



LOCAL BOXING FANS MEET IBF CHAMPION

Amnat Ruenroeng met with local young boxing enthusiasts from Fighting Arts Club Macau yesterday

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TERRY SIO: MACAU COULD TURN INTO A 'SHOPPING PARADISE'

P9 FORUM



PRINCE WILLIAM TAKES ON DIPLOMATIC ROLE IN BEIJING

Prince William began the first official trip to mainland China by a senior British royal in a generation

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA-FRANCE French cultural officials say 15 pieces of art have been stolen from a Chinese museum south of Paris, including a replica crown of the King of Siam given to France's emperor in the mid-19th century. The Culture Ministry says the break-in before dawn Sunday at the Chinese Museum at Fontainebleau Castle was over in less than seven minutes. Police are investigating.

N KOREA fires two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea and warned of "merciless strikes" against its enemies as allies Seoul and Washington launched annual military drills. Pyongyang claims are preparation for a northward invasion. North Korea regularly conducts such test firings of missiles, rockets and artillery, and they are often timed to express the country's dissatisfaction with actions by Washington and Seoul. Yesterday was the start of military drills that will run until the end of April.

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MYANMAR Truckloads of police have prevented hundreds of student protesters from marching to Myanmar's biggest city to push for educational reform. Students have been marching from Myanmar's second-largest city of Mandalay to Yangon, the old capital, since January, demanding changes to an education law that they say inhibits academic freedom.

More on p14

RUSSIA The investigation into the killing of Boris Nemtsov, a fierce critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin who was gunned down not far from the Kremlin, faced conflicting reports yesterday about possible surveillance footage of his slaying. No suspects have been arrested since Nemtsov was shot dead Friday night on a Moscow bridge, a slaying that came just hours after a radio interview in which he denounced Putin's "mad, aggressive policy" in Ukraine.

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FATHER ACCUSES

Prescription error and slow care linked to baby's death

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XINHUA

ANNUAL CPPCC AND NPC MEETINGS

Macau delegates leave for Beijing with tourism on the agenda

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GASTRONOMY

Spanish tapas meets French cuisine at Aux Beaux Arts

Catarina Pinto

WELL-KNOWN Spanish tapas meets refined French cuisine these days at MGM Macau's Aux Beaux Arts. American chef Ryan Poli joins in-house chef de cuisine Elie Khalife until March 8 to recreate the lively atmosphere of tapas bars while seamlessly blending Spanish ingredients with French cuisine essences.

Yes, there are crowd favourites, such as jamon iberico, patatas bravas, and Spanish tomato bread with iberico cheese. But the chefs are also keen on providing refined and elaborate dishes to capture clients' imagination: imagine a finely cooked scallop embedded in a famous Spanish ajo blanco – a cold soup merging the flavors of almonds, grapes, celery, croutons, and olive oil; or perhaps a cured foie gras pintxo (small



The whole idea of doing tapas here was trying to capture the feeling and excitement when you walk into a tapas bar in Spain

RYAN POLI

snack typically eaten in bars in Spain) with cherry compote and black pepper.

Chef Ryan Poli, who hails from Chicago, spent considerable time in Spain and was inspired by that concept of bringing the quintessentially

Spanish habit of eating in bars abroad. Poli said, "The whole idea of doing tapas here was trying to capture the feeling and excitement when you walk into a tapas bar in Spain."

"When you walk in there, it's a bustling kind of restaurant.

Things are happening; people are eating and talking, so I wanted to capture that experience," he added.

Together with chef Khalife, Poli came up with a menu that would not only capture the traditional flavors of Spanish

tapas, but would also take inspiration from the finest French cuisine: "We wanted to do things family-style; but wanted to make something a little bit more refined where you have an individual dish you can taste from. So we fused the two ideas."

Speaking to reporters at a tasting dinner last week, chef Poli highlighted some of his favorite dishes within the menu: shrimp a la plancha, cooked in sea salt; and scallop in ajo blanco. "I think the shrimp cooked in salt is one of the most symbolic dishes, as it really reminds me of working in the tapas bars in Spain. It's a really great product and you do very little to it (...) to me, that kind of represents what Spanish [cuisine] is in a very simplistic manner," he said, adding that the scallop dish, on the other hand, is a bit more complex.

The menu features a "Madrid meets Paris" series, which includes a sea urchin pintxo, an oyster with basil sorbet, or a sangria ice cream with green apple, among others. Tapas from Sevilla, like a pan-seared foie gras brioche burger, are also on the menu.

For those keen on developing their own tapas recipes at home, chef Poli did not miss out on giving a few tips: "Keep it simple and fresh, and just have fun! Being Spanish and being at a tapas restaurant is all about living in the moment, having fun, having some cervezas [beers], and don't make it too difficult," he said, adding that one should include at least some sort of jamon, Spanish cheese, smoked pimento (capsicum) and paprika.

The full tapas menu, which will be available until March 8, costs MOP588. A la carte dishes are also offered with prices ranging from MOP68 (desserts) to MOP298 (for the Madrid Meets Paris series).

Portuguese restaurant chain opens in Macau

PORTUGÁLIA, one of Lisbon's best-known restaurant chains, will open its first outlet here on Friday, located in Taipa Village (Mercadores Street No.5). According to a press release issued yesterday, it "is the result of an international expansion plan

developed over several years and marks the first of several direct investments in Asia."

Originally a brewery, Portugália later became known for the quality of its steak. The opening of the chain's first beerhouse outside of Portugal coincides with its 90th



One of Portugália's restaurants in Lisbon

anniversary celebration.

The Macau venue is decorated with classic Portuguese tiles and motifs related to the beerhouse's early days. The restaurant also features "a custom-built wine cellar and a private room adorned with cork décor elements plus two outdoor terraces."

Chef Ricardo Alves flew in from Portugal to head the restaurant's cuisine. Besides steak, the menu will include fresh seafood, codfish and Alentejo pork with clams. Deserts include traditional Portuguese delicacies like egg pudding and rice pudding.

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INFANT'S DEATH AT PUBLIC HOSPITAL

First diagnosis indicated 'nothing serious' with baby's condition

THE tragic death of a five-month-old infant at the Conde de Sao Januario Central Hospital (CHCSJ) on February 19 has once again shone a spotlight on the management of the city's public medical services. The hospital treatment the baby received has been brought under fire by his family: the father believes that an incorrect prescription may have caused the baby's abrupt death.

In a press conference held at the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM) headquarters yesterday afternoon, the deceased baby's father, Io Chi Fan, accompanied by lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, accused the hospital of its possible problematic medical prescription and internal mismanagement, which could have led to his son's death. The leaders of yesterday's meeting hope that the authorities will launch an independent investigation into the matter, led by overseas experts.

The father claims that the doctor, that he identified only by surname, prescribed his son with the antiemetic Domperidona and the anti-allergy medicine Dimetindeno after the first diagnosis, reassuring him that there was 'nothing serious' about the baby's condition. Nonetheless, the baby boy's lips turned purple after taking the medication at home. The frustrated father



then rushed him to the hospital for another diagnosis.

"We arrived at the hospital at around 2:30 in the afternoon, but it took two hours for the

It took two hours for the specialist doctor on duty to come for my son's treatment

IO CHI FAN

specialist doctor on duty to come for my son's treatment," said Mr. Io, adding that the pediatrician needed to be called back to work. He also noted that the doctor questioned him twice on whether his son had taken any other medication while the boy was hospitalized later.

A couple of hours after the baby underwent a blood test, another two doctors issued a notice of critical condition, saying that the boy suffered from dehydration, shock and sepsis before confirming his death at 7:45 pm without further explanation.

The father later discovered

that the antiemetic prescribed by the first doctor was different from that shown on the health bureau's prescription medication website, suspecting that it was partly linked to the baby's death. He also criticized the hospital for not disclosing his son's condition while hospitalized and for not revealing the eventual cause of his death.

During the press conference, Coutinho expressed his disappointment with the baby's autopsy report, which the lawmaker thought failed to provide details on the infant's death and his condition

in hospital. He also demanded that the SAR government submit the final text of the medical malpractice law to the legislative assembly in order to lift public confidence in local medical services.

According to the lawmaker, CHCSJ has been urging Mr. Io to sign the death certificate since his son passed away, whereas the Judiciary Police (PJ) told him not to so a probe could be launched. The incident has greatly grieved the family, with the mother undergoing mental problems despite counseling services offered by the hospital. **Staff reporter**

CRIME

Man swindled out of HKD1 million after 'dead casino chips' purchase

A mainland Chinese man has been swindled out of HKD1 million after purchasing 'dead casino chips.' The Judiciary Police told a press conference they had arrested a suspect on February 28 at the Border Gate.

On January 27, the man paid HKD1 million as deposit to a casino middleman, to be provided with casino chips worth HKD500,000. After gambling, the man won HKD300,000 and later returned the casino chips to the promoter, asking him for more 'dead chips' so he could continue

gambling.

The suspect told him he provided him with more 'dead chips' but never returned. The man filed a complaint with the police and the suspect was later arrested for loan sharking.

'Dead chips' are non-negotiable chips sold to the VIP room contractor by the casino, and later resold to VIP customers. These chips can be used in play but cannot be redeemed for money. When a gambler wins, he is paid in 'live chips,' which can be redeemed for cash or returned to the contrac-

tor, who then provides the client with more dead chips. According to the University of Nevada, this process is called "chip rolling."

In yesterday's Public Security Police (PSP) and PJ joint press conference, the authorities also revealed the details of a recent abduction case. Three suspects abducted a mainland man at a casino in Cotai after he failed to pay back his debt. The suspects lent him HKD50,000 to gamble. He also provided them his ID documents, a watch worth HKD33,000,

and a bag worth HKD 6,000.

He also agreed to give the suspects 15 percent of his profit if he won. However, the victim lost everything and was taken to a casino room by the

suspects. He pretended to call a friend asking for money but called the police instead.

Another suspect in an extortion and kidnapping case dating back to September 2014 has been ar-

rested, authorities revealed. A Vietnamese man, whose girlfriend was arrested last year in connection with the case, was detained last month. Authorities suspect they kidnapped two Vietnamese women, who were locked in an apartment. The kidnappers requested a payment of MOP10,000 each to be freed. The suspects would later ask their families for a MOP20,000 ransom, PSP revealed yesterday.

STOLEN MOTORBIKE USED TO VISIT CASINO

A 33-YEAR-OLD man from mainland China stole a motorbike last month because he did not have enough money to get to a casino, he told police authorities. A Macau resident, aged 24, reported her motorbike stolen near

Shanghai Street. On February 27, a police agent spotted a man driving the motorbike near the area and chased him; he intercepted the man near Shanghai Street. The man told police authorities that he had seen the motorbike with

its keys in the ignition and used it to go to a nearby casino, claiming he did not have enough money to get there. PSP told a press conference that he did not hold a driver's license and that his visa had already expired.

Local boxing fans meet IBF champion Ruenroeng

Brook Yang

THE headline boxer Amnat Ruenroeng has arrived in Macau for Saturday's multi-bout boxing event, the Show-down at Sands at the Cotai Arena. The world champion met with local young boxing enthusiasts from Fighting Arts Club Macau at the club's gym yesterday, telling them that anyone



It's very encouraging for the young boxers in Macau that they can see world-class fights in their hometown

JET WU

can be a champion with enough practice and self-discipline.

About forty boxing fans joined the meeting, where they asked about Ruenroeng's preparation for the upcoming matchup with Zou Shiming, his athletic pursuits and his advice for young boxers. The fans also saw some of his boxing skills in action in a demonstration.

The International Boxing Federation (IBF) world flyweight titleholder said he is confident of retaining the belt and taking it back to Thailand. When asked

to compare Zou's style with his, he commented that Zou fights more in an amateur rules style rather than the more aggressive approach used in the professional ring.

A coach of the club, Jet Wu, was excited to meet with the champion, although he is a fan of Zou Shiming's. "I've met both Zou and Ruenroeng a long time ago when I fought in the King's Cup in Thailand. Both of them have changed a lot in their fighting styles, and I don't agree that Zou fights in

an amateur style."

"This bout is going to a matchup between speed and power. They are very well matched and we'll see if Zou's speed will win out over Ruenroeng's strength or the other way around," he commented.

The young boxers were clearly impressed to meet a world champion and reveled in the event. Ruenroeng was presented with some Thai-style flower rings representing good luck and blessings, and engaged in a question and answer session with the group.

"It was fantastic to meet a world champion," said one of the participants. "It is inspiring to hear about his life and how he overcame difficulties to get to where he is today. It has given me more confidence and the desire and motivation to follow my dreams."

"The problem in local boxing is that we don't have many opponents here. After training and fighting for a while, you have to go outside to train and fight with more boxers," said Jet Wu.

"It's very encouraging for the young boxers in Macau that they can see world-class fights in their hometown. Watching the top boxers fight, now they have a clear goal," he added.



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CPPCC AND NPC MEETINGS

Sustainable tourism expected to be 'hot topic'

THE number of tourists travelling to Macau is expected to be the main topic addressed by local delegates at the upcoming Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). As usual, the Beijing conference will take place alongside the National People's Congress (NPC), starting this week.

According to lawmaker Leonel Alves, another of Macau's CPPCC representatives, the tourist influx should be "the hot topic in debate."

"We will have an opportunity to talk about issues related to Macau and its connection with the mainland in terms of economy, education and culture. The key issue will be perhaps the influx of a massive number of tourists coming from the mainland. Obviously that issue will be addressed, although I don't foresee any concrete measures," he told TDM at Macau airport, before leaving for Beijing.

The lawmaker added that he doesn't agree with the idea of capping the number of Macau visitors at 31 million. He said that would go against the nature of Macau as "a free city."

"We must adjust the infrastructure to receive the visitors. To establish a cap is not a measure conforming with my principles," Mr Alves added.

Another topic on the agenda of local delegates will be the usage of reclamation zones currently under development: "The diversification of the local economy



Deputies to China's 12th National People's Congress (NPC) pose for a group photo before leaving for Beijing at Macau airport

depends on the physical space available. Right now I can't envisage the possibility of creating sizeable new industries or services, given the lack of space. The new reclaimed land can bring a new cycle to Macau's development," Leonel Alves added.

Regarding political reform, the lawmaker said that "conversations about the matter can be held" although a concrete proposal made by the Macau delegation "is not foreseeable."

Larry So, a retired professor formerly at the Macau Polytechnic Institute, says the individual visa scheme is under analysis. "In this phase they will not announce how many tourists Macau can receive nor which provinces will

be affected by an eventual change in the individual visa scheme, but these will be the issues on debate."

According to the scholar, the city's overcrowding must also be mended. "We have too many tourists and the Chief Executive pledged to

enhance the quality of the tourist experience. A limit to the tourists that visit the region and the number of times that they can visit must be established. These questions will be addressed and some proposals will be presented to the central government."

FRANCIS TAM HIGHLIGHTS REGIONAL COOPERATION

FORMER SECRETARY for Economy and Finance, Francis Tam, left yesterday morning for Beijing with the remaining CCPPC delegates. Tam told journalists that his focus in the meeting will be to address topics related to

regional cooperation and sustainable development. Asked about his "new life" as a retiree, he said that he was still "adjusting to the slower pace" but was available to cooperate with the government if requested to do so.

Chief Executive to attend NPC opening

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On is scheduled to attend the opening of the Third Plenary Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress (NPC) on Thursday. Mr Chui will meet with the Governor of the People's Bank of China, Zhou Xiaochuan, during his visit in the capital from to-

morrow to 7 March.

Officials participating in this visit include the chief-of-office of the Chief Executive's Office, O Lam, the director of the Government Information Bureau, Victor Chan, and the director of the Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office, Fung Sio Weng.

Seac Pai Van Post Office now open to public

The Seac Pai Van post office branch located at Alameda da Harmonia, Edificio Ip Heng, Block X, 1/A in Coloane officially opened to the public as of March 1. The new branch is open from 12:00 pm until 7:00 pm, providing general postal services to Macau citizens. The new post office expects to see a rising usage rate with more families moving into the public housing units there. Authorities said they did not rule out the possibility of prolonging the opening hours and increasing manpower to meet growing demand in the future.

Two cases of arson in northern district

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has launched an investigation after two fires broke out in the northern district within the space of three hours last night. Dumped furniture nearby was burnt, causing damage to the exterior walls as a result. The first fire that broke out occurred outside a garbage collection room in a residential building reportedly started from some furniture lying around. Later it caused power in the building's lobby to be cut off. Firemen responded to the blaze immediately and put out the flames in a short time, before referring the case to the PJ for a probe. After roughly three hours, a second fire broke out at a corridor in another residential building, blackening the surrounding exterior walls. It was believed that the blaze stemmed from a carpet on fire on the ground. Nobody was injured in either case yet both were being regarded as arson.

Central library undergoes renovation works



Macau's Central Library services will be suspended for an estimated 35 days as of March 9, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said in a statement. To revamp the library's reading area, renovation works will be conducted for over a month and during that period Macau residents are required to use other public libraries. For further information, residents should contact the Sir Robert Ho Tung library via 28377117 or the Central Library via 28567576.

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SCIENCE

Geologists join forces to research city's roots

GEOLOGISTS from Macau, Portugal and China have launched a joint research project to learn more about the petrology and geochemistry of the city's magmatic rocks, looking into its origins.

"What we would like to understand is how Macau emerged on this planet," said the project coordinator Ágata Alveirinho Dias from the Institute of Science and Environment at the University of Saint Joseph.

Titled MagIC, the project was suggested by Ms Dias and will be developed in collaboration with researchers from the University of Lisbon's Faculty of Sciences and the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry. The research project will be entirely funded by the Macau Science and Technology Development Fund, with a total of MOP2.7 million.



According to Ms Dias, MagIC is designed as a three-year project focusing on three main goals. Firstly, researchers will update Macau's geological map, which, unlike most countries, does not currently provide detailed information and is not accessible to the general public.

The most relevant and detailed work on the geological map was performed by the Portuguese Geology Services in 1992 and is only available as a hard copy in Portugal.

Therefore, researchers

are planning to update the map and publish it in Portuguese and Chinese, as well as in English. An online version will also be available.

Ms Dias recalled that updating the map will help researchers, not only when launching study and research projects related to geology, but in other areas such as urban planning, environment, and civil engineering.

Samples available at the National Laboratory for Energy and Geology (LNEG) in Portugal will be used to study particular areas of Macau, which are today inaccessible due to construction works. Researchers will conduct other studies 'in loco' to learn more about the petrologic and geologic features of Macau. They hope to unearth the origin, and understand the development, of the magma that would later form Macau's

rocks, Ms Dias explained.

These samples will be labeled so that researchers have a clear understanding of its timeline. They will then compare it with that of neighboring regions, so that they can get a clear idea of how the tectonic-magmatic evolution of Southern China took place.

Research findings will be released and promoted within educational institutions, and communicated to the general public as well.

The research team comprises seven people, including students, and will be supported by civil construction companies, said Ms Dias.

Macau's geological map, which dates back to 1992, indicates that granitic rocks emerged in Macau between the Middle and Later Jurassic period, which seems to have coincided with granitic rocks that were formed in other Southern China regions in that period. Unlike Macau, Hong Kong and Guangzhou have provided an increasing number of publications on their geology. **MDT/Lusa**

Gov't increases household income limit for student loans

THE Macau government has increased the set limit of monthly household income for student loans applicants, according to a notice published in the Official Gazette (BO). The government has also increased the value of student loans and other financial aid programs addressing higher education students.

The average monthly income per capita for applicants' households has been increased, from MOP9,750 to 12,600 for households comprising only one person, and from MOP7,050 to MOP9,160 for those comprising five or more family members.

Monthly student loans and merit scholarships have also been increased: for those studying in Macau and Taiwan, there will be an increase of MOP200 to MOP3,500 and for 3,700 respectively; for those studying in mainland China, monthly student loans have increased from MOP2,350 to MOP2,800.

For Hong Kong and other countries and regions, monthly student loans have been increased to MOP5,600.

The Macau government says it has increased housing allowance too, which will be set at MOP2,250.

The new measures will come into force in the upcoming school year of 2015/2016, the notice said.

Another notice released by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture has set the number of scholarships for university students over the next school year. In 2015/2016, the government forecasts that it will grant a total of 5,165 scholarships: 4,500 for student loans programs, 380 merit scholarships, 250 special scholarships and 35 extra scholarships.

In addition, the government will provide 700 housing allowances and 250 travel subsidies. Students holding permanent Macau ID cards may apply for the various government scholarships. **MDT/Lusa**

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Anick Jesdanun,
Technology Writer, New York

Samsung ditches plastic design, adds mobile pay in new phone

SAMSUNG, locked in a tight race with Apple to be the world's biggest smartphone maker, has unveiled an important new phone that ditches its signature plastic design for more stylish metal and glass.

The South Korean phone manufacturer also unveiled a premium model with a display that curves around the left and right edges so that information can be glanced at on the side. The Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge will both include technology for mobile payments, though Samsung isn't unveiling a service to rival the iPhone's Apple Pay until this summer.

Samsung and Apple have gone back and forth as the world's top smartphone maker in recent years. Apple's iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, released last year, have helped the Cupertino, California, company catch up. Both of Apple's new phones are larger than previous versions and their size was heavily marketed, in part to appeal to customers who liked Samsung's large phones.

Now Samsung's S6 phones will have a metal frame — like the iPhone. The phones also have a glass back, which Apple abandoned in favor of metal in recent iPhones.

Although the resolution of the phones' rear camera remains at 16 megapixels, cameras on both sides will have wider openings to let in more light and make for sharper photos. The phones also promise better focus and color accuracy — achieved in part by using the infrared capabilities on the phones' heart-rate sensor to detect lighting conditions.

Earlier Sunday, HTC announced a new HTC One smartphone that also sports a better camera, while keeping such previously lauded elements as



The new Galaxy S6, right, and S6 Edge are displayed during a Samsung Galaxy Unpacked 2015 event on the eve of this week's Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain

a metal design and polished finish. HTC Corp. also unveiled a fitness tracker, the Grip. Unlike trackers from Jawbone and Fitbit, the Grip isn't meant for couch potatoes looking to motivate themselves by counting steps. Rather, HTC is partnering with sports clothing maker Under Armour to offer features for those with active lifestyles.

The announcements come on

the eve of this week's Mobile World Congress wireless show in Barcelona, Spain.

Samsung Electronics Co. said its new design took years to develop. As phones got thinner, the company inevitably ended up "with a device that's very cold and very industrial," said Hong Yeo, a senior designer at Samsung. The company's "Project Zero" team "was given the

freedom to design our dream device," he said.

The new models use glass on both sides, encased in a metal frame. The software will also be simplified. Many of the icons, for instance, will be replaced with text to reduce guesswork.

Previous Samsung phones had removable plastic backs, so the battery could be swapped with a spare. Samsung now joins

Apple, HTC and others in favoring a better design over that replacement capability. Samsung is promoting the new phones' ability to charge quickly — in 30 minutes they can reach 50 percent.

The screen remains 5.1 inches, but the display resolution increases to 577 pixels per inch, up from 432 in last year's Galaxy S5. By comparison, Apple's 4.7-inch iPhone 6 has 326. The fingerprint sensor is also improved. Instead of swiping down on the home button, you simply touch it, much the way you already do on iPhones. Both the S6 and the S6 Edge are slightly lighter, thinner and narrower than the S5, though they are a tad taller.

Samsung's new phones will incorporate technology from LoopPay, a startup that Samsung is buying. LoopPay's technology reproduces the signals from a credit card's magnetic swipe, so it can work with existing retail equipment. Most rivals, including Apple Pay, require newer equipment.

The Samsung phones will debut overseas on April 10, at prices to be announced. A U.S. launch date wasn't given. Samsung is also making an S6 version of its Gear VR virtual-reality headset, which currently works only with the Galaxy Note 4.

HTC's Grip fitness tracker will cost USD199 when it goes on sale in North America this spring. The new HTC One phone, dubbed M9, is expected to come out in March in some overseas markets. A U.S. debut is likely in April. Prices weren't immediately announced. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA INVITES 100 ELDERLY TO THE VENETIAN FOR CNY ACTIVITIES

Accompanied by 25 volunteers from the Sands China Care Ambassador programme, 100 local elderly spent Friday afternoon at The Venetian Macao enjoying some Chinese New Year festivities. It is the eighth consecutive year that Sands China Ltd. has invited elderly locals to enjoy Chinese New Year festivities at The Venetian.

On Friday, a group of elderly from the Macao General Union of Neighborhood Associations was invited to The Venetian Macao's lagoon area to see the Seasons of Prosperity display. They viewed the detailed miniature models depicting Chinese New Year scenes in Macau and Hong Kong from the 1960s-80s, and visited the 3-D illusion paintings where they took photographs with the interactive Chinese New Year-themed paintings. Af-



terwards, the group had afternoon tea at The Venetian's Bambu buffet restaurant.

"We would like to show our appreciation to Sands China for inviting us to this wonderful event during Chinese New Year," said Cheang Man Man, Vice Secretary General

of the Macao General Union of Neighborhood Associations. "This is the fourth year that we have been invited to participate in the afternoon tea experience at The Venetian Macao. Seeing these fun exhibitions and having afternoon tea really cheers up our elderly members."

MARKS & SPENCER INVESTMENT INTO GREATER CHINA

Marks & Spencer yesterday provided an update on the growth plans for its China business. In line with prior announcements Marks & Spencer yesterday confirmed that the company has a firm intent to enter key cities such as Beijing and Guangzhou from 2015/16.

It will continue to invest in its existing flagship store portfolio with the complete modernization of its flagship store on West Nanjing Road in Shanghai during the autumn.

In line with its International strategy to focus on its flagship stores, Marks & Spencer will invest in modernizing its stores in Hong Kong during 2015/16.

The company will expand its Food store portfolio at travel and city locations in Hong Kong during 2015/16. Since its update last year, Marks & Spencer has opened three Food standalone stores in Hong Kong during

2014/15, which have seen sales per square foot in line with its best performing UK stores.

Marks & Spencer will also grow its presence in Macau with the opening of a new 1,000 square meter store at The Venetian Mall in November 2015.

Patrick Bousquet-Chavanne, Marks & Spencer's Executive Director, Marketing & International, said: "Last year, we reaffirmed our commitment to our Greater Chinese business and set out clear strategic plans. Today we can share more details of our continued investment across our priority markets of China, Hong Kong and Macau. This includes the modernization of our flagship stores, entering new key cities, growing our Hong Kong Food store portfolio and expanding of our reach across China through new sites on TMall.com and JD.com."



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Queen of High Fashion – From small boutique to empire of luxury brands

Louise do Rosario*

THREE decades ago, a young girl scraped together her savings of 5,000 patacas to start a small boutique in Macau. Terry Sio, then a humble factory clerk, called her 100 square-foot boutique Rainbow – a name that reflected her dream to pursue a bright, colorful future.

Today, the small rainbow has become a premier international luxury brand retailer located in mainland China and Macau. Their brand portfolio comprises the retail rights of over twenty globally renowned luxury brands, including Giorgio Armani, Emporio Armani, Bally, Escada, A. Testoni, Cesare Paciotti, Rene Caovilla, Roberto Cavalli, Just Cavalli, Jimmy Choo, Jil Sander and Versace. Through their mono and multi-brand stores, the Group offers a variety of apparel, footwear, handbags and accessories.

As one of the leading luxury fashion brand retailers in China, Rainbow always strives to target local demand, seek new business opportunities, and develop new markets. Experiencing exceptional economic growth in recent years, China has witnessed a surge in demand for luxury goods. The group sees tremendous development potential in China's second and third-tier cities and has actively sought to enhance its presence in these cities.

Sio's dazzling achievements have won her numerous awards. Among them are the Medal of Industry and Commercial Merit from the Macau government in 2006 and one of the 25 Influential Chinese in Global Fashion, according to Forbes magazine in 2011.

She also sits on many industry and business associations in Macau, helping the city to upgrade its fast-growing retail sector. The little rainbow girl has come a long way but she is not resting on her laurels. Sitting in her headquarters office in downtown Macau, Sio outlines ambitious plans for the future. Rainbow's shops are already everywhere in Macau, in the glittering shopping malls inside Sands, Wynn, MGM, Galaxy, Dreams of the City and other prime retail areas.

It will further set up a 30,000-50,000-square-metre shopping mall in Hengqin, the newly developed commercial area in Zhuhai adjacent to Macau.

Sio is placing high stakes on the MSAR because she believes the city's retailing industry is at the threshold of more phe-



Terry Sio

nomenal growth. "Macau has great potential to develop into a shopping paradise, with expansion in terms of the volume and range of products consumed. The growth will be beyond our imagination. At the moment, mainland Chinese come to Macau for the casinos; shopping is secondary. With more choice of goods, though, they will buy more," she said.

Her company's recent growth figures support such an upbeat prediction, a year-on-year growth in revenue of 32 percent and 23 percent in 2008 and 2009

“Macau has great potential to develop into a shopping paradise

respectively.

Sio, born to a humble local family, started work young, on graduation from secondary school in 1979. In 1980, working as a factory clerk, she passed by a boutique in downtown Macau one day. She closely studied the store's decoration and clothes displayed. "I could have a shop better than that," she said to herself. Soon, she had saved enough to start her own business and sowed the seeds of a fashion empire.

Sio slowly built up her retail business with similar persistence and hard work. The business world was then dominated by men but Sio stayed strong in negotiating hard deals. "Women can use their softness to

counter hardness; it is how hard rocks come to be eroded by mere drops of water over time. In posturing, you could look accommodating, but inside you maintain your principles and your ideas. This is about being soft but not weak," she said.

As Rainbow grew to represent more luxury brands in Macau, Sio started to set her sights on mainland China. "Many brands wanted to expand in China. I was happy to help them develop the mainland market, on the back of my success in Macau," she said.

Sio, like many investors lured by the potential of Shanghai, first went to the city to set up shop but quickly changed her strategy. "Shanghai may be a prosperous city, but the cost of doing business was very high." Competition was also great, as many international brands wanted to develop their businesses themselves, not via representatives like Rainbow.

Sio moved to other second-tier cities, such as Dalian, Chongqing and Xian. "Developing those markets was not easy. Transport links were not well developed and it often took a whole day to fly from Macau to those cities. Customers there did not know the brands well. We had to do a lot of work on brand recognition." Sio has different work teams to study closely the cultural and consumption characteristics of individual Chinese cities.

In the month of January in 2014 alone, Rainbow opened five shops in Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan province. They are A Testoni, Escada, Armani Jeans, Emporio Armani and Giorgio Armani.

While expanding Rainbow's presence in China, Sio has vigilantly kept up her business on the home front. Macau's recent explosive economic growth has

■ Terry Sio's group has 159 shops, with 36 in Macau

presented both an opportunity and a challenge. Major luxury retailers from Hong Kong and elsewhere have rushed to share the city's bigger retail pie. Sio quickly responded with ambitious expansion of her retail network.

"Macau is evolving into a major metropolis. Our group has to keep up with the pace of change. It's all very demanding and yet exciting for us. I won't sit and wait for more competitors before launching my offensive. I have to prepare myself today, right this moment. It would be nice if I could take my time and to have my business grow slowly, but circumstances do not allow that. If you do not grasp the nettle and act fast, you'll be overtaken by others eventually. Macau is my hometown. I cannot afford to fail."

In 2014, Rainbow opened new shops in the casino-hotels MGM, Four Seasons and Sands Cotai. In 2015, there will be ten more new shops to be set up in new upmarket retail space in Macau, bringing a few new brands onboard as well.

"Each brand is like a child of my own. You cannot favor one against another. Once we secure the distribution rights of

a brand, we do our best to promote it. Each brand will have a designated team to follow the business closely. It's all a matter of responsibility and professionalism. All the brands we manage have confidence in us. We take great care to maintain the high standards Rainbow is known for."

Many international brands have approached Rainbow for its quality management but Sio said the group stresses quality rather than quantity. "In the past, we grabbed as many brands as possible because we were small and felt insecure. Now, we'll concentrate our resources on the best brands and phase out the less promising ones," she said.

Rainbow will move into establishing more multi-brand stores. It is also keen on the management of shopping centers with high-end fashion boutiques, top restaurants and high-end supermarkets.

Sio said she wants to keep her retail empire to under 200 shops, to ensure quality management. "I am not going to impose too much pressure on myself and run 300-400 shops. I do not need to find another high mountain to climb. In the past, making more and more profit was the sole priority. Today, I need to think about consolidating the group well and to maintain our competitiveness. I also have to consider the welfare of our several thousand workers."

Getting qualified staff to man the shops is a challenge. "Macau has a small population of 600,000 and yet there is great demand for manpower for all kinds of business."

Sio said training sales staff is no simple matter. "Their attitude is crucial, as they are the face of the brands we represent. We cannot give them too much pressure and yet we have to train them properly. I try to set a good example to the staff. I hope to influence them with my passion and commitment to my job."

How does Sio balance her demanding career with her role as mother and wife? "Family is important to me. It is where I can relieve the pressure of work. When the going gets tough, I remind myself that my family members are on my side. To me, work and play are inseparable. Going to a business-related party is like entertainment for me. At this stage of my life, I want to give back more to society and to spend more time with family and friends," she said.

*MDT/Macauhub

Kelvin Chan, Business
Writer, Hong Kong

HONG Kong police arrested nearly three dozen people Sunday after scuffles broke out in the latest protest against the growing influx of mainland Chinese shoppers.

Police officers drew batons and used pepper spray on the crowds after the demonstration in a border town turned unruly. The protesters clashed with crowds of residents opposed to the event who taunted them along the route.

Police said 38 people were arrested including a 13-year-old boy and 10 officers were injured.

Hundreds turned out for the third major protest in the past month to target the mainland shoppers, who have been blamed for voracious buying habits that distort the local economy.

The protesters marched in the suburban district of Yuen Long, near the border with China. The route went through a neighborhood with dozens of pharmacies selling imported baby formula to cater to mainland shoppers. Chinese shun domestic brands after repeated food safety scares including a 2008 melamine-tainted milk scandal that killed at least six babies.

Baby formula is such a hot commodity for mainland visitors that Hong Kong, which has a reputation for authentic and high-quality goods, restricts the amount people can take out of the city.

Smartphones, cosmetics, medicine and luxury goods are also popular purchases in Hong Kong, where a lack of sales tax makes them cheaper. The shoppers, usually seen in big groups with wheelie

HONG KONG

Mainland shoppers latest target

There is a lot of anger from other people on Chinese smugglers because we just don't like how they drive up all the prices

KELVIN LEE
PROTESTER, HONG KONG
INDIGENOUS

suitcases, often work for shadowy networks that organize the resale of the goods across the border for a profit, in what's known as parallel trading.

"There is a lot of anger from other people on Chinese smugglers because we just don't like how they drive up all the prices, drive up everything, create a lot of chaos, and we aren't benefiting from it," said protester Kelvin Lee, who was with Hong Kong Indigenous, one of two groups that organized the demonstration.

The Yuen Long demonstration follows two other rowdy protests at shopping malls in other parts of Hong Kong's northern suburbs last

month. Police also drew batons and unleashed pepper spray against protesters heckling Chinese shoppers at those demonstrations, arresting a total of 19 people.

The protests reflect resentment among Hong Kongers against swelling ranks of mainland Chinese visitors.

Last year, 47.3 million mainlanders visited the specially administered Chinese region, up 16 percent from the year before. Mainland visitors are estimated to be responsible for a third of retail sales in Hong Kong.

Such resentment also helped fuel massive pro-democracy protests that rocked the Asian financial center for 11 weeks last year. The student-



Protesters demonstrating against mainland

Britain's Prince William takes on diplomatic role in Beijing

Louise Watt, Beijing

PRINCE William presented China's president with an invitation from the queen for him to visit Britain this year, as the prince yesterday began the first official trip to mainland China by a senior British royal in a generation.

President Xi Jinping told the prince that he thanked Queen Elizabeth II for the invitation. "I look forward to meeting her majesty and other British leaders during the visit and to jointly plan out the future of Sino-British relations," Xi said during the meeting in the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's legislature. "The British royal family has great influence, not just in Britain but across the world."

The prince's three-day trip to Beijing, Shanghai and southwest China near the border with Myanmar is testing his diplomatic mettle as the second in line to the throne.

He won't be visiting Hong Kong, the former colony Britain handed back to China in 1997. It was the scene last year of weeklong pro-democracy protests, during which Beijing prevented a British parliamentary committee from tra-



Britain's Prince William, right, talks to a Chinese museum officer during a visit to the Forbidden City in Beijing

veling to Hong Kong to investigate political reform there, saying it did not want Britain interfering in its internal affairs.

William presented China's president with an invitation from the queen for him to visit Britain

William told Xi and the rest of the Chinese delegation, including Yang Jiechi, the government's senior foreign policy

adviser, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, that he was looking forward to strengthening relations between the countries. "I'm particularly interested

in the young people and seeing how the next generation develops and is aware of the world as it is," he added.

Earlier yesterday, Prince William told a boy he might be able to make his dream of singing opera in a palace come true as he met with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

He made the comment as he toured a traditional Beijing courtyard residence dating from the 1890s that has been restored and turned into a museum with help from charities related to his father, Prince Charles: the Prince of Wales's China Foundation and The Prince's Foundation for Building Communities.

He spent most of his time chatting with representatives of charities helping children with hearing and visual impairments, whose parents are migrant workers or in prison, and some of the young people they work with.

Zhao Chen, 14, who is visually impaired and undergone six operations to his eyes, and wants to be a tenor, told the prince: "My dream is to go to your palace to sing opera."

The prince replied: "Well, you have met the right man. We might be able to arrange something."

Before he left, William was presented with a picture drawn by a 10-year-old of crops, lush vegetation and bright pink, red and blue buildings.

"That will look nice in George's bedroom," he said, referring to his 1-year-old son.

Prince William also had a stroll in the Forbidden City,

where emperors once resided, and had a meeting with Vice President Li Yuanchao, after which culture officials from both countries signed an agreement marking the start of a year of cultural exchange between Britain and China.

The prince was to open an exhibition in Shanghai yesterday evening that showcases British innovation in entertainment, design, health care and fashion and meet with Chinese business leaders.

His final stop in China is Xishuangbanna in Yunnan where he will visit an elephant sanctuary and a nature reserve on Wednesday.

William arrived in Beijing late Sunday after a four-day stay in Japan. Interest in his visit among Chinese was limited without the presence of wife Kate, who is expecting their second child next month. Xi offered the couple his congratulations.

Relations between Britain and China got back on track after Beijing suspended high-level diplomatic contacts for 14 months after Prime Minister David Cameron met with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in May 2012.

In June last year, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Britain was marked with pomp and ceremony, involving a meeting with the queen and the announcement of 14 billion pounds (USD24 billion) worth of business deals. AP

Target of protest anger



Chinese shoppers gesture against local villagers at a suburban district of Yuen Long

led “Umbrella Movement” protesters occupied streets to demand Hong Kong abandon Beijing’s plan to restrict inaugural 2017 elections for the city’s top leader.

After police cleared protesters off the streets of the Mong Kok neighborhood in early December, some frustrated protesters started holding late night flash mob-style occupations at stores in the area frequented by mainland shoppers. They were inspired by a call from Hong Kong’s unpopular Beijing-backed leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, for people to go shopping after the police clearance.

The Hong Kong government says it’s trying to

clamp down on parallel trading. More than 1,900 mainlanders have been arrested in the past two years on suspicion of being involved while 25,000 others have been banned from entering the city for the same reason.

Lee said residents of the suburban towns were fed up with the traffic jams and piles of garbage created by mainland Chinese shoppers, who also have a reputation for bad manners and loutish behavior.

“A lot of Chinese who are coming to shop block the roads with their luggage,” he said. “They leave a lot of rubbish, for example, all the cardboard boxes (from their purchases) left in the middle of the road.”

The protesters also complain that the mainlanders’ shopping sprees drive up retail rents and force out ordinary shopkeepers. **AP**

5.5 magnitude quake injures 32 in Yunnan



Thirty-two people have been injured after a 5.5 magnitude earthquake struck southwest China’s Yunnan Province on Sunday afternoon, according to local authorities. As of noon yesterday, the tremor that struck Cangyuan County at 6:24 p.m. had affected more than 81,000 residents in the counties of Cangyuan and Gengma in Lincang City, displacing 75,764, according to a statement from the city’s civil affairs bureau. Seven of the injured were severely hurt. In addition, over 220 homes were razed and over 15,800 were seriously damaged in the two counties, it said. The Ministry of Civil Affairs and the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction initiated a grade IV emergency response yesterday afternoon and have dispatched emergency response teams to the region. A grade IV response, the lowest in the emergency response system, means a 24-hour alert, daily damage reports, and the dispatch of money and relief materials within 48 hours. Relief materials, including tents, quilts and tarpaulins have been sent to disaster-hit regions. As of 4:30 p.m. yesterday, 730 tents had been set up, and 700 tarpaulins, 2,000 quilts, five tons of rice, two tons of noodles and flour, 730 boxes of drinking water and 791 boxes of instant noodles had been delivered, according to the provincial civil affairs bureau. Cangyuan is a sparsely populated county that borders Myanmar; the houses in its rural areas were not built to sustain earthquakes. A 6.5 magnitude earthquake hit Yunnan’s Ludian County on Aug. 3, 2014, claiming more than 600 lives and destroying over 80,000 homes. **Xinhua**



Buildings stand shrouded in haze in Handan, Hebei province

Film renews focus on pollution before National Congress

A documentary investigating the fallout of China’s poor air quality drew millions of viewers last weekend, putting a renewed spotlight on pollution as the nation’s lawmakers prepare for their annual gathering in Beijing.

Called “Under the Dome,” the film released online by former China Central Television reporter Chai Jing cites weak enforcement of environmental laws and poor fuel standards among the causes of the smog. It was the most searched topic on search engine

Baidu early yesterday, and was played 21 million times on video-sharing site Youku.com.

China’s annual meeting of the National People’s Congress, which begins March 5 in Beijing, is expected to set government policies for the year on issues ranging from economic growth to military spending and pollution. Upcoming meetings are likely to propose new policies to address air pollution, “including the boost of new energy vehicles,” analysts at Credit Suisse Group AG wrote in a research note.

Air pollution has become a focus of public discourse in China in the past few years as thick smog has blanketed large swathes of the country. Chai says in the documentary she became afraid of pollution for the first time after her baby daughter was given an operation soon after birth to remove a benign tumour. She displays pollutant charts and footage of doctors removing blackened lymph nodes from the lungs of a patient who didn’t smoke but was diagnosed with early-stage lung cancer.

“This is a personal grievance between me and the smog,” Chai says in the film.

China’s new environment minister, Chen Jining, told reporters yesterday he had watched the documentary and sent Chai a text message to express his gratitude as she “raised public attention on the environment,” according to the official Xinhua News agency. Ninety percent of the 161 cities whose air quality was monitored in 2014 failed to meet official standards, according to a report published by China’s National Bureau of Statistics last week.

The dominance of PetroChina Co., the country’s biggest oil and gas producer, and China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., Asia’s biggest refiner, was cited by the documentary as a key reason why the country has been slow to produce more clean energy. Calls to the two companies weren’t answered.

Last year, Beijing pledged 760 billion yuan (USD121 billion) to reduce pollutants, and the mayor vowed to clean up the air by 2017, according to Oriental Outlook, a magazine run by Xinhua. Neighboring Hebei province has scaled back its heavily polluting steel and coal industries, according to state media reports. **Bloomberg**

Survey shows manufacturing improving



A worker walks past an assembly line at a General Motors joint venture in Wuhan in central China’s Hubei province

China’s manufacturing activity improved in February for the first time in four months but export demand weakened, a survey released yesterday showed. HSBC’s manufacturing index based on a survey of factory purchasing managers rose to 50.7 from January’s 49.7. It uses a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity increasing. On Saturday, Beijing cut interest rates for a second time in three months in a sign of official worry that China’s economic slowdown is deepening too abruptly. The HSBC survey, conducted by Markit Economics, found growth in output and total new orders accelerated but new export business declined for the first time in 10 months. Input costs fell, adding to the possibility that already low inflation could tumble into a potentially dangerous bout of deflation. Consumer inflation fell to just 0.8 percent in January. Wholesale inflation has been in negative territory for two years due to excess production capacity in many industries that has led to price-cutting competition. Companies reported “the strongest expansion of output since last summer while total new business also rose at a faster rate,” said Markit economist Annabel Fiddes in a report. Export orders fell for the first time in 10 months. “The renewed fall in new export orders suggests that foreign demand has weakened,” said Fiddes. “Meanwhile, marked reductions in both input and output prices indicated that deflationary pressures persist.” **AP**

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

TWO airplane catastrophes put Malaysia on the map in a bad way in 2014. But they didn't hurt the country's tourism, and the higher visibility may even have helped: visitor numbers had their strongest growth in years.

For the past decade, Malaysia has run an elaborate campaign to market itself abroad as an ideal Asian destination, touting a multiethnic culture, lush rainforests and pristine beaches. Despite the effort to internationalize, its tourism industry still relies heavily on tightly-packed neighboring Singapore and in a renewed push the government had designated 2014 as "Visit Malaysia Year."

So when Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 went missing with 239 people on board en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, it put the global spotlight on Malaysia and seemingly dealt a blow to its tourism strategy. A double whammy came four months later when a Malaysia Airlines jet was shot down over rebel-held eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

Tourism, however, grew at its fastest pace since 2008.

Figures for all of 2014 haven't been released yet but the January-October data shows 22.9 million visitors, a jump of nearly 10 percent from a year earlier. That far outpaced 2.5 percent growth for the same period in 2013 and a 0.7 percent rise in 2012. The full year growth rates for those two years are close to the 10-month figures.

"The bad publicity has made Malaysia more well known to the world," said Jaya Kumar Sannadurai, vice president at Dayangti Transport and Tours. The overall effect on visitor numbers is probably marginal but being the center of attention "is an advantage to us in some ways," he said.

The strong growth in tourism came despite a sharp drop in visitors from China, which had 153 nationals on Flight 370. Many in China were angered by Malaysia's perceived mishandling of the tragedy.

The Malaysian government says satellite data showed the jet crashed into the southern Indian Ocean, but no wreckage has been found despite an exhaustive multi-nation search. Authorities believe the plane was flown deliberately off course, but are still investigating the cause of the disappearance.

Kidnappings since April of foreigners including a Chinese fish breeder and a Chinese female tourist from a resort in Malaysia's Sabah state in

AP PHOTO



Tourists have their souvenir photograph taken against the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Tourism thrives despite association with tragedy

Borneo by Philippine gangs also put off tourists. All were released after ransom was paid. Sabah, a popular destination for scuba-diving and nature trails, is a short boat ride from the southern Philippines, home to Muslim militants and kidnap gangs.

For January-October, Chinese tourists to Malaysia dropped by 11 percent or some 175,000 people. It remained Malaysia's third biggest source of visitors.

The aim of the Visit Malaysia campaign, with the endangered pot-bellied proboscis monkey as its mascot, was to lure 28 million visitors and 76 billion ringgit (USD21.1 billion) in spending. Tourism is already Malaysia's second biggest earner of foreign exchange after manufactured goods.

The country might fall a little short of the 28 million visitors goal for 2014 but a high level of fully paid advance tour bookings and a quick change in marketing strategy by tourism officials helped keep the industry on a growth

path overall.

Tourism Malaysia cut promotions in China and focused efforts on India and other markets after Flight 370's disappearance, said its deputy director-general Azizan Noordin. This helped to boost growth in all markets for the first 10 months of last year, except China and Taiwan, he said.

Arrivals from India, which is the 6th biggest source of visitors for Malaysia, were up 21 percent and the number of South Koreans visiting increased by 43 percent. There was also strong growth from

The bad publicity has made Malaysia more well known to the world

JAYA KUMAR SANNA DURAI
VICE PRESIDENT, DAYANGTI
TRANSPORT AND TOURS

Western nations such as the United Kingdom, U.S., Australia and Germany.

But it was Singapore along with Indonesia and Thailand that provided the mass market numbers, together accounting for about two thirds of total visitors.

"Our Southeast Asian neighbors helped to keep the tourist numbers up. We could have done better if it wasn't for the China market," said Hamzah Rahmat, president of the Malaysian Tour and Travel Associations.

Other tour and travel agents said the industry also benefited from a weaker currency in the last quarter of the year, making Malaysia more attractive to foreigners. Malaysia's ringgit depreciated by 10 percent against the dollar in the last four months.

Cheaper air travel and more numerous flights, primarily due to the expansion of low-cost carriers in the region, also helped drive tourism.

Since its two jet tragedies, Malaysia Airlines has lowered fares to help fill seats.

Malaysia has extended its tourism campaign, designating 2015 as "Year of Festivals" with a goal to attract 29.4 million tourists and 89 billion ringgit (\$24.7 billion) in total receipts.

Azizan, the tourism officials, said Tourism Malaysia is working closely with China to mount more scheduled chartered flights flying direct to the country from China's second and third-tier cities such as Wuhan and Chengdu. He said Tourism Malaysia is confident of higher Chinese arrivals this year.

Last month, the government waived visa fees for Chinese tourists. Tour agents however, urged the government to allow two week visa-free travel for Chinese visitors to help the market recover faster.

"Regional travel is on the rise," said Joseph Francis Mariasosay Xavier from World Discovery Travel. "I don't think Flight 370 is a factor. People need and want to travel. It's more important to have the right infrastructure and pricing in place." **AP**



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NORTH KOREA

Seoul: Pyongyang test fires 2 short-range missiles

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

NORTH Korea yesterday fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea and warned of “merciless strikes” against its enemies as allies Seoul and Washington launched annual military drills. Pyongyang claims are preparation for a northward invasion.

North Korea regularly conducts such test firings of missiles, rockets and artillery, and they are often timed to express the country’s dissatisfaction with actions by Washington and Seoul. Yesterday was the start of military drills that will run until the end of April.

Early yesterday morning, two missiles launched from North Korea’s west coast flew about 500 kilometers before landing in waters off the east coast, according to South Korea’s Defense Ministry. Spokesman Kim Min-seok called the launches an “armed protest” against the South Korea-U.S. drills and a challenge to peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The annual U.S.-South Korean military drills inevitably lead to angry North Korean rhetoric,



A man watches a TV news program reporting that North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul

although the allies say they are purely defensive. The North’s rhetoric is meant to show its people that a tough leadership is confronting what its propa-

ganda portrays as outside hostility, but analysts also believe the drills infuriate because they cost Pyongyang precious resources by forcing the country

to respond with its own drills and launches.

“The only means to cope with the aggression and war by the U.S. imperialists and their

followers is neither dialogue nor peace. They should be dealt with only by merciless strikes,” an unidentified spokesman for the North Korean military’s general staff said in a statement carried by state media.

He said the U.S.-South Korean drills are aimed at conquering the North’s capital, Pyongyang, and removing its leadership.

During the 2013 drills, tension rose amid North Korean rhetoric that included vows of nuclear strikes on Washington and Seoul.

The rival Koreas earlier this year floated the possibility of holding what would be the third summit between their leaders since the countries were divided 70 years ago. But they have been at odds in recent weeks over terms, and prospects seem dim.

North Korea separately told the U.S. that it was willing to impose a temporary moratorium on its nuclear tests if Washington cancels the joint military drills with South Korea. But the U.S. rejected the overture, calling it an “implicit threat.”

North Korea last year conducted an unusually large number of missile and other weapons tests, drawing protests from South Korea. The North still proposed a set of measures that it said would lower tensions, but South Korea rebuffed them, saying the North must first take steps toward nuclear disarmament. **AP**

MYANMAR

Police prevent student protesters from marching to Yangon



Student protesters wait near the gate of the Aung Mye Beikman monastery after police surrounded it apparently to prevent them from proceeding with a protest march to Yangon from Letpadan

TRUCKLOADS of police yesterday prevented hundreds of students from continuing their march to Myanmar’s biggest city to protest a new law that they say curbs academic freedom.

Tensions have been building since the rally began in the country’s second-largest city of Mandalay just over a month ago, with public sympathy growing for the demon-

strators, who have repeatedly defied threats by authorities to turn back or face the consequences.

Around 200 students staying at a monastery in the town of Letpadan, 145 kilometers north of Yangon, Myanmar’s largest city and its former capital, had announced plans to continue their march early yesterday.

But they woke up to find more than a dozen police

vehicles, including a water cannon truck, parked outside the building.

After agreeing to delay their plans, they were joined by another large group of students, who had pushed their way through baton-wielding police, shouting “Let us go! Let us go!”

The new education law, passed by parliament in September, puts all decisions about policy and curriculum in the hands of a body made up largely of government ministers. It bans students from forming unions and ignores calls for local languages to be used in instruction in ethnic states.

Students want the law scrapped, saying it undermines the autonomy of universities, which are still struggling to recover after clampdowns on academic independence and freedom during the days of dictatorship. **AP**

BANGLADESH

Authorities arrest suspect in killing of American blogger

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

BANGLADESHI security officials arrested a suspect yesterday in the killing of an American writer who was a prominent critic of extremist Islam and was hacked to death last week as he walked with his wife in Dhaka, a government spokesman said.

The arrest of Farabi Shafiq Rahman came four days after attackers wielding meat cleavers killed Avijit Roy, an outspoken atheist and critic of the intertwining of religion and politics, on a crowded sidewalk in the capital, said Mufti Mahmud Khan, a spokesman for the anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion.

Roy, a Bangladesh-born engineer with American citizenship, was killed on a visit from Georgia in the United States to attend Dhaka’s main book fair. He and his wife, Rafida Ahmed, were attacked after leaving the fair. Ahmed was seriously injured.

Rahman, a Muslim blogger who denounced atheism, had threatened Roy in Facebook postings, Khan said, quoting him as writing: “Avijit Roy lives in America, so it’s not possible to kill him right now. But he will be killed when he comes back.”



Members of Bangladesh’s Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) force escort Farabi Shafiq Rahman, center, a suspect in the murder of an American blogger Avijit Roy, in Dhaka

Rahman had been arrested previously for threatening an imam who performed funeral prayers for another atheist Bangladeshi blogger killed in 2013. He was released on bail after six months in jail.

While Rahman acknowledged making the threats, Khan said, authorities refused to say if they believed he was one of the attackers.

“He has admitted that he threatened Avijit but we are not sharing more information with you for the sake of the investigation. We need to ask him more,” Khan said.

The Bangladesh government has accepted a U.S. offer of FBI help in the investigation of the killing, according to Foreign Minister A.H. Mahmood Ali. **AP**

Sinan Salaheddin, Baghdad

IRAQ

Operation to retake Saddam's hometown from ISIS begins

BACKED by allied Shiite and Sunni fighters, Iraqi security forces on Monday began a large-scale military operation to recapture Saddam Hussein's hometown from the Islamic State extremist group, state TV said, a major step in a campaign to reclaim a large swath of territory in northern Iraq controlled by the militants.

But hours into the operation, a key test for the embattled Iraqi army, the military said it still hadn't entered the city of Tikrit, indicating a long battle lies ahead.

Tikrit, the provincial capital for Salahuddin province, 130 kilometers north of Baghdad, fell into the hands of the Islamic State group last summer along with the country's second-largest city of Mosul and other areas in the country's Sunni heartland after the collapse of national security forces. Tikrit is one of the largest cities held by IS forces and sits on the road to Mosul.

Security forces have so far been unable to retake Tikrit, but momentum has begun to shift since soldiers, backed by airstrikes from a U.S.-led coalition, took back the nearby refinery town of Beiji in November. Any operation to take Mosul would require Iraq to seize Tikrit first

because of its strategic location for military enforcements.

U.S. military officials have said a coordinated military mission to retake Mosul will likely begin in April or May and involve up to 25,000 Iraqi troops. But they have cautioned that if the Iraqis aren't ready, the timing could be delayed.

Past attempts to retake Tikrit have failed, and Iraqi authorities say they have not set a date to launch a major operation to recapture Mosul. Heavy fighting between Islamic State and Kurdish forces is taking place only outside the city.

Al-Iraqiya television said that the forces were attacking Tikrit from different directions, backed by artillery and airstrikes by Iraqi fighter jets. It said the militants were dislodged from some areas outside the city. Several hours into the operation, it gave no details.

The military commander of Salahuddin region, Gen. Abdul-



A statue of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is seen as the streets are nearly deserted in central Tikrit

Wahab al-Saadi, told the state TV the operation was "going on as planned," with fighting taking place outside Tikrit mainly on its eastern side.

"Until this moment we have not entered the city," al-Saadi said. "God willing, we will enter, but we need some time as planned," he said, adding that there is no timeframe for the operations.

"God willing, victory will be achieved and Salahuddin will be turned into a grave for all terrorist groups," he said.

Tikrit is an important test case for Iraq's Shiite-led government, which is trying to reassert authority over the divided country. Islamic State fighters have a strong presence in the city and are expected to put up fierce resistance. **AP**

UKRAINE

Kerry, Russian FM meet in Geneva as tensions simmer

Matthew Lee, Geneva

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met yesterday with his Russian counterpart in what appeared to be less than amicable talks amid continuing tensions over Ukraine and American calls for a full probe into the murder of a prominent opposition figure in Moscow.

Neither Kerry nor Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov smiled or spoke substantively as they shook hands before photographers at a Geneva hotel yesterday, less than a week after Kerry told Congress that Russian officials have lied to his face about Moscow's role in Ukraine.

That comment drew a rebuke from the Russian foreign ministry. U.S. officials have pointed out that Kerry did not specifically accuse Lavrov of lying to him. They say he was referring to public statements and media reports, although Lavrov is the only Russian official Kerry is known to have met face-to-face in recent months. The pair last met in February on the sidelines of an international security conference in Munich shortly before a new Ukraine ceasefire agreement was agreed upon.

Both Ukraine and the Russian-backed rebels have accused each other



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, right, meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

of violating the truce and the meeting comes as the U.S. and its European allies contemplate additional sanctions on Russia for its actions in Ukraine. In his congressional testimony last week, Kerry said that fresh U.S. sanctions had already been prepared and suggested they could be implemented soon.

However, U.S. officials have said since that they will wait to see if the ceasefire and follow-on commitments to end the violence in Ukraine's east are complied with before putting the sanctions in place.

As the two men met, the Geneva-based U.N. human rights office

said that more than 6,000 people have died in eastern Ukraine since the start of the conflict almost a year ago. It said the fighting has led to a "merciless devastation of civilian lives and infrastructure."

Hundreds of civilians and military personnel have been killed in recent weeks alone after an upswing in fighting particularly near Donetsk airport and in the Debaltseve area, the body said in a report covering the period from December to February. The strategic railroad town of Debaltseve was captured from Ukrainian government forces last month by pro-Russian separatists. **AP**

USA

Los Angeles police shoot, kill homeless man in fight caught on video

Los Angeles police say three officers fired on and killed a man because of a struggle over one of the officers' guns. Police say graphic video of the incident that was shot by a bystander and widely circulated on social media a few hours after the incident Sunday will be used in their investigation. Police Cmdr. Andrew Smith says the officers shot the man as they struggled on the ground for control of one of the officers' weapons, after a stun gun proved ineffective. They were answering a report of a robbery. The video shows four officers struggling with the man amid the tents and cardboard of a sidewalk homeless camp. At one point the word "gun" can be heard, followed by the sound of about five gunshots.

UK

Former school principal: 'Jihadi John' hardworking student

The former school principal of the man who became "Jihadi John" says he was a relatively hardworking student who showed no signs of radicalization. Jo Shuter, former head teacher at Quintin Kynaston school in London, told BBC Radio yesterday that Mohammed Emwazi was a "hardworking and aspirational young man" when she knew him. She said he had "adolescent issues" and was occasionally bullied by other students. Shuter said Emwazi did well enough in school to allow him to gain admission to the university that was his first choice. He earned a degree in computer science at the University of Westminster. The former principal said neither he nor other students showed signs of embracing radical causes while at school.

what's ON



COOKIN' NANTA

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

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

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

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

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

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

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

"ONE HUNDRED PHOTOGRAPHERS FOCUS ON MACAU" EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Level 2 Showcase, MGM Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

RED SANDALWOOD ART EXHIBITION OF OLD BEIJING CITY GATES

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Tuesdays to Sundays, open on Mondays that fall on a public holiday)

UNTIL: March 22, 2015

VENUE: Level 2 MGM Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

NEXT GOOGLE MAPS ADVENTURE: SOARING THROUGH AMAZON JUNGLE

For its next technological trick, Google will show you what it's like to zip through trees in the Amazon jungle.

The images released yesterday are the latest addition to the diverse collection of photos supplementing Google's widely used digital maps. The maps' "Street View" option mostly provides panoramic views of cities and neighborhoods photographed by car-mounted cameras, but Google also has found creative ways to depict exotic locations where there are no roads.

In its latest foray into the wilderness, Google teamed up with environmental protection group Amazonas Sustainable Foundation, or FAS, to explore a remote part of an Amazon rainforest. Google Inc. lent FAS its Trekker device, a camera mounted on an apparatus originally designed to be carried like a backpack by hikers walking on trails.

FAS, though, sent the Trekker down a zip line. Google is renowned for going out on a technological limb, but even this project made the company nervous at first, said Karin Tuxen-Bettman, who oversees Google's Street View partnerships.

The setup required FAS workers to tread through the rainforest to find a place where they could string the zip line so the Trekker wouldn't bump into tree trunks and branches as it zoomed through the thick canopy. With the help of some monkeys who joined their scouting expedition, FAS workers found just enough room to erect a zip line for the Trekker's trip.

"One of the things that I love about working at Google is that if a partner comes to us with a crazy idea, we will probably try it," Tuxen-Bettman said.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Happy Endings S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

26 FEB - 04 MAR

STAND BY ME DORAEMON

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.00, 5.55 pm
(3D) 7.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 95min



FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2

ROOM 1

3.50, 9.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 90min



PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR

ROOM 2

2.00, 3.45, 7.45 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 127min



KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE

ROOM 2

5.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Matthew Vaughn
Starring: Colin Firth, Michael Caine, Samuel L. Jackson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 127min

TRIUMPH IN THE SKIES

ROOM 3

2.00, 3.45, 9.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 127min

FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2

ROOM 3

5.30, 7.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 90min

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



1974 TURKISH JET CRASHES KILLING 345

A Turkish Airlines DC10 has crashed near Paris killing all 345 people on board.

The plane was on a regular flight from Ankara to London via Paris. It came down just minutes after take-off at 1235 GMT, scything a mile-long trail through the forest of Ermenonville.

Among the victims were 200 passengers, many of them British, who had been transferred from British Airways flights cancelled because of a strike by engineers at London airport.

No-one was killed on the ground, although the forest is popular with walkers.

Only blackened stumps of trees remained where the pilot had probably attempted a crash landing. Bits of clothing and other wreckage from the plane were strewn across the whole area.

Hundreds of rescue workers, from the Red Cross, Protection Civile as well as fire and ambulance crews, were on the scene within half an hour.

But there was no-one to be rescued. All that remained to be done was to collect the bodies and take them to the church of St Pierre at Senlis.

From there, soldiers transferred the bodies onto army vehicles during the night to be driven to the medical centre in Paris, where they will be examined by forensic scientists.

Eyewitnesses in the nearby village of St Pathu said they heard an explosion and saw flames coming from the plane long before it plunged into the forest.

Some bodies were found close to the village, about six miles from the crash site, which also suggests the plane may have exploded in mid-air.

Crash investigators looking for clues to the world's worst air disaster to date will start by studying the jet's engines. They are also looking for the black box flight recorder.

The possibility of sabotage has not been discounted. Among the victims were 17 members of Bury St Edmunds rugby club, returning from a trip to Paris.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

British trade union leader James Conway, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, an Olympic silver medalist and four leading London models were among those killed in the crash. The final death toll was 346. The Paris crash was the worst in aviation history up to this date and the first involving a fully-loaded wide-bodied jet since they had entered passenger service four years before. The accident was probably caused by a cargo door coming open during the flight, leading to a sudden loss of pressure inside the cabin and causing part of the flooring to collapse which damaged the controls and made it impossible for the crew to regain control.

An almost identical accident had happened in June 1972 when a DC10 lost its rear cargo door, causing the floor to buckle and jam some of the controls. Safety recommendations made following that crash had not been implemented.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
It's time to put an end to any selfish thoughts or desires — or at least to put a hold on them. Your social energy is more valuable right now, and you can get more out of helping others than from helping yourself.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You need some culture today — so get out there and hop a gallery or a museum. You should find your personal energy blossoming when it's exposed to the creative works of other people.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
How's your love life? By the end of the day, your answer should be 'better, thanks!' Either your partner shakes out of their weirdness or you find yourself connecting on a deep level with someone new.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
A fight at home this morning could affect your whole day, but it's actually a good thing — emotional dead weight is starting to shake loose. That's never fun, but the aftermath should feel a lot better.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You and a friend or coworker should find that things are working quite smoothly between you. It's a good time for joint projects or for planning a trip together — you should agree on most everything!

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
It's time to have a serious talk with a friend or colleague. Your issues are everyone's issues for now, and that means that you can find common ground with almost everyone. Live it up!

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You're getting the right kind of attention today — whatever you need! Maybe that means a new hottie is looking your way, or maybe it means your resume is at the top of someone's pile.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
There's a lot going on underneath the surface — so make sure that you're digging deep! It's one of those days when you're never quite sure you've got the right answer, but the good news is that it's all relative anyway.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
It's time to think about justice — for you, for a friend or maybe for the less fortunate in your community. You should find that you can make things better for someone who really needs it.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
It's time to stop putting off that one big project and try to make some progress. Anything you start today should go more smoothly than you would have expected. Help is easy to come by, too!

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You run into someone who gives you a new perspective on an old problem. It's easier than usual to apply your lessons to this issue, so go for it and see if you can put it behind you once and for all.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Clear out your old baggage — you've a great chance to just dump it and move on! You should find that it's much easier to make room in your life for new people once this is behind you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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1	2		7					
4		8	6		3			
	5		4	6	9			

Easy+

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

Medium

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Hard

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6	3	4						
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				1	7		6	
1	2		9					
						9	7	
	9	2						4

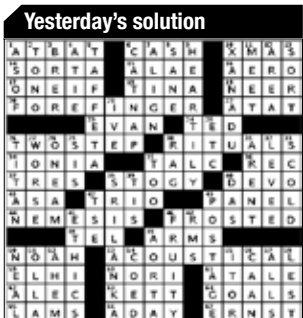
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-2	4	cloudy/clear
Harbin	-15	-3	cloudy/snow
Tianjin	1	5	cloudy/clear
Urumqi	-7	1	clear
Xi'an	2	9	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	1	10	flurry/snow
Chengdu	5	12	overcast
Chongqing	9	13	overcast
Kunming	10	25	clear
Nanjing	6	12	drizzle/cloudy
Shanghai	7	14	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	6	13	cloudy
Hangzhou	7	12	drizzle
Taipei	14	25	drizzle
Guangzhou	14	20	overcast/drizzle
Hong Kong	18	21	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-2	2	sleet/drizzle
Frankfurt	1	8	drizzle
Paris	1	10	drizzle
London	3	7	drizzle
New York	-6	1	cloudy/overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mountain lake; 5- ___-Wan Kenobi was a character in "Star Wars"; 8- Untruths, tells falsehoods; 12- Org.; 14- Elderly, matured; 15- Bear in the sky; 16- Competitor; 17- Marine mammal, secure something; 18- Don't look at me!; 19- Tavern; 21- Milk and egg drink; 23- Nine-digit ID; 24- One ___ million; 25- Health haven; 26- Exam taker; 30- Crawl; 32- Two cents, so to speak; 33- Pertaining to Caesar; 37- Biblical garden; 38- Makes; 39- On a single occasion; 40- Socially prominent person; 42- Harbor towns; 43- Surgery souvenirs; 44- Most secure; 45- Draft org.; 48- Mil. address; 49- Conducted; 50- Not us; 52- Speechless; 57- Channel marker; 58- Coloured part of the eye; 60- French textile city; 61- Feminizing suffix; 62- Lymph ___; 63- Glacial ridge; 64- Numbered rds.; 65- Golly!; 66- Caucus state;

DOWN: 11- Fruit-filled pie; 2- Home to most people; 3- Invitation request; 4- Ark builder; 5- Arch type; 6- Actress Arthur; 7- Inaction; 8- Respiratory organ; 9- Golf clubs; 10- Bar at the bar; 11- Goatlike antelope; 13- Broom room; 14- Org.; 20- Exploit; 22- Greek goddess of the earth; 24- "Goodnight!" girl; 26- Fastens a knot; 27- Opposite of ecto-; 28- Blueprint detail; 29- North African capital; 30- Wagons; 31- Evidence; 33- City on the Nile; 34- About, in memos; 35- After John in the NT; 36- Hotbed; 38- Passing; 41- Rent ___; 42- Flat-bladed oar; 44- Sun. talk; 45- Clear-headed; 46- Slow growth; 47- Directed a light; 49- Fail to win; 51- Baby blues; 52- Broad; 53- Actress Vima; 54- Nevada city; 55- Move sideways, killed; 56- Antitoxins; 59- Shad delicacy;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

Rob Harris, AP Sports Writer

MOURINHO SEEKS FURTHER TITLES WITH NEW GENERATION AT CHELSEA

A decade on from the first trophy from the Roman Abramovich-era, Chelsea collected the League Cup with just three survivors from the 2005 match day squad.

After scoring the first goal in the 2-0 victory over Tottenham, captain John Terry was followed up to the Wembley Stadium royal box by goalkeeper Petr Cech and striker Didier Drogba on Sunday. Then came Jose Mourinho to raise aloft the trophy — the same one that kick-started his trophy-laden first spell as Chelsea manager in 2005.

"It's given us a taste of where we want to be at the end of the season, lifting more trophies obviously," Mourinho said. "This is our first one collectively, and looking back in 2004-05 it definitely had that effect on the squad. Hopefully it can have the same effect again to this new and upcoming squad."

Mourinho sees this as a new era for the Blues in his second season back.

"It's the first (trophy) of a new team," Mourinho said. "You have Petr Cech, John Terry, Didier Drogba and, after that, everybody belongs to a new generation of players."

Such as 20-year-old Kurt Zouma, who was pushed forward into midfield as a defensive shield as Nemanja Matic was suspended for the final, and helped Chelsea stifle Tottenham striker Harry Kane. And Eden Hazard, fresh from signing a new contract until 2020, helped to unsettle the north London club with his dribbling and creativity.

It was Diego Costa's strike — deflected in by Tottenham defender Kyle Walker — that ensured Chelsea would take its first trophy since the 2013 Europa League back to Stamford Bridge.

Further success could come on two fronts this season. In the Champions League, Chelsea is locked at 1-1 with Paris Saint-Germain after the first leg of their round of 16 match. In the Premier League, Chelsea has a five-point lead over Manchester City — and now with a game in hand after the champions lost at Liverpool on Sunday.

After Mourinho's longest trophy drought — Sunday's success came almost three years after his 2012 Spanish title triumph with Real Madrid — the relief for the Portuguese manager was evident at Wembley.

"Two seasons without a trophy ... looked like I was 20 years without a trophy," the 52-year-old Mourinho said. "This is a good problem, to have that feeling that two years is a long time. That's a good feeling."

"For me, it's important to feel that I'm a kid. Before the game, that I had the same feelings as my first final however many years ago."

And the oldies are there to share in the success, and help to deliver further trophies before June.

"After that (2005 League Cup final) we got more experience in big moments, big games, big finals like this one," said the 36-year-old Drogba, who was a late substitute on Sunday. "It's a step forward for this team. We want to grow up ... and I'm really happy to be part of this team and help them to become better and stronger."



Austria's Anna Fenninger

SKIING

Fenninger strikes again, wins super-G in Bulgaria

Derek Gatopoulos, Bansko

OLYMPIC champion Anna Fenninger added to her World Cup title challenge yesterday by winning a super-G for her second straight victory in Bansko.

The 25-year-old Austrian clocked 1 minute, 14.59 seconds, taking over first place in the race from overall leader Tina Maze by 0.16 seconds. Lindsey Vonn of the United States finished third, 0.28 seconds behind Fenninger.

Fenninger gained another 20 points on Maze to narrow the gap to 44 after

winning Monday's super-G and Sunday's combined.

"I pushed really hard and I had good rhythm," Fenninger said. "I couldn't show my best skiing here because of the weather conditions but it's been great. I've had a perfect two days."

Despite gaining ground ahead of the World Cup finish in Meribel, France, on March 22, Fenninger noted that Maze is set to compete in two slalom races that she's likely to skip.

"So you never know what will happen," the Austrian said. "I have confidence ... and I'll try to keep going."

Skiers raced under clear skies in the Pirin Moun-

tains after fog forced two days of event cancellations and upset some competitors Sunday.

Despite the start-stop races, noisy fans filled the stands throughout the competition, joined by the country's president, Rosen Plevneliev, who handed out prizes Monday with a broad grin.

Maze said she was happy to return to form after failing to finish in the three races prior to Bansko.

"I had three zeroes on my account," the Slovene said. "It isn't easy because Anna is skiing fast. ... So I think I can be happy with my weekend."

Fenninger's win on the 1,730-meter course put her in first place ahead of Vonn in the super-G rankings, but the American said she was happy to make the podium after returning to competition from prolonged injury.

"I'm definitely very happy with my comeback season. It's difficult being away from the sport for almost two seasons," Vonn said. "I always believed I could make it back to the top. But I didn't know it would come so quickly."

The women's World Cup resumes later this week in Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany. **AP**

SNOWBOARDING

China's Zhang Yiwei wins snowboard halfpipe in US Grand Prix

CHINA'S Zhang Yiwei won the men's snowboard halfpipe in the U.S. Grand Prix yesterday (Macau time) executing a massive double cork 1,260 in a 98.00-point final run.

Kelly Clark won the women's event, her second FIS World Cup victory of the season, easily beating 18-year-old American teammate Arielle Gold.

Taylor Gold, Arielle Gold's brother, was second in the men at 94.75. Australia's Kent Callister was third.

Zhang and Taylor Gold tied for the overall Sprint U.S. Grand Prix tour title.

"It's awesome to get second here," Taylor said. "Yiwei totally deserved it. He did one of the biggest runs I've ever seen."

The 31-year-old Clark had a 94.50-point run. She also won the overall Sprint U.S. Grand Prix tour title.

Gold, from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, had an 88.75.

China's Cai Xuetong was third. **AP**



Zhang Yiwei, of China

opinion

Our Desk
 Brook Yang



SEASON OF DISCONTENTMENT

One late night when I was dragging a big suitcase towards the bus terminal opposite the Grand Lisboa, a couple of unsavory men gathering at the narrow walkway across the casino asked if I needed a loan to win my money back.

"It looks like you've gambled away everything, I can help you with some capital to win it back," the older one suggested.

After I stated that I was no gambler, the man still made a series of inquiries such as where I was going with a suitcase and if I lived in this town, as if he was not convinced.

His skeptical attitude triggered my speculations: Is this man a redundant casino employee as a result of the collective downsizing and closing up of VIP rooms? Has Macau's "middlemen" business really hit such a low point that its once behind-the-scenes henchmen are now desperately approaching the general public? Or that the issue of problem gambling is so prevalent that young people or individual tourists are now a common group?

It wouldn't be so unreasonable to make such speculations, since the past months have witnessed plunging figures, surprising events, and new market plans.

Local junket operators might look to other gaming destinations for alternatives, only to reopen the VIP rooms here when the market climate gets warmer. In the meanwhile, a portion of the local workforce on the gaming floors was forced to outflow to other sectors, due to staff layoffs and new unpaid-leave schemes.

A taxi driver I met recently said he'd newly joined the profession after being cut from a VIP room. The room was not shuttered, but its management intended to replace the locals with imported staff who would accept lower salaries.

While the industry and the government are expecting a revenue recovery pinned on the hopes of a tourist and manpower influx from the lineup of new casino resorts taking shape in Cotai, some former employees may not be interested in going back to serving on or beside a gaming table again.

What's being taken away from Macau's casinos are also high-betting clients and middle-class gamblers who are either deterred by China's anti-graft clampdown or the stricter traveling rules to enter the territory.

Numerous reports have pointed the cause of the industry downturn at the Chinese Central Government's campaign against corruption and money-laundering; some also flagged Chinese President Xi Jinping's Macau visit last December as a signal of heavier strikes to be landed on the source of revenue.

That's a major external force. For which I'd say there's no doubt; except the head of the Chinese Liaison Office in Macau, Mr Li Gang, refuted the correlation in an answer to the media earlier this year.

But what about the internal forces? Isn't the market downturn also revealing an inevitable evolution in the traditional operation model that's perhaps no longer beneficial at a certain point?

The city's old-timers might have lifted their eyebrows when hearing the news that a large prostitution ring was busted at the Hotel Lisboa in January, as the "all-of-a-sudden" action hit a long tolerated vice in the renowned casino.

Perhaps it's time to shift some of the blatant business models, and to regroup old operation and administration strategies with revamped ideas and concepts.

Some operators have indicated an unstoppable trend to shift the growth point from servicing high-stake gamblers to bringing in mass consumers. Nevertheless, their attempts at introducing non-gaming attractions have varied in creativity.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times": It's called the "adjustment period" by the government, or a "hibernating" spell by the junket operators. And how can you say we don't need an upgrade in the sowing methods, before a fertile season comes again?

THE BUZZ MICHAEL SCHUMACHER'S SON TO DRIVE IN FORMULA 4

Michael Schumacher's 15-year-old son Mick has signed a contract with Van Amersfoort Racing to drive in the Formula 4, a series for young talents.

The Dutch team's owner Frits van Amersfoort says "we have watched his skills in test driving and are looking forward to a successful season."

Mick Schumacher finished second in the German kart championship last season.

His father Michael is the most successful driver in Formula One history with seven titles.

Michael Schumacher suffered severe head injuries in a skiing accident in December 2013. He was retired at the time of the accident.

3rd bailout for Greece being mulled for up to USD56b



A Greek flag flies as a man leaves from a clothes shop in the port city of Piraeus, near Athens

Alan Clendenning, Madrid

Eurozone nations are negotiating a third bailout for financially strapped Greece that would give the country as much as 50 billion euros (USD56 billion), Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said yesterday.

The bailout would provide between 30 billion and 50 billion euros and its "central

scenario for Greece is a deal on the basis of the current bailout, and new conditions to be set with flexibility," de Guindos said at an economic conference in the northeastern city of Pamplona.

"Greece will not leave the eurozone," the minister said. "That would not be good for Greece and for the eurozone."

He made the announcement a day after Spanish

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy responded angrily to his Greek counterpart's claim that Spain and Portugal have formed "an axis of forces" trying to overthrow Greece's newly elected far left government.

Rajoy on Sunday said neither Spain nor Portugal were "responsible for the frustration" generated by Greece's new government, led by the Syriza party.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had singled out Spain and Portugal countries as "aggressive European conservative forces" whose plan was "the wear and tear of our government" and its overthrow.

Rajoy countered by saying that Syriza had "promised the Greeks something they knew that they would not be able to deliver."

Rajoy also said that Spain, despite its own financial crisis, had aided Greece by lending it "more than 26 billion euros (\$29 billion)."

Tamping down speculation that Greece might exit the eurozone, de Guindos said "there is no alternative to Greece to European solidarity."

De Guindos said Europe has "not been stingy" with Greece, adding that Spaniards "paid 26 billion euros directly or indirectly to Greece. No one can say that Spain was not supportive." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Jerome Favre/Bloomberg



The MGM Cotai casino resort, foreground, and the Wynn Palace project, developed by Wynn Resorts Ltd., background, stand under construction

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	35-55 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

NEPAL A Canadian tourist with several previous child sex convictions has been sentenced to seven years in prison in Nepal for sexually abusing a minor boy.

UKRAINE's president signed a decree yesterday opening the way to a formal request for international peacekeepers to be stationed in eastern regions where government forces are battling Russian-backed separatists. President Petro Poroshenko's office gave no specific details on the mission's composition or any timetable for it but Russia is strongly against the idea.



USA-ISRAEL Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (pictured) insisted yesterday that his plans to address Congress are not aimed at disrespecting President Barack Obama, even as he assailed the U.S. leader's bid for a nuclear deal with Iran as a threat to his country's survival.

USA With a partial shutdown of the Homeland Security Department possible at week's end, House Speaker John Boehner said the House wants to enter talks with the Senate on a final bill funding the agency. But Senate Democrats aren't interested.



NAMIBIAN President Hifikepunye Pohamba (pictured) has won the 2014 Ibrahim Prize for African leadership, the first African leader deemed worthy of the honor since 2011. While Africa's dictators and long-serving rulers garner much attention and news coverage, the USD5 million prize seeks to give public recognition and a monetary reward to leaders who rule well on the continent.