

JE SUIS CHARLIE MESSAGE GOES VIRAL AFTER PARIS ATTACK

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■ P3,14,15,20 ■ INSIDE EXTRA



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Strong currents and blinding silt thwarted an attempt by divers to find AirAsia Flight 8501's black boxes yesterday, which they hope are still located in the recently discovered tail of the plane. The flight data and cockpit voice recorders, which are crucial to helping determine what caused the jet to go down with 162 people aboard on Dec. 28, are located in the rear of the aircraft.



N KOREA Recent satellite imagery appears to show that a North Korean submarine is being equipped to fire missiles, posing a potential new threat to its neighbors, a U.S. research institute said yesterday. The finding published by 38 North, the website of the U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, comes as Washington ratchets up sanctions against North Korea following a destructive hacking attack against Sony Pictures.

CANADA The Canadian sergeant-at-arms hailed as a hero for shooting the gunman who stormed Parliament in Ottawa will be named the country's ambassador to Ireland. The Canadian Press has reported that the appointment will be announced today. Sergeant-at-Arms Kevin Vickers is credited with killing a man who'd stormed into Ottawa's Centre Block in October after killing a soldier at the National War Memorial.

More on backpage

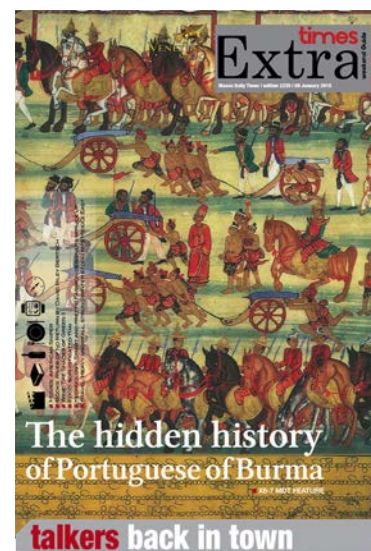
Galaxy tower catches fire, 6,000 workers evacuated

■ P3



Crossing measures boost house-buying confidence

■ P2 CONSUMER INDEX



Extra
times
weekend Guide
■ INSIDE



Liu Cheng Kun (right)

New border-crossing measures boost house buying confidence

João Pedro Lau

THE latest figures of the Macau consumer confidence index (CCI), published yesterday by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), showed a 19.6 percent surge in the sub-index of house purchasing in the fourth quarter of last year. Scholars participating in the preparation for the CCI attributed the rise to the change of border-crossing arrangements and the economic slowdown. Nevertheless, they predicted that the rise of the sub-index may be short-lived,

as residents may digest the beneficial information quickly.

The MUST Institute for Sustainable Development conducted the survey between December 16 and 22 and interviewed 1,009 local residents above the age of 18. The results indicated that the CCI for the last quarter of the year rose 2.7 percent to 87.4 compared to the third quarter of last year. This means that residents have a higher confidence in general but the figure still hovers below the 100 point benchmark.

Among all the sub-indexes, the jump of the house buying

sub-index is highlighted. The sub-index has followed a continuous trend of dropping since Q1 2013. In Q3 2014, it was 38.3 and the number increased to 45.8 in the last quarter. Despite the considerable rise, the sub-index was still significantly below the 100-point threshold. This indicates Macau residents' obvious lack of confidence in buying houses.

Dr Liu Cheng Kun, the head of the department of accounting and finance in the MUST School of Business, said that the major factors behind the boost is the recently implemented 24-hour

border-crossing at the Hengqin Checkpoint and the Zhuhai-Macau Cross Border Industrial Zone, as well as the extension of border-crossing hours at the Border Gate checkpoint. He also named the decline in the region's gaming revenue as a factor contributing to the rise. "These have considerably relieved the upward pressure of the housing prices in Macau, which is shown by the fact that consumers have a relatively large increase in house buying confidence compared to the previous figures," he said.

However, Liu predicted that

the house buying sub-index may not see another significant surge in this quarter, as there may be no other good news to support the positive sentiment of the consumers. He said that while the housing supply in Hengqin and the policy to allow vehicles with Macau license plates to enter Hengqin may have a short term effect on the local housing prices, "this kind of news is likely to be digested pretty quickly."

"If this kind of positive news is digested by the consumers, and the drop of gaming revenue does not further intensify, I think there may not be another rise of close to 20 percent in the housing buying sub-index in this quarter," he declared. The scholar added that the long-term solution for the housing problem in Macau relies on the improvement in local, including the housing supply and income of residents.

Other rising indexes include the sub-index of employment, which has moved up by 0.6 percent to 124.9 and remained the highest amongst all the sub-indexes. The sub-indexes of living quality and commodity, which reflect residents' sentiments regarding the pressure on livelihood, also increased by 2.5 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. This means that residents are expecting a weaker inflation, relieving the pressure on living.

The only sub-index that has recorded a drop is the sub-index of the local economy, which has slightly decreased by 0.2 percent to 108.6. Despite the drop, Dr Liu said that Macau residents remained confident in the territory's economy because the figure is still above 100. "This 0.2 percent movement is, to some extent, a matter of data and does not reflect whether the residents have changed their perspective on the economy," he said.

EDUCATION

GAES admits lagging behind in obtaining student information

THE Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) admits that it is "relatively slow" in acquiring the information of Macau students studying medical science overseas, which may lead to some students not being able to have

their qualifications recognized by local medical institutions.

The comment was made by Vong Iut Peng from GAES, in response to a concern raised by one of the listeners of a TDM radio talk show yesterday, regarding the

accreditation of overseas medical degrees in Macau. "Frankly, we are relatively slow [in gathering relevant information]. We have already communicated with the relevant mainland departments on some cases [where some stu-

dents' degrees are not recognized in Macau]. In order to prevent this issue from happening again, we have been organizing seminars since 2011 on the issue and hoped that this could help the students and prevent the issue from

happening again," said Vong.

The GAES representative also revealed that in the 2013/14 school year, more than 600 Macau students were studying medical science overseas. Among them were 300 student pharmaci-

sts and 80 Chinese medicine students.

She recommended all students to visit the Talent Information Registration website to learn about the job market in Macau before deciding their future field of study. **JPL**

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Times

DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com

DESIGN EDITOR João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, João Pedro Lau, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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AN under-construction building of the Galaxy Macau resort in Cotai caught fire in one of its attics yesterday. Over six thousand workers inside were evacuated.

The fire broke out before 11 am on the top floor of the tower, according to a worker at the nearby Light Rail Transit construction site.

"The fire was emitting thick black smoke for quite a while. When it was burning, we couldn't see anyone on the building top from here," said the worker, Mr Zhao.

About 6,000 construction workers and 150 subcontractors were inside the building at the time and were evacuated with the assistance of firefighters.

"All construction workers were safely evacuated with no injuries reported. GEG [Galaxy Entertainment Group] is working closely with the relevant parties for further investigation related to the fire," stated the company afterwards.

The blaze was reportedly put out after five minutes while the fire tanker continued shooting water to reduce the heat. A signature golden decoration was completely damaged and part of the attic's exterior wall was charred.

The building is part of the second phase of GEG's expansion on the Cotai Strip.

About 40 firefighters were deployed to fight the blaze. "The manager of the construction site told us that there was welding work ongoing on the top floor; we think that the kindling was induced by the welding," said Chan Kuok Tong, chief of the Fire Services Bureau's Taipa branch, on scene.

"The major difficulty [in extinguishing the fire] was that we

Under-construction Galaxy tower catches fire, 6,000 workers evacuated



“This incident will not affect the construction progress of Phase 2

GALAXY

happened. "This is just a small fire; it's normal in a construction site. It only took two minutes to put it out," a security head told the Times.

"A fire like this is not a big deal in the mainland, but might not be a small one in Macau," commented Mr Zhao, who has been working in construction for seven years, adding that all the construction workers must possess life and work injury insurances as stipulated by the Labor Affairs Bureau.

The GEG stock dropped by 1.2 percent at noon and went down by 1.6 percent at the market closing time yesterday, according to Hong Kong Economic Journal. "This incident will not affect the construction progress of Phase 2," the gaming operator stated.

Construction workers were allowed to return to the site after 1pm. **BY**

had to approach the fire scene step by step, as construction works were underway in many spots on this site and most parts of the path was obstructed for us to get through," he added.

According to the local fire department's initial investigation, a giant decoration mounted on the outer wall of the top floor of the building caught fire

as workers were carrying out welding work nearby. "It was made of fibreglass. It emitted black smoke when it burst into flames. Burning debris broke off from the decoration and fell to ground level during the incident. It was extinguished by our colleagues on the ground," the fire department's spokesman said. The firemen say

there was no damage to the interior of the building under construction.

The Times was at the scene and witnessed the fire brigade efforts to control the incident. Both the security manager who patrolled at the gate near the construction site and public relation staff on site were reluctant to talk about what had

Alliance Française tributes in silence to terror victims

Brook Yang

MACAU also felt the grief and shock for the massacre at the Charlie Hebdo magazine, as some French migrants joined their compatriots in Paris for a minute of silence tribute in honor of the victims yesterday evening.

"A lot of French people say this is like France's '9/11' incident; it's a lot of emotion for everybody," said Xavier Garnier, director of the Alliance Française de Macao (AF Macao),



adding that such a moment made them feel more connected to their

French background. About fifteen French expats and Chinese

se students gathered at the AF Macao where they turned the television to a French channel and joined in the nationwide minute of silence at 7 p.m. local time.

"We did it simultaneously; we could see the president on TV. It is very important for us to share this moment, because when we live abroad, like here in Macau, when something like this happens in our country, we feel more French than usual," stressed Garnier.

The terrorist attack on

the satirical weekly left twelve dead, including some prominent cartoonists, an economist and police officer. "Some of the victims - especially Cabu and Wolinski - were like our grandfathers, as we had known them as cartoonists since we were children," said Garnier. "I feel very sad, as if I had lost my grandfather, because they had always been with us in our lives."

The widespread slogan "Je suis Charlie [I am Charlie]" also appeared at the AF Macao's office, showing commemoration and solidarity in the fight for freedom of speech.

"We are all shocked by such violent action. We couldn't expect this. For sure it will bring a big

change in France. Now all the French people want to be together, not to be divided anymore," said the director.

“A lot of French people say this is like France's '9/11' incident; it's a lot of emotion for everybody

XAVIER GARNIER

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STATISTICS

Gaming industry strengthens dominance

THE figures published by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed that the gross value added, intermediate consumption and compensation of employees for gaming rose by 23.1 percent, 15.0 percent and 12.6 percent respectively year-on-year in 2013. This indicated that the gaming industry was taking up more room than usual in Macau's industrial structure.

In general, the gross value added, intermediate consumption and compensation of employees of all economic activities at current prices increased by 21.8 percent, 14.5 percent and 14.9 percent respectively year-on-year in 2013. The value added of industries that are closely related to tourism and gaming also showed a satisfying rise, with the value added of wholesale and retail, hotels, and restaurants, increasing by 19.6 percent, 21.3 percent and 14.5 percent respectively.

In general, the gross value added of the tertiary sector increased by 22.5 percent year-on-year, with its relative importance to GDP rising by 0.6 percentage points from 93.7 percent in 2012 to 94.3 percent in 2013.



Meanwhile, the DSEC figures have indicated a considerable growth in the gross value added of real estate activities and banking as well. The increases were of 42 percent and 33 percent respectively.

Compared to the gaming, tourism and banking sectors, which form the tertiary section of the economy, the increase in the gross value added of the secondary sector, comprising production and construction, is relatively weak, scoring a growth of a mere 10.4 percent. This development is even lower than the rate of economic growth and has brought the sector's relative importance to GDP down by 0.6 percentage points to 5.7 percent. The lower growth rate is attributed to the completion of the main structures of the University of Macau Hengqin campus.

Free Wi-Fi service launched at Portuguese consulate

VISITORS to the Portuguese Consulate-General in Macau and Hong Kong can now pass their waiting time in a more enjoyable way, and even send necessary information for their visit, with free Wi-Fi access provided at the consulate, announced the Consul-General Vitor Sereno yesterday.

The service was offered for free by local telecom operator CTM, who has expanded its Wi-Fi hotspots over the city to about 500 locations. "This was a very good initiative proposed by Mr Sereno and we immediately agreed on it. In just a few weeks we have been able to install the network here," introduced CTM CEO Vandy Poon.

"This launch has a significant meaning for us, as it marks the further expansion of CTM's Wi-Fi hotspot coverage, but also facilitates our future cooperation with the consulate where it can introduce more diversified services with our stable and high-speed fiber broadband



Portuguese consul Vitor Sereno and CTM's CEO Vandy Poon

network," he stated.

The CEO further stressed that building a digital city is the development trend in Macau. "Last year we doubled the number of Wi-Fi hotspots based on the previous year; this year we will continue expanding our hotspot coverage," he added.

Besides the free Wi-Fi service, the consulate will also launch an online platform next Thursday for Portuguese citizens to renew their

passports and apply for identification documents.

Currently, there are over 160,000 Macau and Hong Kong residents who hold a Portuguese passport. The new platform will allow users to record their personal data into the system, streamlining the application process. "Residents will no longer need to queue outside the consulate for the application services," said the Consul-General. **BY**

AD



Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE

NOTICE

The Macau Government Tourist Office hereby announces an invitation to tender for the "Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan Service Provision", in accordance with the approval of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture dated 5th of December of 2014.

From the date of publication of the present notice, interested bidders may visit the Macau Government Tourist Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d' Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor, Macau, to view the Tender Program and Terms and Conditions of the Tender within the working hours, and pay MOP 500.00 (five hundred patacas) to obtain the copies.

For any further enquiries, please visit the Macau Government Tourist Office website (<http://industry.macaoutourism.gov.mo>) to submit your enquiries starting from the day of publication of the present notice until 10 days before the tender submission deadline. All replies will be posted on the same website.

The maximum price limit for the tender is MOP 20,000,000.00 (twenty million patacas).

Criteria for tender evaluation and their respective percentages are as follow:

- Appreciation of the planning task (35%);
- Planning methods and programme of work of the phases (20%);
- Price (15%);
- Experience (30%).

Bidders must submit the tender written in Chinese, Portuguese or English, within the working hours by 17:45 hours on 2nd of March of 2015, to the Macau Government Tourist Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor in Macau and shall submit the provisional guarantee fee of MOP 400,000.00 (four hundred thousand patacas). The provisional guarantee fee shall be paid by: 1) cash deposit to the account of "Tourism Fund" at Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau; 2) bank guarantee; 3) cash, cashier's order or mark good cheque deposit directly to the Macau Government Tourist Office, cashier's order or mark good cheque should be made payable to "Tourism Fund"; 4) wire transfer directly to the account of Tourism Fund, at Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau (account no. 8003911119).

The tender opening session will be held in the Auditorium of the Macau Government Tourist Office, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 14th floor in Macau, at 10:00 hours on 3rd of March of 2015.

In case of the services of the Macau Government Tourist Office are suspended owing to typhoon or force majeure, the scheduled closing date and time for submission of tender, as well as the date and time for opening the tender shall be extended to the next working day that follows immediately.

According to the article n.º 27 of Decree-Law n.º 63/85/M, of 6th July, the legal representatives of the Bidder should be present during the tender opening session for any complaints and/or to explain any doubts regarding their respective tender.

Macau Government Tourist Office, on 18th of December of 2014.

Director
Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes



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Urology : Dr. Richard K. Lo, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. C.K. Yeung

Paediatrics : Dr. Leung Ping, Dr. Melody Z.Q. Zhang

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UM security caught stealing from students

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has detained a security guard working at the University of Macau (UM) Hengqin campus who allegedly used a master keycard to enter students' rooms and steal their belongings. Information suggested that two students approached the authorities at the beginning of the month and reported that someone stole valuables and cash worth a total of MOP5,800. During the investigation, a 24-year-old security guard from the mainland claimed to the PJ that he was involved in the crime and surrendered himself to the authorities on Wednesday. A PJ spokesperson said that the man turned himself in because he thought the authorities would eventually find out that he was the perpetrator. The man admitted that he used the master keycard to enter the students' rooms while patrolling the dormitory. UM said that it was very concerned with the case and has requested the security company to review and make improvements.

15 illegal workers found in Fisherman's Wharf



The Public Security Police (PSP) has found 15 alleged illegal workers in the construction site of a hotel in Fisherman's Wharf. The authorities are currently tracking down the sub-contractor involved. The 15 men were 7 illegal workers and 8 non-resident workers who were suspected to have violated the conditions of their work permits. They were either Hong Kong or mainland residents. PSP said that those workers were mainly bricklayers or were responsible for interior decoration. They have also taken one man with them to assist their investigation. The authorities are still locating a sub-contractor.

US delegation looks for healthcare collaboration

A high-level delegation from Tufts University (TU), a prestigious medical school in the United States, is now visiting the University of Macau (UM) to explore cooperation opportunities and also to familiarize themselves with the healthcare infrastructure in Macau. UM Rector Zhao Wei said that the local university has just inaugurated a Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), which "will aggressively develop health, scientific, clinical and entrepreneurial activities." "Secondly, with the FHS, UM is exploring ways to develop sustainable collaborations with hospitals in Macau.

PJ holds talk with schools on Internet crimes

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has discussed crime prevention related issues with principals and representatives from 67 local schools, as well as representatives from the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, Chinese Educators' Association of Macau and the General Association of Chinese Students of Macau. PJ director Chau Wai Kuong said that he hopes the discussion can allow schools to understand the latest Internet-related crimes. He also suggested that it takes a social consensus to amend the law against computer crimes.

The meeting took place yesterday afternoon at the PJ headquarters, with 115 people attending the event. In his speech, director Chau stated that 62 primary schools/section and 48 secondary schools/section have participated in the PJ's "School Safety Communication Network", which seeks to foster cooperation between the police and the schools by enhancing young people's knowledge of crime prevention but he said that there is more work to be done.

"In the recent years, there have been, from time to time, cases where young people were the criminals or the victims of



PJ director Chau Wai Kuong (center)

crimes. This shows that the awareness youth have of law abiding and crime prevention is still weak. There needs to be further deepening and development in crime prevention education amongst young people," he said.

Meanwhile, some participants have asked the PJ to share more information on criminal activities involving young people with schools, so that they can understand the thoughts of teenagers better. "I think it is not very appropriate for [us in the

school] to discuss issues [related to criminal activities]. Therefore, if the PJ has acquired information when investigating some crime cases, would it be possible for PJ officials to share that information with schools so that we can understand the teenagers more?" An in-school counselor questioned.

After the meeting, Chau Wai Kuong was asked about his opinion of the amendment to the law against computer crimes. The director said that it requires a comprehensive

amount of consideration and the consensus of society to decide whether to amend the law. "As a law-enforcer, of course I would want laws that allow us to collect evidence in an easier manner but we have to follow the law as well. [Any amendment] has to go through the Legislative Assembly, which is a body representing the residents. [Therefore, the amendment of the law needs consensus in society, which is the will of the public, not only the will of the police," he said. **JPL**

COURTS

TUI states permanent residency denied on grounds of absent family

Brook Yang

The former Secretary for Administration and Justice and the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has violated MSAR's Basic Law, according to a ruling by the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) this week. The case concerns the rejection of an eligible skilled migrant's request to transition to permanent resident status because his family did not live in Macau.

The TUI stated in its verdict that although there are several factors that identify whether an applicant is eligible for the right of abode, such as having a family or job in Macau, they are, "only simple indications for the DSI to take a reference in the approval progress, rather than the necessary requirements that need to be met at the same time."

According to the Basic Law, a person is entitled to the right of permanent abode if he or she has resided in the territory for seven consecutive years and regards it as his or her permanent place of residence. However, the law

didn't clearly explain the standard of "permanent or final place of residence."

The TUI explained that "the permanent place of residence" should mean that it is not only the place where one lives in, but also "the center of one's daily life" where he or she conducts work and family life, possesses a stable income if not working there, pays tax and has the intention of settling down permanently.

"We also think that the administrative authorities absolutely have the right to take into consideration any important facts to make the judgment, even if these factors are not listed in the regulations," it added.

The migrant, an Irish national, resided in Macau for seven consecutive years after obtaining the right of temporary residency in 2005 through the immigration scheme for investors, managers and special skilled professionals. However, his application for the right of permanent abode was rejected by the DSI, as his wife and underage child were living in Ireland.

Such reasoning was also backed by the then Secretary for Administration and Justice, who dismissed the man's administrative appeal in January 2013. Nevertheless,

the applicant further appealed to the Court of Second Instance (TSI) and won.

However, the then secretary was not convinced by the TSI's ruling and appealed against the TSI's collegial panel to the superior court, TUI, but eventually lost the case.

"We believe that for an applicant who has in fact been separated from his family, his wife and underage child not living in Macau doesn't prejudice him taking Macau as his permanent place of residence," said the verdict.

Besides supporting the TSI's ruling and indicating the administrative authorities' violation of the Basic Law, the TUI also refuted the former Secretary's statement that the DSI has "discretion" over the mentioned matter.

"This is a new opinion that hasn't been expressed before. Opposite to the appellant [the former Secretary]'s opinion, we think that the law (...) didn't intend to give the administrative authorities any discretion to decide who should become a permanent resident and who should not," said the TUI, adding that the authorities exercising their limited power is a different matter.

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 - How your family deals, financially with your death –
 - How where you are (*age and geographic location*) can affect tax liabilities –
 - How your children are affected if you don't write a Will for Guardianship –
 - How a mixed marriage can affect the estate when one or both parties die –
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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Clarifying Costs For Buyers

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

Investing in a property involves not only the purchase price of the property itself, but also the associated costs of the purchase. In this 3 part series, we break the cost of purchasing a property into 3 categories, and have outlined the details in each one. However, be warned that these costs do fluctuate, and whilst the figures themselves may change, you will at least know what you are looking for.

The categories are;
Purchase Costs - The cost of the property itself
Legal & Administration Costs - Taxes, notary, registration fees etc
Property Costs - Renovation, improvements and furnishing
Property prices in Macau are in HKD, so for the sake of consistency please assume that all prices here are in HKD.
For the purpose of this article, we are going to look at a property that is purchased for HKD 6,000,000.

Purchase Costs

The purchase cost is the price

of the property itself, and the amount of cash you will need to buy the property.

Initial Deposit - \$100,000
The initial deposit is a token amount that is paid upon the signing of the 'Provisional' Sales & Purchase Agreement. This amount can vary, but is usually between \$100,000 to \$500,000.

Second Deposit - \$500,000

The second deposit is paid upon the signing of the 'Promissory' Sales & Purchase Agreement, the agreement put together by the lawyers and signed in the lawyers' office, normally within 30 days of signing the original document.

This deposit can vary, but is usually the amount required to bring the total deposit paid to 10% of the purchase price.

In this example, since the purchase price is \$6,000,000, then 10% is \$600,000.

As we have already paid an initial deposit of \$100,000 then there is a remaining balance to pay of \$500,000.

Balance - \$5,400,000

The balance is paid upon the signing of the 'Sales & Purchase Agreement' during the final part of the process, and is conducted in the presence of a Public Notary usually within 60-90 days of signing the original agreement. The balance will usually consist of a Bank Loan plus the additional cash required.

In this case we are going to assume that the bank loan represents 70% of the purchase price (\$4,200,000), and the total cash required represents the remaining 30% (\$1,800,000). As we have already paid \$600,000 and the bank will pay \$4,200,000 then the remaining balance payable at the signing is \$1,200,000.

This balance is usually paid with a cashier order.

So the breakdown of our Purchase Costs looks like this;
Cash Required - \$1,800,000
Bank Loan - \$4,200,000

Next Week: Part 2 - Legal & Administration Costs

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PROJECT POKER

BY IVAN DEMIDOV

Poker and the Nash equilibrium

Most of you have probably heard something about game theory, a topic some poker players have gotten curious about and studied. If you're one of those players, you might also have heard of "Nash equilibrium".

"Nash equilibrium" is named after a mathematician named John Forbes Nash, Jr. who came up with the idea during the middle of the 20th century. Here is a definition:

"If each player has chosen a strategy and no player can benefit by changing strategies while the other players keep theirs unchanged, then the current set of strategy choices and the corresponding payoffs constitute a Nash equilibrium."

Nash proved that if we allow mixed strategies, then every game with a finite number of players in which each player can choose from finitely many pure strategies has at least one Nash equilibrium. That means within any game if there are a finite number of strategies available, there's at least one combination where the strategies chosen will create a Nash equilibrium.

In theory, if everyone plays perfectly, even no-limit hold'em is a solved game.

Should we start panicking? No, not yet.

First of all, there is a huge difference between knowing there is a Nash equilibrium and finding one. Right now we are able to find Nash equilibriums only in the easiest spots in NLHE -- say in a heads-up "pushbot" (all in or fold) game, or when looking specifically at our river bet-call strategy. But it's getting too complicated if we try to do it in a harder spot -- indeed, in most spots.

Let's look at a small example.

We are playing three-handed, and only two players make the money. The blinds are 120/240. One player has 3,000 chips, we have 2,000, and a third player has just one chip.

The guy with one chip is on the button and he folds. We are in the small blind. Nash equilibrium here would be to push ~13% for us and the big blind to call ~7.5%. Ranges are that tight, because you don't want to bust out before the one-chip guy. But let's say guy in the big blind is a huge fish who would call us with 7 6 -suited and hands like that. That move is very unprofitable for him, but it's also very unprofitable for us -- to the point where our push becomes very, very negative EV.

The winner in this situation? That guy with one chip who folded. He is getting tons of value despite having just one chip and folding first to act.

As this example shows, using the range from Nash equilibrium does not guarantee you profit or even to break even. That's the most widespread misconception about "GTO" or game theory optimal play -- that there exists an "ideal" strategy that guarantees you at least breaking even, no matter how your opponents play. As we've seen that's not the case, because Nash equilibrium only works if everyone is playing perfectly. In fact, if someone is not playing perfectly and making mistakes, that can affect you in a negative way.

So don't worry... :) Poker will always be the game we love, a game where you constantly have to adapt to what others do. A game in which no "secret math strategy that beats everything" exists.

AD

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PokerStars LIVE



Shrinking foreign oil bill sends US trade deficit lower

Martin Crutsinger, Washington

THE U.S. trade deficit fell in November to the lowest level in almost a year, thanks to the country's swiftly shrinking thirst for foreign oil.

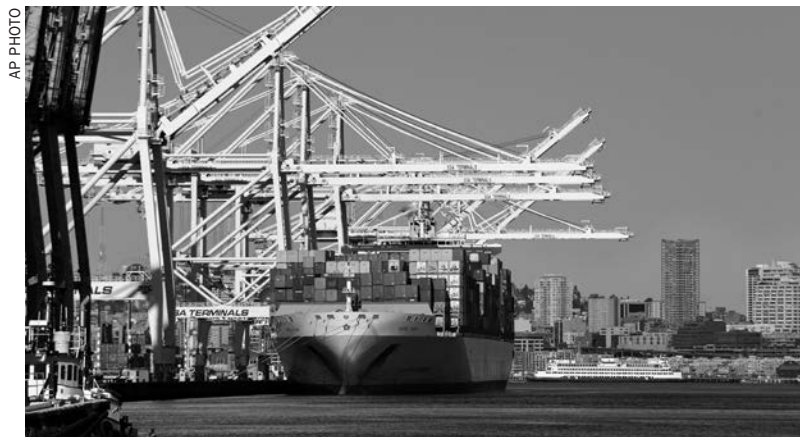
The deficit — imports minus exports — narrowed to USD39 billion during the month, down 7.7 percent from a revised October deficit of \$42.2 billion, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

U.S. exports slipped 1 percent to \$196.4 billion amid lower sales of commercial airliners.

Primarily due to oil, imports posted a steeper drop of 2.2 percent to \$235.4 billion. The volume of crude imported in November hit its lowest level since 1994, while the average price hit a two-year low of \$82.95 a barrel. A simultaneous boom in domestic oil production has also cut the country's reliance on imported oil.

Economists predict that the oil market will continue to reduce the U.S. trade deficit and potentially bolster the overall economy. To be sure, a lower bill for foreign oil is likely to be offset somewhat by a stronger dollar, which makes U.S. goods more expensive in overseas markets, and economic weakness in such key export markets as Europe and Japan.

"The trade gap will continue to shrink apace until the oil import tab stops falling like a rock," said Patrick Newport, an economist



A container ship is moored at the Port of Seattle's seaport on the Duwamish Waterway, south of downtown Seattle

at Global Insight.

Some analysts revised their forecast for overall growth in the October-December quarter higher based on the better-than-expected November trade report.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said trade would be less of a drag in the fourth quarter than he had previously thought. He now projects overall economic growth of 2.25 percent in the October-December quarter. Other economists are more optimistic and estimate growth of 3 percent or higher in the fourth quarter.

The November deficit was the lowest since a trade gap of \$37.4 billion in December 2013. Through the first 11 months of 2014, the deficit is running 5.1 percent above the same period in 2013.

The politically sensitive trade deficit with China dropped 8 percent to \$29.9 billion in November but remained on track to set

a new all-time high for the year. America's deficit with China is the largest for any country. It has added to pressure on Congress and the Obama administration to take tougher actions against what critics see as unfair Chinese trade practices such as the country's manipulation of its currency to gain trade advantages over American companies.

The widening trade gap with China comes at a time when the Obama administration hopes to finally get Congress to approve the fast-track authority it needs to wrap up a major 12-nation trade agreement with Pacific Rim countries known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

The administration sees the trade deal as one of the areas where President Barack Obama may be able to find common ground with Republicans who took control of the Senate this week and now control both chambers of Congress. **AP**

US to require airlines use data to prevent accidents

Joan Lowy

NEW U.S. government rules announced Wednesday will require airlines to collect and analyze safety data in an effort to spot troubling trends and help prevent accidents.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the causes of 123 accidents between 2001 and 2010 could have been identified beforehand if airlines had safety management systems in place.

Passenger and cargo airlines must have such systems by 2018. The rules detail the kind of data to be collected and analyzed but give airlines flexibility about gathering the information. Airlines will be required to develop programs to analyze the data.

The systems are also designed to imbue a safety consciousness throughout airline companies and establish formal methods for not only identifying hazards, but also controlling and continually assessing risks. Most U.S. airlines already safety systems, or elements of them.

"Aviation is incredibly safe, but continued growth means that we must be proactive and smart about how we use safety data to detect and mitigate risk," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said.

He said the safety systems give "airlines the tools they need to further reduce risk in commercial aviation."

The FAA has been under pressure for nearly a decade to develop such rules. In 2006, the International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. agency without power to force action, told countries to require their airlines to adopt safety management systems and set standards.

Following the 2009 crash of a regional airliner near Buffalo, New York, Congress passed an aviation safety law that included a deadline of July 2012 for the FAA to issue rules requiring airlines to have safety management systems. The National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates air crashes, has also urged the FAA to require such systems.

Susan Bourque, who lost her sister Beverly Eckert, a noted Sept. 11 widow and activist, in the 2009 crash, praised the FAA for including regional air carriers in the rule.

"It is so important that every passenger flying on a regional airline ... receives the benefit of a commitment to and investment in best-practice, data-driven safety programs that is commensurate with that of the major carriers like Southwest and Delta — a commitment and investment that my sister Beverly and everyone else lost on Flight 3407 sadly and tragically did not receive," Bourque said in a statement.

Continental Connection Flight 3407 was operated for Continental Airlines by now-defunct regional carrier Colgan Air. All 49 people aboard the plane and a man on the ground were killed when the pilots allowed the plane to slow to a dangerously low speed, and the captain responded incorrectly to a safety warning, sending the airliner into an aerodynamic stall. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA RECOGNIZED BY HK ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Sands China Ltd. has received recognition from the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for joining their online Carbon Footprint Repository (CFR), which was developed by the Hong Kong Environment Bureau (ENB) for Hong Kong Listed Companies. Sands China is one of the first companies to disclose their carbon footprint along with their strategies and practices on carbon management.

A ceremony co-organized by the ENB and Hong Kong Exchanges as well as Clearing Limited (HKEx) to launch the CFR was held last month, and was attended by representatives of all 64 listed companies. It was at this ceremony that each company was presented with a certi-



ificate in recognition of their contributions and efforts in auditing their carbon footprints and disclosing their carbon data through the CFR. Syed Mubarak, Director of Sustainability at Venetian

Macau Ltd., received the certificate of commendation on behalf of Sands China from the Secretary for the Environment of Hong Kong, Wong Kam-sing.

"We are very pleased to receive recognition from the Hong Kong Environmental Protection Department," said Mark McWhinnie, senior vice president of Development and Shared Services and Director of Sands Cotai Central. "Sands China has always been dedicated to continually reducing energy consumption across our integrated resorts. This, together with other initiatives as part of our corporate Sands ECO 360° program, will continue to motivate us as we search for ways to further reduce our carbon footprint."

BlackBerry says it will use its expertise in secured messaging services to offer new ways for cars, home appliances and other devices to communicate with each other while keeping their data secure and private.

In the emerging field known as the Internet of Things, everyday products have sensors and Internet connectivity so they can think for themselves and take action autonomously. The problem with this is that if the system isn't secure, hackers might fool a "smart" door lock into opening, for instance. Or hackers might tap into a connected fitness tracker to obtain sensitive health data.

So BlackBerry is opening its data centers and other technologies to businesses needing

BLACKBERRY PROMOTES SECURITY EXPERTISE



such security. BlackBerry is already well regarded in corporate circles for providing security for phones, email and

other messaging services.

"We have a combination of knowledge, process and experience, which we combine to provide complete security," Sandeep Chennakeshu, president of BlackBerry Technology Solutions, said in an interview after Wednesday's announcement.

He stated that customers would have complete control over data, including who gets access to which information. Someone might want to share a week's worth of heart-rate data with his or her doctor but not the insurance company, for example. What if the customer is a company? In the case of a car, the manufacturer would decide what data a mechanic or car insurer could see.

ANGOLA

Construction of the deep-water port of Cabinda starts in June



THE construction of the deep-water port of the Angolan province of Cabinda, a project estimated to cost around USD600 million, is scheduled to start in June, but preparatory work is already underway, the Cabinda pro-

vincial governor said Wednesday. "Work on support infrastructure [for construction] is being carried out and in June 2015 the work itself will begin," said Aldina da Lomba Catembo, cited by local media.

The governor had previously stated that the work is the largest ever carried out in the Angolan province, and will "take Cabinda out of isolation," considering that the enclave is around 60 kilometers away from the rest of Angola.

Construction of the port, in Caio Litoral, is the result of a public-private partnership and will be implemented in three phases by Angolan company CAioporto SA

The first phase of the project involves construction of port infrastructure and

■ The enclave is around 60 kilometers away from the rest of Angola

construction of a 100-hectare cargo services area.

Information provided by the concession company, responsible for the construction and future operation of the port, showed that this first phase – whose contractors have already been selected – also involves construction of a 775-metre pier. **MDT/Macauhub**

British company says there is oil in Portugal



BBRITISH company Ioniq Capital Partners Limited has located six oil deposits in Portugal, Portuguese weekly magazine *Sábado* reported adding the company planned to sell its studies to the Portuguese government for 8.2 million euros.

The deposits were using technology that detects natural resources by satellite and are expected to contain at least 1 billion barrels of oil, and another 30 percent more natural gas.

The company estimates that the value of the reserves, which are at sea at a depth between 2,000 and 3,000 metres, amounts to over 43 billion euros, i.e. 25 percent of Portugal's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The office of the Minister for the Environment and Energy, Jorge Moreira da Silva, confirmed that there were meetings with the company, but that the Minister and the Secretary of State for Energy simply listened to the arguments presented and explained national legislation. **MDT/Macauhub**

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TRADE

Beijing hosts Latin American bloc, hails ties with region

CHINESE President Xi Jinping hailed growing ties with Latin America yesterday, pledging to use his country's economic clout to support billions of dollars in regional projects and almost double two-way trade to USD500 billion over the next 10 years.

Xi held talks with officials from left-leaning nations in the Western Hemisphere a day after meeting Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who said he received pledges of \$20 billion in Chinese investment in his country's beleaguered economy.

Xi emphasized the potential for future growth in ties between China and the grouping of more than 30 nations known as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which together account for one-eighth of the global economy. Late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and other leftist leaders pushed the bloc as an alternative to U.S.-led regional organizations.

"I am sure that this meeting will yield rich results, send to



Chinese President Xi Jinping, right walks with Costa Rica's President Luis Guillermo Solis as they arrive at the opening ceremony to a two-day meeting between China and Latin American and Caribbean countries held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Trade between China and Latin America grew from USD10b in 2000 to 257b in 2013

liveries.

Maduro said after his meeting with Xi that there was no word on any new loan package. He said the \$20 billion in investments would go to "projects with an economic, energy and social character" but didn't specify exactly how the money would be spent.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said the investment would go to energy, mining, agriculture and industry, including oil exploration in Venezuela, which has the world's biggest proven oil reserves.

Venezuela is struggling with one of the world's highest inflation rates, a recession and a cash crunch worsened by a steep fall in the price of oil. It has so far unsuccessfully urged OPEC nations to work together to drive up oil prices, which have fallen by half in six months. Venezuela depends on oil for 95 percent of its export income.

The presidents of Ecuador and Costa Rica were also in Beijing for high-level talks on Chinese trade, investment and financial support in Latin America. On Wednesday, Ecuador said it secured \$7.5 billion in credit from China. AP

I am sure that this meeting will yield rich results, send to the world a strong message of our commitment to deepening cooperation for common development

XI JINPING

the world a strong message of our commitment to deepening cooperation for common development," Xi said.

He emphasized China's commitment to an independent foreign policy and to maintaining an equal partnership with the region, comments likely to appeal to many in the grouping who resent what they see as unfair dominance by the United States.

Trade between China and the region grew from \$10 billion in 2000 to \$257 billion in 2013, driven largely by Chinese demand for commodities such as crude oil and soybeans. While slowing growth in China will soften demand for such products, Xi said Latin America and the Caribbean would bene-

fit heavily from forecasts of \$10 trillion in Chinese imports from the entire globe over the next five years.

Along with the targeted increase in two-way trade, Xi said he wants to increase direct investment in the region to \$250 billion over the next five years. Last July, China extended a \$20 billion loan to the region for infrastructure development, another \$10 billion in preferential loans, a \$5 billion fund for cooperation between the sides and \$50 million for agricultural development.

Xi said the meeting would produce three documents, including one laying out cooperation goals through 2019 in diplomacy, trade, finance, energy and other areas.

The new partnerships raise pressure on the United States, which has traditionally enjoyed close economic, cultural and political ties with Latin American countries. All of the region's nations except Cuba are scheduled to meet for the Summit of the Americas in April in Panama City, to be hosted by the Washington-headquartered Organization of American States.

China has particularly strong ties with several Latin American nations that have clashed diplomatically with the U.S., especially Venezuela. China is Venezuela's largest creditor and has loaned it more than \$40 billion over the past five years, some of which has been paid back in the form of oil de-

DONUTS

Dunkin' strikes deal to open 1,400 stores in China



DUNKIN' Donuts said yesterday it struck a deal to open more than 1,400 locations in China over the next 20 years.

The chain said in an email there are currently 16 Dunkin' Donuts locations in the country.

Parent company Dunkin' Brands Group Inc., which is based in Canton, Massachusetts and also owns Baskin Robbins, said it entered into a master franchise agreement with Golden

Cup Pte. Ltd. The group is a joint venture between Jollibee Worldwide Pte Ltd., based in the Philippines, and Jasmine Asset Holding Ltd, a unit of RRJ Capital Master Fund II, L.P.

The deal was noted by Janney analyst Mark Kalinowski, who cited a report about it in the Nikkei Asian Review. Kalinowski said the agreement could lead to "a very nice international growth platform" for Dunkin' Donuts

if successful. He noted that Jollibee is a "premier restaurant operator" and the largest quick-service concept in the Philippines.

A year ago, Dunkin' Donuts also announced a separate agreement with Fast Gourmet Group to develop more than 100 stores in eastern China. And on Monday, the chain said it signed a franchise agreement to open more than 100 locations throughout Mexico.

Dunkin' Donuts ended the most recent quarter with about 3,200 international locations. In the U.S., it had about 8,000 locations, giving it more than 11,100 locations. The chain has been expanding domestically as well, and recently opened its first traditional location in Southern California.

Starbucks Corp. had more than 19,700 locations around the world at the end of its most recent quarter. AP

Jim Gomez, Manila

AP EXCLUSIVE | PHILIPPINES

At least 25 wrong arrests mar anti-terror work

MORE than a decade ago, the military declared they had killed an Abu Sayyaf kidnapping suspect named Abdulmukim Idris. Yet a man authorities accuse of being Idris continues to languish in a maximum-security jail where the Philippines holds some of its most notorious terror suspects.

In the country's dogged pursuit of terror suspects, it also has nabbed two "Black Tungkangs," two "Abdasil Dimas," two "Hussien Kasims." Those are just a few of the signs that Philippine law enforcers have made a slew of mistaken arrests in going after Abu Sayyaf and other Islamic militant groups long active in this Southeast Asian nation's south.

Complaints of false arrests prompted low-key but unprecedented reinvestigations of some of the country's high-profile terrorism cases by state prosecutors. They have led to the release of more than two dozen people who were either mistaken for Abu Sayyaf fighters or brought to trial without evidence, according to official findings.

In their latest review, issued in August, state prosecutors said such faulty arrests of villagers, some of whom could not be identified even by a single witness, are "abhorred in civilized societies like ours."

An Associated Press investigation that included interviews with prosecutors, key witnesses and a freed detainee shows that dozens more people remain behind bars despite a lack of evidence against them. For instance, of the two detainees accused of being the Abu Sayyaf militant who used the nom de guerre Black Tungkang, one remains in custody, even though a former hostage has sworn that neither was the right man.

"I really wanted to retaliate if I have the chance — against the right people," the former hostage, Amily Mantec, told The AP in an interview. She was among six Jehovah's Witnesses abducted by Abu Sayyaf gunmen in 2002. Two of the captives, including her husband, were beheaded.

The real culprits "committed horrible crimes, but they're free because other people are suffering under their names," said Mantec, who now lives under a government witness-protection program.

The case involving Mantec had the most releases of mistakenly arrested detainees among the three high-profile kidnappings involving the Abu Sayyaf that prosecutors have re-examined in the last two years. Twenty-two suspects, arrested between 2004 to 2012, were freed in 2013 after Mantec and another former hostage failed to identify them and for lack of evidence. Just three others were returned to trial.

Two detainees were released after prosecutors re-examined the



Muslim detainees board their bus to take them back to their detention following one of the reinvestigation hearings to review their cases at the the special court near their detention compound at Camp Bagong Diwa, Paranaque city, south of Manila, Philippines

2000 kidnappings of 52 students, teachers and a Roman Catholic priest on the southern island province of Basilan, an attack that left three abductees dead. Prosecutors discovered that not a single witness stood against the two suspects as they sat in jail for more than a decade.

In a third case — 21 Western tourists and Asian workers kidnapped from a Malaysian diving resort and released in the Philippines' Sulu province — the review led to the release of one suspect.

■ In the country's dogged pursuit of terror suspects, it also has nabbed two 'Black Tungkangs,' two 'Abdasil Dimas,' two 'Hussien Kasims'

Across the three cases, 120 indictments were sustained.

Senior state prosecutor Peter Ong said he and other prosecutors also want the remaining "Black Tungkang" detainee released, but the court has refused because the arresting officer insists he's the right suspect. Ong said the suspect says he was coerced into giving a false confession. The arresting officer could not be reached for comment.

Ong said he suspects some law enforcers may have forced civilian informants to point to the wrong people to pocket anti-terror bounties. He said he has asked government officials to introduce more safeguards to prevent government anti-terror bounties from being corrupted.

Mantec told the AP that an arresting officer once pressured her to falsely identify a man as an Abu Sayyaf militant who had a bounty on his head, but she resisted.

More than 140 million pesos (USD3.2 million) in rewards have been handed to informants for the "neutralization" of 115 Abu Sayyaf militants from 2001 to 2013, according to the military.

As recently as 2012, the government was offering a bounty for the capture of Abu Sayyaf militant Pedong Palam, even though a man said to be that suspect had been in jail since the early 2000s. Ong said that detainee was finally released last year after prosecutors found no evidence against him during a review of his kidnapping case.

Hundreds of Abu Sayyaf militants have been killed or captured since the country's south became a battleground in the U.S.-led war on terror following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. While Manila's constitution restricts America's involvement to non-combat support, the countries' cooperation in the decline of the Abu Sayyaf, dreaded for its bombings, ransom kidnappings and beheadings, has been regarded as a counterterrorism success story.

But mistakes are a concern in the Philippines' slow and overburdened law enforcement and criminal justice system, which has a backlog of thousands of cases and is tainted by corruption allegations.

In far-flung Muslim regions in the south, those frailties are compounded by backward conditions like a lack of birth certificates and other identification papers of poor villagers, hampering the accurate identification of suspects. With spotty intelligence, government forces have often relied on civilian informants, some with questionable backgrounds, who have at times pointed to wrong suspects, Commission on Human Rights chief Loretta Ann Rosales said.

Two men were collared for being a militant named Abdasil Dima two years ago. Another pair were arrested under the militant name Hussien Kasim 13 years ago, according to prosecutors.

The four are currently detained in a heavily secured jail in metropolitan Manila with Idris Ukani. He was arrested 13 years ago after being tagged as the kidnapping suspect Abdulmukim Idris, even though the military has publicly declared that troops shot dead Abdulmukim Idris in 2003 after he escaped from the main police camp.

Idris, the two Abdasil Dimas and two Hussien Kasims are suspects in the Basilan kidnappings.

Human rights lawyer Pura Ferrer-Calleja, who represents Ukani, said she has pointed out the anomalous arrest and sought the release of her client years ago, but the court rejected her petition. She said some witnesses previously pointed to her client as among the kidnappers, but said that testimony should be scrutinized at the trial.

A former Abu Sayyaf commander who has turned state witness, Abu Gandhie, has testified that most of the 94 detainees accused of kidnapping the students, teachers and priest on Basilan island are innocent.

Ong said Gandhie, who has ack-

nnowledged involvement in the Basilan kidnappings, has identified only 12 of the 94 detainees as participants. Gandhie has also said far more were arrested than had even taken part in the kidnappings, a number he said was no higher than 60.

Ong said he initially thought as many as 80 Basilan detainees could be freed, but he added that he was unable to petition the court in nearly all cases because the court had rejected earlier petitions to free them. At this point, he said, those defendants must go through the trial process.

Under a 2007 anti-terror law, law-enforcement officials can be fined 500,000 pesos (\$11,200) for each day they wrongfully detain a terror suspect. The law has been used at least twice, but Rosales, the Commission on Human Rights official, said officers can avoid it by charging terrorism suspects with common crimes.

Ong said no law-enforcement official has been convicted of falsely arresting an Abu Sayyaf suspect. But the Philippine military and police say personnel who carry out illegal arrests will be punished appropriately.

"If there is some evidence, we'll look into it. We really correct our mistakes," national police spokesman Chief Superintendent Wilben Mayor said.

Still, Manila's review of major terrorism cases drew praise from a U.N. counterterrorism official, Jean-Paul Laborde, during a recent visit.

"If you arrest innocent people," Laborde warned at a news conference, "you will catalyze more and more people into going in the wrong direction."

Manny Ismael, a 38-year-old laborer, was among those freed in 2013 after prosecutors declared there was no proof he was involved in the kidnappings of Mantec and the other Jehovah's Witnesses.

A father of nine, Ismael wept when he stepped out of jail after 10 years. He said he had been falsely accused by a feuding relative who died while Ismael was in custody.

Ismael remains poor, but can now bask in the sun, sea and his newfound freedom in his coastal Sulu hometown. His thoughts often turn to the dozens of suspects still locked up on terrorism charges — men he believes are innocent.

"There's food there, but when you wake up in the morning and sleep at night, the first and last thing you will see are the iron bars," he said. "The constant problem is how to keep your sanity." AP



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'Je Suis Charlie' message goes viral after Paris attack

Leanne Italie

MESSAGES of condolence, outrage and defiance over the Paris terrorist attack on a newspaper office spread quickly around the world Wednesday with thousands of people taking to the streets to protest the killings and using the slogan "Je Suis Charlie" on social media.

Many who poured into Place de la Republique in eastern Paris near the site of Wednesday's noontime attack waved papers, pencils and pens. Journalists led the march but most in the crowd weren't from the media world, expressing solidarity and support of freedom of speech.

Similar gatherings, including some silent vigils, took place at London's Trafalgar Square, in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, in Madrid, Brussels, Nice and elsewhere.

"No matter what a journalist or magazine has to say, even if it is not what the majority of people think, they still have the right to say it without feeling in danger, which is the case today," said

Alice Blanc, a London student who is originally from Paris and was among those in the London crowd, estimated in the hundreds.

Online, the declaration "Je Suis Charlie," or "I Am Charlie," replaced profile pictures on Facebook while Twitter users showed themselves with the slogan on signs with words of support for the 12 victims who were killed at Charlie Hebdo, a weekly newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad.

The "Je Suis Charlie" slogan grew into a trending hashtag on Twitter and spread to Instagram, along with an image of a machine gun with the words "Ceci n'est pas une religion," or "This is not a religion."

One user on Instagram sent out a simple black-and-white drawing of the Eiffel Tower with the message: "Pray for Paris." Another wrote: "Islam is a beautiful religion. This is not what we see on TV. Terrorists are not real Muslims. #IamCharlie."

Masked gunmen methodically killed the 12 people, including

the newspaper's editor, as they shouted "Allahu akbar!" — or "Allah is the greatest" — while firing, then fleeing in a car.

The newspaper's depictions of Islam have drawn condemnation and threats before. It was fire-bombed in 2011 and also satirized other religions and political figures.

There were also protests in some American cities.

In San Francisco, hundreds of people held pens, tiny French flags and signs that read "I am Charlie" up in the air outside the French Consulate in the financial district. A handful of the participants lit candles that spell out "Je Suis Charlie," while others placed pens and pencils and bouquets of white carnations and red roses by the consulate's door.

Julia Olson, of Nimes, France, said she wanted to be in the company of other people after hearing the news.

"There is nothing we can do but be together," the 26-year-old said.

Several hundred people gathered in Manhattan's Union Squa-



A woman holds a poster reading 'I am Charlie' with a rose, at a gathering in Nice, southeastern France

re amid chants of "We are not afraid" and holding signs in English and French saying "We are Charlie."

In Seattle, about 100 people assembled near the French Consulate office with many holding signs in support of the victims.

The Newseum in Washington displayed "#JeSuisCharlie" on its atrium screen as a show of support for free expression.

In Los Angeles, a small group gathered outside a French res-

taurant with people holding up signs and cell phones that read "Je Sui Charlie" and "I am Charlie."

About 1,000 people gathered near the European Union's headquarters in Brussels to express sympathy and outrage. In Spain, about 200 people in Madrid gathered outside the French Embassy to voice outrage. Some also held pens in the air and chanted "Freedom of Expression" and "We Are All Charlie." AP

AD



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TERRORISM | I AM CHARLIE

Hunt for 2 in French shooting that killed 12, 1 surrenders

POLICE hunted yesterday for two heavily armed men, one with possible links to al-Qaida, in the methodical killing of 12 people at a satirical newspaper that caricatured the Prophet Muhammad. The prime minister said the possibility of a new attack "is our main concern" and announced several overnight arrests.

Tensions in Paris were high as France began a day of national mourning. France's top security official abandoned a top-level meeting after just 10 minutes to rush to a shooting on the city's southern edge in which one police officer was killed.

It was not immediately clear if yesterday's shooting was linked to the attack on Charlie Hebdo, which left two police among the dead.

France's prime minister, Manuel Valls, said the two suspects in the Charlie Hebdo shootings were known to intelligence services and the fear that they could carry out another attack "is our main concern." Valls told RTL radio there had been several detentions overnight.

One of the suspects, Cherif Kouachi, had a history of funneling jihadi fighters to Iraq and a terrorism conviction from 2008. He and his brother, Said, should be considered "armed and dangerous," French police said in a bulletin early yesterday, appealing for witnesses after a fruitless search in the city of Reims, in French Champagne country.

A third man, Mourad Hamyd, 18, surrendered at a police station in a small town in the eastern region after learning his name was linked to the attacks in the news and social media, said Paris prosecutor's spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuire. She did not specify his relationship to the Kouachi brothers.

France raised its terror alert system to the maximum and bolstered security with more than 800 extra soldiers to guard media offices, places of worship, transport and other sensitive areas. A nationwide minute of silence was planned for noon.

Fears had been running high in Europe that jihadis trained in warfare abroad would stage attacks at home. The French suspect in a deadly attack on a Jewish museum in Belgium had returned from fighting with extremists in Syria; and the man who rampaged in the south of France in 2012, killing three soldiers and four people at a Jewish school in Toulouse, received paramilitary training in Pakistan.

One witness to Wednesday's attack said the gunmen were so methodical he at first mistook them for an elite anti-terrorism squad. Then they fired on a police officer.

The masked, black-clad men with assault rifles stormed the offices near Paris' Bastille monument in the Wednesday



People attend a demonstration in solidarity with those killed in an attack at the Paris offices of weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo, at the French Consulate in Barcelona, Spain

noontime attack on the publication, which had long drawn condemnation and threats — it was firebombed in 2011 — for its depictions of Islam, although it also satirized other religions and political figures.

The staff was in an editorial meeting and the gunmen headed straight for the paper's editor, Stéphane Charbonnier, widely known by his pen name Charb, killing him and his police bodyguard first, said Christophe Crepin, a police union spokesman.

Shouting "Allahu akbar!" as they fired, the men spoke in fluent, unaccented French as they called out the names of specific employees.

Eight journalists, two police officers, a maintenance worker and

a visitor were killed, said prosecutor Francois Molins. He said 11 people were wounded, four of them seriously.

Two gunmen strolled out to a black car waiting below, one of them calmly shooting a wounded police officer in the head as he writhed on the ground, according to video and a man who watched in fear from his home across the street.

"They knew exactly what they had to do and exactly where to shoot. While one kept watch and checked that the traffic was good for them, the other one delivered the final coup de grace," said the witness, who refused to allow his name to be used because he feared for his safety.

"Hey! We avenged the Prophet Muhammad! We killed Charlie Hebdo," one of the men shouted in French, according to video shot from a nearby building.

One police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing, said the suspects were linked to a Yemeni terrorist network. Cedric Le Behec, a witness who encountered the escaping gunmen, quoted the attackers as saying: "You can tell the media that it's al-Qaida in Yemen."

After fleeing, the attackers collided with another vehicle, then hijacked another car before disappearing in broad daylight, Molins said.

The other dead were identified as cartoonists Georges Wolinski and Berbard Verlhac, better known as Tignous, and Jean Cabut, known as "Cabu." Also killed was Bernard Maris, an economist who was a contributor to the newspaper and was heard regularly on French radio.

One cartoon, released in this week's issue and titled "Still No Attacks in France," had a caricature of a jihadi fighter saying "Just wait — we have until the end of January to present our New Year's wishes." Charb was the artist.

Le Behec, the witness who encountered the gunmen in another part of Paris, described on his Facebook page seeing two men "get out of a bullet-ridden car with a rocket-launcher in hand, eject an old guy from his car and calmly say hi to the public, saying 'you can tell the media that it's al-Qaida in Yemen.'"

In a somber address to the nation Wednesday night, French President Francois Hollande pledged to hunt down the killers, and pleaded with his compatriots

to come together in a time of insecurity and suspicion.

"Let us unite, and we will win," he said. "Vive la France!"

Thousands of people later jammed Republique Square near the site of the shooting to honor the victims, waving pens and papers reading "Je suis Charlie" — "I am Charlie." Similar rallies were held in London's Trafalgar Square as well as Madrid, Barcelona, Berlin and Brussels.

"This is the darkest day of the history of the French press," said Christophe DeLoire of Reporters Without Borders.

Both al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have repeatedly threatened to attack France, which is conducting airstrikes against extremists in Iraq and fighting Islamic militants in Africa. Charb was specifically threatened in a 2013 edition of the al-Qaida ma-

Thousands of people later jammed Republique Square to honor the victims, waving pens and papers reading 'Je suis Charlie'

gazine Inspire, which also included an article titled "France the Imbecile Invader."

Cherif Kouachi, now 32, was sentenced to 18 months in prison after being convicted of terrorism charges in 2008 for helping funnel fighters to Iraq's insurgency. He said he was outraged at the torture of Iraqi inmates at the U.S. prison at Abu Ghraib near Baghdad and "really believed in the idea" of fighting the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

A tweet from an al-Qaida representative who communicated Wednesday with The Associated Press said the group was not claiming responsibility for the attack, but called it "inspiring." AP

The gunmen knew exactly what they had to do... While one kept watch and checked that the traffic was good for them, the other one delivered the final coup de grace

WITNESS



Editor Stéphane Charbonnier



Cartoonist Georges Wolinski



Cartoonist Berbard Verlhac



Cartoonist Jean Cabut

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:35	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:45	Documentaries
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
00:00	Feature Film
02:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:35	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

11:00	Kung Fu Masters of the Zodiac
11:40	Conch Bay
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
19:00	Contest
19:50	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:10	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
15:40	Documentary Series
16:25	Comedy
16:50	Miscellaneous
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:05	Documentaries
23:00	TDM News
23:30	News
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

offbeat

DISCARDED CHRISTMAS TREES A VITAMIN-FILLED TREAT FOR GOATS

Christmas trees can be enjoyed long after they are discarded by a family. They're a great source of vitamin C — for goats.

A farm in the northeastern state of Maine is extending an invitation to residents who don't know what to do with their discarded trees.

Hillary Knight, the barnyard manager at Smiling Hill Farm in Maine, says the farm's goats are more than happy to eat the trees.

She says it's a win-win. Humans can recycle their trees and the goats get a treat.

She tells WCSH-TV (<http://on.wcsh6.com/1Keihk6>) it's like humans eating oranges dipped in chocolate — a treat with health benefits.

So far, 200 trees have been donated.

Elsewhere, the ermont Goat Collaborative is also collecting trees for goats.

cinema



CINETEATRO

08 JAN - 14 JAN



TAKEN 3

ROOM 1

2.00, 3.55, 5.50, 9.30 pm

Director: Olivier Megaton

Starring: Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker, Franke

Janssen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min



NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB

ROOM 1

7.45 pm

Director: Shawn Levy

Starring: Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, Owen Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min



SEVENTH SON

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Sergei Bodrov

Starring: Jeff Bridges, Julianne Moore, Ben Barnes

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 102min

WOMEN WHO FLIRT

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Pang Ho-Cheung

Starring: Zhou Xun, Huang Xiao Ming

Language: Mandarin (English/Chinese)

Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

01 JAN - 21 JAN

TAKEN 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Olivier Megaton

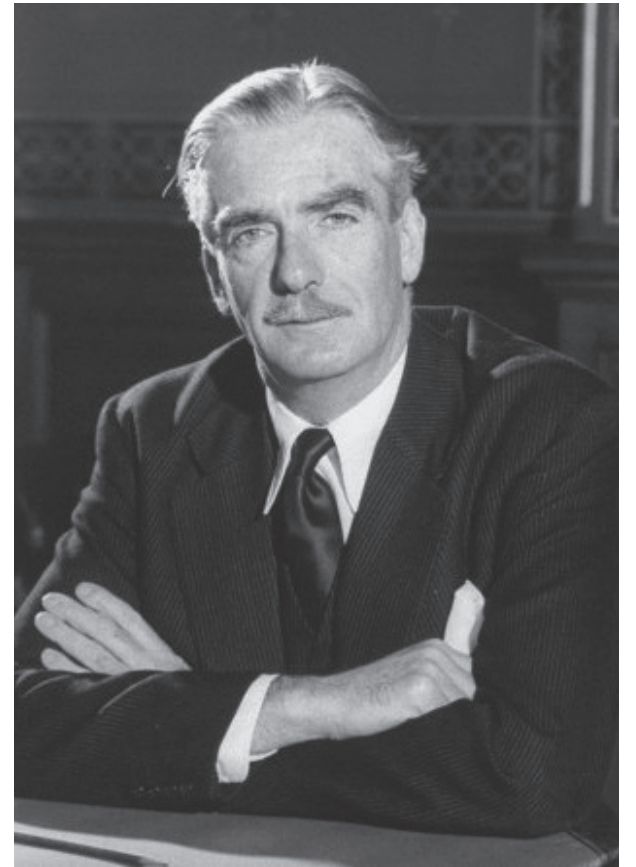
Starring: Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker, Franke

Janssen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109min

this day in history



1957 SIR ANTHONY EDEN RESIGNS

Sir Anthony Eden has resigned as prime minister of Britain due to ill health.

A statement issued by Buckingham Palace at 1900 GMT today said that following a private audience with the Queen, Her Majesty had accepted the prime minister's resignation.

Sir Anthony issued his own statement this evening: "When I returned to this country a month ago I hoped that my health had been sufficiently restored to enable me to carry out my duties effectively for some considerable time. That hope has not been realised.

"I do not feel that it is right for me to continue in office as the Queen's First Minister knowing that I shall be unable to do my full duty by my Sovereign and the country."

Sir Anthony underwent a series of operations to correct a gall bladder condition in 1953.

But in recent months the abdominal symptoms have recurred and he has now been advised by his doctors to take rest.

The Queen will decide who will become the next prime minister and leader of the Conservatives.

It is thought the job will be given either to Harold Macmillan, current Chancellor of the Exchequer or to Rab Butler, leader of the House of Commons.

Sir Anthony was prime minister for one year and 279 days.

Although a popular leader when he was elected, many believe his controversial decision to use armed intervention in the Suez crisis last year was the beginning of his demise as prime minister.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following day Harold Macmillan accepted the Queen's offer of the post of prime minister.

Sir Anthony Eden first entered Parliament as Conservative member for Warwick and Leamington in 1923.

He became Foreign Secretary in 1935 but resigned three years later in protest at Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement.

When Churchill became prime minister in May 1940 Eden returned to the foreign office and took on the role of Leader of the House of Commons.

Between 1945 and 1951 he was deputy leader of the Opposition during Attlee's government before returning as Churchill's foreign secretary in 1951.

He was knighted in 1954 and succeeded Winston Churchill as prime minister in April 1955.

Following his resignation in January 1957 he was created Earl of Avon in 1961. He died in January 1977.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your need for physical exercise is driving you to take up new activities. All this great energy should be put to use, so make sure that you're making the most of it. Get back in shape!

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You and a friend or family member are butting heads over something small but important to you both. Others may see it as trivial, so don't try to enlist any support from them.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Your intellect is stimulated by something totally new and wonderful — so make a play and go for it! You could be in for a new romance, a new hobby or even a new take on your spiritual side.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You need to watch out for your bottom line today — ask for lower prices or see if you can get that raise you know you deserve, and just make sure that you're vigilant about money. Make a habit of it!

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You should find yourself at the center of some very positive attention today — so make sure that you're ready for accolades! You may have set a new record or otherwise achieved greatness.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Try not to be too rigid today — things may not be going your way, but if you display some adaptability, you are much more likely to move toward a better situation. Relax and let things happen.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
The little details don't really matter today — so make sure that you're focusing on the big picture! Your social energy is terrific, so you may want to encourage yourself to explore the world.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You need to be more careful than usual about your deep-seated needs — it could be past time for you to think long and hard about what you want to do next. It's time to change!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You've got to communicate with people who may be out of touch — but your creative energy is up for the job! Reach out using innovative means and you should all do well together.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Someone else feels a bit more deserving of your time — but you still need to play fair. It's all on you to decide what that means, though. Just make sure you don't entangle yourself in too much drama!

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You are feeling a mounting sense of excitement over some new person, place or thing — so let it build! There's no need to rush into anything or let the anticipation fade. Give it time.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Colleagues may be blaming you for something you never did — but there's only so much you can do to defend yourself today. Just let it ride and see where things end up. You're in a better position soon.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-3	7	clear
Harbin	-23	-11	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	-3	6	clear
Urumqi	-12	-5	clear/foggy
Xi'an	-2	8	clear
Lhasa	-11	1	snow shower/cloudy
Chengdu	2	12	cloudy
Chongqing	6	10	overcast
Kunming	2	7	moderate rain/sleet
Nanjing	-1	12	cloudy/clear
Shanghai	2	11	clear
Wuhan	2	13	overcast
Hangzhou	0	12	clear
Taipei	10	17	overcast
Guangzhou	6	19	clear
Hong Kong	13	18	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-8	-4	flurry
Frankfurt	4	8	moderate rain/drizzle
Paris	4	11	drizzle
London	8	11	overcast/drizzle
New York	-7	-5	flurry

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 4- Cook just below the boiling point; 10- Examine, search; 14- Andy Capp's wife; 15- Prima ballerina; 16- ... saw Elba; 17- Outer edge; 18- Secondary meaning; 20- Uncommon sense; 21- Small children; 22- Call; 23- Runs through; 25- Bothered; 28- Three sheets to the wind; 29- German Mister; 30- Scoff; 31- Criticize with scathing severity; 32- Rebirth of the soul in a new body; 35- ... es Salaam; 36- Seminary subj.; 37- Meaning; 44- Circle at bottom, point at top; 45- Slack part in a rope; 46- Indigo source; 48- CD forerunners; 49- New Hampshire city; 50- Prince Valiant's wife; 51- Betel palm; 53- Unwritten; 55- Apr. addressee; 56- Threaded fastener; 59- ... Tafari (Haile Selassie); 60- Not tricked by; 61- Slanted; 62- "Lord, is ___?": Matthew; 63- Optimistic; 64- Move unsteadily; 65- Bee follower;

DOWN: 1- Anew; 2- Air bubble; 3- Liken; 4- Religious offshoots; 5- Langston Hughes poem; 6- State in the NW United States; 7- Cathedral; 8- "Evil Woman" band; 9- Not emp.; 10- Adam's third son; 11- Native; 12- Eternal; 13- Degrees in a right angle; 19- Fitting; 24- Structure spanning a river; 26- Dusk, to Donne; 27- Turkey's highest peak; 30- Writer; 31- Pert. to a son or daughter; 33- A Bobbsey twin; 34- Asian holiday; 37- Highest singing voice in women; 38- Six legged creatures; 39- For shame!; 40- Base; 41- Cigar; 42- Pertaining to dreams; 43- Chilean natural resource; 44- Loud uproar; 47- Timmy's dog; 49- Trombonist Winding; 50- Change; 52- Bok ___; 54- Mont Blanc, par exemple; 57- Writer Hentoff; 58- End for Siam

Yesterday's solution

S	C	A	N	R	E	A	D	A	B	A	G	E		
E	R	O	T	E	N	Y	S	E	T	O	N			
R	I	O	T	E	N	S	P	A	D	E				
F	L	O	W	E	R	A	P	N	E	A				
E	M	P	T	Y	T	W	O	S	T	Y	N	E		
G	A	S	H	C	H	E	S	T	M	E	E	T		
E	Y	E	S	A	R	A	I	L	E	L	M	O		
S	H	U	T	R	E	V	U	E	N	E	I	N		
T	A	D	A	T	E	E	M	E	T	T	A	S		
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A	L	L	I	G	H	E	L	L	A	N	E	T	A	S

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- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
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Date: 10th and 11th January

Time: 11:00-18:00

Location: Jeep Showroom

Purchase the specified Jeep Get the free upgrade now
Free ! Upgrade to Alpine Premium audio system

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

FOOTBALL

Barcelona in meltdown after transfer ban opens club crisis

THE once almighty Barcelona is heading toward meltdown.

One week after the Spanish team's appeal against a FIFA-imposed transfer ban was rejected and two days after its sports director was fired, Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu called for early elections to "relieve tension" at the increasingly troubled club.

Folding to immense internal pressure, Bartomeu said he and his board would run for re-election at the end of the season instead of seeing out their mandate until 2016. He pointed to the transfer ban for violating rules regarding youth players as the club's major issue.

"I think this is one of the biggest problems the club has had in its history," said Bartomeu, who called the FIFA ban "out of proportion" and said he was planning to write a letter of complaint to FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

While many neutral soccer fans have enjoyed watching Lionel Messi and his teammates win again and again over the years, there are plenty in Barcelona increasingly anxious to return to the days when Pep Guardiola led the team to 14 of a possible 19 titles in a four-year span.

That frustration has been aggravated by watching Real Madrid win its 10th European Cup last year and seeing that team set a Spanish record with 22 straight wins to end 2014.

The sense of impending doom that has finally boiled over Camp Nou since the firing of Andoni Zubizarreta on Monday had been festering for more than a year, and it came to a head last week when the Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected Barcelona's appeal against FIFA's one-year transfer ban.

Until then, the club had insisted — and many of its fans had believed — that they would win their case and the harsh penalty would never be applied.

Now the reality of a season with no new players for an aging squad is settling in, al-



Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu

though Bartomeu did his best to quell swirling rumors about Messi moving to Chelsea.

"There are a lot of things people are talking about," Bartomeu said. "I am sure other clubs would like to have Messi on their team, but we are very happy with everything and of course with Messi."

Barcelona's faithful will have their chance to express themselves at home matches against

Elche in the Copa del Rey on Thursday before Sunday's meeting with defending league champion Atletico Madrid. Many disgruntled supporters will have their handkerchiefs handy in case the team loses.

Barcelona greets Johan Cruyff and Hristo Stoichkov have already lamented the state of their former club.

"I believe Barcelona is heading toward chaos," Stoichkov said Tuesday. "There are too many controversies. I don't understand it."

On the field, the team has continued to churn out wins against minor opponents and can still challenge for titles.

That steady stream of lopsided scorelines and Messi goal records — this season he has broken both the Spanish and Champions League scoring marks — covers up the club's biggest failure: its inability to keep top talent both on and off the field.

First, Guardiola left the club in 2012. President Sandro Rosell resigned last year, and top players Carles Puyol, Eric Abidal and Cesc Fabregas have not been replaced.

The most perplexing part of Barcelona's decline is that most of the blows have been self-inflicted by the myriad of legal cases plaguing the club. Besides the FIFA penalty that has damaged the reputation of its once lauded football academy, Rosell left amid a lawsuit into the transfer of Neymar, while Messi is mired in a tax fraud case.

Messi, so far, is holding Barcelona together, but there have been reports that the club's all-time leading scorer is not happy with coach Luis Enrique, fueling the Chelsea speculation.

The arrival of Luis Enrique — the club's fourth coach in as many seasons — was labeled as a return to the Guardiola model of a player coming home.

But his erratic lineup choices, which included resting Messi and Neymar for the first half in Sunday's 1-0 loss at Real Sociedad that cost Barcelona the provisional league lead, have erased any comparisons other than unfavorable ones with Guardiola.

On Wednesday, Luis Enrique denied that his relationship with Messi had soured.

"I have the same relationship since the start of the season with all the players, nothing has changed," the coach said.

When pressed on whether he had argued with Messi, he said: "Things inside the changing room, on the field, stay there. I won't confirm or deny them. That's not my job."

Now, the transfer ban until 2016 means that the club's institutional crisis has finally spilled over to become a sporting disaster as well.

Zubizarreta's latest batch of reinforcements from last year have not panned out. Even if Luis Suarez recovers his scoring prowess after one goal in nine league games, Barcelona has slipped in midfield and defense. Ivan Rakitic and Rafina are no Fabregas; Jeremy Mathieu and Thomas Vermaelen (still to debut because of injuries) are far from the second comings of Puyol and Abidal.

Mainstays Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta are showing their age at 34 and 30, respectively. Gerard Pique is not the dominant defender he was, and Dani Alves' contract is up at the end of the season, pointing to his exit.

As Sergio Busquets has said, "football evolves."

"It's impossible for things to stay the same," the Spain midfielder said in November. "We won't see the best Barca again." AP

I think this is one of the biggest problems the club has had in its history

JOSEP BARTOMEU
PRESIDENT, BARCELONA

THE Asian Cup kicks off today deep in Australia's sporting heartland, where the Socceroos will attempt to win the continental championship for the first time.

It would have been inconceivable a decade ago. Geographically, of course, Australia is a separate continent. In football terms, though, Australia became part of the Asian Football Confederation in 2006, leaving Oceania in pursuit of tougher competition between World Cups.

The Australians open

FOOTBALL DOWN UNDER

Asian Cup kicks off with Australia-Kuwait match today

against Kuwait in Melbourne, the first of 32 matches in the 16-team tournament. Defending champion Japan waits until Monday to take on a Palestinian team that qualified through a second-tier tournament, while other leading contenders Iran and South

Korea are in action of a hectic opening weekend.

It's the biggest football tournament ever staged in Australia, generating interest across the vast and densely populated Asian continent that extends from the Far East all the way west to Saudi Arabia.

Yet the Australian team faces competition for the hearts and minds of the public not just from the foreign teams featuring big-name stars such as Japanese pair Keisuke Honda and Shinji Kagawa.

It's still cricket season Down Under, with a test match between Australia

and India ongoing in Sydney, and the international tennis season is just underway with tournaments on opposite sides of the country in Brisbane and Perth. The Australian Open, the first Grand Slam event of season, starts Jan. 19 at Melbourne Park, a short walk

from where some of the Asian Cup matches are being staged.

In a nation where football has always resided in the shadows of other sports, the staging of the Asian Cup could be a seminal moment for the sport in Australia.

Tim Cahill, the most recognizable footballer from Australia and a star at the World Cup in Brazil, said the Asian Cup "will affect football in Australia in a way that can never be affected in any sport ... this is our chance, this can be it." AP

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



LIVING DANGEROUSLY

The lecturer must have said something but she couldn't put her finger on it. Perhaps it had been flippant, perhaps in jest, perhaps that particular student - from another place, another culture, another ethnicity and religion, values - merely misheard. The student filed a complaint with the management of the educational institution: "That professor is vulgar. She told the class not to teach her how to wear her underwear." Perhaps she'd implored her students not to get their "nickers in a knot" over something: goodness knows.

Humour, and particularly satire, doesn't always translate well. From the mundane to the absurd and then the tragic, such as this week's Charlie Hebdo shootings, response to humorous expression will not always be as expected. What one finds funny, another finds offensive. It is funny precisely because it is dangerous. As a dog bares its fangs to warn off threats, and a monkey displays the fear grin in an act of submission, our smile has evolved. A smile indicates pleasure and amusement but also acknowledges an inherent danger: whilst the cause can bring positive emotions and wellbeing, it can also bring negative affect and harm. Therein lies the danger. After all, there are elements of truth in every joke.

Humour causes us to laugh, releasing endorphins and thus makes us feel good. In 2001 LaughLab went on a search for the world's funniest joke and in the process found what makes a good joke work. They make us feel superior, can reduce anxiety in tense situations, they surprise us and are often on sensitive topics.

The first and last elements are the most dangerous. Should I value something dearly, especially if there is risk of loss or attack or if I believe disrespect to be intended, I will not be too pleased to have it made the butt of a joke. The complaining international student whose family sacrificed much to send him thousands of miles away may have expected education to be undertaken with sobriety and a post-graduate classroom no place for a little frivolity. He is in a new setting where being respectful and enjoying life's experiences may not necessarily be mutually exclusive. He will eventually learn about our values.

This week we are reminded by the Charlie Hebdo incident that religious and cultural values can generate outrage and extreme response when beliefs are deemed to be under attack. But humour and satire engage the public, and humour and freedom of expression are our values; we are not always able to teach or convince others of these. We however stand fast to and uphold those values and in doing so risk attack in many guises.

Speaking out poses dangers - we have evidence and have been warned of this even here in Macau. Public writing and commentary will attract both support and detractors but we are shocked, and rightly so, when although we believe that we live in a society safe from undue harm should we decide to speak our minds, state opinions and report our research, it turns out to be otherwise.

PS. The LaughLab study found that the animal thought to be the funniest in jokes is the duck - all hail Les Canards.

THE BUZZ KARATE BIDDING TO BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM AT TOKYO OLYMPICS

Karate is making a push to be part of the program for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

New reforms by the IOC have given karate officials renewed hope that the martial art could be added to the Tokyo games and the head of the World Karate Federation is meeting with 2020 organizers to make his case for the sport's inclusion.

"Karate is a sport with Japanese roots," WKF

President Antonio Espinos said at a news conference yesterday. "Together with the Japanese Karate Federation, we are doing everything we can to make sure karate is part of the program in the 2020 Olympics."

The World Karate Federation says there are 100 million practitioners around the world. Karate is hoping to make it after bids for the 2012 and 2016 Olympics failed.

Q&A RODRIGO DE MATOS - CARTOONIST

Fanatics 'suffer from religionitis'



Macau Daily Times - What was your first reaction to the cold-blooded assassination of your colleagues at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo?

Rodrigo de Matos (RM) - Sadly, my first reaction contained everything but surprise, which says a lot about the world we live in. I was very sad knowing that we won't be seeing new stuff

from those cartoonists, whose work I appreciated very much, especially Wolinski's.

MDT - Charlie Hebdo cartoonists reveled in provocation and took pride in their freedom to poke fun at anyone - be they popes, presidents, public figures or the Prophet Muhammad. Do you believe theirs was a good approach?

RM - Yes, of course. That's what freedom of speech is about. Agreeing or not with their point of view, to say that they were wrong by expressing it would be the same as agreeing with the savage people who killed them.

MDT - In your work as a cartoonist, what are the limits you set for yourself? Or are there no limits for satire?

RM - There shouldn't be any limits for satire, beyond those of realizing if our idea is a good or a bad joke. The reasons why something might be offensive for someone are so personal - you can always find someone offended by virtually every joke - that if we start thinking on those terms, there's a risk of killing all the humor in the world. And what world would that be?

MDT - Cartoonists have become a target for the extremists. Would you say that those radicals suffer from fear of laughter?

RM - They suffer from religionitis (when religion becomes an illness). That disease spreads easily in less intelligent or educated brains, transforming the infected subjects with deadly instruments for some radical groups with very unholy agendas.

MDT - After what happened, do you still believe that pens are mightier than swords?

RM - When you look at the people that die or are imprisoned for drawing cartoons, it's difficult to say that pens are mightier than swords, but these incidents have the ironic effect of awakening the minds to fight against injustice. Ideas and free speech might not be stronger than guns, but they will prevail for sure. PB

Editors' Note: Rodrigo Times Square cartoon is back to its initial place on the political and social satire page, which also makes a come back today, inside Extra Times.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



USA Netflix wants to make Sony's "The Interview" available to its 53 million worldwide subscribers, the streaming service's chief content officer said. The movie starring Seth Rogen and James Franco is available on some other video services and in some independent theaters, after its wide release was canceled due to the Sony hacking scandal. "People want to see the movie and we want to be able to deliver the movie," Ted Sarandos of Netflix told reporters at a television conference.



FRANCE An assailant opened fire on a police officer on the southern edge of Paris early yesterday, killing her and injuring a nearby street sweeper before fleeing, officials and a witness said. France's interior minister cautioned against jumping to conclusions a day after the deadly assault on a satirical newspaper that killed 12 people. The attacker in the pre-dawn shooting remained at large.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Sales of Huracan ("from" USD237,250 a piece, according to Google) keep breaking records. In Macau there are at least 3 (three!) units in circulation. But with VIPs under tight scrutiny and less gaming dollars to dispense our guess is that some of these high-power drives will be soon... in a pawnshop near you.



USA A Senate committee has taken up a bill approving the Canada-U.S. Keystone XL pipeline with plans to move it toward the full Senate, despite a veto threat from the White House. Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski says lawmakers should not be deterred by President Barack Obama's threat. She notes the bill has Democratic supporters and came within one vote of passing last year.