NEW GRADUATES EMPLOYED IN THREE MONTHS
The Macau Polytechnic Institute expects their graduates to be able to find jobs in their areas of study in about 3 months time.

BEIJING CONFIRMS MISSING HK PUBLISHER IN MAINLAND
HK authorities say Chinese officials have confirmed the whereabouts of the chief editor of a publisher specializing in books banned in China.

Poker on the rise despite gaming slump

China’s central bank yesterday announced it will inject at least 600 billion yuan (USD91.46 billion) to provide liquidity for the impending Spring Festival holiday, the state-run agency Xinhua reported. The liquidity will be added through tools such as the standing lending facility (SLF), the medium-term lending facility (MLF) and pledged supplementary lending (PSL), the People’s Bank of China said in a statement on its website. The central bank vowed to ensure liquidity in the banking system is “reasonable and adequate” around the Spring Festival, which will fall on Feb 8.

Middle East
Chinese President Xi Jinping has arrived in Saudi Arabia for a two-day visit as part of a Mideast tour that will include stops in Egypt and Iran. The official Saudi Press Agency reported that Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman greeted the Chinese delegation upon their arrival yesterday. Xi will be meeting with King Salman, as well as the chiefs of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation. More on p10

Ocean absorption of man-made heat doubled
2015 warmest year on record for Macau, world
To revamp the gambling industry, Macau needs to improve the legal infrastructure and supervision.

Equally Macau has earned a reputation for being a recipient of illegal transfers. For high rollers, it is always difficult to determine the source of funds. However, Macau has a history of money laundering, especially because it is a gateway to the Chinese market. The only time he can see his daughter are all studying overseas, and the air conditioners in the office. His two sons and one daughter are all studying overseas.

Leong added that, when the economy was growing fastest, rents for offices and shops rose rapidly and there were no conditions to develop certain sectors. But, now that the economy is slowing, it is an opportunity for them to grow, such as young entrepreneurs and traditional shops developing e-commerce to open new markets.

Shenzhen and Zhuhai are hotspots for illegal money transfers.

Within China, Guangdong has long been regarded as a national hotspot for illegal money transfers, especially in the border cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai. China laundering hotspot pushes 200bn yuan in transfers

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Electronic cigarettes effects seen as less harmful than cigars

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigs), which use nicotine derived from a tobacco plant and are designed to mimic smoking, are currently facing a global challenge.

Late last year, the Health Bureau and the government proposed a ban on the trading of e-cigs in Macau to ensure public health.

However, a recent survey by the regional consumer advocacy group fac tasia.org (an organization that, according to its website, "seeks to represent the rights of adults in Asia who choose to enjoy smoking or other related forms of consumption of nicotine") stated that most smokers want to be able to switch to less harmful alternatives to smoking, such as e-cigs. Recognizing that e-cigs are less damaging to health than tobacco consumption, Public Health England (PHE) has said that they are "95 percent safer than smoking." In Hong Kong, e-cigs have risen in popularity since 2012 and sales have been doubling in the past two years, according to the Asian Vape Association. However, the Hong Kong government has also proposed a ban on e-cigs, with experts saying that a lot of vapers strongly opposed the move, as it would force them to go back to tobacco cigarettes. E-cigs are regulated as a tobacco-medicinal product in the Philippines, according to the president of the Philippine E-Cigarette Industry Association, Joey Dulay. "We’re fighting for a new category of legislation specifically for e-cigs – not too lenient and not too strict. What’s important is that consumers are protected by a safety standard," he said. Meanwhile in the U.S., e-cigs were categorized as medicine in 2008.

From May this year, e-cigs and other nicotine vapor products will be regulated in the EU under the Tobacco Products Directive, which Britain’s The Guardian newspaper described as an extremely costly route. Heneage Mitchell, another Factasia.org co-founder, believes that endorsing e-cigs is a primary way for governments to see positive results in national public health policy. He argued that smokers shouldn’t be denied access to nicotine. Staff reporter

Seoul court fines baseball stars for gambling in Macau

A Seoul court has fined newly-signed St. Louis Cardinals reliever Seung Hwan Oh 10 million won (USD8,300) for breaking South Korean gambling laws by betting heavily at a Macau casino.

Former Chicago Cubs pitcher Lim Chang-yong, Oh’s ex-teammate with South Korean club Samsung Lions, was also fined the same amount, according to spokesman Joon Young Maeng at the Seoul Central District Court on Tuesday.

The Korean Baseball Organization earlier hit both players with half-season bans after prosecutors charged them for betting around 40 million won ($33,000) each at a casino in Macau in 2014.

South Korea has strict gambling laws, and has only one domestic casino for locals while 16 others only admit foreigners. South Koreans are banned from betting large sums of money at venues other than the designated local casino.

Oh, 33, signed with the Cardinals earlier this month on a one-year contract with a club option for a second year. In 498 career games in South Korea and Japan, Oh is 32-20 with a 1.81 ERA with 772 strikeouts in 646 1-3 innings. He also was a member of the Gold medal-winning South Korean Olympics team in 2008 and represented the country in the World Baseball Classic in 2006, 2009 and 2013. AP
The origins of poker

There is little consensus over where and when poker originated. Variants of the game can be traced back to China from over 1,000 years ago, though the game was not played with cards, but with painted dominoes.

Others accredit poker’s origins to an Indian card game called “Ganjifa,” which was also a betting game but consisted of 96 painted cards.

The poker historians usually source its origins to a French card game called “poque,” itself a variant of the German, “pochen,” which means “to bluff” in English.

However, they warn that these early prototypes share little in common with the game as it is known today. Modern versions of poker are thought to have developed sometime between the late 18th and early 19th Century.

There exist accounts of the game being played extensively throughout the Mississippi region in the U.S. from the 1880s onwards, though with just 20 cards and with players betting on which hand was most valuable.

On the other hand, the history of the game in its modern form in Asia is relatively brief with its surge in popularity coming mostly in the last two decades.

Today, despite the game’s popularity paling in comparison to traditional Chinese games like baccarat, Macau remains one of the largest poker destinations in the world.
2015 warmest year on record for Macau

Study: Man-made heat put in oceans has doubled since 1997

Seth Borenstein, Washington

The amount of man-made heat energy absorbed by the seas has doubled since 1997, a study released yesterday showed.

Scientists have long known that more than 90 percent of the heat energy from man-made global warming goes into the world’s oceans instead of the ground and the atmosphere. And they've seen ocean heat content rise in recent years. But the new study, using ocean-observing data that goes back to the British Challenger in the 1870s and including high-tech modern underwater monitors and computer models, tracked how much man-made heat has been buried in the oceans in the past 150 years.

The world’s oceans absorbed approximately 150 zettajoules of energy from 1860 to 1997, and then absorbed about another 150 in the next 18 years, according to a study published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change. To put that in perspective, if you exploded one atomic bomb the size of the one that dropped on Hiroshima every second for a year, the total energy released would be 2 zettajoules. So since 1997, Earth’s oceans have absorbed man-made heat energy equivalent to a Hiroshima-style bomb being exploded every second for 75 straight years.

“The changes we’re talking about, they are really big numbers,” said study co-author Paul Durack, an oceanographer at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. “They are nonhuman numbers.”

Because there are decades when good data wasn’t available and computer simulations are involved, the overall figures are rough but still are reliable, the study’s authors said. Most of the added heat has been trapped in the upper 2,300 feet, but with every year the deeper oceans also are absorbing more energy, they said.

But the study’s authors and outside experts say it’s not the raw numbers that bother them. It’s how fast those numbers are increasing.

“This is influencing weather patterns in many parts of the world,” said Jarraud, “and [has] forced the emotionally warm October.”

“The overall warming impact of this El Niño is expected to continue into 2016,” he added. However, Forbes contributors James Taylor lashed out at weather warning reports this week, stating that 2015 was “not even close to the hottest year on record.”

Taylor points to a chart that shows 1998 to have been the warmest year on record. He further argues that global warming activists and the media are conspiring to present false data. The discrepancy between the different reports may have less to do with media conspiracy than to do with varying methods of measuring what is actually being measured.

The data cited by Taylor measured temperatures at the surface of the global lower atmosphere, while reports from the WMO specified that they had recorded global average surface temperatures.
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Polytechnic Institute expects to see new graduates employed in 3 months

Renato Marques

The Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) expects their graduates to be able to find jobs in their areas of study in about three months’ time. This is the belief – or at least the hope - expressed by the institution’s Academic Affairs Department Head, Vivian Lei.

The scholar was speaking on the sidelines of IPM’s Careers Day 2016 that was inaugurated yesterday at the tertiary institution.

“In the past, it took about two months’ time for the fresh graduates to get a job but our last survey from 2015 shows that the period extended slightly to an average of about three months after graduation. This is still a very good record when compared to other regions and countries,” Lei said.

She added that IPM expects 650 fresh graduates to emerge from the different majors on offer this year, explaining that they will have easy access to the job due to the programs’ suitability to the local market and to potential hirers.

“We are very confident that our graduates can find jobs very easily because our programs are fully related to the Macau strategy and development, namely its role as a platform between China and the Portuguese speaking countries,” Vivian Lei said.

The department also mentioned that other study programs such as the ones related to the creative industries and nursing are also currently in high demand. Graduates from these programs should therefore not expect to encounter many obstacles when entering the job market.

“They are looking for, firstly, something related to their study program, and secondly, jobs that offer a better salary,” Lei stated, adding that only some of the fresh graduates may be affected by the downturn in Macau’s economy. “It depends on the programs. For example, in Chinese-Portuguese translation the employment rate is 100 per cent with most students finding a job three or four months before they actually graduate.”

For Yili Ling, 21, a student from mainland China who expects to be on the graduates list this year, “to find job opportunities in Macau is the goal.” The graduate hopes to find a job in the marketing field. “Casinos are the strongest industry so I might get a job there, or even in another area. As I am not a resident, I might have some quota-related issues,” Yili Ling said, adding that although she is “not too optimistic about it, she looks forward to receiving responses from some of the companies she is contacting.”

Yili Ling was one of the students visiting the Careers Day, which featured 38 booths comprising of representatives from different companies and institutions. The Times also spoke with Brenda Hoi, the Human Resources Business Partner of a company dedicated to the sale of wristwatches.

She told the Times that she is looking for candidates that have “a passion for the retail sector and love to work in a customer service-oriented job and have a very good customer service mindset.”

Although the company receives a lot of applications, she finds it difficult to hire the right people because the gaming industry is often looking for the same kind of candidate. Brenda Hoi sees the retail industry as much more competitive than the casino industry because “many people are not interested in working night shifts”.

The Careers Day is one of the activities planned by the IPM “in order to put their students in contact with companies that might be interested in recruiting them” according to the deputy head of the institution, Yin Lei, in her opening speech.

Other activities will occur over a period of one month, including talks and seminars from several companies, as well as workshops about employment-related topics.
Asian stocks rise after China growth within expectations

Asian stock markets mostly eked out modest gains yesterday after China’s quarterly economic growth met expectations, calming some of the investor jitters in the region.

KEEPING SCORE: China’s Shanghai Composite was up 1.6 percent at 2,961.58 and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng gained 0.8 percent to 19,386.75. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 added 0.7 percent to 4,885. Japan’s Nikkei 225 overcame early losses to rise 0.2 percent to 16,084.31. South Korea’s Kospi advanced 0.2 percent to 1,881.77. Markets in Southeast Asia were mixed. New Zealand gained.

CHINA ECONOMY: China’s economic growth edged down to 6.8 percent in the final quarter of 2015 as trade and consumer spending weakened. The quarterly growth figure was the weakest in six years and 6.9 percent growth for the full year was the lowest in 25 years. That was in line with market expectations but some analysts had forecast a much sharper slowdown. Chinese leaders are trying to reduce reliance on trade and investment by nurturing slower, more self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption and services.

THE QUOTE: China’s official data do not point to a hard landing in the fourth quarter of 2015, but they provide little reason to stop worrying about China’s drag on the global economy, either,” said Bill Adams, senior international economist at PNC Financial Services Group. “Chinese domestic demand remains weak, held back by three persistent headwinds.”

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude was down 2 cents to $30.36 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, rose 40 cents to USD28.95 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The U.S. dollar rose to 117.62 yen from 117.50 yen in the previous trading day. The euro was little changed at $1.0886 from $1.0885.

SkyCity rises most in 15 months on upbeat earnings forecast

SkyCity Entertainment Group Ltd. rose the most in 15 months after the company said first-half earnings surged as much as 30 percent. Net income jumped to as much as NZ$71 million (USD46 million) in the six months ended Dec. 31, the Auckland-based casino operator said yesterday, citing preliminary figures. The stock advanced 5.9 percent, headed for its best gain since Oct. 20, 2014.

SkyCity said first-half earnings were boosted by growth in turnover in its international business unit, which caters for high-roller gamblers, to more than NZ$7 billion. The company was also able to achieve savings at its Adelaide casino and reduce funding costs, it said.

Normalized profit, which adjusts for volatility in the win rate for the international business and one-time items, jumped as much as 29 percent in the first half, SkyCity said. Normalized earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization gained as much as 17 percent to NZ$180 million. Final first-half results are due Feb. 11.
Economic growth wanes to 25-year low in 2015

Joe McDonald, Beijing

China’s economy cooled further in the latest quarter, dragging 2015’s full-year growth to a quarter-century low and deepening a slowdown that has fueled anxiety over its impact on the global economy.

The world’s second-largest economy grew 6.9 percent in 2015, the government said yesterday, down from 7.3 percent in the previous year. For the October-December quarter, growth slowed to 6.8 percent, the weakest quarterly expansion in six years.

China’s growth has fallen steadily over the past five years as the ruling Communist Party tries to steer away from a worn-out model based on investment and trade toward self-sustaining growth driven by domestic consumption and services. But the unexpectedly sharp decline over the past two years prompted fears of a politically dangerous spike in job losses.

The slowdown has rippled around the world, crimping demand for South Korean electronics and Australian iron ore as well as Middle East oil and Brazilian soy.

The Chinese slowdown and a plunge in Shanghai stock prices has prompted concern about a further loss of support from an economy once seen as an engine of global growth.

That has depressed international financial markets even as the United States and Europe show signs of improvement.

“Official data do not point to a hard landing in the fourth quarter of 2015, but they provide little reason to stop worrying about China’s drag on the global economy, either,” said economist Bill Adams of PNC Financial Services Group in a report.

Growth was in line with private sector forecasts and the ruling Communist Party’s official target of about 7 percent for the year.

China’s Shanghai Com- posite jumped 3.2 percent and other Asian markets also rose. Investors were relieved that more pessimistic forecasts about fourth quarter growth were wrong and also expect Beijing to continue rolling out stimulus mea- sures to prevent a hard landing.

Beijing responded to ob- heginning by cutting interest rates six times since November, 2014, and launched measures to help exporters and other industries. But economis- ts note China still relies on state-led construction spending and other in- vestment.

Full-year 2015 growth was the lowest since sanc- tions imposed on Beijing following its crackdown on the Tiananmen Squa- re pro-democracy move- ment caused growth to plummet to 3.8 percent in 1990.

The October-December growth figure was the slowest quarterly ex- pansion since the global financial crisis, when growth slumped to 6.1 percent in the first quar- ter of 2009.

Compared with the previous quarter, the measurement other major coun- tries use, China’s growth slowed to 1.6 percent in the October-December period from the previous quarter’s 1.8 percent.

“The international situa- tion remains complex,” said Ren Zhiqiang, a former mi- sioner of the National Bureau of Statistics, as a news conference. “Res- tructuring and upgrading is in an uphill stage. Compre- hensively deepening reform is a daunting task.”

Growth in investment in factories, housing and other fixed assets, a key economic driver, was wea- rned to 12 percent in 2015, down 2.9 percentage points from the previous year. Retail sales growth- ed to 10.6 percent from 12 percent.

China’s annual inflation shrank 1.4 percent from a year earlier, well below the ruling party’s target of 3 percent.

For the full year, exports were down 7.6 percent, the slowest growth since 2009, and imports dropped by 1.6 percent, the first decline in two years and the worst performance since 2009.

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Beijing confirms missing HK publisher in mainland

A protester wearing a mask of missing bookseller Lee Bo sits in a cage during a protest against the disappearances of booksellers in Hong Kong

China accuses detained Swede of endangering state security

The Dalai Lama travels to US for medical checkup

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama points to his swollen right eye as he talks to journalists before boarding his chartered flight in Dharmsala

#China #Beijing #HongKong #TibetanSpiritualLeader #DalaiLama #MedicalCheckup
**AFGHANISTAN**

An Afghan woman has had her nose cut off by her husband, officials in the region said yesterday.

Fawzia Salimi, a hospital director in Maymana, capital of Faryab province, said 22-year-old Reza Gul was brought in early Monday having lost a great deal of blood.

Gul’s husband, 25-year-old Mohammad Khan, has since fled their village. Salimi said the Afghan-Turk Hospital in Maymana was trying to arrange transport for Gul to Turkey for further treatment.

Domestic violence is widespread in Afghanistan, where women are often denied constitutional rights designed to protect them.

Violence has also become somewhat entrenched in Afghan society after 40 years of war, with nearly non-existent mental health care and few options or outlets for a traumatized population.

Hafizullah Fetrai, the head of Faryab’s provincial human rights commission, said violence in the area had risen by at least 30 percent in the past year.

“It’s not just in Faryab, it is across the entire north of the country — poverty, high unemployment, ignorance about marriage,” he said.

Faryab borders Turkmenistan and is among the poorest regions of Afghanistan, with many people relying on government food handouts. Corruption is also rife, and many residents complain that officials pilfer the aid.

Over the past year, the Taliban’s presence in the region has grown.

The militant group has intensified its campaign following the drawdown of the international combat mission in 2014.

The district where Gul’s family lives is under Taliban control, said Rahmatullah Turkistani, a member of Faryab’s provincial council.

Salimi said Khan had returned from Iran three months ago, and some residents had repeatedly beaten and tortured his wife. He had also taken another wife who is just seven years old, she said.

Community elders and Taliban representatives in their village had tried mediating with the family to help sort out their problems, a traditional method of dealing with marital issues, Salimi said.

Khan had disappeared from the village, and local security forces including the intelligence agency and police were searching for him, said the provincial governor’s spokesman Ahmad Jawed Dedar.
Police shoot man dead at Sydney police station

Police shot dead a man armed with a knife in a Sydney police station yesterday, an official said.

The man was shot once by a police sergeant with 24 years of experience during a brief confrontation in the foyer of the Quakers Hill police station in northwest Sydney, Assistant Police Commissioner Denis Clifford said.

Police had yet to identify the man, who appeared to be aged in his 40s, or establish a motive for the confrontation.

“There is no indication that this is terrorist-related, but why the man came there and why the confrontation occurred, at this stage we just don’t know,” Clifford told reporters.

Police officers have been identified as targets of terror attacks inspired by the Islamic State group.

A 15-year-old boy was shot dead by police soon after he fatally shot a civilian police employee outside the state police headquarters in Parramatta in western Sydney in October.

An 18-year-old man was shot dead after he stabbed two policemen outside a police station in the city of Melbourne in September 2014. Both attacks have been blamed on Islamic State followers.

A police statement said no police officer was injured in the latest incident. AP

Children of Australians abducted in Africa plea to captors

The family of an Australian doctor and his wife abducted in Burkina Faso urged the kidnappers yesterday to release the couple so that they can continue their life-saving charity work in the West African country.

Surgeon Ken Elliott and his wife Jocelyn, aged in their 80s, disappeared from their home on Friday near the northern town of Djibo where they have run a medical center for four decades.

A statement on behalf of their daughter and two sons issued by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said the children had been heartened by an outpouring of support from the Burkinabe people “who clearly consider Ken and Jocelyn to be one of their own after all these years of providing surgical services to the region.”

It said the couple’s children “are understandably deeply dismayed by this incident and sincerely hope that their parents are being treated kindly wherever they are.”

The statement called on the couple to be released “so that they may continue to assist those who are in need of their services.”

The couple are thought to have been abducted by jihadists who may have taken them across the border to Mali. Authorities do not know if the abductions are linked to the attack on the country’s capital Ouagadougou by al-Qaida-linked fighters on Friday night that left up to 32 people dead.

Following news of the abduction at the weekend, Australia warned travelers of “the serious threat of kidnapping in Burkina Faso, particularly in the north.”

The Australian government, which has a policy of refusing to pay ransoms to kidnappers, was dealing with Burkina Faso authorities through Australian diplomats in Ghana.

The family said the couple began their hospital work in Djibo in 1972. They operate a surgical clinic with 120 beds, where Ken Elliott is the sole surgeon and is supported by local staff.

A Facebook page supporting the couple since their abduction has attracted numerous comments of support from around the world.

“I am hopeful that they will come back to us healthy,” said one post. AP

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A MID calls for a boycott of the Academy Awards over its all white acting nominees and Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett Smith both announcing they would sit out this year's ceremony, the academy's president said it was time for major changes — and soon.

Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs issued a statement promising more diversity, and quickly, after both Lee and Pinkett spoke out yesterday (Macau time).

In a lengthy Instagram post, Lee said he “cannot support” the “lily white” Oscars. Noting that he was writing on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lee — who in November was given an honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards — said he was fed up: “Forty white actors in two years and no flava at all,” he wrote. “We can’t act!!”

In a video message on Facebook, Pinkett Smith also said she wouldn’t attend or watch the Oscars in February. Pinkett Smith, whose husband Will Smith wasn’t nominated for his performance in the NFL head trauma drama “Concussion,” said it was time for people of color to disregard the Academy Awards.

“Begging for acknowledgement, or even asking, diminishes dignity and diminishes power,” she said. “And we are a dignified people and we are powerful.”

She added: “Let’s let the academy do them, with all grace and love. And let’s do us different.” The video had amassed 4.5 million by mid-Monday afternoon.

Last year’s all-white acting nominees also drew calls for a boycott, though not from such prominent individuals as Lee and Pinkett Smith. Whether it had any impact or not, the audience for the broadcast, hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, was down 16 percent from the year prior, a six-year low.

Isaacs has made a point of presenting a more inclusive show this year. The Feb. 28 broadcast will be hosted by Chris Rock and produced by “Django Unchained” producer Reginald Hudlin and David Hill. On Saturday, Rock, unveiling a new promotion for the broadcast, called the ceremony “The White BET Awards.”

The academy didn’t respond to messages left yesterday.

When Oscar nominations were announced Thursday, Isaacs acknowledged she was “disappointed” that all 20 acting nominees were again white and promised to "continue the conversation" on diversity.

HOLLYWOOD

Calls for boycott of Oscars grow over diversity of nominees

In a lengthy Instagram post, Lee said he ‘cannot support’ the ‘lily white’ Oscars

Isaacs has worked to diversify membership for the academy, which a 2012 study by the Los Angeles Times found is overwhelmingly white and male.

But on Monday, Isaacs was more explicit and promised an examination of the academy and a more intense drive to diversify.

“This is a difficult but important conversation, and it’s time for big changes,” she said in a statement released Monday night. “The Academy is taking dramatic steps to alter the makeup of our membership. In the coming days and weeks we will conduct a review of our membership recruitment in order to bring about much-needed diversity in our 2016 class and beyond.”

Many awards handicappers expected nominations for Idris Elba of “Beasts of No Nation” and Benicio Del Toro for “Sicario.” The N.W.A. biopic “Straight Outta Compton” also failed to earn a best picture nomination, despite some predictions it would. Ryan Coogler’s acclaimed Rocky sequel “Creed” scored only a nomination for Sylvester Stallone. (Lee’s own movie, the Chicago gang violence hip-hop musical “Chi-Raq” — celebrated by some and scorned by others — also went unnoticed.)

The hashtag “OscarsSoWhite,” created last year, was quickly resurrected online following the nominations. Rev. Al Sharpton — who last year met with former Sony head Amy Pascal following leaked emails that some viewed as racist — on Friday launched the academy.

“Hollywood is like the Rocky Mountains, the higher you get the whiter it gets and this year’s Academy Awards will be yet another Rocky Mountain Oscar,” said Sharpton.

In his post, Lee made it clear the Academy Awards is only part of the problem in a industry with deep-rooted diversity issues. In his Governors Awards speech, Lee said “It’s easier to be the president of the United States as a black person than be the head of a studio.”

“The Academy Awards is not where the ‘real battle’ is,” wrote Lee on Tuesday. “It’s in the executive office of the Hollywood studios and TV and cable networks. This is where the gate keepers decide what gets made and what gets jettisoned to ‘turnaround’ or scrap heap. This is where the real important.”

“The Academy Awards is not where the ‘real battle’ is,” wrote Lee on Tuesday. “It’s in the executive office of the Hollywood studios and TV and cable networks. This is where the gate keepers decide what gets made and what gets jettisoned to ‘turnaround’ or scrap heap. This is where the real important.”

AP

USA-AUSTRALIA

Obama, Turnbull to meet today at White House

President Barack Obama is welcoming his first foreign leader of the new year, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, for talks that will cover the Islamic State militant group and a 12-nation Pacific Rim trade agreement that includes their countries.

Other global, regional and bilateral issues are also on the agenda for meetings the White House says will cover the “extraordinary breadth” of the U.S.-Australian alliance.

Turnbull is on his first visit to the U.S. since taking office last September. Obama will welcome him to the Oval Office before continuing their talks over a working lunch. Last week, as Turnbull prepared for the trip, Australia said it was among 40 countries being pressed by the U.S. to boost their military contributions in Iraq and Syria against the Islamic State after the deadly terrorist attacks in Paris in November. But Australia told the U.S. that its commitment would remain largely unchanged.

Obama and Turnbull held their first formal meeting since Turnbull’s election on the sidelines of an economic summit in Manila in November. Obama said after that meeting that they had discussed the fight against extremism, as well as the need to increase international pressure on the Islamic State group.

Obama also praised the U.S. alliance with Australia. “One of the things when we speak to our Australian partners is there are very few things we disagree on,” he said in November.

Turnbull said in Manila that Australia will continue “shoulder to shoulder” with the U.S. in the mission against the Islamic State group.

Defence Secretary Ash Carter and Turnbull met yesterday at the Pentagon. They reviewed recent developments in Iraq and Syria, and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook.

AP
“PRINT” – ART PROJECT
Time: 12pm-7pm
(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)
Until: February 21, 2016
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Admission: Free
Enquiries: (853) 2835 0026

GeGeGe MEMORIES: COMIC EXHIBITION
Time: 10:30 am to 6:30 pm
(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
Until: January 31, 2016
Venue: Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, 10, Macau
Admission: Free
Enquiries: (853) 2835 4582

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY – PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CAULDERLOT
Time: 10am-7pm
(No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
Until: June 19, 2016
Venue: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
Admission: MOPS
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
Enquiries: (853) 8791 9814

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE
Time: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)
Venue: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7
Admission: Free
Enquiries: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

THE MAGNIFICENT PALACE – IMPERIAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY
Time: 10am-7pm
(No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
Until: March 13, 2016
Venue: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
Admission: MOPS
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
Enquiries: (853) 2836 7588

MACAU ARTS WINDOW – MEMORIES AND SYMBOLS – MULTIMEDIA BY KITTY LEUNG
Time: 10am-7pm
(No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
Until: February 14, 2016
Venue: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
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CINEMA

THE SH WAVE
room 1
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: John Bailey
Starring: Chloé Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson, Maika Monroe
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 112min

THE 5TH WAVE
room 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Joe Wright
Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson, Maika Monroe
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 127min

SHERLOCK: THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE
room 3
2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Douglas Mackinnon
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman, Una Stubbs
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 98min

IP MAN 3
room 3
7.30 pm
Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun
Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 110min

MACAU TOWER
14 Jan – 19 Jan

THE SH WAVE
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: J Blakeson
Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson, Maika Monroe
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 112min

2002 Camp X-Ray
PICS SPARK OUTRAGE
The publication of photographs of prisoners being held at a US military camp in Cuba has led to concern that there are abuses of human rights. The Pentagon has released the pictures showing the detainees kneeling and subjected to sensory deprivation on their arrival at Camp X-Ray, which is housed in a military base at Guantanamo Bay.

Ric O’Barry is the former dolphin trainer for the “Flipper” TV series and star of dolphin-killing film The Cove.

The film shows the slaughter of dolphins herded into a cove in the coastal fishing village of Taiji. It was banned entry early today. Immigration officials say it is their policy not to comment on individual cases. O’Barry’s lawyer Takashi Takano says he has appealed the decision.

He said immigration officials at Namba airport say O’Barry is not a tourist, the visa he was using to enter Japan. O’Barry told Takano that the officials accused him of having close relations with anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd, which O’Barry denies.

In context
In 2006, following the 11 September terrorist attacks which killed nearly 3,000 people, the US launched a military campaign in Afghanistan.

The objective was to remove the Taliban regime, which harboured al-Qaeda and its leader Osama Bin Laden who later admitted carrying out the attacks.

In April 2001, Camp Delta replaced Camp X-Ray and became the permanent facility to hold detainees, who were given cells with solid walls and proper facilities.

At its peak in 2003, Guantanamo Bay held 680 prisoners from around 40 countries - nine of them from Britain - and more than 100 have been released.

The majority have been held without charge.

In 2004, hearings began so detainees could challenge the rules under which they are being held and determine if their detention is legal.

Also, military tribunals, similar to criminal trials, began for some detainees who have been charged with war crimes and conspiring to commit terrorism.

Allegations of abuse of prisoners have continued to surface from previous detainees and human rights groups, which say detainees were hung in chains, deprived of sleep, subjected to sensory deprivation and solitary confinement.

The United Nations investigator has called for the closure of the prison which Amnesty International campaigners have compared to a Soviet labor camp.

Even the UK, a strong American ally, has asked for the camp to close, saying it fuels Islamic radicalism.

Offbeat

STARR OF DOLPHIN-KILLING FILM DETAINED AT JAPAN AIRPORT
The star of an Oscar-winning documentary about dolphin killings in Japan has been detained by immigration authorities at an airport near Tokyo.

Ric O’Barry is the former dolphin trainer for the “Flipper” TV series and star of “The Cove.” The film shows the slaughter of dolphins herded into a cove in the coastal fishing village of Taiji. It was banned entry early today. Immigration officials say it is their policy not to comment on individual cases. O’Barry’s lawyer Takashi Takano says he has appealed the decision.

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**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

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**Gemini**
May 21-Jun. 21

Your dreams make you stand out today — but that’s okay. Just make sure that you’re not too peppy, or someone with more intense energy may push right back! Express yourself clearly.

**Leo**
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your family needs you — and that’s okay. Just make sure that everything goes both ways! Give someone what you need, maybe), and you should find that things start to get better and better for all of you.

**Libra**
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

It may be time for an inventory — or a house-cleaning! If you can handle the stress of a yard sale, you may find that you can get ready for that move that may be coming up, and defray its costs.

**Sagittarius**
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Keep up the inward pressure — you know that your energy is slightly out of whack, but if you don’t keep up the thinking and introspection, you never know what you might miss out on later.

**Aquarius**
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You can’t quite put your finger on it, but you know that you need to deal with your ambitions today. It may be time for you to step up and ask for that promotion — or change careers entirely.

**Taurus**
Apr. 20-May 20

You are feeling protective of someone — maybe to the point of madness! Just let it go as much as you can and learn from your feelings. Sometimes you don’t have to act to get what you want.

**Cancer**
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Are you feeling nervous about something? No! You should only agree to things that seem absolutely right at the get-go, even if people are pushing you and it’s hard to refuse.

**Virgo**
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Pay attention! If you’re not really listening to what others have to say, you may miss out on some important clues. Life could be really easy for you, but only if you’re open to the truth.

**Scorpio**
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Inner strength is a vital ingredient right now — and you have more than you need! You may resist others’ attempts to save you and ensure that your voice gets heard by the right people.

**Capricorn**
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your friends are rock-solid today — but that’s okay. Just make sure that they may push right back! Express yourself clearly.

**Pisces**
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You can’t quite figure out what’s going on with your interior life today — at one point, you know just what is going on with your exterior life today. If you handle the stress of a yard sale, you may find that you can get ready for that move that may be coming up, and defray its costs.

**CROSSWORDS**


Aries — April 20-May 20

You are feeling protective of someone — maybe to the point of madness! Just let it go as much as you can and learn from your feelings. Sometimes you don’t have to act to get what you want.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Simmons

**SUDOKU**

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Policing — Open line 993

Electricity — Report 28 339 992

Customs 28 559 994

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) 28 326 320

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

**WEATHER**

**CHINA**

Beijing -10 -2 smoggy/cloudy

Harbin -26 -17 cloudy

Tianjin -8 0 clear/cloudy

Urumqi -14 -10 cloudy/flurry

Xi’an -3 2 flurry/overcast

Lhasa -5 -7 cloudy/overcast

Chengdu 6 8 drizzle

Chongqing 7 9 overcast/drizzle

Kunning 2 18 clear

Nanjing -4 4 cloudy/sleet

Shanghai 0 5 cloudy/overcast

Wuhan 0 4 overcast/drizzle

Hangzhou -1 6 cloudy/overcast

Taipei 13 18 drizzle

Guangzhou 11 14 drizzle

Hong Kong 15 17 cloudy

**WORLD**

Moscow -11 -9 furry

Frankfurt -7 3 overcast/clear

Paris -3 0 furry

London -2 3 overcast/furry

New York -7 -3 furry
Pacha Macau Opens at Studio City

MACAU’S FIRST cinema-themed integrated entertainment facility, retail outlet and gaming resort has welcomed over 2,000 guests to the opening party of Pacha Macau.

The Ibiza-styled club kick-started the weekend’s celebrations with a “Welcome to Macau” party, featuring a special performance by Ibiza veteran and Pacha resident, DJ Sebastian Gamboa.

The club hosted an exclusive grand opening event which included a performance by the famous Colombian-American producer and record label owner DJ Erick Morillo.

Pacha received a number of prominent guests from Hong Kong and Macau including JD Clayton, Property President of Studio City, along with special guests who flew from New York especially to welcome the opening of Pacha.

Pacha’s first club in Greater China intends to make its mark as the first mega-club in the region, confirming its growing status as among the world’s largest global nightclub brand. With a capacity that can reach 3,000 partygoers, Pacha aims to raise the competitive stakes even higher in the dynamic Asian entertainment industry.

Guests can expect state-of-the-art audio/visual facilities including digital mapping and specialized lighting systems to boost the customer experience on the 1,000 sq. ft. dance floor, and in four private luxury KTV VIP suites and a spacious outdoor patio.

Eddie Dean, Pacha NYC President & CEO and Managing Director for Pacha Macau (Right), and Liam Dwyer, Technical Director for Pacha Ibiza and Francisco Ferrer, Managing Director Pacha Ibiza celebrate the opening with a champagne toast.

Eddie Dean, Pacha NYC President & CEO and Managing Director for Pacha Macau (Right), and Liam Dwyer, Technical Director for Pacha Ibiza and Francisco Ferrer, Managing Director Pacha Ibiza celebrate the opening with a champagne toast.

DJ Erick Morillo commands the dance floor.

Guests enjoying celebrations throughout the night at Pacha Macau’s Grand Opening event.

Pacha Cherry dancers performing to guests.

From left to right) Eddie Dean, Marta PlanellsLucendo, Pacha Franchises Director, JD Clayton, Property President Studio City, Liam Dwyer, Tony Prats, Technical Director Pacha Ibiza and Francisco Ferrer, Managing Director Pacha Ibiza celebrate the opening with a champagne toast.

(From left to right) Francisco Ferrer, DJ Erick Morillo and Tony Prats enjoying the party vibe.

From left to right) Eddie Dean and Marta Planells Lucendo, celebrate the Grand Opening Special event with a giant Pacha cherry cake.

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Pacha’s NYC President & CEO and the Managing Director for Pacha Macau, Eddie Dean, says that they are thrilled by the response and feedback from the grand opening attendees. “We aim to offer the best nightlife experiences to party-goers in Asia with that unique Pacha flair and spirit. This is just the beginning of many more incredible parties to come!” he noted.
VERDASCO SENDS NADAL OUT IN 1ST ROUND OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Rafael Nadal lost to Fernando Verdasco in the first round of the Australian Open, an unprecedentedly early exit at Melbourne Park for the four-time Grand Slam winner and a reversal of their epic, 5-hour, 14-minute semifinal here six years ago.

Fernando Verdasco rallied from a 2-1 deficit to win the last two sets, recovering a break in the fifth as well, claiming a 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-7 (6), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 2-0, only his third victory in 17 matches against his fellow Spanish left-hander.

Nadal won his only Australian title in 2009 after beating Verdasco in the semifinals. His only other first-round exit in a major was at Wimbledon in 2013 when he lost in straight sets to No. 135-ranked Steve Darcis of Belgium.

"It’s a hard and painful loss," the fifth-seeded Nadal said. Verdasco went for everything on his ground strokes, ripping 90 winners against only 37 for Nadal as he worked to the extremes to unsettle his former No. 1-ranked rival.

"To win against Rafa here coming from two sets down is unbelievable," the 32-year-old, No. 45-ranked Verdasco said. "I think I played unbelievable—the fifth set from the break that he made me, just started hitting winners. I don’t know how, just, you know I was closing the eyes and everything was coming in and I keep doing it and I was doing well."

A winning service return from Verdasco ended the match in 4 hours, 41 minutes.

"Well I think 2009 was maybe the only day in my life that I hit 5 hours," Verdasco said, looking at the clock beside the court to compare it with their semifinal meeting. "It was 35 minutes shorter today—I did the same."

"I just think that it should be tennis that does a better job of explaining ... (players) shouldn’t have to read it in the press," Murray said. "You have to be proactive I think with things like this and go and speak to the players rather than them reading about it in the newspapers or listening to it on the TV or the radio."

The BBC and Buzzfeed News published reports Monday alleging match-fixing had gone unchecked in tennis. The reports alleged 16 players, all ranked in the top 50 at some stage and half of them playing at the Australian Open, had repeatedly raised suspicion because of their results and had been flagged with tennis authorities, but had not been sanctioned. No players were identified.

The governing bodies for tennis rejected the claims, and highlighted the fact five players and an official had received life bans after investigations from the Tennis Integrity Unit which was set up in 2008.

Murray, like Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, thought authorities could be doing more to combat the potential for corruption. Murray also said it was "a little bit hypocritical" for tournaments — including the Australian Open — to be sponsored by betting firms.

Murray has reached the final four times in Australia but lost every time, including last year to Djokovic. Murray had Amelie Mauresmo, a new mother, back in his coaching corner this week and was happy not to get any mid-match news from home. He has said he’ll leave immediately if his wife, Kim, goes into labor in London with their first child.

No. 13 Milos Raonic followed up his win over Roger Federer in the final of the Brisbane International tune-up event with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 win over Lucas Pouille. Joining him the second round will be No. 6 David Ferrer, No. 10 John Isner and No. 18 Feliciano Lopez.

On the women’s side, No. 3 Caroline Garcia beat Ame-""

TENNIS

Cristiano Ronaldo says Zidane has raised Real Madrid spirits

REAL Madrid has trai-""
Aquaponics

Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture for growing fish and hydroponics for growing plants that is often used in old factory buildings in cities. It is something to consider for Macau to use up old factory spaces and help to diversify the economy.

When I was a postgraduate student in the 1990s I spent many hours in the library poring through printed indices of journal articles, then completing inter-library loan forms to get copies of the articles I was interested in, and waiting weeks for the copies to arrive. It was a very long-winded process that is now totally obsolete. Just do a simple google.com or youtube.com search for aquaponics and you can find out more than you ever want to know about this interesting technology in just a few seconds.

The growth and evolution of the Internet in the last 40 years has totally changed learning.

I really like highly efficient sophisticated systems where the waste output from one process is transformed into the input for another, and aquaculture is a very good example of this. It is a cycle which can start anywhere, but let us start with the fish for convenience.

They are fed with meal made from ground up vegetable and protein and once grown can be harvested for human consumption. The waste from the fish tanks consists of particulate and dissolved nitrogen (in the water). The particulates (uneaten fish meal and faeces) is eliminated from the system, to be used as a good traditional garden fertiliser. By contrast, the ammoniated water is pumped to a bio-filter where common bacteria and algae convert the ammonia to nitrates and nitrates, which are excellent plant foods. This nitrogen rich water is then used to grow plants without soil - most plants can be grown in inert pebbles bedded with flowing nitrogen rich water. After being used by the plants, the water can be returned to the fish tank for re-use. The full nitrogen cycle can be harvested for human consumption. Finally, leftover vegetables can be composted with worms to be made into fish meal, thus starting the cycle again.

If this system is well designed and tuned very few (if any) additional chemicals are needed so that aquaculture can be considered a form of organic farming. Even the water is used in a closed loop.

In Macau we have a lot of leftover food that can be readily transformed to make fish food (or conventional garden fertiliser). When used with an aquaponics “factory”, the fish meal can be utilized to grow high quality fish and plants for human consumption. These aquaponics factories can be set up in obsolete factory buildings in Macau.

Nature’s sunlight is also not an issue because artificial lighting is often used in this kind of system. In this way the plants can be exposed to 24+ hours of “daylight” each day to speed up their growing cycle. Moreover, photovoltaic panels combined with batteries can be used to renewably generate the electrical power needed for the artificial lighting (and to run the water pumping subsystems).

Thus, the main inputs to the system are low quality disused factory space, low value leftover waste food and free sunlight and the outputs are high quality “organic” fish and plants ready for traditional garden fertilizer. Don’t you love this kind of efficiency? And I am sure it would work in Macau, like it does in many cities in the developed world and in developing countries like Thailand, the Philippines and China.

Tennis stars ask why is courtside gambling OK?

Andy Murray finds it “hypocritical” that tennis authorities are trying to stamp out match-fixing run by gambling syndicates but have partnered with a major gambling company that is now advertising on the Australian Open’s show courts.

The two issues are separate but have collided at this year’s Australian Open, where tennis was overshadowed for a second day yesterday by allegations that match-fixing has gone unchecked in tennis.

The controversy ignited this week when the BBC and BuzzFeed News published reports alleging that the sport’s highest authorities had ignored evidence of match-fixing involving 16 players who had been ranked in the top 50 over the past decade. The report said that half of those players were at this year’s Australian Open but did not name names.

The governing bodies for tennis have presented a unified front in rejecting the claims, and highlighted the fact that five players and an official had received life bans after investigations from the Tennis Integrity Unit which was set up in 2008.

No. 2-ranked Murray and other top players, including Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, say authorities could be doing more to combat the problem. The players said they have known the issue existed but they doubt any top players have been involved.

Murray said the sport was sending mixed messages by allowing betting company William Hill to become one of the Australian Open’s sponsors this year and advertise on the tournament’s three main show courts.

For the first time at Melbourne Park, electronic advertising boards at Rod Laver Arena, Margaret Court Arena and Hisense Arena display the name “William Hill” during breaks in play, “I’m not really pro that,” Murray, a four-time finalist in Melbourne said yesterday, after advancing to the second round.

“I think it’s a little bit hypocritical,” Murray added. “You know, because I don’t believe the players are allowed to be sponsored by betting companies, but the tournaments are. I don’t really understand how it all works. I think it is a bit strange.”

A day earlier, No. 1-ranked Djokovic called it “borderline.”

“It’s a fine line. Honestly, it’s on a borderline,” Djokovic said. “Whether you want to have betting companies involved in the big tournaments in our sport or not, it’s hard to say what’s right and what’s wrong.”

Tennis officials defended the partnership with gambling sponsors and provided an explanation that one Australian paper, The Age, called “positive tops-pin.”

The world’s oldest man, a Japanese, died yesterday at the age of 112 after suffering chronic heart problems, officials said.

Yasutaro Koide had said his secret to a long life was not to smoke, drink or overdo it.

Koide, who was born on March 13, 1903, died two months short of his 113th birthday. Koide worked as a tailor for 77 years before retiring at the age of 90.

He moved to the northern Japanese city of Akita when he was 112 after suffering from heart problems.

Koide was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world’s oldest man last August.

IRAN has successfully transferred some of its frozen assets in a bid in order to ensure that financial sanctions have been fully lifted in accordance with a historic nuclear deal, the head of the central bank said yesterday.

SOUTH KOREA toughened its aviation security law in the aftermath of the notorious nut rage incident involving a top airline executive. The transport ministry said the revised law went into effect yesterday, more than a year after a Korean Airlines vice president’s tantrum over macadamia nuts delayed a flight.

MYANMAR: Members of the Rakhine ethnic group have shown just how far two young volunteer teachers who were raped and murdered in a case they believe highlights sexual violence to government soldiers. A report on the assault was released yesterday after a memorial service was held in Yangon for Tanzanian Nan Tain and Maran Lu Ria, who were attacked a year ago.

INDIA: Shouting slogans and holding placards, hundreds of students yesterday angrily protested the death of an Indian student who, along with four others, was lashed from using some facilities at his university in the southern tech-hub of Hyderabad.

INTERNET: Some Twitter users said they woke up early yesterday after sporadic outages knocked the social media site offline in Europe. Reports of malfunctions began to appear in the US as well, but it was unclear how widespread the outages were. Twitter Inc., which has 330 million active users, tweeted that it is aware of the issue and is trying to fix it. Users said the service was not accessible on desktop computers.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Visar Kryeziu

Cold mountain. Migrants are reflected in a puddle of water as they walk from the Macedonian border into Serbia, yesterday, bracing cold temperatures on their journey further north towards Western Europe.