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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



TAIWAN's outgoing president and his successor emphasize the need for a smooth transition of power amid a slowdown in the island's high-tech economy and uncertainty over sensitive relations with China. *More on p11*

MONGOLIA A rare public protest in Mongolia's capital draws thousands of demonstrators who criticize foreign mining concessions and demand action to prop up the tottering economy. *More on p13*



JAPAN Regulators approve the use of a giant refrigeration system to create an unprecedented underground frozen barrier around buildings at the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant in an attempt to contain leaking radioactive water.

AFGHANISTAN At least 15 members of the Afghan security forces are killed in a gunbattle with the Taliban in volatile southern Uruzgan province, an official says.

ASIA Softer growth prospects for China and a weak recovery in major industrial economies are expected to push down economic growth in developing Asia to 5.7 percent this year and next, the Asian Development Bank says. *More on p9*

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TRINDADE EXCLUSIVE

'Cutting number of tourists not the solution'

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Macau parents not likely to rally behind ban on tackling

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Daniel Beittler

ENVIRONMENT

Trindade: 'Macau doing poorly' on

ANTÓNIO Trindade is the CEO of CESL Asia, a solutions company specializing in environmental infrastructure, energy, facilities management and urban planning. He met with the Times ahead of the Macau International Environment Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF), which kicks off today aiming to facilitate discussion on some of Macau's most pressing environmental concerns, to discuss his outlook on energy consumption, waste management and what the MSAR can do to step up its game.

For António Trindade, who heads the Association of Environmental Protection Industry, "Macau is facing new challenges under the economic adjustment and some of those relate to how we can

manage our environment.

"We, as a company and as a group of organizations, need to communicate with other companies in Macau, the public community at large, as well as other the local entities, to find solutions to some of the existing problems."

One of the founding members of MIECF, Trindade starts to explain the importance and impact of the forum.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – What is the relevance of this year's conference?

António Trindade (AT) – It actually brings out so much value by bringing people to-

gether to discuss these issues. They are not boring, technical issues; they are day-to-day things that everyone relates to in their regular lifestyles or at work. Because that is exactly what the environment is about. It is about life, about life cycles, and the quality of that life.

That is what the conference is about, aside from its actual theme, which is mostly about zero waste and innovation. Zero waste, to me, is not an objective; it is a consequence of a high quality of life.

MDT – According to your assessment, how is

Macau performing in terms of waste management, energy consumption and improving environmental standards?

AT – Macau is doing poorly. Poorly because we are polluting and poorly because this pollution means that we are not growing [in terms of quality of life].

Pollution is an indicator of deterioration and limitation of life. Societies that create so much waste are putting themselves in unsustainable situations, as at some point you will reduce more value than you can create.

We are actually polluting

when we try to increase capacity without addressing the process. In the case of the water treatment plant, for example, why build another one before the first is efficiently handling waste?

Another example is in automobiles. In Macau you cannot just add more automobiles into the system, you need to also take into account newer models that are more energy-efficient, with cleaner combustion [to replace the older ones].

We are transferring problems from today to ten years from now. Ten years on are we still going to request our

2014 environment results 'still unsatisfactory'

THE Times took a look at the Environmental Protection Bureau's (DSPB) "Report on the State of the Environment of Macau: 2014", the latest year for which the report was available, ahead of the Macau International Environment Cooperation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF) 2016 which will begin today.

The report assesses resource consumption and waste generation and their polluting effect on Macau's environment, concluding that, despite the improvement in environmental infrastructure and promotion of public awareness undertaken by the government, "the results are still unsatisfactory."

An introductory message to the report, authored by Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, guaranteed that "environmental protection is one of the priorities of [the] government", and pledges to focus on "environmental education and [the] promotion of public awareness, with the vision to



improve the quality of life of residents."

The DSPB report indicated that the atmospheric environment of Macau improved in 2014 when compared with previous years – particularly in terms of air quality and emissions reduction of greenhouse gases.

However, the continuous urban and social pressures exerted by the economic development on the Pearl River Delta Region have outwei-

ghed this improvement through an increase in the volume of water consumption and waste generation.

According to the report, in 2014 electricity generation in Macau amounted to more than double what it was 15 years earlier, in 1999 at the time of the handover. It grew by 5.6 percent in 2014, when compared with a year earlier, rising to a total of 4,469 million kWh.

Billed water consumption registered a similar increase, up by 6.4 percent from 2013.

On the other hand greenhouse gas emissions were reduced slightly, and waste transferred to Macau's Refuse Incineration Plant for treatment increased, with most of the growth occurring between 2011 and 2014.

Waste transferred at the facility grew at its steepest rate since it was put

into operation in 2008, observing a year-on-year double-digit growth of 15.3 percent, according to the report, implying an improvement in consumer or business attitudes to recycling.

However, the report stressed, "in just six years [of operation] the rapid increase in quantity of waste in Macau has already occupied nearly 50 percent of the newly-added treatment capacity of the Macau Refuse

Incineration Plant."

Alarmingly the bureau found that in 2014 urban waste per capita in Macau was more than double that compared with Beijing and Shanghai, and nearly six times that of Taipei.

Therefore, in the DSPB environmental assessment waste management was marked as "unsatisfactory", alongside electricity consumption, billed water consumption and visitor arrivals, taking into consideration the low starting base and GDP growth of 2014, which reduces the relative impact of an increase in waste recycling by comparison.

A supplementary letter from Vai Hoi Ieong, Director of the Environmental Bureau, warns that there exist "certain environmental conditions [that are] failing to meet expectations and [are] worthy of concern."

On the other hand the Director notes that, with the cooperation of the public, private corporations and the MSAR government, a low-carbon and green future of Macau can be realized. **DB**

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waste management, energy consumption

neighbors to collect our rubbish? Or are we still going to request our neighbors to clean our wastewater? Or to send us more electricity and pollute themselves more [in the process of doing so]?

What we really need is a localization of solutions and this is genuinely hard work. That doesn't mean using local technology, it means using local abilities to deploy the best possible knowledge and resources. And the best possible are not [necessarily] the most sophisticated or the latest.

■ **Societies that create so much waste are putting themselves in unsustainable situations, as at some point you will reduce more value than you can create**



MDT - What is your assessment on the government's action or inaction? Does the government regard this as a priority?

AT - I think that the government has made progress but... I want realistic thinking. The problem with the government is that they are doing things the way that they were done or were supposed to be done 20 or 30 years ago. They are certainly not up-to-date and their approaches – and even their results – are not suitable in meeting the challenges of today.

I don't think that the government regards it as a priority. Even the Legislative Assembly is talking about it, but it is still in the stage where everyone talks about it and everyone has an opinion on it – like me – but the fact is that there exists no solution yet.

Therefore while the government has valuable opinions, they have no solutions.

Remember though, that this will not be solved by outside people [from outside of Macau]. Outside people, outside knowledge and outside capacity can certainly contribute a lot, but local leadership, local implementation and local long-term commitment is required.

MDT – Do you think that there is a place in Asia or elsewhere that can serve as an example to Macau?

AT – The point is like this: Macau was the example in Asia 20 years ago. When we were doing our wastewater treatment plant, Macau was one of the first cities doing with worldwide.

Outside of Japan, we were the first the have a waste-to-energy plant! Before Singapore, before Taiwan, before China.

At that time we had thousands of visitors from everywhere. I mean in government positions: presidents, prime ministers, party secretaries and mayors all came to see what Macau was doing.

Today we have lost this edge.

I have to caution however, that we cannot find a solution through an example.

Macau is rich so we can buy whatever from wherever in the world... this is not the issue. The issue is why are we buying things without knowing first if they are applicable here. And who is going to use them? How are we going to get people to use these systems?

What can be learned from an example elsewhere is will-

power: the motivation of the people to find a solution.

MDT – If people are not coming to Macau to observe anymore, where are they going these days?

AT – I have no idea... but you have certain good examples in China, and you have good examples in different places in the world. The fact is, nowadays, when you look at developed solutions that might fit Macau you can never simply transfer them here.

You can draw a lot from Hong Kong and Singapore, but the only thing you can really transfer is the drive and the willpower to do better.

Of course, when Macau is looking to learn and get inspiration for these sorts of projects and solutions we would need to look at a country at a similar level of social development and with similar characteristics as Macau, for example, as an island [or peninsula].

MDT – Can people's behavior and approach to cleaner environmental practices be changed through education?

AT - Yes, I believe this to be the case.

Actually, I noticed that the

secretary for public works [and transport] said that: 'I myself go to drop my waste in the recycling.' But after hearing that I realized that at the back [of the recycling process] there is no infrastructure to take care of it.

I realized that education in itself may be a huge step forward, but the lifestyle cannot be changed only with communication. There is also a need for innovation, collaboration, and participation from all sectors of society.

MDT – Do the 80,000 to 90,000 average daily tourists in Macau have a significant environmental impact?

AT – Here is the issue: We are not going to punish the tourists when they come here to visit. After all we invited them in the first place!

Actually the tourists are here to improve wealth for us so that we can do better [in terms of improving our environment]. In turn we are going to provide them with a better experience, and this will also provide us with a better quality of life as well.

Cutting the number of tourists is not the solution, however there are other solutions

such as in infrastructure. If the tourists are coming just to Cotai, then instead of bringing them from the border gate, why not bring them [straight] from Hengqin? This is a better approach and produces less waste, less transportation and less pollution.

Another example is in NAPE. When you go to NAPE you can see so many buses parked there. Why are they there? They are there because the shops are nearby, so of course the buses will [congregate] there. The solution is not to simply change the type of vehicle, it also requires urban planning.

MDT – Are large companies and casino operators having a positive or negative impact on the environment, and can they do better?

AT – Can they do better? Yes, but better in what sense? That is the real question.

I think that they have made a big contribution to Macau – positive in a lot aspects, I would say most – and I don't think that anyone would ask them to contribute even more...

I suppose that they will [eventually] do better because if they don't then their competitors will overtake them.

MDT – Do you see a lot of wastage when you walk through the hotels and casinos?

AT – Yes! Because of the nature of [their] economic production... which is changing as their revenues are falling. Since the casinos are motivated by profit too, they will [at some point] start to look at their efficiency.

They will find a way to become more efficient and it will reduce the waste created. That's where I expect the motivation will come from.

MDT – Is waste a by-product of luxury?

AT - That's the issue... but I don't think so. If you formulate your business in that way then you will be out of business very quickly! I am not pointing fingers however a lot of the waste in Macau originates here, for example food waste.

But luxury is not always wasteful, or doesn't have to be. Actually the most developed societies tend to produce far less waste than those in the development stage because once they reach sophistication waste can become resources. Waste is not the end-product.

Chief cooperation



Macau is seeking further cooperation with cities in the Yangtze River Delta regarding the training of researchers in scientific fields, said the Chief Executive during the second day of his visit to Jiangsu Province. Such cooperation would help advance the region's economic competitiveness, Chui Sai On stated. Cooperating with Changzhou Prefecture would help Macau materialize its vision for moderate economic diversification. "The two places had complementary strengths," Chui noted during his meeting yesterday with the Secretary of the Changzhou Municipal Committee of the CPC, Yan Li.

Jiangsu and Macau civil servants reciprocal visit program

Local civil servants are to visit Jiangsu next year, following a bilateral governmental program recently signed between Macau and Jiangsu. The local government has signed the first civil servants' visiting program with the Jiangsu province. Kou Peng Kuan, director of the Public Administration and Civil Service, revealed that the government will select 10 to 20 early-career staff from the civil service team to visit Jiangsu. The first experimental trip will be conducted within the social work department, according to Kou.

Portuguese-speaking countries' food product center opens today



The Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Products Exhibition Center opens today. Exhibitors hope that the center will be a way into the Mainland Chinese market, the Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) revealed. The institute presided by Jackson Chang also stated that "food," as a basic element in life, is always a good way to start developing a business relationship and create other opportunities. This new center will be located in the Tap Seac Glass House, with the intention of showcasing a wide variety of products from the most common wines, olive oils and canned food to increasingly popular baby food.

Austrian art until Sunday

The exhibition "One Century of Austrian Art 1860-1960" hosted by the Museum of Art (MAM) will be coming to an end this Sunday. Featuring 89 masterpieces by pivotal Austrian artists of the 19th and 20th centuries, the exhibition depicts a hundred years of the most stunning progress of Austrian paintings, which enables viewers to appreciate iconic works by big names in the history of European art. A trilingual exhibition guide App is available free of charge. The evolution of the Art Nouveau movement highly popularized across Europe and North America at the end of the 19th century is considered the most influential large-scale artistic revolution after the Renaissance. The Vienna Secession is one the most important streams of the movement, which has engraved a fascinating chapter in the art history of the period. The exhibition entirely focuses on this eventful century.

PRC eases visas for travellers to Macau, HK

CHINA'S Ministry of Public Security has introduced a new measure for some categories of mainland citizens to apply for exit-entry permits to visit Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan, Macao Daily News reported yesterday.

The new system allows some Chinese visitors to apply for a visa under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) through the mainland China cities where they currently live instead of having to do so in their home town, as was previously required.

The system, which will take effect tomorrow, implies that the applicant holds a 'residence permit' for the place of their current abode.

However, the ministry says that not all domestic migrants will take advantage of the IVS scheme as it will only be available in cities above county level that issue residence permits to domestic migrant workers.

The 'hukou-free' appli-



cation rules do not apply to other types of outbound visa applications such as Shenzhen residents seeking multiple-entry IVS permits to go to Hong Kong; or to any mainland China resident applying for permanent residency in Taiwan.

As the Times reported

yesterday, the Macau government is not seeking an increase in visitor arrivals from the mainland nor "actively requesting" the expansion of the IVS policy.

Casino industry investors have been paying more attention to trends and developments in the IVS as the spending power of these

visitors are more likely to be higher than mainland tourists arriving on package tours. Such visitors are also apt to spend more at casino tables and slots.

The number of mainland Chinese travelling to Macau under the scheme fell 11.5 percent year-on-year last month. **Staff reporter**

Local companies expand in Zhejiang province

EARLIER this week, a local company, Hang Hou Macau, signed a contract with Anji county in Zhejiang to invest RMB3 billion into the province and thus strengthen trade and the economic relationship between the two cities, Journal Va Kio reported.

The contract establishes that Anji will provide 1.45 square kilometers of land for the development of a cross-border e-commerce zone and an industrial zone for clothing. Upon completion, the waterfront of the Anji harbor will be extended from the current 400 meters to 1,100 meters.

With this investment, the company expects to expand its business in Anji, and also hopes to make the area the top inner ferry terminal in China.

Statistics show that 342 Macau companies have invested in Zhejiang province. Imports and exports between the two regions reached USD180 million last year, four times more than 2014. Hang Huo Macau, also known as Hang Huo Enterprise Group, was founded 22 years ago by Yan Yanling, a member of the standing committee of the CPPCC national committee and member of the Economic Committee of Macau. Anji County is in the prefecture-level city of Huzhou, in Zhejiang province. **Staff reporter**

Sou Tim Peng resigns, deputy director anointed

THE director of Economic Services (DSE), Sou Tim Peng, has resigned, with deputy director Tai Kin Ip ready to be appointed to the position from April 5, according to information released yesterday by the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

During an interview with local media, Secretary Lionel Leong informed that Sou Tim Peng asked for his resignation to be accepted about one year ago, expressing his desire to leave the civil service.

"He hoped to retire earlier," Leong said, adding, "I tried to persuade him to stay, but I respect his desires and therefore I accepted his resignation," he

said as cited by TDM.

Sou Tim Peng joined the civil service team in 1985, and has been the director of DSE for 17 years, since the handover in 1999.

According to Leong, the director gave enough years of service to earn an early retirement, claiming that "Sou's resignation represents an ordinary change in personnel, and the DSE will continue to operate as usual."

The soon to be director, Tai Kin Ip, began his service in the DSE in 1995. In 2009, he was promoted to deputy director. Since 2010, Tai has been a member of the Investment Committee of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM). **Staff reporter**



Sou Tim Peng

Daniel Beitler

CHILDREN'S RUGBY

Macau parents not likely to rally behind ban on tackling

RUGBY, a sport sometimes regarded as notorious for injuries, has recently come under fire in the UK after a group of more than 70 academics, physicians and medical experts wrote an open letter to politicians demanding an end to tackling in the under-18s version of the sport.

The call has ignited a debate in the country over the merits of tackling in children's rugby and over the severity and likelihood of young people sustaining severe injuries when playing the competitive sport.

An excerpt from the open letter listed injuries including "fractures, ligamentous tears, dislocated shoulders, spinal injuries and head injuries," and said that such damage "can have short-term, life-long and life-ending consequences for children."

Allyson Pollock, a professor of public health research and policy at Queen Mary University of London, told the BBC, "The risk of injury can be as high as 28 percent for a child playing in a season, and they can also have an 11 percent chance of being concussed, and these injuries are serious."

But opponents argue that tackling is a central and defining feature of the game and that if necessary precautions are taken, the risk of injury can be minimized. The argument stands in contrast to the high rates of injury raised by Pollock, suggesting that if precautions can be taken, they are currently not being taken in the UK.

The debate is likely to expand outside of the UK to other countries where rugby is an established and popular sport, such as in France or Italy.

In Macau, rugby has enjoyed a surge in popularity in recent decades. However, according to the Times' research, there is little support for any ban on tackling in under-18s rugby, with a broad consensus existing between rugby players and organizers and local physicians.

"Of course any medical study [like the one in the UK] is always something that needs to be taken seriously," said Ricardo Pina, President of the Macau Rugby



Association.

"But I think the contact in mini-rugby – or kids' rugby – is as safe as any sport, and there are ways to increase protection and minimize risk," added Pina.

The Macau Rugby Association coordinates and organizes local rugby clubs and events, including children's clubs. They say that the sport has become increasingly popular in the last few decades – not just in Macau, but worldwide – prompting rugby-related organizations to focus on reducing severe injuries and the negative image surrounding them.

"World rugby in the last 10 years has tried to minimize injuries," said Ricardo Pina. "Even the way that scrums are played today is completely different to how it was when I started."

Luis Heredia, one of the founders and a former President of a children's rugby association, the Macau Bats Rugby Club, agrees with Pina. He stated that the sport is developing in such a way to reduce and minimize injuries.

"We have had about 60–100 kids playing rugby in Macau over the last decade and sometimes there are one or two cases that become a big issue, but not very often. In my experience I didn't see the kids experience the same impacts [and injuries] as the seniors," commented Heredia, adding that "children go in stages and are gradually [acclimatized] to the game."

Indeed, a study funded by the Australian Rugby Union and World Rugby, conducted by the University of NSW, found that injuries among juniors were much more rare than among adults.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the Rugby Union Injury Surveillance Study analyzed the game at various levels between 2004 and 2008 and discovered that under 18's were less than half as likely to suffer injury than senior suburban players. Injury incidents decreased among younger groups.

In order to celebrate 20 years of rugby in the MSAR, the Ma-

■ Rui Furtado believes that the proposal is "nonsense," despite the fact that Furtado himself sustained a "non-serious" knee injury

cau Rugby Union and the children's club presented a rugby festival and competition earlier this month at The International School (TIS) of Macau. The competition invited Hong Kong's Valley Rugby Football Club to play in a friendly match.

Hong Kong has also seen growing interest in the sport as vibrant and energetic youth associations have sprung up since the 1980s. Today the Hong Kong Mini Rugby Football Union has grown to include some 20 active clubs made up of over 4,600 children under the age of 12.

The organization's website demonstrates a similar attention to safety as was repeatedly stressed to the Times by Macau-based counterpart organizations. It boasts a gradual "age grade pathway easing [the children] in from modified touch rugby to the contact form of the game by the time they reach [under nine] level."

"I can imagine there are some people with concerns," Luis Heredia said, in response to being

asked about the movement to ban tackling. "It is a sport that is growing fast now, and obviously there are some that can get injured like with any other sport [such as] soccer, hockey and basketball."

Dr Rui Furtado, a local physician and the President of the Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians, believes that the proposal to ban tackling in children's rugby is "nonsense," despite the fact that Furtado himself sustained a "non-serious" knee injury while he was playing the sport competitively from high school to senior level.

"It required surgery," he said, "but I refused. So the suggestion was not to play anymore, and I gave [it] up."

"The sport can cause trauma, and severe trauma in some cases, but [rugby] coaches take special care. If this is well done, there are no special injuries normally," Furtado explained, adding that in his experience injuries are very uncommon in Macau.

Asked about the prevalence of injuries in children's rugby in the UK, Furtado said that what makes a rugby-related incident more or less probable is somewhat dependent on the nature of the competitive spirit.

"When the player is more important than the team, injuries are scarce," he said. "Rugby in places like the UK can be taken very seriously, and when the team is [regarded as] more important than the individual players, injuries can occur."

The Times also contacted Centro Medico Pedder, a healthcare clinic in Macau, which deals with sports injuries, among other ailments. A specialist said that they would be unable to comment on the issue or about rugby-related injuries in general "due to the uncommonness of the topic."

Ricardo Pina concurred that injuries are rare. Since he became President of the Macau Rugby Association over two years ago, Pina said, "We haven't had any serious injuries to kids – even the senior [rugby players] have not yet had any broken bones."

He added that, to his knowledge, parents have not approached the organization or the local kids' rugby clubs to express their concerns since his tenure began, although after the UK proposal was made public he admits that he had anticipated such anxieties.

Rui Furtado does not think that parents in Macau will rally behind the proposal to ban tackling in children's rugby: "You only play rugby if you love it, right?"



Ricardo Pina



Luis Heredia



Local physician and President of the Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians, Rui Furtado

AL PLENARY

Secretary Tam pledges to solve social security fund dispute

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) discussed matters related to the social security fund and public concerns about sports facilities yesterday.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam announced that the government has pledged to solve the dispute between employees and employers concerning social security payments.

Lawmakers pointed out that the current social security contribution ratio has been the same since 1998, which, if maintained, could jeopardize the whole social security system. According to the lawmakers, the contributions depend mainly on taxes collected from the gaming industry. In addition, the lawmakers questioned whether Social Security has been using the money from the contributions.

Alexis Tam replied that the social security revenue is secure. The current surplus stands at MOP14.4 billion, while the total revenue reached MOP54.1



Alexis Tam

billion last year.

“Employees and employers have yet to reach an agreement on the contribution ratio,” Tam revealed, also saying that the government is in talks with both parties.

Lawmaker S.K. Mak asked Alexis Tam when the government will finalize the social security actuary work, and also inquired as to what the government meant when they said that the social security funds are in line with the current economy.

“If the economy slows down, will you give more or less money to people?” questioned S.K.

Mak.

In response, the secretary advised the assembly that, regarding the social security funds of 2015, the actuary work will be wound up by the first quarter of 2016. The relationship between the economy and the social security payments was left unanswered.

As to the public sports facilities, the lawmakers noted that the location of the facilities does not provide for an acceptable situation for physical activity. The lawmakers requested the social affairs department to open more school sporting facilities to the public, pressing for a schedule to be revealed as to when the negotiations are to be settled.

“We are now in talks with several schools so that they can join the public sports facilities program. Hopefully, the University of Macau can open up their sports complex and other facilities to the public very soon,” the secretary replied.

Staff reporter

3Macau announces 4G LTE coverage expansion

LOCAL telecommunications operator, Hutchison Telephone (Macau) Company Limited (3Macau) announced yesterday that its 4G LTE network now covers more than 95 percent of all outdoor areas in Macau. 3Macau also revealed they will be increasing their 4G data entitlement for all 4G customers from 15 to 57 percent.

The network has also unveiled the new “3G Macau – Hong Kong Unlimited Data Plan,” enabling customers to use unlimited roaming data usage while in Hong Kong. The roaming service has also

been extended to cover tourism hotspots in a total of 25 countries.

In a media luncheon organized by 3Macau, CEO Ho Wai-ming claimed that 3Macau’s 4G subscribers have been increasing and the company is continuing to work on improving the 4G indoor coverage area.

“We have been dedicated to enhancing the mobile communications experience we offer our customers. Market response to our 4G LTE service launch last December gives rise to optimism, and the number of 4G subscribers has increased,” he said.



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A U.N. task force recommended a major overhaul of the General Assembly president's office yesterday [Macau time] following the embarrassing arrest of an ex-president accused by U.S. authorities of turning the post into a "platform for profit" by accepting over USD1 million in bribes.

A sharply critical report by the task force said the General Assembly president's office operates in an environment of "significant loopholes and blind spots," with a lack of financial oversight, "insufficient transparency and accountability measures," and no code of ethics. It paints a picture of an operation with no continuity that changes every year with the arrival of a new president of the 193-member world body at the start of their one-year term.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ordered a review after the arrest last October of John Ashe, who served as assembly president from September 2013-September 2014. U.S. prosecutors allege he accepted bribes from Macau's real estate mogul Ng Lap Seng and other businesspeople who have also been arrested to pave the way for lucrative investments. Ashe, a former foreign minister of the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbados, has pleaded not guilty.

The task force said the allegations against Ashe have "tarnished the image and reputation"

NG LAP SENG & FRIENDS

UN task force urges overhaul of Assembly president's office following bribes



Ng Lap Seng (center) leaves federal court with attorney Benjamin Brafman (right) following his release on bail in connection with a U.N. bribery scheme

of the United Nations and urged the General Assembly to undertake major reforms of the president's office.

It made 18 recommendations including calling on the world body to adopt a code of conduct for presidents, requiring disclosure of all funds received by the president's office from all sources, ensuring that private individuals and businesses that want to make contributions are screened, and

establishing a new post to provide continuity between presidents.

The task force also suggested the appointment of an oversight body to review the handling of financial and staffing issues.

At the heart of the problem is the fact that the president of the General Assembly is not a United Nations employee and the U.N. only funds about five positions in the president's office. Its operating budget has remained static

since 1998 except for adjustments for inflation, and now stands at \$326,000.

This means all additional financial and staff needs of the president have been met by voluntary contributions of money, personnel, airplanes for travel and other in-kind services from various donors including governments, U.N. bodies, foundations and non-governmental organizations, the task force said.

Ban said in a letter transmitting the report to the current assembly president that he agrees with the task force's conclusions and recommendations. He has also ordered an audit, which is due shortly.

The current assembly president, Mogens Lykketoft of Denmark, has already instituted some reforms. He said in a statement that an assembly committee would discuss the report on April 7.

The lack of transparency and the absence of a system of checks and balances, which exist elsewhere in the United Nations, "impacts on the nature and level of accountability of the president and the office and presents a risk to the organization," the task force said.

Because there are no reporting requirements, it said, the General Assembly doesn't know "the total magnitude of financial resources" used by the president — nor the size of his staff.

It said the allegations against Ashe offer the opportunity for U.N. member states "to strengthen the transparency, accountability and effectiveness" of the president's office so that it operates "beyond reproach."

"The task force believes that this is an opportunity that the organization cannot afford to miss," the report said. AP

2016MIECF
Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition
2016年澳門國際環保合作發展論壇及展覽

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31/03-02/04/2016

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Highlights of the Official Events		
31/3/2016 (Thursday)		
10:00 - 11:30	Opening Ceremony for 2016MIECF Keynote Speech: Professor Dr. h.c. Walter R. Stahel	The Venetian Ballroom
11:00 - 18:30	Green Showcase (Trade and Professionals Only) & Green Matching Green Forum, Green Business Co-operation Day and Green Business Networking Cocktail Reception & Signing Ceremony	Expo Hall A
14:00 - 15:30	Session 1 "Zero Waste and High Efficiency" - Blue Ocean Strategy for Business Success	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
16:00 - 17:30	Session 2 "Turning Green into Gold" - Green Business Opportunities for the Hospitality Industry	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
17:38 - 18:30	Green Business Networking Cocktail Reception & Signing Ceremony	Expo Hall A
1/4/2016 (Friday)		
09:00 - 18:00	Green Showcase (Trade and Professionals Only) & Green Matching	Expo Hall A
Green Forum		
09:30 - 12:00	Session 3 "From Waste to Resources and Rewards" - The Roadmap towards Circular Economy	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
09:30 - 11:30	Session 4 "Building With Less" - Sustainable Waste Solutions for Green Construction	Sicily Room (2403-2504)
14:00 - 14:45	Special Session with Prof. Dr. h.c. Walter R. Stahel: Enhancing Waste Management through Internet Plus	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
14:30 - 17:30	Session 5 Green Chemical Forum - Treatment of Chemical Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste	Sicily Room (2403-2504)
15:15 - 17:00	Session 6 Pan Pearl River Delta Region Session - Solid Waste Management Policies and Technology in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
2/4/2016 (Saturday)		
09:00 - 17:00	Green Showcase & Green Matching	Expo Hall A
10:00 - 17:00	Green Public Day & Eco-Market Macao	Expo Hall A

2016MIECF Green Forum - Keynote Speaker

Professor Dr. h.c. Walter R. Stahel

- Pioneer in Circular Economy, Inventor of the "Cradle to Cradle" and "Performance Economy" concepts
- Founder-Director, The Product-Life Institute, Geneva
- Full Member of the Club of Rome
- Vice-Secretary General and Director of Risk Management research of the Geneva Association
- Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Surrey, UK
- Laureate of the Mitchell-Price Competition on sustainable societies in Houston, TX, USA and first prize in the competition of the German Future's Society, Berlin

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Programme of Seminars & Presentations
Venue: Expo Hall A - Green Business Matching Area

31/3/2016 (Thursday)

14:30-15:00 Management Approach of Recycling Supply Chain
15:30-16:00 AVA Battery Technology & Clean Emissions Technology for Bus
16:30-17:00 Introduction of a New Eco Packaging that Save the Environment and Save the Cost

1/4/2016 (Friday)

09:30-11:00 Technical Seminar on New Technologies in Concrete Inspection, Repairs and Waterproofing
11:30-12:30 Sludge Treatment Process and its Utilization / Innovative Applied Technology for the Sludge Dehydration - the Combination of Energy Efficiency, Recovery and Reutilization
14:30-15:00 Environmental Analysis under BEAM
15:30-16:00 Municipal Solid Waste Treatment Plant with Materials Recycling and Energy Production
16:30-17:00 Introduction of emco entrance matting system

2/4/2016 (Saturday)

10:00-11:00 The advantage of HDPE pipe in dealing with the situational problems that Macao facing
11:30-12:00 Water Recycling System for Food and Beverage
12:30-13:00 HKGBC Green Product Accreditation and Standards (HK G-PASS)
13:15-13:45 Introduction to the Innovative Bio-Refineries Industrial Processes and Products

Programme of Concurrent Events
Venue: Sicily Room

2/4/2016 (Saturday)

10:00-11:00 The 1st Macao Maritime Session: Marine Functional Zoning and Development Planning
14:00-18:00 International Forum on Green Economy Opportunities

Technical Visit - Local Residents Only

2/4/2016 (Saturday)

11:00-12:00 Macao Refusa Incineration Plant

For application and information details, please visit the official website www.macaomiecf.com/miecf2016 or DSPA website www.dspa.gov.mo (Limited Capacity, First-come-first-served)

Hotline:
8798 9675

Venue: The Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel

Remarks: Please refer to the program of the above activities at www.macaomiecf.com for more updated details.

GAMING

Adelson names son-in-law as CFO of Las Vegas Sands

LAS Vegas Sands Corp. named Patrick Dumont, son-in-law of top shareholder Sheldon Adelson, as its chief financial officer.

The appointment fills a vacancy left open since July 2013, when Kenneth Kay stepped down from the role. "Patrick has been providing strong leadership to the financial function and handling the principal duties of the CFO role very effectively for some time," Adelson said in a statement yesterday.

Adelson has been predicting a turnaround this year in Sands' Macau business, its largest unit, after a sharp decline in betting by high rollers following a Chinese government crackdown on corruption.

The billionaire has also proposed building a USD1 billion stadium in Las Vegas that could house a professional football team, saying it would bring more visitors to the city. Sands shares are up 20 percent in 2016.

Dumont will get paid \$1.2 million in base salary and is eligible for a bonus of as much of 100 percent of his annual pay. He was also granted options for 650,000 shares. It was Dumont that – according to American media – put together the deal to buy the Las Vegas Review-Journal for \$140 million at the behest of his father-in-law.

Kenneth Kay became CFO of MGM Holdings Inc. last year. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Steve Wynn's ex-wife files bid for control of stock

Ken Ritter, Las Vegas

A battle of billionaires is brewing on the Las Vegas Strip, with casino mogul Steve Wynn's ex-wife alleging boardroom recklessness as she asks a court to give her control of company stock that she left in his hands five years ago.

Elaine Wynn filed court documents this week seeking access to more than USD900 million worth of stock and providing an inside glimpse at her ex-husband's dealings with Kazuo Okada, a former business partner with whom Wynn Resorts Ltd. has waged a legal battle since 2012.

"Ms. Wynn raises these issues reluctantly," the court filing said.

The documents fault Steve Wynn for fostering a "tone at the top" that has punished Elaine Wynn since their divorce for making inquiries as a top stockholder and board member before her ouster last year.

"He has engaged in reckless, risk-taking behavior, leaving himself vulnerable to allegations of serious wrongdoing," the filing said.

Steve Wynn responded with a statement deriding the 68-page court filing as "unbecoming of a longtime director, significant shareholder and



Elaine Wynn

mother." He called it the product of a "disappointed ex-wife" seeking to tarnish his reputation and that of the publicly traded company.

"This lawsuit is filled with lies and distortions and is an embarrassment to Ms. Wynn and her counsel," the statement said. "This is simply an attempt to inflict personal pain on Mr. Wynn."

In the court document, Elaine Wynn said she agreed in January 2010 to let Steve Wynn control her nearly 10 percent holdings of Wynn Resorts stock "to help her partner of 41 years and the father of her children" protect Wynn Resorts and their mutual interests from Okada and his company, Aruze USA Inc.

The shareholder agreement is no longer needed, she said, because Wynn Resorts redeemed Aruze shares in February 2012 for some \$1.9 billion.

The filing says Elaine Wynn, 73, fought last year to stay on the Wynn Resorts board and protect her nearly 10 percent shareholder interest. Steve Wynn's shareholdings are almost 12 percent, according to reports.

"As is now clear, Mr. Wynn is misusing the ... stockholders agreement to exert full and perpetual control over his former wife's life and legacy," the lawsuit said.

Steve Wynn countered that Elaine Wynn never raised her concerns during dozens of board meetings she attended over six years, or during a proxy fight last year trying to regain her board seat.

Wynn Resorts executive Michael Weaver issued a statement calling Elaine Wynn's allegations "simply not true" and a rehash of "previous, unfounded statements made during her proxy campaign."

Steve Wynn, 74, developed The Mirage, Treasure Island and Bellagio resorts, which are now owned by MGM Resorts International, before building the Wynn Las Vegas resort, Encore at Wynn Las Vegas and Wynn Macau.

The Wynns married in 1963 at age 21, divorced in 1986, remarried in 1991, and divorced again in 2010, according to the filing in Clark County District Court. Steve Wynn remarried in 2011.

Forbes magazine puts Steve Wynn's worth at \$2.7 billion, and Elaine Wynn's worth at \$1.5 billion. **AP**

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ELECTRONICS

Foxconn agrees to buy Japan's Sharp Corp. at reduced price

Johnson Lai, Taipei

THE Taiwanese company that assembles Apple's iPhones agreed Wednesday to buy control of financially struggling Sharp Corp. for USD3.5 billion in the first foreign takeover of a major Japanese electronics producer.

The acquisition by Foxconn unites Sharp, a pioneering electronics brand founded in 1912, with a company six decades younger that is little known to consumers but has grown rapidly as a contract manufacturer for global brands.

The commitment by Foxconn, also known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., to buy 66 percent of Osaka-based Sharp followed weeks of uncertainty over what the Japanese company said was a deal at a higher price.

"I am thrilled by the prospects for this strategic alliance and I look forward to working with everyone at Sharp," said Foxconn founder Terry Gou in a statement. "We have much that we want to achieve and I am confident that we will unlock Sharp's true potential and together reach great heights."

The price of 389 billion yen was a reduction of 100 billion yen, or about 20 percent, from the 489 billion yen (\$4.4 billion) that Sharp said Feb. 25 that Foxconn had agreed to pay. The Taiwanese company said at that time it wasn't ready to sign a deal.

The companies gave no reason for the change but news reports suggested Foxconn was concerned about taking on additional liabilities it



Foxconn, also known as Hon Hai Precision Industry, spokesman Simon Hsing announces the approval of the purchase of a controlling stake in Japan's Sharp Corp. during a press conference at the Taiwan Stock Exchange Corp. in Taipei

learned about late in negotiations.

Speaking to reporters at the Taipei stock exchange, a Foxconn board member, Tai Jeng-wu, was asked what the company's strategy was for reversing Sharp's losses. He said plans called for the Japanese company to "upgrade its technology" but gave no details.

Foxconn said a final agreement is due to be signed Saturday.

Foxconn, founded by Gou in 1974, is the biggest competitor in the global manufacturing outsourcing industry. It assembles smartphones and other devices for Apple, Sony, Blackberry and other brands. Most of its operations are in mainland China, where its vast factories employ more than 1 million people.

Foxconn earned \$4.2 billion in profit for 2014, the last year for

which it has reported results.

Sharp, which started out making mechanical pencils, is a pioneer in hand-held and flat-screen electronic devices. It was known for its Aquos flat-panel TVs and Internet-connecting cellphones long before the arrival of iPhones in Japan. But its finances deteriorated as competition from Asian rivals drove down prices of LCD panels.

Sharp suffered a 108 billion yen (\$964 million) loss over the nine months through December. Analysts say its future is uncertain even with the takeover because of challenges in restructuring its consumer electronics operations.

Smaller Japanese electronics brands including Sansui, Nakamichi and Akai also have been purchased by foreign buyers. **AP**

ADB says Asia economy to grow 5.7 percent in 2016 and 2017

SOFTER growth prospects for China and a weak recovery in major industrial economies are expected to push down economic growth in developing Asia to 5.7 percent this year and next, below projections, the Asian Development Bank said yesterday.

The gross domestic product of the region, made up of 45 countries, grew 5.9 percent in 2015.

China's economic growth is seen moderating to 6.5 percent this year and 6.3 percent next year, compared to 6.9 percent last year, the ADB report said. Slower exports, a falling labor supply and supply-side reforms are reshaping the world's second-largest economy toward more domestic consumption and a further reduction in excess industrial capacity, it said.

The report said that India will remain one of the fastest-growing major economies, while South Asia is forecast to post the most rapid growth among sub-regions. India's economy is seen expanding by 7.4 percent in 2016, and 7.8 percent in 2017. Last year, India's economy grew 7.6 percent on the back of strong public investment.

South Asia's economic growth is projected to slightly dip to 6.9 percent this year, from 7 percent in 2015, but that is seen to accelerate to 7.3 percent in 2017.

Southeast Asia's economy is set for stronger growth at 4.5 percent this year and 4.8 percent next year, up from 4.4 percent in 2015. The region will be led by its biggest economy, Indonesia, as it ramps up investment in infrastructure and implements policy reforms to spur private investment.

"[China's] growth moderation and uneven global recovery are weighing down overall growth in Asia," said Shang-Jin Wei, ADB's chief economist. Still, the region will continue to contribute over 60 percent of total global growth, he said.

Aggregate growth in the United States, the euro area and Japan will stay at 1.8 percent in 2016 and inch up to 1.9 percent in 2017, the report said.

It also cited a United Nations' projection that growth in the region's working-age population will be lower in 2015-2020 than in 2008-2014, and that demographic effect alone could depress developing Asia's potential growth by 0.4 percentage points. **AP**

corporate bits

STUDIO CITY HELD 'NEVER SAY GOODBYE' CONCERT



S.H.E's "Never Say Goodbye" concert was held on Saturday at the Studio City Event Center (SCEC). Known as the "Asia Girl Group," S.H.E reunited for the very first time since

2014 to perform on stage in Macau, and kicked off their first overseas show with a selection of greatest hits from across their 15-year career.

SCEC's stage has welcomed numerous global and regional musical icons including global superstar and one of the biggest selling female artists of all time Mariah Carey, "Queen of Pop" Madonna, Asia's King of Dance Aaron Kwok and KPOP sensation SISTAR.

The SCEC infrastructure is designed to host live concerts, theatrical and top sports events, as well as award shows and other special gatherings.

CEM TO PARTICIPATE IN MIECF 2016, 'SMART GRID'

Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) has set up an exhibition booth at Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (more on page 2, 3) to share its efforts in environmental protection with the aim of inspiring businesses to contribute to the environment through the normal course of business operations.

According to a press release, CEM's exhibition booth centers on "Smart Grid," which is an electricity network that integrates digital and other advanced technologies, such as sensors, communications and computing, to monitor and manage the transport of electricity from all generation sources.

Smart Grid is said to improve

the security and efficiency of the energy supply chain as well as integrating renewable energies such as photovoltaic power generation and electric vehicles (EV) into the existing power grid, opening up new opportunities for power demand management.

CEM's exhibition booth also has on display the EV charging station currently set up at public car parks, a Smart Home demonstration as well as photovoltaic and wind power generation models.



BELON LAUNCHES 'WEDDINGS IN THE SKY'

Banyan Tree Macau's chic seafood and grill restaurant, Belon, has introduced 'Weddings in the Sky' for its private function spaces perched atop the 5-star hotel.

With panoramic views over Cotai, and multi award-winning European fare and a prestigious wine cellar, Belon is now catering for intimate wedding receptions seating up to 80 people, 120 for cocktail parties, in its private dining enclave.

The restaurant's interior design, complete with grand floor-to-ceiling windows capitalizing on its sky-high location, is a venue that ticks all the boxes for a truly memorable wedding celebration, stated a press release.



The exclusive dining room is served by a team of dedicated professionals and presents personalized menus by Banyan Tree Macau's executive chef, Robby Setiawan, with the added option of floral decorations and a live piano or string quartet – as well as a wedding planner and service team ensuring every detail of the special day is perfectly executed.



AP PHOTO

ENERGY

Sinopec to double natural gas output by 2020 as China shuns coal

Aibing Guo

CHINA Petroleum & Chemical Corp., one of the country's state-run energy giants, plans to ride a wave of new gas discoveries to double annual output to 40 billion cubic meters by 2020 as the country pushes to replace coal with the cleaner fuel.

Sinopec, as China Petroleum is known, will produce 29.5 billion cubic meters of conventional natural gas, 10 billion cubic meters of shale gas and 500 million cubic meters of coal-bed methane by 2020, almost doubling its 2015 gas output of 20.8 billion cubic meters, Chairman Wang Yupu said at a press conference in Hong Kong yesterday.

The 2020 target doesn't include 2 billion cubic meters of annual output from a shale gas production facility in southern Sichuan province that Sinopec will begin building this year, Presi-

dent Li Chunguang said at the same event. The bulk of the company's shale gas output comes from its flagship Fuling field in Chongqing, Li said.

The Beijing-based company, which lost its spot as China's No. 2 oil and gas producer to rival Cnooc Ltd. after cutting output from high-cost fields in 2015, sees natural gas as a more attractive expansion opportunity than crude. A price of USD60 a barrel is needed for all Sinopec oil fields to make a profit, Wang said. Brent crude, the global benchmark, was trading in London at \$39.69 yesterday, up 6.5 percent this year.

China plans to cut coal consumption to 62 percent in the country's energy mix by 2020 and raise natural gas consumption to more than 10 percent, according to China's 2014-2020 energy development strategy released by the State Council. Coal last year accounted for

64 percent of China's total energy consumption, while natural gas accounted for about 6 percent.

Sinopec made several significant natural gas discoveries in China's Sichuan province and the Erdos basin of Inner Mongolia in the past year, Wang said, adding the discoveries will provide strong support for the company's natural gas expansion.

The company will build pipelines and storage sites, as well as facilities to liquefy natural gas, in Sichuan and provinces along the Yangtze River to send gas to end users in populous riverside cities, Wang said.

Asia's biggest refiner reported a 30 percent drop in net income on Tuesday, beating estimates, as its refining business cushioned it from the profit tumbles of its state-owned rivals. PetroChina Co. and Cnooc both saw net income fall by at least two-thirds. **Bloomberg**

HOLLYWOOD

Chinese company to give Dick Cook Studios USD500m for movies



AP PHOTO

Dick Cook (left) chairman of Dick Cook Studios, interviews Alfonso Cuarón, director of science fiction movie "Gravity" and keynote speaker, at the China-U.S. Motion Pictures Summit in northern China's Hebei province

A private film company in eastern China has agreed to invest at least USD500 million in the studio of former Walt Disney boss Dick Cook to make movies to be distributed worldwide, the companies announced.

The deal is the latest tie-up between Hollywood and Chinese companies as China offers overseas producers more investment opportunities and both look to increase their presence in each other's film industries.

Los Angeles-based Dick Cook Studios and Film Carnival, a film producer and distributor located in Zhejiang province, announced the deal in a statement yesterday.

Film Carnival will finance 100 percent of the movies developed, produced, distributed and marketed by Dick Cook Studios. The Los Angeles-based company will also help Film Carnival produce its

own movies in China.

The first movie will be "Ranger's Apprentice," based on a book series and set to begin production in fall 2016. Paul Haggis, who wrote "Million Dollar Baby" and "Crash," will direct the movie, and he also wrote the screenplay along with his daughter, Alissa Sullivan Haggis.

Former Walt Disney Studios chairman Cook established his own company last year with a \$150 million investment from CITIC Guoan, a unit of state-owned conglomerate CITIC Group, to make family entertainment.

Last week, he partnered with CITIC Guoan and the Beijing Film Academy to host the first China-U.S. Motion Picture Summit. The one-day conference near Beijing brought together Chinese and Hollywood producers, scriptwriters and others for panel discussions and networking. **AP**

CORRUPTION

Aide to ex-security czar gets 12 years for bribes

CHINESE state media say a former aide to the country's disgraced security czar has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for taking bribes.

The official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday that Ji Wenlin, former deputy governor of the southern island province of Hainan, was found guilty of taking more than 20 million yuan (USD3 million) in bribes from 2000 to 2013. For part of that time, Ji ser-

ved as an aide to former security czar Zhou Yongkang in the central government before transferring to Hainan.

Zhou is a former member of the ruling Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee, the apex of power in China. Once in charge of the vast security apparatus, he was sentenced to life in 2015 for corruption amid President Xi Jinping's sweeping crackdown on corruption. **AP**

TAIWAN

Outgoing leader, successor pledge smooth transition

Johnson Lai

TAIWAN'S outgoing president and his successor yesterday emphasized the need for a smooth transition of power amid a slowdown in the island's high-tech economy and uncertainty over sensitive relations with China.

President Ma Ying-jeou began his meeting with Tsai Ing-wen by calling her January election victory along with that of her Democratic Progressive Party, a "new milestone" for Taiwanese democracy.

"Chairwoman Tsai is about to become first female president since the establishment of the Republic of China," Ma said. He used Taiwan's official name predating the government's relocation to the island in 1949 as the Communist Party swept to victory in the Chinese civil war.

The victory of the independence-leaning Democrats over Ma's China-friendly Nationalist Party has introduced new uncertainty over whether Bei-

jing will agree to continue expanding contacts.

Tsai, who takes office May 20, has declined to meet Beijing's demand that she explicitly endorse its claim that Taiwan and mainland China are part of a single Chinese nation. She has stated that reviving economic growth and improving social welfare will be the main focuses of her administration, placing relatively little emphasis on relations with Beijing.

In Beijing, the spokesman for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, An Fengshan, said ties would suffer if Tsai didn't endorse the principle recognizing the mainland and China that Beijing terms the "'92 consensus."

"The '92 consensus is the precedent and political foundation stone," An told reporters.

Without mentioning specific issues, Ma said Taiwan "faces many challenges from within and without," which call for cooperation between the ruling and opposition parties.

Tsai thanked Ma for his work

as president and for agreeing to the meeting, which she said came a time of concern over the transition.

"I think the hopes of the people are very clear, that is regardless of the attacks and competition during the election campaign, we can all now ensure that this process of transferring power can be smooth," she said.

While neither directly mentioned relations with China, Ma said he appreciated the Taiwanese people giving him the opportunity over the past eight years to work toward "a free, just and prosperous Taiwan, a peaceful Taiwan Strait and friendly international environment."

Beijing claims the self-governing island of Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. Relations between the two improved under the Nationalists, which governed Taiwan over the last eight years and promoted pro-China policies. **AP**



Taiwan's President-elect Tsai Ing-wen (left) poses with incumbent President Ma Ying-jeou at the official guest house after a courtesy call in Taipei

North Korea threat compels security steps China won't like



People watch a TV screen showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program

Matthew Pennington, Washington

A senior U.S. diplomat said that if North Korea keeps advancing its weapons programs, the U.S. will be compelled to take defensive measures that China will not like.

Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a Washington think

tank that North Korea is getting closer to having a nuclear-tipped missile that could threaten the continental U.S.

He said that while China's influence over the North has diminished, it still has economic leverage.

"If China is looking to assure that we are not required to take additional steps for our

own security and that of our partners and allies that it won't like, the best thing it can do is to engage with us in dealing with North Korea," Blinken told the Brookings Institution.

He spoke ahead of a meeting tomorrow [Macau time] in Washington between President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi

Jinping on the sidelines of a global nuclear security summit, weeks after China agreed to new stiff sanctions against North Korea, in response to its recent nuclear test and rocket launch.

Blinken called for China to take a "lead role" in the implementation of the sanctions.

He said the U.S. is willing to provide to China specifications of a U.S. missile defense system that may be deployed in South Korea to counter the threat of North Korean missiles, to offer assurance it would not undermine China's strategic deterrence.

Both China and Russia oppose the deployment of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system that is under discussion between Washington and Seoul. China has expressed concern that a THAAD system placed in South Korea would allow U.S. radar to also cover Chinese territory. **AP**

30 deals signed during Chinese president's visit to Prague

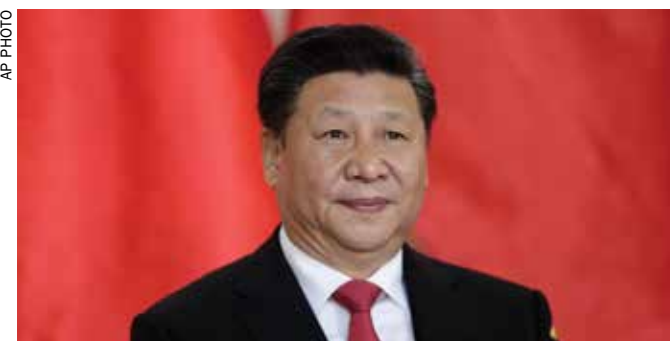
CHINESE President Xi Jinping has wrapped up his trip to the Czech Republic by overseeing the signing of 30 business deals that could bring almost USD4 billion of Chinese investment.

The deals were inked yesterday, a day after Xi signed a strategic partnership with the country that was once a critic of China's human rights record.

Xi's visit is a result of a more business-oriented Czech approach to China than the one that prevailed under the late President Vaclav Havel, a prominent proponent of human rights.

The deals focus on tourism, banking, energy and car making.

His three-day visit prompted a number of protests. Prague archbishop Dominik Duka called on Xi to respect human rights in China during a gala dinner at the Prague Castle. **AP**



Chinese president Xi Jinping

MYANMAR

Democracy takes momentous step with new president

Esther Htusan, Naypyitaw

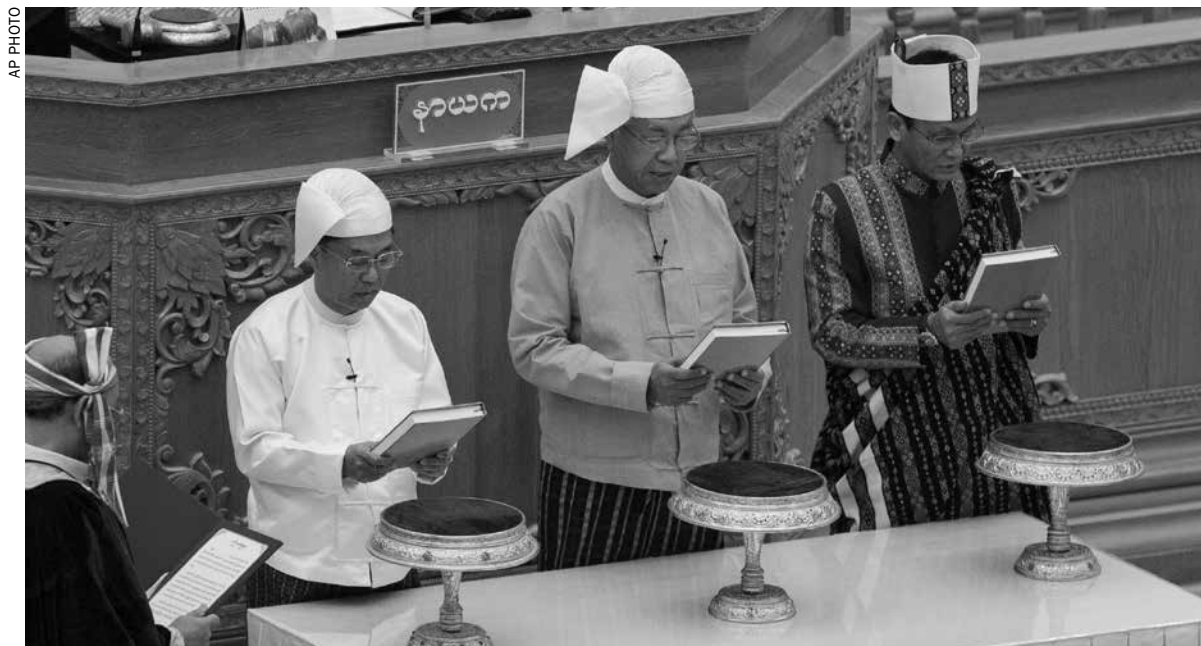
MYANMAR'S slow transition to democracy took a momentous step yesterday as a trusted aide to ruling-party leader Aung Suu Kyi took over as the country's president, officially ending more than 50 years of the military's control over government.

In a day full of ceremony and symbolism, Htin Kyaw was sworn in along with his two vice presidents and 18 Cabinet ministers. Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace laureate and face of Myanmar's pro-democracy movement, takes on a prominent role as the country's new foreign minister and the head of three other ministries.

"The Union Parliament has elected me as president, which is a historic moment for this country," Htin Kyaw, 70, said in a speech after being sworn in. He pledged to work toward national reconciliation, strive for peace with warring ethnic rebels and improving the lives of Myanmar's 54 million people.

While it was a historic day for this impoverished Southeast Asian country, democracy remains incomplete. The military retains considerable power in the government and parliament, and the president himself will play second fiddle to Suu Kyi. She cannot be president because of a constitutional manipulation engineered by the military, and has repeatedly said she will run the country from behind the scenes.

"I am very happy that we have a president who represents people," said Mar Thin, a 50-year-old street cleaner. She said she used to own 70 acres of land that she and her sister inherited from their father before the military kicked them out and appropriated the land for the defense ministry.



Lawmakers from right, Henry Van Hti Yu as second vice president, Htin Kyaw as president and Myint Swe as first-vice president, take oaths during a ceremony in parliament in Naypyitaw

"I hope that the new government can solve the land confiscation problem and let us own our land as farmers. All we want is enough food, and to live without fear. I hope that President Htin Kyaw will do that for us because Daw Suu promised us a lot of things, and we love her too," Mar Thin said, using an affectionate term for Suu Kyi.

I have the obligation to work toward achieving a constitution that has democratic norms and is suitable for the nation.

PRESIDENT HTIN KYAW

Htin Kyaw's swearing-in was held in an austere hall of parliament, with lawmakers dressed in traditional costume. A few hours later, outgoing President Thein Sein shook hands with his successor and handed him a letter and a golden sash, officially transferring power.

It was Suu Kyi who led her National League for Democracy party to a landslide win in November elections, ushering in Myanmar's first civilian government after 54 years of direct and indirect military rule.

Suu Kyi endured decades of house arrest and harassment by military rulers without ever giving up on her nonviolent campaign to unseat them. The constitutional clause that denied her the presidency excludes anyone from the position who has a foreign spouse or child. Suu Kyi's two sons are British, as was her late husband. The clause is widely seen as having been written by the military with Suu Kyi in mind.

She has repeatedly made it clear that she will run the government

from behind the scenes, and in his speech, Htin Kyaw paid obeisance to Suu Kyi.

"The new parliament and new government are formed in accord with the policies of the National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyi," he said, and referred to the party's goal to amend the constitution.

"I have the obligation to work toward achieving a constitution that has democratic norms and is suitable for the nation," Htin Kyaw said. "I want to tell the new government, we must constantly try to fulfill the hope and will of the people of this country. I wish all citizens of this country a successful and peaceful life."

The constitution, drafted by the former junta, reserves 25 percent of the seats in parliament for military officers, guaranteeing that no government can amend the constitution without its approval. The military also heads the Home Ministry, the Border Affairs Ministry and the Defense Ministry, which gives it control over the corrections department, ensuring that the release of po-

litical prisoners is its decision to make.

The military also ensured that one of Htin Kyaw's two vice presidents is a former general, Myint Swe, a close ally of former junta leader Than Shwe. Myint Swe remains on a U.S. Treasury Department blacklist that bars American companies from doing business with several tycoons and senior military figures connected with the former junta.

As Htin Kyaw was sworn in, Suu Kyi sat in the front row watching. The same pledge was simultaneously read by First Vice President Myint Swe and Second Vice President Henry Van Tio. After a 20-minute tea break, 18 members of Htin Kyaw's Cabinet, including Suu Kyi, took a joint oath of office read out by the speaker.

The speaker then announced the portfolios of the 18 ministers. Suu Kyi will head four ministries — foreign, education, energy and the president's office.

Despite her inability to become president, Suu Kyi's entry into the government is a remarkable turn of fortune not only for her, but also for the country, which had been under iron-fisted military rule for decades beginning in 1962. The junta kept Myanmar in isolation and economic stagnation while refusing to listen to international counsel or home-grown demands for democracy.

Suu Kyi came to prominence in 1988, when popular protests were building up. The junta crushed the protests, which had turned into anti-government riots, killing thousands of people and placing Suu Kyi under house arrest in 1989.

The junta called elections in 1990, but refused to hand over power when Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, or NLD, won overwhelmingly. Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize a year later while under house arrest.

The junta finally started loosening its grip on power in 2010, allowing elections that were won by a military-allied party after the NLD boycotted the polls as unfair. Thein Sein, a former general, was installed as president for a five-year term that started March 30, 2011, and ended yesterday. **AP**

AVietnamese court has sentenced three women who held up the flags of the defeated U.S.-backed South Vietnam to up to four years in prison on charges of spreading anti-state propaganda, media reported yesterday.

The women were convicted of holding anti-state banners, the flags and chanting anti-state slogans outside the United State diplomatic mission in Ho Chi Minh City

VIETNAM

Court jails three women for waving flags of former South

in July 2014, Thanh Nien newspaper reported.

Their trial lasted half a day. Ngo Thi Minh Uoc, 57, got four years, and Nguyen Thi Tri and Nguyen Thi Be Hai, both 58, were given three

years in prison by the People's Court in Ho Chi Minh City.

The newspaper said the three were also given two years of house arrest after serving their sentences.

It quoted the verdict as

saying their action was "very serious, infringing on national security, distorting, instigating, causing suspicion and mistrust of the people in the [Communist] Party and state."

Such open defiance of the government involving waving the flags of former South Vietnam in the former capital of Saigon is extremely rare.

The three women previously had been fined

for disturbing public order by participating in illegal protests, it said.

The sentences came a week after a court in Hanoi sentenced a prominent blogger to five years in prison for posting anti-state writings.

International human rights groups and the U.S. and other governments often criticize Vietnam for jailing dissidents, but Hanoi maintains that it only punishes only those who break the law. **AP**



Thai soldiers march while changing positions with fellow soldiers on a street in Bangkok

Nattasuda Anusonadisai,
Bangkok

THAILAND

Junta chief gives military broad new police-like powers

THAILAND'S junta chief has given the military broad new police-like powers to arrest and detain criminal suspects, in an unannounced move that rights groups criticized yesterday as a recipe for human rights violations.

The decree Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha issued late Tuesday night comes amid a wider crackdown on civil liberties. Authorities the same day charged a woman with sedition for posting a Facebook photo of herself holding a red plastic bowl that was deemed too politically charged.

The order, published in Thailand's Royal Gazette under the title "Suppression of wrongdoings that could threaten Thai economy and society," gives soldiers in the army, navy and air force who are ranked sub-lieutenant and

higher the power to summon, arrest and detain suspects in a wide range of crimes for up to seven days.

The soldiers can act against people suspected in 27 different types of crime, including extortion, human trafficking, robbery, fraud, forgery, defamation, debt collection, gambling, prostitution, loan sharking and tour guide services. It says the soldiers are appointed "crime prevention and suppression officers" and anyone ranked below sub-lieutenant can act as their assistants.

Prayuth, the former army chief, invoked the powers under a law he enacted after leading a May 2014 coup that gives him as junta chief near-absolute authority without any accountability. The law, known as Article 44, allows Prayuth to take any measures deemed necessary to promote public order and unity. Rights groups say Article 44 is essentially martial law in all but name.

"There are people whose behavior and wrongdoings are considered crimes. They threaten the country's economy and society," the order says. Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan was quoted by The Bangkok Post as saying that soldiers would also act as interrogators and were taking on the new role because there were not enough

police to tackle crime.

Brad Adams, the Asia director of Human Rights Watch, called the move "a recipe for abuse, not greater peace and order."

"By erasing the line between the military and the police, Prime Minister Prayuth has further reinforced his dictatorship and guaranteed more blatant human rights abuses, increased numbers of civilians being tried in military courts, and further impunity for soldiers to do whatever they want whenever they want," he said.

Since toppling an elected government in the 2014 coup, Prayuth has restricted freedom of speech, barred public protests and relentlessly pursued critics by detaining journalists, academics and other perceived dissidents at military bases for so-called "attitude adjustment." The junta says criticism could destabilize the nation, which it says needs unity after almost a decade of sometimes violent political conflict.

On Tuesday, a 57-year-old woman in northern Thailand was arrested and charged with sedition for posting a photo of herself holding a red plastic bowl inscribed with a New Year's greeting from two former prime ministers, siblings Yingluck and Thaksin Shinawatra, according to Human Rights Watch. A mi-

litary court in Chiang Mai released her on 100,000 baht (USD2,800) bail pending a military trial. If found guilty, Theerawan Charoensuk could face up to seven years in prison.

"The Thai junta's fears of a red plastic bowl show its intolerance of dissent has reached the point of absolute absurdity," said Adams. "It's clear that the end of repression is nowhere in sight."

A Thai journalist who is one of the junta's prominent critics, Pravit Rojanaphruk, said he learned yesterday that the junta will not allow him to leave the country in May to attend a conference in Finland on World Press Freedom Day.

He posted the news on Facebook, along with a tweet from Finnish Ambassador to Thailand Kirsti Westphalen: "The Embassy of Finland regrets Thailand government decision to forbid [Pravit] to travel to Helsinki to attend World Press Freedom Day."

Pravit was twice detained for "attitude adjustment" while working for The Nation newspaper, which ultimately asked him to leave because of pressure from the junta.

A government spokesman, Sansern Kaewkamnerd, said he was not aware of the ban against Pravit but, "if it's true, it must be related to national security." **AP**

MONGOLIA

Thousands rally in Ulaanbaatar over foreign mining concessions

Arare public protest in Mongolia's capital yesterday drew thousands of demonstrators who criticized foreign mining concessions and demanded action to prop up the tottering economy.

More than 2,000 demonstrators in Ulaanbaatar's Freedom Square also called for parliament to be dissolved and a new government formed over alleged corruption and the economic crisis battering the vast, landlocked nation.

Protesters say the mineral wealth that accounts for 94 percent of the nation's exports has been exploited by foreign companies, with few benefits going to Mongolia's 3 million people, one-third of whom live in poverty.

"Our wealth is shipped outside of the country. Where is that money going?" former wrestler and opposition lawmaker Battulga Khaltmaa asked the crowd assembled by an umbrella group of small political parties and civil society organizations known as Ethical Mongol.

Battulga was particularly critical of the terms extended to Anglo-Australian miner Rio Tinto PLC to develop the USD5.4 billion Oyu Tolgoi copper mine. Talks on expanding the mine have bogged down over the government's demand for more revenue.

Battulga and others also criticized efforts to revive the Tavan Tolgoi coal project, alleging that members of around two dozen influential families with ties to both ruling Mongolian Democratic Party and opposition Mongolian People's Party stand to benefit the most from the deal through their ownership of shares in the Hong Kong-listed Mongolian Mining Corp.

"This business-political group ... has already swallowed its brother, democracy," said Erdenechimeg Luvsan, a Democratic Party lawmaker.

Protesters carried banners reading "Tavan Tolgoi is public property" and "Whatever happened to democracy?"

Parliament last year blocked a proposed deal with an international consortium led by Chinese state-owned mining company Shenhua and Mongolian Mining Corp. and Japan's Sumitomo.

New parliamentary elections are scheduled for June, but critics say the rules will ensure re-election for lawmakers with mining interests in both the ruling and opposition parties.

The global slump in commodity prices has pummeled Mongolia's economy, impoverishing thousands of former herders who had moved to its few cities looking for jobs. China, which receives almost 90 percent of Mongolia's exports, also has an economy that is slowing sharply, further eroding demand for copper, coal and other exports. Foreign investment in the country has practically disappeared.

Economic growth is set to fall below 1 percent this year, down from 17.5 percent earlier in the decade.

Protesters also criticized the arrest by Mongolia's anti-corruption body of several of Battulga's associates, saying it was politically motivated. **AP**

By erasing the line between the military and the police, PM Prayuth has further reinforced his dictatorship and guaranteed more blatant human rights abuses.

BRAD ADAMS
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC

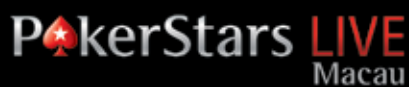


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BELGIUM

Ninety remain hospitalized week after Brussels bombings

BELGIAN authorities say 90 people remain in hospital, 49 of them in intensive care, one week after suicide bombers killed 32 people at Brussels' airport and a subway station.

Belgium's victims identification team and Health Ministry say in a joint press conference yesterday that the 32 dead include 17 Belgians and 15 foreigners. They say 30 of the most seriously wounded people are being treated for burns, while 44 foreigners from 20 nations are among the injured.

Ine Van Wymersch, a spokeswoman for the Belgian prosecutor's office, says investigators believe 32 will be the final death total unless any of those hospitalized perish from their injuries. Three suicide bombers also killed themselves in the attack. **AP**



A soldier jumps out of an army truck outside Zaventem Airport in Brussels

TERRORISM

French leader abandons plan to strengthen state of emergency

Sylvie Corbet

FRENCH President Francois Hollande has decided to abandon a bill that would have revoked citizenship for convicted terrorists and strengthened the state of emergency because of a deadlock in parliament.

In a rare address to reporters following the weekly Cabinet meeting, Hollande said yesterday he had no choice. France's two houses of parliament disagree on the bill and a compromise "seems out of reach," he said. "I very much regret that attitude."

He had submitted the two proposals days after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris that left 130 people dead.

The Socialist president's proposal to revoke the



French President Francois Hollande

citizenship of convicted terrorists who had dual nationalities prompted a heated political dispute, with the far right applauding the idea while some on the left denounced it as a divisive measure.

Opponents of the measure say it would create two classes of citizens — dual nationals who could lose their French citizenship

and French citizens who cannot — in opposition to the principle of equality set out in France's constitution.

The rule could not be applied to people who are French citizens only, as France's obligations under international law prevent it from leaving a person stateless.

The same bill aimed at

introducing the state of emergency into France's Constitution in order to adapt the state of emergency to a long-term threat.

Under the current law from 1955, the state of emergency lasts 12 days and can be extended for an indefinite period by a vote of the parliament.

The "threat remains higher than ever," Hollande said, adding he is committed to "ensure our country's security and protect the French from terrorism".

The country's state of emergency, swiftly declared by the government on the night of the attacks, was recently extended to May 26. It extends some police powers of search and arrest and limits public gatherings, among other changes. **AP**

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Princípios de vida com cortesia
Courtesy Living Charter

what's ON



THE CHARMS OF FLOWERS – EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: July 31, 2016
VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY – PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDERLOT
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 19, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION
TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily
 (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)
VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

ONE CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN ART 1860-1960
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: April 3, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

SMITHSONIAN TO INCLUDE 2 COSBY ITEMS IN NEW HISTORY MUSEUM



Construction continues on The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington

After facing criticism for an exhibit of works from Bill Cosby's personal art collection, the Smithsonian plans to include two items related to him at its new African-American history museum. There are no plans to acknowledge the sexual assault allegations against the comedian in the text accompanying the items, a Smithsonian spokeswoman said.

The Cosby items, a comic book from his pioneering TV show "I Spy" and the cover of his 1964 comedy album "I Started Out as a Child," will be included in the exhibit on theater, television, film and entertainment at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opens Sept. 24.

The two items will be part of a collection of 3,000 objects. They will address Cosby's place in television history as the first African-American star of a network drama and the success of his comedy albums, which won six consecutive Grammy Awards.

"This is not a Bill Cosby exhibition," the museum said in a statement issued on Monday, after The New York Times first reported the inclusion of the Cosby items.

Dozens of women have accused Cosby, 78, of sexual abuse. Cosby has been charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a former Temple University worker at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004, a case that is on hold amid an appeal. He also faces several civil lawsuits.

Attorneys for Cosby's accusers said the Smithsonian should acknowledge the allegations.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
18:30	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:15	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:45	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Time Travel
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

31 MAR



BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE
ROOM 1
2.30, 6.30, 9.15 pm
Director: Zack Snyder
Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 153min

ZOOTOPIA
ROOM 2
2.15, 4.05, 9.45 pm
Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 108min



EDDIE THE EAGLE
ROOM 3
2.15, 4.05, 5.55, 9.30 pm
Director: Dexter Fletcher
Starring: Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman, Tom Costello
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 106min

KUNG FU PANDA 3
ROOM 3
7.45 pm
Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 95min

MACAU TOWER

24 MAR - 27 APR

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE
1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Zack Snyder
Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 153min

this day in history



1959 DALAI LAMA ESCAPES TO INDIA

The spiritual leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama, has crossed the border into India after an epic 15-day journey on foot from the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, over the Himalayan mountains.

There had been no news of his safety or whereabouts since he left Lhasa on 17 March with an entourage of 20 men, including six Cabinet ministers.

Many thought he had been killed in the fierce Chinese crackdown that followed the Tibetan uprising earlier this month.

The Dalai Lama had to cross the 500-yard wide Brahmaputra river, and endure the harsh climate and extreme heights of the Himalayas, travelling at night to avoid the Chinese sentry guards.

He finally crossed the Indian border at the Khenzimana Pass, and is now resting at the Towang Monastery, 50 miles inside the Indian border.

It is not known whether the Indian Government will offer him asylum. The government of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru has been heavily criticised internationally for failing to condemn the Chinese crackdown.

The Chinese repression of the rebellion in Lhasa is now complete. A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed, and a military commission is now ruling the city.

It is estimated that 2,000 people died during the three days of fighting between the Tibetans and the Chinese army.

In the worst single incident, four days ago, the Chinese army fired about 800 artillery shells into the Dalai Lama's Summer Palace, razing the ancient building to the ground.

The area contained over 300 houses, and thousands of civilians died and were injured in the inferno.

The tragedy marked the end of the uprising in Lhasa. All fighting-age men who had survived the revolt were deported, and those fleeing the scene reported that Chinese troops burned corpses in the city for 12 hours.

A day later, China announced in an order signed by leader Chou En-lai that a large-scale rebellion had been crushed in Lhasa, although it said the revolt was still continuing outside the capital.

It announced that the Tibetan governing body had been dissolved under martial law, and said the Dalai Lama had been replaced by the Panchen Lama, his pro-Chinese rival, as the nominal head of a committee to set up a Tibetan Autonomous Region within the Chinese People's Republic.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Dalai Lama was offered asylum in India and settled in Dharamsala, in northern India.

He was followed into exile by about 80,000 Tibetans, most of whom settled in the same area, which has become known as "Little Lhasa" and is home to the Tibetan government-in-exile.

The Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, and has become a symbol of peaceful resistance to oppression throughout the world.

He has been making some progress towards dialogue with China over the future of Tibet, and advocates a "middle way" - genuine self-rule for Tibet within China.

China, however, is mistrustful and believes he still seeks independence. The Chinese authorities have banned the Dalai Lama's photographs and writings.

Tibet is still under Chinese control, and the majority of people in Lhasa are not Tibetan. They are ruled by a Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama, who is not recognised by the Dalai Lama.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Subliminal heavy business is not exactly the kind of business you had in mind when you walked in the door this morning. But emotions are the subject of the day, so get used to exploring them.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Tackle every task with intensity and passion. Others are bound to notice, even if that's not your intent. Enjoy the popularity.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Being of service makes you feel good. In fact, it's good for your health. This may be one of the better-kept secrets of life. Do what you can to be of assistance today, and not just for the money.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Being indecisive is not a sign of weakness. You don't have to broadcast how you feel, but do act on it. Don't get involved with anything that makes you hesitate.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Being intuitive is never the wrong way to go, because the real issues are always beneath the surface. But the outer details matter, too, and that's where you come in. Get to work.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You may not believe a coworker, and that's fine. Some things you just have to find out for yourself. Dig deep, but don't let on when you hit gold.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You just don't want to share. Money doesn't make you selfish, but something else does. Whether you want them to or not, things change hands, so try to be gracious about it.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Who knows why some are respected? They don't do the best work or stay the longest, and yet they exude confidence. Others are drawn to them and so are you, so enjoy their aura.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your boss is feeling moody and slow, but trying hard to figure out why. In your dreams, that is. In your waking life, you'll just have to put up with them. Try to find time to be alone.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Even the best of friends needs occasional time to themselves. Don't get bent out of shape if a colleague seems detached. Their issues are best left alone from nine to five.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You can't go full speed ahead forever. You feelings about advancement have slowed down, and it's time to enjoy the scenery. When you take the opportunity to, you'll see just how much distance you've covered.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Are you really swimming in shark-infested waters or is it all in your head? The answer is a bit fuzzy, but what matters is how you feel. Don't get involved until you are sure.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Swiss river; 4- Geneva's lake; 9- Dutch painter Jan; 14- IV units; 15- Steamed; 16- Actress Shire; 17- Ltr. holder; 18- Gogol's '___ Bulba'; 19- Sour-tasting; 20- Agent; 23- '___ Tu' ('70s hit); 24- Not in; 25- Places of contest; 28- Oliver Twist's request; 30- Trauma ctrs.; 33- Burgundy grape; 34- Dry run; 35- Notion; 36- In spite of; 39- First place?; 40- Primo; 41- Radii neighbors; 42- ___ Lingus; 43- Suffix with concession; 44- Takes by theft; 45- The fruit of a hen; 46- Munich mister; 47- Distinguishing feature; 54- Got out of bed; 55- Make a speech; 56- Attorney's org.; 57- Poker Flat chronicler; 58- Parlor piece; 59- 'Runaway' singer Shannon; 60- Gather; 61- Discharge; 62- 24-hr. bank feature;

DOWN: 1- Super server; 2- Skin disorder; 3- Invitation request; 4- Clerisy; 5- Rubs out; 6- Female horses; 7- ___ impasse; 8- Treehouse used by birds; 9- Carved image; 10- Unspoken; 11- Hgt.; 12- De Valera's land; 13- Arrest; 21- Fame; 22- Artery that feeds the trunk; 25- Sleep issue; 26- ___ Janeiro; 27- Computer key; 28- Intervening, in law; 29- Bone: Prefix; 30- Minneapolis suburb; 31- Kidney-related; 32- Wise ones; 34- Son of Odin; 35- Loafers; 37- Coniferous evergreen forest; 38- Nourishing; 43- Concur; 44- Some mattresses; 45- Some bridge players; 46- Hoist; 47- Jam-pack; 48- Israeli dance; 49- Write software; 50- Math course; 51- And here it is!; 52- Skeptic's scoff; 53- Still; 54- I get it!

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

A crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including contact information and website.

Real estate advertisement for H Unit Gladiolus Court Coloane, including details on area and price.

Real estate advertisement for Chun Leong Car Park, Taipa, including details on car park for sale.

Real estate advertisement for Kam Long, Lilau Square Macau, including details on renovated apartment.

Real estate advertisement for Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau, including details on apartment near ruins.

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring the company logo and '卓雅物業' text.

Jeep


GRAND CHEROKEE



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- The New Uconnect® System features an 8.4-inch touchscreen · the most luxury control panel ever ·
- Quadra-Lift® air suspension system the ultimate control of your suspension ·
- Selec-Terrain traction control system - five modes to tackle any condition ·
- New eight-speed automatic transmission - quicker and smoother ·

* about the picture may be different from Macau specifications

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tel : 2871 7762

FOOTBALL

Malaysia draw against 'stubborn' Macau 'very worrying' – coach Ong



Malay coach Ong Kim Swee

FOLLOWING a draw against "lowly Macau," the Malay coach Ong Kim Swee told players to accept the bitter truth that they are not good enough to go up against minnows.

According to sports site fourfourtwo.com, it was a game many expected to supply a morale-boosting win, with many expecting a convincing win at Hang Jebat Stadium in Malacca.

However, the Malaysians' lack of impetus was evident for all to see as the Tigers were booed off the pitch, with Macau even cheered on the few occasions they attacked towards the end of the match.

And Ong, who warned against over expectations in his pre-match press conference before the match, delivered a scathing verdict following his team's performance.

"This result is very worrying, it is far from good and in fact a bitter experience. Everyone

needs to respond to this, including myself," said Ong to fourfourtwo.com.

"As coach, I have to take responsibility as well and it is my duty to respond to this. This result hasn't stopped me from thinking what more needs to be done with the team in coming months.

Here's what happened in Malacca, according to a detailed report by espnfc.com:

Malaysia huffed and puffed but were unable to break down a stubborn Macau as they were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw in an international friendly this week in Ong Kim Swee's hometown of Malacca.

The host nation had the best of the chances and produced some enterprising passing. But they lacked a cutting edge in the final third against a side ranked 195th in the world, 29 spots below them.

Coach Ong changed more than half his lineup from the team

who lost 2-0 in an AFC 2018 World Cup qualifier against Saudi Arabia last Thursday.

Captain Safiq Rahim was left on the bench, alongside fellow midfielders Brendan Gan and Wan Zack Haikal, while Norshahrul Idran Talaha was given a chance up front, in partnership with the evergreen Amri Yahyah, who wore the skipper's armband.

The home side dominated early possession but struggled to unlock their defensive-minded opponents.

Norshahrul Idran Talaha did his best to inspire Malaysia to victory against Macau.

In the eighth minute, Norshahrul broke down the right before threading the ball through to Azrif Nasrulhaq, who blasted wide.

And then on 14 minutes, full-back Matthew Davies made inroads on the right and sent in a dangerous cross. But Nazrin Nawi was unable to get on the

end of it.

Coach Ong was forced to make a change on 19 minute when left-back Nazirul Naim was stretchered off with a leg injury, replaced by Yong Kuong Yong.

Norshahrul was the most dangerous player on the field and fired a shot on target from long range in the 26th minute after skipping past two defenders.

But Malaysia's best chance of the half came in the 38th minute when Macau failed to clear a corner after Fadli Shas' header. Amri put in a delightful ball in the follow-up attack, but Nazrin's shot from the left of the six-yard box was touched onto the post by goalkeeper Mo Han Fai and Norshahrul was unable to bundle it home.

Coach Ong Kim Swee reshuffled his deck after the break against Macau.

Ong gave Malaysia a more attacking look for the second half with winger Wan Zack Haikal taking over from defender Da-

vies, and Hafiz Kamal replacing Nazmi Faiz.

Amri threatened from long range in the 52nd and 58th minutes but failed to find the target.

The forward then provided the cross for Shahrom Kalam in a dangerous position, only to see the Selangor defender head wide in the 68th minute.

The left foot of Hafiz provided three late opportunities. First, his threatening free-kick in the 79th minute was parried away by Ho. Then, another accurate set piece was met by the head of Amri in the 84th minute, drawing a smart close-range save at the near post.

And in the 93rd minute, Hafiz's free-kick was touched onto the bar by the outstanding Ho to deprive Malaysia victory in coach Ong's old neighbourhood.

LINEUPS

MALAYSIA: Izham Tarmizi (GK); Matt Davies (Wan Zack Haikal 46'), Shahrom Kalam (Joseph Kalang Tie 78'), Fadhli Shas (Amirul Hisyam 62'), Nazirul Naim (Yong Kuong Yong 19'); Azrif Nasrulhaq, Baddrol Bakhtiar (Brendan Gan 73), Nazmi Faiz (Hafiz Kamal 46'), Nazrin Nawi; Amri Yahyah (c), Norshahrul Idran Talaha
MACAU: Ho Man Fai (GK); Lei Chi Kin, Lao Pak Lin, Chan Man, Cheang Cheng Leong Paulo (C); Leong Ka Hang, Ho Chi Fong, Egar Teixeira, Pang Chi Hang; Miguel Cordeiro, Leong Tak Wai

FOOTBALL | FRIENDLIES ROUNDUP

Security high as France returns to Paris stadium after bombs

MORE than 1,700 security personnel were on patrol yesterday [Macau time] as France beat Russia on its return to the Stade de France, four months after their last home game was targeted by suicide bombers.

A pre-match minute of silence to remember Europe's latest terrorist attack in Belgium served as a jarring reminder of the security challenges facing France as it prepares to host the European Championship in less than three months.

There was also intense security in Portugal, which

hosted Belgium for a friendly fixture that was hurriedly moved from Brussels after airport and subway bombings in the city last week killed 35 people. Belgium's players commemorated the victims by wearing special T-shirts before their 2-1 loss.

The peaceful friendly in Paris, which France won 4-2, was in marked contrast to the night in November when its game against Germany was among the targets in coordinated attacks across the city that killed 130 people. One bystander was killed

when suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the Stade de France.

In a show of force on Tuesday, 575 police officers and 1,200 private security guards were deployed at the national stadium.

But there was much to celebrate on the field for France as N'Golo Kante marked his first start by scoring the opener, continuing the fine form that has seen Leicester surprisingly surge to the top of the Premier League.

"He played without being hung-up," France coach Didier Deschamps.

"This is just the beginning. He is building on the momentum of what he has been doing with his club at international level."

Another Premier League sensation, West Ham's Dimitri Payet, netted directly from a free kick two minutes after coming on for France, whose other goals were supplied by Andre-Pierre Gignac and Kingsley Coman.

In Munich, Germany ended a near 21-year wait for a victory over Italy with an emphatic 4-1 win. Mario Goetze, who hasn't played for Germany since sustaining a groin injury

in October, marked his international return by heading in the second goal.

"It was simply important to be able to play again after such a long injury, simply to be able to do what's fun for me," Goetze said.

Toni Kroos, Mesut Ozil and Jonas Hector were also on target for the World Cup holders in what was a quick recovery following Saturday's stunning loss to England in Berlin.

In the Portuguese city of Leiria, Belgium's players wore special jerseys to remember those killed in

Brussels. The shirts read: "In memory of all victims, Brussels 22.03.2016."

In the game, first-half goals from Nani and Cristiano Ronaldo secured Portugal's victory, while Romelu Lukaku pulled one back for a lackluster Belgium side after the break with a header.

For many teams, these friendly games offered the final chance to assess players before deciding on squads for the Euros.

Sweden was held 1-1 by the Czech Republic, Ireland and Slovakia drew 2-2 and Turkey edged Austria 2-1. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Michael R. Bloomberg & Joe Biden, Bloomberg

CURING CANCER IS WITHIN REACH

One of the most frightening words a patient can hear from a doctor is "cancer." We know it from the experience of our families and friends, and the millions of Americans who hear it directly from their doctors each year.

In President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address, he compared the effort required to eradicate cancer to a "moonshot," summoning the American ingenuity and scientific pursuits that sent humankind to the moon. We believe that it's time for a full and complete national commitment to rid the world of this disease, because the truth is that ending cancer as we know it is finally within our grasp.

A key element of the cancer moonshot is to incentivize more cooperation between the government and the private sector. We recognize that while the U.S. government has tremendous resources at its disposal, we also know a lot of our best expertise exists outside the government, within the private medical and research community. There is little doubt that this will be the site of the next big breakthroughs in cancer treatment. We know it because we've seen it at the world's best cancer research centers across America, led by the world's greatest cancer doctors, researchers and philanthropists - many of whom we've met with over the last few months.

To that end, and in support of the cancer moonshot, we are thrilled that Johns Hopkins University will create the Bloomberg-Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, thanks to private grants of USD125 million. This new institute will build on the school's groundbreaking work in immunotherapy, one of the most promising avenues of research today.

Here's why: Cancer involves the uncontrolled growth of our cells. Cancer cells co-opt the processes of normal cells, using them to grow, spread and cloak themselves from detection by the immune system. Immunotherapy seeks to redirect patients' highly individual immune systems to better detect and destroy cancer cells.

Led by Dr. Drew Pardoll and funded in partnership with the philanthropist Sidney Kimmel, the institute will support the same scientists who performed some of the first clinical trials of immunotherapy agents known as checkpoint blockade inhibitors. These agents interfere with molecules that shield tumor cells from the body's immune system. In fact, two of these inhibitors have already been approved by the FDA for use against lung cancer and melanoma, and show promise across almost every cancer.

With the right partnerships, we can bolster the incredible work that is already occurring among immunologists, geneticists and other scientists with new innovations from the technology sector. Recently, an entire industry has sprung up with the power to process medical and scientific information on a massive scale. This computing power is already allowing researchers to accelerate their progress like never before. By aggregating big data from cancer studies in one central location that's accessible to scientists, researchers and physicians, we can further speed up advances in research.

With the cancer moonshot and public-private partnerships, we are not trying to make incremental change. We're looking to make quantum leaps. Our goal is to make a decade's worth of medical advances in the next five years. And with new institutions working together and new resources dedicated to the problem, we know we can finally gain the upper hand on a disease that has already robbed the world of far too much talent and love.

The original mission to the moon was a government-led, -directed and -funded initiative. The cancer moonshot will be a true partnership between government, the private sector, academia and the philanthropic community. It has the potential to save millions of lives.

It could prove to be a model for how public-private partnerships can overcome even the most difficult challenges. And it could turn cancer from a death sentence into a chronic, manageable disease - or in many cases, a curable one - for millions of people around the world.

THE ROCKETS, PELICANS TO PLAY TWO PRESEASON GAMES IN CHINA

The Houston Rockets will return to China next fall to play two preseason games against the New Orleans Pelicans.

The teams will play Oct. 9 in Shanghai, followed by a game in Beijing on Oct. 12. The Rockets are popular in China because of Yao

Ming, who starred for them from 2002-11. They played in Shanghai, Yao's hometown, in 2004.

Houston also played in Greater China in 2010 and 2013. The Pelicans will be making their first visit to China.

AP PHOTO



Oops! Rhode Island tourism video features Reykjavik, Iceland

Seals rest on rocks in Narragansett Bay off the coast of North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Rep. Samuel Azzinaro has introduced a bill to designate the harbor seal as the state's official marine mammal

Jennifer McDermott, Providence (R.I.)

MAYBE the state should be called Rhode Iceland.

Rhode Island officials yanked a new tourism video, designed to draw visitors to the state, off YouTube in embarrassment after eagle-eyed viewers complained it showed a scene shot in Iceland's capital, Reykjavik.

The state's economic development agency, the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, confirmed the goof and blamed an editing company.

The state released the video at a meeting on Monday night and posted it online yesterday [Macau time] for a new campaign. The video's intro features a skateboarder outside a glass building and has a narrator saying, "Imagine a place that feels like home but holds enough uniqueness that you're never bored." People on social media said: Hey, that's not Rhode Island - that's the Harpa concert hall and conference center in Reykjavik.

Designer Greg Nemes visited Iceland in October and said he recognized the photogenic building, which

has a steel framework and an exterior skin of differently colored glass panels.

"It was pretty unmistakable to me, so I did some digging around and posted on Facebook about it," he said.

Social media users agreed with him, posting side-by-side photos of the building in the Rhode Island ad and Harpa.

Early yesterday, the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation's art director said he could "assure that all shots" were in Rhode Island. But later on, a spokeswoman for the agency confirmed that the building in the state's tourism ad is Harpa and said an editing company used the wrong footage.

"As the Commerce Corporation put this presentation video together, explicit instructions were given to the local firm that helped with editing to use only Rhode Island footage," spokeswoman Kayla Rosen said in an email. "A mistake was made. Once the mistake was identified, the video was removed."

She said the video, which cost USD22,000 to make, is being updated at no cost to the Commerce Corporation or the state.

It's not the first time peo-

ple have been embarrassed because they used incorrect footage in their promotional videos.

In February, a TV ad for Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio, a U.S. senator from Florida, opened with a scene from Vancouver, Canada. In 2007, Tennessee's tourism department caught flak for using a photo taken in Alaska. And in 2014, the Republican candidate for governor in Rhode Island was called out after he filmed a TV ad in Ohio.

On Twitter, Rhode Island state Rep. Daniel Reilly, a Republican, questioned the cost of the state's tourism video and its use of stock footage of Reykjavik. He added the hashtag #nicejob.

Nemes, who teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design, said he wasn't on a crusade to bring anyone to justice and there's a lot to like about the state's tourism video. He said he just questions why Rhode Island needed a scene from elsewhere to look good.

The state released the video and a new logo, with the slogan "Cooler & Warmer," as part of a \$5 million integrated campaign to attract tourism and business. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	80-110 Bad
High Density Residential Area	80-110 Bad
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

USA-RUSSIA U.S. officials say the Pentagon will be deploying an armored brigade combat team to Eastern Europe next February as part of the ongoing effort to rotate troops in and out of the region to reassure allies worried about threats from an increasingly aggressive Russia. The officials said the Army announced yesterday that it will be sending a full set of equipment with the brigade to Europe.

USA Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump says the reporter who is behind misdemeanor battery charges against his campaign manager "shouldn't have been grabbing me." Trump defended campaign manager Corey Lewandowski on Fox News yesterday, a day after Florida police charged him following an incident earlier this month in which Lewandowski pulled the reporter, Michelle Fields, away from Trump as she tried to ask the billionaire a question.

AP PHOTO



SPAIN's far left Podemos party leader Pablo Iglesias says he's prepared to give up his demand for the No. 2 government job in a deal to form a government with the center-left Socialist Party. Iglesias made the declaration yesterday after meeting with Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez in an attempt to break a three-month political deadlock following Spain's inconclusive Dec. 20 election.

FRANCE Italian olives painted with copper sulphate solution, Sudanese sugar tainted with fertilizer, and hundreds of thousands of liters of bogus alcoholic drinks top Interpol's annual tally of toxic and counterfeit food seized by police agencies across the world. The haul of bogus diet supplements, adulterated honey and formalin-drenched chicken guts makes for stomach-churning reading. A statement by Interpol said that a record 10,000 tonnes has been recovered across 57 countries.