



LOW AWARENESS OF NEW NOISE LAW

The Prevention and Control of Environmental Noise Law came into effect yesterday

P4



LOCAL TRANSGENDER REQUESTS ID GENDER CHANGE

The Rainbow of Macau association is assisting a resident in attempts to change gender on the local ID card

P5 MDT REPORT



FERRY SINKS IN BANGLADESH, KILLING AT LEAST 48

P12

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

THAILAND A Chilean cyclist's quest to bike around the world in five years has ended with his death in a road accident in northeast Thailand. Police say the 47-year-old Juan Francisco Guillermo was hit by a pickup truck and immediately killed Saturday on a highway in Nakhon Ratchasima province. According to police and accounts on social media, Guillermo was attempting to set a Guinness World Record by cycling 250,000km in five continents in five years. His journey started in November 2010 and was scheduled to end in November this year.

YEMEN's former president has arrived in the southern port city of Aden after fleeing the capital where Shiite rebels had been holding him under house arrest. Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi's fall raises fears that notoriously volatile Yemen will fracture into mini-states, complicating American efforts to combat al-Qaida's powerful local franchise, against whom Hadi had been a strong U.S. ally.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

New York Fashion Week - The social catwalk

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Record number of visitors flood borders during CNY

P2,3



Mayweather and Pacquiao set fight date for May 2

P12 BOXING

Additional restaurant charges accepted during festive season



During the first three to four days of Chinese New Year, many restaurants in Macau have chosen to close their doors. And it is common for those who have opened for business to charge patrons an extra amount for service fees, which can be as much as 30 percent of the original price.

Some residents told TDM that they understood the decision to increase prices. "Having a 30-percent extra charge is alright. But it wou-

ld be unacceptable if they charged more [than that]," one of the interviewees said. Another claimed that the additional charge is reasonable because of the extra wages that employers must pay during the period. "Where does the money come from? Of course, it comes from the customers," he said. One resident believes that people should not dine at restaurants if they cannot accept additional fees.

However, some also said that they

do not dine out during CNY because it is too crowded, and because people have to queue too long before being served.

One restaurant manager said that they had applied a 30-percent extra charge on their customers during the first three days of CNY (February 19 and 21), which is higher than the usual rate, which lies between 5 and 20 percent. However, she thought that customers were glad that there were places open during the period, and pointed out that their charges were still cheaper compared to eating out at other places.

As of February 13, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau had received notices from 155 restaurants and food vending businesses about price changes on their menus.

The bureau fined 62 restaurants and food-vending businesses last year for their failure to notify the authority.

The Macau Government Tourist Office also said that 168 out of more than 300 restaurants have notified the office of their decision to increase prices this year by between 5 and 20 percent. The office's director, Helena de Senna Fernandes, reminded restaurants that they must give notice to the office if they choose to impose extra charges and fees during holidays, or else they will face a fine of up to MOP2,500. **JPL**

TOURISM

Over 1,000 parade to celebrate Year of the Goat



A parade celebrating the Year of the Goat was held on Saturday with the participation of 1,288 performers and 34 performing groups.

Participants marched along Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and finished up close to the Macau Tower.

The theme of this year's parade is "Adorn the City with Opulence and Joy". A total of 14 floats (many of them belonging to gaming operators) joined the festivities, along with 25 local groups, and 9 performing groups from the mainland; Korea; Hong Kong; Italy; Japan; Malaysia; Portugal; Thailand and Taiwan.

Well-known Hong Kong

singer Miriam Yeung gave a performance at the event, while Hong Kong artist Johnson Lee was the host of the night, adding much joy and festivity to the event.

The parade will be organized again for the tenth day of Lunar New Year (Feb 28), but with a different route. It will start in Rua Norte do Patane at 8 p.m. and pass through Avenida do Conselheiro Borja and adjourn at Iao Hon Market Garden.

The 14 parade floats are being showcased at Sai Van Lake Square and Tap Seac Square between February 21 and 28, and between February 28 and March 8, respectively.

42 CASES OF TAXI IRREGULARITIES

THE PUBLIC Security Police (PSP) caught 42 taxis violating taxi regulations between February 17 and 20. The authorities have urged taxi drivers not to break the law. In those 42 prosecutions, 19 of them involved charging excessive fares and 14 involved refusing fares. The PSP said that they have a zero-tolerance policy regarding taxi

irregularities, and that the operation against rule-breaching taxi drivers in the CNY period has so far been successful. It also revealed that, between January 1 and February 21, PSP has prosecuted 1,131 cases of taxi irregularities, with 309 of them related to the charging of excessive fares and 211 involving the refusal of fares.

Authorities speed up temporary Home Return Permit applications

LOCAL residents who have lost their Home Return Permit (Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macau residents) in Zhuhai are now able to receive a temporary document quicker than previously, according to an announcement by the Public Security Police.

The figure from the mainland authorities showed that there were more than 1,300 reports of missing Home Return Permits in 2014. As of February 16, Macau residents who find that their permit is missing are no longer required to report the incident to the mainland Public Security Department. Instead,

they can go to the Chinese Travel Service (CTS) at room 2115 of the Gongbei Port's departure lounge between 9 a.m. and 10.30 p.m., where they can apply for a one-off departure permit. The CTS counter is open every day, including holidays. This change also applies to those whose Home Return Permit has expired.

The PSP reminded residents that if they lose their Macau Resident Identification Card in the mainland, they can still go to the border checkpoints of Macau and return to the SAR in as little as 30 minutes upon having their identity verified.

ONE SHOT NEWS



A dragon dance was staged on the first day of Chinese Lunar New Year to celebrate the Year of Sheep

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MacauDaily 澳門每日新聞
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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sauttedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com
DESIGN EDITOR João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | **NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS** Albano Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, João Pedro Lau, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | **SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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João Pedro Lau

THE Public Security Police (PSP) has revealed that more than 1.72 million people crossed the Macau border checkpoints between February 18 and 22.

Meanwhile, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, does not think that Macau is capable of accommodating more visitors, and will discuss the possibility of restricting the amount of incoming tourists with mainland authorities.

The authority believes that the border crossing peak period lies between February 21 and 25. However, the total number of passengers who traveled through the region's borders from February 19 to 22 has already surpassed 1.45 million, a growth of more than 6 percent.

The Border Gate checkpoint was once again the most popular passage for residents and visitors.

A mainland visitor told TDM yesterday that it took her almost two hours to cross the border at Gongbei Port. However, the time required to cross the border on the Macau side was only several minutes. Another mainland visitor said that since they were traveling with an elderly person, they were allowed to use a special passage at Gongbei and were able to cross the checkpoint after only waiting for 20 minutes.

With such a large visitor influx, PSP twice imposed the first-level crowd control measure at San Ma Lo (Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro) in the afternoons of Saturday and yesterday. There were also temporary traffic reroutes implemented in the vicinity of the Border Gate and Praia Grande yesterday.

The crowded conditions have affected the traveling mood of some tourists. A visitor from Guangdong, Ms Yang, said that this is the first time she has traveled to Macau. She was hoping to have a leisurely trip, but found Macau to be "super crowded". She said that she would not go to San Ma Lo again next time. Another mainland visitor, Mr Ding, said that the crowds in San Ma Lo had been "tiring" for him. He also found the district "boring," because he could do nothing but shop there.

Moreover, according to the



Record number of visitors, crowd control measures implemented

The core principle is that our residents' quality of life should not be worsened

ALEXIS TAM

Marine and Water Bureau, in order to cater for the increase in passengers who chose the sea routes to enter or exit Macau, ferry operators expanded their service capacity by 35 percent on Saturday.

The bureau's director, Wong Soi Man, said that after inspecting the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal and the Pac On Temporary Ferry Terminal in

Taipa, the peak traveling period for the ferry terminals would be between yesterday and February 26.

Ms Wong said that they were concerned about possible delays in upcoming days due to foggy weather. She said that the authorities will monitor the situation closely. There are also rescue vessels stationed at the Inner Harbor and Outer Harbor.

The huge tourist influx into the city has been pointed out by some as having negative impacts on the daily life of local residents. During a New Year event on Thursday, Secretary Alexis Tam thanked mainland visitors for their economic contribution to Macau. However, he does not want the Individual Visit Scheme to affect the locals, and he will discuss with mainland authorities ways that the Scheme could be

improved in the future, including the possibility of placing restrictions on it.

"We have to make a scientific decision [regarding the Individual Visit Scheme]. The core principle is that our residents' quality of life should not be worsened... There are many possible measures [to be considered], and [restricting the scheme] is one of them," he said.

Mr Tam added that there are

other methods "that are better." He said that there will be talks between the Macau government and mainland authorities, such as the State Council, the National Tourism Administration, as well as administrations of the provinces to which the scheme applies. He said that the common goal of all parties is to improve the lives of Macau residents, and to allow more mainland visitors see Macau.

CHINESE NEW YEAR VISITORS

Date	Total (Until 9 p.m.)	Inbound (Until 9 p.m.)	Outbound (Until 9 p.m.)
February 18	273,909	128,808	145,101
February 19	276,016	138,395	137,621
February 20	351,534	174,787	176,747
February 21	407,201	220,450	186,751
February 22	418,228	220,602	197,626
Total	1,726,888	883,042	843,846



Man caught with over a million worth of drugs

The Judiciary Police has detained a 49-year-old man after he was found with 2,100 grams of heroin hidden in a secret compartment in his suitcase yesterday at the Macau International Airport. The drugs are estimated to be worth around MOP1.7 million on the black market. The authority said that they were tipped off by foreign law enforcement agencies, which claimed that a crime syndicate was looking for individuals to traffic drugs. The Judiciary Police found the drugs at around midday yesterday when checking the luggage of the detained man, who is a US passport holder traveling to Macau from Thailand. The man claimed that he was a businessman based in Kenya and that he was approached by a man who had asked him to help traffic the drugs in exchange for USD8,000. The man began his journey from Madagascar with the narcotics in his suitcase and was planning to deliver the heroin to another man in Zhuhai.

Noise law in effect, low awareness of the legislation

THE Prevention and Control of Environmental Noise Law (the Noise Law) came into effect yesterday. As of 4 p.m., the Public Security Police and the Environmental Protection Bureau had received a total of 26 complaints and made two successful prosecutions.

PSP figures show that the authority has issued advice in response to five of the 25 complaints received. As for the rest of the objections, the authorities said that they could not confirm the cases. They included situations in which the complainants did not show up when the PSP officers arrived at the scene.

However, some residents told TDM on Saturday that they had no awareness of the implementation of the new legislation. One resident pointed out that he did not see any promotion or advertisement of the new law. Another resident complained that she has always heard noise from her neighbors because they kept a pet dog. She was concerned with how stringently the au-



thorities would implement the law. "The dog [belonging to my neighbor] was always barking. We do not know how to file a complaint... Although there is a law, who knows if [the authorities] would follow it through. They might only 'talk the talk'," she said.

Meanwhile, lawmaker Ho Ion Sang has asked the Macau government to educate residents on the law's importance. "The regulation focuses on domestic noise and the noise emitted from piled drivers (...). The real focus of the regulation is that residents have

to observe the law consciously. The relevant authorities should also step up in enforcing the law and patrolling the community, as well as putting more effort into promoting the law and educating the public," he said.

As for the issues concerning residents who lit firecrackers on their balconies or who even threw them onto the street, Mr Ho said that there is already legislation to tackle these kinds of issues.

On the other hand, the Public Security Police (PSP) announced that it intends to cooperate with

the Environmental Protection Bureau in enforcing the law more efficiently. The PSP also called on residents to observe the law and cooperate with the authorities.

PSP Intendant Chan Man Tak said that they need to collaborate with the complainants. After receiving a complaint regarding noise, the PSP officers who arrive at a given scene will stay for a period of time, even if they do not hear any noise when they first arrive. He said that this will cause no inconvenience to residents, and can effectively determine whether they need to prosecute anyone there who continues to make excessive noise.

Intendant Chan also warned citizens not to make excessive noise during Chinese New Year, or else they may be fined between MOP1,000 and MOP2,000 if successfully prosecuted. He welcomed residents to call 28573333 to file a complaint regarding noises if necessary, and said that PSP officers will arrive at the location as soon as possible. **JPL**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Group supports transgender people requesting ID gender change

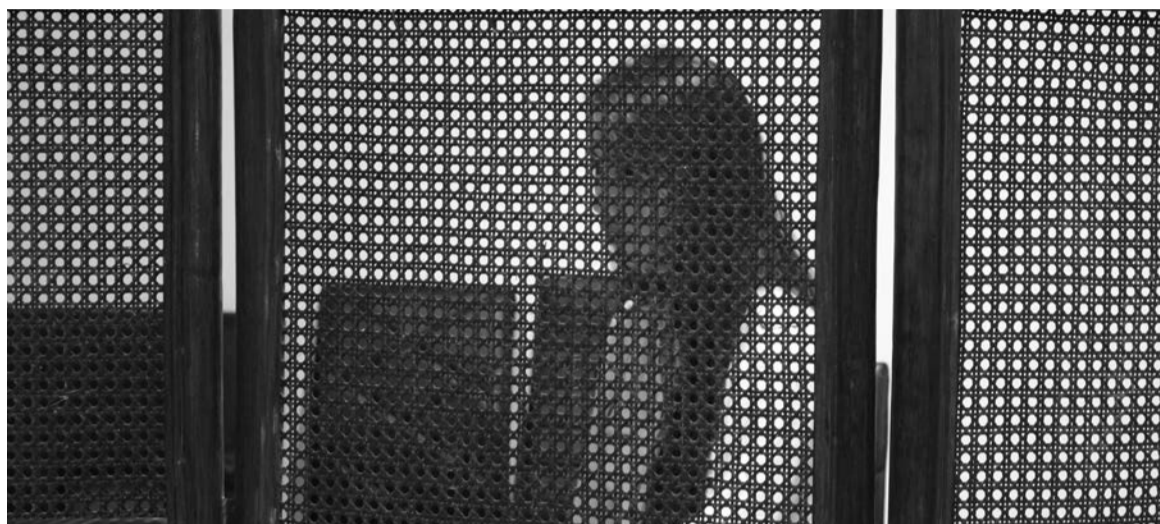
João Pedro Lau

THE Rainbow of Macau association will meet with Identification Bureau (DSI) officials on February 24 to discuss the issue of changing gender on Macau's identification documents.

Anthony Lam, director-general of Rainbow of Macau, said in a press conference yesterday that one individual, known as Avery, has finished gender reassignment surgery and wants to contact the Macau authorities in regard to changing the gender on her ID card. He said that Rainbow of Macau has contacted DSI and the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, in representing Avery.

"Both the Secretary and DSI have replied to 'Rainbow' and said that they will pay high attention to the issue. We have arranged a meeting to take place on February 24 to find a solution for Avery," he said.

Mr Lam said that the group wants to progress Macau people's understanding and educa-



"Avery" was at yesterday's press conference and spoke behind a screen

tion regarding gender, and he hopes that the Secretary and DSI can provide assistance to Avery.

He said that there was no precedent for such a case in Macau that could be referenced. He hopes that the case can progress with rational communication between all parties.

Jason Chao, a member of the association, said that there are clear instructions in Hong Kong and Portugal regarding the

change of gender on ID cards. He pointed out that the United Nations has previously called on the Macau government to legislate for the protection of residents from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, which includes transgender identity. He believes that the government has the responsibility to protect its residents through legislation, and to allow the change of

DSI said that the information on a Macau ID card has to be consistent with the birth certificate

ID information so that individuals will not be discriminated against.

During the press conference, Avery shared with the media her experience in a local high school. She said that she had suffered from verbal abuse and violent treatment at the hands of her classmates and even teachers when she was studying in a local all-boys school. She has previously attempted suicide, and said that the abuse and bullying were major parts of the reason behind that decision.

Avery has recently come back to Macau from the United Kingdom, and found that it was not easy to live and find jobs in the region as a transgender.

In a response to the TDM, DSI said that the information on a Macau ID card has to be consistent with what is on a person's birth certificate. If residents want to change the information on the ID card, they have to ask the Legal Affairs Bureau about doing so. DSI said that it has so far received three enquiries regarding cases similar to that of Avery.

TRANSPORT

Airport terminal expansion to begin this year

THE Macau International Airport Company (CAM) will launch construction on an expansion to the airport this year in order to cope with the increasing demand.

The airport's current total capacity is 6 million per year. CAM has previously announced that it will be expanding the



terminal.

"At a conservative estimation, we will finish the interior design, construction and the other works in 2016. Then [the expansion] can be put into use. We expect the expansion of the airport's south and north to be completed in 2018. The total capacity by then will increase

from 6 million to 9 or 10 million [per year]," CAM deputy chief Vicki Mou said to TDM.

As the Times reported previously, the local airport handled a total of 5.2 million passengers in 2014, which is around 9 percent more than the number from 2013,

Ms Mou also suggested

that the airport is expected to have more airlines and cater for more customers. "The capacity for planes hasn't been saturated. There is still a lot of space. (...) We want to have planes running more frequently. We still have a lot of space."

CAM also revealed that it is trying to allow an aircraft hangar for business jets, which is currently under construction so as to start operating in the first half of 2015.

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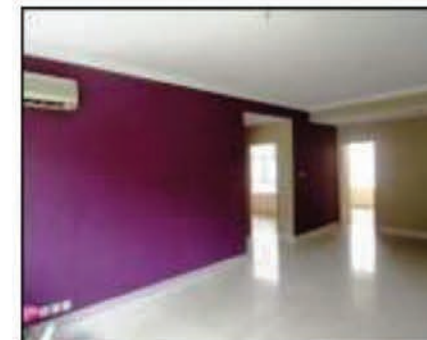
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Office: (853) 2835 2699

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com

Nestle adds high-end snacks as Chinese consumers opt for premium

Corinne Gretler

NESTLE SA is re-vamping foods and beverages in China such as chocolate and coffee after sales there stagnated last year because younger consumers are increasingly opting for higher-end and more nutritious items.

Revenue from the greater China region was little changed at 6.64 billion Swiss francs (USD7 billion) last year, the Vevey, Switzerland-based company said Thursday. Demand for traditional products such as Hsu Fu Chi biscuits and Yinlu peanut-milk beverages waned, according to Nandu Nandkishore, Nestle's head of Asia, Oceania and Africa.

"People born after 1980 are born in single-child households and have been living a life of relative abundance," Nandkishore said in an interview in Vevey. "They're making choices that are much more premium and have nutrition, health and wellness arguments."

Adapting the product portfolio for those changing tastes is crucial as the greater China region is Nestle's second-largest market, only after the U.S., following the acquisitions of Hsu Fu Chi International Ltd. and Yinlu Foods Group in 2011. Revenue growth in Nandkishore's business regions slowed to 2.6 percent in 2014, less than half



Employees place label lids onto Maggi powdered 'Mashed Potato' containers at the Nestle Dongguan Ltd. factory in Dongguan, Guangdong province

the pace of 2013, largely due to China.

Asia, Oceania, Africa's fourth-quarter sales "marks the worst performance we can recall," analysts at Exane BNP Paribas led by Jeff Stent wrote in a note Thursday.

Nestle Chief Executive Officer Paul Bulcke said the company is still positive on China's long-term prospects.

"China is definitely the land of opportunity," Bulcke said at a press conference on last

year's results. "During this year, I want to see the growth momentum coming back."

Premium coffee, ice cream and Yinlu congee rice porridge performed well last year, as did infant nutrition, Nandkishore said. Retailers had overstocked on some products and Nestle spent most of 2014 to correct that, he added.

Nestle upgraded Hsu Fu Chi's chocolates' packaging and products, adding more

nutritious snacks. More re-launches will come this year, the executive said.

The company also plans to expand in e-commerce as a third of pet food, infant nutrition and coffee are purchased in the country via the Internet, Nandkishore said.

"There are many Chinas," he said. "We have to continue to cater products for the old China while we innovate and renovate products for the new China." **Bloomberg**

Warren Lee, Standard Chartered HK executive, dies in NZ car crash

Warren Lee, head of capital markets solutions at Standard Chartered Plc in Hong Kong, died along with two family members in a car crash in New Zealand. He was 53. Lee, 52-year-old Aesoon Lee and their daughter Julia Lee, 20, were killed when their car crashed near the North Island town of Tokoroa on Tuesday, New Zealand Police said in a statement. Warren and Aesoon Lee were U.S. citizens. Julia Lee was driving the car when it crashed, police said. Her 18-year-old brother, also an American living in Hong Kong, remains in a critical but stable condition in Waikato Hospital, according to the statement. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Warren Lee," Standard Chartered said in an e-mailed statement Friday. "We have already reached out to his family to offer assistance and support. The bank will provide counseling services to staff members as appropriate." The family was in New Zealand to help their daughter settle at university in Auckland, where she was due to begin studies after moving from Massachusetts, police said.

Afghan official: central bank branch looted by its staff

An Afghan central bank official says that around 76 million afghanis (more than USD1 million) have been stolen by the staff members of one of the bank's branches. Fazel Ahmad Azimi, the central bank director for Afghanistan's southern region, said on Saturday that at least three employees were involved in the robbery — including the director of the branch in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province. After checking security camera footage, it was determined that the bank vault's door was opened using fake keys by the branch manager and two other staff members, Azimi added. The robbery was discovered after a delegation from the central bank went there to transfer some of the funds. The suspected employees are believed to have fled to neighboring Pakistan, Azimi said.

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA WELCOMES THE YEAR OF THE GOAT WITH TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES AND LION DANCES



Sands China Ltd. rang in the Year of the Goat Friday with traditional ceremonies and rituals held across its properties. The second day of the Chinese New Year saw Sands China executives gather to participate in what has become an annual tradition for the company.

Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao and Sands Cotai Central each greeted the Year of the Goat with a worship ritual, followed by an eye-dotting ceremony and a traditional lion dance performance. Sands China executives attending the ceremonies also visited the

team member dining areas at the three properties, distributing lucky goat plush toys and red packets to team members and hosting rounds of lucky draws. Adding to the festive atmosphere was a lantern riddle challenge, a roasted pig cutting ceremony and a group photo; with MOP 130,000 worth of lucky prizes given away.

"Our team members are the most essential assets of our company, and we value their culture and heritage greatly," said Edward Tracy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sands China Ltd. "Chinese New Year is the most important festival in the Chinese calendar and we're happy to celebrate this special occasion with them. This is a tradition we hope to carry on for many years to come."

MGM CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH LION DANCE BLESSING CEREMONY



MGM Macau held a lion dance blessing ceremony at the hotel property today to mark the arrival of the Chinese New Year. The ceremony kicked off with an eye-dotting ritual performed by Mr. Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited with his management team, as he

wishes Macau a promising year ahead and all an auspicious Year of the Goat.

The ceremony culminated with a lion dance parade to the accompaniment of cymbals, drums, firecrackers and gongs. The crowd watched as the lions marched into the hotel lobby to kick the festive atmosphere up a notch.

SJM HOSTS LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA DINNER

Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A. hosted its traditional Lunar New Year's Eve Gala Dinner at the Grand Lisboa on 18 February 2015 in the presence of the Chief Executive of Macau SAR Mr. Chui Sai On, Mr. Wang Xindong, Vice-Secretary General, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR, Mr. Pan Yundong, Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Macau SAR, Dr. Vitor Sereeno, Consul-General of Portugal in Macau & Hong Kong. Guests were welcomed by Dr. Ambrose So, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SJM, Ms. Angela Leong, Managing Director of SJM, and Mr. Louis Ng, SJM's



Director and Chief Operating Officer.

The evening also saw a video of Dr. Stanley Ho, whose remarks on the Ram won great applause from the guests.

After the dinner, a dragon dance ceremony, officiated by the Chief Executive Mr. Chui Sai On and SJM directors, was held at the Grand Lisboa Piazza to welcome the Year of Ram together with local residents and visitors.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Supports Local Industries – from Cultural and Creative to Business

Whether through providing a platform for artists or meeting with SMEs, the company continues to promote local creativity and know-how

Sands China has long-believed that actively supporting the local community is an essential component of the company's success. That support has come in many forms, including the considerable volunteer efforts of the Sands China Care Ambassador programme, and donations to charitable organisations. In addition, Sands China works to promote the work of locals – whether that means providing opportunities for the growth of Macao's cultural and creative industry, or exploring ways to work even closer with Macao's small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Supporting the Local Cultural and Creative Industry

With the Year of the Goat underway, you may well have seen some magnificent goat sculptures at The Venetian Macao and dotted around the city. The 38 incredible sculptures, each one decorated by a different local artist, were created as part of local art project Anno Caprum's "Creative Creatures – Art and the Chinese Zodiac." Supported by the Macau Government Tourist Office and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Anno Caprum project and exhibition is sponsored by The Venetian Macao. Each one of the 1.3-meter-high sculptures has a unique design and represents a particular thought of the artist that has been expressed to celebrate the Year of the Goat.



An artist puts the finishing touches on one of the 38 goat sculptures of the Anno Caprum "Creative Creatures – Art and the Chinese Zodiac" art project, sponsored by The Venetian Macao

The project gives an opportunity for local residents and tourists both to enjoy the creativity of Macao's community of talented local artists and is part of Sands China's effort to contribute to the local cultural and creative industry and to foster exchange between local artists. Anno Caprum is part of "Seasons of Prosperity," a series of activities to usher in the Year of the Goat at the expansive outdoor area of The Venetian Macao, which runs from Feb. 6 to March 1, 2015.



The artists responsible for the "Creative Creatures – Art and the Chinese Zodiac" sculptures attend the opening ceremony of Season of Prosperity on Feb. 5, 2015

Until March 1, 18 of the goat sculptures can be seen at The Venetian Macao outdoor area and three at Sands Macao. They will then be at Centro Náutico da Praia Grande and Praça do Tap Seac until March 20. The other 17 sculptures are already scattered around Macao at the following locations and will remain there until March 20: Largo da Sé, Praça da Amizade, Largo da Companhia de Jesus, Largo Camões (in front of Templo Pak Tai), Largo Eduardo Marques and Praça do Tap Seac.

Supporting Local Business

Last month Sands China held a briefing in conjunction with the Macao Chamber of Commerce to continue a dialog with local small- and medium-sized enterprises.

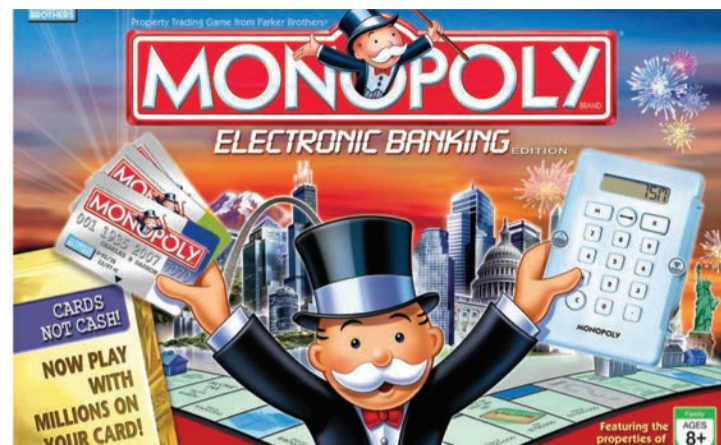
Almost 100 SMEs participated in the briefing that was geared towards giving both parties an opportunity to talk about their needs and how to encourage the further establishment of mutually beneficial business relationships.

Representatives from the SMEs and the company were given an opportunity to discuss the procurement process and to talk frankly about how to bring more collaborations into reality.

Whether in the world of art or business, Sands China is committed to developing Macao from the inside out and showing the world that Macao is so much more than you expect.



The briefing between Sands China and local SMEs that was aimed at fostering even better relations with producers and the company in Macao



Monopoly game keeps growing at age 80, with help from 'Frozen'

Allison Prang

How do you keep a Depression-era board game like Monopoly growing after 80 years? Keep giving people a reason to buy a new one.

That's been the strategy of Hasbro Inc., which has created hundreds of versions of the game in a bid for repeat shoppers. Special editions of Monopoly cover everything from the New England Patriots to "The Walking Dead" TV show. The best-selling variation currently on Amazon.com is based on Walt Disney Co.'s "Frozen." ("Whoever collects the most cash will thaw their freezing heart and win.")

Monopoly's ceaseless reinvention has helped bolster demand in an era when kids are engrossed in smartphones and tablets. Sales of the product have climbed more than 15 percent in the past three years, and lately it's been outperforming the rest of Hasbro's board-game business. A key driver: a 2013 token contest that let people vote out one of Monopoly's game pieces and choose a new one to take its place. After intense lobbying online, the cat replaced the iron.

"Since then, we really just started to build on that dialogue with our fan base and make sure we were listening to them and doing things with the game," Jonathan Berkowitz, vice president of gaming marketing for Hasbro, said in an interview at last week's Toy Fair in New York.

Monopoly, which celebrates its 80th birthday next month, is a bright spot in Hasbro's sluggish games category. Total sales of the products fell 4 percent last year, with classic games such as Twister contributing to the decline, the company said earlier this month. That compares with 20 percent growth for its Boys category, a group that includes Nerf and Transformers.

Monopoly appeals more to collectors than some other games, in part because of the variety. Take Lauren Showers, a Monopoly fan in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The middle school teacher has six different types of the game.

"I just get a kick out of it," the 23-year-old said.

Even so, the board-game business has seen "increasing volatility" over the past decade, said Sean McGowan, a toy-industry analyst at Needham & Co. in New York. Mobile devices are demanding more attention, and many families don't have time for a game that can last hours.

Hasbro has developed Monopoly computer versions and mobile apps, but it also relies on technology to gauge what to do with its board games. Berkowitz's team uses social-media accounts and quantitative studies to get feedback, as well as a "fun lab" where they test games on children, he said.

"We have a lot of kind of face-to-face testing and seeing how kids and families react to things," Berkowitz said.

A new version called Monopoly Here and Now will replace Boardwalk and other properties with cities chosen by a BuzzFeed poll. The final list will be announced on March 19, Monopoly's official birthday.

Even as Hasbro works harder to keep Monopoly fresh, it retains the allegiance of die-hard fans. That includes Dan Fernandez, a 63-year-old collector in Dove Creek, Colorado.

Every morning, he wakes up, gets his wife off to work, feeds his pets and goes straight to his computer. There, with a cup of black coffee, Fernandez scours EBay for Monopoly memorabilia. Though his collection is focused on older versions of the product, Fernandez thinks the game is still relevant today.

"It's just a part of American culture," he said. **Bloomberg**

Angola negotiates fishing project in Italy

A continental fisheries and communal aquaculture project was the subject of a meeting last week in Rome, between a delegation from Angola and representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Angolan news agency Angop reported.

Angola's Secretary of State for Fisheries, Antonia Nelumba, is leading the delegation, which will negotiate forms of financing the USD11 million of the project's budget with IFAD.

The program will be implemented in the provinces of Bengo, where the project will be coordinated, Kwanza Norte and Malanje.

The project, which aims to introduce inland fishing and aquaculture into the communal food supply chain, will be focused on three areas, namely infrastructure, training and cooperatives.

Meanwhile, Angola and



Russia will increase cooperation in the fields of fisheries, particularly aquaculture, and education (management training), by signing two new cooperation agreements.

Before leaving for Moscow, the minister of Geology and

Mining, Francisco Queiroz, said the two agreements would be signed at the third annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Bilateral Joint Commission, which this year takes place in the Russian capital. **MDT/Macauhub**

EU supports 16 development projects in Guinea-Bissau

THE European Union (EU) has allocated 7 million euros to 16 projects in Guinea-Bissau within the framework of "European aid" to support cooperation and development, the EU delegation in the country said in Bissau.

The statement said the financed activities cover areas such as health, infrastructure, education, employment, gender equality and resource management, among others, in different regions.

The average duration of each project is 34 months and the European Union responsible for average co-financing of eligible costs in the order of 80 percent.

The biggest agreement was

signed with AIDA, a Spanish non-governmental organization (<http://www.ong-aida.org>) that will receive 700,000 euros for the project for "Improvement of access to health services for vulnerable groups in the autonomous sector of Bissau."

Most of the support was granted as part of a call for proposals published in May 2014, with three projects that received 1.5 million euros without meeting requirements.

The "European Aid" initiative is part of the European Commission's foreign relations and its development policies. **MDT/Macauhub**



Bissau, capital city of Guinea-Bissau

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Toy sheep are displayed for sale for Lunar New Year decorations in Beijing

Happy New Year: Astrological signs bad for the Sheep Year

Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINESE were seeing in the Year of the Sheep on Thursday, but with fortune-tellers predicting accidents and an unstable economy and some parents-to-be fretting over the year's reputation for docile kids, it wasn't exactly warming everyone's heart.

This animal sign, which comes once every dozen years, can be said to have an identity crisis. Known variably as the Year of the Goat, Sheep or Ram, the sign's confusion stems from its Chinese character, "yang," which broadly describes any of the ruminating mammals, with or without horns.

Many Chinese prefer to translate it as the "Year of the Sheep" because sheep are

more cute and cuddly, and large sheep figures have appeared around the capital's shopping areas in recent weeks.

The goat, however, is more likely to be the original meaning because it was a popular farm animal among Han Chinese who started the zodiac tradition, Huang Yang, a researcher on the roles of sheep and goats in Chinese culture, was quoted by the official Xinhua News agency as saying.

Still, Xinhua is going with "Year of the Sheep" in its English-language reports rather than "Year of the Goat."

The United States also appears to be opting for the fluffier, more gentle animal sign, at least in the U.N. Security Council. A U.S. diplomat at a council meeting earlier this month wished China,

this month's council president, a happy "Year of the Sheep."

During the seven-day holiday that started Wednesday, the world's second-biggest economy largely shuts down.

Many mainland Chinese tuned into the annual New Year's Eve TV gala Wednesday evening, and this year's mascot managed to achieve the problem-solving feat of not being clearly a sheep or a goat.

The previous year, the Year of the Horse, is generally considered to be an auspicious time — never mind that Asian airlines had a string of high-profile disasters.

Astrologists interviewed said this year would bring a volatile economy, more transport accidents and windy natural disasters such as torna-

does in the United States and typhoons to Southeast Asia.

For China, which doesn't get tornadoes, that means air pollution, "coming in with dirty air currents and affecting everyone's lives," said Shanghai-based astrologer Dong Jialing.

"In around June, when it's getting hot in China, the Western economy will fluctuate quite a lot and will be very unstable," Dong predicted. But August or September will mark the start of a very stable economic period.

Feng shui master Clement Chan, who appeared on "America's Next Top Model" as a guest judge in an episode filmed in Macau, said he sees a lot of fire this year, and "fire means accidents." He anticipates plane crashes in the first half, but not as many as in 2014. He also sees a lot of road accidents.

On the positive side, he sees female managers and company leaders doing well this year. "I think you'll see a lot of female world leaders — they'll achieve something great, actually," Chan said.

A Hong Kong brokerage that publishes a tongue-in-cheek annual feng shui report, "more for your pleasure than

profit," said the Chinese territory's Hang Seng stock index is likely to see some volatility as its rooster character clashes with this year's sign.

The CLSA brokerage warns that people will be easily annoyed and difficult to deal with, so it's "a good year to be on guard and not get fleeced."

The brokerage also speculates on the fortunes of celebrities. Jackie Chan's actor son Jaycee, released Friday after serving a six-month sentence on drug-related charges, has the zodiac sign of a dog and will benefit from slowing down and learning more about himself, it said.

■ Astrologists interviewed said this year would bring a volatile economy, more transport accidents and windy natural disasters

People born in the yang year, including Steve Jobs, Bill Gates and Zhang Ziyi, traditionally are believed to be filial, kind-hearted and artistic, while also timid, obstinate and consummate worriers.

The Chinese character "yang" is present in other characters with positive meanings, such as "beautiful," "auspicious" and "goodness." Still, some superstitious Chinese find the year inauspicious and believe that sheep babies will be unhappy and more likely followers than leaders. Some parents say they'll avoid having a child this year.

Dr. Meika Chin, a midwife at Shanghai United Family Hospital, estimated births in the coming year would be 20 percent below the average, with many couples saying "they're going to skip the Year of Sheep and have the baby the year after."

It was possible to induce births early to avoid the sheep year, Chin said. "We always say it's the end of the horse year, rush hour, you know, they want to get in."

One woman attending a prenatal class, and due in late February, said she doesn't pay much attention to the zodiac.

"Lots of people think sheep babies' lives will be very tiring and they have to work hard, so lots of people try to avoid having sheep babies," said the mother-to-be, who would only give her surname, Li.

"But that means my baby won't have as much competition, which is great." AP

Beijing protests to India over Modi's visit to disputed area

CHINA summoned India's ambassador over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a disputed border region in the Himalayas, a long-festering irritant in relations between the Asian giants.

Modi on Friday visited the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, an immense territory of nearly 84,000 square kilometers that China claims as part of its Tibet region.

Modi marked the 28th anniversary of Arunachal Pradesh being declared a state, opened a train line and called for hydropower projects to spur regional growth.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said late Saturday that Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin had called in Indian Ambassador Ashok Kantha to express "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition" to the visit, saying it undermined China's territorial sovereignty.

Liu said China places importance on developing relations with India. It called for New Delhi not to take any action that may complicate the issue and stick to resolving it through bilateral negotiations.

China and India fought a brief but bloody frontier war in 1962. They agreed to a line of actual control in 1996 and began talks on settling the dispute. While analysts see little danger of a conventional war over the border, frequent skirmishes make it difficult to achieve a lasting resolution. **AP**



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a traditional attire of the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh

Nursing home worker kills 3, injures 15 with brick

An nursing home worker in central China accused of killing three elderly residents with a brick and injuring 15 other people had argued with his boss over unpaid wages, according to a local government and state media.

Luo Renchu, 64, attacked elderly residents and staff at the privately run home in Hunan province at around 2 a.m. Thursday, the first day of the Chinese New Year, the Shuangfeng county government said in a statement. Luo fled and police said they apprehended him on a mountain on Saturday afternoon.

The official Xinhua News Agency, citing police, reported Saturday that the attack happened shortly after Luo argued with the

nursing home's owner over unpaid wages of 40,000 yuan (USD6,500). Luo and his wife, who also works at the Aixin Nursing Home, had been promised 10,000 yuan before the new year, but owner Fang Hongchun gave them only 6,000 yuan, Xinhua said.

Xinhua said the 15 injured were residents and included Fang's mother and brother. Most suffered head injuries and six were in life-threatening condition.

The home has more than 90 residents mostly in their 70s and 80s. About 70 of them were at their families' homes for the Lunar New Year holiday during the attack, according to Xinhua. **AP**

HONG KONG

Woolly mammoths invading the city

Bruce Einhorn

IN the Sheung Wan district of Hong Kong, just across the street from a popular department store, Ming Hing Arts has a newly opened shop selling chopsticks, bracelets, Buddha statues, and other carvings made from ivory. Ming Hing offers something for every pocketbook: A carving of the Monkey King from the classic novel Journey to the West will set you back HK\$2.88 million (USD371,000), but you can buy a toothpick for HK\$38.

Some of the ivory comes from elephants. You say you're worried about the dwindling population of the African herds? Not a problem: Ming Hing also offers items carved from the ivory of extinct woolly mammoths recovered from the Arctic tundra. In the shop window is a 3-foot-long mammoth tusk, yours for just HK\$1.88 million.

As climate change melts the permafrost in the north, more mammoth tusks are available for Hong Kong's ivory dealers. China imported an average of less than 9 tons of mammoth ivory a year from Hong Kong in the early 2000s, but from 2007 to 2013 average annual imports increased to 31 tons. The value of mammoth ivory imports to Hong Kong averaged HK\$1 million per ton in 2010. By last year it had gone to HK\$2.2 million.

HK\$2.2m
The growing popularity of mammoth tusks once offered the promise of guilt-free consumption of ivory. A global ban on the international trade of elephant ivory took effect 25 years ago, although merchants could continue selling from their existing stockpiles. To an untrained eye, there's little difference between trinkets carved from elephant ivory and mammoth ivory. But activists worry that some merchants selling mammoth ivory are also disguising illegal sales of ivory taken from elephants killed in Africa by poachers. Some retailers "say they're selling mammoth ivory, but they're not; they're really selling elephant ivory," says Frank Pope, chief operations officer of Save the Elephants, a British charity with operations in Kenya. Ming Hing Arts declined to comment. The boutique is fully licensed to deal in elephant ivory.

Hong Kong, long a center of the global ivory trade, had 111.3 tons of elephant ivory licensed for commercial use in 2014, the latest figure available from the government's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. That's down from 121.1 tons in 2010. Elizabeth Quat, a member of the Hong Kong legislature, says the city remains an



Yao Ming at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust elephant orphanage in Kenya

"illegal trading hub" for elephant ivory sold by poachers. She wants a temporary ban on all sales of African ivory to give the government time to come up with a more effective way to police the trade. On Feb. 10, Quat held a press conference to call for a ban in China, too.

The growing presence of mammoth ivory makes the market even murkier, says Alex Hofford, campaign manager in Hong Kong for the anti-poaching group WildAid, which has recruited retired NBA star Yao Ming as one of its celebrity ambassadors on the mainland. Anyone purchasing elephant ivory in Hong Kong isn't allowed to take it across the border to China, but Hofford says mainland tourists will often buy ivory chopsticks as souvenirs. "The chopsticks are never made out of mammoth ivory," Hofford says. "They're always from elephants." He says some dealers will issue certificates falsely identifying the source of the ivory as mammoths. That's a plausible ploy because there are a lot of mammoth ivory objects for sale in Hong Kong shops.

About 90 percent of local retailers selling ivory don't have licenses to sell ivory on display, as required by the government, Quat says, so it's hard to know if their inventory is legitimate ivory from the pre-1990 supply or smuggled ivory from freshly killed elephants. "We really don't know if what they are selling is legal," says Quat.

He also says the government needs to work harder to get the message out to tourists that there's a downside to buying ivory bric-a-brac for the relatives back home. "We have to educate people not to buy ivory at all," she says. "If there's no demand, there would be no killing." **Bloomberg**

HKD2.2m

Value of mammoth ivory imports to Hong Kong in 2014

BANGLADESH

Ferry with 140 passengers sinks; at least 48 dead

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

A river ferry carrying about 140 passengers capsized in central Bangladesh yesterday, killing at least 48 people, officials said. A rescue operation was underway, but it was not clear exactly how many people were missing.

The ferry was reportedly hit by a cargo vessel at the Daulatdia-Paturia crossing on the Padma River yesterday afternoon, said fire department official Shahzadi Begum. Rescue teams were deployed and passing boats were helping in the operation, he said.

The site is 40 kilometers northwest of Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital. Ferry accidents are common in Bangladesh, an impoverished South Asian nation that is crisscrossed by more than 130 rivers.

The ferry was submerged at a depth of up to 6 meters, said Inspector Zihad Mia, who is overseeing the rescue



Bangladeshi relatives wait near bodies of victims after a river ferry carrying about 100 passengers capsized

operation.

By yesterday evening, at least 48 bodies, including five children, had been recovered, Mia said.

He said officials had yet to determine how many passengers were missing. Ferries in Bangladesh usually do not maintain formal passenger lists.

"We don't have a clear picture about how many were exactly in the ferry when it sank," Mia said. "But I think many have survived."

A passenger who survived said many people got trapped inside when the ferry sank. "The passengers who were on the deck have survived, but many who were inside got trapped," Hafizur Rahman Sheikh was quoted as saying by the Prothom Alo newspaper.

Sheikh said the cargo vessel hit the middle of the ferry.

The Padma is one of the largest rivers in Bangladesh, where overcrowding and poor safety standards are often blamed for ferry disasters.

Last August, a ferry with a capacity of 85 passengers was found to be carrying more than 200 when it capsized on the Padma near Dhaka, leaving more than 100 people dead or missing. The ferry's owner was arrested after weeks in hiding on charges of culpable homicide, unauthorized operation and overloading. AP

SINGAPORE

City's founder hospitalized with pneumonia

LEE Kuan Yew, Singapore's founding father, has been hospitalized for severe pneumonia, the Prime Minister's Office said.

Lee, 91, was admitted to Singapore General Hospital on Feb. 5, the office said in a statement Saturday. His condition has stabilized and he remains on mechanical ventilation in intensive care, the statement said.

It said Lee was conscious and lightly sedated, and that doctors were continuing to monitor his condition.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, the son of Lee Kuan Yew, said in a Facebook posting that he visited his father on Saturday to wish him a speedy recovery.

"Visited my father in hospital this morning. Did not see him on the first day of the New Year, on the advice of doctors (both his and mine). So we wished him Happy New Year today, and a smooth recovery," he said, adding it was the first time in a long while



Singapore's first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

that the family had missed reunion dinner for the Chinese New Year.

A founding member of the ruling People's Action Party, which transformed Singapore from a slow port city to a wealthy, bustling metropolis, Lee became prime minister in 1959 and held power for 31 years.

He continued to work for the government, first as "senior minister," a non-executive advisory post created for him, and from 2004 until 2011 as "minister mentor."

The PAP suffered its worst election results in 2011 as it struggled to stem

rising discontent over the high cost of living, an influx of foreign laborers and rising income inequality.

Under Lee and his successors, Singapore — known for its ban on chewing gum sales and canings for crimes some countries would rule as minor — has strictly controlled public speech and assembly though has become socially more liberal and allowed greater artistic freedom in recent years.

Lee commands immense respect among Singaporeans, who this year will celebrate the 50th independence anniversary. AP

INDIA

Head of UN climate panel skips meeting amid harassment case

Katy Daigle, New Delhi

THE Indian leader of the U.N.'s expert panel on climate change has pulled out of a key meeting in Nairobi while pledging to cooperate with New Delhi police investigating allegations of sexual harassment.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said its chairman, R.K. Pachauri, would skip next week's plenary session in the Kenyan capital "because of issues demanding his attention in India."

While the organization refused to elaborate, Pachauri is being investigated after a 29-year-old woman accused him of sexually harassing her while they worked together at the New Delhi lobbying and research organization he heads, The Energy Resources Institute.

The 75-year-old Pachauri said he was "committed to provide all assistance and cooperation to the authorities in their ongoing investigations," according to a statement issued Saturday night.

News reports said New Delhi police also plan to question a second woman who made public allegations against Pachauri on Saturday but provided no

evidence and filed no police complaint.

Delhi police spokesman Rajan Bhagat had no comment yesterday, beyond saying "the investigation is in progress."

The case erupted over the past week after a court lifted a media gag order Thursday and allowed Pachauri to apply for anticipatory bail. Newspapers have since run full-page stories detailing alleged text-message exchanges between the IPCC chief and the woman.

In the past couple of years, India has seen a wave of public anger and protest over this socially conservative nation's chronic problem with sexual harassment and violence against women. While new laws have increased prison terms for rape and made stalking, voyeurism and sexual harassment a crime, new reports of abuse are featured by newspapers almost every day.

The IPCC said Saturday that one of its vice-chairs would lead the Nairobi meeting, which begins Tuesday. Pachauri has chaired the climate panel since 2002, accepting the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize on its behalf. He has said he will not run for a third term after October. AP

MALDIVES

Authorities arrest ex-president for his move against judge

MALDIVES authorities arrested former President and current opposition leader Mohamed Nasheed yesterday, ordering him to stand trial for his 2012 decision to arrest a senior judge.

Nasheed's supporters protested in the streets of the capital, Male, following the arrest in a sign that the Indian Ocean archipelago nation, in just its seventh year of multiparty democracy following 30 years of autocratic rule, could be plunging into political uncertainty.

A document signed by a senior criminal court judge seen by The Associated Press said Nasheed was being charged under anti-terrorism laws. Television stations in the country aired scenes of the arrest.

Nasheed resigned as president in February 2012 following weeks of public protests against his order to arrest Criminal Court Chief Judge Abdulla Mohamed. In 2013, he lost the presidential election to current President Yameen Abdul Gayoom, a half-brother of the country's 30-year autocratic ruler, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.



Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed

The arrest comes weeks after a key ally of Yameen Abdul Gayoom, whose support helped him win the presidency, defected from the ruling coalition to align with Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party to launch a series of protests to force Gayoom to resign.

They accuse Gayoom's administration of repeatedly violating the constitution.

Government minister Mohamed Shareef said Nasheed was arrested because the court felt he may not honor a summons to stand trial.

Shareef said the anti-terrorism laws cover not only acts or planned acts of violence, but a wide range of "acts against the state."

Nasheed is accused of using the military to arrest the senior judge when it had no authority to do so, Shareef said. He also is accused of detaining Mohamed for weeks without trial or legal counsel and ignoring a Supreme Court order to release him, he said.

Maldivian Democratic Party spokesman Hamid Abdul Gaffoor said in a statement that "Nasheed had never absconded from court, nor has taken the opportunity to flee or go into hiding," and called on the authorities to release him immediately.

Nasheed was a pro-democracy campaigner during Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's 1978-2008 rule, and was arrested a number of times for his activism. He defeated Gayoom in the country's first multiparty election in 2008. AP

AFGHANISTAN

Dialogue with Taliban could begin in March

AFTER more than a decade of warfare, negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban are set to begin, officials, diplomats and experts said as President Ashraf Ghani declared that peace is closer now than at any time since the war began following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. On Saturday, Ghani said that "the grounds for peace have never been better in the last 36 years" of continuous Afghan wars, including 13 years of conflict with the Taliban. Since taking office in September, Ghani has rolled out a complex strategy aimed at forcing the Taliban leadership to accept that their cause — replacing his government with an Islamist emirate — is hopeless. He has enlisted the support of regional countries believed to protect, fund and arm the Taliban, including Pakistan which is pressuring the insurgents to open a channel for peace negotiations, officials and diplomats said. A senior Afghan official, who spoke on condition he not be identified as he was not authorized to discuss the issue, said hopes are high that a dialogue, as a precursor to full-scale peace negotiations, will begin soon. AP

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Suzan Fraser, Ankara

TURKEY

Military enters Syria to evacuate troops, tomb

TURKISH soldiers launched an overnight raid into neighboring Syria, evacuating dozens of besieged troops guarding an Ottoman tomb and moving the crypt yesterday back to Turkey after ceremonially planting the country's crescent-and-star flag.

In a one-line report on the incident, Syria's state news agency denounced what it called a "blatant aggression" by Turkey.

The mission, saving Turkish soldiers reportedly stuck for months at the tomb of the grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire, saw hundreds of troops backed by tanks cross the border near the border town of Kobani once besieged by the Islamic State group.

Turkey was widely criticized for not intervening for months in the Kobani battle, which finally saw Kurdish fighters backed by U.S.-led airstrikes push out the extremists.

"We had given the Turkish armed forces a directive to protect our spiritual values and the safety of our armed forces personnel," Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said in televised remarks.

Nearly 600 Turkish soldiers on some 100 tanks and armored personnel carriers crossed into Syria on Saturday night, as drones and airplanes flew reconnaissance missions overhead, Davutoglu said yesterday.

One group traveled to the tomb, some 35 kilometers from Turkey on the banks of the Euphrates River in Syria's embattled Aleppo province, Davutoglu said. Another group

AP PHOTO



In this April 7, 2011 file photo, Turkish soldiers stand guard at the entrance of the memorial site of Suleyman Shah, grandfather of Osman I, founder of the Ottoman Empire, in Karakozak village, northeast of Aleppo

seized an area only 200 meters from the Turkish border in Syria's Ashma region, according to a statement from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's office.

One soldier was killed in an

"accident" during the operation, Turkey's military said, without elaborating.

Turkish media later showed nationalistic images of three Turkish soldiers raising the country's flag at the new site.

"Before the Turkish flag was lowered at (the tomb), the Turkish flag started to be waved at another location in Syria," Davutoglu said. He said troops destroyed the complex once housing the tomb.

The U.S.-led coalition forces were informed of the Turkish operation after its launch to prevent any casualties, Davutoglu said. U.S. officials offered no immediate comment.

There had been rumors for months that the soldiers stationed at the tomb had been besieged by militants from the Islamic State group, which hold a third of Syria and neighboring Iraq in their self-declared caliphate. Some 40 Turkish soldiers once guarded the tomb, making them a target for the Islamic State group and other militants in Syria's long-running civil war, though the overnight operation apparently saw no fighting.

The tomb belonged to Suleyman Shah, the grandfather of Osman I, founder of the Ottoman Empire. The site along the Euphrates River is revered by Turkey, a strongly nationalist country whose rights there stem from a 1921 treaty with France, then the colonial power in Syria. The Ottoman Empire collapsed in the early 20th century after World War I.

In the 1970s, Turkey moved the mausoleum to its last location because the old site at a castle further south in Syria was to be inundated by the waters of a new dam.

Shah, a Turkic leader, is believed to have drowned in the Euphrates in the 13th century. His followers headed north into what is today Turkey, where they launched the Ottoman Empire. Some historians question official accounts about the Shah's tomb, saying they might have been retrospectively concocted to enrich an imperial identity for Turks. **AP**

UKRAINE

Blast hits march in Kharkiv, killing 2, injuring 8

Jim Heintz, Kiev

TWO people were killed and about eight others injured in a bomb explosion at a march yesterday in Ukraine's second-largest city that was commemorating the first anniversary of the ouster of president Viktor Yanukovich, the country's interior ministry said.

The Interior Ministry said the blast was due to an "unknown explosive device" and was being considered a terrorist act.

The violence comes as Ukraine continues to be riven by tension and bloodshed stemming from Yanukovich's fall a year ago. The Ukrainian parliament voted Feb. 22, 2014 to remove the Russia-friendly president, following months of in-

AP PHOTO



Russia-backed rebels guard a bus carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war in Luhansk

creasingly violent protests in the capital, Kiev.

The Crimean peninsula, where residents largely regarded his downfall as a coup, was annexed by Russia a month later.

Then armed rebels opposed to the new authorities in Kiev took over large

parts of two regions bordering Russia, setting off a war that has killed more than 5,600 people.

A peace plan envisioning a cease-fire and pullback of heavy weapons was signed 10 days ago, but cease-fire violations continue.

Ukraine plans to begin

pulling back heavy weaponry from the front lines yesterday in accordance with the peace plan, a military spokesman said. Ukrainian military spokesman Col. Andriy Lysenko told a briefing that the withdrawal was to begin, but did not give further details.

Rebel spokesman Eduard Basurin said the pullback from both sides was to take place between yesterday and March 7, but he did not specify whether rebels had made any moves yet. There was no immediate confirmation that the withdrawal had begun.

Both sides are to pull back their big guns and rockets from 25 to 70 kilometers away from the conflict line - depending on the weapons' size - creating a buffer zone of between 50 and

140 kilometers.

The buffer zone was a main element of a peace agreement worked out in marathon negotiations 10 days ago in Minsk, Belarus. It also calls for a full exchange of war captives. Late Saturday, 139 Ukrainian soldiers and 52 rebels were exchanged; it remains unclear how many prisoners in total are on each side and when other swaps might take place.

The cease-fire that was the first element of the Minsk plan was called into effect last Sunday.

Ukraine said Russia-backed separatists violated the cease-fire a dozen times during the night with artillery and rocket attacks and an attempt to storm a Ukrainian encampment. Lysenko said one serviceman was killed and

three wounded over the past day.

Explosions were heard in the main rebel-held city Donetsk around dawn yesterday and a rebel website says several buildings in the city were damaged by artillery.

Despite the reported violations, the level of firing appeared to be far lower than a week ago when a cease-fire was called.

Among the attacks reported by the Ukrainian military was an attempt to storm positions in the village of Shyrokyne near the port city of Mariupol. That city remains of strategic concern to Ukraine because rebel seizure of it could help establish a land corridor between mainland Russia and the Russia-annexed Crimean peninsula. **AP**

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what's ON



"BEYOND THE SURFACE, MIO PANG FEI FEATURED ART EXHIBITION" (MACAU)

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
3pm-8pm (Mondays)

UNTIL: March 1, 2015

VENUE: Albergue SCM - Gallery A2, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

TRANSCEND

- WORKS BY LAI SIO KIT AND SYLVIYE LEI

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: March 7, 2015

VENUE: Estrada da Areia Preta No. 52, Edifício da

Fabrica de Baterias N.E. National, 3rd Floor, Macau

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ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

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UNTIL: March 3, 2015

VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery,

Avenida da Praia Grande, n° 749, r/c

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

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ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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- TOUCHABLE ARTS EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community

Development Association / Rua Tomas Vieira 3A

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ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

Offbeat

RUDY GIULIANI BACKS OFF ASSERTION THAT OBAMA DOESN'T LOVE AMERICA



The former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani

It may be as close as Rudy Giuliani will come to a retraction. The former New York City Mayor called into Bloomberg Politics' With All Due Respect on Thursday to try and walk back comments he made a day earlier at New York's 21 Club where he stated, "I do not believe, and I know this is a horrible thing to say, but I do not believe that the president loves America."

When pressed over whether he stood by his remarks about Obama's love of the country, Giuliani softened his tone.

"Well actually, if I could express it more clearly, what I mean is he doesn't express it," Giuliani said. "I shouldn't say that the president does or does not love anything. I don't know, I'm not a psychiatrist, and he doesn't have one and he doesn't need one."

Yet Giuliani also wavered, noting that he's made the same accusation several times over the last several years, and arguing that Obama's past comments reveal someone who has trouble expressing love for America, stating, "that's the impression I get from what he says, yes." He added that Obama "seeks to criticize [America], more than uplift it, and doesn't get the notion of American exceptionalism." **Bloomberg**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:35	Brazil Avenue (Repeat)
18:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:00	Portuguese Music
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

18 FEB - 25 FEB

STAND BY ME DORAEMON_

ROOM 1

2.00, 5.40 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 95min

TRIUMPH IN THE SKIES_

ROOM 1

7.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 127min

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE_

ROOM 2

2.30, 7.15, 11.30 pm

Director: Matthew Vaughn

Starring: Colin Firth, Michael Caine, Samuel L. Jackson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 127min

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR_

ROOM 2

4.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 127min

STAND BY ME DORAEMON_

ROOM 2

7.15 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 95min



FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2_

ROOM 3

3.45, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 90min

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR_

ROOM 3

2.00, 5.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 127min

MACAU TOWER

19 FEB - 04 MAR

12 GOLDEN DUCKS_

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Matt Chow

Starring: Eason Chan, Louis Koo, Sandra Kwan Yue Ng

Language: Chinese (Chinese)

Duration: 92min

this day in history



1972 HIJACKERS SURRENDER AND FREE LUFTHANSA CREW

A group of Palestinian hijackers who took over a Lufthansa jet in the skies over India two days ago has released the crew and surrendered at an airstrip in the Yemen.

All the 172 passengers - including Joseph Kennedy, son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy - were freed yesterday after painstaking negotiations with the prime minister of Yemen, Nasser Muhammad, and West German officials.

The five Palestinians had demanded an undisclosed sum of money and the release of three Jordanians under arrest in West Germany after a shooting took place in Cologne on 6 February. Women and children were released first from the New Delhi-Athens Boeing 747 and flown to Frankfurt.

It was followed this afternoon by a Lufthansa Boeing 707 carrying all the male passengers. The men had had to wait in the second Boeing for three hours parked near the hijacked plane while talks with the guerrillas continued.

As the Palestinians were led away, 14 crew members emerged tonight from the aircraft looking tense after their two-day ordeal but still smart in their black and gold uniforms. Explosives experts then boarded the plane to defuse charges planted on the aircraft.

Among the hijacked passengers was 19-year-old Joseph Kennedy, whose father was assassinated by a Palestinian, Sirhan Sirhan in 1968. On his release he told journalists he did not think he was the target behind the hijacking. "I do not think the plane was hijacked because of me. I was not certain I was going to be aboard," he said.

According to one stewardess, Karin Bode, released earlier because of health problems, they had at first ordered the plane to land at a desert airstrip near Amman in Jordan.

But the pilot had talked them out of this saying the plane was too large to land there and flew the plane to its intended destination - Aden in the Yemen.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It later emerged the hijackers belonged to the PFLP (the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and had been paid USD500m in ransom. The South Yemen government was also paid \$1m for allowing the jet to land on its territory.

Working with other groups, the PFLP pioneered aircraft hijackings as a high profile means of drawing attention to their movement, most notably the capture of an Air France plane en route from Paris to Athens in 1976.

The plane was flown to Entebbe in Uganda, where after a standoff, Israel launched a dramatic commando raid to rescue nearly 100 hostages.

The decline and collapse of the Soviet Union, its main supporter, during the late 1980s undermined the PFLP, and the group lost ground to the radical Islamic Hamas movement. The succession of Abu Ali Mustafa - who replaced the founder of the movement, George Habash - in 2000, was seen by many in Israel as heralding a return to the group's radical policies of 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your terrific energy is pushing you in bold new directions today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're in no big hurry, but the world seems to be conspiring against you today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You know what you want, and you know when you want it - so now is the time to get to work on it!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your emotions are all over the map today - which could mean that it's easy to get riled up.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You meet someone new who blows your mind - and may even change your opinion in a major way.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're feeling pretty feisty today - so much so that you may start little fights without even realizing it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Try not to get too spooked if you're in a bad mood - you can fix it up really quickly if you want.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're at your best today when you're helping others - so put on your altruistic hat and get busy!

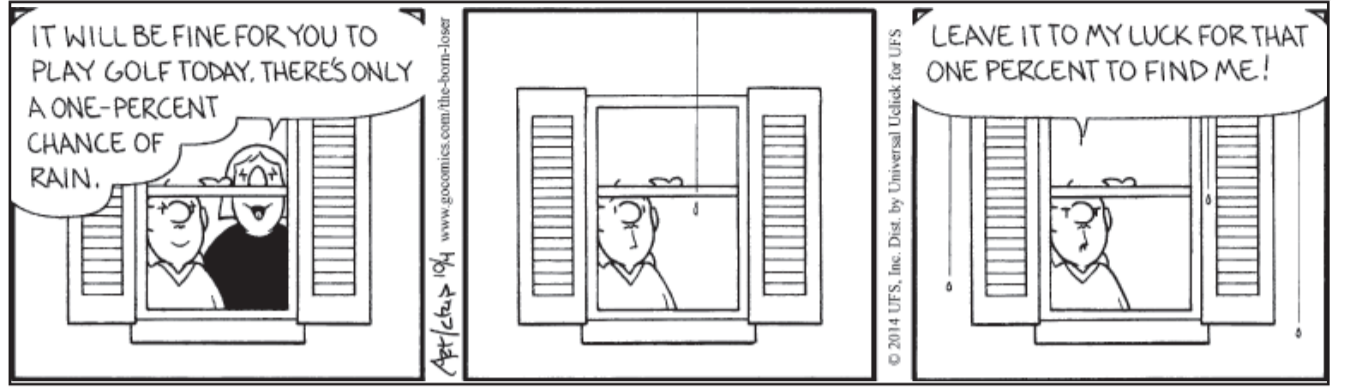
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your romantic situation gets a lot more intense - in a good way! You may meet someone new who thrills you or you may find a new connection with your sweetheart.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You are feeling a little tired out - but perseverance is essential! Your energy reserves can help you to make the final push.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You feel totally amazed at this morning's news - and your great energy should help you make the most of it.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You just can't figure out what your sweetie or business partner is trying to tell you - it's as if they've suddenly started speaking in a foreign language.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

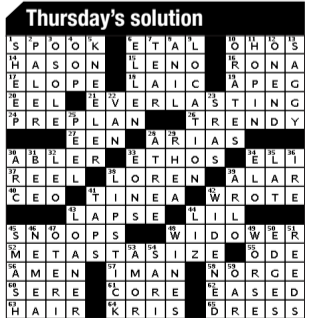
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Spellbound; 5- String tie; 9- Charisma, atmosphere; 13- At any time; 14- Parsley-family herb...

DOWN: 1- Sleep stage; 2- Hail, to Caesar; 3- Latin word which means "for every"; 4- Locks...



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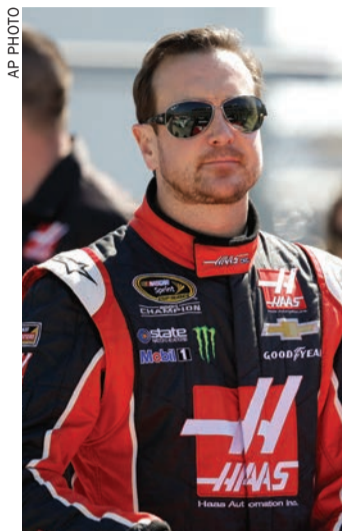
Nascar suspends Kurt Busch, disqualifying him from Daytona

Rob Gloster

NASCAR suspended Kurt Busch indefinitely following a Delaware judge's finding that he had "committed an act of domestic violence," and Chevrolet responded by suspending its relationship with the driver.

The suspension announced Friday by Nascar means Busch, 36, will be sidelined for stock-car racing's season-opening Daytona 500 on Sunday. "Given the serious nature of the findings and conclusions made by the commissioner of the family court of the state of Delaware, Nascar has indefinitely suspended driver Kurt Busch, effective immediately," the organization said in its statement. "He will not be allowed to race nor participate in any Nascar activities until further notice."

Rusty Hardin, an attorney for Busch, said in a statement after a closed-door Nascar hearing Saturday that the organization rejected Busch's appeal of the suspension.



Kurt Busch stands on pit road prior to qualifying for the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race

"We are re-appealing immediately, per the proscribed process," Hardin said in the statement. "We have significant and strong evidence that contradicts the commissioner's conclusions."

Less than an hour after Nascar announced its suspension, General Motors Co.'s Chevrolet said in a statement that it had suspended its

Busch was Nascar's champion in 2004

sponsorship ties with Busch, who was Nascar's champion in 2004.

"Chevrolet has suspended its relationship with Kurt Busch indefinitely," Jim Campbell, Chevrolet's vice president of motorsports and performance vehicles, said in a statement. "We will continue to monitor the events surrounding Mr. Busch and are prepared to take additional action if necessary."

Hardin said the case involving Busch is a civil matter and that no criminal charges have been filed against the driver.

"We ask everyone's patience as this case continues in the court of law and are confident that when the truth is known, Mr. Busch will be fully vindicated and back in the driver's seat," Hardin

said in the interview.

Domestic violence has been a concern elsewhere in professional sports, perhaps most visibly in the National Football League. Last year, Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice was suspended by the NFL indefinitely after video surfaced of him striking his fiancée in an elevator. Robert Mueller, a former U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation director, last month released the result of his four-month probe into the NFL's reaction to the incident, concluding the league "should have done more with the information it had."

Other NFL players including Indianapolis Colts linebacker Josh McNary, who was charged with rape last month, and the Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy faced domestic violence investigations this season. Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson was indefinitely suspended following a no-contest plea to reckless assault after he was accused of abusing his 4-year-old son. **Bloomberg**

Ethiopians seal Tokyo Marathon double



Runners start the race during the Tokyo Marathon

ENDESHAW Negesse and Birhane Dibaba claimed a double win for Ethiopia at the Tokyo Marathon yesterday amid tight security in Japan's capital. Negesse won the men's race in 2 hours and 6 minutes, followed by Stephen Kiprotich of Uganda and Kenya's Dickson Chumba, who took top spot last year. In the women's event, Dibaba went one better than her runner-up position in 2014.

About 36,000 runners took to Tokyo's streets for the first of the World Marathon Majors on a rainy morning in temperatures about 6 degrees Celsius. The other five majors are in Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago and New York.

Organizers deployed more than 10,000 security officials, according to the Yomiuri newspaper. Some 64 on-duty police officers ran as part of the event's surveillance, according to the paper.

The heightened security comes after bombings at the Boston Marathon in 2013 and amid increased concern about terrorism in Japan following the murder this year of two Japanese who had been taken hostage by Islamic State. **Bloomberg**

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Tim Dahlberg, Las Vegas

BOXING

It's on: Mayweather says he and Pacquiao to fight May 2

THE Fight is finally on. Floyd Mayweather Jr. will meet Manny Pacquiao on May 2 in a welterweight showdown that will be boxing's richest fight ever. Mayweather himself announced the bout Friday after months of negotiations, posting a picture of the signed contract online. "I promised the fans we would get this done and we did," Mayweather said.

The long anticipated bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas will almost surely break every financial record, and make both boxers richer than ever. Mayweather could earn \$120 million or more, while Pacquiao's split of the purse will likely be around USD80 million.

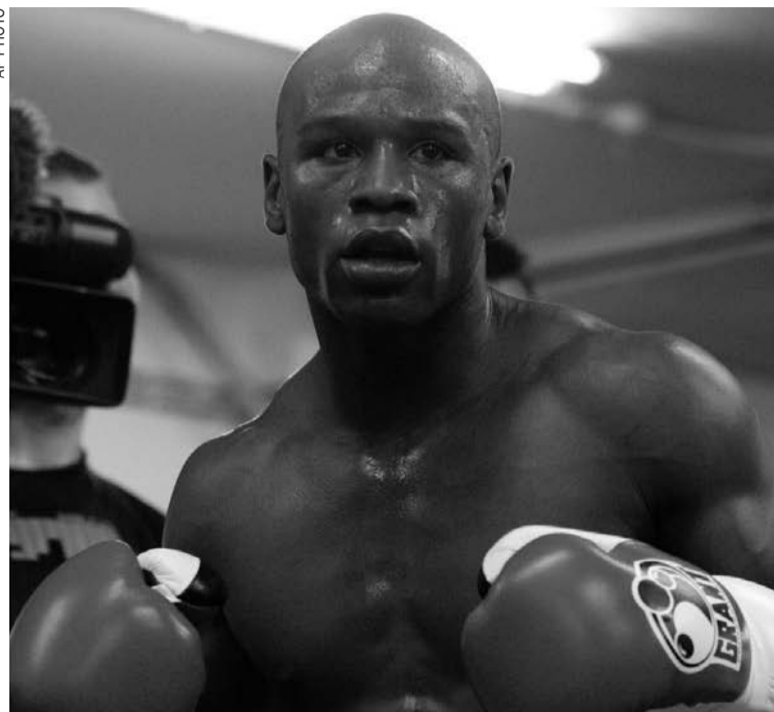
The fight, which matches boxing's two biggest attractions of recent years, has been in the making for five years. It finally came together in recent months with both fighters putting aside past differences over various issues — including drug testing and television rights — to reach agreement.

Pacquiao was sleeping in the Philippines when the fight was announced, but his camp issued a statement saying the fans deserve the long awaited fight.

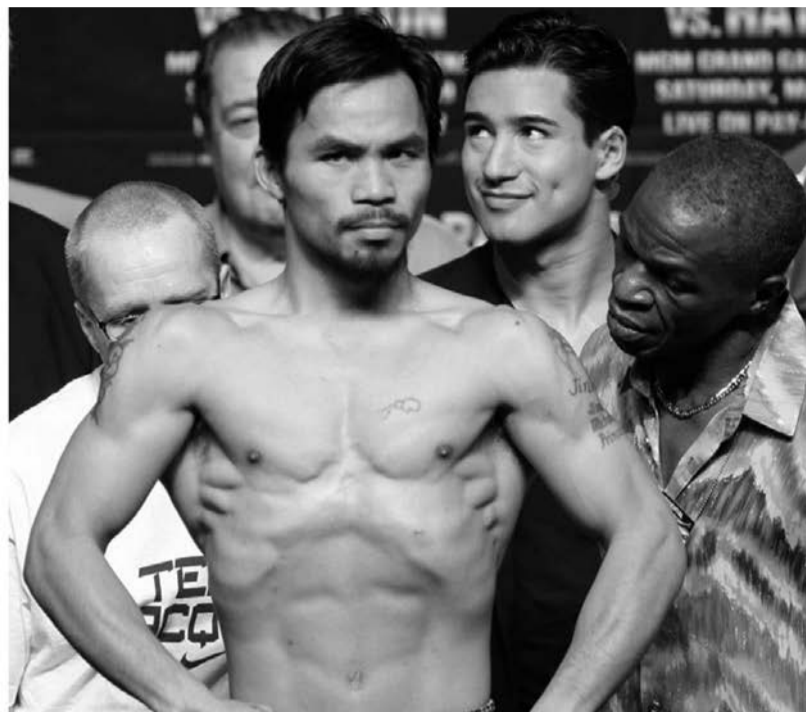
"It is an honor to be part of this historic event," Pacquiao said. "I dedicate this fight to all the fans who willed this fight to happen and, as always, to bring glory to the Philippines and my fellow Filipinos around the world."

While the fight rivals the 2002 heavyweight title bout between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson for interest, it comes more than five years after the first real effort to put the fighters together in their prime. Most boxing observers believe both have lost some of their skills, though Mayweather remains a master defensive fighter and Pacquiao showed in his last fight against Chris Algieri that he still has tremendous quickness in his hands.

Still, Pacquiao is 36 and has been through many wars in the ring. And while Mayweather has been largely untouched in his



Floyd Mayweather Jr.



Manny Pacquiao

career, he turns 38 on Tuesday.

"I am the best ever, TBE, and this fight will be another opportunity to showcase my skills and do what I do best, which is win," Mayweather said in his announcement. "Manny is going to try to do what 47 before him failed to do, but he won't be successful. He will be No. 48."

Odds makers believe Mayweather will do just that, making him a 2 1/2-1 favorite in the scheduled 12-round bout. The fight is expected to do record business in Nevada's legal sports books, with tens of millions wagered on the outcome.

This boxing match will have the interest in the U.S. of a Super Bowl

BOB ARUM

It will also do record business at the box office — with the MGM expected to be scaled far higher than the \$20 million live gate for Mayweather's 2013 fight with Canelo Alvarez. The pay-per-view revenue also is expected to be a record, though television executives said Friday they had yet to actually fix a price for people to buy the fight at home.

The fight will be televised as a joint venture between competing networks Showtime and HBO, which will share announcers with Jim Lampley and Al Bernstein reportedly handling the task at ringside.

Pacquiao began pushing hard for the fight after beating Algieri in November in Macau, and negotiations picked up last month when the two fighters met by chance at a Miami Heat basketball game and later talked with each other in Pacquiao's hotel room about making it happen.

"It's one of those fortuitous circumstances we couldn't have planned," Showtime boxing

chief Stephen Espinoza said. "But we were lucky that it happened."

As part of the agreement, Mayweather insisted on having the right to announce the bout. He also won concessions from the Pacquiao camp on who enters the ring first, what type of gloves are used, and a number of other issues, including a reported 60-40 split of the purse.

But it didn't take long for Pacquiao's camp to start talking, either. Promoter Bob Arum expressed his elation in making the fight, while trainer Freddie Roach predicted a big win for his fighter.

"Floyd should enjoy being the A-Side while he can because on May 2 Manny is going to put him on his backside," Roach said. Arum, who has promoted some of the biggest fights in history, said this one would be bigger than them all.

"This boxing match will have the interest in the U.S. of a Super Bowl," Arum told The Associated Press. "I think it will

set all kinds of pay-per-view records and gate records. It will be the biggest boxing event of all time."

Both fighters will bring 147-pound titles into the ring, but the fight is about far more than belts. Mayweather, who is unbeaten in 47 fights, wants to stake his claim as one of the greatest fighters ever, and remove any doubts about his legacy by fighting the boxer who is thought to be the greatest challenge of his career.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, will try to show that a knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez in 2012 and a disputed decision loss to Timothy Bradley should not define a remarkable career that began 20 years ago in the Philippines.

Don't tune in looking for a big knockout, either. The last time Pacquiao stopped anyone was in 2009 when he finished off Miguel Cotto in the 12th round, while Mayweather has only stopped one fighter (Victor Ortiz) in the last eight years. **AP**

ALL sentiment aside, Afghanistan's cricketers showed Sunday why they belong at the World Cup. The Afghans, making their first appearance at the tournament, came into the event with plenty of pride and strong support from some 25,000 expatriates who now call the co-host countries of Australia and New Zealand home — and many others who want the fledgling team to do well.

At Dunedin, New Zealand, the side with

Afghanistan does itself proud at the Cricket World Cup

some players who first took up the game in Pakistan refugee camps while escaping their neighboring war-torn country pushed higher-ranked Sri Lanka to the limit before losing by four wickets.

Sri Lanka was in trouble when Afghanistan's bowlers took early wickets,

but the more established side prevailed, scoring the winning runs with only 10 balls remaining. Asghar Stanikzai led Afghanistan with 54 of its 232 runs, while Mahela Jayawardene scored 100 runs to push Sri Lanka to 236-6 and victory.

It was Afghanistan's se-

cond loss in a row in the tournament while Sri Lanka evened its record at 1-1.

"We started very well for the first 30 overs but after that we didn't play well," said Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi, one of those who spent time in a refugee camp

in Peshawar, Pakistan. "It was a tough and tight game and the boys played very well."

Jayawardene said "all credit to Afghanistan, they batted very well in tough conditions and then bowled beautifully ... and put us under a lot of pressure."

At the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the other match Sunday, India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss and his side went on to score 307-7 against South Africa, with opener Shikhar Dhawan leading India with 137 ahead of the Proteas' reply.

In the only match today, any realistic chance England has of making the quarterfinals will be on the line when it takes on Scotland at Christchurch, New Zealand. **AP**

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE

The theory in use must be the one about the hypothetical ever-accommodating can of sardines: you squeeze a little and there you go... one more added to the dead school. One wonders how far the overcrowding has to go before "I cannot bear this any longer" goes from an individual or occasional outburst to a collective rage.

Each year since the gaming business entered the fast lane visitors have broken record after record; each year local residents lose some vital space to punters and tourists, and today as gambling revenues spiral downward the City is full of fearless shoppers buying everything coming their way. Zhuhai customs authority estimates that there will be over 2.2 million people crossing the border, or around five per cent more than one year ago.

So... what to expect from the second wave of big properties on the Cotai Strip? The truth is nobody knows for sure, since local authorities through to common observers have all proven unable to produce reliable forecasts. So much so that the filter seems to rely on how the Chinese officials appraise the inwards demand and outwards supply.

In the neighboring SAR of Hong Kong, there have been ugly developments toward mainland visitors. The influx of outsiders, whether shoppers or not, in the already crowded main tourist and commercial spots, gave rise to episodes of bad blood, bad words, sometimes physical, and overall hostility in general, bordering upon xenophobia.

On this side of the Pearl River Delta, the obvious inconvenience brought by the invasion of visitors to the tight streets of old Macau seems to have shifted more to the weight of the cash register's closing balance. This is a trend... but no one knows at which point the money-making is an illusion. Conservative Legislator Ho Ion Sang not only alerts us to the cumulative resentment among local residents, but also accommodates an unusually positive example from Hong Kong in his line of reasoning. The HKSAR pleads for a tighter filter on its borders, but bases its request, we would say, on an objective evaluation of accommodation and visitor carrying capacity.

In order to dissipate the flow of visitors as much as possible, the MGTO wisely added four more walking routes to the existing four parcours, complemented with a package of measures to offer options to the hordes of tourists/visitors/shoppers other than San Ma Lo. Given the unpredictability of local mood in an environment of an ever increasing number of visitors travelling from the mainland who share with us the same small and beautiful enclave over this brief holiday period, Chief Executive admitted he is kind of worried, but attentive to the situation.

Actually, the Chief Executive has been following, mainly through his team of new Secretaries, a line of truth and dares to assume today's problems, disregarding yesterday shortcomings; this way, building momentum in the warm-up to the presentation of his 2015 Policy Address in the Legislative Assembly on March 23. From then, Chui Sai On's second term will be politically wired.

THE REBELS DENY ATTACK ON RED CROSS-PROTECTED REFUGEES

Kokang ethnic rebels battling Myanmar's government in the country's north have denied a claim that they attacked a truck flying the Red Cross flag that was carrying refugees fleeing fighting in the area. Kokang spokesman Htun Myat Lin says the report by state media of Saturday's attack was untrue, and that his group did not even have forces in the area of the alleged ambush.

The state-run Myanmar Ahlin newspaper reported that the rebels used heavy weapons to attack a truck carrying 15 refugees, wounding five people, including a TV cameraman from state-run Myanmar Radio and Television. The two sides traded similar accusations about an attack Tuesday on a seven-car Myanmar Red Cross convoy carrying 100 people that wounded a driver and a Red Cross volunteer.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	30-50 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

Ferris wheel, zip line, inlet eateries OK'd in Atlantic City

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

THE city, making good on its vow to seek new non-gambling attractions, has approved redevelopment plans including a giant Ferris wheel and a zip line on the beachfront next to the Steel Pier and restaurants, a rebuilt Boardwalk and an elevated walkway in its Inlet neighborhood.

The plans come as Atlantic City has lost four of its 12 casinos and is trying to make its tourism-centered economy less dependent on gambling.

The City Council last week approved an expansion of the iconic Steel Pier to make way for an already-approved 62-meter-tall observation wheel with enclosed, climate-controlled cars and a zip line ride. It also approved a redevelopment plan for the Northeast Inlet neighborhood including new eateries, entertainment and recreational



People walking on the boardwalk in Atlantic City

facilities, a rebuilt Boardwalk and an elevated walkway to bring new business to the area.

"It's a reinforcement of the importance of adding these other amenities," said John Palmieri, executive director of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority.

The agency has already approved the Ferris wheel project and will be contributing about USD8.1 million of its estimated \$14 million price tag through a loan to be repaid from a portion of ride ticket revenue.

"It's a good step forward in the ongoing effort to reinforce those non-gambling sectors," Palmieri said.

It's also something Atlantic City has been talking about since 2007, the first year its casino gambling revenues posted a yearly decline due to the opening of casinos in neighboring Pennsylvania that ate into its customer base. Those revenues have plunged from \$5.2 billion in 2006 to \$2.74 billion last year as casinos continued to open in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland. Of the eight Atlantic City casinos that survived 2014's slew of closings, three are in bankruptcy.

The wheel and its 40 cars are being built in Italy and should be delivered to Atlantic City by December. The start of an expansion of the Boardwalk to support the wheel and the zip line ride could begin within two months, Catanoso said. AP

Alonso taken to hospital after crash at Barcelona

FERNANDO Alonso has been taken to hospital by helicopter after crashing in his McLaren during Formula One preseason testing yesterday.

McLaren said on Twitter: "Fernando is conscious and is speaking. He has been airlifted to hospital for further checks."

Track officials at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit said Alonso went off at turn three and hit the wall. They said he was transported to hospital "to continue with medical tests" after being treated at the circuit medical center.

McLaren has been plagued by technical problems this preseason after switching to Honda engines ahead of the upcoming season.

Neither the team nor track officials have reported the cause of the crash.

Alonso, 33, rejoined McLaren this season after a disappointing fifth and final campaign with Ferrari. He won back-to-back world titles with Renault in 2005 and 2006 before spending one season at McLaren in 2007.

Ferrari tweeted "All the best Fernando." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Carmo Correia/Lusa



The Procession of the Passion of Our God, the Lord Jesus, was held yesterday in downtown Macau. According to the MGTO, the parade constitutes "a unique Macau religious celebration when an image of Christ carrying the Cross is taken in solemn procession from St. Augustine's Church to the Cathedral for an overnight vigil."

WORLD BRIEFS

NIGERIAN troops retake a major border town and kill scores of Boko Haram fighters, Nigeria's military says, although witnesses also report that the Islamic extremists killed scores in attacks on other villages.

ZIMBABWE's President Robert Mugabe turns 91 with his supporters saying they will back him to run his full term until 2018 and beyond, despite nagging questions about his health and an economy that is crumbling under his watch.



USA Activists, actors and politicians gathered Saturday in New York City to honor civil rights leader Malcolm X with a ceremony at the Harlem site where he was killed 50 years ago. About 300 people converged to hear remarks from one of Malcolm X's six daughters, Ilyasah Shabazz, as well as elected officials.



USA Two unfinished sketches have been discovered on the reverse side of two watercolors by Cezanne — and officials at Philadelphia's Barnes Foundation museum says the collector who bought them more than 90 years ago probably never knew they were there.

USA-IRAN With only weeks left to the deadline to reach a first-stage nuclear deal with Iran, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Saturday that "significant gaps" remained and warned that America was ready to walk away from the talks if Tehran doesn't agree to terms demonstrating that it doesn't want atomic arms.

UK British police are appealing for information about three teenage girls who left the country in a suspected bid to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State extremist group.