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A EPM chief officer has been taken into custody after the CCAC found evidence that he had been taking bribes from an inmate

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WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

USA America's racial history "still casts its long shadow upon us," the nation's first black president said Saturday as he stood in solidarity and remembrance with civil rights activists on the 50th anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" march that erupted in police violence in Selma. Thousands packed the riverside town for commemorations of the march of March 7, 1965, in what became the first of three aiming to reach Montgomery, Alabama, to demand an end to discrimination against black voters and all victims of segregation.

CHINA-JAPAN China's foreign minister has renewed calls for Japanese leaders to abandon any attempt to water down the nation's guilt over its World War II aggression against China and others.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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AP PHOTO

Zou loses to Amnat in IBF flyweight title challenge

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Chief prison officer arrested for taking bribes

A Macau Prison (EPM) chief officer has been taken into custody after the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) found strong evidence that he had been taking bribes from an inmate.

In a statement on Friday, Macau's anti-graft agency revealed that the officer, Wong, "has long been receiving rewards from an inmate. In return, the officer would give them special treatment and turn "a blind eye to the inmate's illegal acts within the prison."

"Compulsory measures have been adopted addressing the suspect, including suspension from duties and prohibition to leave the region," CCAC said.

The anti-corruption agency stressed that this is the first time it has uncovered a case involving such a high-ranking officer, and is therefore paying special attention to the case.



Furthermore, CCAC is not excluding the possibility that other people might be involved.

For a long period of time, the suspect received a series of rewards from an inmate via one of their visitors. Such offerings included various bottles of expensive wine, some

costing up to MOP20,000. Other rewards included luxurious food, such as top quality abalone and ginseng, as well as foreign cosmetics, travel, hospitality, luxurious catering and even accommodation.

"The suspect offered special help to the inmate, by serving

as a 'shelter' and turning a blind eye to his/her illegal activities," it added.

Having followed the case closely, CCAC launched an investigation, searching the chief officer's residence as well as the suspected inmate's cell.

Macau's anti-graft agency said it successfully arrested the suspect while he was receiving rewards from the inmate. Evidence was seized at the officer's residence and, with the cooperation of Macau Prison, CCAC also seized "prohibited items" from the inmate's cell.

Macau Prison revealed that it has launched an internal investigation into the case and will reinforce "integrity and consciousness training programs" for officers on duty. In a statement, EPM added that it is assessing whether there are any flaws in its current supervision and management systems. **CP**

CRIME

Capsized boat may have link to ISIS terrorists

THE migrant smuggling boat that capsized off the shores of Macau on Feb 27 may have served as a clue in the discovery by Guangdong Police of a radical Uighur group intending to join the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group, according to a Hong Kong newspaper.

The Min Pao daily reports that the capsized boat belonged to a migrant smuggling agency with a focus on Uighurs from Xinjiang, sneaking them into Macau for the purpose of transferring them to Southeast Asian countries and eventually joining the ISIS camp.

Following the clue, Guangdong Police reportedly seized 40 Uighurs from Xinjiang waiting in Guangzhou to be smuggled into Macau by the agency. The report said they had been stranded in Guangzhou since the boat capsized.

It also reported that the agency had snuck six Uighurs into Macau during two smuggling trips last month. More Uighur groups have contacted the agency and are now stranded in Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhongshan and Zhanjiang.

The report also linked the Uighur group to Friday's knife attack in the Guangzhou Railway Station, with the two assailants alleged to be escapees from the police siege operation, who may have carried out the attack as revenge. The illegal migrants on the capsized boat were first reported as alleged gamblers.

In a separate report, local media All About Macau cited an anonymous casino room manager, who said that some of the reasons why illegal migrants take the risk of illegally entering Macau may include debt collection or the withdrawal of capital kept in casinos.

According to the source, many gamblers have their own accounts in the casino, but can only withdraw their capital in person. Therefore, clients that are banned from entry due to previous overstaying or other crimes, or those unwilling to leave an immigration record, might choose to enter illegally.

Besides the least expensive but most dangerous way – smuggling by boat – some high rollers can choose the free "pick-up service" provided by casino room operators. **BY**

Gaming operators to cut costs amid slump

LAS Vegas Sands Corp., grappling with a gambling slowdown in Macau may be reconsidering big-ticket entertainment events.

Betting in Macau has fallen for nine months as a crackdown on corruption by the Chinese government prompts high-rollers to avoid conspicuous consumption. Last week, Sands president Rob Goldstein told investors at a JPMorgan Chase & Co. conference to expect cuts to the Las Vegas-based company's marketing and entertainment budget. He didn't provide details.

"We're not looking to take it apart, the whole structure, but reexamine where those opportunities to run it cleaner and better," Goldstein said.

Casino revenue in Macau fell 49 percent to 19.5 billion patacas (USD2.4 billion) in February, the steepest drop since the government opened the region to foreign operators in 2002.

Sands has focused its Macau operation on the mass market, which has been less affected by the slowdown, Goldstein said.

The company operates more than 9,500 hotel rooms in Macau, including a Sheraton and Holiday Inn. And its Venetian shopping mall is "performing better than ever," Goldstein said.

Sands, founded by billionaire Sheldon Adelson, isn't alone in seeking costs cuts

in Macau. Wynn Resorts Ltd. has encouraged staffers to take leave following the usually busy Chinese New Year holiday last month.

"As all operators do during seasonally low periods, we encourage team members to take vacation time, whether paid or unpaid," Michael Weaver, a spokesman for the company, said in an e-mail. "We've not made any substantive changes to our operations in Macau."

Following reports that Wynn Macau is urging some of its staff to take unpaid leave the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, encouraged casino operators to promote paid training instead of unpaid leave for their staff during quieter gaming periods.

Leong advised that gaming companies should mull offering paid training in lieu of unpaid leave for their staff. "We require gaming operators to provide more vocational training and not to force employees to go on unpaid leave. We want them to give them a salary while they are being trained and this can boost employee upward mobility as well as horizontal mobility to non-gaming areas," he said.

Wynn Macau acknowledged to TDM the content of several text messages. According to the messages, there are a small number of quotas available for applications for days off during the morning, afternoon and night shifts between March 9 and March 15. **MDT/Bloomberg**

SECRETARY PLEDGES HIGHER SUPPORT TO SMES

LIONEL LEONG has said that the authorities will step up efforts to support local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in a bid to enhance the competitiveness of the local economy. Speaking to the media, the Secretary for Economy and Finance said that he is pursuing three aims: to boost regional cooperation, to encourage new people to create new businesses, and to improve the foreign worker management system. "How do we really help the SMEs? Actually the majority

of SMEs get the benefits very indirectly from a big economic environment, maybe through purchasing from gaming firms. (...) But we could boost our community's economy so they can have direct contact with the tourists and directly benefit from tourism," he said, as cited by TDM. The secretary suggested that rental prices for major tourist sites would decrease in the future, as the government achieves its aim of diverting tourists through the walking tour scheme.

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NPC AND CPPCC MEETINGS

Lawrence Ho: Gambling will always remain Macau's major lure

MACAU ought to strengthen its legal system regarding the gaming industry and re-orient itself towards achieving the goal of diverse economic development at an appropriate pace, advised Lawrence Ho, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), at a panel discussion in Beijing.

During the discussion, the committee member stressed that the city's gaming industry has always remained inseparable from its economy, given that "it owned the biggest casinos and high-end management talents from the gaming sector in the world, in spite of the plummeting revenue it suffered since last year." According to the Macao Daily, he defended the gaming industry, claiming it will always remain Macau's major lure for tourists from around the globe, and that it could pave the way for diversified economic development. He believes that it was difficult for local industries not related to gaming to imple-



Lawrence Ho in Beijing

ment the goal of economic diversification, given its frail foundation.

Citing the television and film production-themed resort "Studio City Macau" to be opened later this year, and the existing "House of Dancing Water" project, which both cost tens of billions of dollars in total, Ho, head of Melco International Development, believes that projec-

ts of this kind would be impossible for non-gaming enterprises. The gaming sector was actually capable of funding the project and providing talent and technology, and even other support in that regard.

Lawrence Ho described the gaming industry as a special case, involving different parties' interests in a society whose stability is linked to the city's entire eco-

nomy, or even social stability. He urged all gaming operators to take full responsibility for securing a "healthy and orderly development" for the gaming sector, by actively responding to the regulative measures as laid out by the SAR government.

Furthermore, he claimed that issues arising from the development of the gaming industry basically stemmed from an incom-

plete legal mechanism regulating the gaming sector, in which there were loopholes regarding its management. Therefore, it is significant that a sound legal system in the gaming industry has yet to be established in the city.

In the panel discussion, the National Committee member also expressed hopes that Beijing will be "more concerned" with the industry's development, where there lies a great deal of intricate issues that have baffled the SAR government and the six gaming operators over the course of the adjustment period.

In response to the government's intention to implement a full smoking ban, Francis Lui, vice chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group and a member of the CPPCC National Committee, proposed that the idea of smoking rooms at the airport could be applicable to casinos as well, with no staff required to work in that area. According to Lui, the introduction of a three-month smoke-free environment has already caused some casinos abroad a two-digit drop in revenue. **Staff reporter**

Patriotic education under the spotlight in Beijing

DIRECTOR of the Liaison Office, Li Gang, renewed his call for patriotic education to be implemented in schools, at the NPC and CPPCC meetings in Beijing. A research by the General Association of Chinese Students indicates that only around half the city's younger generation identify themselves as Chinese.

This shrinking identification with a Chinese identity among local youngsters, as Li Gang claimed, intensified right after the "Occupy Central" Movement in the neighboring SAR last year. The director hopes that the government can soon implement patriotic education in schools, although most argue that it is a form of brainwashing by the central government. "Besides planning for your own development, you should also contribute to society. This concerns the long-term development strategy of Macau," Li added.

However, Ho Iat Seng, a member of the Standing



Zhang Dejiang

Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), dismissed the brainwashing claims, saying it is mandatory to have patriotic education for citizens. "I believe it's not justified to ask whether patriotic education for youngsters is brainwashing, since it's a must that citizens have patriotic education," he said.

Agreeing with the national education implementation, he also noted that many Hong Kong youngsters are damaging the relationship between

Hong Kong and China, which he hoped the HK government could address.

Aside from patriotic education, Li Gang urged the SAR government to provide more support for local youth groups and organize more exchange trips to mainland China for them.

On Friday morning the Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC), Zhang Dejiang, met with Macau's NPC delegation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday morning, after which Lao Ngai Leong, Deputy Head of the Macau NPC delegation, said the central government would like to see patriotism be further developed, together with a better education system in the city.

Among the attendees were Li Fei, Deputy General Secretary of the NPC Standing Committee, and Wang Guanyu, Head of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office.

After the meeting, Lao Ngai

Leong told the media that the Chinese Government would further support Macau in carrying out policies, in accordance with the Basic Law.

He also mentioned that China wishes to see patriotism and unification grow in the near future. Beijing wants improvement on the current education system for the younger generation. "Macau should face new challenges proactively, and not let their guard down while facing complex environments. Patriotic groups should learn to adapt to new circumstances and to improve the way they carry out activities and they [the central government] hope we can improve the teaching quality [for] young people," Mr Lao said.

Lei Pui Lam, NPC Macau Delegate, asserted that most local youth have always been patriotic, yet such patriotic education could still serve as a means to assess if there is any improvement needed for the present education system. Another delegate, Ho Sut Heng, said that education on Chinese history and the conditions of the SAR have to be reinforced, given the local youth's poor understanding of these two areas. **Staff reporter**

TOURISM

CE gets positive feedback on visa scheme optimization

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On said that he received positive feedback from Beijing for the local government's plan to optimize the current individual visa scheme, TDM reported.

Mr Chui did not provide further details on future arrangements to optimize this policy. After meeting with the director of the National Tourism Administration, Li Jinzao, Macau's leader said they had discussed the optimization of the individual visa scheme policy. He hinted that China's National Tourism Administration has indicated a favorable response thus far.

However, Mr Chui chose not to disclose further details, saying, "I think we have not reached this step yet, on the adjustment of the Individual Visa Scheme. I don't want to make assumptions now. However, in general, the National Tourism Administration supports Macau a lot."

In the meeting, Mr Chui took the opportunity to clarify that Macau would remain a tourism-oriented city, welcoming visitors "who feel at home" here, according to a statement from the Government's Information Bureau.

CATS PREMIERE

'Everybody takes their own interpretation

Catarina Pinto

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's hit show *Cats* has been performed over 7,000 times across the world. However, such a time-loved musical never fails to bring something new to every night, the cast – now performing at The Venetian Theatre – said in a media call ahead of the show's Friday premiere.

With a season running until March 15, director and choreographer Jo-Anne Robinson believes that "people will not necessarily see the same thing" night after night. "The storyline, music and choreography is all the same; what happens is that you get spontaneous performances from the different characters," she told reporters.

Actor Earl Gregory, who plays Rum Tum Tugger, shared a similar opinion, stressing that although the show's storyline and choreography remain intact, performers have a broad opportunity to improvise.



"From evening to evening the show is never the same, because our interactions with our fellow performers evolve and change from night to night," he reiterated.

The South African actor, who's been performing in *Cats* for over a year, stressed that "it is not like a normal show, where you have spoken dialogue and every night you [deliver the same lines]." It's a show that

retains the same choreography and songs, but in terms of interactions it varies, which "keeps the show fresh."

According to Gregory, one of the reasons *Cats* remains so successful lies precisely in its ability to capture the audience's attention: "People kind of need to watch the show more than once, because the first time it's so overwhelming, so much to look at... many performers, in-

credible makeup and sets. You need to come more than once to get a sense of what the story is," he stressed.

The show's plot and characters are drawn from T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" (1939), offering audiences the tale of a tribe called the Jellicle Cats. The show is all about the crucial night when they decide who should ascend to the Heaviside Layer to start another life. The musical, which first opened in 1981, ran for 21 years in London and 18 on Broadway.

Ms Robinson recalled how the numbers have been updated since then, although the foundations set by the original creators remain. "That's the blueprint we come from, but Andrew [Lloyd Webber] changed the show musically," she said. For instance, the show has been updated so that now Rum Tum Tugger performs a rap song. *Cats* returned to the West End in 2014, after an absence of 12 years, when Andrew Lloyd Webber decided to update the show.

The Macau cast assured that, regardless of any updates, the music still entails its original concept and storyline, with T.S. Eliot's use of metaphor to portray each cat as a certain human in society.

Ms Robinson acknowledged that T.S. Eliot's anthology does reflect parts of society. She recalled that some in the audience will "see a deeper meaning" in the storyline and in each character. At the same time, some will just prefer "to sit and enjoy the show."

"Everybody takes their own interpretation away from the show, as well as having a wonderful time and be entertained, with the music, the lighting, the set, the costumes and all the choreography."

For Martin Croft, who plays Old Deuteronomy, who chooses which cat will go to the Heaviside Layer, every audience across the world relates to the musical in a very similar way. "There's the young kids who come to see the show and have their favorite cat, the older ones who

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from the show'

get more involved, and a lot of dancers in the audience as this show started a lot of careers."

For actress Marise Mishan, becoming a Cats character was the fulfilment of a childhood dream. "I saw this show when I was about thirteen and I decided at that moment: that is what I want to do when I grow up. So it's literally getting to [live] the ultimate dream every

night," she acknowledged.

When it comes to the fulfilment of the cast's and audience's dreams, there are challenges as well, Ms Robinson recalled. When asked how difficult it is to find humans who can portray cats, the choreographer acknowledged that "the challenging thing is to break them out of a choreographed mode as, after doing a show eight times a week, you can't help but have a routine you get into."

On the other hand, it's not always easy to balance it onstage, so that performers' freedom to interpret the story does not go too far. "You have to be careful, when you give them the freedom to interpret as they see fit, that it doesn't take the storyline off direction. So [when that happens] you just have to bring them back," she added.

Nevertheless, Ms Robinson stressed the cast are, "a great bunch of people, really lovely to work with."

She has been involved with Cats since its inception, helping the original choreographer, Gillian



People kind of need to watch the show more than once, because the first time it's so overwhelming, so much to look at

EARL GREGORY

Lynne, to create the feline movements for British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's songs.

Maintaining that felinity is exactly what Earl Gregory thinks is both challenging and gratifying about Cats. "It's very rewarding, and one of the hardest choices in musical theatre because you use your body in a different way. You're a human portraying a cat, so you're not just staying there as yourself.

Maintaining your felinity all the time, you really are in strained positions, so your support plays a big role for your voice. I think achieving that is something we strive for on a daily basis."

Composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Cats" premiered in London on May 11, 1981, at the New London Theatre. The following year, the show premiered at Broadway's Winter Garden Theatre. The musical would

remain on Broadway until September 2000, having been performed 7,485 times. This gave Cats the title of longest-running musical in Broadway's history for almost ten years, until the show was overtaken in 2006, by Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera."

Cats will run Tuesday to Friday, at 8 p.m., and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, until March 15 (no show on March 9).

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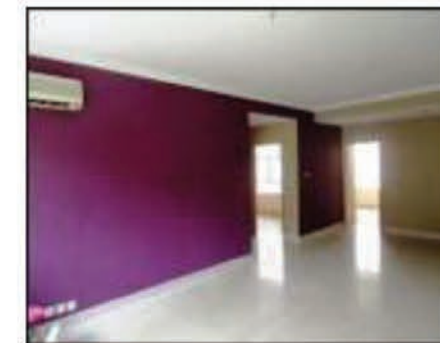
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CRIME

Gambler's son pleads in World Cup betting case

Edvard Pettersson

THE son of a high-rolling Malaysian poker player accused of running an illegal World Cup betting operation out of his luxury villa at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas agreed to a plea deal.

Darren Phua, 23, admitted on Friday to transmitting wagering information and will pay a USD100,000 fine and forfeit \$125,000, his lawyer said in a statement. He avoids prison under the deal and will return to Malaysia. Darren's father, Wei Seng "Paul" Phua, is the only remaining defendant in the case and is scheduled to go on trial next month.

Paul and Darren Phua were arrested last year after personnel at Caesars Palace became suspicious of the large number of computers a group of guests from Asia had set up at villas, which the hotel reserves for high-rollers who gamble more than \$1 million a day. Five of the others arrested, from Hong Kong, China and Malaysia, already pleaded guilty and were allowed to leave the U.S.

"As a result of the legal successes in this case,



Phua arrived in Las Vegas from Macau in June on his USD48m private jet

Darren was presented with an opportunity to accept a lesser charge," his lawyer, Richard Schonfeld, said in a statement. "While we are all confident in the strength of our case and believe we would have ultimately prevailed,

this is the best outcome for Darren."

A federal magistrate judge in Las Vegas on Jan. 30 agreed with the elder Phua that the Federal Bureau of Investigation used false and misleading information to obtain a search warrant for the villa and recommended that the U.S. be barred from using contraband found during the July raid at Caesars Palace. That recommendation is now before a district judge.

U.S. prosecutors said in a court filing Thursday that, through analysis of computers and mobile phones found at the villas, they determined that bets were being processed through the equipment in Las Vegas and that the actual funds were being transferred to accounts overseas, specifically in Southeast Asia.

If Phua, who arrived in Las Vegas from Macau in June on his \$48 million private jet and who with an associate had a \$60 million credit line at Caesars Palace, can convince the district judge that the government's tactics violated his constitutional right to privacy, much of the evidence used to charge him may be thrown out. **Bloomberg**

Man dies at MGM Cotai construction site

A man has died in an occupational accident at MGM Cotai's construction site. Authorities say that it appears a concrete pump hit the man's head while he was pouring cement. The worker sustained serious injuries and was rushed to the public hospital. According to MGM, he "passed away while receiving treatment."

The Labor Affairs Bureau revealed that it has instructed the contractor to stop using all crane machines until an investigation is completed and its results revealed. The bureau added that it would consider taking legal action depending on the investigation result.

Yesterday, MGM issued a statement reporting that it had begun an investigation into the incident, and is cooperating with the government's independent investigation. "Site safety is of paramount importance to the companies and we will continuously strive to enhance occupational health and safety procedures to provide a safe work environment for all of our workers," MGM states.

"MGM China Holdings Limited and [the] construction contractor extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to the worker and to his family. The companies are providing support to the family during this difficult period," the gaming operator adds.

AD

ANNOUNCEMENT

Macau Grand Prix Committee

Invitation for the Sponsorship of the Safety, Medical, Rescue and Official Cars for the 62nd and the 63rd Macau Grand Prix

The Macau Grand Prix Committee is pleased to invite all interested entities in sponsoring for the Safety, Medical, Rescue and Official Cars for the 62nd and the 63rd Macau Grand Prix, to submit an invitation sponsorship proposal.

Sponsorship Procedure:

The hereby sponsorship procedure, including the program of the invitation for the sponsorship and all the related documents, are available at the Macau Grand Prix Committee located at No. 207, Av. da Amizade, Edif. do Grande Prémio, Macau, where the hereby sponsorship procedure will take place. The sponsorship procedure can be examined during office hours of the working days and copies of the same can be collected from the date of the publication of this announcement until the 27th of March, 2015.

Deadline and location for submission of the sponsorship proposal:

The sponsorship proposal should be submitted to the Macau Grand Prix Committee, which is located at No. 207, Av. Da Amizade, Edif. do Grande Prémio, Macau from the publication date of this announcement until 17:30 hours of the 27th of March, 2015.

Explanation Meeting:

Bidders can attend the explanation meeting, which will be held at 10:00 on the 12th of March, 2015, the Macau Grand Prix Committee, located at No. 207, Av. da Amizade, Edif. do Grande Prémio, Macau.

Opening for the sponsorship proposal:

The opening of the sponsorship proposals will be held at 10:00 on the 30th of March, 2015, the Macau Grand Prix Committee, which is located at No. 207, Av. da Amizade, Edif. do Grande Prémio, Macau. The bidders shall attend the opening of the sponsorship proposals in order submit any complaints and/or explain any doubts regarding their respective proposals.

Enquiries:

For any enquiries, regarding the hereby sponsorship invitation, please contact the Macau Grand Prix Committee through the following telephone numbers: 8796 2210 or 8796 2242.

Macau Grand Prix Committee, 6th of March, 2015.

Coordinator

João Manuel Costa Antunes

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Honda Macau



China's February exports rise 48.9%

CHINA'S exports surged in February, exceeding all estimates as the economy benefited from U.S. growth and worked through data distortions linked to the Chinese New Year holiday and a crack-down on fake invoicing.

Exports gained more than 48 percent from a year earlier, the customs administration said in Beijing yesterday. That compared with the median estimate for a 14 percent jump in a Bloomberg survey of analysts. Imports slid more than 20 percent, leaving a trade surplus of USD60.6 billion.

A recovering U.S. has helped underpin China's economy as it seeks to cut down excess capacity and transition to a reliance on domestic demand rather than infrastructure investment. Yesterday's skewed numbers also reflect other factors, including the timing of the lunar new year holiday, plunging commodity prices and an effort to clamp down on capital outflows via faked trade receipts.

"The U.S. is the single most important propeller, and Chinese exports basically follow the U.S. economy," said Larry Hu, head of China Economics at Macquarie Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. Hu estimates that a 3 percent expansion in the American economy will add an additional 0.5 to 1 percentage point to China's growth by boosting the exports by 8 to 9 percent.

Exports to the U.S. in the first two months jumped 21 percent in yuan terms. Shipments to ASEAN also increa-



A truck driver walks past a shipping container being moved at the Yangshan Deep Water Port, part of the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone's Yangshan free trade port area, in Shanghai

sed in January and February, rising 38 percent.

On March 5, Premier Li Keqiang announced a 2015 growth target of 7 percent, the lowest set in more than 15 years. In his work report delivered to China's legislature, Li also flagged increasing headwinds for the world's second-largest economy such as overcapacity and insufficient innovation.

"Chinese exports are humming along, which is a relief as the domestic investment momentum is struggling," said Yao Wei, a Paris-based China economist at Societe Generale SA.

The government set the expansion goal for total trade at

6 percent in its work report, down from last year's 7.5 percent. Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng said Saturday that he is "confident" to accomplish the target.

The drop in imports was sharper than the median estimate of a 10 percent decline, signaling continued weakness in internal demand as well as the fall in commodity prices. Stronger exports may also help China to get rid of an investment-driven growth model.

"The Chinese government will try its best to achieve the growth goal of about 7 percent," Hu said. "If exports are good, they can do less in other aspects such as infrastructure investment." **Bloomberg**

Shandong governor asks people not to buy milk powder in Hong Kong

THE governor of China's Shandong province called on those from the province not to go to Hong Kong for milk powder, so popular with Chinese tourists concerned about food safety that it's sparked anger among the city's residents who say local supplies are being sapped.

Guo Shuqing, who led China's securities regulator before becoming governor in 2012, told a meeting of Shandong delegates to the nation's legislature that he didn't want to see too many tourists from the coastal province visiting Hong Kong. Shandong was China's second-most populous province in 2013 with 97.3 million people, according to the latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

"Shandong has a big population and we don't want to see too many individual tourists creating pressure for

Hong Kong," Guo said Saturday. "Especially we don't want to see Shandong people running to Hong Kong to buy milk powder. We promise Shandong people won't go there scrambling for milk powder."

Hong Kong residents, who say purchases by Chinese visitors are artificially driving up the cost of necessities, have staged several protests this year, including one on March 1 during which police used pepper spray to control the crowd. Leung Chun-ying, the city's chief executive, said in Beijing Friday that he had discussed measures with Chinese leaders for dealing with the issue.

Concerns about the safety of milk powder sold in China has been greater than for most other products since 2008, when contaminated baby formula killed at least six infants and sickened thousands of others. **Bloomberg**



Shoppers browse cans of baby formula displayed in a pharmacy in the Mong Kok area of Hong Kong

corporate bits

COD THE TASTING ROOM WITH GUEST CHEF PHILIPPE ARRAMBIDE



Located in the City of Dreams Crown Towers Macau, Michelin star restaurant The Tasting Room will be specially inviting a guest chef from the Michelin-starred restaurant Les Pyrenees in southern France on March 20-21 (Friday-Saturday). Chef Philippe Arrambide, together with The Tasting Room Executive Chef Guillaume Galliot, will together present a series of French delicacies to the public.

The two-day, six-course dinner, in full Michelin star French authentic style, will

include mussels and smoked salmon with green lentils with asparagus foam, crayfish with caviar cream with green apple and parsley, slow-cooked French lobster with saffron risotto and squid ink, French roast pigeon with bacon and green onions with beans and a special dessert.

Correction: Last Friday we mistakenly printed the name of the restaurant.

The corrected version of the story is published here above. Our apologies to the readers and parties involved.

SANDS RESORTS COTAI STRIP MACAO HOSTS SALES EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2014



Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao held the Sales Excellence Awards 2014 dinner event Thursday, March 5 at the Conrad Macao, Cotai Central. The ceremony presented a total of 14 sales and marketing awards to trade partners.

The annual Sales Excellence Awards aims to recognize distinguished contributions from trade partners from the leisure, MICE and online industries

who have worked closely with The Venetian Macao; Conrad Macao, Cotai Central; and Holiday Inn Macao Cotai Central. Around 200 guests, including trade and MICE partners, were in attendance.

Winners eLong.com, China Travel Service Gongbei Port Guangdong Co., Ltd and GZL International Travel Service Ltd each took home one of three Trade Partner of the Year awards

— in the online, MICE and leisure categories, respectively.

During the award ceremony, DreamWorks characters appeared and engaged guests through activities of the DreamWorks Experience, in part to recognize the role played by trade partners in the success of the interactive and family-friendly DreamWorks Experience since its launch at Sands Cotai Central in July 2013.

"We are delighted to have our valuable trade partners across Asia here today to join us for this celebration of our joint accomplishments in 2014," said Brendon Elliott, Vice President of Sales & Resort Marketing, Sands China Ltd. "It is important that we continue to recognize and strengthen our long-term partnerships with our trade partners who are key to our success."

Pollution film vanishes as Xi pledges to fight smog

A popular Chinese documentary film on the air pollution choking major cities was scrubbed from websites even as President Xi Jinping pledged to unleash an iron hand to protect the environment.

“Under the Dome” which was viewed by more than 100 million people in the week since its release, was removed Friday from major Chinese websites including Youku.com. Its disappearance coincides with the annual meeting of the legislature - the National People’s Congress - where Xi made his pledge.

“We are going to punish, with an iron hand, any violators who destroy ecology or environment, with no exceptions,” the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing Xi’s comments Friday at a meeting of NPC deputies from Jiangxi Province.

The film was produced and financed by former China Central Television reporter Chai Jing after she became concer-



A woman wears a face mask against the air pollution as she rides a bicycle near Tiananmen Square in Beijing

ned about the health impacts of pollution when her infant daughter needed surgery to remove a benign tumor. Some government officials openly praised the film after its release, with environment minister Chen Jining comparing it to “Silent Spring,” Rachel Carson’s 1962 take on the environmental damage wrought by the U.S. chemical industry that spurred

a nationwide ban on the use of DDT in agriculture.

The full-length video couldn’t be found on streaming sites where it once appeared such as Youku.com, sohu.com and qq.com. The Wall Street Journal earlier reported that the film had been pulled from websites on orders of the government, citing people familiar with the matter.

Two calls to the spokesman’s office of the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television weren’t answered. Calls to Youku.com’s corporate number went unanswered while a person who wouldn’t give her name on Youku’s customer hotline said that the video wasn’t available on its service.

At a press conference Saturday held as part of the NPC sessions and scheduled before the video’s disappearance, Chen was not asked about the documentary by reporters called on to raise questions. The minister echoed Xi’s pledge, saying China will use “tough measures” to fight smog and also said that the government would provide more transparency for its efforts to protect the environment.

Earlier this week, the minister said he had sent Chai a text message to express his gratitude as she “raised public attention on the environment,” according to the official Xinhua

News Agency.

Chen also said Saturday that rules to fight pollution won’t be loosened to counter slowing economic growth. China aims to cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 3 percent, nitrogen oxide by 5 percent and ammonia nitrogen by 2 percent in 2015 from a year earlier, according to a statement distributed before the press conference.

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, with many residents of cities such as Beijing and Shanghai regularly wearing masks to try to protect against the toxins. Ninety percent of the 161 cities whose air quality was monitored in 2014 failed to meet official standards, according to a report by China’s National Bureau of Statistics last week.

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

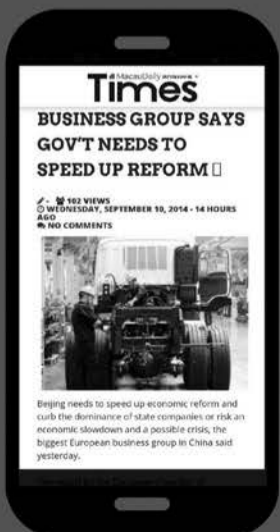
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Hong Kong delegates push plan at NPC for kids to love the motherland

THE Chinese government should build teams of teachers to promote patriotic education in Hong Kong as the best way to counter the “arduous situation” created by the pro-democracy movement and student-led protests last year, delegates to the government’s advisory body said.

The Chinese government should establish education “bases” to better deliver a “national and moral education,” according to a transcript of comments from a meeting of Hong Kong and Macau delegates to the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference in Beijing. Delegates said the government should develop materials to teach about China’s history, including its sovereignty over the city, according to minutes seen by Bloomberg.

“This will just motivate more teens and youths to come to join” protests, said Joshua Wong, founder of student activist group Scholarism. Hong Kong youths born after the 1990s are reluctant to engage with China because they don’t think Beijing will resolve the city’s problems, he said.

National education remains a sensitive issue in Hong Kong and the city’s 2012 effort to introduce a Beijing-backed curri-



culum triggered protests by tens of thousands that led to the plan being scuttled. Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying has said that the students who led last year’s protests against Beijing’s plan to vet candidates for Hong Kong’s leadership election were misguided because they hadn’t been properly educated.

“People do not understand why Beijing should be involved; people do not understand the unique design of this local democracy,” Leung said in an interview in October.

Headmasters in universities and schools and education officials should be cultivated to

“love the country and Hong Kong” and formed into teams to lead the effort, said Lo Mantuen, chairman of Wing Li Group Ltd and a member of the CPPCC, which advises the government and the legislature known as the National People’s Congress. The sense of a national Chinese identity “has sunk to a new low” in the city, said Lo.

The new suggestions on education were made at a March 4 meeting open only to state-controlled media between CPPCC delegates from Hong Kong and Macau with Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the NPC, which is gathering in Beijing through

next week. Hong Kong has been a special administrative region of China since the British returned its former colony in 1997 and sends delegates to the NPC and the CPPCC.

Connie Wong Wai-Ching, president of the Kowloon Federation of Associations and another member to the CPPCC, suggested the government should reintroduce mandatory Chinese history classes in secondary schools and produce television series to help get the notion of Chinese sovereignty over the city “implanted into the brain” of the public.

The effort should also target

the city’s international schools, which cater to foreigners and Hong Kong families interested in bilingual education for their children, she said. The city’s 50 international schools tend to operate under the curricula of their home countries ranging from the United Kingdom to South Korea.

Tam Yiu-chung, a member of Hong Kong’s Legislative Council and delegate to the CPPCC, suggested hiring mainland legal experts to teach about the city’s de-facto constitution, the China-drafted Basic Law, in Hong Kong universities.

Exchanges between law schools in Hong Kong and China should be more frequent, and symposiums aimed at promoting the Basic Law should be held on a regular basis, he said.

Peter Lam, chairman of Lai Sun Development Co., pledged at the meeting that Hong Kong’s business elite shall play “a bigger role” in the city’s political and legislative affairs.

“The industrial and business circle has withstood the test” during the Occupy Central “illegal movement,” Lam said.

Hong Kong’s tycoons have opposed the pro-democracy movement known as Occupy Central, saying it harmed social order and threatens to reduce the city’s competitive edge. **Bloomberg**

Lawmakers hide cigarettes and alcohol as Xi clamps down

A big box painted bright red will be the first thing many delegates notice as they check into their hotels for the annual session of China’s national legislature that continues this week.

The piece of furniture is there for people to drop reports on any lawmakers and policy advisers deemed to violate President Xi Jinping’s guide for official conduct. The only people with keys are inspectors deployed for the sessions of the National People’s Congress and its advisory body to catch out misbehavior such as boozing banquets or lighting up in hotel conference rooms.

Those opinion boxes,

installed for the first time this year, reflect the new degree of scrutiny Chinese delegates face as Xi presses ahead with campaigns against corruption and extravagance that already snared a former member of the Politburo Standing Committee, retired high-ranking generals and hundreds of lower-level officials. Yesterday, in his speech at the opening meeting of the NPC, Premier Li Keqiang promised to “eradicate the breeding grounds of corruption.”

The strictness and push for austerity have been kicked up to a new level, according to delegates. Wang Ming, a professor at Tsinghua University

and a member of the NPC advisory body that’s meeting in Beijing at the same time, said he and his fellow delegates stopped going out for dinner altogether this year.

“We just take a stroll nearby the hotel after having an in-house supper,” Wang said in an interview.

Smoking, commonplace in the previous sessions, is done in secret, if at all, according to Wu Jiang, director of China National Peking Opera Company and another member of the advisory body, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

“The biggest change I observe is no delegates smoke in public now,”



China’s Premier Li Keqiang promised to “eradicate the breeding grounds of corruption.”

said Wu. “I haven’t seen anybody falling asleep during the meeting at this year’s session, either.”

Xi outlined his eight-point austerity code for official conduct after he took power in November 2012 that banned expensive meals and red-carpet receptions, curtailed official travel and even barred vacuous speeches. At the last two legislative meetings, luxury banquets

and ostentatious floral arrangements were banned and some delegates were asked to car-pool and share hotel rooms.

This year, delegates are to rely on buses to ferry them to important meetings, according to NPC spokeswoman Fu Ying. The official China News Service quoted Cui Yanguan, a former state television anchorman and a CPPCC delegate as saying

even tea bags had been removed from bedside tables.

“This shows we delegates can still participate in political discussion even now we need to spend our own money to buy fruits and bottled water,” Cui said, according to China News Service.

Those delegates who fail to attend discussions without a good reason will also be subject to disciplinary measures, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. Previously, some delegates were caught skipping sessions to handle personal affairs or business matters.

Premier Li Keqiang pledged in his annual work report Thursday to take action against bureaucratic inertia. Those officials “who are lazy and lacking in action” should be exposed and held accountable, he said.

“The ultimate truth is the simplest, those with power must not be capricious” said Li. **Bloomberg**

FLIGHT MH370

Kin mark anniversary with vow to never give up

Eileen Ng and Jack Chang, Kuala Lumpur

FAMILIES of the 239 people on board Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 yesterday marked the anniversary of the plane's disappearance, vowing to never give up on the desperate search for wreckage and answers to the world's biggest aviation mystery.

Several dozen relatives gathered at the main Buddhist temple in central Beijing, some of them wearing T-shirts reading "Never Give Up. Search On." A swarm of security closely watched the relatives and stopped them from entering the sprawling grounds. Since the plane's disappearance, Chinese security have tightened their watch over the relatives, especially after some began criticizing the Chinese government's response to the incident.

"We want to show our determination," said Jiang Hui, whose mother was aboard the flight. "We are here to pray for our loved ones and we hope they can come back and the truth will come out as soon as possible."

She said that without concrete evidence she and other relatives will never accept the conclusion of the Malaysian authorities that the passengers are dead.

In Kuala Lumpur, Voice 370, a support group for the kin of



Family members and relatives of passengers on board the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 stand for a moment of silence during a remembrance event in a mall outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

those on board, will host a "Day of Remembrance" at a mall. Later yesterday, the Malaysian government will release an interim investigation report, a requirement under international civil aviation regulations.

Although no wreckage has been found, officials in Australia, Malaysia and China, the three countries leading the search effort, say they are still

optimistic the plane will be found in the southern Indian Ocean where they suspect it crashed after deviating from a flight to Beijing.

Grace Subathirai Nathan, whose mother Anne Daisy was on the plane, said yesterday's events were important "to highlight to the public that we still don't have any answers and that we must pursue the

search."

"The lack of answers and definitive proof — such as aircraft wreckage — has made this more difficult to bear," Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said in a statement. "Together with our international partners, we have followed the little evidence that exists. Malaysia remains committed to the search, and hopeful that MH370 will be

found."

Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China, where most of the passengers came from, said his government will provide "all needed service to every next of kin" and help uphold their "legitimate and lawful rights and interests."

"A year has passed, the plane has not been located, but the search effort will continue," he told a news conference in Beijing. "Today must be a difficult day for the next of kin ... Our hearts are with you."

In late January, Malaysia's government formally declared Flight 370's disappearance an accident and said all 239 people on board were presumed dead. The statement was meant to pave the way for compensation claims, but it angered many relatives who deemed it to be premature without any physical evidence of the crash.

Many relatives also believe there is a conspiracy behind the disappearance and that their loved ones are alive, which the airline is hiding.

"Since last March 8, nothing has changed, nothing has been found. Every day they just lie and trick the families. I feel only hatred now. Not even suffering, just hatred," said a woman at the Beijing temple, who would identify herself only by her family name Li. Her daughter was on the flight.

"I want to tell the next of kin that I am also looking for the answers," Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai told reporters Saturday. "Our priority now is on the search," he said, adding that if nothing is found by the end of May, "then we will have to go back to the drawing board" and come up with a new plan. **AP**

INDIA

3 officials suspended after lynching of rape suspect

Wasbir Hussain, Guwahati

THE government of northeastern India's Nagaland state has suspended three officials and deployed paramilitary soldiers after a mob stormed a high-security jail, dragged away a man accused of rape and then lynched him, officials said Saturday.

Police have launched a search for several men who mobilized thousands of people who broke into the jail in Dimapur city on Thursday and seized the rape suspect, whom they also accused of being an illegal migrant from Bangladesh. They pelted him with stones and beat him to death.

One person was killed



Members of a mob pull a man, centre with blooded face, accused of rape, out of the Central Jail where he was held in Dimapur, in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland

and several others were injured when police fired to disperse the mob, said a Dimapur police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with

department policy.

Shops and businesses were closed in Dimapur on Saturday and paramilitary soldiers patrolled the city, which remained

under curfew.

The killing of the man — who was arrested Feb. 24 on suspicion of raping a local woman — has caused concern across India, where there is increasing public anger over sexual violence against women.

The incident has sparked protests in the neighboring state of Assam, where the man, identified as Farid Khan, was from.

Protesters set up roadblocks in Assam on Saturday and for a while stopped trucks carrying goods and other vehicles from heading to Nagaland.

"There was a roadblock near Lahorijan in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, but the police have since cleared the blockade," said As-

sam's Inspector General of Police S.N. Singh.

Assam's government has alerted police stations across the state to be vigilant against possible retaliation on Naga people living in Assam, Singh said. Ethnic Nagas are a majority in Nagaland, and some have migrated to other parts of India.

Late Friday, Nagaland state authorities suspended the district magistrate of Dimapur, the city's police superintendent and the jail's warden, said Nagaland's top elected official, Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang.

Federal Home Minister Rajnath Singh has called for an investigation into the storming of the jail, and human rights groups

have warned against vigilantes taking the law into their hands.

Amnesty International demanded that the lynching be investigated and members of the mob brought to justice.

"This is a serious lapse in the criminal justice system and the Nagaland government must ensure that every person who was part of the mob is brought to justice," Shemeer Babu, program director of Amnesty International India, said in a statement Saturday.

"Failure to do so will send the message that anyone can commit outrageous abuses and attempt to justify them as an expression of public anger," Babu said. **AP**

Eileen Ng and Jack Chang, Kuala Lumpur

FLIGHT MH370

Report: Underwater locator beacon battery had expired

THE first comprehensive report into the mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 yesterday revealed that the battery of an underwater locator beacon had expired more than a year before the plane vanished on March 8, 2014.

Apart from that anomaly, the detailed report devoted pages after pages to describe the complete normality of the flight, shedding little light on aviation's biggest mystery.

"The sole objective of the investigation is the prevention of future accidents or incidents, and not for the purpose to apportion blame or liability," the report said.

The significance of the expired battery on the beacon of the Flight Data Recorder was not immediately apparent, except indicating that searchers would have had lesser chance of locating the aircraft in the Indian Ocean, where it is believed to have crashed, even if they were in its vicinity. However, the report said that the battery on the locator beacon of the cockpit voice recorder was working.

Even though the battery on the beacon had expired, the instrument itself was functioning properly and would have in theory



A relative of passenger on board the Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that went missing on March 8, 2014, holds a placard in Beijing

captured all the flight information.

The two instruments are critical in any crash because they record cockpit conversation and flight data, leading up to the end of the flight.

The 584-page report by an independent investigation group

went into minute details of the crew's lives — their medical and financial records, their training before detailing the aircraft's service record — as well as maintenance schedule, weather, communications systems and other aspects that showed nothing unusual except for the one pre-

viously undisclosed fact of the battery's expiry date.

It said that according to maintenance records, the battery on the beacon attached to the Flight Data Recorder expired in December 2012, but because of a computer data error it went unnoticed by maintenance crews. "There is some extra margin in the design to account for battery life variability and ensure that the unit will meet the minimum requirement," it said.

"However, once beyond the expiry date, the (battery's) effectiveness decreases so it may operate, for a reduced time period until it finally discharges," the report said. While it is possible the battery will operate past the expiry date, "it is not guaranteed that it will work or that it would meet the 30-day minimum requirement," said the report.

The report gave insight into the flight Capt. Zaharie Ahmad Shah's physical and mental well being, saying he had no known

history of apathy, anxiety or irritability. "There were no significant changes in his lifestyle, interpersonal conflict or family stresses," it said.

It also said there were "no behavioral signs of social isolation, change in habits or interest, self-neglect, drug or alcohol abuse" by Zaharie, his first officer and the cabin crew.

Financial check also showed nothing abnormal about their gross monthly income and spending pattern. It said Zaharie held several bank accounts and two national trust funds. He had two houses and 3 vehicles, but there was no record of him having a life insurance policy.

The co-pilot, First Officer Fariq Abdul Hamid, had two saving accounts and a national trust fund account. He owned two cars and "spent money on the upkeep" of his cars. "He does not have much savings in his bank account. He has a life insurance policy," it said. AP

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RUSSIA

5 Nemtsov killing suspects arraigned; 1 said to admit guilt

Russian news agencies said yesterday one of the suspects in the killing of leading opposition figure Boris Nemtsov has admitted involvement in the crime.

Judge Nataliya Mushnikova said that Zaur Dadaev made a statement confirming his guilt, according to the reports. They did not specify his alleged actions.

Dadaev is among five suspects detained in the Feb. 27 killing, when Nemtsov was shot while walking on a bridge near the Kremlin.

Another man, Anzor Gubashev, was charged in the killing, and a hearing for three other unnamed suspects was under way, court spokeswoman Anna Fadeeva said earlier yesterday.

Dadaev and Gubashev were



Mourners lay flowers and votive candles at the place where Boris Nemtsov was gunned down near the Kremlin, in Moscow

identified as suspects by Federal Security Service director Alexander Bortnikov a day earlier.

Bortnikov gave no details of

how the men were detained or specifics on how they were connected to the killings.

However, the state news agen-

cies Tass and RIA Novosti said the pair was detained in Ingushetia, a republic bordering Chechnya, citing Ingush Security Council chief Albert Barakhoev.

Dadaev served in a battalion of Interior Ministry troops in Chechnya, Barakhoev was quoted as saying.

He said the other, Gubashev, had worked in a private security company in Moscow, according to the reports.

There was scant information about the identity of the three other suspects. Barakhoev was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying two others were seized at the same time as Dadaev and Gubashev. But there had been no official announcement of their detention.

Shortly before the court session began, Investigating Committee

spokesman Vladimir Markin revealed there was a fifth suspect, but gave no details.

Nemtsov's killing shocked Russia's already beleaguered and marginalized opposition supporters. Suspicion in the opposition is high that the killing was ordered by the Kremlin in retaliation for Nemtsov's adamant criticism of President Vladimir Putin. The 55-year-old Nemtsov was working on a report about Russian military involvement in the eastern Ukraine conflict.

But Russia's top investigative body said it was investigating several possible motives, including that he was killed in an attempt to smear Putin's image. It also said it was looking into possible connections to Islamic extremism and Nemtsov's personal life.

Many believe that Nemtsov's death in a tightly secured area near the Kremlin wouldn't have been possible without official involvement, and could be an attempt to scare other government foes.

Putin, who had dubbed Nemtsov's killing a "provocation," made no comment on the detentions announced Saturday. **AP**

NIGERIA

Boko Haram pledges allegiance to Islamic State

Michelle Faul and Haruna Umar, Maiduguri

Nigeria's home-grown Boko Haram group, newly weakened by a multinational force that has dislodged it from a score of northeastern towns, reportedly pledged formal allegiance to the Islamic State group.

The pledge to IS came in an Arabic audio message with English subtitles alleged to have come from Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau and posted Saturday on Twitter, according to the SITE Intelligence monitoring service.

"We announce our allegiance to the Caliph of the Muslims ... and will hear and obey in times of difficulty and prosperity, in hardship and ease, and to endure being discriminated against, and not to dispute about rule with those in power, except in case of evident infidelity regarding that which there is a proof from Allah," said the message. IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has declared himself the caliph.



This Monday, May 12, 2014, file photo taken from video by Nigeria's Boko Haram terrorist network, shows their leader Abubakar Shekau speaking to the camera

Earlier, the Nigerian extremist group was blamed for four suicide bomb attacks that police said killed at least 54 people and wounded 143 in the northeast city of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state and birthplace of Boko Haram.

The blasts occurred over four hours in locations from a busy fish market to a crowded bus station, said Police Commissioner Clement Adoda.

Though there was no way to independently verify the message, it comes weeks after Boko Haram's new Twitter account broadcast that

the group's Shura council was considering whether to swear formal allegiance to IS.

The Twitter account, increasingly slick and more frequent video messages from Boko Haram, and a new media arm all are considered signs that the group is being helped by IS propagandists.

Boko Haram in August followed the lead of IS in declaring an Islamic caliphate in northeast Nigeria that grew to cover an area the size of Belgium. The Islamic State had declared a caliphate in vast swaths of territory that it controls in Iraq and Syria. **AP**

IRAQ

IS militants destroy another UNESCO heritage site

Sameer N. Yacoub and Vivian Salama

Islamic State militants continued their campaign targeting cultural heritage sites in territories they control in northern Iraq, looting and damaging the ancient city of Hatra just one day after bulldozing the historic city of Nimrud, according to Iraqi government officials and local residents. The destruction in Hatra comes as the militant Islamic group fended off an Iraqi army offensive in Saddam Hussein's hometown and fought pitched battles in eastern Syria in an area populated by predominantly Christian villages.

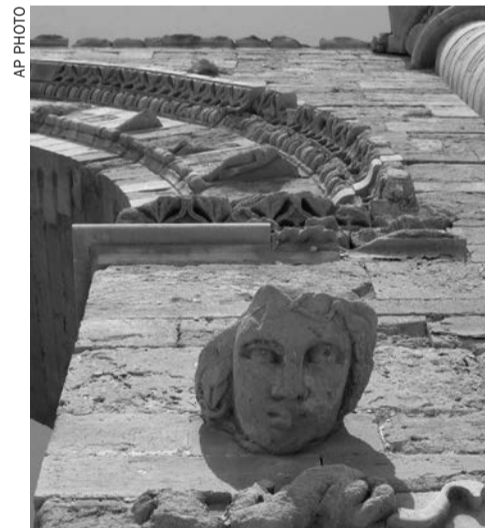
Iraqi officials in the northern city of Mosul said Saturday that Islamic State militants have begun demolishing Hatra, a move UNESCO described as "cultural cleansing."

An official with the ministry of tourism and antiquities' archaeological division in Mosul told The Associated Press that multiple residents living near Hatra heard two large explosions Saturday morning, then reported seeing bulldozers begin demolishing the site. He spoke anonymously for fear of reprisal.

Saeed Mamuzini, a Kurdish official from Mosul, told the AP that the militants had begun carrying away artifacts from Hatra as early as Thursday and on Saturday, began to destroy the 2,000-year-old city.

Hatra, located 110 kilometers southwest of the city of Mosul, is a UNESCO world heritage site.

"The destruction of Hatra marks a turning point in the appalling strategy of cultural cleansing underway in Iraq," said Irina Bokova, the director-general of UNESCO, and Abdulaziz Othman Al-



The face of a woman stares down at visitors in the Hatra ruins, 320km north of Baghdad

twajri, director general of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in a joint statement.

"With this latest act of barbarism against Hatra, (the IS group) shows the contempt in which it holds the history and heritage of Arab people."

The Islamic State group currently controls about a third of Iraq and Syria. The Sunni extremist group has been campaigning to purge ancient relics they say promote idolatry that violates their fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic law. A video they released last week shows them smashing artifacts in the Mosul museum and in January, the group burned hundreds of books from the Mosul library and Mosul University, including many rare manuscripts.

The majority of the artifacts destroyed in the Mosul Museum attack were from Hatra. **AP**

Christine Lagat

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

African women enjoy rights, privileges but obstacles remain

THE 21st century has unleashed new opportunities for African women, thanks to the implementation of affirmative action policies and legislation to narrow the gender gap in socioeconomic spheres.

Political leaders and experts who spoke to Xinhua yesterday during International Women's Day agreed that gender equality is no longer a mirage in Africa, as women enjoy new social and economic privileges.

They said that cynical pundits and scholars from the developed world have for decades caricatured African women in unflattering terms. Nevertheless, African women have defied entrenched stereotypes and patriarchy to reclaim their place in history.

During an interview with Xinhua, Kenyan female leaders said the 21st century ushered a new dawn for African women who are currently at the center stage of the continent's transformation.

"African women have made phenomenal strides, having acquired education, skills, economic privileges and greater awareness on their rights. As a veteran women's leader, these accomplishments are worth celebrating," remarked Senator



A Moroccan women shouts slogans during a march towards the street of the Moroccan Capital as they mark International Women's Day in Rabat

Zipporah Kittony.

The former Chair of Kenya's umbrella body that advances women's rights said many African states have narrowed the gender gap, but challenges remained.

"Here in Kenya, gender rights are enshrined in the constitution. The President has supported female causes, like health, education and entrepreneurship," said Kittony.

She spoke to Xinhua at the finishing line of a half marathon organized by Kenya's First Lady Margaret Kenyatta to revitalize a national campaign on maternal health.

The marathon is part of the Beyond Zero Campaign initiated by Kenyatta in January 2014 to boost the fight against maternal and infant deaths.

Kittony noted that many African countries have domesticated international treaties to advance women rights.

"Gender violence and discrimination is a criminal offense in many African countries. Communities are slowly discarding retrogressive practices that confined women to the margins," she remarked.

Female parliamentarians also shared Kittony's sentiments and said that political goodwill,

progressive laws and policies were crucial to achieving gender equality.

Female representation in key political institutions across Africa has likewise improved, thanks to vigorous advocacy and enforcement of laws.

Priscilla Nyokabi, a lawyer and female parliamentarian, noted that countries like Rwanda, Ghana and South Africa have a significant female representation in Parliament.

"Female leaders have been instrumental in advocating for social programs to ensure both boys and girls enjoy equal access to basic education, skills and employment," Nyokabi remarked.

Massive investments, focused leadership and public awareness are crucial to achieve gender related millennium targets across Sub-Saharan Africa this year.

Peter Mangiti, the Principal Secretary in Kenya's Ministry of Planning and Devolution, said that African women are still not out of the woods as evidenced by

high maternal deaths, poverty and illiteracy.

"There are several obstacles that must be overcome to enable African women to partake a 21st [century] windfall triggered by economic growth, social renewal and political stability," Mangiti told Xinhua.

He regretted that African women are at risk of preventable deaths caused by malaria, HIV/Aids and pregnancy related complications.

"Kenya is part of [the] Beyond Zero Campaign to reduce maternal illnesses and fatalities to a bare minimum. The campaign is part of the national psyche, thanks to support from the highest echelons of leadership," Mangiti remarked.

Young women in many African societies have even broken the glass ceiling to compete with their male counterparts for plum jobs in government and private sector.

Ann Muthoni, a self-employed marketing executive noted that women have defied stereotypes to acquire education and lucrative careers.

"I am an optimist and have a firm belief the 21st century will open a floodgate of new opportunities to African women. Their perseverance and ability to innovate is beyond doubt," Muthoni stated. **MDT/Xinhua**

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what's ON



HOMAGE TO MASTERS WHO INSPIRED US — WORKS BY 10 HONG KONG AND MACAU ARTISTS

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: May 10, 2015
VENUE: Ox Warehouse,
corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita
and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

'START' — EXHIBITION OF PIXEL ART BY 2UP STUDIO

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: April 19, 2015
VENUE: Ox Warehouse,
corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita
and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)
ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen
ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25
Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50
Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

"SEE AND TOUCH"

— TOUCHABLE ARTS EXHIBITION
TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: March 31, 2015
VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community
Development Association / Rua Tomas Vieira 3A
R/C
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

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
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Offbeat

ROOMS GOING FAST AT HUNGARY'S VILLAGE FOR RENT



Houses are reflected in a puddle on the main road in the village of Megyer, Veszprem county

Rooms at Hungary's village-for-rent are going fast. More than 300 inquiries and reservations for 280 guests have been made since Mayor Kristof Pajer last week began advertising the village of Megyer, available for 210,000 forints (USD760) a day.

Pajer said Thursday that tourists are coming from as far away as Australia, South Africa, Sweden and the U.S. and the village "is booked solid in August and most of April and May."

Amenities offered by Megyer, population 18 and 190 kilometers southwest of Budapest, include seven guest houses that sleep 39 people, a bus stop, horses, chickens and four hectares of farm land.

Some guests have chosen to rename the village streets during their stay, a perk which comes with a replica of the street sign.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	Brazil Avenue (Repeat)
18:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:00	Portuguese Music
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

05 MAR - 11 MAR

STAND BY ME DORAEMON_

ROOM 1
(2D) 3.55, 5.50 pm
(3D) 7.45 pm
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 95min

FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2_

ROOM 1
2.00, 9.45 pm
Director: Jing Wong
Starring: Nick Cheung, Yun-Fat Chow, Daniel Garcia
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 90min



CHAPPIE_

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Neil Blomkamp
Starring: Sharlito Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 120min



LUCKY STAR_

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.15, 6.00, 9.30 pm
Director: Ching Long
Starring: Eric Tsang, Wong Cho-lam, Ella Chen
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 86min

PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR_

ROOM 2
2.00, 3.45, 7.45 pm
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 127min

MACAU TOWER

05 MAR - 18 MAR

CHAPPIE_

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm
Director: Neil Blomkamp
Starring: Sharlito Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 120min

this day in history



1973 NORTHERN IRELAND VOTES FOR UNION

The people of Northern Ireland have voted overwhelmingly to remain within the United Kingdom. In a referendum on the future of the province, 591,280 people or 57% of the electorate voted to retain links with the UK. A boycott by the Roman Catholic population meant only 6,463 voted in favor of a united Ireland.

The turnout was reported to be 59% of the 1,030,084 electorate, although less than 1% of Catholics voted. The Unionist victory has been welcomed by Brian Faulkner, leader of the Unionist Party and by the Unionist MP Reverend Ian Paisley.

The result comes as ten people are being questioned at Ealing police station in west London in connection with a series of bomb attacks in London yesterday. The eight men and two women are said to have been arrested on their way to Heathrow airport yesterday morning.

The Provisional IRA has admitted it was behind the bomb blasts - but Scotland Yard says it is not completely satisfied the explosions were the work of the IRA. The Home Secretary, Robert Carr, told MPs there was no evidence to suggest the bombings were connected to the border poll.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, William Whitelaw, said the bombings would make no difference to the publication of a white paper on the future of the province.

Ulster Unionist leader, Brian Faulkner, welcomed the result: "This is the first time ever that the people of Northern Ireland through the ballot box have quite simply and democratically stated their constitutional wishes."

"They have said so clearly today they are determined to stay within the United Kingdom so this removes any argument about our constitutional position from the lips of politicians for good and all, not just for five or ten years."

Gerry Fitt, leader of the opposition SDLP, said the poll result was entirely predictable. He said his party had organized the boycott of the poll because it feared it would lead to an escalation in violence.

He said: "I think on the figures I have just seen, which have just arrived from London, there has been massive impersonation of votes by the unionist party." Northern Ireland Secretary, William Whitelaw, said everyone had been given the opportunity to vote - it was up to individuals to choose whether they used it or not.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The vote was followed by a white paper on Northern Ireland published on 20 March 1973. It proposed a devolved power-sharing assembly in Northern Ireland and a Council of Ireland to promote economic cross-border links with the Republic of Ireland.

The new Northern Ireland assembly met for the first time on 31 July 1973.

On 9 December, the Sunningdale Agreement paved the way for the creation of the Council of Ireland. But it was opposed by the Democratic unionists who objected to the Republic having a direct say in the running of any of the province's affairs.

The Ulster Workers' Council organized a general strike to protest against the deal. When the then Northern Ireland secretary Merlyn Rees refused to meet their representatives, the Ulster Unionist members resigned from their seats on the executive causing the body to collapse.

London imposed direct rule, which was to remain in place for 26 years.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to reach out to your best friend or closest coworkers today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Life gets a little more exciting today - and you should find that you can handle the added pizzazz easily!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 An intellectual exercise turns into something much more intense. Your positive energy shows you new ways to exploit your ideas...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A storm is brewing at home - unless you live alone, of course. In that case, you may find that your neighbors are frosty...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 At least one important person agrees with your point of view today, so make sure that you're making the most of this opportunity.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Make a splash! You need to shake things up and ensure that your people are paying attention when you need them today.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You can hardly believe your good fortune - things are lined up almost perfectly in your favor today.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your subconscious mind is hyperactive today - and that could make it hard to distinguish between reality and fantasy.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 A group activity turns out to be more fun - and much more productive - than you had expected.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your energy may not be perfectly balanced, but it is way out ahead of the pack.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You forge a new connection with someone you'd ordinarily never look twice at - but this could lead to something really sweet!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Clear out some old trash or emotional baggage that has been holding you down.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

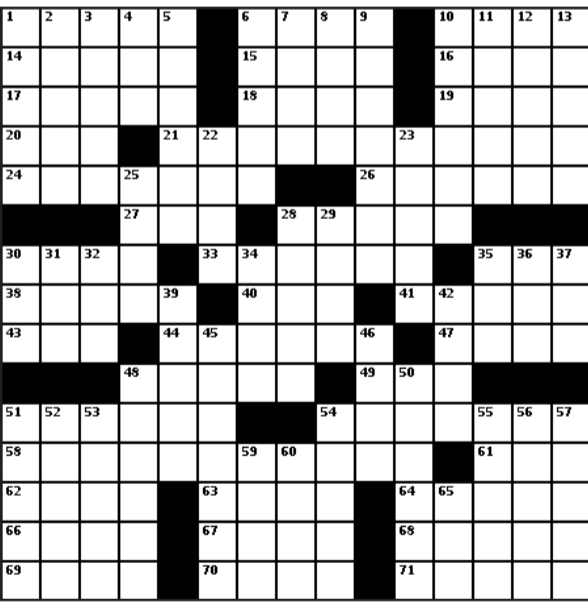
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ___ the hole; 6- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 10- Graf ___; 14- Insect stage; 15- Algerian port; 16- Humorist Bombeck; 17- Welcome; 18- Kiln for drying hops...

DOWN: 1- Aquarium buildup; 2- Feels for; 3- Construct; 4- "___ had it!"; 5- Jaw; 6- Implements; 7- Word that can precede hygiene, tradition and agreement; 8- Tabula ___; 9- National songs; 10- Attacks; 11- Rainbow maker; 12- Host; 13- Stand used by painters...



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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
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'Macau Kid' extends winning record by KO

MACAU'S only professional boxer Ng Kuok Kun (KK Ng) stretched his winning streak to seven consecutive wins Saturday night, knocking out Thailand's Chingchai Kiaptracha (7-3, 3 KOs) in the undercard Zou-Ruenroeng IBF title bout.

The 24 year-old "Macau Kid" rose to 7-0 with 3KOs in his super welterweight six-rounder, increasing his KO rate to 42.86 percent.

"I feel great to win, but also feel I hadn't fought enough there. I enjoy the feeling in the ring; it's a pity that I only fought three rounds in this bout at home," he told the media post-fight.

The Macau boxer thrilled his supporters with some active punches in the opening round, and soon stunned them after

a knockdown scored by his equally aggressive opponent.

"It was the applause and cheers in the arena that encouraged me to carry on fighting through it," Ng recalled of his bounce back from the knockdown.

Much of what happened during the 8 minutes and 35

I enjoy the feeling in the ring; it's a pity that I only fought three rounds

KK NG

seconds in the ring was unexpected to the fighter.

"I couldn't find any information about him before the fight," said Ng. "I didn't even know he's a southpaw until we fought hand to hand in the ring. There was one time my right hand clashed into his left hand; that hurt a lot."

KK Ng's clean stoppage saw the hometown crowd give a standing ovation. But he only gave himself a score of 7 out of 10 for his field performance.

"I didn't throw any nice combinations, and I didn't bring my training into the ring," he explained.

"I hope to have the opportunity [to fight] for some titles. My performance in the ring was still not very mature, I must hone my techniques through more experience." **BY**



KK Ng

UNDERCARDS DELIVER A QUICK SHOW

Hong Kong boxer shoots for next world title in July

THE next boxing world title attempt by a local favorite has been scheduled for July 18 at the Cotai Arena. Hong Kong's "The Wonder Kid" Rex Tso will be challenging Japan's WBA super flyweight champion Kohei Kono, announced Top Rank CEO Bob Arum. Meanwhile, Zou Shiming will stage his comeback fight on the same card.

27-year old Tso has kept up the momentum of China's hope to have its own professional world champion, winning a hard-fought unanimous decision over Filipino



Rex Tso

boxer Michael Enriquez in a super flyweight eliminator Saturday night.

"Next step: win a world title. After that, help to popularize boxing in

Hong Kong and China," Tso said after the fight. "When people think of

Hong Kong, I don't want them to just think of Bruce Lee; I want them to think of Rex Tso."

Tso signed with promoter Top Rank before the fight, with the expectation that he would become the first boxer from Hong Kong to fight for a world title.

Another rising Chinese boxer backed by Top Rank is Dalian's Ik Yang (19-0-0-1, 14 KOs). Arum said Yang would be sought after for the country's first world title opportunity.

The multi-bout "Show-down at Sands," at the Cotai Arena on Saturday

night, sailed quickly until the finale, as undercard fighters delivered five stoppage wins out of seven bouts.

Ik Yang stunned the hometown audience with a sixth-round technical knockout over Thai fighter Patomsuk Pathompothong (30-3-1, 18 KOs) in an IBF light welterweight title eliminator.

Sharing trainer Freddie Roach with Zou and Yang, Glen "Jersey Boy" Tapia defeated Daniel Dawson by a third-round TKO and won the NABO junior middleweight title. **BY**



Brook Yang

Zou loses to Amnat in IBF flyweight title challenge

WHEN the announcer declared victory for the defending champion, Zou Shiming still carried his Chinese flag and waved to the home audience.

The flag-bearer for Chinese boxing lost his first title fight on Saturday, as IBF flyweight champion Amnat Ruenroeng of Thailand defeated him by unanimous decision.

"I didn't get the victory today, but it's the beginning of a new journey. Boxing is just like life, so it doesn't matter," said Zou at the post-fight press conference. "Boxers are like this, we Chinese people are like this, I will give another shot and start all over again."

Zou is propelling boxing's surge in popularity in China, but he came up short in the biggest test so far with the record in his short pro career falling to 6-1 (1 KO).

The challenger said what he took from his first title fight was "one more experience" as he didn't think he was outclassed.

"I don't think my technique lost to his; perhaps the reason is he had more experience dealing with this type of title fight," he said. "I don't think my opponent was aggressive either. On the contrary, I think I was the more aggressive one in a state of stalemate."

Amnat landed more effective jabs than Zou, and kept him at bay with his 13-centimeter

AP PHOTO



China's double Olympic gold medalist Zou Shiming, left, fights with Thailand's Amnat Ruenroeng during their IBF flyweight title belt boxing match at the Venetian Macao

I didn't see this kind of fighter on the tapes coming, so we didn't get ready for a lot of those things he was doing

FREDDIE ROACH

(five-inch) reach advantage to successfully defend his flyweight title for the third time. All three judges scored the bout 116-111 for Amnat (15-0, 5 KO), who overcame being knocked down in the second round.

Zou's trainer Freddie Roach said they "lost the fight to the judges." "His opponent was really an awkward, awkward fighter. He gave us a lot of trouble. We watched a lot of tape on him, he never fought like he did tonight. He was running around, very defensive, a good counterpuncher, fast hands," said Roach.

"I didn't see this kind of fighter on the tapes coming, so

we didn't get ready for a lot of those things he was doing. So we have to get back to the gym just to become a more complete fighter."

Zou dropped Amnat with a left in round two, and when Amnat threw down Zou in a wrestling fashion in the next round, the Thai champion drew boos from the audience.

Amnat received a warning for putting Zou in a head-lock on the ropes in the eighth, but his jabs were already building up a points advantage, while comfortably managing to handle whatever Zou tried.

Near the end, Zou was advised by Roach to land more combinations and pick up the

tempo, but Zou was frustrated from having to chase Amnat. In the final round, Zou landed a couple of rights but couldn't follow them up, and the final seconds were chasing Amnat amid boos from the audience.

"He took a punch in the eye, and he was 20 feet away. It was very difficult when a guy can move at a speed like he did," Roach said.

Zou has played a leading role in promoting boxing in China. After winning the nation its first boxing gold medal in the Olympics in 2008, he then chose to delay turning pro to successfully defend the gold for his motherland.

Describing himself as "a child

coming out of the mountain to see the world," the 33-year old moved to the pro ranks two years ago, aiming to "show the spirit of boxing" to his country and the "spirit of Chinese people" to the world.

The bout hosted in China's gaming enclave was broadcast live throughout the mainland via several state-owned and regional sports channels.

"China doesn't lack boxers, nor boxing fans, it's just that we don't have a representative figure coming out to draw their attention," Zou said. "Now as we have our own boxers coming out, this sport will receive more and more support in China."



opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



NEW NORMAL

Who would anticipate that tourism itself might actually occupy the central stage in the run-up to the March meetings of the NPC and the CPPCC in the capital-city, Beijing? Nobody... unless the idea was to find something generally non-controversial, or non-assuming, in order to make the local agenda look less complicated and more manageable.

Actually, in this New Year of the Ram, tourism is much more than hospitality. Tourism is the signpost to economic diversification, gaming and non-gaming revenues, demographics, housing and transportation, labor policy, environment. And we can go further into the absurdity of tourism as the mot-clef... but there is another level of understanding, if we may dare to say it this way.

Quietly - as Chui Sai On does things - the Chief Executive scored again in the MSAR stock of refractive politics. The CE, let us recall, faced zero criticism regarding the alleged short-comings of his first team of Secretaries. Not surprisingly, the new-comers started their tenures trying to make a difference.

Given the political protocol designed by the Basic Law, the Five Secretaries, despite all the preparatory work undertaken to grow familiar with their portfolios, do not have the time to draft a detailed enough program. How do you overcome this void when you are feeling compelled to perform? You will be prone to conceive the broadest possible approach, in tourism, housing, transportation, gaming, and so on.

One way or another, the Five Secretaries had to comment on their respective portfolios. Based on this reasoning we can picture a statement, or another, on the pressing issue of housing and related issues, and then again it will be stated as broadly as possible as it will be necessary to state the need to cool the market. Then again, it is a broad approach, but because of that, Chui Sai On took it as a CE matter and cooled down the call for an immediate intervention in the real estate market.

The same thing seemed to have succeeded with the comprehensive handling of the hypothetical ceiling of 31 million a year of visitors and mainland tourists/shoppers: Secretary Tam spoke about it to later clarify its semantics. On his way to the opening ceremony of the third session of the 12th National People's Congress, Chui Sai On gave orders for a study on tourism to be ready in the shortest time possible. Chui Sai On was on his way to meet senior officials of the China National Tourism Administration.

What should we take from these examples, among others? Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, won again, by means of the correct reading of the so-called Macau second system: each and every Secretary of the MSAR Government is supposed to be in micro-managing mode. The big policy questions, at macro-level level, or rather, the things the Central Government and the SAR Government decide deserve to be at that level, are out of bounds to the team of Secretaries.

Just consider an apparently finished matter, the Hengqin Project, to offer an example of a big question not yet ripe enough to bring down to micro-management level. Meanwhile, at the Secretary (Leong Vai Tak) level is the human-scale project of regional cooperation between Macau and Zhongshan.

Once again, Chui Sai On has the one and only, and ultimate, word at government level. Speaking about the downfall of gambling revenues, Chui took the opportunity to consider the 48.6% drop in February to almost 20 billion patacas as the much likely new normal.

It looks like 2015 will be a very good year to warm Chui Sai On's second term. We scrutinize the wording the CE chose to underline the commitment to work on a "moderate diversification" of the local economy without noticing that it tunes in with President Xi and his First Comprehensive: build a moderately prosperous society.

THE BUZZ MEXICO FINDS 2ND MUMMIFIED BODY IN GLACIER

Officials said Friday that climbers have found a second mummified body in a glacier on Mexico's tallest peak, and said they may be the remains of climbers missing since a 1959 avalanche on the peak. Juan Navarro, the mayor of Chalchicomula de Sesma, the town nearest the Pico de Orizaba volcano, said Friday that a rescue team of climbers that includes town officials went up Thursday to start digging out the

first body, sighted earlier this week.

Initially, only a head and a hand could be seen sticking out of the snow and ice. But last week they excavated further and discovered the hand actually belonged to another body that appeared to be embracing the first corpse. Navarro said a third body may be found, because three climbers disappeared on the peak in a November 1959 avalanche.

Home-made wheelchair helps injured pets in Balkans



Milce Cankovic Kadijevic's dog Bak, who is in a wheelchair, plays with another dog in the park in Belgrade, Serbia

Jovana Gec, Belgrade

WHEN his dog Mica suffered a spinal injury, Dragan Dimitrijevic made her a wheelchair, using small wheels, plastic pipes and old belts. It worked: the foxy-looking mongrel was back in the park in no time, other dogs barking and sniffing inquisitively at the strange construction dangling along. Though homemade from used parts, word of Mica's wheelchair spread swiftly among dog lovers in not-so-animal-friendly Serbia. Other pet owners with similar problems started calling, and Dimitrijevic was soon taking orders.

In more than three years, the computer programmer from Belgrade has made around 80 wheelchairs for invalid dogs and cats, developing a small business with happy customers all over

A wheelchair is not a cure, but it enables them to run

DRAGAN DIMITRIJEVIC

Serbia and other Balkan countries.

"I have a soft spot for dogs," Dimitrijevic told The Associated Press. "A wheelchair is not a cure, but it enables them to run, sniff, do all the things other dogs normally do."

For many in the impoverished Balkans — a region with low record both in care both for the disabled and animal welfare — Dimitrijevic's wheelchair is the only way to deal with pet disability. There are no other local producers, while obtaining

a pet wheelchair from EU countries costs many times more.

In Serbia, authorities have been unable to cope with the problem of tens of thousands of stray dogs, so injured animals are often simply put down.

Milce Cankovic Kadejevic was first told to euthanize her wire-haired dachshund Bak who squashed a spinal disk four years ago. Then she heard about Dimitrijevic.

"This wheelchair has allowed Bak to live normally, to run and play," Cankovic Kadijevic said. "He doesn't even know he has a problem!"

Veterinarian Dragan Bacic explained wheelchair for pets also helps the animals exercise and prevents additional injuries when they go outside.

Dimitrijevic said each wheelchair is made in consultation with the veterinarians, adapted individually to fit a particular pet and the nature of its injuries. While the first wheelchair took three days to make, nowadays it is a one-day routine, he said.

But, Dimitrijevic insisted, seeing photos or a video of a joyful animal able to run again, is as rewarding as ever.

"There is nothing like a dog rushing toward its friends or owner," he said. "So happy!" AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Good
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Good

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A well-known Chinese feminist activist was detained in Beijing two days before the observance of International Women's Day, her lawyer said Saturday. Lawyer Yan Xin said he didn't know why police detained activist Li Tingting and an unspecified number of others. He said he had not been able to talk to his client. Messages on the microblog Weibo said feminist activist Zheng Churan had also been detained by police late Friday in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, but Yan could not confirm the reports.



MALI Three people, including a U.N. soldier, were killed and 14 wounded in a rocket attack early yesterday on a U.N. base in Mali's northeastern city of Kidal, the United Nations mission in Mali said. More than 30 rockets and shells hit the U.N. base in Kidal at early yesterday morning, killing a U.N. soldier and two civilian children, said Olivier Salgado, the spokesman for the U.N. mission in Mali. An additional 14 people were wounded.

HONG KONG-UK A British parliamentary committee on Friday urged the U.K. government to be more outspoken in support of democracy in Hong Kong, warning that failing to do so could damage Britain's reputation there. The Foreign Affairs Committee said in a report that Britain "can and should take a position" on democratic reforms in Hong Kong, a former British colony that returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

SINGAPORE reduced its forecast for foreign visitor arrivals and tourism receipts this year, citing competition from rival destinations. The city-state forecasts 15.1 million to 15.5 million visitor arrivals and expects S\$23.5 billion (US\$17.2 billion) to S\$24 billion in tourism receipts in 2015, Second Trade Minister S. Iswaran told parliament on Friday. The Singapore Tourism Board earlier had targeted 17 million visitor arrivals and S\$30 billion in tourism receipts this year, according to the agency's website.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Rao Aimin



Francis Tam, a member of the 12th National Committee of the CPPCC, speaks on Saturday during a panel discussion in Beijing