



GROUP FORMED TO SCRUTINIZE UM
A new group intends to monitor the University of Macau, founding member Jason Chao says

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CATS STARS VISIT MACAU AHEAD OF MARCH SHOWS

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Police alert: gaming related crimes on the rise

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WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

UK British lawmakers in the House of Commons voted yesterday to allow scientists to create babies from the DNA of three people — a move that could prevent some children from inheriting potentially fatal diseases from their mothers. The bill must next be approved by the House of Lords before becoming law. If so, it would make Britain the first country in the world to allow embryos to be genetically modified.

CHINA Already the world's largest, China's online population grew last year but drifted away from Twitter-like microblogs, with the number of microblog users falling by 32 million. The decline shows that Chinese microblogging sites have failed to recover from a major setback in 2013 when a harsh government crackdown on speech chilled discussion on those sites and drove away tens of millions of users. The second-year drop was accompanied by a rapid growth in popularity of newer products, especially the instant messaging service WeChat.

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IPIM reminds temporary residents to communicate 'change in status'

P6 MDT REPORT

João Pedro Lau

A group that refers to itself as "Umac Watchdog" announced its official establishment yesterday. Jason Chao, one of the founding members said that the objective of the group is to exert external pressure on the University of Macau (UM) administration, and to monitor the university to ensure it protects the public interest.

During a meeting with journalists, Chao explained that the group was formed as a result of the recent controversies surrounding UM. They include the university's alleged attempts to hide or to downplay various scandals, ranging from sexual harassment complaints to the alleged suppression of academic freedoms, as well as UM rector Zhao Wei's alleged disrespect of the media.

The activist said that the new group consists of UM alumni and former teachers. It has five members at present, with Chao and Kam Sut Leng as its leaders. Chao said that the group will keep in contact with UM students, and will organize meetings with the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, as well as with the UM administration.

"We know that there are other [UM] alumni associations that are more pro-UM. I think we are the first group in Macau history that was formed by alumni and other individuals that were connected with the university, and which is aimed at monitoring UM," he said. "The current image of UM is definitely going to affect us, the alumni. Therefore, we can be considered stakeholders in this regard."

In terms of recruiting new members, Chao said people can apply for membership or supply their personal information to the group's Facebook page. However, he stressed that the group's membership is exclusive to people who have been connected to

Newly formed group intends to scrutinize UM administration



Jason Chao and Kam Sut Leng

the UM, including alumni, former teaching staff and parents of UM students. "At this

moment, our position is that we would want more stakeholders from the outer circle of

the university," he said.

The group urged the Secretary for Social Affairs and

Culture to request that UM publish guidelines on the handling of sexual harassment complaints, and the organization of the equal opportunities commission, as soon as possible. The group suggested that the commission should not only seek to investigate relevant matters, but also promote equality. It also demanded that authorities publish details of the drafted amendments to the UM charter.

Furthermore, Chao claimed that some UM alumni and parents of UM students have questioned the leadership of Zhao. They suggested that the Macau government's investment into the UM Hengqin campus may be wasted because the recent incidents involving the university may dissuade potential students from applying for admission. As a result, he said that the Secretary should evaluate whether Zhao is still suitable to be the UM rector.

Given that Zhao said on the sidelines of an event yesterday that UM will be officially establishing guidelines on sexual harassment cases and on equal opportunities close to the Chinese New Year, Chao said that the group will wait until the end of February to decide if they will launch other actions to hurry the university on these issues.

Jason Chao anticipates 'wave of political prosecution'

JASON Chao said that the Public Prosecution Office (MP) has started summoning residents who voted in the unofficial civil referendum in August last year to give evidence. He said that this is a sign that the prosecutor is in the process of building a case. He also claimed that the "wave of political prosecution" may begin following the new Prosecutor General Ip Son Sang's assumption of office.

"Although I am not very confident in judicial independence in Macau, our society should [still] monitor the judicial

system and see how it can defend the rule of law of Macau," he said.

As for the case in which Chao and former UM professor Bill Chou were accused of defamation, Chou said that he could not reveal any information other than that some new developments have taken place, as the case is still in the period of judicial secrecy.

Jason Chao was accused of aggravated disobedience after he and Chou were alleged to have violated the personal data protection law.

In order to vote in the referendum,

residents have been asked to provide personal data, such as their Resident Identity Card (BIR) numbers and a code on the back of the card. The Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) warned the three organizations holding the referendum that they would violate the law if they collected residents' personal data. However, GPDP's assistant coordinator, Yang Chongwei, failed to explain to the media, in a press conference held after the detention of Chao, how the data collection for the civil referendum had breached the law.

Social Welfare Bureau increases subsidies

THE Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has increased the total subsidy amount to be granted to private social services institutions by 6.8 percent.

IAS said in a statement that it hopes to continue supporting social service initiatives while increasing the benefits of social workers, primarily in terms

of income. The Bureau is seeking to "stabilize human resources" and "optimize service settings."

In April last year, the subsidy amount was in-

creased by 7 percent. IAS decided to upgrade it again this year. The subsidy upgrade surpasses the current inflation rate, IAS stressed, adding that

the Bureau's expenses for this year will increase by MOP45 million.

The bureau revealed that it has concluded a study on the financial su-

port scheme provided to private social services institutions. The department is currently presenting the study outcomes to private institutions to hear their opinions, with the aim of officially implementing the new financial scheme during the second half of this year.

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Gaming-related crimes rise by 16 percent

Catarina Pinto

THE number of gaming-related crimes soared by around 16 percent year-on-year in 2014. This is possibly due to the industry's "readjustment phase," as suggested yesterday by the director of the Judiciary Police (PJ), Chan Wai Kuong. Gaming revenue has declined month-on-month since last June.

Mr Kuong presented PJ's main figures for 2014 in an annual meeting held yesterday. He revealed that authorities recorded a total of 3,023 cases of crimes related to gaming, which is 424 more than in the previous year. These include all crimes taking place in the city's casinos, namely abduction (71 cases against 39 cases recorded in 2013) and loan sharking which amounted to 208, 47 more than in 2013.

The PJ director acknowledged an increase in gaming-related crimes "as the gaming industry entered an adjustment phase last year." Mr Kuong also stated that an increase in the number of uncovered cases might be related to a higher number of police officers patrolling casinos. He said that more police officers have been tasked to work within several casino premises and to collect information on



Chan Wai Kuong (center), the recently appointed director of the Judiciary Police

gaming-related crimes.

Mr Kuong revealed that they will be extending PJ's departments to include new investigation units, which will help fight serious financial crimes, such as money laundering.

There was also a significant increase in fraud, especially through phone scams. Authorities recorded a total of 505 cases in 2014, representing a 52.4 percent increase year-on-year. There were 375 cases of phone scams uncovered by the police (254 more cases than in the previous year).

Authorities also recorded an increase in the number of "nude chat" cases, which has doubled (32 cases) compared to last year.

PJ's director explained that Internet scams are also on the rise and the population seems now more vulnerable to this type of crime. These crimes might involve other jurisdictions. Since IP addresses used to perform a scam are usually located outside Macau, Mr Kuong pledged further cooperation with other regions' authorities.

Indeed, online fraud rose significantly, reaching a total of 425 cases last year. This figure is up by 33.7 percent year-on-year. The PJ director acknowledged that as online crimes are on the rise, there is a need to improve investigation and surveillance mechanisms to fight them.

"We are quite concerned about crimes relating to the

Internet scams are also on the rise and local people are vulnerable to this type of crime

Internet and we will hire more professionals to work in this field, particularly IT experts who can help us get proof [of online crimes]," the PJ director said.

As more people now resort to the Internet in search of news and information, the PJ has also launched a WeChat account to share information on the cases it is handling each day.

Drug trafficking crimes, on the other hand, decreased by 24.8 percent over the previous year. There were 103 cases of drug trafficking last year (34 less than in 2013). These included three cross-border drug trafficking crimes. One of these was uncovered at the Macau International Airport after an examination in an X-ray machine showed that a person was hiding 1kg of heroin in their body.

According to the police, drug abuse crimes have also decreased, and with it, the number of people involved in these cases. In 2014, 114 cases were recorded involving 276

people, whereas in 2013 there were 191 cases and 276 people involved.

Mr Kuong pointed out that Macau does not have a specific drug detox program. There is, therefore, a need for police authorities to identify the main causes of this type of crime.

Cases of theft and robbery also declined. Authorities uncovered a total of 1,525 instances of theft and 91 cases of robbery. Mr Kuong said that improvements to police-based patrolling methods, as well as awareness campaigns addressing local residents, proved successful last year.

Five years ago, Macau authorities established a special group to deal with criminal prevention in residential areas. The PJ director said that they gradually increased

the number of police officers working within this group from 10 to 18. They are hoping to hire more officers, with the aim of reaching 40 professionals who will work on crime prevention within residential areas.

Juvenile delinquency cases soared last year, as 30 minors were referred to the Public Prosecutions Offices. On the other hand, 12 people were referred to the MP in 2013. The number of crimes perpetrated by foreigners decreased, authorities revealed.

The Judiciary Police reviewed a total of 12,238 cases last year, representing an increase of 2,506 cases from the previous year. In all, 10,737 cases were opened for investigation, up by 4.5 percent year-on-year.

LOCAL COUPLE DETAINED FOR ALLEGED HUMAN SMUGGLING

THE ZHUHAI Security Department has notified Macau authorities that it has exposed a human smuggling network, with a Macau couple as the ringleaders. According to TDM, the mainland authorities intercepted a vessel on January 25 in the water near Zhuhai's Baipai Island, and have detained one sailor and three alleged illegal immigrants. The authorities then took nine other members of the human smuggling network from Gongbei and Tanzhou into custody. After investigating into the issue, the authorities alleged that a couple from Macau was in control of the group, having had a long history of organizing human smuggling activities. They were also alleged to have invited their friends and families to join the syndicate. The members of the smuggling ring were either responsible for charging the smuggling fees from illegal immigrants in Macau or Zhuhai, or for arranging the smuggling route.

MAIN CRIMES IN NUMBERS 2014 | 2013

Crime	2014	2013
Murder	1	1
Kidnapping	1	1
Abduction	71	39
Extortion	96	60
Arson	13	19
Robbery	91	128
Theft	1525	1803
Loan sharking	208	161
Gaming-related crimes	3023	2599
Drug trafficking	103	137
Drug abuse	114	191

Stephanie Wong

IN the heart of Macau stands a 56-story tower with soaring gold-trimmed arches. On the second floor of the L'Arc Macau, there's a sight that would have been unimaginable a year ago: An abandoned room for high-end gamblers.

There are no tables, no dealers and no players. Carpets have been rolled up, leaving a trash-covered concrete floor. A sign on the VIP room reads "Heng Sheng Group," one of Macau's top junket operators, which shuttle Chinese high-rollers to exclusive gaming venues and finance their bets.

The dimming fortunes of Heng Sheng, whose name in Chinese translates to "everlasting rise," reflects those of an industry that had soared since it was opened to foreign operators in 2002. The former Portuguese colony, which grew to become seven times the size of Las Vegas Strip, has started to lose business to a government corruption crackdown that is forcing casinos, hotels, junket operators and local officials to overhaul how they operate.

Heng Sheng and rivals including David Group and Gold Moon are among the most vulnerable. Chinese President Xi Jinping has widened his two-year battle against graft which has increased gamblers' concern that

Empty gaming tables show slide



big spending will attract scrutiny, and stricter visa rules have also deterred them from traveling to the world's largest gambling hub.

Xi's high-profile effort to catch "tigers and flies," officials high and low, includes an investigation of the former chief of staff of his predecessor Hu Jintao, and led to the 2013 life sentence for Bo Xilai, former Chongqing party chief.

Amid the pall, casino revenue fell in January for an eighth straight month. The slump has for-

ced operators to shut some VIP rooms where the highest rollers can bet as much as HKD1 million (USD129,000) per hand, according to Leon Liao, an analyst at Jefferies Hong Kong Ltd.

"The rate and scale of junket closures beginning in the fourth quarter of last year was faster than we were expecting," said Jamie Soo, an analyst at Daiwa Securities Co. "More are likely to close this year."

Heng Sheng has closed three of its 10 VIP rooms since October,

including one at The Venetian owned by Sands China Ltd., according to company employees. A Heng Sheng official who would only give her surname as Lai said the company is operating normally and declined to disclose any information. Heng Sheng had about 10 percent of the junket market share at its peak, Soo estimated.

At its peak about a year ago, Heng Sheng, which was set up in 2011, had HK\$80 billion (\$10 billion) in monthly rolling chip turnover, the amount VIPs bet inside its rooms, said Tony Tong, co-founder of Hong Kong-based Pacific Financial Services Ltd. and a veteran investor in Macau's junkets.

Revenue has plunged by half at some junkets over the past few months and the drop may continue, said Tong, who also advises operators on how to collect gambling debts.

Junket operators invite wealthy gamblers to visit Macau and arrange private jets, helicopters and luxury cars to get them into and around casinos packed into a city half the size of Manhattan.

They also arrange hotel rooms

and provide credit, skirting China's limit on the amount of yuan that can be exchanged for the patacas needed to gamble. The companies typically draw a commission from casinos. High-end players who last year contributed 60 percent of the \$44 billion casino revenue to the Chinese city.

Sheldon Adelson, the billionaire chairman of Sands China Ltd., said on Jan. 29 that fourth-quarter volume of Macau's VIP junkets last year was the lowest in four years.

Casino shares fell for a third

The rate and scale of junket closures beginning in the fourth quarter of last year was faster than we were expecting

JAMIE SOO

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straight month in January, with the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau (China) Gaming Market Index dropping 3.7 percent, the longest falling streak since July 2012.

Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. fell 0.2 percent to close at HK\$41 in Hong Kong trading yesterday, while MGM China Holdings Ltd. dropped 0.7 percent and Wynn Macau Ltd. decli-

ned 0.2 percent. The city's benchmark Hang Seng Index gained 0.3 percent.

Traffic into junkets may dwindle further as the government said last week it intends to impose a full smoking ban on all areas at casinos. Private high-roller rooms operated by junkets are currently exempted from a smoking ban already implemented in other casino areas, further

weighing on the VIP business, wrote DS Kim, an analyst at JP-Morgan Chase Bank in Hong Kong, wrote in a Jan. 30 note.

There were 217 licensed junket operators last year, down from 221 in 2013, according to government figures.

A slump in junkets may mean job losses in Macau. Junket operators "have to cut people, the luxury cars they own and VIP

rooms" to save costs, said Tong of Pacific Financial. "VIPs now say it's a sensitive time and it isn't convenient for them to come."

Tong, who started doing business with junket operators in 2006, said he has reduced his investment in the industry by at least half in the past year because of the increasing risks. He declined to name the junkets he has invested in.

Outside another VIP room sharing the same L'Arc hotel floor as Heng Sheng's, employees were chatting by the entrance with no gamblers in sight. The room is operated by David Group, which last month announced it was shuttering three of its seven rooms.

L'Arc, owned by Asia's largest casino company, SJM Holdings Ltd., has its own VIP room on the 21st floor with nine tables, and only one was occupied when a Bloomberg reporter visited in mid-January. "It's quiet everywhere; we mainly serve regulars now," a duty manager said, while trying to convince the reporter to set up a gambling account.

Across the street from L'Arc is billionaire Steve Wynn's only casino in the territory. It was similarly quiet at Wynn's seven members-only VIP sections.

While VIP rooms aren't always fully occupied, high-roller tra-

ffic has dropped sharply, said Cloee Chao, a labor leader who works as a supervisor on Wynn's gaming floor. "Sometimes you don't even see one VIP all day in some areas," said Chao, who has worked as a dealer in Macau for 17 years.

High rollers are asking for easier gambling destinations. The Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore and the U.K. are among their choices

As China's anti-graft campaign widens and the government imposes tighter rules for visiting the MSAR, high rollers are asking for easier gambling destinations, Tong said. The Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore and the U.K. are among their choices.

"We have increased a lot of our overseas gaming business," Tong said. "We go where customers demand to go." **Bloomberg**

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STATISTICS

Motor vehicle numbers exceed 240k, traffic accidents increase

THE number of traffic accidents had increased 6.3 percent year-on-year by the end of 2014. Data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that the number of traffic accidents totaled 16,029, resulting in 14 deaths and 5,424 cases of injury.

The total number of licensed motor vehicles reached 240,107, up by 5.3 percent year-on-year. Motorcycles and light private cars accounted for 52 percent and 41.3 percent of the total number of vehicles respectively.

DSEC said that cross-border vehicle traffic reached 4,940,238 vehicle trips last year, up by 6.1 percent year-on-year.

The Macau International Airport recorded 48,193 commercial flights, representing



an increase of 7.3 percent year-on-year. Flights to and from mainland China and Taiwan accounted for 39.2

percent and 24.5 percent of flights respectively. Flights between Macau and Vietnam soared by 245.1 percent and

those operating between Macau and South Korea increased by 52.8 percent. However, flights to and from Malaysia

and Thailand decreased by 17.9 percent and 11.7 percent respectively.

Helicopter flights between Macau and Hong Kong, and between Macau and mainland China, totaled 15,161 – a decrease of 12.3 percent compared to the previous year.

Inward cargo (6,672 tons) and outward air cargo (16,343 tons) increased by 3.7 percent and 8.8 percent respectively year-on-year. DSEC said in a statement that Taiwan remained the major origin and destination of inward and outward air cargo, accounting for 55.1 percent and 44.1 percent of the respective totals. Transit air cargo soared by 15.8 percent year-on-year.

DSEC revealed also that by the end of 2014, the number of land line telephone users decreased by 3 percent year-on-year, whereas the number of mobile phone users increased by 7.8 percent, reaching 1,856,453 users. The number of households subscribed to internet services totaled 305,394, and the cumulative duration of usage reached 953 million hours last year, up by 17 percent year-on-year.

IPIM

Temporary residents reminded to communicate 'change in status'

Catarina Pinto

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) has maintained that it reminds temporary residents of the need to communicate any changes in their legal status while holding a Macau form of identification.

Foreign families who have applied for residency through IPIM have reported difficulties in renewing their temporary residency when there's a "change in status," particularly in a change of employer of job category.

According to Macau's administrative decree 3/2005, a residence permit may be canceled if there are changes to the applicant's initial status. To avoid losing residency status, applicants are required to communicate changes in their status to IPIM within 30 days. However, applicants have pointed out that the law fails to clarify which types of changes should be communicated.

IPIM clarified that "changes with reference to the applicant and/or accompanying family dependen-

ts are defined as changes of legal status. For example, alternation of job, position, salary or breach of employment contract is regarded as the change of legal status for management and/or technical personnel applicants."

"We have reminded our applicants through different channels, such as by mail and SMS, that they should comply with the aforementioned regulation and inform IPIM in writing of any changes of status within 30 days stipulated, for further analysis [of their case]," IPIM said in a statement to The Times.

A recently released court ruling suspended the decision of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, which had revoked the residence permits of an Australian family. The court took into account "irreparable damages" to the family's children, who would have to abruptly change schools in Macau.

According to the verdict, the applicant had lost his temporary residency status for not communicating a change of employer to IPIM within the required timeframe.

The applicant appealed to the court seeking the suspension of such a decision so that the judicial review of his case could be taken without his family being forced to relocate.

In a written reply to The Times, IPIM clarified that applicants "should pledge that they will maintain the legal status after the application and/or during possessing of temporary residency status. In cases of termination or changes in the legal status, the temporary residency approval should be cancelled, with the exception of any new legal status established by the applicant being accepted by the concerned authorities, within a stipulated period set out by IPIM."

"The applicant should notify IPIM within 30 days [counting] from the first day of any change in the situation, otherwise, cancellation of the temporary residency permit is likely," IPIM stressed.

The Times reported this week that some temporary residents have faced challenges to maintain or renew their permits. One applicant, whose children

had to relocate and study abroad, pointed out an apparent lack of assessment criteria other than the main applicant's economic contributions to Macau society.

According to statistics released on its website, IPIM received 98 temporary residency applications through the Management and/or Technical Personnel Scheme during last year's third quarter. Forty-two cases were approved involving a total of 79 people who were granted temporary residency. A total of 1,067 renewal applications were lodged through IPIM, with the institute approving 1,120 in the third quarter of last year.

IPIM handles temporary residency applications for management and or technical personnel, as well as for people who wish to place major investments or have an investment plan for Macau. It used to handle residency applications through investment in local real estate, but applications through this scheme were cancelled in 2007. Some applications lodged before 2007 remain under analysis.

Residents demand gov't step in on alleged Zhuhai housing scam

AROUND 60 Macau residents who claimed to have suffered losses after buying pre-sale houses in Zhuhai gathered outside the Government Headquarters on Monday. They submitted a petition to the MSAR government, asking for its intervention in the issue.

A representative of the residents, Mr Lo, claimed that he bought a pre-sale apartment near New Yuan Ming Palace in Zhuhai in 2008. However, Lo admitted that he thought the development was a sound one and did not pay attention to the mainland laws that govern the selling of pre-sale properties. He also did not realize that the housing project was not, in fact, granted the relevant certificate. They were only promised verbally that a contract would be signed after the developer topped the building.

Lo alleged that, due to the shortage of capital, the developer had sold part of the project to the construction contractor and a new developer. However, the construction only stopped after disputes between the parties, and the building process resumed when the housing prices rose again. The project was eventually completed three years ago.

When the pre-sale apartment buyers tried to request the return of their apartments, it is alleged that the contractor and new developer then took the original developer to court and accused them of illegally accumulating funds. This is due to the belief that it pre-sold some of the apartments without gaining official approval. It is also alleged that the two had already auctioned three buildings as part of the projects before the verdict was delivered.

The proprietors had launched complaints to several mainland departments but to no avail. Mr Lo said that they have lost their money and their flats, and have since urged other residents to be cautious when purchasing houses in the mainland. He has, in particular, questioned whether or not the housing project was granted a permit for pre-selling.

Accompanying the residents to submit the petition were lawmakers Mak Soi Kun and Zheng Anting. Zheng has advised the MSAR government to establish a cooperation mechanism with the mainland authorities in order to improve the transparency of the pre-selling of properties. He also called for the creation of a "blacklist" of dodgy developers.



Erin Cornell, who plays the role of Grizabella in Cats and musical director Paul White performed the hit song "Memory"



Paul White; Erin Cornell; Scott Messinger and Makayla Bishop

Cats stars visit Macau before curtains are drawn on Broadway musical

Brook Yang

SEVERAL key cast and crew members of the world renewed musical Cats visited The Venetian yesterday and met with journalists, answering questions about the show that's coming back to town after seven years on March 6, this time staged at the Venetian Theatre. Among those present were Paul White (musical director), Makayla Bishop (company manager) and Erin Cornell (Grizabella, one of the main characters in Cats), who also performed the show's timeless hit song "Memory."

"The score is the star of many musical productions, with the music and the words. Andrew Lloyd Webber chose many

This production is the original Cats, with the beautiful orchestrations, and the score is the same. It's a perfect score, so you can't change it

PAUL WHITE

different genres from big band swing to rock and roll, to opera, and to the magnificent song ['Memory']. So it's a whole eclectic gathering of different styles of music, which is what makes it so popular and so appealing," introduced Paul White.

The director, who has been working on many of major theatre productions over the last 25 years, praised the fact that Cats also presented a "music landscape that was unique, unusual and sort of wildly."

"He [Webber] created a soundscape that doesn't belong in any key like most the Western music where the tradition comes from. So it just was a completely unique sound he created that is used throughout the whole show from time to time," he stressed, adding that these wild sounds helped creating "a cats' world" that differs from the humans'.

Composed by legendary British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, the award-winning musical showcases various characters based on English poet T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats." Since its premier in London's West End in 1981, it has been performed around the world in numerous productions including 18 years on Broadway.

"This production [to be staged in Macau] is the original Cats, with the beautiful orchestrations, and the score is the same. It's a perfect score, so you can't change it," White

told the reporters. "This show is 100 percent music, from beginning to end. There's no spoken dialog, a little bit only," he added.

"Sometimes about classic shows, if the show is really sounding dated, then the producers and creatives would put a broom through it to make it up-to-date. Cats actually sounds exactly as it should sound, because it's so carefully crafted with the orchestrations and the music choices Webber made, there's no need to update it," he explained, although he added that some changes to the show are happening in London.

Speaking of the reasons why Cats is one of the most successful musicals of all time and still running, the production team's manager Ms Makayla Bishop affirmed that the show "identifies with different generations."

"Children can come and see Cats and they get excited seeing the dancing and people dressed up at Cats in costumes and wigs. And our older generation can enjoy it because they can remember that show and the songs; they remember hearing 'Memory' on the radio after it first came out by different artists covering it. So it really does span multiple generations," she said.

Amongst all fragments of the show, character Grizabella's singing "Memory" – a nostalgic remembrance of her glorious past and a declaration of her wishes to start a new life

– is recognized as the climax.

Cast for the character, Ms Erin Cornell, performed the song at the media event. She said that to "keep Grizabella consistently truthful every performance" is a major challenge for her.

"Because it can be lost in just Grizabella singing Memory, [but] there's a lot more to hear. There are so many layers; she's a very quite complex character," she stressed.

"It's important for us to also be accommodating to audiences and to go with their flow. As much as us performing to them, hopefully they can perform to us in a certain way as well," she added.

Interaction with the audience is also an element of the show. "The cast play with the audience sometimes. Not everybody will get a 'cat' sitting on their lap, but some people will," said Mr White.

The Cats debuted in Macau at the Cultural Centre during Christmas 2007. Comparing to the classic auditorium, Paul White said that the semicircle Venetian also "suits Cats every

well, because people can see it from different angles."

"Although Cats did come here several years ago, that was a one-off. I think the entertainment industry in Macau is really on the rise now. Of course there's always been a lot of entertainment, but the really high-level production entertainment hasn't," he indicated.

"I've always felt a little sad that a lot of our big productions from Australia would go to HK but not Macau. I know it's close and you could capture both markets by just performing in HK," the musical director said. "HK is clearly a much bigger city, if the producers are going to choose between one and the other, they'll obviously choose HK, and it's very expensive to move the show to another city. That might be changing now."

The show will run from March 6 to 15. Moreover, The Venetian Macao said that it's the first of several Broadway shows coming to its premises and the next one will arrive in June.

'MULTI-TIERED ENTERTAINMENT STRATEGY'

"BRINGING A musical of the caliber of Cats to The Venetian Macao is yet another example of Sands China's multi-tiered entertainment strategy in action," according to Scott Messinger, Sands China's senior vice presi-

dent of marketing. "We continue working hard to support the Macau SAR government's call to diversify entertainment in Macau and promote the city as a world center of tourism and leisure," he added.

Candice Choi
Food Industry Writer, New York

Coke bets on 'premium milk' to boost category

COKE is coming out with premium milk that has more protein and less sugar than regular. And it's betting people will pay twice as much for it.

The national rollout of Fairlife over the next several weeks is one way the world's biggest beverage maker is seeking to diversify its offerings as Americans continue turning away from soft drinks.

It also comes as people increasingly seek out some type of functional boost from their foods and drinks, whether it's more fiber, antioxidants or protein. That has left the door open for Coke step into the milk case, where the differences between options remain relatively minimal.

"It's basically the premiumization of milk," Sandy Douglas, president of Coca-Cola North America, said at an analyst conference in November. If developed properly, Douglas said it is the type of product that "rains money."

Fairlife, which Coca-Cola formed in partnership with dairy cooperative Select Milk Producers in 2012, says its milk goes through a filtration process that's akin the way skim milk is made. Filters are used to separate the various components in milk. Then, more of the favorable components are added, while the less favorable ones are taken out.

Fairlife says its milk has 50 percent more protein, 30 percent more calcium and 50 percent less sugar than regular milk, and is lactose free.

The same process is used to make Fairlife's Core Power, a drink marketed to athletes that has even more protein and calcium than Fairlife milk.

Sue McCloskey, who developed the system used to make Fairlife with her husband Mike McCloskey, said Fairlife milk



Fairlife milk products appear on display in the dairy section of an Indianapolis grocery store

will be marketed more broadly to women who are the "gatekeepers" for their families' nutritional needs.

Even while touting its nutritional advantages, however, Fairlife will need to be careful about communicating how its drink is made. Jonas Feliciano, senior beverage analyst for market researcher Euromonitor, noted people increasingly want drinks that "do something for me," but that Fairlife's juiced-up nutritional stats may make people hesitant about how natural it is.

"They have to explain that this is not an abomination of nature," Feliciano said.

Already, Fairlife has been subject to some teasing. After the drink was referenced in Coke's analyst presentation, comedian Stephen Colbert referred to it as "extra expensive science milk"

and made fun of the elaborate way it's made.

"It's like they got Frankenstein to lactate," he said.

Colbert also took a dig at the wholesome image Fairlife is trying to project, noting that it's made by the "nature loving health nuts at Coca-Cola." That may explain why Coca-Cola is distancing itself from the product; a representative for the Atlanta-based company referred questions to Fairlife's outside representative.

In a phone interview, Fairlife CEO and former Coke executive Steve Jones said he thinks his company can help reverse the decades-long decline in milk consumption. Already, major retailers including Wal-Mart, Target, Kroger and Safeway have agreed to carry it.

The drink has already started

appearing on shelves and is expected to continue rolling out nationally over the next several weeks. It comes in sleek, plastic bottles reminiscent of milk cartons.

At a supermarket in Indianapolis, a 52-ounce bottle of Fairlife was being sold for USD4.59. By comparison, the national average cost for a half-gallon of milk, which is 64 ounces, is \$2.18, according to the USDA. For organic milk, the average is \$3.99.

Fairlife is just one of many ventures by Coca-Cola, which also recently took stakes in energy drink maker Monster Beverages and Keurig Green Mountain, which makes single-serving coffee machines and pods.

Over time, Coca-Cola is hoping Fairlife can become a significant driver of growth. For now, Fair-

life is still trying to find its footing in the marketplace.

This summer, the company ran ads in the test markets of Minneapolis and Denver featuring women wearing nothing but milk splashes in the shape of dresses. The images were accompanied by phrases like, "Better Milk Looks Good On You," leading them to be deemed sexist in some corners.

Jones said the ads were intended to be "disruptive," since new products need to grab people's attention.

But moving forward, he said Fairlife will focus on its authentic milk taste in national marketing, which will roll out around the end of March or April.

While declining to provide details, Jones said Fairlife intends to "crank up the awareness level very, very quickly." AP

corporate bits

UPCOMING DEBUT OF THE ST. REGIS MACAO



The St. Regis Hotels & Resorts today announces that The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central is scheduled to open in the third quarter of this year. The

hotel will mark the brand's 36th property worldwide and the seventh in the Greater China region, hot on the heels of recent openings in Chengdu, Tianjin, Sanya, and Shenzhen.

"Sands China Ltd. is very pleased to welcome the St. Regis brand to Sands Cotai Central," said Mark McWhinnie, Senior Vice President of Development and Shared Services and Director of Sands Cotai Central. "Our integrated resorts deliver outstanding and unforgettable experiences to our guests and visitors. The St. Regis brand's world-renowned standard of service and luxury strengthens our ability to deliver on that promise, and helps raise Macao's profile as a world center of tourism and leisure."

CEM HOLDS SEMINAR ON ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION MECHANISM AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY APPLICATION PROCEDURES

In a bid to enhance communication with the engineering industry and increase the transparency of customer service, CEM recently held a seminar at the CEM Building to introduce the electrical contractor registration mechanism and application procedures for subscribed demand increase and electricity supply to ensure electrical engineers have a clear understanding of relevant requirements.

More than 50 electrical contractors and representatives of the Macau Electromechanics Professionals Association, Macau Construction Association, Macau Association of Building Contractors and Developers, Association of Macau Electricity



Professionals and Association of Macau Electricians attended the seminar. Luella Wong, CEM Customer Services Department Metering Service Management Manager, introduced the electrical contractor registration mechanism for 2015, while Chris Chao, Senior Engineer of the Network Planning, Design and Construction Department, introduced the application procedures for power demand increase, electricity supply in new buildings, and temporary power supply.

AN EVENING OF ROMANCE AT FADO

This February, Fado at Hotel Royal Macao is offering a four-course Portuguese dinner prepared by Executive Chef, Luis Américo. The Valentine's menu also comes with a bottle of Champagne.

The menu begins with Grilled tiger shrimp with rosemary butter sauce; followed by Fresh lobster and sea bass with rich Portuguese style shellfish

cream soup and green asparagus; the journey continues with a Rib eye premium sliced steak with puff hearts stuffed with sautéed carrot and zucchini; and finally, a Peach and thyme lava-cake, fresh cheese and Vanilla custard and chocolate port wine truffles for a sweet finish.

Fado's Valentine four-course candlelit dinner is available from February 13th to 15th 2015.



Diamond polishing carried out in Angola

THE diamonds mined in Angola will now be fully polished in the Angola Diamonds Polishing factory, which was re-opened Monday following a restructuring process that cost USD7 million, the Angolan press reported.

The Angola Diamonds Polishing factory, Sodiam, a subsidiary of Angolan state diamond company



Empresa Nacional de Diamantes de Angola (Endiama), represented an initial investment of USD10 million, which when it was set up

involved a partnership with foreign investors.

Following the project's restructuring process, the investment made in the unit around Luanda will polish 100 percent of a nationally-produced diamond, compared to 40 percent previously.

With this measure, the Angolan government plans to increase revenues from the sale of diamonds.

The creation of this factory involved Sodiam, a state-owned company established in December 1999 with exclusive rights on the sale of diamonds produced in the country, LLD Diamonds and an Angolan consortium, to form the Angola Polishing Diamonds company.

Angola is the third largest producer of diamonds in Africa by

volume and value, with a production of eight million carats, only surpassed by Botswana, the world's largest producer with about 38 million carats, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with 30 million carats.

Figures point to production of around 8.3 million carats, with gross revenues of around US\$1.100 billion per year. **MDT/Macauhub**

Economic climate in Cape Verde remains in decline

THE economic climate indicator in Cape Verde in the fourth quarter of 2014 continued on the downward trend of recent quarters and registered the lowest level since the series began, the country's National Statistics Institute (INE) said in the capital, Praia.

The results of the Monthly Companies Survey for the last quarter of 2014 also showed that the economic climate indicator developed negatively compared to the same period of 2013

and that the economic climate is unfavorable.

In all sectors analysed – construction, retail trade, tourism, manufacturing and transport and auxiliary services for transportation – the same complaints from business owners were registered, that there is too much bureaucracy and too many state regulations.

The Monthly Survey prepared by the National Statistics Institute showed that the manufacturing sector was the only indicator to show a

positive trend in the period.

The tourism sector, for example, developed unfavourably due to the negati-

ve behaviour of all variables that make up this indicator.

Operators complained of excessive bureaucracy and

state regulations, high sales prices and consequently, insufficient demand, and business for companies

operating in the tourism sector was also affected by lack of staff with appropriate training. **MDT/Macauhub**

Prime Minister son's shooting seen as attack on state

THE shooting of the son of Cape Verde's Prime Minister Jose Maria Pereira Neves on Dec. 30 is an attack on the state and can be linked to the murder of the mother of a police inspector in October, the

government said. Neves' 36-year-old son, Jose Luis Neves, was shot on his doorstep and is still in the hospital in Praia, the capital of the country, an archipelago of volcanic islands off Africa's west coast.

In October Isabel Moreira, the mother of the head of a police agency that oversees drug trafficking investigations, was shot dead as she entered her house in Praia. The two attacks are "the same pattern of attack on the institutions of democratic law and the state in Cape Verde and is a challenge to the authorities," the government said in a statement.

AD



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FILM

French director Annaud 'touched' to make key movie

Louise Watt, Beijing

FRENCH director Jean-Jacques Annaud, who fell out of favor in China after portraying Chinese troops invading Tibet, said he had "incredible freedom" to turn best-selling book "Wolf Totem" into a movie at the invitation of Chinese producers.

Annaud said he did not yield to censors' requests to alter scenes but made the film as he wanted to in China, where movies need approval from government regulators.

"I think being your own censor is very bad, so I did the screenplay very freely," he told The Associated Press yesterday.

Set in 1967 during the Cultural Revolution, "Wolf Totem" tells the semi-autobiographical story of a student sent from the city to the Inner Mongolian steppes for re-education. He lives with the nomads, develops a respect for freedom and nature and becomes fascinated with the wolves. But then a government official orders all the wolves in the area to be killed.

Many were surprised the book "Wolf Totem," first published in 2004, was approved by the censors because it was seen by some as a critique of Communist rule. The author, whose pen name was Jiang Rong, was eventually revealed to be Lu Jiamin, a veteran activist imprisoned for taking part in the



French film director Jean-Jacques Annaud talks about his latest film "Wolf Totem" during an interview in Beijing

1989 pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, which were brutally stopped by the military.

Both the director and main actor, Feng Shaofeng, said the China-France co-production centered on the relationship between humans and nature, and taking care of the environment. "The film is not just a film about China. It's for the whole world, and its theme is an issue everyone cares about," said Feng.

In recent years, ethnic Mon-

golian herders have protested mines operating on grazing land that they complain are damaging the environment and killing livestock.

Annaud said that after submitting his screenplay he received a letter from censors saying that three scenes "may be problematic," including one scene involving a traditional Mongol custom that they said may be upsetting for Mongols. The director said he wrote back disputing this, and shot and edited the scene how he had originally

■ Annaud, who fell out of favor with Chinese authorities after his portrayal of their troops invading Tibet, said he had "incredible freedom" to turn best-selling book "Wolf Totem" into a movie

intended. Chinese audiences will see exactly the same version as that released internationally, he added.

Annaud, who has made films with animals in the past, such as "Two Brothers" and "The Bear," was visited at his Paris office by a delegation of Chinese producers who told him they would be honored to see him direct "Wolf Totem," partly so the Chinese film industry could learn from him.

"They said to me in a very frank open way we love the

movies you've been doing, we don't know how you do them, and we would like to invite you in our country to do this movie because we don't know how to do what you do," he said.

He said they were curious about his methods, which involved shooting entirely on location in Inner Mongolia, China's autonomous northern region that borders Mongolia and is characterized by grasslands, and rejecting their initial idea of filming with dogs or computer generated animals, rather than real wolves.

Annaud has visited China about 10 times each year since 2009, when he took on the project. Part of the reason it took so long was that they reared Mongol wolves that could interact with the actors and crew, which took three years.

The fact that Annaud was sought to direct the film of the book beloved by many in China is a turnaround from a permanent ban he reportedly received for his 1997 film "Seven Years in Tibet," along with lead actor Brad Pitt. China was upset by his portrayal of harsh Chinese rule in Tibet in the story of an Austrian explorer's relationship with a young Dalai Lama.

Annaud said yesterday that the ban "was mostly a rumor in my case."

"I heard that I was not welcome and I mentioned that to the people who came to see me, and they said, 'China has changed, and we are pragmatic and we need you,' and that was it," said the director. "Since that day no one ever mentioned anything."

The film will be released in China on Feb. 19, during the popular cinema-going period of Chinese New Year, and in France on Feb. 25. **AP**

Most major cities seen failing on air quality

THE air quality in 66 of China's 74 major cities, including the capital Beijing, failed to meet basic standards last year, China's Environment Ministry said, underlining the struggles the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter has in reining in threats to public health and quality of life.

The worst-performing cities were in the country's north adjacent to Beijing, with the Hebei province industrial center of Baoding just to the southwest coming in dead last, according to a report published on the ministry website yesterday.

Haikou, capital of the

southern island province of Hainan, had the best air among major cities, with the Tibetan capital Lhasa coming third, the report said. Ratings were conducted based on samples of major pollutants including PM2.5, PM10, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone.

On a positive note, the number of cities meeting standards was up from three in 2013 and average PM2.5 levels were down slightly in the Beijing region from 106 micrograms to 93.

After decades of rising pollution levels, China has begun acknowledging the threat by regularly publishing updates

on levels of dangerous PM2.5, tiny particles in the air that at sufficient quantities reduce visibility and increase health risks.

In November, China pledged to stop the growth in its carbon emissions by 2030 and last year recorded its first drop in coal production since 2000 as it switches to cleaner energy sources. China depends on coal for 80 percent of its electricity supply and about two-thirds of total energy.

Beijing has limited the number of new cars on its roads and plans to cut coal usage by 75 percent by 2022. **AP**





Jack Ma says Alibaba resolved conflict with mainland regulator

Lulu Yilun Chen

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. resolved its problems with China's State Administration of Industry and Commerce "at the first stage," billionaire founder Jack Ma said during a speech in Hong Kong.

The SAIC's actions weren't supported by "certain government officials," Ma said on Monday, without elaborating. Alibaba has 2,000 full-time employees to help monitor counterfeits and has helped send 400 people to prison for violations, he said.

"We looking for how we can communicate with the rest of the world," Ma said. "We don't want to be misunderstood by the world that we are not transparent. We don't want to be misunderstood that Taobao is a platform for selling fake products." Ma said he's "much more tired and frustrated than people think." He didn't elaborate.

The SAIC issued a "white paper" last week accusing Alibaba of allowing merchants to operate without required licenses, to run unauthorized stores that

co-opt famous brands and to sell fake wine and handbags. Alibaba employees took bribes, and the company didn't fix flaws in customer feedback and internal credit-scoring systems, SAIC said.

Alibaba and the SAIC toned down the confrontation on Friday, when the Chinese consumer rights agency said a report criticizing the e-commerce company didn't have "judicial effect." The statement came after Ma met SAIC chief Zhang Mao and promised to step up anti-piracy spending.

Ma was asked after his speech about reports that fake university degrees were being sold on Alibaba's platform. The degrees were purported to be from Suwen University of Hong Kong, though no school by that name exists.

Ma responded that it wasn't surprising to find fake diplomas on Alibaba's sites, and he emphasized that Alibaba is stepping up its monitoring efforts.

Zhejiang Ant Small & Micro Financial Services Group Co., the company's finance affiliate, will "definitely" have an initial public offering, Ma said, adding that he hasn't given much

thought to the timing or location of the IPO.

Ma said he'd prefer if the company went public in Asia, and he would be open to listing in Hong Kong if regulators there welcome it. Alibaba's own plans for a Hong Kong IPO were derailed because the city wouldn't waive a ban on multiple share-class structures.

Alibaba plans to invest significantly in artificial intelligence, Ma said, adding that robots present a great opportunity in the next 20 years.

Ma was speaking at an event to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship among youth. Alibaba is creating a HKD1 billion fund (USD130 million) to provide startup capital to young Hong Kong entrepreneurs to strengthen economic ties between the former British colony and mainland China.

Ma said he prefers to focus on people below the age of 40 with the fund, and that startups should also seek money from relatives, friends and not banks or government. Participation in Hong Kong's pro-democracy Occupy Central protests shouldn't disqualify applicants, he said. **Bloomberg**

LABOR RIGHTS

Focus: Cleaning up Xi'an's mean streets



A volunteer distributes Laba porridge to cleaners in a community in Xingtai City, north China's Hebei Province

WHEN street sweeper Ding Quan, 58, paused to warm himself at a roadside fire after putting in a hard shift in driving snow, little did he suspect that it would cost him job.

It snowed last week in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, for the first time this winter. Last Wednesday, Ding was snapped by one of his supervisors as he defrosted his frozen fingers. The following day he was sacked for a "violation of company rules".

Being a street sweeper in China is not much fun. Their salaries are usually poor, and places for them to shelter from the elements are thin on the ground. Pictures of sanitation workers in northeast China eating snow to quench their thirst surfaced on the Internet last month, provoking an online response.

Ding's employer, Gold Medal Property Management, discharged him from duty for failing to extinguish a fire that "posed both safety and environmental hazards".

Ding came to Xi'an from a neighboring province to take care of his granddaughter and to help make ends meet by cleaning the city streets in the early morning for 1,550 yuan (USD250) a month. He was "shocked" by the decision, complaining that the company had not consulted him before firing him but did nothing because he felt unable to "fight the authorities".

Microblogging site Sina Weibo is currently heaving with posts that describe the company's decision as cruel and inhumane. Bowing to public pressure, Gold Medal posted an apology on its website on Sunday, acknowledging that the decision was "improper". The company is working with Ding to reach an amicable settlement.

Lacking awareness of their rights, many low skilled, lowly paid workers like Ding are recruited on a temporary basis and are easily dismissed.

Poor Ding was lucky that his plight reached the attention of the wider public, but the sad facts of the matter put the troubles of many Chinese workers into the spotlight again, with demands

for better protection for the underprivileged group.

In China, workers like Ding face formidable problems such as social discrimination and a lack of legal protection. They lead lives of constant instability. In a society where social discrimination against ordinary laborers still exists, sanitation workers are near the bottom of the heap, with frequent reports of them being assaulted or even killed.

Figures from Dalian, a city in northeast China's Liaoning Province, show 109 accidents involving street sweepers since 2011, with 17 killed, 50 seriously injured and countless others harassed or attacked.

■ **When street sweeper Ding Quan paused to warm himself at a roadside fire in the snow, little did he suspect that it would cost him job**

Such workers are typically quite elderly, with low levels of education, and badly paid. They are unable to stand up for their rights. According to a 2014 survey by Guizhou Normal University, 72 percent of sanitation workers have only attended primary school.

Regulations protecting the workers are often vague and extremely difficult to execute. Wang Jinshan of Henan University of Economics and Law, blames the government for not doing enough to protect them.

Lu Jiaobin, head of Dalian sanitation department wants the government to invest in improving conditions for the workers, by building more temporary shelters, for example. He called for more respect for sanitation workers, who "do the most tiring work in our society." **Xinhua**

NORTH KOREA

UN official: human rights, cult of Kim can't coexist

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

A campaign within the United Nations to haul North Korean leader Kim Jong Un before an international court for crimes against humanity has touched off a defensive fury in Pyongyang, where it's being treated like a diplomatic declaration of war — an aggressive act aimed not only at shutting down prison camps but also at removing Kim and dismantling his family's three-generation cult of personality.

More paranoia?

Actually, according to the U.N.'s point man on human rights in North Korea, that is not too far off the mark, though he stressed no one is advocating a military option to force regime change.

"It would be, I think, the first order of the day to get these 80,000 to 100,000 (prisoners) immediately released and these camps disbanded," Marzuki Darusman, the U.N.'s special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But that can only happen if this cult leadership system is completely dismantled. And the only way to do that is if the Kim family is effectively displaced, is effectively removed from the scene, and a new leadership comes into place."

Such blunt words from a high-ranking U.N. official are unusual, although common among American officials.

Darusman said previous proposals submitted to the U.N. trying to persuade or



In this Oct. 10 2010 file photo, North Korea leader Kim Jong Il, left, walks by his son Kim Jong Un, right, on the balcony as they attend a massive military parade

force North Korea to improve its human rights record were mostly "rhetorical" exercises.

But he said this resolution, passed by the General Assembly in December, is more significant because it holds Kim responsible based on a 372-page report of findings presented last year by the U.N.-backed Commission of Inquiry that detailed arbitrary detention, torture, executions and political prison camps.

"This is a sea change in the position of the international community," Darusman said during a recent visit to Tokyo.

The North Koreans "are in their most vulnerable position at this stage, whenever the culpability and responsibility of the supreme leader is brought out in full glare of the international public scrutiny."

North Korea's intense response has included threats of more nuclear tests, mass rallies across the country, a bitter smear campaign against defectors who cooperated in the U.N. report and repeated allegations that Washington orchestrated the whole thing in an attempt at speeding a regime change. Its state me-

dia last week railed yet again against the U.N. findings, saying "those who cooked up the 'report' are all bribed political swindlers and despicable human scum." It called Darusman, the former attorney general of Indonesia, an "opportunist."

In a rare flurry of talks, North Korean diplomats at the U.N. lobbied frenetically to get Kim's culpability out of the resolution without success. The proposal is now on the agenda of the Security Council, which is expected this year to make a decision on whether the is-

sue should be referred to the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

Just before the resolution passed the General Assembly, the North Korean diplomatic mission to the U.N. sought a meeting with Darusman to get the wording deleted. During the meeting with Ri Hung Sik, North Korea's ambassador-at-large, the North Koreans indicated their future was at stake, Darusman said.

"They said that other people will take over, and the hardliners will be taking over," Darusman said, suggesting a schism may already be forming between factions scrambling to prove themselves more loyal and more effective in protecting the leadership. "They wouldn't have to mention that to us, but I don't know. I'm taking it at face value."

But here's the reality check about the resolution: The likelihood of criminal proceedings against Kim is minuscule. It would likely be shot down by China or Russia, which have veto power on the Security Council. Also, while more than 120 countries support the International Criminal Court, the United States isn't one of them, so it is somewhat awkward for Washington to push that option too hard.

But even without bringing Kim to court, Darusman said, the placement of North Korean human rights on the Security Council agenda means Pyongyang will face increasing scrutiny from the international community. He said ally China will be under pressure to either distance itself from Pyongyang or lose credibility.

"It may seem remote, but at some stage it is conceivable that China cannot afford to be continuously associated with a regime that is universally sanctioned by the international community," he said. "Something will give." AP

SOUTH KOREA

Soldier sentenced to death for killing 5 comrades

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

A South Korean soldier was sentenced to death yesterday for killing five comrades and injuring seven others in a shooting and grenade attack last year, the Defense Ministry said.

Shooting rampages by bullied soldiers are not unusual in South Korea, which requires all able-bodied men to serve about two years in the military in the face of threats from North Korea.



South Korean army soldiers rappel down during an exercise against a terrorist attack at a training camp in Seoul

The soldier, surnamed Yim, has told investigators that he threw a grenade and opened fire on his colleagues in June after seeing drawings they made of him that he considered insulting. Yim had fled into the forest near the border with North Korea but was captured following a failed suicide attempt.

Yim, who has been identified only by his surname, was sentenced to death in a military court in the eastern Gangwon pro-

vince, a Defense Ministry official in Seoul said on condition of anonymity citing department rules. He said Yim can appeal.

South Korea has not executed anyone since December 1997, although death sentences are still occasionally issued by courts.

In 2005, a soldier tossed a grenade and opened fire at a front-line army unit in a rampage that killed eight colleagues. He said he was enraged at superiors who

had verbally abused him. The soldier was later sentenced to death but hasn't been executed.

Past rampages have raised questions about the discipline and readiness of South Korea's military, which faces North Korean troops across the world's most heavily fortified border. The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. AP

Elaine Kurtenbach and
Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

TERRORISM

Hostage killings highlight threat,
meager options for Japan

THE killing of two Japanese taken hostage by the Islamic State group has violently driven home the high stakes Japan faces and limited options it can muster in such circumstances.

It also offers a glimpse into how Japan is struggling to handle the rising menace of terrorism.

Until this crisis, Japan had not become directly embroiled in the fight against the militants, who now control about a third of both Syria and neighboring Iraq in a self-declared caliphate. Tokyo's backing for U.S.-led air strikes against the Islamic State group is confined to financial and humanitarian aid for refugees and other non-military support for countries affected by the conflict.

That proved no hindrance for the jihadis, and Japan is re-examining its response to the threat, both abroad and at home, mindful also of Tokyo's preparations for the 2020 Olympic Games.

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said yesterday that the government convened a meeting on counterterrorism to review the situation.

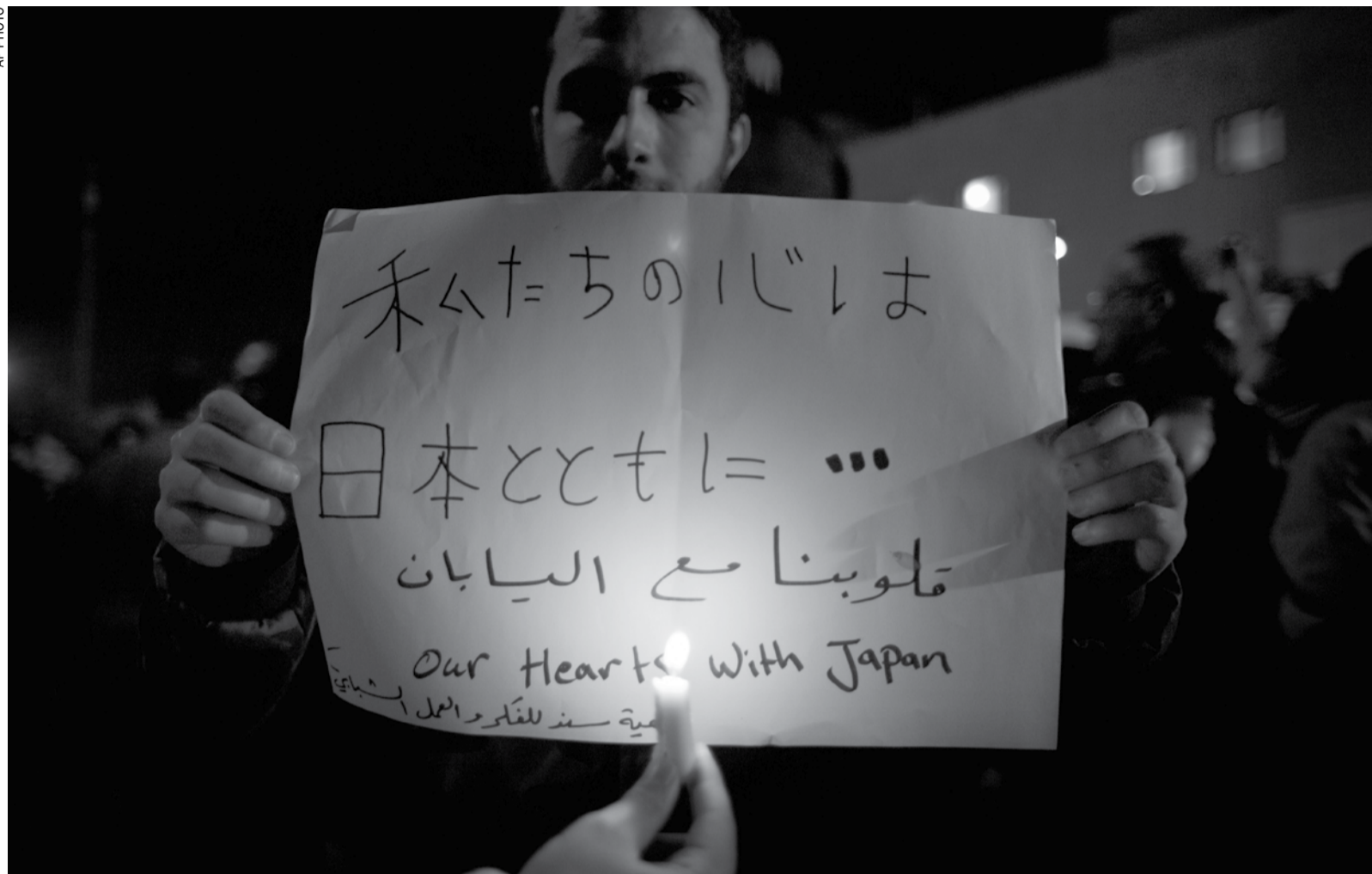
"During the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, there will be many visitors from overseas and needless to say, we will implement full-scale measures to prepare," Suga.

Japan's options for trying to free the hostages were limited. Tokyo lacks a strong diplomatic presence in the region and has a very small corps of Arab experts — only about 30 people in this case, the foreign minister, Fumio Kishida, told parliament.

It is unclear whether paying ransom would have been an option. Moreover, the military is confined by the constitution, drafted by U.S. occupying forces after World War II, to a strictly self-defense role and would be unable to stage a rescue attempt.

A video over the weekend

AP PHOTO



Jordanians carry banners and light candles during a candle vigil for Jordanians in support for Japan, in front of the Japanese embassy, in Amman, Jordan

showing the beheading of journalist Kenji Goto, purportedly from the Islamic State militants, carried chilling threats to single out Japanese anywhere as targets.

Addressing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a man resembling a militant seen in other beheading videos by the Islamic State group says, "because of your reckless decision to take part in an unwinnable war, this knife will not only slaughter Kenji, but will also carry on and cause carnage wherever your people are found. So let the nightmare for Japan be-

gin."

Abe has made security a top priority of his administration. He ordered greater vigilance at airports and at Japanese facilities overseas, such as embassies and schools. The government already was considering sending troops for overseas rescues.

In parliament yesterday, opposition lawmakers questioned Abe over the crisis.

Akira Koike, an opposition Japan Communist Party lawmaker, demanded to know if Abe was mindful of the plight of the two hostages

when he announced USD200 million in humanitarian aid to nations fighting the militants. The announcement came just days before the release of a \$200 million ransom demand for Goto and for the other hostage, gun aficionado and adventurer Haruna Yukawa.

Since the ransom message addressed Abe and demanded the same amount for the hostages, some critics contend he should not have directly mentioned the Islamic State group in announcing the aid.

"You made that speech knowing that Mr. Yukawa and Mr. Goto had been already taken captive by the Islamic State group. Were you aware that such a speech may have been risky for the two hostages?" Koike asked.

Abe rejects those misgivings and says he took the hostages' plight into account when making his speech.

"It is most important to support the countries that are taking in refugees and fighting at the frontline. It is only natural to show our solidarity to those countries," Abe said.

"Japan has made non-military contributions in the area, and it was our responsibility to show Japan's commitment in that direction in a firm message in the Middle East," he said.

Abe already has sought and won a reinterpretation of the constitution by his Cabinet allowing defense of an ally, such as the U.S., in limited conditions under a concept known as "collective self-defense."

Japan's aid may help discourage refugees from becoming recruits of the Islamic State group, but Abe should have used more caution, said Koichiro Tanaka, chief Middle East analyst at the Institute of Energy and Economics in Tokyo.

Nationalists in Japan might try to use the hostage crisis as a pretext for a stronger military, said Stephen Nagy, a professor of politics at International Christian University in Tokyo.

But he notes that the U.S. has lost several citizens to the Islamic State group over the past months "and has been incapable of rescuing them. And they have apparently the most sophisticated military in the world and experience in such rescues."

For Japan, and possibly the rest of Asia, a more urgent issue is the possibility Islamic State extremists may be more likely to target their citizens, using them as pawns in Middle East regional politics, Nagy says. AP

KENJI'S 4-YEAR-OLD TWEET EMBRACED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

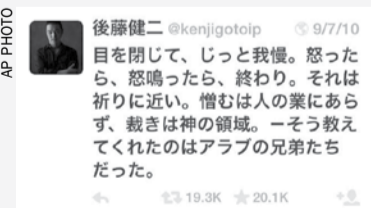
KENJI GOTO'S words, now more than four years old, have taken on a new poignancy.

"Closing my eyes and holding still. It's the end if I get mad or scream. It's close to a prayer. Hate is not for humans. Judgment lies with God. That's what I learned from my Arabic brothers and sisters."

That tweet from Sept. 7, 2010, has been embraced by social media users as a fitting memorial to the 47-year-old freelance journalist. It had 20,000 retweets by Monday, and was being repeated by others by the minute.

The Twitter account was verified as Goto's by his friend Toshi Maeda,

AP PHOTO



who heads Tokyo-based venture Pacific Bridge, which created the mobile-video application Goto used for some of his reports from Syria. His account has other musings from Goto, of course, including comments about French wine and complaints about his tired eyes, as well as his reporting. But it was the message of toler-

ance that seemed to resonate with the thousands of Japanese Twitter users, expressing admiration for Goto's reporting about the suffering of children in Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

An English translation of that tweet, originally in Japanese, was also circulating on Twitter.

Goto's last tweet was in October, about the time he left for Syria, to rescue Yukawa, who disappeared last summer.

Maeda recalled how Goto believed in citizen journalism.

"He was like a brother to me," he said. "He was an inspiration. He was a friend and a colleague."



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Mike Corder, The Hague

BALKANS

THE United Nations' top court ruled yesterday that Serbia and Croatia did not commit genocide against each other's people during the bloody 1990s wars sparked by the breakup of the former Yugoslavia.

The ruling could help put to rest lingering animosities between the Balkan neighbors.

The International Court of Justice said Serb forces committed widespread crimes in Croatia early in the war, but they did not amount to genocide. The 17-judge panel then

Judges ruled that neither Serbia nor Croatia carried out the crimes with the 'specific intent' to destroy targeted populations

ruled that a 1995 Croat offensive to win back territory from rebel Serbs also featured serious crimes, but did not reach the level of genocide.

Fighting in Croatia from 1991-95 left around 10,000 people dead and forced millions from their homes.

Yesterday's decision was not unexpected, as the U.N.'s Yu-

UN Court: Serbia and Croatia didn't commit genocide in 1990s



Presiding judge Peter Tomka of Slovakia, fourth from right, opens the World Court session in The Hague, Netherlands

goslav war crimes tribunal, a separate court also based in The Hague, has never charged any Serbs or Croats with genocide in one another's territory.

Croatia brought the case to the world court in 1999, asking

judges to order Belgrade to pay compensation. Serbia later filed a counterclaim, alleging genocide by Croat forces during the 1995 "Operation Storm" military campaign.

Rejecting both cases, court

President Peter Tomka stressed that many crimes happened during fighting between Serbia and Croatia and urged Belgrade and Zagreb to work together toward a lasting reconciliation.

"The court encourages the parties to continue their cooperation with a view to offering appropriate reparation to the victims of such violations," Tomka told a packed Great Hall of Justice at the court's Hague headquarters, the Peace Palace.

Decisions by the International Court of Justice are final and legally binding.

Tomka said crimes including killings and mass expulsions by both sides constituted elements of the crime of genocide, but the judges ruled that neither Serbia nor Croatia carried out the crimes with the "specific intent" to destroy targeted populations.

Serbian Justice Minister Nikola Selkovic said the decision would usher in "a much better page in our bilateral relations," but his Croatian counterpart, Orsat Miljenic, was not so sure and urged Belgrade to do more to prosecute suspected war criminals.

"I don't see it as any changing or breakthrough moment," Miljenic told reporters at the court. "We are neighbors. We have to cooperate in as many areas as possible."

The case brought by Croatia was not the first time Serbia had faced allegations of genocide at the world court.

In a landmark 2007 judgment, judges cleared Belgrade of committing genocide in the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica, but said Serbia breached the genocide convention by failing to prevent the slaughter, Europe's worst mass slaying since World War II. **AP**

CUBA

Havana publishes first photos of Fidel Castro in 5 months

Michael Weissenstein and Andrea Rodriguez, Havana

CUBA has published the first photos of Fidel Castro in more than five months, showing the 88-year-old former leader engaged in what appears to be a lively conversation with a university student.

Nearly two dozen images were published virtually simultaneously on the websites of Cuba's main state media outlets around midnight Monday (yesterday, Macau time). In them, Castro is seated and discussing current events with the head of the main Cuban student union. A first-person account by student leader Randy Perdomo Garcia

says the meeting took place on Jan. 23.

The photos are the first images of the revolutionary leader since a set of photos came out in August showing him talking with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Perdomo says in a lengthy article accompanying the photos that he and Castro met for more than three hours in the former leader's house after an event celebrating the 70th anniversary of Castro starting his studies at the University of Havana.

The student leader says Castro said that he is keeping abreast of the news and performing daily exercises, and he engaged Perdomo in a wide-ranging discussion of topics

including international politics, agriculture, astronomy, and even Namibia's donation of animals to Cuba's National Zoo.

Perdomo says the two men discussed the release of three Cuban intelligence agents as part of the Dec. 17 declaration by Cuba and the United States that they would move to re-establish full diplomatic relations. The photos show Castro examining a newspaper report on their release.

"I'm about to go but he continues a conversation about new ways of fighting some diseases, including diabetes, with the production of natural foods; about Cuba's relations with Africa, from its contribution to those

countries' independence to the end of apartheid and the current contribution of Cuban doctors to the fight against Ebola," Perdomo wrote.

Castro did not issue a public statement for nearly a month after the announcement that Cuba and the U.S. were moving to re-establish full diplomatic relations. Castro's public appearances and statements have become increasingly infrequent since he stepped down from duties as president after a serious illness in 2006 and handed over leadership to his younger brother Raul. His unusually lengthy silence after the Dec. 17 announcement sparked intense speculation about his health. **AP**



A screenshot of Cuba's website Cubadebate shows a photo of Fidel Castro with the head of the main Cuban student union Randy Perdomo Garcia in Havana

what's ON



COOKIN' NANTA

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)
5pm & 8pm (Saturdays & Sunday)
8pm (March 22, 2015)

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Sands Theatre at the Sands Macau/
No.203, Largo de Monte Carlo, Macau
ADMISSION: MOP280 up

EXHIBITION "FOAM TIP BY ARLINDA FROTA AND TRANSMUTATION BY CAROL KWOK"

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: SIGNUM Living Store, Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

APAIXONADO PASSIONATE CUBA - MARCO SZETO & 10 CUBAN ARTISTS JOINT EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: February 18, 2015

VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store and art gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A, Edifício San Chak, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

"ONE HUNDRED PHOTOGRAPHERS FOCUS ON MACAU" EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Level 2 Showcase, MGM Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

PENGUINS UNDERCOVER ICE WORLD WITH THE DREAMWORKS GANG

TIME: 11am-8pm

UNTIL: March 8, 2015

VENUE: Cotai Expo
ADMISSION: MOP120
ENQUIRIES: 2882 8818

Offbeat

VIRGIN GALACTIC GETS BACK ON TRACK TOWARD SPACE TOURISM

The only thing interrupting the creosote and mesquite that makes up one of New Mexico's most remote stretches of desert is a pristine runway where Virgin Galactic plans one day to launch the world's first commercial space-line.

In the four years since its completion, however, the runway has seen little use. No constant roar of jet engines. No screeches from landing gear. Just promises, year after year, that it would shuttle paying passengers to the edges of Earth.

Virgin Galactic had proclaimed 2015 was finally going to be the year. That was until the company's rocket-powered spacecraft broke apart over California's Mojave Desert during a test flight last fall, killing one pilot and igniting speculation about the future of commercial space tourism and Spaceport America.

Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides said things are on track now and testing will take off again this year.

"I really think we're turning the corner," Whitesides said. "We've gone through one of the toughest things a company can go through and we're still standing, and now we're really moving forward with pace."

He said the company and its investors aren't backing down from the goal of making space accessible.

Virgin Galactic's manufacturing crew is about two-thirds done with building a new spacecraft, and the operations team is ramping up for a test-flight program that will serve as one of the last major hurdles to getting off the ground.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:00	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
23:50	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

29 JAN - 4 FEB



BLACKHAT

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Michael Mann

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis, Wei Tang

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 133min



NIGHTCRAWLER

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Dan Gilroy

Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo, Riz Ahmed, Bill Paxton

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min



AMERICAN SNIPER

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Clint Eastwood

Starring: Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller, Kyle Gallner

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 132min

MACAU TOWER

29 JAN - 4 FEB

BLACKHAT

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Michael Mann

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis, Wei Tang

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1968 MORE KENYAN ASIANS FLEE TO BRITAIN

Another 96 Indians and Pakistanis from Kenya have arrived in Britain today, the latest in a growing exodus of Kenyan Asians fleeing from laws which prevent them making a living.

The party included nine children under two, and all flew in on cut-price one-way tickets costing about £60 - less than half the normal single fare.

Omar Sharmar, an Indian who was forced to close his haulage business in Mombasa when the government refused to grant him a licence, estimates he has lost £2,000.

"Only Kenyan citizens are being allowed work permits," he said. "I was forced to sell my fleet of lorries and come to Britain to look for a new life."

An airline official in Nairobi estimated that the charter flights had taken between 1,200 and 1,500 Kenyan Asians in to Britain. "We did find some difficulty filling the planes until last week," he said.

"But in the last two or three days that attitude has changed, and there doesn't seem to be any difficulty at all now. At the present rate I think this will continue for at least a year, if not more."

Immigration laws in Kenya are becoming increasingly draconian. Foreigners can only hold a job until a Kenyan national can be found to replace them: and more and more cities, including Nairobi, are demanding that the government bans non-Kenyans from owning a shop or trading in municipal markets.

If the Kenyan government caves in to such demands, the result is likely to be chaos, as most shops are owned by foreigners, and not enough citizens have the capital or knowledge to run small businesses.

Already, the tens of thousands of Asians, who have until now dominated commerce, industry and most key jobs in the country, are finding their lives made impossible.

Although most turned down the chance to take Kenyan nationality when it was offered to them, more than 100,000 did take up the chance to get British passports.

They are now arriving at the rate of more than 1,000 a month to start a new life in the UK, a country which most have never seen.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The mass immigration of thousands of Kenyan Asians caused a major crisis for the UK government of Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

The Home Secretary, James Callaghan, rushed through new legislation aimed specifically at curbing the flow of immigrants from East Africa.

The 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act introduced a requirement to demonstrate a "close connection" with the UK. There were deep cabinet splits over the legislation: cabinet papers have since quoted the then Commonwealth Secretary, George Thomson, saying that "to pass such legislation would be wrong in principle, clearly discrimination on the grounds of color, and contrary to everything we stand for."

The criticisms, as well as growing tension on the issue provoked by Conservative MP Enoch Powell's infamous "Rivers of Blood" speech in April 1968, brought the issue of immigration to the fore, and ultimately led to the Race Relations Act of 1976.

There are currently about 70,000 Indians in Kenya - about 0.25% of the population. Many have been there for four generations, yet they remain politically powerless, and there is still pressure in some quarters to expel them from the country altogether.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A burst of creativity comes your way late in the day...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You can't help but toot your own horn today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your opinions are both tools and toys today...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Something small is getting bigger and better throughout the day...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You take greater confidence in yourself today...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got one angry customer too many today...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to indulge yourself in some serious action today...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your ego isn't exactly a problem even if someone starts to see it...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 A bit of good luck comes your way and may snowball a fair amount...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 People are so weird today in fact, they may be acting extra weird...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your ideas are fairly settled today, which may make you somewhat nervous...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Try not to get too pushy today which may be tough...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

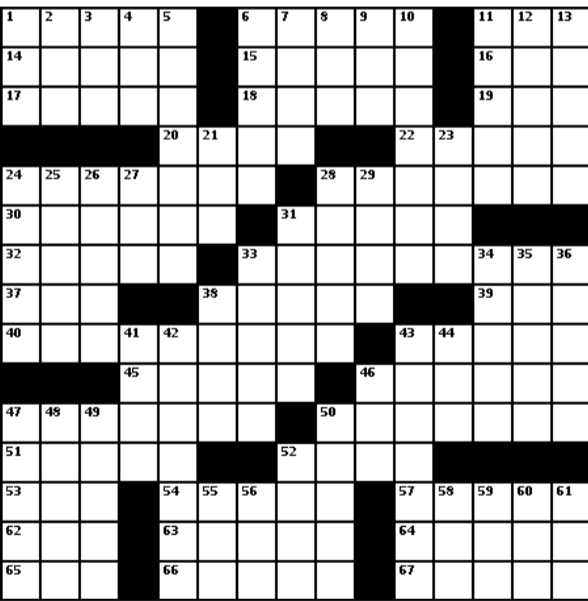
Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World locations, including temperature ranges and conditions.

CROSSWORDS

CROSSWORDS ACROSS: 1- All together; 6- For ___ (cheap); 11- Make lace; 14- Pave over; 15- Norwegian name of Norway...



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Russia has problem with doping in schools, minister says

RUSSIAN child athletes are taking banned substances while still at school, Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said yesterday. With Russia enduring doping scandals for months, Mutko vowed to crack down on doping among child athletes, which he suggested was the result of a system where youth coaches can be paid sizeable bonuses when young athletes win competitions.

A holdover from the Soviet era, Russia has hundreds of children's sports academies spanning dozens of Summer and Winter Olympic sports.

While discussing ways to strengthen Russia's anti-doping enforcement, Mutko said "we will go down to children's sports schools to give a slap on the wrist to coaches who want to win some kind of championship at any price and get a bonus," in comments reported by R-Sport.

In cases of youth doping, "then the (athlete) gets into the national team and can't fulfil his potential," he added.

Mutko said Russia was pouring "colossal resources" into the fight against doping.

The World Anti-Doping Agency



In this Aug. 6, 2012 file photo, Russia's Yuliya Zaripova celebrates as she wins the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Zaripova faces a doping ban in the latest scandal to hit Russian athletics

and the IAAF have each opened investigations into claims of systematic doping by Russian athletes, following the broadcast in December of a German TV documentary in which whistleblowers alleged drug use in Russian track and field, and the Russian national anti-doping agency covered up positive tests by leading Russian athletes.

Last month, athletics' world governing body said that since it introduced biological passports in 2009, more than half of all athletes banned under the testing system were Russians. So far this year, four Russian Olympic champions have been banned under the system, including

3,000-meter steeplechase winner Yulia Zaripova, who stands to lose her 2012 Olympic gold medal after being banned last Friday.

However, Mutko insisted Russia was not a world leader in doping, and that the percentage of its athletes caught using banned substances "is like in America, England, and all the other countries. The (anti-doping) system works."

Four top Russian race-walkers are under investigation by the IAAF over claims they broke the terms of their suspensions by competing at a Russian regional meet in December. They include Olympic champions Elena Lashmanova, currently banned for two years for doping, and Sergei Kiriyapkin, who was provisionally suspended at the time and received a ban last month. If they are found to have breached the terms of their suspensions, they could miss next year's Olympics.

Mutko said he believed that athletes had competed who "did not have the right to take part," but did not specify whether he thought Lashmanova and Kiriyapkin were among them. He suggested regional sports officials could be fired for allowing them to compete. AP

Japan football fires national coach Javier Aguirre

JAPAN coach Javier Aguirre was fired yesterday over concerns that allegations of his involvement in match-fixing will interfere with qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. Aguirre agreed it was unavoidable, Japan Football Association president Kuniya Daini said at a news conference. Former Mexico coach Aguirre became embroiled in a massive match-fixing probe launched by Spain's state prosecutor in the Spanish league. Aguirre denies any wrongdoing.

"What we had to consider the most was the impact on the Japanese team," Daini said. "With a criminal complaint accepted, he would have to respond to an investigation, he would be possibly indicted, and then may have to go to court."

Daini supported Aguirre after Japan was eliminated in the quarterfinals



Japan coach Javier Aguirre gestures to his players during the AFC Asia Cup tournament

of the Asian Cup, saying he was pleased with the team's progress. But the prospect of legal problems made the JFA reconsider. "We needed to avoid any risk of this affecting (the team) in the Asian preliminary (World Cup qualifiers)," Daini said. "So we have reached a decision to cancel our contract with coach Aguirre."

Mexican-born Aguirre was hired in August to replace Alberto Zaccheroni of Italy.

The JFA said it will move quickly to find a replacement, hopefully before the team plays several matches in late March. AP

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opinion

Artifacts

Vanessa Moore



#I AM KENJI

When I woke up on Sunday to read that the Islamic State had beheaded freelance reporter Kenji Goto, it sent a shiver down my spine knowing that the gruesome reach of ISIS had spread even closer to home to Asia. According to long-established rules of conflict such as just war theory, observers or citizens shouldn't be used as targets or become pawns in conflicts themselves. But it seems that for the despicable ISIS militants, anything is now permissible. After American reporters James Foley and Steven Sotloff were among several Westerners who were butchered in the line of duty, the old adage 'don't shoot the messenger' is falling on increasingly deaf ears.

However what disturbs me more about ISIS' brutal beheadings is that in today's information age they appear like some sort of neo-medieval regressionary shock tactic so far removed from the values of the enlightenment as to be doubly barbaric to the psyche. In the era of social media, these canny terrorists can use modern technology to post such atrocities online as a sick form of PR for their own brand of Middle Age torture. And now thanks to the Internet, location is no barrier and it's online for all to see - no matter whether they're in the US, Europe or Asia.

In a country that used to feel isolated from far-flung geopolitical crises, back in Tokyo, many were so shocked that Haruna Yukawa (who reportedly was killed earlier) and Kenji Goto could be targeted because it seemed as if Japan's remoteness and its belief in its post-WW2 identity as a peaceful nation were adequate defences from the troubles of the far-flung Middle East. (The Japanese see themselves not as colonial aggressors but as pacifists having been the only country to have suffered the direct results of nuclear war.) But with Japan's efforts to engage more with the international community ending so gruesomely, this setback may conversely cause it to revert to isolationism once again.

For genuine journalists who consider their job a true calling, the desire to tell the truth is stronger than the regard for their own safety. Believing the media truly provides a necessary public service, all Kenji and his Western liberal colleagues were guilty of doing was giving a human voice to the conflict. Likewise, following the bombing of the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris only a few short weeks ago, this latest episode made me ask myself would I do the same and knowingly flout danger or the threat of attack for a story? The noble part of me would probably say yes, but after this grisly Japanese sequel, what's clear is that the jihadists have ripped up the rulebook. Now that the defence of being a reporter and the protection of impartiality have gone out the window, even if I disregarded my own safety, I'm not sure I should be forced to ask my colleagues to risk theirs just to do their jobs properly.

And it's not only radical Islamists waging war in faraway places threatening journalists. Closer to home, the job of the media to defend freedom of speech, cover important issues and hold our leaders accountable is increasingly under threat. Last Tuesday, MDT reported on the International Federation of Journalists releasing its 2014 Annual Report on Press Freedom in China and Hong Kong. The report depressingly detailed how the media in Macau "received direct threats from the local government" while commenting that "press freedom in Macau did not improve. Journalists were arrested on spurious grounds and two outspoken scholars were 'kicked out' of their universities". In Hong Kong, the IFJ similarly claimed that at least 39 reporters were "harassed, detained, assaulted or maliciously accused by Hong Kong police or anti-Occupy Movement demonstrators". Other incidents also included newspaper editors being assaulted (most prominently Ming Pao Daily editor Kevin Lau being hacked with a meat cleaver) and replaced, as well as a radio host having her contract terminated.

Targeting reporters is a slippery slope, and what starts out as assault can rapidly degenerate into arrests, violence, and even murder. Thinking back to Kenji, James, Steven and the hundreds of other journalists who have paid too heavy a price for their calling, is it too much to ask to be able to do our jobs properly? I think not. That's why I am Kenji.

THE BUZZ
DIVERS RETRIEVE 6 MORE BODIES FROM AIRASIA CRASH

Indonesian divers have discovered six more bodies from the wreckage of the crashed AirAsia plane, bringing to 90 the total number bodies retrieved from the jetliner. AirAsia Flight 8501 crashed into the Java Sea on Dec. 28 with 162 people on board while flying from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore. The National Search and Rescue Agency and tradi-

tional divers are continuing the search after the military halted its own efforts due to the difficulty of lifting the fuselage from the water. Agency spokesman Jusuf Latif said yesterday that the discoveries brought to 90 the total bodies retrieved from the crash. Some of the bodies were found floating off Sulawesi island, about 1,000 kilometers east of the crash scene.

ORGANIZED CRIME

NYC to pay USD5m to kin of man killed in 'Mafia cops' case



Guido's killers had him confused with an enemy of a mob underboss who paid then-detectives Louis Eppolito (left) and Stephen Caracappa (right)

Jennifer Peltz, New York

NICHOLAS Guido was showing off his new car outside his mother's home on Christmas Day 1986 when he was gunned down because he'd been mistaken for a mobster with the same name. The bad information, prosecutors said, came from two decorated police detectives who would later be convicted of moonlighting as hit men for the mob.

Twenty-nine years later, the city has reached a USD5 million settlement with Guido's family in part of the fallout from one of the most stunning police corruption cases in New York history.

"This tragic matter involves the murder of an innocent

man. After evaluating all the facts, it was determined that settling the case was in the city's best interest," the Law Department said in a statement. The family's lawyer didn't immediately return a call Friday night seeking comment.

Guido's mother, Pauline Pipitone, was washing dishes after Christmas dinner when gunfire erupted outside her Brooklyn home.

She ran over to the car and found her 26-year-old son sitting up at the wheel, she testified at the ex-detectives' 2006 racketeering trial. "I went to touch his hand, and he must have just died," she said. "His fingertips were cold."

Guido's killers had him

confused with an enemy of a mob underboss who paid then-detectives Louis Eppolito and Stephen Caracappa to be his criminal "crystal ball," a source of help killing eight of their patron's foes between 1986 and about 1990, Brooklyn federal prosecutors said.

The detectives were accused of carrying out two of those killings themselves. In others, they made traffic stops that ended with the driver killed; another time, they kidnapped a target and turned him over to the underboss, prosecutors said.

The detectives got \$4,000 a month for inside information on law enforcement investigations, and they got \$65,000 for carrying out one killing, prosecutors said.

"This is probably the most heinous series of crimes ever tried in this courthouse," a judge said at one point.

Eppolito and Caracappa, who insisted they were innocent, are serving life in prison.

Caracappa helped establish the police department's office for Mafia homicide probes. Eppolito wrote an autobiography, "Mafia Cop," about his life as a police officer who grew up in a mob family. He also played a bit part in the classic 1990 mob movie "GoodFellas."

By the time of their 2005 arrests, Eppolito and Caracappa had retired to Las Vegas.

In 2010, New York City agreed to pay \$9.9 million to an innocent man who spent 19 years behind bars after being framed by Eppolito, whose arrest prompted a re-examination of the man's case. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	75-105 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	75-105 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

S KOREA A South Korean soldier is sentenced to death for killing five comrades and injuring seven others in a shooting and grenade attack last year. Shooting rampages by bullied soldiers are not unusual in South Korea, which requires all able-bodied men to serve about two years in the military in the face of threats from North Korea. More on p12

PAKISTAN A bomb blast targets a Pakistani police patrol on a street in the country's northwest, killing two officers, police say. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

AUSTRALIA's beleaguered prime minister rules out throwing his job open to challengers with a leadership ballot to demonstrate his control over his government, warning colleagues that voters crave stability. Only half way through his first three-year term as prime minister, Tony Abbott faces a revolt from within the ranks of his conservative government over poor opinion polling and unpopular policy directions.

CROATIA started to write off debts for citizens experiencing financial problems, aiming at help them to get through tough times due to economic recession and high unemployment, local media reported yesterday. Debts will be written off only for citizens on welfare with an income of no more than USD185 per month and their personal bank accounts blocked for at least a year.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Eric Sautedé

A cement platform was built last week covering the old cobblestones beside the Sai Vai Lake. The author of such a "work of art" is unknown. Is the IACM paying attention to this?



FRANCE Three soldiers on an anti-terror patrol in the southern French city of Nice were attacked by a man with a knife yesterday, a French police union official said. Sarah Baron said the extent of the soldiers' injuries is not yet clear. She said the attacker was detained but two people with him are believed to have fled after the stabbing in the city center, near the Galeries Lafayette department store.

CUBA has published the first photos of Fidel Castro in more than five months, showing the 88-year-old former leader engaged in what appears to be a lively conversation with a university student. More on p15