraqi army in western Anbar province, killing at least 17 troops in a major blow to government efforts to dislodge the militants from the sprawling Sunni heartland, an Iraqi military spokesman said yesterday.

The attacks came just hours after the Iraqi government on Tuesday announced the start of a wide-scale operation to recapture areas under the control of the IS group in Anbar.

Brig. Gen Saad Maan Ibrahim, the spokesman for the Joint Military Command, told The Associated Press yesterday that the attacks took place outside the Islamic State-held city of Fallujah late the previous night.

The militants struck near a water control station and a lock system on a canal between Lake Tharthar and the Euphrates River where army forces have been deployed for the Anbar offensive, he said.



Security forces defend their headquarters against attacks by Islamic State extremists during a sandstorm in the eastern part of Ramadi

Ibrahim added that the Islamic State extremists used a sandstorm that engulfed most of Iraq on Tuesday night to launch the deadly wave of bombings. He said it was not clear how many suicide attackers were involved in the bombings but they hit the military from multiple directions.

Last month, the water station near Fallujah fell into the hands of IS militants — following attacks that also included multiple suicide bombings and that killed a general commanding the 1st Division and a dozen other officers and soldiers.

Iraqi government forces recaptured the station a few days later. Fallujah

lies to the east of the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi, which was captured by the IS militants nearly two weeks ago in what was a major, humiliating defeat for Iraqi troops at the hands of the extremists.

The Iraqi operation to retake Anbar, which is said to be backed by Shiite militias and Sunni pro-government fighters, is deemed critical in regaining momentum in the fight against the Islamic State.

The IS group captured Ramadi in Iraq and the Syrian ancient town of Palmyra earlier this month, showing that it is able to advance in both countries despite months of U.S.-led airstrikes. **AP**

UK

Re-elected Cameron outlines plans in Queen's Speech

Jill Lawless, London

BRITAIN'S first all-Conservative government in two decades unveiled its plans for power yesterday, including laws to hold a referendum on European Union membership, give Scotland more autonomy and toughen immigration policies.

The list of proposed legislation was read by Queen Elizabeth II at the State Opening of Parliament, an annual blend of politics and pomp replete with gilded throne, diamond-studded crown and officials in antiquated garb.

It follows a May 7 election that unexpectedly gave Prime Minister David Cameron's center-right Conservatives a parliamentary majority — and with it the power to implement a political agenda without coalition compromises.

The Queen's Speech, delivered by the monarch but written by the government, included legislation to cap welfare benefits, freeze some taxes for five years and hold a vote on EU membership by the end of 2017 — all key Conservative election promises.

The queen said the government would adopt a "One Nation approach, helping working people get on."

The speech promised legislation to cut red tape for small businesses and freeze income and sales tax rates until 2020. There was also a right-to-buy plan to help thousands of tenants become homeowners.

The unemployed face a lower cap on benefits, while the government plans to make it harder for unionized workers to strike.

Cameron's "One Nation" may well have looser bonds. Scotland is getting more powers to raise and spend taxes, fulfilling a promise made by Cameron before last year's Scottish independence referendum. Wales will also gain more autonomy, and there was a promise to reduce the say of Scottish lawmakers over policies that affect only England and Wales.

Details of that plan, known as "English votes for English laws," are likely to prove contentious — one of several pieces of legislation the government may struggle to pass.

An election vow to replace the Human Rights Act — which has a European court as its top arbiter — with a British bill of rights was reduced to a promise of "proposals" rather than legislation. The plan is opposed by some Conservatives as well as opposition parties. **AP**

Graham Dunbar
Sports Writer, Zurich

CORRUPTION

FIFA officials arrested in Zurich; World Cup votes probed

SWISS federal prosecutors opened criminal proceedings related to the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, throwing FIFA deeper into crisis only hours after seven soccer officials were arrested and 14 indicted yesterday in a separate U.S. corruption probe.

FIFA, meanwhile, said tomorrow's presidential election would go ahead as planned with Sepp Blatter going for a fifth term. Blatter was not named in either investigation.

FIFA also ruled out a revote of the World Cups won by Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022.

The Swiss prosecutors' office said in a statement they seized "electronic data and documents" at FIFA's headquarters yesterday as part of their probe. And Swiss police said they will question 10 FIFA executive committee members who took part in the World Cup votes in December 2010.

The Swiss investigation against "persons unknown on suspicion of criminal mismanagement and of money laundering" again throws into the doubt the integrity of the voting.

"FIFA is fully cooperating with the investigation and is support-

ing the collection of evidence in this regard," FIFA said in a statement.

The Swiss announcement came only hours after seven soccer officials were arrested and detained by Swiss police pending extradition at the request of U.S. authorities after a raid at a luxury hotel in Zurich.

The U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement that two current FIFA vice presidents were among those arrested, Jeffrey Webb of the Cayman Islands and Eugenio Figueredo of Uruguay. The others are Eduardo Li of Costa Rica, Julio Rocha of Nicaragua, Costas Takkas of Britain, Rafael Esquivel of Venezuela and Jose Maria Marin of Brazil.

All seven are connected with the regional confederations of North and South America and face up to 20 years in prison if convicted of racketeering.

"The indictment alleges corruption that is rampant, sys-



Sepp Blatter

temic, and deep-rooted both abroad and here in the United States," Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch said in the statement. "It spans at least two generations of soccer officials

who, as alleged, have abused their positions of trust to acquire millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks."

Nine of the 14 that were indicted by the Justice Department are soccer officials, while four are sports marketing executives and another works in broadcasting. Jack Warner, a former FIFA vice president from Trinidad and Tobago, was among those indicted.

The Swiss prosecutors' office said the U.S. probe was separate from its investigation but that authorities were working together.

The U.S. case involves bribes "totaling more than USD100 million" linked to commercial deals dating back to the 1990s for soccer tournaments in the United States and Latin America, the Swiss Federal Office of Justice said. The Justice Department said the corruption is linked to World Cup qualifying matches and the Copa America

— South America's continental championship.

Dozens of soccer officials are in Switzerland for the FIFA congress and presidential election, where Blatter is widely expected to win re-election at the helm of the governing body of world soccer.

The Swiss Federal Office of Justice said in its statement that U.S. authorities suspect the arrested officials of having received or paid bribes totaling millions of dollars and that the crimes were agreed to and prepared in the U.S., and payments carried out via U.S. banks.

"The bribery suspects — representatives of sports media and sports promotion firms — are alleged to have been involved in schemes to make payments to the soccer functionaries (FIFA delegates) and other functionaries of FIFA sub-organizations - totaling more than USD 100 million," the FOJ statement said. AP

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what's ON



MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Multi-function Hall,
Handover Gifts Museum of Macao
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM
TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)
VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement
(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MACAU OLD SHOPS
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

**WESTERN VIEWS ON CHINA:
PAINTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY ABOUT CHINA**
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

INSTALLATION 'VALKYRIE OCTOPUS'
BY JOANA VASCONCELOS
TIME: 24 hours
UNTIL: October 31, 2015
VENUE: MGM MACAU, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

AIR FRANCE JET IN NEAR MISS WITH GIANT VOLCANO IN CAMEROON



Air France says one of its jets had what investigators call a "serious incident" by flying too close to a volcano while maneuvering around a storm on a flight into Cameroon.

Flight 953 took off from Malabo in Equatorial Guinea on May 2 and was cruising toward Douala, Cameroon's largest city, when the pilot rerouted the Boeing 777 to avoid a storm.

A ground-proximity alarm in the cockpit sounded when the jet, with 37 people aboard, flew too near Mount Cameroon, a 4,095-meter active volcano whose last eruption was reported in 2012.

In a statement yesterday, Air France said pilots "responded immediately by applying the appropriate procedure." The flight landed in Douala without further incident.

France's air safety authorities have opened an investigation.

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	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

28 MAY - 03 JUN

TOMORROWLAND

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min



PITCH PERFECT 2

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Elizabeth Banks

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

DRAGON BALL Z: RESURRECTION "F"

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Tadayoshi Yamamuro

Starring: Ji-tae Yu, Yūsuke Iseya, Ye-ryeon Cha

Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 93min



SAN ANDREAS

ROOM 3

(30 MAY - 03 JUN) 7.30 pm

Director: Brad Peyton

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino,

Alexandra Daddario

Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 114min

MACAU TOWER

21 MAY - 10 JUN

TOMORROWLAND

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min

this day in history



1967 SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER SAILS HOME

Sir Francis Chichester has arrived in Plymouth tonight in his yacht, Gypsy Moth IV, after completing his epic single-handed voyage around the world. He crossed the finishing line at 2058, nine months and one day after setting off from the historic port.

Sir Francis is the first man to race around the world solo with only one port of call, Sydney. About 250,000 well-wishers cheered and sang, welcoming home the 65-year-old adventurer who has inspired the nation this past year.

Thousands of small boats accompanied Gypsy Moth into Plymouth Sound 119 days after it set sail from Sydney, Australia, the only stop in the mammoth journey. They let off hooters and sirens as fire boats sprayed red, white and blue water. The Royal Artillery sounded a ten-gun salute. At the breakwater, Sir Francis was joined by his wife, Lady Chichester, and son Giles who brought two bottles of champagne on board.

Today's home-coming was carefully planned and he was met on shore by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and other dignitaries and driven to the Guildhall. There, at a press conference, he was asked what he would like to do now. "What I would like after four months of my own cooking is the best dinner from the best chef in the best surroundings and in the best company."

Later he received a message from the Queen and Prince Philip congratulating him on his achievement. Sir Francis has spent nearly 220 days alone at sea and crossed the Atlantic, Cape of Good Hope, the Pacific and Cape Horn - 28,500 miles of dangerous ocean.

But this man is no stranger to seafaring. He won the first solo transatlantic yacht race in 1960 in Gypsy Moth III, sailing from Plymouth to New York City in 40 days. He beat his own record in 1962 repeating the voyage in 33 days.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In July 1967, Sir Francis was dubbed with Sir Francis Drake's sword by the Queen at Greenwich.

Later that year, he published Gypsy Moth Circles the World, which was followed by several more books on his seafaring adventures.

In 1971 he made one more solo transatlantic crossing, then ill-health forced him to pull out of another transatlantic race in 1972 and he died a few weeks later on 26 August. Several British yachtsmen and women have beaten the 220-day record since 1967.

Naomi James was the first woman to do this in 1978 and beat Sir Francis' record by two days.

In February 2001 after 94 days at sea Britain's Ellen MacArthur became the fastest woman to sail the world. Four years later, in 2005, she became the fastest person to sail solo non-stop around the world - in 71 days and 14 hours.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Making money used to be so easy, and now you have to defend every penny. But that's a creative way to motivate yourself. Think of your finances as your castle and start digging a mote.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You just can't seem to attract the cash. Are you less a snake charmer than you used to be? Of course not. You couldn't cajole it out of a basket even with the most powerful of flutes, but don't stop trying.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Bills, calculators, debts -- it's all piling up and creating chatter in your head. You need a way to clear your thoughts and refocus on the details. Only then will you start making money again.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to clean up your own fiscal mess, but don't take that in a bad way. It won't be as hard as it seems if you let yourself be analytical about it. It's a good day to make some financial plans.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Everyone is being more thrifty and conservative than usual, and it's going from the top down. Let the trickle down effect reach you. Start by coming up with a budget and sticking to it.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Small details make a big difference in your day. You can't do much about your portfolio, but you can balance your checkbook, for instance. Even little projects are achievements.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Even if you're meticulous about something like balancing your checkbook, there's no way you could have gotten a grip on all the details in this financial picture. You'll have to give yourself a break and take a loss.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 It's time to get back to the basics, like planning ahead. There's no more room in your budget for impulse buys. So if it's not on your list, cross it off the one that flashes before you.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Some fees make sense, and others drive you crazy. But whatever their excuse for existence, don't waste your breath trying to get them off your bills. No one is budging today.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Better late than never. When you do your research, you'll find some facts you wish you never knew. That's what the word 'sell' is for, so don't hesitate to say it.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Cover the details before you buy. Otherwise, once you own, the devil may emerge. Everything you need to know is beneath the surface, so dig in.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You won't have a chance to figure things out later. You need to know all the facts beforehand. If you don't, then chalk this one up as a missed opportunity, but don't bite.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 5, 4, 8, 2, 6, 7, 6, 2, 1, 7, 9, 4, 8, 6, 5, 9, 2, 3, 1, 8, 7, 1, 7, 6, 3, 8, 9, 3.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 3, 2, 8, 4, 6, 3, 2, 5, 4, 2, 9, 5, 7, 4, 1, 8, 9, 4, 6, 3, 1, 7, 9, 8, 9, 7, 8.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 5, 2, 8, 1, 5, 9, 7, 4, 9, 5, 2, 6, 1, 5, 3, 8, 8, 1, 9, 7, 2, 4, 3, 9, 7, 8, 4, 2, 3.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 9, 1, 2, 8, 3, 6, 1, 2, 7, 3, 8, 4, 6, 7, 3, 5, 1.

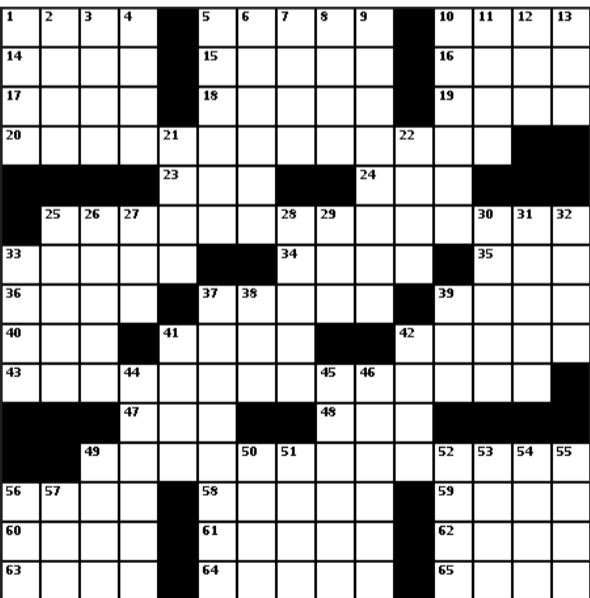
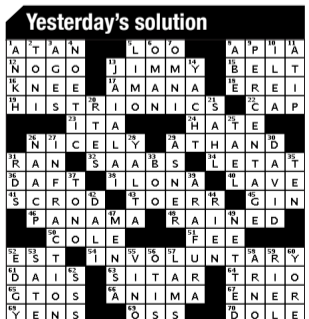
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Muslim pilgrimage; 5- Build up; 10- ___ first...; 14- Gillette brand; 15- "John Brown's Body" poet; 16- They're fired; 17- Stumble; 18- Rose essence; 19- Itch; 20- Overcritical; 23- Yes, to Yves; 24- Cub Scout unit; 25- Cannot be found; 33- Experiment; 34- Fork part; 35- Moray; 36- Torn clothing; 37- Smell; 39- Hightails it; 40- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 41- Boxer Max; 42- Capital of Yemen; 43- Roundabout expression; 47- Good service?; 48- Blood-typing letters; 49- Way of pronouncing a word; 56- Roll call response; 58- Delight; 59- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 60- Epic poetry; 61- Muzzle; 62- Big swallow; 63- Highland hats; 64- Impudent; 65- ___ sow, so shall...;

DOWN: 1- Hell ___ no fury...; 2- Give it ___; 3- Faucet problem; 4- Practical joke; 5- Early calculator; 6- Like grams and liters; 7- Not for; 8- Senate position; 9- Grating; 10- Large lizard; 11- Roll up; 12- Director Lee; 13- "Cats" monogram; 21- Stir up; 22- Part of a bird's beak; 25- Teheran native; 26- Chad neighbor; 27- ___ Kapital; 28- Alamogordo's county; 29- Bordeaux, e.g.; 30- Game of chance; 31- Geneva's lake; 32- Socialite Maxwell; 33- ___ Il (razor brand); 37- Monotony; 38- Cartoon frame; 39- Chou En-___; 41- Osso ___; 42- Greek portico; 44- Fondle; 45- Desert plant; 46- State of existing; 49- Senior moment?; 50- It parallels a radius; 51- Greek temple; 52- Forum wear; 53- Markers; 54- Solely; 55- Back of the neck; 56- Worked (up); 57- Ecol. watchdog



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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
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Drunken Dragon Dance heralds birth of Buddha celebrations

Photos by Xinhua/Cheong Kam Ka



 PERFORMERS STAGE the drunk dragon dance during the Drunken Dragon Festival to celebrate Buddha's birthday in Macau, May 25. Buddha's birthday fell on Monday this year according to the Chinese lunar calendar. Recognized as an item of China's national intangible cultural heritage, the Drunken Dragon Festival originates from a Macau legend of a Buddhist monk and a divine dragon who saved people from the plague during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Tales Azzoni, Sao Paulo

FOOTBALL

Some of Brazil's most successful coaches out of a job

SOME of the most successful coaches in Brazilian football are without a job, slowly losing out to a younger generation who are bringing fresh ideas and willing to accept lower salaries.

The latest to become unemployed was former Brazil and Real Madrid coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo, who was fired by Flamengo on Monday, joining a list that already includes Luiz Felipe Scolari, Muricy Ramalho, Abel Braga and Mano Menezes.

They were indisputable names not long ago thanks to their winning records in Brazil and abroad. Luxemburgo, Ramalho and Braga combined won nine Brazilian league titles, while Scolari won four Brazilian Cups and the 2002 World Cup with the national team.

But most have failed to succeed recently, and now few Brazilian teams have shown interest in these high-profile coaches. They have become discredited after lackluster results and many are already being called outdated and obsolete.

"Football is like this, there's nothing we can do about it," Luxemburgo said Tuesday. "One day everything is great, but the next everything is worthless. Things change very quickly. It's the way it is in football."



AP PHOTO
Corinthians and Botafogo players battle it out during a Brazilian soccer league match at the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo

A big reason these coaches have lost space is because some remain extremely expensive compared to the youngsters in the market. Local clubs have been struggling financially and can't afford to pay the high salaries that these coaches continue to demand. Most are at a stage in their careers that allow them to be picky about where to work

and how much to earn.

None of the recent coaches of the Brazilian national team is currently employed, including Luxemburgo, Menezes and Scolari. Luxemburgo, a five-time Brazilian league winner, was fired from Flamengo only three matches into this year's Brazilian league.

"I was surprised," Luxemburgo

said. "I was told that I was crucial for the club this year, but 20 days later they come and tell me that I'm no good anymore. I was really surprised."

Last week, it was Scolari who became unemployed, resigning from Gremio after only two Brazilian league matches because he didn't have "the full support" of club directors. Scolari was considered an indisputable hero in Brazil until about a year ago, but things changed significantly after the national team's humiliating 7-1 loss to Germany in the World Cup.

Gremio has hired relatively unknown coach Roger Machado, who is expected to earn less than a third of what Scolari made.

Other clubs who are betting on less-known coaches include Santos, who hired one of its former assistants, and Vasco da Gama, who has former player Doriva at the helm.

Three of Brazil's top clubs have already changed coaches in the first three rounds of the Brazilian league. In addition to Flamengo

and Gremio, Fluminense also made a change, hiring Enderson Moreira to replace Ricardo Drubsky, who stayed only eight matches at the club.

Sao Paulo already started the competition without a coach. Ramalho, a four-time Brazilian league winner, left the club earlier this year after a series of poor results. He had been under pressure by family members to take a coaching break because of health problems and is not expected to coach again until the end of the year.

Despite knowing Scolari and Luxemburgo are on the market, Sao Paulo on Tuesday hired Colombian coach Juan Carlos Osorio, a relatively unknown manager who had been with Colombian club Atletico Nacional since 2012.

Braga, the 2012 Brazilian champion with Fluminense and the 2006 Copa Libertadores winner with Internacional, has been without a club since leaving Inter last year after disappointing results. Menezes, Brazil's coach after the 2010 World Cup, has been unemployed since a stint with Flamengo in 2013 and another with Corinthians in 2014.

Other Brazilian coaches currently unemployed include Emerson Leao, Renato Gaucho, Celso Roth, Joel Santana and Dorival Junior. **AP**

AD



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opinion

HK Observer
Robert Carroll



STALEMATE

The present stalemate over political reform has been long coming. Tiananmen Square in 1989 was probably the most important turning point. Others were the failure in 1993-4 by then Governor Chris Patten and Beijing to reach an agreement on the post-1997 political elections; and when the subsequent legislative assembly elections in 1995 were not recognized by China. There followed in 1997 a Beijing-selected provisional legislature, and then the massive anti-national security law march in 2003. The Scholarism movement, which began in 2011, is notable for politically motivating students in Hong Kong, and for triggering a second volte-face by the government in response to the protest. Finally there was the decision in the summer of 2014 to implement much stricter than expected electoral rules for the next chief executive election, and this led to a much bigger than anticipated Occupy Central, soon taken over by student groups.

The 1989 Tiananmen Square student protests and subsequent tragic events were likely the most significant turning point, because when hopes of political reform in China were dashed – as a more hardline conservative leadership assumed power – so, too, was liberal-leaning Hong Kong set on a collision course with Beijing. The fallout continues to this day, with deep suspicion and distrust on both sides of the border and among opposing camps here too. This is epitomized by the sharp divides over the government's proposed political reform package. However, why was no compromise reached back in 1993-4? The main obstacle to compromise was the great level of mutual mistrust between the Chinese leadership and the people of Hong Kong and their leader Patten, who had been given a free hand by then British Prime Minister John Major in coming up with a more democratic electoral system. That saw the Democratic Party grab the lion's share of votes in the first one-man one-vote district board elections, and then in LegCo elections; this happened partly out of belief in the mindset of "Let Hong Kong show the way and China will follow." That looks naive in retrospect, but in the immediate years after the Tiananmen Square crackdown, many thought that democracy would inevitably come to China, and that they would, of course, look to where it was evolving on Chinese soil – to Hong Kong.

By 1992, with the Basic Law already passed by the legislature in China two years earlier, negotiations were in full swing as the implementations of the Basic Law were put into practice. However, with mounting public opinion in the UK that more safeguards for Hong Kong's freedoms and citizens must be ensured, a newly elected John Major decided to replace a diplomat governor here with a heavyweight politician, Patten, simultaneously partly sidelining the Foreign Office.

Patten planned a substantially democratized district and LegCo elections in the hope that both would be part of "through train beyond 1997," but Beijing would not agree. Patten went ahead with his plans and China went ahead with its own, having appointed its own post-1997 assembly. The people had voted, but it was clear that politicians calling for democratic reform on the mainland would not be allowed power in the legislature. The stage was set for an even deeper and lasting mistrust that still dogs relations between Beijing, the pan-democrats and their supporters.

By 2003, the well-meaning but ineffectual Chief Executive, Tung Chee-wah, was ushering through Article 23 security legislation, which provoked a protest of 500,000 and the bill's subsequent withdrawal. A similar reaction came when there was an attempt to institutionalize national education, which was seen as CCP propaganda. While on two occasions popular protests succeeded, the third attempt – that of the pro-political reform movement Occupy Central – failed to move either the government or Beijing, even if it did mobilize students on a previously unimaginable scale.

The political system is not working and the reform package is unlikely to be passed. Stalemate.

THE BUZZ JAGUAR LAND ROVER PROFIT FALLS MOST IN 2 YEARS

Jaguar Land Rover became the latest casualty of a slowdown in Chinese auto demand, reporting its steepest drop in quarterly profit in two years after retail deliveries slumped in the world's largest vehicle market. Profit dropped 33 percent to 302 million pounds (USD465 million) in the three months ended March, the biggest fall since the quarter ended March 2013. That contributed to a worse-than-esti-

ated decline in earnings at its parent, India's Tata Motors Ltd., which also faced a prolonged slump in demand for commercial vehicles in its home market. The result underscores the increasing reliance of global automakers on China to drive profit growth and the extent of the slowdown in luxury demand after the ruling Communist Party's campaign to stamp out graft and extravagance.

S. Korean hoops coach suspected of manipulating games



Busan KT Sonicboom head coach Chun Chang-jin

SOUTH Korean police plan to question a high-profile basketball coach over allegations that he manipulated games he coached to make money from gambling.

Seoul police official Kim Seong-woon said yesterday they will investigate claims that former Busan KT Sonicboom head coach Chun Chang-jin borrowed 300 million won (USD272,000) from a loan shark to place bets on illegal gambling sites on five games he coached between February and March.

Kim said the informa-

tion arose from an investigation of two of Chun's acquaintances detained over illegal gambling suspicions, and Chun's bank records were being examined. Kim did not reveal the five games that were under suspicion.

Chun's lawyer Lee Jeong-won denied the accusations and said that his client has never bet on the games he coached. Lee said Chun never coached his team to intentionally lose, but simply reduced the minutes of his starters toward the end of last season as the Sonicboom fell

out of playoff contention.

Chun, a five-time Korean Basketball League coach-of-the-year and a two-time head coach of South Korea's national team, left the Sonicboom after last season and signed a deal with the Anyang Korea Ginseng Corporation. The KBL said Chun could face a lifetime ban if the allegations against him prove to be true.

South Korea's major professional sports leagues, including basketball, baseball and football, have been rocked by match-fixing scandals in recent years. Kang Dong-hee, former head coach of KBL's Wonju Dongbu Promy and widely considered the best point guard South Korea has ever produced, received a 10-month prison term in 2013 for receiving money from illegal gambling brokers in exchange for fixing games between February and March 2011. That was a period during which Chun, then the coach of Sonicboom, accused Kang of "tanking" – losing games intentionally – to seek a better position in the following season's rookie draft. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



A man walks past the debris of a damaged building in Kathmandu yesterday. The country is suffering from continuous aftershocks after two powerful earthquakes devastated Nepal on April 25 and May 12.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN An all-night siege in an upscale neighborhood of Afghanistan's capital ended in the early hours of yesterday morning with the deaths of four heavily armed Taliban attackers, though no civilians or security personnel were injured or killed, an Afghan official said. Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Ayub Salangi said that weapons had been seized, including a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, three automatic rifles and a hand grenade.

THAILAND Authorities revoke two passports belonging to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra following an interview he gave in South Korea they said could harm national security.



BELGIUM The European Union moved yesterday to help Italy and Greece manage a massive influx of migrants across the Mediterranean and oblige reluctant EU partners to share the refugee burden. In a two-pronged proposal aimed at redistributing the refugee load, the EU's executive commission suggested that 40,000 Syrians and Eritreans newly arrived in Europe be redistributed away from Italy and Greece over the next two years. A further 20,000 people would be shared out among the 28 EU nations.

ISRAEL Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday stepped down from his post as the international community's Mideast envoy, officials said, ending a term that began with great promise but which struggled to deliver dramatic changes in its quest to promote peace between Israel and the Palestinians. The officials said Blair had written a letter to U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon to confirm his resignation. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal announcement, which was expected later yesterday at a meeting of Quartet officials in Brussels.

VATICAN CITY The Vatican's secretary of state has called the Irish vote to legalize gay marriage a "defeat for humanity." Cardinal Pietro Parolin said he personally was saddened by the landslide decision, in which more than 62 percent of voters in the Roman Catholic country voted "yes."