



INCREASE IN GAMBLING RELATED CRIMES

The latest statistics indicate a 5 percent crime increase in the first quarter of the year, compared to Q1 2016

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POULTRY TRADERS: NO DEAL WITH IACM

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RURAL JAPAN ANNOYED BY CASINO PLAN

Tokyo, Osaka and Yokohama are favorite candidates for casinos, triggering criticism from smaller cities

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES-RUSSIA

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte left yesterday for a four-day official visit to Russia, where he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. In his departure speech, Duterte said the visit underscores his independent foreign policy and desire to forge closer ties with Russia, which "must cease to be on the margins of Philippine diplomacy." More on p12

THAILAND A bomb exploded at an army-run hospital in Bangkok yesterday, on the third anniversary of a military coup, and authorities said more than 20 people were wounded. It was not immediately clear who was behind the explosion.



INDONESIA Police detained dozens of men including several foreigners in a weekend raid on a gay sauna in the capital, another sign of growing hostility to homosexuality in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

SOUTH KOREA Handcuffed, her inmate number 503 attached to her clothing, former South Korean President Park Geun-hye begins her corruption trial today in the same courtroom where a brutal dictator was sentenced to death two decades ago.

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Chiang resigns, wants New Macau to 'move on'

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Audit report slams road works coordination

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CRIME

Increase in gambling-related crimes

Julie Zhu

THE latest crime statistics, released yesterday, show that police authorities filed 3,502 criminal reports in the first quarter of 2017.

This figure represents an increase of 169 cases (5.1 percent) compared to the same period last year. Gambling-related crimes have also increased, involving the arrest of 445 people compared to 424 within the same period last year.

Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, said during a press conference yesterday that 219 cases of fraudulent business were reported, a 28.8 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

In particular, phone scams increased from 9 to 22 cases. Until this point, phone scams have led to MOP 24.99 million in losses.

Scammers were mainly perpetrated by criminals pretending to represent governmental departments, according to Wong.

These scams were primarily based in Southeast Asia, and Africa where people changed their numbers and pretended to be from local government authorities.

Property crimes saw a slight decrease of 1.3 percent, corresponding to a total of 1,890 cases.

Robbery and theft have decreased remarkably by 37.9 percent and 7 percent respectively.

Blackmail and usury saw a relatively significant decrease of 42.3 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

Regarding so-called "crimes against society," a total of 288 cases were reported, representing an increase of 54.8 percent.

In particular, arson increased by a

whopping 650 percent. Though the first quarter of 2016 saw only two arson crimes, this year already counts 15.

Cases of reselling fake currencies increased to a total of 95 from last year's figure of 50, a growth of 90 percent involving a total amount of MOP 8.8 million.

Regarding violent crimes, there were 191 cases registered in total, representing a 5.5 percent increase.

Some 105 of these cases were related to illegal imprisonment, which alone represents 18 percent of the total number of violent crimes.

According to the authorities, murder, kidnap and aggravated assault continue to see low numbers, with only one case in this category recorded in the first quarter.

Also in the first quarter of this year, 1,822 people were arrested and forwarded to prosecution, an increase of 207 people, or 12.8 percent, compared to the same period last year.

Regarding juvenile delinquency, 14 cases were reported, 2 fewer than last year; 15 individuals involved in these cases were minors, 13 fewer than last year.

According to the data, human smuggling and overstaying in the city slightly decreased.

The police force recorded 1,291 cases related to violation of transportation regulations, a slight increase from the 1,277 cases registered last year.

As many as 723 cases involved taxis overcharging customers, while 359 cases related to drivers refusing to take passengers.

The two figures represent 56 percent and 27.8 percent respectively of the total number of transportation infractions.



Wong Sio Chak (center)

Ban of Hong Kong visitors not motivated by politics

THE Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, clarified that preventing specific Hong Kong visitors from entering the city was not because of political reasons.

Wong further explained that barring these people entry to Macau at the border gate was the result of police procedure in accordance with the law.

"The police force makes decisions based on evaluations of possible threats to the city's security posed by visitors," Wong indicated, adding that Macau is not alone, as "all regions around the world behave like this." Wong further claimed that in com-

parable jurisdictions, individual evaluations are carried out in order to eliminate threats to the internal security.

In Wong's words, the Macau police "has the right to refuse entry to all those who are unwelcome and [may] harm the society. Every region is very strict in terms of border controls."

Regarding the exact number of people who have been banned from entering Macau, Wong said that "the number will not be disclosed for confidentiality" but he guaranteed that "it [the number of bans] is in line with international practices."

Guangdong eases business registration procedures for Macau investors

A bank registration system for Macau investors intending to operate businesses in Guangdong province was launched last week.

The platform was co-created by the Guangdong Province Administration For Industry and Commerce and China Guangfa Bank.

The system allows Macau investors to name the Macau branch of a mainland Chinese bank as trustees to represent them for

commercial registration in Guangdong province. The bank would provide this service free of charge.

Wu Ben Peng, an officer from the Guangdong Province Administration For Industry and Commerce, introduced the scheme to around 150 people who attended its launch.

Wu said the service will initially be available to Macau investors who are looking at businesses in Foshan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, and Hengqin.

The service will be rolled out to the entire Guangdong province once other conditions have been met.

Until then, regardless of where in Guangdong Macau investors plan to invest, they can register their operating licenses through the Macau branch of China Guangfa Bank.

There are now 4,421 Macau enterprises operating in Guangdong, with a total registered capital of USD14.78 billion. Both fi-

gures increased compared to last year, with growth of 21.56 percent and 88.64 percent, respectively.

Wu said there are 1,059 individual businesses from Macau operating in Guangdong, with total capital of RMB7.54 million.

The number of individual businesses and the amount of capital involved also increased 16.37 percent and 22.34 percent, respectively, compared to last year.

Gloria Ung, executi-

ve director of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), said the launch enabled Macau's Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to understand the registration process better.

She expressed her hope that more local companies will participate in regional cooperation.

Ma Iao Lai, president of the Macau Commercial Association, believes that this new service makes Guangdong and Macau more attractive to investors, and modernizes both regions' commercial environments.

Ma added that the new system decreases ope-

rational costs for Macau enterprises, especially for SMEs, in Guangdong province.

"It [has] strengthened Macau's platform for overseas enterprises to enter [the] mainland market," said Ma.

Zhang Wenxian, deputy director of Guangdong Province Administration For Industry and Commerce, said 6.23 million businesses have registered in Guangdong over the past five years, including the aforementioned number of Macau enterprises.

Guangdong has the most registered enterprises of all the provinces in mainland China. **JZ**

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Discarded cigarette triggered fire alarm

A fire alarm at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) was reportedly triggered by an abandoned cigarette. Late on Sunday evening, an IFT security guard spotted some objects that had caught fire in the underground floor of one of the institute's buildings. The security guard extinguished the fire and called the police. The Fire Bureau found several used cigarettes around the area, leading to the suspicion that these might have caused the fire. The case is being followed by the Judiciary Police.

Renovation works disrupt traffic

The renovation of the bus stop located outside the Macau Ferry Terminal led to chaos across the transportation network in the terminal's vicinity. According to a report by Macao Daily News, the Transport Bureau has a temporary bus stop across from the terminal's original bus stop. Buses now have only one lane to pass through. Since this single lane is also the only one for cars to travel through, traffic jams have been regular. The problem will last until June 9 when the renovation work finishes. Some drivers have suggested the authority should deploy more transportation police officers to the location to maintain order.

Taxi drivers want fare increase

Macau Taxi Drivers Mutual Association president Tony Kuok Leong Son says that the association will soon negotiate with the government to seek approval for taxi drivers to increase taxi fares. According to a report by Macao Daily News, Kuok said that both the Transport Bureau and the region's transport advisory committee have reached an agreement regarding increasing fares for taxis. The authority has not decided yet the exact terms of the increase. Kuok said that he hopes the government can propose a reasonable plan, and hopes that the updated fares can be brought in by this summer vacation.

Poultry vendors unsatisfied with IACM subsidies offer

Julie Zhu

THE Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) had a meeting with employers from the poultry sector to discuss the city's permanent ban on sales of live poultry.

Approximately 70 poultry vendors joined the closed-door meeting yesterday at the IACM headquarters.

Leong Meng Lap, chairman of the Macau Live Poultry Vendors Association, expressed his dissatisfaction to the media regarding IACM's compensation proposals to live poultry sellers.

IACM proposed financial subsidies ranging from MOP240,000 to MOP480,000. "In past years, we listened to IACM asking to purchase stainless cages, equipment and machines, and now these things have become obsolete, which means we will have to sell them as scrap iron," complained Leong.

"I think it's too little," said Leong, adding "what can you do

with MOP240,000? It can't buy many things."

Leong mentioned that ten years ago in Hong Kong, the HKSAR government offered MOP800,000 to poultry vendors who had given up on their poultry trade.

"Not accounting for inflation, not accounting for housing prices, just accounting for the increase rate of civil servants' salaries will be already a very reasonable method," said Leong.

Leong noted that it "does not matter" if the government does not account for the aforementioned factors regarding the subsidies. He expressed that it would be favorable if the government offered the same subsidies Hong Kong offered its vendors ten years ago.

"We are not to blame for the disappearance of this industry," said Leong.

Leong noted that many of the people who worked in this industry have done so for many years, which means that transferring into another industry will be a

difficult process, although some of the people will choose to retire instead of changing industries.

"The government thinks that MOP240,000 up to MOP480,000 is a really large amount, and that it can buy many things," criticised Leong.

We are not to blame for the disappearance of this industry.

LEONG MENG LAP
LIVE POULTRY VENDORS ASSOCIATION

IACM chairman José Tavares said that IACM did not reach an agreement with the industry during yesterday's meeting.

"A few people expressed their opinions, having considered our proposal too low, therefore they cannot accept it," noted Tavares.

IACM said that the government

has considered all suggestions proposed by the vendors, such as their equipment only being sold as iron, as well as handling issues, in a similar manner to Hong Kong ten years previously.

"We referred to the Labour Affairs Bureau's highest compensation regulations to come up with the amount of money," said the IACM head.

Subsidies to each individual vendor will be decided by many factors, such as the number of employees.

"Overall, the average subsidy is estimated at MOP360,000 for most vendors," said the IACM chairman, further declaring that the bureau will consider whether to increase the maximum value for compensation. Notwithstanding, he rejected the necessity of having to refer to Hong Kong's approach in order to solve the problem.

IACM will meet with the approximately 70 vendors in another discussion taking place next Monday.

AL PLENARY

New public procurement law under consideration

A new public procurement law is being planned by the government to reduce the tendency of public departments to split up service contracts, thereby avoiding the need for tendering, the secretary for economy and finance clarified yesterday during a plenary session at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The law would also seek to redress a lack of transparency in public procurement practices through implementing a "standardization of procedures"

and "more specific directives," Lionel Leong said.

The secretary had previously hinted that there could be an impending revision to the public procurement law, which has been unchanged since before the handover. He cautioned, however, that no revision to the law would take place before consultation sessions with both the public and relevant government departments.

The existing law lacks specific requirements, [...] which many purchasing staff may have misunders-

tood and [consequently] wanted standardization," said Leong during the AL plenary session, according to TDM. "The guidelines will become clearer in the new law."

Also under consideration is a raise to the maximum service contract worth that can justify the avoidance of a public tender. Currently, service contracts worth more MOP750,000 or more must go to tender, as must project contracts worth over MOP2.5 million.

"We believe that the in-



Lionel Leong (center)

creased thresholds will prevent government departments from breaking up service contracts into smaller ones," the secretary explained.

Moreover, a new public

procurement law would give greater priority to small- and medium-sized vendors in the city, as well as bidders that offer environmentally-friendly products and services, he said.

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Chiang resigns, wants ANM to 'move on'

SCOTT Chiang, president of the New Macau Association (ANM), has announced his decision to resign from his post. According to a message posted on social media, the resignation will take effect on June 9 and Chiang will be on leave in the transition period.

Chiang didn't clearly explain the motives behind his resignation from the leadership of the pro-democracy association. He was appointed president two years ago, succeeding Jason Chao. However, he expressed

his hopes that the "tough decision" he took "will clear the way for New Macau to unite and move on."

"People run for public office for all kinds of reasons - a fulfillment of own political ambition, publicity, advancement of business interests, or ideological realization," Chiang wrote. "I played a supporting role in the elections of 2009 and 2013 for my wish of a just and better Macau. I hope my former New Macau colleagues will share my ideal in and after the election and carry on."



Scott Chiang



Audit report slams road works' coordination

Renato Marques

THE Commission of Audit (CA) issued a new report yesterday which heavily criticized the work of the "Road Works Coordination Group."

In the report, the CA states that the work

of the group "in order to coordinate and conciliate [the road works] are ineffective and there are also shortfalls on the administrative procedures that analyze and authorize licenses [for works on the public streets]."

Additionally, the

CA remarks that the weekly meeting conducted by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) lacks accuracy and that there are many failures in inspection procedures.

The report specifically addresses the years of 2014 and 2015, no-

ting that the number of complaints was very high due to several disruptions provoked by the frequent roadworks across the region.

From the report it is possible to acknowledge that during those two years, there were a total of 3,458 works involving trench digging on public roads, out of which a total of 94.19 percent were under the supervision of private entities (3,257).

Studying this, the CA found that in addition to the aforementioned ineffectiveness, the "Coordination Group" was a body without a binding nature, merely given duties of coordination and communication between the parties without being able to confirm if several works were completed at the same location within the two-year period.

The CA says: "The group has no capability to enforce to the members a works calendar." In this way the CA considers the work of this group "not suitable of reaching any useful result [...] no matter how [numerous] the members that compose it, or how significant the resources invested."

The CA also remarked that the government entities have not respected the law, leaving the decision on when the works are done in the hands of the private entities while not making use of the sanctions mechanism to force the companies to adhere to deadlines.

IACM is one of the

most strongly criticized public entities in the report. The CA notes that the bureau has not fulfilled its duties in following up the works, such as conducting appropriate inspections to guarantee that the works are completed according to what was planned and licensed.

The audit report mentions that in the cases analyzed by the commission, there was a total of over 1,000 days of delay from original deadlines that passed without any action from IACM services.

Also part of the "Road works coordination group," the Transport Bureau (DSAT) director, Lam Hin San was questioned yesterday morning on the topic during a DSAT press conference.

Lam responded by saying that he had not had time to read the report in detail. Nevertheless he noted that, "we have been reinforcing our work in that regard [of the road works coordination], especially for the major scale works."

As an example, Lam mentioned, "at this moment we have a request for the licensing of two works that we are trying [to ensure] are not done at the same time (in the Northern district) because it's a very busy area." He also said that most of these road works "are things directly related with people's lives so we need to authorize many of them... Nevertheless we seek balance."

MONEY LAUNDERING

Group refutes Macau's notorious reputation

A new group of anti-money laundering specialists has claimed that foreign media have perpetuated a false image of Macau as a money laundering haven, which does not reflect the reality of the city.

The Macau Anti-Money Laundering Specialists Association, which was founded over the weekend, denied that Macau was a "haven for money laundering," according to a report by public broadcaster TDM.

Lao Chak Kuong is the leader of the association, which comprises more than 400 members accredited by the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists.

"I don't agree that Macau is a haven for money laundering," he told TDM. "Don't forget we have a relatively complete legal system here in Macau, and it has gotten better."

The association president denied that a city built on gambling is necessarily reliant on money laundering, and called on local media to help unravel the city's notorious reputation for the illicit activity.

"It is hard to control foreign media," he said. "As for local media, you all should be aware of the situation in Macau. Be positive, as I said in the address: let's polish the region's anti-laundersing image."

"A city with gambling as its main industry is not necessarily a money laundering haven," he added, before continuing on to say that laundering money through casinos would not be easy.

The Legislative Assembly recently approved a bill updating Macau's anti-money laundering legislation.

IACM ACKNOWLEDGES 'POOR COORDINATION'

COMMENTING ON the report issued by the Commission of Audit (CA) on the sidelines of a meeting held yesterday afternoon, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) president José Tavares said, "the problems result from inefficient supervision and coordination between IACM and other government departments," namely the Transport Bureau (DSAT). Tavares

also added that "four inspectors who did not do their work carefully, back in 2014 and 2015, have already been removed from their positions and IACM has started disciplinary processes against them." "I hope the [CA] can understand that we are improving on this process," he said, noting that IACM does not fully agree with the contents of the CA report.

Zhang Daqian exhibition to open at MAM



"The Art of Zhang Daqian", featuring 100 masterpieces from the artist's early years, will be held at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM) from this week until August 6. Zhang Daqian (1899-1983) is one of the most respected masters of Chinese painting of the 20th century, having been well versed in poetry, calligraphy, painting and engraving. The artworks, collected by the Sichuan Museum, include Zhang's replicas of Dunhuang's

murals, landscape paintings, portraits, line drawings, letters and seals made and used by the artist. The exhibition, integrated into the 28th Macau Arts Festival, will be inaugurated tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. According to a press release from the Cultural Affairs Bureau, all are welcome to attend. Admission to the exhibition is free.

Airport flyover work to be completed in a year

Maintenance and repair works on the flyover around the Macau International Airport will conclude in about one year, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) stated. The lengthy process is due to the age and extensive use of the facility. A public tender is ongoing for the project, which will involve repairs and reinforcements to the flyover structure. According to a statement from the DSSOPT, the works are expected to start at the end of 2017 and will be completed within 330 days, or end-2018. The DSSOPT added that the works would be done together with the entity that manages the airport in order to minimize the impact on traffic and airport access. The bureau said that the deadline for submissions is June 2.

Curator explains concept behind gold-themed exhibition

ANNE Camilli, curator of "A Golden Way of Life - Trés'Ors" exhibition, met with journalists last week to discuss the newly-opened exhibition, which will be hosted at the MGM Art Space from now until September 3.

Camilli explained the concept behind the gold-themed exhibition. "Where does gold come from, what is its value, both wealthily and spiritually, as well as artistically speaking?" asked Camilli, adding that the exhibition shows "what you do with gold in French art".

The curator revealed that she selected a great variety of artifacts and art pieces to show the Chinese public how fascination over gold led artists and craftsmen in France to create fantastic pieces, "which are brought together for the first time here in Macau, and in Asia."

When asked about the reason she chose gold as the theme of the exhibition, Camilli told the media that gold is



Anne Camilli

frequently used in arts and crafts because of its extraordinary properties and its ability to last forever.

"Gold has fascinated men since men discovered it for the first time," said Camilli, adding that humans have been using gold since its discovery "even in small quantities".

"The ever-lasting nature of gold makes human beings immediately connect with their religion, whatever that might be," said Camilli. According to the curator, the

meaning of gold is not only wealth, but also the understanding of its spiritual symbolism.

The curator revealed that it was difficult for her team to lend all of these great pieces to MGM because her team spent a long time organizing them for the entire collection.

Packing and shipping the art pieces had to be done extremely carefully so as to take them to Macau without any complications.

Overall, Camilli considered it a fantastic experience to

do the exhibition with MGM. "It's great when different cultures meet, when east meets west," said Camilli before talking about her favorite piece in the collection.

Bruno Toupry, who is an expert gilder, conducted a gold gilding workshop for the media at the MGM Art Space.

Bruno started gilding at age 17, having since created works for the Louvre and other museums and institutions. During the workshop, the gilder illustrated the most basic gilding skills.

As part of the Le French May silver jubilee celebrations, "A Golden way of Life - Trés'Ors" invites the public to embark on an exploration of a collection of over 250 exquisite pieces of gold creations and artifacts comprising classic and contemporary art works, religious artifacts, vintage furniture pieces, fashion and accessories, watches and jewelry, and everyday life objects from the 17th century to modern day items in gold. **JZ**

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TRANSPORT

Street parking fares to surge next month



DSAT director, Lam Hin San

Renato Marques

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) will update the fares of all parking meters from June 17, the bureau informed in a press conference yesterday morning.

The fare update will lead to some parking fees increasing as much as 200 percent. For example, private cars that currently pay a fee of MOP2 per hour in the two hour limit parking meters from June 17 will pay MOP6 per hour.

The hikes will also apply to motorcycles and to heavy vehicles, leading to increases of about 100 percent in the two hours limit parking meter areas for the vehicles. For motorcycles, this will be a change from MOP1 to MOP2 per hour, and for heavy vehicles, this will be a raise of MOP5 to MOP10.

Also adjusted in the same executive order was the time limit on some of the parking meters, with the reduction of time from five to four hours to

be applied to both private cars and motorcycles.

The DSAT director, Lam Hin San justified such adjustments by "taking into account the demand [for parking spots] and the inflation [rate]."

Lam noted that parking meter fees had not changed for 30 years (since 1987), adding that the adjustments proposed aim to "increase the turnover [on the usage of the parking spots] so that the people can easily find a parking spot."

Lam also noted that such measures are included in a policy that aims to "bring [the parking meters fares] closer to the fares charged in the car parks," as has been supported by some members of the Traffic Advisory Board (CCT).

Lam also said that the bureau is "finding ways to find more parking spots [especially for heavy vehicles]."

The director of the DSAT informed that the necessary works to replace all parking meters with new machines (which allow payment via

both coins and through the Macau Pass system) will be done preferentially during the night and on Saturdays in order to avoid disruption to the population. Lam Hin San added that these works will also include a reduction in the number of car spots in order to provide more motorcycle parking meters. Currently, of the 11,000 parking meters offered, about 80 percent are for cars only.

The work schedule has been set to begin in the Cathedral Parish area on June 17, followed by the Saint Lazarus and Saint Anthony's Parishes in October and November of this year.

All works are expected to be concluded by March 2018 at which point all the parking meters will have been replaced by those on the new system.

Questioned by the media on the cost of these changes, Lam replied: "The government would not spend anything. It's the concessionaire that will do all the works."

Bus route management is a 'never ending task'

ACCORDING to the director of the Transport Bureau, Lam Hin San, the management of Macau's bus routes is "never ending."

"[The bus route management] is one of the works we attribute more importance to. Our goal is always to seek how to elevate the quality of this service," Lam said yesterday during a press conference, in which he noted that Macau's bus service registered over 200 million users last year. Lam also added that during the first four months of this year, the use of public buses has risen 7 percent when compared year-on-year with the same period last year. Lam expressed the expectation that there will be a total of around 217 million users by the end of 2017.

Lam noted that the works on bus routes have been constant, and the recent change from small to medium-sized buses on some routes had already resulted in a "benefit for over 10,000 people."

He went on to say that such works will continue in order to shorten some routes, increase the number of buses, and create special routes during peak hours.

Commenting on the shortening of route 25 which is no longer ending at Hac Sa beach, to the displeasure of residents who handed a petition

to the government and the merging of the Routes 7 and 7A, Lam said: "The route 25 has a big demand [from the public]. I can advance that is the third most demanded route in Macau (after 33 and 3)."

"We proposed [to the bus company] a total of 16 buses for this route," he said, informing also that "after the adjustment was done [on the route] it was possible to raise the frequency to 141 routes per day from the previous 116 routes per day."

Lam explained that it is a matter of "management and of routine," noting that there are other, faster solutions beyond riding the same bus.

As an example, he noted that the previous travelling time between Hac Sa beach and the Border Gate was over 60 minutes (using Route 25), but using route 26A and transferring to route 51 at Seac Pai Van means that it is possible to reach the same destination in about 40 minutes, noting, "we have to promote this culture and knowledge." Lam noted that there are about 300 services per day to and from Hac Sa beach (through routes 15, 21A and 26A) saying, "I believe this is enough to serve the population there. What is needed is to educate people on the transfers in order to minimize time spent on traveling." **RM**

New helmet rules have a six-month probation period

LAM Hin San commented on the controversial new regulations for the use of helmets, noting that DSAR has already agreed with the police to have a first phase "dedicated to educate and to recommendations." Lam said that the phase will last for 6 months before more restrictive measures are enforced. "We don't have the purpose to give tickets to people. What we want is that riders are well informed and that they can take preventive measures to protect themselves," the head of the DSAT said.

Lam also noted that there was a misunderstanding regarding the "stickers," saying that authorities will find other ways to check if the helmet is in accordance with the regulations.

As for the idea of applying sanctions to shops that sell products which are not in line with regulations, Lam said, "for the time being the law does not cover that. We will think about adding that in the revision of that law," adding also that special licensing to import such products might also be a solution.

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA HOLDS ROADSHOWS FOR SMES



Two of Sands China's Macau based small- and medium-sized suppliers held roadshows at the back-of-house areas of Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao.

The roadshows were part of Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, a corporate initiative to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and procure-

ment in Macau.

Between April 24 and May 5, food and beverage suppliers Chip Seng and Wing Fung displayed a total of 100 products for Sands China's 30,000 team members, and offered them at a discounted price.

The team members collectively purchased more than MOP1.1 million worth of goods from both SMEs during the roadshows.

Sands China said in a press release that it will hold additional promotions and offer similar opportunities to support the growth of local businesses. These include SMEs, micro-enterprises, young entrepreneurs and "Made-in-Macao" enterprises.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL TO CO-HOST TANQUERAY GIN PARTY



Mandarin Oriental, Macau has partnered with Tanqueray to host Macau's first ever Tanqueray Gin Party at Vida Rica Bar, starting at 10 p.m. on May 27.

The party will bring in a new wave of mixed-drinks culture, focusing on gin and tonic.

The legendary Tanqueray was honored as the "No. 1 Best-Selling Gin and Most Trending Gin" and "Bartender's Choice"

in World's 50 Best Bars.

Tanqueray is recognizable by its signature green bottles. The color represents the fresh, citrusy flavor of Tanqueray No. 10.

Party guests are invited to dress in green. The "Greenest in the House" guest will win a complimentary stay at Mandarin Oriental, Macau.

The event will feature a live DJ as well as guest mixologists who will create classic Tanqueray cocktails.



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The practicality and versatility of an SUV or the power and panache of a Maserati? Now you can enjoy both, courtesy of the new Levante. Featuring potent 3.0 V6 diesel (Variable Geometry Turbo) engine, Q4 intelligent all-wheel drive system, an 8-speed ZF transmission and sophisticated air suspension, the Levante is every inch a refined SUV. Meanwhile, its exclusive Italian styling, luxurious interior and unique exhaust note affirm its Maserati DNA. So that's one less difficult decision to make.

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Rural Japan annoyed by casino plan seen favoring big cities

Lisa Du, Yuki Hagiwara and Grace Huang

TOKYO, Osaka and Yokohama are emerging as likely candidates for casino resorts under the Japanese government's new bidding framework, triggering criticism from smaller cities that say it undermines Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's goal of reviving rural areas.

Most global casino operators have indicated an interest in building resorts only in any of the three cities, given their relatively high population and proximity to major international airports. To be selected, operators and municipalities will have to team up and submit a concrete proposal to the government, according to guidelines published this month.

"The guidelines have changed the power structure between operators and local governments," Yoshinobu Nisaka, governor of Wakayama prefecture in western Japan, said at a news conference at the Japan Gaming Congress on May 11. "Where did the view that this was for local revitalization go?"

Officials from Nagasaki to Hokkaido have raised their hands to host casino resorts in their cities. Some are now also criticizing the process, saying it will lead to big operators only wanting to partner with large cities. Members of the government panel debating the issue



A boat sails near the Yumeshima island (top) in Osaka

have said licenses should be awarded to two to three municipalities to build out the first casino resorts in Japan.

"This morning's newspaper made me so disappointed," Hiroya Ebina, the mayor of Kushiro, a town in the northern prefecture of Hokkaido, said on May 11 when the new framework made headlines in Japan.

Las Vegas Sands Corp. is eyeing the three large cities, according to the chief executive officer of its Singapore operation. "The location that works best for our business model is the major cities so we're talking about Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka," Marina Bay Sands CEO George Tanasijevich said in an interview on May 11.

"We need to be in a major city that's connected to a major international airport so we can bring in the millions of people

that we want to host at our property," he said, adding a large local business community would also be a prerequisite.

Ed Bowers, executive vice president of global development for MGM Resorts International, also said a big local population would be required to justify the investment.

"MGM's business model is to build large-scale destination resorts with lots of stuff that cost a lot of money," he said. "So it needs to be in a high density population area, and obviously the ones to be mentioned are Tokyo, Osaka and Yokohama. So we're focused on those three."

Casino development is seen as a potential boon to the gaming industry in Japan, given the nation's wealthy population, proximity to China and familiarity with forms of wagering such as pachinko - a ubiquitous pinball-

like game - and horse and boat race betting.

Revenue from casino resorts in Japan could eventually reach USD25 billion a year, which would make it the second-biggest gambling market in the world, trailing only Macau based on 2015 numbers, according to investment bank CLSA Ltd. Such resorts will also include entertainment venues, hotels and restaurants, as well as so-called MICE space for meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions.

The location that works best for our business model is the major cities.

GEORGE TANASIJEVICH
MARINA BAY SANDS CEO

Not all operators have written off the possibility of a casino in a smaller area. "We are currently exploring opportunities in both urban and regional markets," said Steven Tight, the president of international development for Caesars Entertainment Corp.

Partnerships between major casino operators and large municipalities are still far from certain. Tokyo Governor

Yuriko Koike, who faces local elections in July, hasn't made casinos a priority. Yokohama has officially expressed interest, though the bay city near Tokyo faces a mayoral election in July where casinos could become a focal point. In Osaka, questions have been raised over the adequacy of facilities in the proposed site.

"The Osaka site's infrastructure requirements are extensive and will require cooperation of both private sector and government," MGM's Bowers said.

While key details such as taxes and the level of access to casinos by Japanese nationals have yet to be decided, the latest bidding framework means operators and local governments will need to accelerate talks on any tie-ups, Morgan Stanley analyst Praveen Choudhary wrote in a note to clients. "All markets will likely have a good sense of who they want to partner with before the implementation bill is passed," he said.

Lawmakers are fleshing out the bill, which is expected to be completed during summer in Japan before it's debated and voted on in the extraordinary session of parliament in the fall.

Any implementation law will also need to address ways to treat problem gambling in Japan, where public support for casinos is low and there is a lack of regulation to deal with addiction to activities such as pachinko. Fewer than 25 percent of Japanese people supported the legalizing of casino gambling, according to a survey conducted by the Kyodo news agency after the initial law was passed last December.

"I think what's on people's minds right now is the issue of responsible gaming and gaming addiction," Tanasijevich said. **Bloomberg**

Under new CEO, Cathay cuts jobs in biggest revamp since '90s

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd., Asia's biggest international airline, will eliminate 600 jobs in Hong Kong as part of the biggest revamp in two decades following its first loss in eight years.

The majority of affected employees will be informed over the next month, with most of the restructuring completed by the end of 2017, Cathay said in a statement yesterday. No frontline employees, pilots or cabin crew will be affected, it said. Cathay, its affiliate airlines and businesses employed about 33,000 people as of June 2016.

Despite booming demand for air travel in Asia, Ca-

thay Pacific and Singapore Airlines Ltd. are among premium carriers in the region reeling under intense competition from low-cost carriers, Chinese mainland rivals and Middle-Eastern operators such as Emirates. Singapore Air last week reported a surprise loss and announced a "wide-ranging review" of its business as well.

"Everyone is becoming more and more cost conscious," said Andrew Lee, an analyst at Jefferies in Hong Kong. "To be able to survive, they need to control costs. I think it is a start," he said, referring to Cathay.

Cathay will also restructure its cargo department by

removing the role of cargo director.

Shares of the Hong Kong-based carrier rose 2.3 percent to HKD11.58 on Monday. The stock has gained 14 percent this year, compared with a 13 percent advance in the Bloomberg Asia Pacific Airlines Index.

Cathay is in the midst of a three-year reorganization program after reporting its first annual loss in eight years for 2016, in part from a fuel-hedging bet gone wrong.

"We've had to make tough but necessary decisions for the future of our business and our customers," Rupert Hogg, who became chief executive officer on

May 1, said in the statement. "We will have a new structure that will make us leaner, faster and more responsive to our customers' needs. It is the first step in the transformation of our business."

The job cuts will involve 190 managerial positions, representing 25 percent of management, Cathay said. It will eliminate an additional 200 jobs, mostly from junior ranks, the South China Morning Post reported Monday separately.

"Job cuts is obviously the most effective measure in the short term but Cathay's problem is not coming from within, it's growing competition from outside,



from full-service peers in the mainland and Middle-East to budget carriers," Yu Zhanfu, a Beijing-based principal at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. "Cathay has been suffering decline in both yield and load factor. That's what Cathay needs to urgently address by sharpening their competitiveness externally."

Cathay has said it is targeting savings of about 30 percent from staff cost cuts at its headquarters. An official at Air China Ltd.,

which owns 30 percent of Cathay, said in March that the carrier will reduce more than HKD4 billion (\$514 million) in costs over three years.

All employees whose roles will become redundant in the new structure will receive a severance package including up to 12 months' salary, extended medical benefits including counseling and support, and additional and extended travel benefits, Cathay said. **Bloomberg**



China says no mining in its immediate plans for Antarctica

CHINA plans to expand its scientific research in Antarctica in coming years amid worries over the area's susceptibility to climate change, but has no immediate plans to mine or develop natural resources that could be exposed as the ice cap shrinks, government officials said yesterday.

China's growing interest in the frozen continent is in the spotlight as it hosts a meeting of more than 40 nations that oversee management of Antarctica under a 1959 treaty.

Human activity in Antarctica is governed by agreements designating it as a natural reserve. Those protocols also prohibit military

bases and the extraction of natural resources, although there has been speculation China one day could seek to tap into Antarctica's mineral reserves to support its economic expansion.

China signed the Antarctic treaty in 1983 and has since established four research stations. It plans to start construction of an airfield later this year and a fifth research station as early as 2018, and has a new icebreaker under construction to augment the Xue Long, a Ukrainian-built vessel currently used to service its Antarctic missions.

Lin Shanqing, deputy head of the State Oceanic Administra-

tion, told reporters yesterday that China wants "to make our contribution to the peaceful use of the Antarctic as a responsible and big country."

"At this stage China's Antarctic expeditions and research mainly focus on boosting our understanding of the Antarctic and to better conserve the Antarctic environment," Lin said. "According to my knowledge now, China has made no plans for mining activity in Antarctica."

About 400 representatives from 42 countries and 10 international organizations are expected to attend the 40th Antarctic Treaty meeting, which goes through

June 1. China's delegation is led by Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli and Yang Jiechi, a senior foreign policy adviser to Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Their attendance speaks to the importance China attaches to its rising scientific and technological prowess, which includes landing a rover on the moon in 2013, an increasingly sophisticated military and the maiden flight of the first large Chinese-made passenger jetliner earlier this month.

At the Antarctica meeting, Chinese officials hope to sign polar cooperation agreements with the United States, Russia and Germany, according to China's Mi-

nistry of Foreign Affairs.

Climate change and the tourist trade also will be on the international delegates' agenda.

Last week, researchers from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom released a study describing "fundamental and widespread changes" on the Antarctic Peninsula as glaciers retreat and more areas become covered with green moss. Representatives of the treaty nations will examine how to adapt to such changes.

More than 38,000 tourists visited Antarctica and surrounding waters in the 2015-2016 season, a 29 percent increase from a decade earlier, according to the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators. China accounts for a growing proportion of the visitors.

In 2014 the crew of the Xue Long rescued 52 scientists and tourists from a Russian research ship that became stuck in Antarctic ice. **AP**

Online retailer developing one-ton delivery drones

CHINA'S biggest online retailer, JD.com Inc., announced plans yesterday to develop drone aircraft capable of carrying a ton or more for long-distance deliveries.

The company said it will test the drones on a network it is developing to cover the northern Chinese province of Shaanxi. It said they will carry consumer goods to remote areas and farm produce to cities.

JD.com, headquartered in Beijing, says it made its first deliveries to customers using smaller drones in November. Other e-commerce brands including Amazon.com Inc. also are experimenting with drones for delivery.

"We envision a network that will be able to efficiently transport goods between cities, and even between provinces, in the future," the chief executive

of JD's logistics business group, Wang Zhenhui, said in a statement.

JD.com operates its own nationwide network of thousands of delivery stations manned by 65,000 employees. The company says it has 235 million regular customers.

Drones are part of the industry's response to the challenge of expanding to rural areas where distances and delivery costs rise.

Drone delivery in China and other countries faces hurdles including airspace restrictions and the need to avoid collisions with birds and other obstacles. In the United States, regulators allow commercial drone flights only on an experimental basis.

A 1 ton payload is heavier than what most drones available now can carry, though some can carry hundreds of kilograms and

major drone makers are working on devices able to carry more.

China is home to the world's biggest manufacturer of civilian drones, DJI, in the southern city of Shenzhen.

JD.com said its planned drone delivery network in Shaanxi would cover a 300-kilometer (200-mile) radius and have drone air bases throughout the province.

The company said it will

set up a research-and-development campus with the Xi'an National Civil Aerospace Industrial Base to develop and manufacture drones.

JD.com earlier reported first-quarter revenue rose 41.2 percent over a year ago to 76.2 billion yuan (USD11.1 billion). It reported profit of 843.1 million yuan (\$122.4 million) compared with a loss of 864.9 million yuan a year earlier. **AP**

Taiwanese minister: China is playing politics with health



A general view pictured during the 70th World Health Assembly at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva

Jamey Keaten, Geneva

TAIWAN'S health minister yesterday accused China of playing politics with health after Taiwan was blocked from taking part in the annual meeting of the governing body of the World Health Organization for the first time since 2008.

Health and Welfare Minister Chen Shih-chung lashed out at China's actions, which Beijing said was taken because Taiwan's year-old government has reneged on the "One China" principle.

"Are we here to discuss politics, or are we here to discuss health?" Chen told supporters and journalists. "I think that all discussion should be based on the right to health, instead of anything political."

The World Health Assembly accepted the exclusion of Taiwan without a vote at the beginning of its annual session in Geneva. Taiwan isn't a U.N. member state, but had been

granted assembly "observer status" every year since 2009 under an arrangement on the "One China" principle.

On Sunday, Chen's Chinese counterpart, Li Bin, blamed the governing party of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen for the exclusion of Taiwan this year, insisting its refusal to accept the principle of a single China has torpedoed its hopes to attend.

Chen struck back at that claim.

"Since President Tsai took office, we have not done anything to proactively change the status quo," he said, expressing "disappointment" about Li's comments. He added he would not rule out a meeting with Li in Geneva, but that nothing was yet planned.

Chen said Taiwan has "many things to share" in the health arena.

"We have a full-coverage national health care insurance policy, high-quality medical care, powerful epidemic control, and many other successful initiatives," Chen said. "It is not only that Taiwan needs the WHO, the WHO also needs Taiwan."

The World Health Assembly, now in its 70th edition, brings together health ministers and other top health officials from its 194 member states. The highlight of this year is expected to be the election today of a successor for Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan, a native of Hong Kong who has led the agency for a decade.

A statement yesterday from the office of U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said he had met with health officials from Taiwan "to discuss mutual efforts in support of global health security" — one of many bilateral meetings he has planned in Geneva.

Before taking office in January, President-elect Donald Trump — now Price's boss — astonished many by talking directly with President Tsai by phone, the highest level U.S.-Taiwan conversation since Washington switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing in 1979. Trump further stirred the pot by questioning the need to uphold the longtime U.S. "One China" policy.

Trump has since moved to reassure Beijing that he will adhere to that policy.

China has used its clout as one of five veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council to exclude Taiwan from the United Nations and other world bodies that require sovereign status for membership. **AP**

EXCLUSIVE

Health agency spends more on travel than AIDS

Maria Cheng, London

DR. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, traveled to Guinea earlier this month to join the country's president in celebrating the world's first Ebola vaccine.

After praising health workers in West Africa for their triumph over the lethal virus, Chan spent the night in the top-tier presidential suite at the beach-side Palm Camayenne hotel. The suite, equipped with marble bathrooms and a dining room that seats eight, has an advertised price of 900 euros (USD1,008) per night.

Some say such luxurious accommodations send the wrong message to the rest of WHO's 7,000 staffers.

According to internal documents obtained by The Associated Press, the United Nations health agency routinely has spent about \$200 million a year on travel ex-

penses, more than what it doles out to fight some of the biggest problems in public health, including AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined.

Last year, WHO spent about \$71 million on AIDS and hepatitis. It devoted \$61 million to malaria. To slow the spread of tuberculosis, WHO invested \$59 million. Still, some health programs do get exceptional funding — the agency spends about \$450 million trying to wipe out polio every year.

WHO declined to say if it paid for Chan's stay at the Palm Camayenne in Conakry, but noted that host countries sometimes pick up the tab for her hotels.

At a time when the cash-strapped health agency is pleading for more money to fund its responses to health crises worldwide, it has struggled to get its travel costs under control. Senior officials have complained internally that U.N. staffers break new rules



Margaret Chan (left) General Director of the World Health Organization (WHO)

that were introduced to try to curb its expansive travel spending, booking perks like business class airplane tickets and rooms in five-star hotels with few consequences.

"We don't trust people to do the right thing when it comes to travel," Nick Jeffreys, WHO's director of finance, said during a September 2015 in-house seminar on accountability — a video of which was obtained by the AP.

Beijing confirms detention of six Japanese amid report of spying

CHINA confirmed yesterday that it is investigating six Japanese citizens, following a Japanese news report that Chinese authorities had detained six men possibly for spying.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular briefing that six Japanese nationals are suspected of

engaging in "illegal activities," but did not give details.

Japan's Kyodo News reported earlier that three Japanese were detained in Shandong province and three in Hainan province — two regions with major Chinese naval facilities — in March.

Japanese Chief Cabinet

Secretary Yoshihide Suga said yesterday that China told Japan that authorities detained six Japanese in Hainan and Shandong provinces in March for violation of domestic law. He said he would not provide further details.

China has periodically detained Japanese citizens on suspicion of spying, inclu-

ding four in 2015.

Last December, a Chinese military-run newspaper lashed out at Kyodo for publishing photos of an under-construction aircraft carrier and suggested that the incident highlighted the need for China to better protect its military secrets, even though satellite images of the vessel were pu-

blicly available at the time.

China's government and state media have repeatedly warned of the country's vulnerability to foreign spies. Beijing, the capital, has encouraged neighborhood patrols and offered cash rewards of more than USD70,000 for tips about foreign agents, while the national government has introduced an annual "National Security Education Day" and disseminated cartoon posters warning government workers to stay vigilant against attractive foreigners who

might seek to seduce them.

China's government crippled a U.S. spy network in China by killing or imprisoning more than a dozen CIA sources between 2010 and 2012, The New York Times reported.

Hua, the foreign ministry spokeswoman, declined to comment about the Times article yesterday but said that as a general matter, China's state security apparatus investigates threats to national security and carries out its duties effectively and according to law. **AP**

Pope names cardinals for Laos, Mali, Sweden, Spain, Salvador

Frances D'Emilio, Vatican City

IN a surprise announcement, Pope Francis named new cardinals for Spain, El Salvador and three countries where Catholics are a tiny minority: Mali, Laos and Sweden.

"Their origin, from different parts of the world, manifests the universality of the Church spread out all over the Earth," Francis said, speaking from the window of the Apostolic Palace to thousands of faithful in St. Peter's Square.

The five churchmen chosen are Monsignor Jean Zerbo, archbishop of Bamako, Mali, where he has been involved in peace efforts amid Islamist extremism; Monsignor Juan Jose Omella, archbishop of Barcelona, Spain; Monsignor Anders Arborelius of Stockholm, who became a Catholic at the age of 20; Monsignor Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun, apostolic vicar of Pakse, Laos; and Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez, an auxiliary bishop who works as a parish pastor in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Francis will formally elevate the five to cardinal's rank in a ceremony at the Vatican on June 28. Then the new "princes of the church," as the red-hatted, elite corps of churchmen who elect popes are known, will co-celebrate Mass with Francis the next day, the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul, an important Vatican holiday.

Since being elected pontiff in 2013, Francis has made a point of visiting his flock in places whe-



Pope Francis (right) meets Bishop Anders Arborelius of Sweden

re Catholics are in the minority, as well as of working to improve relations between churches and among believers of different faiths.

His brief pilgrimage last year to Sweden, where Lutherans are the Christian majority, was hailed by some as instrumental in helping to improve relations between the two churches. While there, he joined Lutheran leaders in a common commemoration of the Protestant Reformation that divided Europe five centuries ago.

Arborelius, who is 67, converted to Catholicism when he was 20. In 1998, when he was consecrated as a bishop in Stockholm's Catholic cathedral, Arborelius became Sweden's first Catholic bishop, of Swedish origin, since the times of the Reformation.

In Mali, a country bloodied by Islamist extremism, Muslims constitute the predominant religious majority.

Francis prayed that Catholics in China would be able to bring their 'personal contribution for [...] harmony in the entire society'

Zerbo's clerical resume reveals him to be a churchman working for reconciliation in society, a virtue repeatedly stressed by Francis. The Vatican noted that Zerbo, 73, who was named an auxiliary bishop of Bamako in 1998 and 10 years later was

made that city's archbishop, has played a role in peace negotiations.

Extremists attacked a hotel in Bamako in 2015, killing 19 people. Last month, the U.N. peacekeeping chief for Mali called the security situation there alarming, warning that extremist groups operating under the al-Qaida banner were carrying out more sophisticated attacks and Islamic State militants were slowly making inroads.

There has been slow progress in implementing a peace deal reached in June 2015 between Mali's government, Tuareg separatists and armed groups in the north.

In Laos, the tiny Catholic community has often struggled to persevere, including under communist-led rule. Mangkhanekhoun, 73, was ordained a priest in 1972 and has served as a bishop since 2001. The Vatican paid tribute to his work in visiting faithful in mountain villages. Since early this year, he has served as apostolic administrator in Vientiane.

Catholicism has been the majority religion in Spain and in El Salvador, although in parts of Central and South America, evangelical Protestant sects have been gaining converts from the Catholic church.

The resume of Chavez, 74, also includes credentials valued by the pope, who has made serving the poor a key focus of the Catholic church's mission. Chavez heads the Latin American division of Caritas, the Catholic charity. He was appointed an

auxiliary bishop in 1982 for San Salvador, where he now will be based as a cardinal after serving as a parish pastor in the city.

Chavez worked closely with the late Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, who during El Salvador's civil war was shot to death by a right-wing death squad while saying Mass in 1980. Pope Francis has denounced Catholic clerics who "defamed" Romero after the slaying, a campaign that delayed Romero's eventual beatification.

Francis' pick for the Spain cardinal's post, Omella, 71, worked as a missionary in Zaire earlier in his career and serves on the Vatican's powerful Congregation of Bishops office. Since December 2015, he has been archbishop of Barcelona.

In announcing his selections, Francis expressed hope that the new cardinals with their work and "their advice will sustain me more intensely in my service as bishop of Rome, universal pastor of the church." In other remarks to the faithful in the square, Francis referred to the situation of another Catholic minority — Chinese whose loyalty to the pope has put them at odds with authorities of the state-sanctioned Catholic church in China, and sometimes brought persecution.

He prayed that Catholics in China would be able to bring their "personal contribution for the communion among believers and harmony in the entire society."

Francis is eager to see improved Vatican-China relations. Both sides have for decades been at odds over Chinese authorities' insistence that they have the right to appoint bishops, a prerogative the Vatican says only belongs to the pope.

He urged Catholics in China to "stay open to meeting and dialogue, always." AP

PHILIPPINES

Duterte leaves for 4-day visit to Russia

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte left yesterday for a four-day official visit to Russia, where he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and witness the signing of several agreements, including on defense cooperation and trade.

In his departure speech, Duterte said the visit underscores his independent foreign policy and desire to forge closer ties with Russia, which "must cease to be on the margins of Philippine diplomacy."

"Overdependence on traditional partners has limited our room to maneuver in a very dynamic, international

arena," he said. "This is a strategic oversight that has led to many missed opportunities for our country. I am determined to correct this."

Since taking office last June, Duterte has lashed out at then-President Barack Obama and his administration for criticizing his war on drugs, which has left thousands of suspected drug offenders dead. But he has been on friendlier terms with President Donald Trump.

Contrastingly, he has reached out to China and Russia — whose leaders he met recently — in a dramatic shift in foreign policy for the

Philippines, Washington's longtime treaty ally.

"Russia is a country that we must work with — there are opportunities that cannot be ignored," Duterte said. "With its geographic footprint in the Asia-Pacific region and its strategic interest in the region, a positive engagement is required to find areas of synergies and interests."

Ties between the two countries were established 40 years ago, but Duterte said the doors of cooperation have opened "ever so slightly" and "now we can work together to open those doors even wider."

Legislators, Cabinet offi-

cials and business leaders are accompanying him on the trip.

Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Maria Cleofe Natividad said Duterte will meet with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev tomorrow and they will discuss economic partnership and other areas of cooperation. Duterte will discuss political, military and defense cooperation during his meeting with Putin on Thursday.

The trip is at the invitation of Putin, whom Duterte met in Peru in November on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific leaders' summit.

Duterte is also expected



Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo (left) and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during signing ceremony at the Malacanang Palace grounds in Manila

to deliver a policy speech at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, bring Filipino business leaders to the Philippine-Russia Business Forum and meet with the Filipino community in Russia.

In a sign of warming bilateral ties, the two countries will set up offices of their defense attaches in each other's capitals, Natividad said.

Agreements to be signed during the visit include those on defense cooperation, military and technical cooperation, a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, an extradition treaty, and a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of security between the two countries' national security councils. AP

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FAMOUS **MARVELLOUS**





Donald Trump (left) shakes hands with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin after delivering statements

MIDDLE EAST

Trump says Israelis and Arabs share 'common cause' against Iran

Jonathan Lemire,
Julie Pace, Jerusalem

PRESIDENT Donald Trump opened his first visit to Israel yesterday, saying he sees growing recognition among Muslim nations that they share a "common cause" with Israel in their determination to counter the threats posed by Iran.

Arriving directly from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Trump expressed his hope for cooperation among U.S. allies in the Middle East. His second stop on the nine-day tour aimed to test the waters for reviving the dormant Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Trump, who had previously suggested that it would be easier than anticipated to solve the conflict that has vexed his predecessors for decades, said that conditions were right in both Israel and the Arab world to strike what he has called "the ultimate deal."

"We have before us a rare opportunity to bring security and stability and peace to this region and to its people," Trump said upon arrival in Tel Aviv.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Trump "a true friend" to Israel and expressed optimism about the president's role in the Middle East peace process. But obstacles have emerged that may complicate the relationship between the White House and the Knesset.

Trump's first stop was a meeting in Jerusalem with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin. In a statement following the meeting, Trump addressed his meetings the previous day with Arab and Muslim leaders in Saudi Arabia, and said that there is growing realization that they share a "common cause with you" in their determination to defeat extremism and deter "the threat posed by Iran."

But Trump may face concerns from Israelis over the new USD110 billion arms deal he announced during his previous stop in Saudi Arabia as well as questions from Israeli officials about revelations that he disclosed sensitive Israeli intelligence to Russian officials. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, speaking to reporters onboard Air Force One, said the U.S.

could provide clarifications to Israel about the disclosure but said, "I don't know that there's anything to apologize for."

White House aides have also tried to play down expectations for significant progress on the peace process during Trump's stop, casting the visit as symbolic. Tillerson referred to the visit as "a moment in time" and suggested that the U.S. would take a more active role in the future in brokering a deal if both sides make serious commitments.

But Trump, whose unorthodox approach has spurred some hope on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has done no such managing of expect-

■ Trump's flight on Air Force One was believed to be the first direct flight between Saudi Arabia and Israel

tations. He boldly stated that achieving peace is "something that I think is, frankly, maybe not as difficult as people have thought over the years." in March during a meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

"But we need two willing parties," he said then. "We believe Israel is willing. We believe you're willing. And if you both are willing, we're going to make a deal."

And Trump made one symbolic gesture yesterday in bridging the gap between Israel and the Arab world. His flight on Air Force One was believed to be the first direct flight between Saudi Arabia and Israel, nations that do not have diplomatic relations. Even the White House press corps making the trip on a separate plane from Riyadh to Tel Aviv had to make a technical stop in Cyprus before proceeding to Israel.

Netanyahu said he hoped an Israeli prime minister could soon make the same flight.

Today, Trump will meet with Netanyahu and tour some of Jerusalem's ancient sites, including the Western Wall, an

important Jewish holy site, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is believed to be where Jesus was crucified and the location of his tomb. The next day, he is set to meet with Abbas in the West Bank and deliver a speech at the Israeli Museum.

While Israeli officials cheered Trump's election, some are now wary of the tougher line he has taken on settlements: urging restraint but not calling for a full halt to construction. Trump has also retreated from a campaign pledge to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, bending to the same diplomatic and security concerns as other presidents who have made similar promises.

Palestinians, who viewed Trump's victory with some trepidation, are said to have been pleasantly surprised by Trump's openness during a recent meeting with Abbas in Washington.

And on the eve of Trump's visit, an Israeli official said Netanyahu's cabinet has approved confidence building measures with the Palestinians, including allowing building in a West Bank area. The official briefed on Sunday's meeting said the package includes building permits for Palestinians in Area C that has largely been off limits to Palestinian development until now. He spoke on condition of anonymity pending a formal government announcement. He did not elaborate and it is not clear how big the plan is.

One point of contention in the talks: the fate of east Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. The area is home to sensitive religious sites, including the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray.

Israel considers the entire city to be its capital while the international community says the future of east Jerusalem, claimed by the Palestinians, must be resolved through negotiations. The Trump administration drew the ire of some Israelis this week when officials declined to state that the Western Wall was part of Israel, as has been U.S. policy.

Israeli officials say they are largely in the dark about what ideas Trump might present for peace or what concessions he may demand. And while Netanyahu in the past has expressed support for the establishment of a Palestinian state, he has been vague about this goal since Trump gained power.

Meanwhile, Palestinian activists are calling for a "Day of Rage" when Trump visits the West Bank today. The demonstrations are meant to draw attention to a month-long hunger strike by hundreds of prisoners being held by Israel and to protest what many Palestinians say is unfair U.S. support for Israel. **AP**

Sarah DiLorenzo, Sao Paulo

BRAZIL

People call for president to resign after graft charges

BRAZILIANS around the country staged demonstrations yesterday [Macau time] calling for their president to step down after the supreme court opened an investigation into allegations he endorsed the payment of hush money to a jailed former lawmaker.

The accusations against President Michel Temer have plunged Latin America's largest nation into crisis yet again, sending its currency and stocks plummeting and stalling a series of reforms designed to pull the economy out of a protracted recession. It's been just a year since Temer took over as president following the impeachment and removal of his predecessor, Dilma Rousseff.

Now, the calls are growing for Temer himself to be impeached or resign. The latest to join that chorus was Brazil's bar association, which voted to submit a request for Temer's impeachment to Congress.

Several hundred people huddled under umbrellas and building porticos to avoid the rain in Sao Paulo as they called for Temer to leave office. Many said they have opposed Temer since he took over from Rousseff because they regard her impeachment as politically motivated and illegitimate. They were protesting Temer's proposals to

loosen labor laws and change the pension system as much as they were responding to the recent allegations.

"We're here to get Temer out of government because he is a coup-leader, because he is against teachers" and other workers, said Tatiana Camargos, a 41-year-old biology teacher.

Others said the latest revelations confirmed their suspicions of widespread corruption.

"It is funny because we have always said that they rob," said Ana Borguin, a 28-year-old subway worker. "But in fact now we have a concrete proof and the worst thing is that they do it openly and talks about millions as if they were talking about a grocery shopping."

In Rio de Janeiro, protests were smaller than expected. Around 150 people waved union flags along Rio's Copacabana beach, and they signed a giant banner with messages, such as, "Out with Temer" and "I want a better Brazil." Another 100 people marched to the house of Rodrigo



Maia, speaker of the lower house of Congress, to call for Temer's ouster and immediate elections.

Temer has defied calls to resign, saying the recording was doctored and denying any wrongdoing. The recording appears to have Temer endorsing the payment of bribes to ex-House Speaker Eduardo Cunha in ex-

change for his silence. Cunha is serving a sentence after a corruption conviction.

Temer has asked the Supreme Federal Tribunal, Brazil's highest court, to suspend its investigation into him — something that it is unlikely to do.

Attorney General Rodrigo Janot, who has accused Temer

of corruption and obstruction of justice in the case before the court, has said that a preliminary analysis of the recording showed that the conversation it contained was logical and coherent and its contents were consistent with the testimony of people cooperating with the prosecutor's office. AP

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what's ON



MACAO ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: June 4, 2017

ADDRESS: No. 47, Rua de S. Roque

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 8, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

LEATHER CARVING

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: June 18, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

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: (853) 2833 7676

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

TIME: 10:30am-7pm daily (Closed on the first Monday of every month)

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

A BONSAI OF MY DREAM — ON THE PATH TO THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: December 12, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

'COSTUME JEWELRY' DIAMOND REALLY WORTH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS

Some people have all the luck. Consider the person who dropped about 10 pounds (about USD15) around 30 years ago on what was thought to be a piece of costume jewelry — it turned out to be a 26.27 carat white diamond.

The gem bought at a flea market is expected to fetch about 350,000 pounds (\$454,000) when it is auctioned by Sotheby's next month.

The buyer had no idea of the ring's value because 19th-century diamonds were not cut to show off their brilliance and clarity.

The auction house's jewelry department chief, Jessica Wyndham, said yesterday the owner wore it on a daily basis, unaware that it was a real diamond.

She called it "an amazing find." The owners have asked not to be identified.



TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Revenge Sr 2
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

18 - 24 MAY

ALIEN: COVENANT

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min



KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law, Berges-Frisbey

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 126min

GIFTED

ROOM 2

7:30pm

Director: Marc Webb

Starring: Chris Evans, Octavia Spencer, McKenna Grace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

THE CIRCLE

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: James Ponsoldt

Starring: Tom Hanks, Emma Watson, John Boyega

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

29 + 1

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Kearen Pang

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Joyce Cheng, Ben Yeung

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

MACAU TOWER

11 MAY - 29 MAY



ALIEN: COVENANT

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

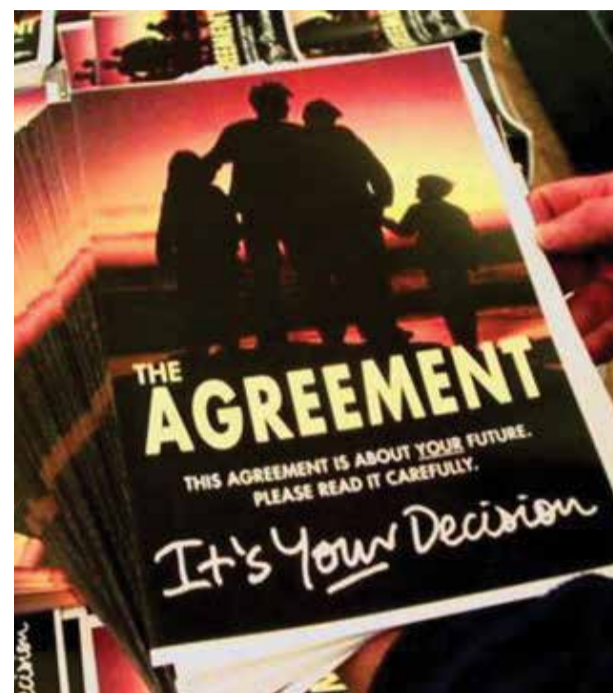
Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

this day in history



1998 LEADERS WELCOME 'YES' VOTE FOR N IRELAND

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has welcomed the resounding "yes" vote in the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement on Northern Ireland, calling it "a day for joy".

The referendum, held yesterday on both sides of the border, returned a resounding "yes" vote with 71% of voters from Northern Ireland and 94% of those in the Irish Republic showing their support for the Good Friday peace agreement.

"This is the result we have worked for and wanted," said Mr Blair. "It's another giant stride along the path to peace, hope and the future."

The agreement signed last Easter seeks to resolve relationships within Northern Ireland - between Northern Ireland and the Republic and between both parts of Ireland and England, Scotland and Wales - and pave the way for devolution from Westminster with a new all-inclusive Assembly.

It was signed on 10 April - Good Friday - by all interested parties except Rev Dr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and Bob McCartney's United Kingdom Unionist Party. They objected to the presence of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein in the multi-party talks leading up to the agreement.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, told reporters she was delighted with the two nations' endorsement of the agreement.

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said: "It is quite clear that a majority of unionists - not as big a majority of unionists as I would have liked - but a clear majority - have endorsed this agreement. We have taken an important step forward."

John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, said that for the first time the people of both sides of the Irish border were speaking as one.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said he was prepared to sit down with David Trimble in a new Northern Ireland assembly "now".

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said the overwhelming result was the true "voice of the people".

The British Government will press ahead next month with elections for a Northern Ireland Assembly.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After the euphoria of the positive vote for a peaceful solution to the problems of Northern Ireland came the reality.

The first three years of the agreement's implementation saw accusations and counter-accusation from both sides of the divide.

Unionists said the republicans had not complied with the spirit of the agreement's requirement for the decommissioning of arms.

And Sinn Fein accused the British government of failing to demilitarise quickly enough. It added that it could not force anyone to give up arms and that the agreement only stated that the parties should use all their power to influence the process.

Disagreement over decommissioning and policing led to the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly twice in 18 months - in February-May 2000 and in August 2001.

The issue has remained the major stumbling block in talks between all parties seeking to restore devolution since the Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in October 2002 over alleged intelligence gathering by republicans.

Direct rule finally ended in May 2007 when the Northern Ireland Assembly met with the return of devolution and DUP leader Ian Paisley as first minister.

YOUR STARS

♈ Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
It's not as if you're a stranger to impulse or spontaneity. In fact, you wrote the book on it. So now, when a particularly odd idea occurs to you - one you're absolutely sure will be great fun for all parties concerned.

♉ Taurus
April 20-May 20
A higher-up you've never been all that fond of is about to give you one more reason to keep your distance. Before you let them know why you'll be skirting the walls to avoid contact, think this out.

♊ Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Short trips are more your style than long-distance or long-term journeys. But at the moment, you may be thinking more about Casablanca than San Francisco. If that's the case, grab a friend who's been there and wants to go back.

♋ Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
When it comes to joint finances, you prefer leaving those decisions to someone you know and trust. In this instance, however, you may need to act before you have a chance to talk with anyone.

♌ Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
So now, when the chance to hop on presents itself, it's up to you to take it, wholeheartedly. If your best friend or your other half happens to be around, take them along for the ride.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You like to keep things the same as much as you possibly can. At the moment, however, that's just about impossible, especially when it comes to either work or joint financial ventures.

♎ Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your sign is nothing if not action-oriented, a fact that's not immediately obvious because of the charming way you go about taking those actions. Right now, though, you'll be willing to pull out all the stops to have some fun.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
When someone has been absent for this long, anyone with a brain would wonder why they were being welcomed back with open arms so quickly. Still, don't cheat yourself out of a reunion by wondering too much.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Oh, here we go. Someone you're not all that close to has decided that you're the person to bare their soul to - and, as usual, you can't resist the urge to help.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You take everything you do seriously, including recreation and hobbies. You've probably become so good at your leisure-time activities, in fact, that your friends have suggested you take the show on the road.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Your financial situation feels a bit shaky at the moment - or is it only that you're worried because you've been distracted by more important professional matters? Regardless of how or why it's happened...

♓ Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
If anyone enjoys the concept and the company of kindred spirits, it's you. So now, when you're invited to join up with a whole new group who share your ideals, there's really no reason to hesitate.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	13	28	clear
Harbin	6	22	shower
Tianjin	15	28	drizzle/cloudy
Urumqi	13	27	clear
Xi'an	14	27	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	9	22	drizzle/cloudy
Chengdu	18	29	drizzle/cloudy
Chongqing	19	25	shower/overcast
Kunming	15	27	clear/cloudy
Nanjing	21	26	shower/moderate rain
Shanghai	21	27	cloudy/thundershower
Wuhan	19	23	moderate rain/overcast
Hangzhou	21	29	overcast/moderate rain
Taipei	25	31	cloudy/drizzle
Guangzhou	24	29	shower
Hong Kong	25	29	cloudy

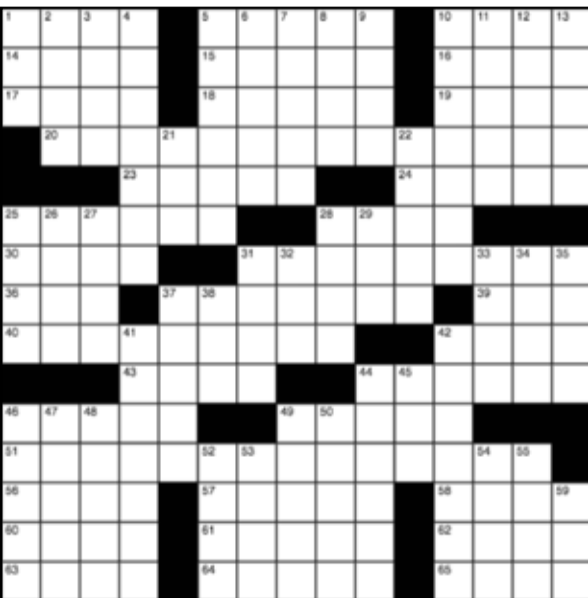
WORLD

Moscow	6	14	clear/cloudy
Frankfurt	12	21	overcast/cloudy
Paris	9	21	cloudy/overcast
London	10	16	cloudy
New York	14	19	cloudy/drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Univ. recruiting group; 5- Tortilla chip dip; 10- Timber; 14- Four Corners state; 15- Met highlights; 16- ___ want for Christmas...; 17- Picasso contemporary; 18- Caterpillar rival; 19- Lost traction; 20- Worldliness; 23- Basil-based sauce; 24- French port; 25- Barren place; 28- Graf ___; 30- Constantly; 31- Monetary unit of Austria; 36- Fair-hiring abbr.; 37- Sure-enough; 39- Norma ___; 40- Act of departing; 42- Henry VIII's sixth; 43- Olympian's quest; 44- An opportunity; 46- Broad valleys; 49- White as a ghost; 51- One purpose of a driver's license; 56- Lump of dirt; 57- ___ boy; 58- Manitoba native; 60- Ike's ex; 61- ___ we all?; 62- Overdue; 63- Burrows and Vigoda; 64- 1980s attorney general; 65- Anything ___?;

DOWN: 1- Pirate liquor; 2- Soul singer Redding; 3- Poi source; 4- Helicopter; 5- One who enjoys inflicting pain; 6- Give it ___; 7- Misdemeanor; 8- Delhi dress; 9- Wait ___; 10- Spendthrift; 11- Stan's pat; 12- Potpourri; 13- Failed to; 21- That woman; 22- Clear as ___; 25- Notable exploit, legal document; 26- Bacchanalian cry; 27- Ooze; 28- Elisabeth of "Leaving Las Vegas"; 29- Actress Zadora; 31- Gulf War missile; 32- Geom. point; 33- Oil-rich Islamic theocracy neighboring Iraq; 34- Bust maker; 35- Richard of "Chicago"; 37- Frozen dew; 38- City in GA; 41- To-do lists; 42- Compound raceme; 44- Virginal; 45- Worked (up); 46- Judicial rulings; 47- Go off-script; 48- Sierra ___; 49- Anouk of "La Dolce Vita"; 50- Examines closely; 52- Mosque leader; 53- Payment for travel; 54- Like some vaccines; 55- Takes home; 59- Extra-wide shoe size;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- 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
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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HKD 3.98M
Modern Apartment
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Villa de Mer - Tower 1
Macau
2 Bedrooms Apartment
Modern Furnishing
HKD 12,000 / 935 sq ft
Ref: 17040645

Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens
Taipa
1,503 sq ft / HKD 7,172 sq ft
HKD 10.78M
Ocean Gardens complex
Ref: 16095497

Kingsville, Taipa (I Unit)
Taipa
3 Bedroom Apartment
Parking Upon Request
HKD 16,800 / 1,200 sq ft
Ref: 17010631



FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

Nonstop celebrations for Madrid after winning league title

REAL Madrid's title celebrations show no sign of abating.

The Spanish champions will go to city hall yesterday and tour other iconic sites in the capital to celebrate the 33rd league title they won this weekend.

The players arrived in Madrid at about 2:30 a.m. and went to meet the estimated 50,000 fans who had been waiting since the end of team's match in the southern coastal city of Malaga. Madrid won 2-0 to finish three points ahead of Barcelona.

Players went to the club's traditional celebration spot, the Plaza de Cibeles, on top of an open bus which carried the No. 33 and the words "champions" and "thank you madridistas," which is what the team's fans are called.

Fans chanted the club's songs and anthem, and provoked rivals Atletico Madrid and Barcelona. Defender Gerard Pique, the outspoken defender for the Catalan team, was their main target throughout the night.

The song "We Are The Cham-

AP PHOTO



pions" was played the whole time.

Players also talked to the crowd, with Cristiano Ronaldo, who scored one of the goals against Malaga, singing one of the traditional songs fans chant during Madrid matches.

Many of the team's supporters stayed at the plaza long after the squad had left.

Madrid will be trying to win its

third Champions League title in four seasons in a final against Juventus in Cardiff on June 3. It hadn't won the league since 2012, and the last time it went five consecutive seasons without lifting the trophy had been from 1981-85.

A victory over Juventus next month will give Madrid its first European Cup-Spanish league double in nearly six decades. **AP**

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Brazilian stars on show in all-Chinese clash

ALMOST a quarter of a billion dollars worth of Brazilian talent will be on the field in Shanghai tomorrow as two Chinese Super League teams meet in the second round of the 2017 Asian Champions League.

Big names such as Hulk, Oscar, Alex Teixeria, Ramires and Elkeson have all helped Shanghai SIPG and Jiangsu Suning progress past the group stage to set up the first-ever all Chinese meeting in the tournament's history.

With two-time winner Guangzhou Evergrande also in the last 16, China has more teams in the second round than ever before, with all three teams that started the tournament surviving the first round. It is another sign of the growing strength of the big spending Chinese league.

"We will have to be at our best when we play Jiangsu," said Shanghai

coach Andre Villas-Boas ahead of the first leg, which takes place tomorrow with the return match in Nanjing a week later. "We know all about their quality and they know all about us. We have been playing well and we will have to continue that form."

The two teams come into the game in very different situations. Hulk's fifth league goal of the season helped the team to a 3-1 win in Friday's Shanghai Derby at Shanghai She-nhua. The three points put SIPG second in the table behind Guangzhou.

Despite the growing challenge from Chinese teams, Guangzhou Evergrande remains the only club to bring the trophy back to the country.

Under Luiz Felipe Scolari, Guangzhou is looking to become the first club to win three Asian Champions League tournaments.

AD

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THE Hurricanes overwhelmed the Cheetahs 61-7 and the Highlanders routed the Western Force 55-6 in strident displays of New Zealand teams' might in Super Rugby on the weekend.

Only South Africa's Lions, who defeated local rivals the Bulls 51-14 for a ninth consecutive win, continued to show the kind of form — and attacking flair — needed to threaten the New Zealand sides.

Australian conference leaders the ACT Brumbies had a 19-10 win over the Southern Kings in South Africa, ending the Kings' winning run when they came from behind with second-half tries by Aidan Toua and Tom Banks.

But the Brumbies, the top Australian team in the competition, have won just four of their 11 games versus leaders the Crusaders, who are 12-0, and the second-place Lions, who have won 11 out of 12.

All five New Zealand teams have better records than the Brumbies, Australia's leading hope.

The New South Wales Waratahs moved to within four points of the Brumbies with a 50-23 win Sunday over the Melbourne Rebels to complete the round.

On Saturday, center Vince Aso scored three tries and became the leading try-scorer of the season by raising his tally to a club-record 13 for the defending champion Hurricanes as they blew away the struggling Cheetahs.

Aso began the match one try behind his midfield partner Ngani Leamape, who previously led the season's try-scoring list with 11. Aso's first try against the Cheetahs allowed him to draw level with Leamape and helped the Hurricanes to a 21-7 lead by halftime.

Inside center Leamape then created two second-half tries for

SUPER RUGBY

Hurricanes, Highlanders show New Zealand power

Aso, who first matched the season record for the Hurricanes — 12 by former All Blacks captain Tana Umaga — and then claimed that record for himself.

In a match of records at Wellington, the New Zealand capital, All Blacks flyhalf Beauden Barrett — who started the match at fullback — kicked five conversions from five attempts to lift his career tally in Super Rugby to 992.

Barrett moved into fourth place on the all-time scorers' list ahead of Andrew Mehrtens (990) and behind top-placed Dan Carter (1,708), Morné Steyn (1,431), and Stirling Mortlock (1,036).

In Perth, Australia, the Dunedin-based Highlanders won their eighth match in a row, and third straight on the road.

The New Zealand side scored eight tries to none and notched 45 unanswered points after the Force made it 10-6 midway through the first half. It gave the two Kiwi sides an aggregate advantage of 116 to 13 points over their opposition in the opening matches on Saturday.

The Lions raced ahead against the Bulls in Johannesburg thanks to a four-try burst in nine minutes in the first half. Springboks wing Ruan Combrinck returned from a long-term injury to collect two of the Lions' seven tries at Ellis Park. The best was when lock Franco Mostert rampaged down field after a defense-splitting pass by Elton



Yoshitaka Tokunaga of Japan's Sunwolves falls to the ground after being tackled by Lorens Adriaanse of South Africa's Sharks during their Super Rugby match on the weekend

Jantjies, and put prop Ruan Dreyer clear to score between the posts.

In the race for top spot at the end of the regular season — and possibly a home final — the seven-time champion Crusaders lead the Lions by three points ahead of a home game against the Melbourne Rebels and then tough tests against fellow New Zealand teams the Highlanders and Hurricanes.

The Lions finish the regular season at home against the Kings

and Sunwolves, and away to the Sharks.

The Brumbies also appear set for a playoff place by virtue of their lead in the Australian conference but are more than 30 points off the pace of the Crusaders, and struggled to get past the Kings.

The home team led after a third-minute penalty try, when Makazole Mapimpi was prevented from scoring by Brumbies fullback Banks, who was yellow-carded for

knocking the ball out of Mapimpi's hands.

Josh Mann-Rea got the first try back for the Brumbies and Toua and Banks got their scores in the last 15 minutes to drag the Brumbies to victory.

The Sharks beat the Sunwolves 38-17 in Singapore, with the help of the three late tries, and are the second-best team from South Africa, albeit 13 points behind the Lions. AP

RUGBY

Scotland retains London Sevens title beating England



Scotland's Dougie Fife (left) in action with USA's Andrew Durutalo and Stephen Tomasini (top right) on day two of the London Sevens at Twickenham

SCOTLAND successfully defended its London Sevens rugby title when it overcame home side England 12-7

in the final at Twickenham yesterday [Macau time].

The Scots won their maiden cup trophy in

London a year ago, and this was only their second triumph in the sevens world series' 18 seasons.

England playmaker Oliver Lindsay-Hague, who scored three tries in the semifinal win over Canada, was carried off on a cart early, but his teammates responded with a sensational try. Dan Norton, unable to beat the Scots on the outside, backed off and tried the inside, split four defenders and turned the sweeper inside out before scoring.

Richard de Carpentier had a try disallowed because he put a hand in touch, but England went into halftime 7-0 up.

Scotland restarted bet-

ter, Hugh Blake picking up loose ball on the England side of a breakdown to even the score.

Then in a surge up the middle of the field, full of support play, Scotland captain Scott Riddell was on hand to finish off, and they held on to give departing coach Calum MacRae and retiring players Mark Robertson and Scott Wight a perfect send-off.

The Scots produced comebacks in every knockout match.

In the quarterfinals, they came from 21-0 down at halftime to beat New Zealand 24-21 for the first time, then beat the United States 21-14 in the semis with a last-gasp try by substitute

Joe Nayacavou.

England defeated world series champion South Africa 17-12 with a decisive Norton try in the quarterfinals, en route to its first final in its home event since it won in 2009.

South Africa clinched the world series last weekend in Paris. England finished second overall, its highest finish in 11 years. Fiji, winner of the previous two world series, was third. AP

NEW ZEALAND SEVENS TOURNAMENT TO MOVE TO HAMILTON

HAMILTON WILL host the New Zealand leg of the World Rugby Sevens Series from 2018, replacing Wellington which has hosted the two-day tournament for 18 years. The Wellington Sevens were once one of the biggest events on the New Zealand sporting calendar and tickets sold out within minutes. But

crowds have dwindled in recent years and this season's tournament was run at a loss. New Zealand Rugby yesterday confirmed Hamilton as the venue for the tournament in 2018 and 2019. General manager of sevens, Steve Dunbar, said Hamilton was seen as the best of several would-be hosts.

opinion

Our Desk

Daniel Beitler



THE PROBLEM WITH YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH

At the start of every month, the Gaming and Inspection Bureau (DICJ) releases the gross gaming revenue (GGR) results for the previous month and expresses the growth in terms of year-on-year change. That is, the revenue recorded last month when compared with the same month a year earlier.

The problem with using this particular metric is that it is not reflective of the reality of the health of the gaming sector in the city and it disguises larger trends in the economy.

Gross gaming revenue for the first four months of this year (see table) ranged between MOP19 billion and MOP23 billion, according to data from the DICJ website, with the best performing month being February, coinciding with most of the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday.

GGR JAN-APR 2017

Month	GGR*	y-o-y change	Accumulated
Jan	19,255	3.1%	3.1%
Feb	22,991	17.8%	10.6%
March	21,232	18.1%	13%
April	20,162	16.3%	13.8%

*GGR is expressed in MOP millions

That particular month recorded year-on-year growth of 17.8 percent; a figure that would be astonishing to almost any other established sector anywhere else in the world, but in Macau is treated as normal. The problem is that it hides the reality of what is actually occurring in the sector.

Take for example the 21.4 percent year-on-year contraction measured in January 2016, or the 14.4 percent increase in November 2016. These considerable swings suggest that the revenue recorded in each month is highly sensitive to events within the month, such as the weather or another similar factor. However, upon closer inspection, we find that the revenue for both of these months is almost identical, at MOP18.67 billion and MOP18.78 billion respectively, according to the DICJ.

The discrepancy is caused partly by the fact that the gaming recovery in Macau began less than 12 months ago. Before July 2016 (or June, depending on how you measure) gaming revenue had been in an uninterrupted decline for around two and a half years.

When the recession ended, year-on-year GGR comparisons were essentially contrasting two different markets; one in a downward trend and the other in an upward one. Thus, each month the difference between the contrasted months increased (one getting larger, the other getting smaller), giving the impression that the growth was accelerating rapidly.

The month of March is a great example. The revenue recorded that month was 7.7 percent smaller than that in February, yet the year-on-year growth showed acceleration.

To report that March saw the fastest year-on-year growth in three years is technically correct, but it is also unrepresentative of the health of the gaming sector and thus slightly misleading.

No wonder that gaming analysts who forecast growth need to be so broad in their estimates and so frequently get it so wrong. Perhaps a one-month period is simply too short a timeframe to measure meaningful differences in Macau's gaming sector.

A more useful metric, also adopted and published each month by the DICJ, is the accumulated GGR for the calendar year. As each month of the year passes, the "year-to-date year-on-year" becomes averaged and more reflective of the situation across the year so far.

If this were the widely adopted metric for reporting GGR gains, then the only unusual month each year might be the first – January – and that would largely depend on whether the Chinese Lunar New Year fell in that month.

Ultimately, however, no measure of percentage change will accurately reflect the health of Macau's gaming sector. Only the actual revenue expressed in billions of patacas comes close to telling the whole story.

THE BLACK EYED PEAS TO BE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL WARM-UP ACT

The Black Eyed Peas will perform on the field before Real Madrid plays Juventus in the Champions League final.

UEFA announced the warm-up act yesterday for the match on June 3 at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales.

It is the second year the game will kick off

after a concert. A performance by Alicia Keys meant the Real Madrid-Atletico Madrid final last year started four minutes late at the San Siro in Milan.

The Champions League final typically draws an average global television audience of at least 160 million.

Four climbers die near top of Mount Everest in tragic weekend

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

THE body of an Indian climber was spotted on Mount Everest yesterday, the fourth fatality on the mountain during a busy and tragic weekend on the world's highest peak.

Sherpa rescuers spotted the body of Indian climber Ravi Kumar, but it was impossible to retrieve the body, said Thupden Sherpa of Arun Treks and Expedition. It appeared that Kumar had fallen some 200 meters below the route, he said.

Climbers from the United States, Slovakia and Australia also died on the mountain over the weekend.

Kumar fell sick on his way down from the summit on Saturday and did not make it to the nearest camp, though his accompanying Nepalese Sherpa guide did reach camp. The guide was sick but had managed to drag himself to the camp at South Col, located at 8,000 meters (26,247 feet).

Kumar and his guide reached the 8,850-meter-high (29,035-foot-high) summit at about 1:30 p.m. Saturday, which is considered late, and not many climbers were around when they were returning back.

Tourism Department official Kamal Prasad Adhikari confirmed that American



climber Roland Yearwood, 50, from Georgiana, Alabama, died Sunday, but it was not clear if and when his body would be brought down.

A Slovak climber, Vladimir Strba, 50, also died on Everest on Sunday, Tourism Ministry official Gyanendra Shrestha said. His body was brought the South Col camp. Australian climber Francesco Enrico Marchetti, 54, from Queensland, died on the Chinese side of Everest, according to the Himalayan Times newspaper. Other details were not available.

The number of climbers who have died on Everest during the current spring climbing season, which began in March and runs through the end of this month, has now reached six. A typical spring season sees around six deaths on Everest,

according to mountaineering officials.

Because of bad weather conditions, climbing to the summit had been delayed this year, leading to a rush in the last few days to get to the summit.

The Nepalese Tourism Department issued a record 371 permits this year to people to scale the mountain. The increased number of climbers this year is likely because many people were unable to climb in 2014 and 2015, when deadly avalanches disrupted the climbing seasons.

Climbers who had permits for the 2014 season were allowed to receive a free replacement permit until 2019, while climbers with 2015 permits were given only until this year. The permits normally cost USD11,000. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Alastair Grant



The Aussie star, Nicole Kidman poses for photographers during the photo call for the film *The Killing Of A Sacred Deer* at the 70th Cannes film festival.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	25-45 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	😊
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	😞

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA-PAKISTAN A two-day gun battle left four insurgents and three Indian soldiers dead close to a cease-fire line dividing troubled Kashmir between longtime rivals India and Pakistan, India's army said.



IRAN's newly re-elected President Hassan Rouhani yesterday called relations with the United States "a curvy road," and also criticized Saudi Arabia after it hosted President Donald Trump, saying that the kingdom "has never seen a ballot box" while Iran just hosted a successful presidential election. More on p14



TURKEY summoned the U.S. ambassador yesterday to protest what it called "aggressive and unprofessional actions" by American security personnel against Turkish bodyguards in Washington during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit last week.

YEMEN Protesters linked to anti-government Shiite rebels pelted the motorcade of the U.N. envoy to Yemen with rocks, shoes and eggs in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. The war in Yemen has killed more than 10,000 civilians and led to the displacement of some 3 million.

GERMANY A Syrian man has gone on trial in Germany for allegedly leading a militia in Syria that was responsible for torture and killings. The dpa news agency reported yesterday that the 42-year-old man faces possible life imprisonment if convicted in Duesseldorf state court.

BRAZIL Embattled Brazilian President Michel Temer said in an interview published yesterday that he will only leave office if forced out, despite facing growing calls to resign over a corruption scandal. More on p15