



4G MOBILE NETWORK LICENSES GRANTED

The new fourth generation (4G) mobile network licenses have been granted to CTM, China Telecom, Hutchison Macau and SmartTone

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SANDS CHINA PARTNERS WITH STAR CHEF

Sands China Ltd. announced a partnership with world-renowned chef, restaurateur, and television personality Gordon Ramsay

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NEW COFFEE SHOP AIMS AT SELLING LOCALS 'A LIFESTYLE'

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Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.rcr-macau.com



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin (pictured) has described a secret meeting with officials last year when Russia decided it would take Crimea — the Black Sea region that Moscow annexed from Ukraine last March. The Kremlin originally denied that it had sent troops into Crimea, though Putin later announced on state television that Russian troops had been sent in.

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S KOREA's president visited injured U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert amid an outpouring of public sympathy and support for the envoy who is recovering from an attack by a knife-wielding man. Lippert has been hospitalized since Thursday at Seoul's Severance Hospital, where Park Geun-hye also received treatment in 2006 when she was knifed by a man with a box cutter during an election rally. *More on p14*

INDONESIA Relatives of two Australian death row prisoners made their first visit yesterday to the Indonesian prison island where the convicted drug traffickers are to be executed soon by firing squads. The two, Andrew Chan, 31, and Myuran Sukumaran, 33, were flown from the resort island of Bali to the Nusakambangan Island prison off Indonesia's main island of Java. *More on p12*

More on backpage

Gov't fencing AL to prevent rallies, activists accuse

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AP PHOTO

Building Xi's cult image

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Businesswoman asks for relaxation on labor imports

THE president of the Macau Businesswomen Association (MBWA), Jenny M.F. Kong, has advised the local government to consider relaxing its ratio regulation for foreign labor imports in response to the strain on human resources facing the city's small and medium-sized enterprises, but without threatening locals' employment opportunities.

The head of MBWA was the sole speaker at a talk titled "Macau Economic Development to Local Medium and Small-sized Enterprises," held at the Macau Science and Technology University (MUST). On the sidelines of the event, she told the Times that those small and medium-sized enterprises are expected to bear the brunt of fierce human resources competition by the time the resorts and casinos that are under construction at the Cotai Strip are complete, despite the ongoing adjustment period in the gaming sector.

To cope with the acute manpower scarcity, Jenny Kong advised that the government's ratio policies regarding the importation of foreign labor for companies should be revised ac-



MUST senior vice-president Zhang Shu Guang presents a gift to Jenny Kong (right)

cordingly, or be scrapped in response to the changing situation. "Regarding the human resources application, the business industry hopes that the ratio could be relaxed, or even the policy repealed," she said.

Ms Kuong, who owns two companies, assumed that the adjustment period, which many thought was worrying, would be "healthy" for the city's economic development as long as "there was no massive job-cut from the gaming industry." The adjustment period, according to

the MBWA head, would exert no influence on the small and medium-sized companies, as most of them are chiefly dependent on tourism, retail and commodities.

Meanwhile, the businesswoman also complained about the lengthy procedure of license applications for catering and Chinese medical industries, where it can take as long as nine months to obtain a license for business operation. "The administrative laws and regulations should be established in response to the city's current business landscap-

pe. The related policies ought to be simplified in order to help the small and medium-sized enterprises to survive and develop," she said. "It, if everything goes well, will at least take nine months for restaurants or Chinese medical centers to renew their licenses if they are to move into a new place."

Ms Kong cited the case of a friend whose jewelry store, occupying a floor area of roughly 90 square meters, has been subject to a more-than-double the rent hike, from MOP36,000 to

MOP80,000. She once again urged the government to allow businesses to operate upstairs in buildings for certain industries, including beauty care, hairdressing, medical and tuition.

Questioned as to whether that would place extra burden on the current housing rental market, Jenny M.F. Kong said: "Everything needs balance. It is necessary to take care of people's livelihood on one hand, but it is also necessary to care about the 'living space' of Macau's economic and trading development. Economic downturn is unhealthy to the city's economy."

The talk held yesterday aimed to provide university students with a glimpse into the territory's small and medium-sized business operation. The MBWA president believes that those youths who are hoping to venture into the business world have to first be well organized, well planned and well equipped in school in order to seize the opportunities ahead.

Aside from that, persistence, she said, was crucial in developing a business. The businesswoman, who has been engaged in the clothing manufacturing industry for more than 30 years, stated: "Launching a business does not guarantee absolute success. For example, if you hurled pieces of mud onto the wall, not every piece would stay on there; but still a few would, and those are what success is about." **Staff reporter**

Policies ought to be simplified in order to help the small and medium-sized enterprises to survive and develop

JENNY KONG

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'When you have taken a significant step forward it is difficult to go back'

Dear Editor,

I was happy to read the clarification by the Public Security Police in today's [yesterday's] newspaper about earlier remarks opposing the domestic violence bill which according to the media had been sent to the Legislative Assembly. Even if this is not the official position of the police (and they have now clarified that it is not) these remarks just the same undoubtedly reflect the thinking of many people in the community and need to be addressed.

In every country where domestic violence has been criminalized there has been an initial increase in cases because more victims will have the courage to come forward. It is a mistake to think that it is a "woman's human right" to decide whether or not to prosecute the aggressor if the aggressor is a family member. All international bodies insist it is rather her right to be protected by the State in such instances. Unfortunately many people in the community have not yet gras-

ped the main point about domestic violence which is that it is a "women's human rights issue". Little by little in the past 50 years or so more and more women have awakened to the fact that they are not subject to men but they have their own dignity and human rights. For this reason more and more countries have enacted laws to protect women from violence including the violence that often takes place in their own home. Two international covenants to which Macau is a signatory have been urging the Macau government to take this important step and criminalize domestic violence.

The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) in their report to the government in May 2014 expressed "regret that domestic violence has not yet been recognized as a public offense" and recommended that the government speed up the process of adopting "specific legislation criminalizing domestic violence." It also recommended that the government conduct a media campaign to all segments of society

but "in particular the law enforcement officials" with a view to changing attitudes regarding domestic violence. (italics are mine)

CEDAW has been making this request since 2008. In its report to the government in October of 2014 it once again asks that the government:

"Ensure that the draft Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence comprehensively covers all aspects of domestic violence and that domestic violence is recognized as a criminal offense subject to ex-officio prosecution." (i.e. public crime)

What we have before the Assembly now is basically a very good and comprehensive law. It has some flaws but these can be addressed by implementing good practice methods such as involving not only the police but the specially trained government social worker, the doctor and finally the judge in making the judgment about a reported case when there is some doubt. Just last week a respected legal analyst in Hong Kong, Grenville Cross, in an article entitled, "Time to

get serious about stamping out domestic violence" (SCMP, March 3, 2015) made note of the fact that Macau has already moved ahead of Hong Kong in its effort to tackle the problem of domestic violence.

In proposing the Law now before the Legislative Assembly which lists domestic violence as a public crime, the Macau government has shown foresight and courage. It has listened to the voices of many people who know about or have experienced domestic violence first hand and it has taken an important step to honor its obligations as a signatory to the above mentioned international Covenants.

It takes time to change traditional entrenched ways of thinking. But I remain optimistic that the law will be passed. When you have taken a significant step forward it is difficult to go back.

Sr. Juliana Devoy
Good Shepherd Centre
March 9, 2015

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For subscription and general issues:
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Gov't accused of fencing AL surroundings 'to prevent protests'

Catarina Pinto

THE New Macau Association (ANM) believes that a fence placed along a public lawn located in front of the Legislative Assembly is intended to prevent protests in the area.

One of Macau's biggest demonstrations to date took place on the lawn in May last year, when about 20,000 people gathered to voice their concerns over new legislation providing the Chief Executive and other top officials with lavish compensation packages upon leaving office.

"The fact that they have put [a temporary] fencing structure there has already prevented protests from taking place there, I guess. The fencing was placed on the eve of Xi Jinping's visit to Macau last year. I should state clearly that the purpose of putting the fencing there was clear: it was to prevent more demonstrations during Xi Jinping's visit," ANM member Jason Chao told The Times.

The association recalled that, "Without any form of public consultation or announcement, the IACM placed a fence along the lawn in front of the



This May 2014 file pictures shows protesters standing in the lawn facing the AL

The fencing was placed on the eve of Xi Jinping's visit to Macau last year

Legislative Assembly building on the eve of Xi Jinping's visit to Macau in December." ANM added that the IACM

justified the placement of temporary fencing with an ongoing "greening project," which would allow residents to enjoy the outdoor space with the planting of new trees and a flower bed.

New Macau quotes a Macao Daily News report from January, in which it is revealed that the project comprises two phases: the first includes planting 25 trees and was completed in January this year, while the second consists of creating

flower beds and is due to be completed by May or June this year.

However, Jason Chao noted that the recent removal of the fencing structure around the lawn unveiled not only trees and flowers being planted but also a bamboo fencing structure, "with no sign of leaving an opening area leading to the sidewalk."

"The IACM's story about the 'greening project' becomes hardly credible," the association said in a press release.

"The lawn in front of the Legislative Assembly building is precious and is a famous place for all sorts of recreational activities - picnics, dog walking, watching firework displays. Of course, the mass demonstration on 27 May 2014 against the Compensation Bill has made the place the landmark for the rise of Macau's civil society," ANM reiterated.

The association believes that the "greening project" resulted in the enclosure of green spaces, which will seemingly no longer be available for public amusement.

The political activist said that ANM delivered a letter to IACM yesterday, requesting the institute confess every-

thing about the whole project. It also urged IACM to remove the fences enclosing the lawn, and to restore public accessibility to the grass.

Chao stressed that ANM had

The IACM's story about the 'greening project' becomes hardly credible

JASON CHAO

decided to take action now since it will soon be too late. He concluded by saying that, "A letter to IACM will be delivered this afternoon [yesterday]. It's important to get the news out now. If we cannot stop it, then it will escalate. They still have room to open up some parts to the public, as the fence is not completed yet. We think that if we don't try to stop it now, we might not have the opportunity to do so in the future."

THE new fourth generation (4G) mobile network licenses have been granted to CTM, China Telecom, Hutchison Macau and Smart-Tone, according to an announcement made yesterday by the Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation (DSRT).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

4G mobile network licenses granted

Two other companies bid for the licenses, namely China Mobile Hong Kong Company and U Hong Communications Limited, a new local mo-

bile operator founded especially for the tender.

According to information released previously by DSRT, the assessment criteria covers

technical capacity, investment amount, the financial conditions of the company, plans for network coverage, tariff schemes, mobile data

protection and safeguard measures against malfunction.

The winning bidders are requested to start providing 4G data servi-

ces in the coming year. The companies granted with the licenses are required to have citywide coverage by the end of 2016. The 4G operators will pay 5 percent of their gross revenue to the government, an amount similar to the 3G services operators.

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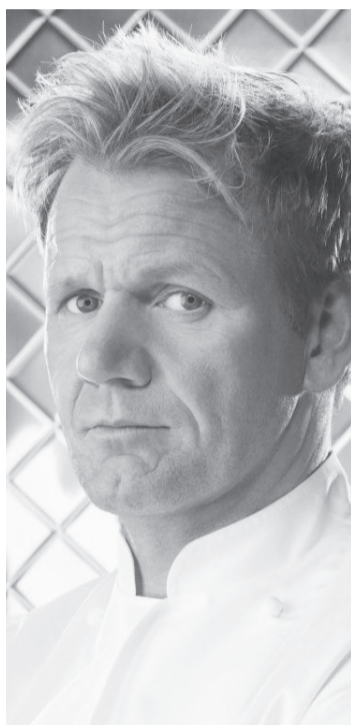
Sands China partners with star chef Gordon Ramsay

SANDS China yesterday announced a partnership with world-renowned chef, restaurateur, and television personality Gordon Ramsay, who has confirmed the expansion of his culinary empire with a new restaurant at Sands Cotai Central, marking the first Gordon Ramsay Group concept dining establishment in Macau.

Ramsay is internationally known for his acclaimed restaurants, popular cookbooks and television shows which include "Kitchen Nightmares," "Hell's Kitchen," "The F Word," "Hotel Hell," "MasterChef US" and "MasterChef Junior."

According to Bloomberg, the celebrity chef owns a "restaurant empire." The Gordon Ramsay Group has 7 Michelin stars and an assortment of restaurants spanning four continents, with recent announcements of further openings in London and the US, as well as a new restaurant in Singapore at Marina Bay Sands.

"This is an exciting move for the Gordon Ramsay Group, not only to be partnering with a fantastic organization like Sands China but also because there is nowhere quite like



Macau. We will be working closely with the Sands China team on the ground to tailor

one of our current concepts to this unique market and deliver a first-class dining experience," Gordon Ramsay said, cited by a Sands China press release.

Charles Newland, senior vice president of food and beverage and director of Paiza Operations, argued that the first Gordon Ramsay establishment in Macau will elevate the international dining experience at Sands Cotai Central. "Seeing Ramsay's internationally-acclaimed restaurant empire expanding to Sands Cotai Central is an important milestone for Sands China in advancing that goal [of contributing to the development of Macau as a world centre of tourism and leisure] and further enriches the overall offering of our integrated resorts with a new world-class culinary experience," he explained.

SANDS ANNOUNCES 5 PCT SALARY RAISE

YESTERDAY, SANDS China announced that it is increasing the salaries of 26,000 eligible full-time team members by 5 percent, effective from March 1. In a press release the gaming operator highlighted that the salary increase follows the payment of a bonus on February 16. "Sands China is very pleased to reward its team members for going above and beyond in delivering excellent customer service and world-class experiences to our guests," said Rob Goldstein, president and executive director of Sands China.

Groups petition for the welfare of gaming workers



THE Association of Macau Gaming Strength 博彩力量協會, led by José Pereira Coutinho, lawmaker and president of the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM), submitted a letter to a government representative at the government headquarters yesterday afternoon. The letter contained details urging the Chief Executive (CE) to force gaming operators to increase staff salaries by at least six percent.

Yesterday, the Macau Gaming Industry Frontline also handed in their petition to the government, demanding the salary increment of gaming industry workers be linked to that of civil servants or the inflation rate. Among the group's requests were the optimization of relevant laws and regulations for gaming labour, compensation for working on mandatory holidays, as well

as concerning retirement systems.

The president of the group, Ieong Man Teng, said that the government should include the aforementioned demands as part of the next gaming concession requirements.

Regarding the afternoon's petition, Pereira Coutinho told the media: "We request the CE wield his influence and persuasive ability to convince the remaining five gaming operators to adjust their 2015 staff salary," adding that Sands China has already taken action on this matter (see above).

He called for the remaining four companies to "take social responsibility" by sharing the "economic fruits" with their employees in light of the "high revenues" these days. The ATFPM president also expressed his confidence in the CE for making the salary adjustment possible, saying earlier that he had actively promised to commence talks with the six remaining gaming operators.

He also urged the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, to use the initiative to hold a meeting with the six gaming operators to address staff demands, performance quality and working environment, with the objective of realising the results at a later date.. **Staff reporter**

Man arrested after trying to extort RMB 2 million

Catarina Pinto

A 41-year-old man from mainland China tried to extort RMB2 million from his wife after she attempted to divorce him, the Judiciary Police (PJ) revealed in a press conference yesterday.

The couple first met in 2012 after arriving in Macau as tourists. They soon began dating and later married. However, the victim claimed that her husband had a gambling problem, prompting her to file for divorce.

Her husband was unable to accept the prospect of divorce, and on March 6 this year, they met again in Macau as both tried to resolve the situation.

Since the wife - also from mainland China - remained committed to the separation, her estranged husband hit her and asked her to pay 2 million as compensation. Authorities did not provide details on what type of currency the man was requesting, suggesting that it must have been either RMB, MOP or HKD.

The woman managed to successfully escape from her husband and file a complaint with the PJ.

Police agents intercepted the husband at the border gate, where he admitted to the cri-

me, revealing that he requested his wife pay RMB2 million for compensation, as he had "spent a lot [of money on] her, namely by paying for meals," while they were dating.

The man was detained and charged with simple harm to physical integrity and extortion.

In yesterday's joint press conference, the Public Security Police (PSP) also revealed that it had arrested two Chinese men for drug trafficking. On March 8, police agents apprehended the men on Foshan Street. One of the suspects admitted he had been selling drugs in Macau.

Police authorities searched the men's hotel room, where they found 48 packs of ice (42.69 grams) and 21 tablets of maku (2.61 grams). The drugs had a total market value of HKD50,000. The first man arrested admitted he had been employed by another Chinese man to sell drugs in Macau for RMB500 a day.

The second man arrested told police authorities that he arrived in Macau on March 4 and his employer had provided him with precise instructions on when and where to sell the drugs. He sold the narcotics to more than 10 costumers while in Macau, he said.

Over 1,000 people fined for smoking in prohibited areas

BETWEEN January 1 and February 28 this year, a total of 1,154 instances of smoking in prohibited areas were recorded by authorities, the Health Bureau said in a statement.

Officers have conducted a total of 728,574 inspections in different areas across the city since the Tobacco Prevention and Control Law came into force in 2012. So far, 25,307 people have been accused of smoking in prohibited venues.

92.9 percent of offenders caught smoking in prohibited areas were male. 701 fines were issued to Macau residents (61.1 percent), while 397 fines were applied to tourists (34.6 percent). 50 were issued to non-resident workers (4.4 percent).

At the top of the list for venues in which authorities recorded the most infractions were games arcades (183 cases), internet cafés (179), parks, gardens and leisure facilities (144). The Health Bureau added that 35.5 percent of prosecutions concerned offenses around the Tap Seac area. In 52 cases, police were called in to intervene.

Since the beginning of 2015, 864 offenders have paid fines.

The Health Bureau and the

Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) carried out 73 inspections of casino premises between January 1 and February 28. 73 people have been accused of smoking in prohibited areas, of which 97.3 percent were male and 2.7 percent female. 59 fines were applied to tourists and 14 to Macau residents.

The bureau announced last month that it aims to implement a full smoking ban in Macau's casinos. This would mean that smoking would be prohibited on mass gaming floors and within VIP rooms. Current smoking lounges would also be forced to close if the bill is approved.

Lawmaker Angela Leong recently criticized the government for constantly changing its stance regarding a full smoking ban on casinos, TDM English News reported. She recalled that gaming operators have spent large sums of money to comply with smoking regulations.

"The government keeps changing their decision. It has happened many times and this is causing casino operators a lot of trouble. We calculate that we have invested over MOP2 billion," Ms Leong said. **CP**



Felix Se

New coffee shop aims at selling locals 'a lifestyle'

Brook Yang

MACAU people are increasingly living and working under great stress, as their city only gets busier, changing at an ever-faster pace. To slow things down and bring back time for small rituals like gathering with friends, local entrepreneur Felix Se decided to open a chain of spacious and relaxing cafés in the city's neighborhoods.

"In general, Macau is a very, very crowded city. As a local citizen, I feel very stressed all the time, so I really want to find some space and time where I can chill out," he told the Times in his newly opened coffee shop.

The 25-year old entrepreneur opened a Korean-chain café named "Tom N Toms" in the Rua do Campo near the Tap Seac Square last week. The shop sells many coffee related products and will inaugurate an art space to showcase local artists following a two-month soft opening.

"Tom is a very common name in Western culture, the name of 'Tom N Toms' means a group of ordinary people together. So the brand is providing a place for people to sit together and share together. This is the value we believe in," explained Se, as the brand's South China CEO and chairman.

"Targeting the locals instead

of tourists," the café is situated in an area full of schools, residential buildings, shops and restaurants. By providing a slow-paced environment, Felix hopes it can help bring busy modern citizens back to the basics of life. "Macau really lacks this kind of big café," he stressed.

"Some very famous competitors of ours brand themselves as slow coffee or relaxed coffee, but actually when they came to Macau, it's altered," indicated the young entre-

The concept is that we are not only selling coffee but also a lifestyle

FELIX SE

preneur. "They open stores in tourist areas or the very busy areas; the store is very small, very crowded, very fast, which makes people even more stressed."

The new café will open its second floor after two months' trial operation. It is planned as "a platform" for local artists to showcase their works. According to Felix, the space will put on exhibitions for painters and fashion designers, staging live music by local bands, as well as hosting readings and

book presentations for local writers.

"The concept is that we are not only selling coffee but also a lifestyle. We really want to provide a platform for Macau's young generation - those born in the '80s and '90s," said Felix, adding that they are also developing a mobile phone app that allows customers to order coffee and products provided by the art space's performers and exhibitors.

"The market share of Macau people consuming coffee right now is less than 20 percent; in western culture it's more than 80 percent. So we are full of hope for Macau's local café market," he said. "The consuming power of Macau people is very high, even of the younger generation. For them, paying a hundred patacas for lunch is very acceptable; you can't imagine this in mainland China."

Although many have seen great market potential in running cafés in town, the increasingly high rents have even strangled a few big chains' survival. A once spacious Starbucks café in busy Senado Square closed up shop as recently as two years ago. Instead, many new small cafés have now emerged in the city's narrow streets.

"We are very clear about our market position: we are targeting local people. We want to invest more on products, instead of marketing and paying high rents to satisfy the tourists," Felix stressed.

"We are not going to make a profit in the next two years, but we will cultivate a group of very loyal customers that will come here every other day and when we have a new product, they're going to buy it," he added. "I want it to be like the Apple [brand] of the coffee industry, like a religious reaction when they see the 'Tom N Toms'. At that moment, I think we'll have done our job."

The young chairman revealed that as part of a bigger picture, Macau is going to see three more "Tom N Toms" cafés this year, then a total of ten more in five years' time. Meanwhile, the total number of their branches will grow from two to two hundred, covering nine provinces and the two SARs.

"Coffee is a necessity. The reasons why there are so many new small cafés in Macau, first of all, is that the demand for coffee and good coffee is getting higher and higher. Secondly, it's the market that forces them to operate small cafés - it's not an easy job for them as the rent is high and you can't hire people," he explained.

"Compared to us, they are less comfortable, not very spacious. Also, they are selling the product itself, and we are selling the lifestyle, the environment, and the culture. But we don't see each other as competitors; we are spreading the culture in a different way, on a different level. It's our duty," he observed.

Traffic accident damages parked motorcycles

Thirteen motorcycles have been damaged by a car, which went out of control before crashing into a wall near Hou Kong Middle School early on Sunday morning. It is reported that the female passenger suffered minor injuries, while the male driver, aged 23, was left unscathed. The road on which the accident took place was then cordoned off when a large number of police arrived on the scene. The cause of the accident has yet to be identified pending a further inquiry. According to police, the accident has resulted in varying levels of damage to 13 motorbikes parked on the road.

Shops in the old district want visibility



Some shop owners from an old district located close to the St Paul Ruins say that the government should improve efforts to make the area's distinctive aesthetic more popular. The retailers argue that their neighborhood is less known to tourists. They also expressed the need to increase the visibility of road signs in order to attract tourists from the typically crowded Senado Square, agreeing with the government's intention to transform the old district into a tourist attraction. Some of the owners also told Macau Daily News that the rising rents in their district and a declining desire amongst citizens to shop have made operating a business very difficult.

MGTO and Forum Macau announce cooperation

The Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) will collaborate with the Supporting Office to the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-speaking countries (Macau) on offering opportunities to tourism government officials from Portuguese-speaking countries to work for MGTO through a training program. It aims at strengthening mutual learning as well as exchanges between the two sides. The program, which also seeks to enhance participants' understanding of the development of the local tourism industry and MGTO's daily operation, will receive 18 officials from Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and East Timor in March, April and May respectively. Starting from March 16 to 27, the first six trainees will embark on their training and internships, including technical tours to the city's World Heritage sites, other tourist spots and infrastructure. MGTO believes that this training program will be helpful in nurturing tourism professionals.



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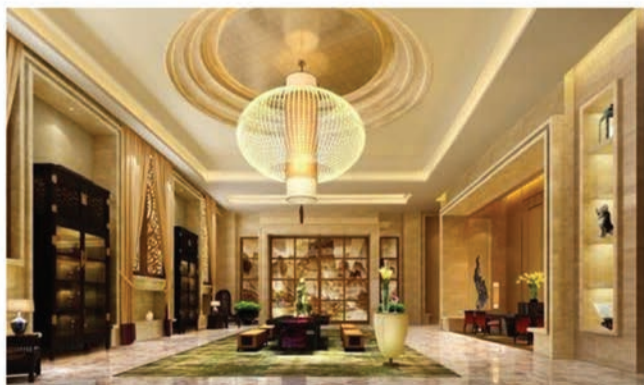
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Non-bank lenders in HK charging up to 20pct as mortgage demand soars

Michelle Yun and Alfred Liu

HONG Kong's non-bank lenders are thriving as regulators place curbs on banks, adding to the risks in the city's hot housing market.

Homebuyers are flocking to companies like Hong Kong Finance Group Ltd., which has seen a 15 percent surge in mortgage inquiries after bank loans were capped Feb. 27. Developers also are teaming with finance companies to fund buyers faced with soaring home prices and smaller loans from traditional lenders.

Non-bank lenders in Hong Kong have been booming since regulators began restricting bank mortgages in 2009. Last month, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority capped loans at 60 percent of the value of a property costing less than HKD7 million (USD900,000), down from 70 percent. Non-banks, which charge interest rates eight times higher than traditional lenders and offer 90 percent financing, are seizing the opportunity created by mortgage rules.

"In the past, a 70 percent loan was more than enough," said Sharmaine Lau, chief economic analyst at mReferral Mortgage Brokerage Services. "But with higher prices today and tightened policies, homebuyers have to find a solution."

Hong Kong has the least affordable market in the world, with the median home price climbing to 17 times household income, according to an annual study by consultancy Demographia. Homebuyers in the former British



colony have taken on more debt as prices surged 13 percent to a record last year, driven by gains in smaller properties.

The number of new mortgages approved during December surged 56 percent to 7,606 from a year earlier, according to monetary authority data, as low interest rates and record rents fuel demand. Mortgage rates have been falling since 2011, averaging 1.95 percent in January, according to mReferral data.

Non-banks, whose lending isn't regulated by the monetary authority, have been proliferating. There are about 1,352 such lenders in the city of 7.3 million people compared with 784 about four years ago.

Business has been brisk for Hong Kong Finance Group. Its mortgage portfolio expanded 53 percent to HK\$501.9 million

last year through September despite its high interest rates. The lender charges about 10 percent to 15 percent for new loans and as much as 20 percent for second mortgages, its chief executive officer Dickson Tse said in an interview.

"Money lenders have traditionally been focused on personal lending, instead of mortgage loans," Tse said. But "over the past six years, Hong Kong's mortgage measures have been giving us business opportunities."

At mReferral, home loans for 80 percent to 90 percent of a property's value rose to 15 percent of all mortgages, up from 9.6 percent in 2008. The mortgage broker is a joint venture between realtor Midland Holdings Ltd. and Cheung Kong Holdings Ltd., the developer controlled by the city's richest man, Li Ka-shing.

The broker is offering 90 percent financing for the first 30 homebuyers at Cheung Kong's newest project. The loans come with an interest rate of only 2.2 percent in the first year and increases incrementally to 3.75 percent.

Apartments at the La Lumiere, one of the most recent developments to go on sale, are about 430 square feet and start at HK\$5.8 million, after a 15 percent discount. Winchesto Finance Co., which is owned by Cheung Kong, is also providing mortgages for La Lumiere of up to 80 percent of the property price.

Cheung Kong sold all 108 apartments it offered for sale at La Lumiere on Saturday, according to its website.

On a recent Sunday morning, Matthew Wong said developer financing appeals to him as he

Non-banks, which charge interest rates eight times higher than traditional lenders and offer 90% financing, are seizing the opportunity created by mortgage rules

waited to look at a La Lumiere display flat. Tired of paying a big chunk of his income on rent - HK\$15,000 a month for a 420 square-foot apartment - he and his partner are looking for their first home for HK\$6 million or less.

"We would want to do the 90 percent loan plan if it makes sense," said Wong, who is in his late twenties. Monthly mortgage payments ideally would be not much more than their rent, he said.

Loans from developers typically come with incentives, such as an interest-free period, said Ivy Wong, managing director at Centaline Mortgage Broker.

"It's essentially a project discount," Wong said. Developers have always offered financing, "but as policy measures build up, they're becoming more popular." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM CHINA'S MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE PROGRAM OPEN FOR LOCAL GRADUATES



MGM China is inviting young, career university graduates with Macau IDs to apply for the 2015 Management Associate Program (MAP). Successful candidates, referred to as 'Mappers', are offered the opportunity to participate in a 16-month career development program in Las Vegas and Macau. Upon successful completion of the Program, candidates will be

considered for a supervisory position or above at a MGM China property.

"We are committed to developing and nurturing young talent for the hospitality industry," said Mr. Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited. "These bright individuals are in for an adventurous career as MGM China continues to ex-

pand and grow."

The 'Mappers' will gain international exposure, receive support and advice from senior leaders while engaging in a wide range of projects.

The MAP was established in 1989 in Las Vegas by MGM Resorts International, and since last year, MGM China began offering a tailor-made version for Macau graduates with a Macau ID, as part of the company's commitment to nurturing and developing local talent.

The 2015/2016 class is due to begin July this year. Successful participants will spend 11 months in Las Vegas and 5 months in Macau.

Interested graduates are welcome to apply for opportunities in the Front Office, Food & Beverage, Housekeeping, Culinary and Gaming Marketing.

SANDS CHINA AND MACAU PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER HOLD UNIFORM DESIGN COMPETITION

Sands China Ltd. and the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CP-TTM) have come together to hold the Sands China Sports Uniform Design Competition in support of the local fashion and creative industries. After judging and deliberation by industry professionals and Sands China executives, the winners were finally chosen last week and will be announced at a prize presentation ceremony March 17 at The Venetian Macao.

The competition is aimed at up-and-coming fashion designers and fashion design students, with the goal of creating designs for nine different sports and activities that



Sands China team members participate in: football, basketball, table tennis, running, badminton, bowling, dragon

boat racing, cheerleading, and the Walk for a Million event. Based on four criteria - creativity and originality, practicality and wearability, compatibility with Sands China's corporate image, and overall aesthetic appeal - the judges were tasked with picking just one overall winner from among the entries.

With one winner and five merit awards being handed out, all awardees will receive a cash prize and a certificate. A total of 13 designs across the nine sports and event categories will be adopted by Sands China and used throughout 2015, providing a platform for the winner to showcase their talents to the public.

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THE Galicia region of Spain, which wants to belong to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries due to its historical and cultural ties to Portugal, is set to have a Chinese-Angolan business presence.

By the end of March, a source from China Sonangol told local newspaper La Voz de Galicia, the purchase of a majority stake in Galician shipbuilder Rodman is due to be concluded. Rodman is valued at around 100 million euros.

The agreement came after lengthy negotiations and a meeting at the end of February, between Sam Pa, of China Sonangol, and Manuel Rodríguez, of the Rodman group, which unblocked the process.

For China Sonangol, the deal "begins with the acquisition" of Rodman, from which it commissioned in September last year 40 patrol boats and 10 catamarans for 350 passengers, for a total of 25 million euros, said the Galician newspaper.

The initial agreement provided for the purchase of 90 percent of Rodman, with 10 percent remaining in the hands of current shareholders, who would also have a stake in Sonangol's shipyard in Lobito, which Manuel Rodríguez has already visited.

The stake to be taken by China

China Sonangol invests in Galicia



The world famous Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, Galicia

Sonangol should be less than initially anticipated, missing now that the presidency of the Spanish autonomous region has authorised the purchase of the company, which has a division specialised in the construction of large ships to support the oil industry.

Currently, this division of Rodman has no order backlog, despite taking part in dozens of bids, while its other division is now dealing with the China Sonangol order.

China Sonangol has is 70 per-

cent Chinese-owned, by New Bright International Development, based in Hong Kong and 30 percent is in Angolan hands.

According to the Galician press, Sam Pa has been travelling frequently to the region, also expressing interest in the winemaking and food sectors.

Galicia, which has important historical and cultural links with Portugal, in April 2014 adopted a law to law to strengthen ties with the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Law 1/2014, also known as the Paz Andrade law, "for the use of the Portuguese language and ties with the Portuguese-speaking countries," states that Portuguese is now the

Galicia has important historical and cultural links with Portugal

most spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere and a working language of 20 international organizations such as the European Union, and an official language of "nine countries and the territory of Macau, China."

"These include economic powers such as Brazil and other emerging economies," says the law, which sets out that Portuguese should be taught more in the autonomous region and used in public administration and that the presence of entities and people speaking from Portuguese-speaking territories Portuguese should be promoted at events in the Galician Autonomous Community.

Without referring specifically to the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Macau Forum, the two great diplomatic and political pillars of the Portuguese-speaking countries, the Galician law determines the "participation of institutions in Portuguese-speaking forums of all kinds," including economic and cultural ones.

Along with Equatorial Guinea, which in 2014 joined the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Galicia accounts for an additional 76 billion euros in to the economic weight of the Portuguese language bloc.

MDT/Macauhub

Angola regulates franchising activities

Angola will implement national regulations for the franchise system by the end of the year, according to an order from the Ministry of Trade establishing a Multi-sector Technical Group on Franchising (GTMF). This group the document says, will have the specific task of drawing up the regulations for the franchise system in Angola. By definition, a franchise is a recognized partnership of a company or successful product with another company, giving the new company a business concept, allowing the use of the brand and providing ongoing support and experience in the field. The attention given to the franchise system by the Angolan government is explained in the order signed by Minister Rosa Pacavira based on the "present political, economic and social development that is taking place in Angola, the creation of new brands, products and services" that "are increasingly demanded by consumers."

AD



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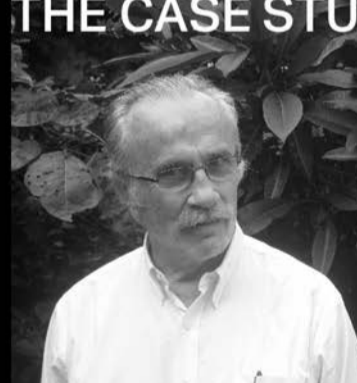

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PATHORN SEQUEIRA: Musician, Composer and Educator (Thailand)

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LANGUAGES: English/Portuguese
REGISTRATION: Free
VENUE: Hall D1 - Albergue SCM

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HONG KONG

Protesters march against day trippers as Beijing eyes action

HONG Kong protesters rallied against traders who snap up goods in the city to sell in the mainland, as the governor of China's second-most populous province sought to discourage people from going to the city to buy milk powder.

Scuffles broke out between police and protesters at the Tuen Men and Tsim Sha Tsui neighborhoods Sunday, leading to the arrest of six people, the government said. Hong Kong residents are demanding controls on traders, who cross the border to buy necessities in the city to resell in China.

Protesters chanted 'Combat illegal parallel trade' and 'Buy mainland goods if you are really patriotic'

The traders are exploiting concerns about safety of products such as milk powder in China, while the protests reflect anxiety that the Chinese are overwhelming Hong Kong and skewing the cost of goods for locals. It was the fourth week in a row for rallies in areas with transportation links to the



Protesters demonstrating against mainland Chinese shoppers gesture against local villagers at a suburban district of Yuen Long in Hong Kong

Shenzhen border.

"The massive influx of day trippers has created a lot of public outcry," Kevin Lai, a Hong Kong-based economist at Daiwa Capital Markets, said by phone yesterday. "In many ways the day trippers have also crowded out some of the better, higher spenders."

An influx of Chinese visitors has prompted the city's government to consider curbs on

tourist arrivals. Instead of rich Chinese flying in, the city is seeing an increasing number of visitors with big luggage hoarding up space in its subways, on its buses and on the pavements as they buy shampoo, groceries and medicine.

Retail sales in the city fell 14.6 percent in January from a year ago, with expenditure on luxury items down 21.4 percent.

A group of protesters first went

to the Sheng Shui district before heading to Tuen Mun, the South China Morning Post said yesterday. Some people rushed into a jewelry shop and shouted at customers, forcing its closure, the SCMP said. Some pharmacies also shut because of the disruption, the newspaper said.

"They shoved police officers at scene, caused disturbances to road users and shops, threw rubbish bins, and attempted to

block the road with mills barriers," the police said in a statement. About 150 people took part, the police said.

Protesters chanted "Combat illegal parallel trade" and "Buy mainland goods if you are really patriotic," according to footage from Hong Kong Cable TV.

A second group of about 80 protesters also caused disruption around the Tsim Sha Tsui area, the police said.

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

Chinese shoppers have favored milk powder from abroad after contaminated baby formula killed at least six infants and sickened thousands of others since 2008. In 2013, Hong Kong imposed a limit of two 2-pound cans apiece on outbound travelers.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said Friday that China would look into the impact of visitors on the city. On Saturday, Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng said the government is aware of "new problems" with cross-border visits and will optimize its Hong Kong tourism policy, at a briefing during the National People's Congress in Beijing.

Tourists from mainland China rose 16 percent to 47 million in 2014 from a year earlier, according to the Hong Kong Tourism Board. Day trips accounted for a record 60 percent of these, compared with 38 percent in 2006.

Public discontent over the rising number of Chinese tourists has boiled over in the past, as when Hong Kong newspapers referred to mainland Chinese as locusts. **Bloomberg**

FIVE Chinese feminist activists remained in police custody yesterday after authorities detained at least 10 women's rights proponents across the country in the run-up to International Women's Day, according to a Chinese activist.

Activist Feng Yuan said the activists still in detention were Li Tingting, Wei Tingting, Wang Man, Zheng Churan and Wu Rongrong, the founder and executive director of the Hangzhou-based rights group Women Center. Feng said their lawyers have not been able to reach them since their detentions Friday and Saturday.

Feng said the women had planned to observe International Women's

5 feminist activists still detained



People walk in the International Women's Day march for gender equality and women's rights from the United Nations to Times Square, Sunday, March 8, 2015 in New York

Day by putting up leaflets about sexual harassment in Beijing, Hangzhou and Guangzhou. Women Center board member Lu Jun said the activists have previously observed International Women's Day with similar activities but without interference.

Public security has been heightened around Beijing this past week as the country's legislature, the National People's Congress, holds its much-watched annual session. On Saturday, the meetings included a news conference on gender equality and women's rights issues in China. The nearly two-week long congress

ends Sunday.

Police in Beijing and Guangzhou did not respond to requests seeking comment.

"We're worried that they're still detained," Feng said from New York, where she was participating in U.N. women's issues events. "We don't understand how this has to do with public safety. And this goes against what the Communist Party and the government says they want to do to build a safer, crime-free society."

Feng said supporters in the U.S. have taken up the detained Chinese activists' cause, with banners calling for their release seen during a march held in New York Sunday for International Women's Day. **AP**

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

HIS smiling visage beams from decorative plates and plastic trinkets sold in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. State television coverage is wallpapered with his signature slogans, and his every pronouncement and meeting with foreign dignitaries leads the nightly news broadcast.

Not one, but two books collect Chinese President Xi Jinping's speeches and favorite classical Chinese allusions — highly unusual in that they have been published so early in his tenure instead of after his retirement.

Barely two years into office, Xi has attracted an extraordinary degree of attention to his public persona that veers perilously close to a full-blown personality cult. Such a phenomenon has not been seen since the days of Mao Zedong, with successors wary of the turmoil his leadership unleashed and generally favoring a dry, rule-by-consensus approach.

While the attention on Xi reflects his popularity with the public, it's also a sign of how thoroughly he's consolidated power by sidelining or reducing the influence of rivals in the ruling Communist Party. Like Chairman Mao, Xi even has a popular personal sobriquet: "Xi Dada," roughly translated as "Daddy Xi."

The son of a party elder, Xi has always had a sense of destiny about himself, say observers and those who knew him as a younger man, believing that he and others in the "second red generation" are the rightful inheritors of the communist state.

The portly, round-faced Xi isn't about to replace the portrait of Mao hanging from Tiananmen Gate in the heart of Beijing. But he's becoming more and more of a ubiquitous presence in Chinese life, and a nearly unstoppable force behind the scenes.

"It's as if Xi is saying, 'It's my party and I'll have it the way I want to,'" said June Teufel Dreyer, a China politics expert at the University of Miami.

Xi is front-and-center again as the national legislature holds its annual session in Beijing, seated in the heart of the vast Great Hall of the People and meeting with delegates from across the sprawling nation. The National People's Congress session, which opened Thursday, includes a report summarizing the accomplishments of the past year and laying out the agenda for the next 12 months.

Formally, Xi's power is derived from his three main titles as Communist Party secretary-general, president of the People's Republic of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission that controls the 2.3 million-member armed forces, the world's largest standing military.

Yet, he has significantly augmented his authority by heading up a long list of leadership

Xi seen at center of emerging culture of praise



A billboard showing Chinese President Xi Jinping with the slogan "To exactly solve the problem of corruption, we must hit both flies and tigers" in Gujiao in northern China's Shanxi province

panels on key issues from the economy to Internet policy, leaving Premier Li Keqiang, supposedly his partner in governance, a much diminished figure. Xi even established a new national security council with himself as chairman, a feat attempted but ultimately abandoned by his predecessors.

The cult of personality around Xi is being built at full throttle, and Xi himself is responsible for this. It's getting to ridiculous levels

WILLY LAM
HK'S CHINESE UNIVERSITY

"We certainly see an attempt to cultivate a personality cult, and this is only natural because he wants to concentrate power in his hands, to have the momentum and the political force in order to promote his program," said Joseph Cheng, chair of the political science department at the City University of Hong Kong.

An imposing personal presence may be a prerequisite for shoving through Xi's ambitious agenda. With planning and

patience, Xi has prosecuted a sweeping anti-corruption crackdown that has ensnared top generals and party officials. He's injected China into world events where former leaders feared to tread, struck a bold climate agreement with the U.S. and launched a sweeping vision for a "New Silk Road" linking China to markets in western Asia.

That authority seems to have given him and his close supporters the confidence to spread his personal maxims, pronouncements and policies as far as they can go.

"I think it is all kind of somewhat more reflective of the leadership style under Mao Zedong or (successor) Deng Xiaoping, as compared to anything we've seen more recently," former U.S. ambassador to Beijing Jon Huntsman said at a recent Council on Foreign Relations forum in Washington.

Efforts to boost Xi's image were underscored at last month's nationally televised Lunar New Year gala, with his political themes, particularly his concept of the "Chinese Dream," saturating the cavalcade of skits, songs and filmed segments. In one highlight, performers crooned a syrupy musical tribute titled "I Give You My Heart" in front of film clips of Xi handing out blankets, chatting with farmers and otherwise humbly serving the Chinese people.

Xi's pet slogan also made it into the final applause line of Premier Li Keqiang's annual address to the national legislature on Thursday, in which he told delegates that achieving the year's goals would help realize "the Chinese

Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

State broadcaster CCTV's nightly coverage of Xi's events include meetings with visiting dignitaries no matter how obscure. His visits to other cities and rural areas, meanwhile, are packaged in a manner reminiscent of European propaganda of the 1930s.

Xi's hosting of President Barack Obama and other world leaders at last year's meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing was a particular showcase of his glitzy, personality-driven diplomacy. On the evening before the summit, CCTV ran hours of coverage of Xi greeting visiting heads of state at an elaborate banquet, joined by glamorous wife Peng Liyuan, a former diva with a military song and dance troupe, who often accompanies him on high-profile visits abroad.

A major military parade planned for the 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of World War II on Aug. 15 offers a further opportunity to place Xi front and center.

Predecessors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao also presided at military parades, but only in the twilight of their terms in office, points out Willy Lam, a Chinese politics expert at Hong Kong's Chinese University. By associating himself so early with such powerful images, Xi is showing that he sees himself as China's third major leader after Mao and Deng, Lam said.

"The cult of personality around Xi is being built at full throttle, and Xi himself is responsible for this," Lam said. "It's getting to

ridiculous levels."

At the same time, Xi has sought to burnish his credential as a man of the people, appearing unannounced at a Beijing dumpling stall, kicking around a football and carrying his own umbrella. Such poses shouldn't be confused with candor or accessibility, however: Xi almost never speaks to journalists and his personal life remains largely off-limits to the media.

And unlike Mao, Xi shows no sign of directly appealing to the public to join him in any political campaigns — as with the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution era in which Mao appealed to the masses to help him purge China's establishment of reactionaries. On the contrary, Xi's administration has made it clear that the party — and only the party — must be in control, and has squashed any efforts of citizens to mobilize, even on behalf of priorities that the party has professed, such as fighting corruption among officials or improving education.

No matter to what comfort level Xi consolidates his power, experts see little chance he'll use his clout to implement democratic reforms that might challenge the party's predominance.

"Xi is actively trying to rein in precisely those elements of Chinese socio-political life — intellectual pluralism, popular participation, institutional checks and balances — that most of us would see as necessary for generating a more open, participatory political system," Boston University China expert Joseph Fewsmith said. **AP**

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

INDONESIA

Aussie inmates' families visit execution island

RELATIVES of two Australian death row prisoners made their first visit yesterday to the Indonesian prison island where the convicted drug traffickers are to be executed soon by firing squads.

The two, Andrew Chan, 31, and Myuran Sukumaran, 33, were flown Wednesday from the resort island of Bali to the Nusakambangan Island prison off Indonesia's main island of Java. They are among nine foreigners and an Indonesian that the government says will be executed soon.

"We're just looking forward to seeing him," Michael Chan told reporters of his younger brother before the families took a ferry to the prison island from the port town of Cilacap.

"When we get over there, we'll give him a hug," he said.

Indonesian authorities are waiting for the death row inmates to exhaust all their legal appeals before setting execution dates. Families can visit the prison island only on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Chan and Sukumaran will take their plea for clemency to an administrative court in Jakarta on Thursday.

Their lawyer Peter Morrissey said there was still some hope for the pair.

"The main promising thing for us is that they're not dead," Morrissey told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio yesterday.

"The way some officials were talking, they should have been dead weeks ago," he said.

Chan and Sukumaran were the ringleaders of a gang of nine

AP PHOTO



Family of Australian death row prisoners Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, from center left, Helen Chan, Michael Chan, Raji Sukumaran, Brintha Sukumaran, get on a ship for heading to Nusakambangan Island, at Wijaya Pura Port in Cilacap

Australians who were arrested in April 2005 while trying to smuggle more than 8 kilograms of heroin from Bali to Sydney.

Besides the two Australians, a Nigerian national born in Spain was also transferred to the island prison. Two other Nigerians, a Filipino woman and

four men from Brazil, France, Ghana and Indonesia are also scheduled to be executed. It was not immediately known how many have been transferred to the island.

The planned executions have soured relations between Indonesia and other countries in-

involved, especially Australia and Brazil. Indonesia's President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo received phone calls from some foreign leaders asking that the executions be canceled but has rejected their requests. He has vowed not to grant mercy to drug offenders because Indonesia is su-

ffering a "drug emergency."

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Sunday he was still waiting for Widodo to accept his latest request for a telephone conversation. Abbott last made a personal plea to the president on the Australians' behalf two weeks ago. **AP**

AVIATION

More deaths in 2014 from fewer accidents

Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

THE number of deaths in jetliner disasters spiked last year despite there being fewer accidents in total, an international airline industry group said yesterday.

The International Air Transport Association said in its annual safety report that 641 people died in airline accidents in 2014. Its figures don't include the 298 people killed when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was downed over Ukraine.

There were 210 deaths in 2013 and the five year average is 517 deaths.

IATA said last year was marked by two "extraordinary and tragic events" both involving Malaysia Airlines: Flight 17 and

earlier in the year the disappearance of Flight 370 which was carrying 239 people.

It would be a mistake to think that flying in Asia is unsafe, but it would also be naive to think there were no issues at all

TONY TYLER
IATA DIRECTOR-GENERAL

AP PHOTO



In this photo taken Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, emergency personnel inspect one of the recovered engines at the site of a commercial plane crash in Taipei, Taiwan

The IATA numbers don't count Flight 17 because the plane was shot down by anti-aircraft weapons and so wasn't classified as

an accident.

The number of fatal airplane crashes fell to 12 last year from 16 the previous year and the five

year average of 19.

The group said that translated into one serious accident in which an aircraft is destroyed or severely damaged for every 4.4 million flights, a record low. In 2013, the so-called hull loss rate was one plane written off for every 2.4 million flights.

IATA Director-General Tony Tyler said flying overall was getting safer despite a string of recent disasters involving Asian carriers that has raised concerns about flight safety and left the region's serious accident rate higher than the global average.

"It would be a mistake to think that flying in Asia is unsafe, but it would also be naive to think there were no issues at all,"

Tyler said.

Airlines have expanded rapidly over the past decade in Asia, particularly in Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia, straining the region's aviation infrastructure and runway capacity and forcing carriers to scramble for pilots.

Three of last year's 12 plane crashes involved jet aircraft and accounted for the bulk of the deaths. In December, an AirAsia jet carrying 162 people crashed into the Java Sea. In July, an Air Algerie jet went down in Mali during bad weather, killing all 116 aboard.

The nine other crashes involved turboprop aircraft, including a TransAsia ATR-72 that crashed in July on the Penghu island chain in the Taiwan Strait, killing 58 people.

Another TransAsia turboprop crashed in February this year, killing more than 40 people. **AP**



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SOUTH KOREA

President visits wounded US ambassador

AP PHOTO



In this photo released by the South Korean presidential house, South Korean President Park Geun-hye, left, talks with U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert at Severance Hospital where he is hospitalized, in Seoul

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH Korea's president visited injured U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert yesterday amid an outpouring of public sympathy and support for the envoy, who is recovering from an attack by a knife-wielding man.

Lippert has been hospitalized since Thursday at Seoul's Severance Hospital, where President Park Geun-hye also received treatment in 2006 when she was knifed by a man with a box cutter during an election rally. Park was then an opposition party leader.

Park's office said the president went to the hospital shortly after she returned to South Korea yesterday from a Middle East tour.

Park was quoted as saying "my heart ached more" because Lippert is hospitalized at the same hospital due to a similar attack. Lippert told Park that he and his wife have been moved by the support the South Korean government and people have showed to him, according to a statement from the presidential Blue House.

Conservative activists and Christians have wished Lippert a quick recovery, held pro-U.S. rallies and conducted dance performances near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. High-level government officials and politicians have visited him,

and one well-wishing man even tried to offer dog meat to him.

Hospital officials said they expect to release Lippert today.

The alleged attacker, known as an anti-U.S. activist who was previously convicted of hurling a piece of concrete at the Japanese ambassador in Seoul in 2010, was arrested Friday. Kim Ki-jong could face charges including attempted murder.

Police said the exact motive for Kim's action was not known, but that he shouted after the attack that he opposes the ongoing U.S.-South Korea military drills that North Korea condemns as a preparation for a northward invasion.

Police said yesterday that some of the books, computer disks and other materials found at Kim's home support rival North Korea, which could result in charges of violating an anti-Pyongyang security law. Critics want the law abolished, saying past authoritarian rulers have used it to suppress their political opponents.

The two Koreas have shared the world's most heavily fortified border since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. The U.S., which fought alongside South Korea during the war, stations about 28,500 troops in the South as a deterrent against the North. **AP**

JAPAN

5 killed in stabbing spree in rural west

Yuri Kageyama, Osaka

FIVE people were killed in their homes yesterday in a stabbing spree in rural Japan, police said, in a rare case of major violence in the country.

A 40-year-old neighbor of the victims was arrested in connection with the attacks, said Keizo Okumoto, deputy police chief in Sumoto, a small city on an island in western Japan where the spree occurred.

Okumoto identified the suspect as Tatsuhiko Hirano, an unemployed man. The motive was unclear, and police have yet to find the weapon used in the attacks.

A man and a woman were found dead in one house, and



Police inspect a house where a stabbing murder took place in Sumoto, Hyogo prefecture

another man and two women from a nearby house died after being taken to a hospital, Okumoto said. The victims ranged in age from 60 to 80 years old, according to media reports.

Violent crime is relatively rare in Japan, and even more so in most small towns. Sumoto, a city of 44,000 people on Awaji island, is known for its oranges, onions and Awaji beef. Japanese television stations showed the victims' homes sitting amid agricultural fields.

"Normally, we get one call a day, if that," Okumoto said. "And usually it's about a bike theft or someone getting beaten up." **AP**

Merkel: Facing WWII atrocity key to reconciliation

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday on a visit to Japan, where bitter disputes mark the country's attempts to define its wartime actions, that Germany was able to return to a respected place in the international society because of its efforts to squarely face its World War II atrocities.

But Merkel, at a speech organized by the liberal-leaning Asahi newspaper in Tokyo, said she could not give any specific advice to Japan because lessons should be learned by its own people.

Her comments come as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe prepares to deliver a statement later this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the war. There is speculation that Abe, seen as a revisionist hawk, may water

down Japan's 1995 landmark apology over its aggression across Asia.

Merkel said Germany still appreciates the generosity of its neighbors that accepted the country back to the international community despite the horrors of the war and Holocaust.

"Without these generous gestures of our neighbors this would not have been possible. There was, however, also a readiness in Germany to face our history openly and squarely," she said. "It's difficult for me as a German chancellor to give you advice for how to deal with your neighborhood. It has to come out of a process in society."

Japan's relations with its closest neighbors China and South Korea, both victims of Japan's militarism before and during the World War II, have worsened in recent years lar-



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel speaks during a lecture meeting at Asahi Shimbun headquarters in Tokyo

gely over history and territorial issues. Under Abe's administration, Japan is seen stepping up its effort to whitewash its wartime atrocities. **AP**

AD



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Aya Batrawy, Abu Dhabi

UAE

Solar-powered plane takes off for flight around the world

A Swiss solar-powered plane took off from Abu Dhabi early yesterday, marking the start of the first attempt to fly around the world without a drop of fuel.

Solar Impulse founder André Borschberg was at the controls of the single-seater when it took off from the Al Bateen Executive Airport. Borschberg will trade off piloting with Solar Impulse co-founder Bertrand Piccard during stop-overs on a journey that will take months to complete.

The Swiss pilots say their aim is to create awareness about replacing “old polluting technologies with clean and efficient technologies.”

The plane is expected to reach its first destination — Muscat, Oman — after about 10 hours of flight.

Some legs of the trip, such as over the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, will mean five or six straight days of flying solo.

The lightweight Solar Impulse 2, a larger version of a single-seat prototype that first flew five years ago, is made of carbon fiber and has 17,248 solar cells built into the wing that supply the plane with renewable energy. The solar cells recharge four lithium polymer batteries.

The company says the plane has a 72-meter wingspan, larger than that of the Boeing 747, but weighs about as much as a car at around 2,300 kilograms.

The plane in June made an



A Swiss solar-powered plane takes off at an airport in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, early yesterday, marking the start of the first attempt to fly around the world without a drop of fuel

inaugural flight of two hours and 17 minutes above western Switzerland, just two months after it was unveiled.

After Oman, the plane will head to India, where it will make two stops, then to China and Myanmar before heading across the Pacific and stopping in Hawaii. Then it will head to Phoenix, Arizona,

and New York’s biggest airport, John F. Kennedy International. The path across the Atlantic will depend on the weather and could include a stop in southern Europe or Morocco before ending in Abu Dhabi.

The round-the-world trip is expected to end in late July or even August.

Borschberg and Piccard say

they want to push politicians, celebrities and private citizens to “confront the Conference on Climate Change of the United Nations, which will define the new Kyoto protocol in December 2015 in Paris.” All countries are supposed to present targets for a new global climate agreement that governments plan to adopt at the meeting.

Solar Impulse supporter Prince Albert of Monaco was present at the Monaco control center during yesterday’s takeoff.

The UAE-based Masdar, the Abu Dhabi government’s clean-energy company, is a key sponsor of the flight. Additional sponsors include Omega, Google and Moët Hennessey, among others. **AP**

ISLAMIC EXTREMISM

Chad and Niger troops move to attack Boko Haram

Krista Larson and Dalatou Mamane, N’Djamena

FORCES from Chad and Niger opened a new front in the regional military fight against the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, as army vehicles full of soldiers crossed the border into northeast Nigeria, officials and witnesses said yesterday.

The escalation in Africa’s joint battle against the Nigeria-based jihadists comes just weeks before Nigerians head to the polls for an election which many fear will turn violent, and after scores of attacks by the militants on neighboring countries who have pledged to help Nigeria defeat the extremists.

Chadian Brig. Gen. Zakaria Ngobongue said yesterday that his soldiers, alongside troops



Nigerian special forces run past Chadian troops in an hostage rescue exercise at the end of the Flintlock exercise in Mao, Chad

from Niger, had entered Nigeria. He declined to give details about the ongoing operation. Already Chadian forces had crossed into northeastern Nigeria from Cameroon to fight the jihadis, he said.

Boko Haram has been fighting a nearly six-year insurgency against the

Nigerian government, and on Saturday declared their allegiance to the extremist Islamic State group in the Middle East. Boko Haram has carried out mass kidnappings, including of schoolgirls.

“They are bandits and criminals who have nothing to do with reli-

gion,” Ngobongue said. He spoke to reporters after the closing ceremony for Flintlock, a military training event that included U.S. special forces and involved 20 countries.

Witnesses in the Niger town of Bosso reported about 200 military vehi-

cles crossing over into Nigeria. Adam Boukarana, one resident, said the deployment was followed by loud detonations, signaling heavy combat with Boko Haram.

Describing the stepped-up military activity, Nigerian military spokesman Brig. Gen. Chris Olukolade said Sunday night that “there were some pre-emptive maneuvers along an axis in the theater. Nigerian forces were also involved.”

Cameroon’s minister of defense, Edgard Alain Mebe Ngo’o, said troops from Nigeria and Chad would fight Boko Haram while soldiers from Cameroon and Niger would guard their borders to prevent the militants from escaping. Boko Haram has been using Cameroon as an escape and supply route.

Residents in potential

conflict zones in Cameroon have been asked to leave, the minister said.

The United States, Britain, France and the European Union are backing the formation of a multinational force of 8,750 troops led by Nigeria and Chad with contingents from Cameroon, Niger and Benin. Several other countries also have pledged to help.

About 10,000 people were killed in Boko Haram’s uprising last year, compared to about 2,000 in the four previous years, according to the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations.

On Saturday, Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau reportedly pledged his group’s allegiance to the Islamic State group, raising fears that the conflict largely restricted to northeast Nigeria and its neighbors’ borders could be internationalized. **AP**

what's ON



THE SPRING SEASON HAPPINESS OF JIN AND YU – EXHIBITION OF LUNAR NEW YEAR TRADITIONS OF TIANJIN AND CHONGQING MUNICIPALITIES
TIME: 9am-7pm
UNTIL: March 13, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Lou Lim Ioc Garden / No. 10 Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro, Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: March 29, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL PAINTINGS – MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

VOICE IN THE MURK BY PAPA OSMUBAL
TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)
UNTIL: March 14, 2015
VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

POSTER DESIGN EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACAU HANDOVER
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: March 15, 2015
VENUE: The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8504 1800

MACAU ARTS WINDOW 2015: THE UNKNOWN – ACTION ART BY CHAN KA KEONG
TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on daily Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: March 15, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

AGENTS FIND STOWAWAY CHIHUAHUA IN CHECKED BAG AT US AIRPORT

This Chihuahua could be headed to the dog house. Transportation Security Administration officers say a woman's 7-year-old Chihuahua sneaked into her suitcase and triggered a luggage screening alert at New York's LaGuardia Airport last week.

TSA spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein says the black, hard-sided suitcase was in a checked-baggage area last Tuesday when an unknown-contents alarm indicated an officer should inspect the case.

Those unknown contents proved to be her beige and tan Chihuahua.

TSA says the owner had no idea that her little dog had crawled in and curled up while she was packing for a flight to Los Angeles.

The woman's husband came to the airport and took the dog home.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	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: Sharlto 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: Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 120min

this day in history



Prince Charles

1988 AVALANCHE HITS ROYAL SKI PARTY

The Prince of Wales has narrowly avoided death on the ski slopes of Switzerland in an avalanche that killed one of his closest friends.

Major Hugh Lindsay, former equerry to the Queen, was sent plunging 400m down the mountainside when the avalanche hit the royal party as they were ski-ing off piste above the resort of Klosters.

Another member of the royal party, Patti Palmer-Tomkinson, suffered serious leg injuries in the accident.

The Prince and several other members of the group, including their guide, were able to ski to safety.

As soon as the danger had passed, Prince Charles, the guide and a Swiss police officer, who was ski-ing with the party, raced back to help the victims, digging with their bare hands in the snow to reach them.

Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson and Major Lindsay were flown to the local hospital at Davos, where the Major was declared dead.

Major Lindsay's wife, Sarah, who works in the Buckingham Palace press office was informed of her husband's death. She is six months pregnant.

One eye-witness, Marie Griffiths, said she saw the Prince being airlifted off the mountain.

She said: "As far as I know he hadn't been injured. He looked very distressed, somebody said he was crying, but he did walk to the helicopter so he looked uninjured."

After the accident, the Prince and the remainder of the royal party returned to the chalet where they had been staying. The Princess of Wales and Duchess of York had spent the afternoon there.

The Royal group is cutting short its holiday and will fly home tomorrow.

Prince Charles and his friends were ski-ing on the Wang run, known as one of the most difficult runs in the area. Today was the first time it had been open this season.

The Prince is a very experienced skier and the group had with them one of the best local guides, Bruno Sprecher.

The Queen was told of the accident during a visit to the Queen's tennis club in London where she was attending the centenary celebrations of the Lawn Tennis Association.

Major Lindsay had accompanied the Queen on many official engagements and was said to be a great favourite of hers. She has sent a private message of sympathy to his widow.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Royal party flew home to London the following day, bringing the body of Major Hugh Lindsay. The Prince issued a statement in which he confirmed the party had been ski-ing off piste at their own risk. He praised the actions of their guide, Bruno Sprecher. He said Mr Sprecher had helped save the life of Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson by giving her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Unfortunately Major Lindsay had been killed outright. The Prince first learned to ski at the age of 14. Since then he has taken regular ski-ing holidays - mostly at Klosters. In recent years, he has returned there with his sons Princes William and Harry. In 2002, the Prince cut short a trip to Klosters following the death of the Queen Mother.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Use that natural charm to get your way today — it's easier than you think! Your life is sweet and getting sweeter, but you may need to wait for a little while longer before you try anything too exotic.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Take all the time you need to focus on your own issues today — other people can wait their turn. It may feel heartless, but you have to take care of yourself before you can reach out to help others.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
New thoughts are flooding your consciousness today — and it's all good. Your amazing mental energy helps you accommodate all these new notions and sort them into piles for action.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
A seemingly trivial issue seems to get harder and harder as the day goes on. You can't quite figure out what's what, but you can probably get some help if you ask the right person.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
A new friend drifts into your life — you may not even recognize what's happening until it's a done deal. Your great social energy helps you make room for them and get even more out of your relationship.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your good energy is yielding some deep, meaningful insights today — though you may not be able to make much actual progress as a result. Things should shift into high speed tomorrow.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Art and culture are much on your mind today, thanks in some small part to a recent museum visit or online gallery that took your breath away. It's a good time for you to indulge!

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
It's not a good time for you to deal with your people — things just aren't working out in your favor. The good news is that you receive a subliminal message that makes it all make sense.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
A somewhat distant work or school associate is making life a bit sweeter for you today — so show them your gratitude! It's a good time for you to cement relationships and build a brighter future.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
This is a great day for starting new projects or relationships — so take a look around you and figure out your next move! Even if you don't feel fully confident, you should move forward.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You meet someone from far away — at least culturally speaking. They may just be from over the river, but it could feel as if you speak two very different languages. You can bridge any gap!

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Things get a little better early today — and then a little more so in the afternoon. All these incremental advances add up to something really sweet that you can enjoy come nightfall.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-6	9	clear
Harbin	-20	-8	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	-3	8	clear
Urumqi	-4	6	clear
Xi'an	4	9	cloudy/drizzle
Lhasa	0	15	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	8	15	drizzle
Chongqing	12	15	overcast
Kunming	8	25	clear
Nanjing	0	7	cloudy
Shanghai	2	7	cloudy
Wuhan	5	13	cloudy/overcast
Hangzhou	3	10	overcast/cloudy
Taipei	13	16	drizzle
Guangzhou	15	20	overcast/drizzle
Hong Kong	16	19	drizzle/cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	1	5	drizzle/overcast
Frankfurt	2	11	drizzle
Paris	2	12	overcast/drizzle
London	4	11	drizzle
New York	0	4	sleet/cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Lyra's brightest star; 5- Italian wine city; 9- Trap; 14- Son of Rebekah; 15- Leg part; 16- ... who lived in ___; 17- Floating platform; 18- "Le Roi d'Ys" composer; 19- His and her; 20- Eyeglass having two portions; 22- Say again; 24- Cartoon part; 26- Where it's at; 27- Falls to; 30- Translucent, waterproof parchment; 35- Snap course; 36- Feminine ending; 37- Ivy League school; 38- Mil. officers; 39- Account books; 42- Bar bill; 43- Afternoon affairs; 45- Meadows; 46- Iota preceeder; 48- Any unnamed object; 50- More nasty; 51- Aussie hopper; 52- Muscat native; 54- The laying on of paint thickly; 58- Where junk may be held; 62- Spoil; 63- Grammy winner Erykah; 65- Pivotal point; 66- Spree; 67- Air freshener target; 68- River to the Ubangi; 69- Art supporter; 70- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 71- Knocks lightly;

DOWN: 1- Action word; 2- Morals of "NYPD Blue"; 3- Iron hook with a handle; 4- Postmortem examination; 5- Oblique; 6- Oil source; 7- Up to, briefly; 8- Are you ___ out?; 9- Burger topper; 10- Smokers receptacle; 11- Take ___ Train; 12- San Francisco's ___ Tower; 13- Roll call response; 21- Artificial waterway; 23- Conger catcher; 25- Pertaining to the distant past; 27- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 28- Like granola; 29- Composition; 31- Supermodel Sastre; 32- Communion plate; 33- Overjoy; 34- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 36- Paradise; 40- "Slas Mamer" author; 41- Pad user; 44- Odd; 47- Butch, e.g.; 49- Inn; 50- Ripe; 53- Windows predecessor; 54- Let ___; 55- Mother of Hermes; 56- Fasteners; 57- Thin woodwind instrument; 59- Space; 60- Swallow eagerly; 61- Former partners; 64- Show stoppers?

Yesterday's solution

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

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- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
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JEWELS OF ITALY SHOWCASE IN HONG KONG

The craft of beauty by Italian jewelers



IT WAS A NIGHT of bling as 60 sets of Italian-crafted jewelry were shown off at the “Jewels of Italy”, a gala event held at the 46th-floor Sky Lobby in Central Plaza, Wan Chai last week. The show was part of the recent 2nd Hong Kong International Diamond, Gem & Pearl Show and the 32nd Hong Kong International Jewelry Show where close to 200 prominent jewelers showcased their latest collections to Asian and international buyers. The Italian Pavilion was the largest European pavilion, as usual. “Jewelry has a long tradition in the Italian aesthetic culture; its name represents quality, style, creativity, technology and above all the pursuit of elegance, glamor and artistry,” Italian trade commissioner Paola Guida, who hosted the evening, said. In collaboration with Trendvision Jewellery + Forecasting, a division of Fiera di Vicenza, the four main trends of 2016 were presented during the parade – Airy Perspective, Dramatic Poetry, Global Delights and Digital(east). Injecting new design concepts and artistic elements, these trends were expressed through refined craftsmanship and various prized materials such as gold, silver, diamonds, coral, and pearls. A simple yet elegant stage design was used to showcase the 60 sets of top Italian jewelry through the beautiful catwalk shows by 15 Hong Kong’s elite models, including Ana R., Mikki Yao and Kayla Wong. The gala evening was attended by around 300 guests. MDT, Hong Kong

FOOTBALL

Madrid looks to extend 2-0 Champions advantage over Schalke

Harold Heckle

Wed 3:45am
Real Madrid v Schalke04
H 1.23, D 7.6, A 16.5

NO competition is more important for Real Madrid than the Champions League, and the squad will hope to ease recent doubts about its winning mindset when it hosts Schalke at the Santiago Bernabeu holding a 2-0 first-leg advantage.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti has acknowledged that Madrid's slump in form this year is confusing, but believes he knows how to fix it.

Madrid's most attacking lineup of Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale has gone from scoring an average of 2.6 goals per match in a trophy-laden 2014 that saw the team notch up a 22-game winning streak, to just 1.3 so far this year.

"What we are doing when we attack at the moment is quite confusing," he said. "There is too much individual play."

The Italian acknowledged Madrid's problem wasn't in defense. "It's not a defensive problem, it is an offensive problem. We are not finding a way through like we did in the ga-

AP PHOTO



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo

mes before."

Having been knocked out of the Copa del Rey and surrendered its domestic league lead to Barcelona, the 10-times European Champion is out to be the first team in 25 years to win back-to-back Champions League titles.

And the next step is to advance past the German team to the quarter finals.

One aspect that Ancelotti might try to improve is how balls won in defense are fed up to the attacking trio.

Key defender Sergio Ramos is now fit and could be incorporated into the squad to feed passes through to midfielders Sami Khedira and Luka Modric, who have both also returned to fitness. Modric had been sidelined for four months with a torn

thigh muscle.

Toni Kroos acknowledges that playing in Madrid's midfield is complex.

"Midfield is difficult nowadays," said the German international. "You have to be versatile, be good on and off the ball. You have to defend well, build up the attack and be good at winning individual battles. These positions are hard to

master."

Shalke coach Roberto Di Matteo has also been able to welcome back a key player after a long period out recovering from muscle injury.

Leon Goretzka was a standout player for Schalke in the second half of last season, playing a vital role in the team's qualification for Europe.

He came on in the 55th minute for his team's 3-1 win against Hoffenheim on Saturday and now hopes to play at the Bernabeu.

"It is a special game for all of us," he said, calling Madrid "a particular opponent."

Last year Schalke met Madrid at the same stage in the competition and came away bruised by a 9-2 aggregate trouncing.

"Last season we made a great game until the last quarter of an hour," he said of his last visit to the Bernabeu. "Now, let's try to keep pace."

Defender Christian Fuchs believes a comeback in Spain is not impossible.

"We travel now to Madrid in a positive frame of mind, no one will bet on us, so maybe there is a chance for us," Fuchs said.

However important an 11th European title might be to Madrid, it also faces a challenging prospect in La Liga, where it must travel to Barcelona for a potentially decisive clash in 10 days.

Madrid has given up a comfortable four-point league lead and been knocked by a 1-0 loss at Athletic Bilbao at the weekend after a 1-1 home draw against Villarreal the previous weekend, and a 2-1 round 17 loss at Valencia.

Ancelotti might opt to keep Ramos in reserve for the Camp Nou, ensuring there is less of a likelihood of a recurrence of the defender's hamstring injury.

AP / Odds by Betfair

AP PHOTO



Bangladesh's Mashrafe Mortaza, right, is embraced by teammate Taskin Ahmed as he celebrates after taking the wicket of England's Joe Root

ENGLAND'S forgettable World Cup is all but over after a 15-run loss to a Bangladesh lineup destined to become stars in their homeland after reaching the quarterfinals for the first time.

As the Bangladesh players joined in a wild on-field celebration yesterday, the English bats-

men made a somber exit after slipping out of contention with a pool match still to play.

England's only win in five matches so far at this World Cup was against second-tier Scotland.

Rubel Hossain claimed four wickets for Bangladesh after Mahmudullah posted the team's first

CRICKET

England out of World Cup after 15-run loss to Bangladesh

World Cup century in a competitive, but achievable, 275-7 total.

Mahmudullah scored 103 in a defiant 141-run stand with half century -maker Mushfiqur Rahim to lead Bangladesh back from a disastrous start when it slumped to 8-2 after losing the toss and being sent in to bat at the Adelaide Oval.

"I wasn't thinking too much," Mahmudullah said. "I was having a good time in the middle, I just wanted to bat."

England was all out for

260 in 48.3 overs, with Hossain (4-53) taking two wickets in three balls to finish it off.

It was a tense and dramatic finish for both teams, with the required run-rate staying around 10 per over and Tamim Iqbal dropping a catch deep in the outfield in the 48th over to give Chris Woakes a big reprieve, leaving England seemingly in the box seat and needing 20 runs from 15 balls. But with only two wickets in hand, England failed again.

"Pretty poor to be knocked out this early from a World Cup," England captain Eoin Morgan said. "Unbelievably disappointing."

"I am gutted at the moment. Our expectations were higher than the way we performed, so it is obviously disappointing. No idea what will happen from here. Again, there will be an inquest over the next few weeks to see what went wrong."

Mahmudullah said Bangladesh played with a winning mentality, des-

pite posting a total it considered well below a par score for the venue.

"We thought we were about 15-20 runs short initially, but we thought that if we got early wickets, then we were in with a chance," he said. "For us this victory is really special. ... The way Rubel bowled those last two balls, was just something really special."

England needed to beat Bangladesh and then Afghanistan in its last two pool matches to have any chance of reaching the quarterfinals. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk
Catarina Pinto



A FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

As International Women's Day approached, the number of speeches concerning gender inequality inevitably grew. American actress Patricia Arquette called for wage equality "once and for all," upon receiving an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in the film "Boyhood".

British actress Emma Watson, whose speech at the United Nations last year was widely acclaimed, also took to Facebook to engage in a discussion about gender inequality on Sunday. She advocated for men joining the fight alongside women: "We're never, ever, ever going to be able to fly as high, unless we're both in support of each other."

She's right. But it's hard to question humankind at large when we read that, "when being raped, she shouldn't have fought back. She should have just been silent and allowed the rape. Then they'd have dropped her off after 'doing her', and only hit the boy." These are the words of Mukesh Singh, the driver of a bus in which a 23-year-old girl was gang-raped in New Delhi in 2012. She died of internal injuries soon after, despite having been flown to Singapore for emergency treatment.

"India's Daughter," a documentary film featuring the views of some of the young woman's rapists, was aired last week on Storyville on BBC Four. The film was banned in India and was originally scheduled to air on Sunday – fittingly, on International Women's Day – but was instead aired on Wednesday amid "an intense level of interest," the broadcaster said.

In the film, some of the accounts and views, not only from the young girl's rapists but also from their defense lawyer, caused controversy and sparked anger across social media. One of the defense lawyers, ML Sharma, stated that, "In our society, we never allow our girls to come out from the house after 6:30 or 7:30 or 8:30 in the evening with an unknown person." He continued, "You are talking about man and woman as friends. Sorry, that doesn't have any place in our society. We have the best culture. In our culture, there is no place for a woman".

Unfortunately, talking about gender inequality today does not amount to debate surrounding whether or not women have the same wage rights or the same career opportunities afforded to men. The documentary "India's Daughter" unveils a far more disturbing gender inequality issue. As the film's author, Leslee Udwin, puts it: "These offences against women and girls [in India] are a part of the story, but the full story starts with a girl not being as welcome as a boy from birth."

The defense lawyer said, "In our culture there is no place for women." Here it is, loud clear, the thoughts of many men in India, but perhaps shared by others who live far more close to us than we think.

What bothered me most after watching the documentary was that the rapists and the lawyer were speaking of another human being as if they were not human at all. They were discussing the girl as if she were worth nothing, simply because she was born a woman. The frightening thing is that people with these views walk amongst us, not just in India but in other countries too.

Although culture and tradition have played a role in justifying these men's attitudes, for many of us, it is simply not a question of culture. It's about fighting for human rights. It's about fighting to treat human beings with dignity, be it in India, Macau, Hong Kong, or in Kazakhstan. It's not about nationalities or respecting other countries' cultures. Human rights have to speak louder than a culture. After all, in every culture, there is a human being who is treating another human being in a way that they wish to be treated.

A crucial aspect of a brighter future rests in younger generations who do not share those archaic values that encourage women's portrayal as if they did not deserve the same rights as men. We should fight alongside them.

THE BUZZ US: JURY WEIGHS MURDER CHARGE IN BUTTOCKS-ENHANCEMENT DEATH

A jury is weighing murder charges in the death of a 20-year-old London dancer who got silicone injections at a hotel to enhance her buttocks.

Defendant Padge-Victoria Windslowe says she performed thousands of the procedures despite a lack of formal medical training. The 45-year-old Windslowe describes herself as a former madam and hip-hop performer.

Authorities say she fled after a botched injection killed the dancer in 2011. Two other women

have testified that they became seriously ill after the low-grade silicone spread to their lungs.

Windslowe says women paid thousands of dollars for her work and called her "the Michelangelo of buttocks injections."

The jury got the third-degree murder case last week and is set to resume deliberations today (Macau time).

There have been several similar deaths around the USA.

Dog feared poisoned at famous Crufts show, owners devastated

Danica Kirka, London

THE co-owners of an Irish setter feared poisoned at Britain's leading dog show are devastated by his death – but they don't believe that one of the other competitors is responsible.

Three-year-old Thendara Satisfaction, known as Jagger, died Friday, shortly after returning to Belgium following an appearance at the world-famous Crufts dog show in the central English city of Birmingham last week. A veterinarian performed a post-mortem examination and found pieces of meat laced with poison in his stomach.

The vet "found cubes of meat, some sort of beef, like steak, and they had been sewn up with poison inside," one of the owners, Jeremy Bott, told the BBC. "She thinks there were possibly two or three different types of poison," one of which was a slug killer.

Police in both Belgium and Britain are aware of the incident, but authorities said they have not been asked to investigate. The Kennel Club, which organizes Crufts, is awaiting a toxicology report on the dog's death.

Bott said he doesn't know what happened, but he believes the poisoner is someone



AP PHOTO

with a grudge against dogs in general or the Crufts show in particular – but not Jagger himself. The owners have ruled out any suggestions that another competitor might have poisoned the dog.

"We can't and we won't think that this was the act of another exhibitor. If we thought this, we couldn't go on, and the last 30 years would be a complete waste," Dee Milligan Bott said on her Facebook page. "So I ask all of you to unite in finding the perpetrator who did this."

However, she suggested in an article in the publication,

"Dog World" that it was possible that the target of the attacker might have been another dog she owns, Thendara Pot Noodle. The second dog won best of breed at Crufts, while Jagger finished second in a preliminary competition.

Canine competitions have long been hit by claims of unscrupulous behavior – including the owners of rivals slipping dogs drugs. In 1996 a breeder was banned for giving a Chihuahua Valium at another British show.

Crufts is Britain's most famous dog show, attracting more than 21,000 competitors from 43 countries this year. It was founded in 1891, about 14 years after New York's Westminster dog show.

The stakes can be high. Though the prizes for such shows are small – the Best in Show title carries a purse of just 100 pounds (USD150) – puppies from winners can fetch thousands.

The Botts, who run a dog breeding operation in England, were part owners of Jagger. The dog lived as a family pet with their co-owners in Belgium, where he visited care homes so elderly residents could pat him on the head.

"Both families are just devastated," Jeremy Bott said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Keystone, Gian Ehrenzeller



White knights. This photo shows an aerial view taken this week from a helicopter of thousands of athletes on their way from Maloja to S-Chanf in south eastern Switzerland as they participate in the annual Engadin skiing marathon in Sils, Switzerland.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: D5MG

WORLD BRIEFS

LIBYA's military spokesman says militants from the country's Islamic State affiliate beheaded eight guards after an assault on an oil field last week during which nine foreigners were abducted. The spokesman, Ahmed al-Mesmari, also said yesterday that an employee of the al-Ghani oil field watched the beheadings and subsequently died of a heart attack.

IRAQ's government is investigating reports that the ancient archaeological site of Khorsabad in northern Iraq is the latest to be attacked by the Islamic State militant group. Adel Shirshab, the country's tourism and antiquities minister, told The Associated Press there are concerns the militants will remove artifacts and damage the site, located 15km northeast of Mosul.



AP PHOTO

USA An 18-month-old girl survived a car crash in a frigid Utah river after being strapped in a car seat upside-down for some 14 hours before being found by a fisherman, officers said. The condition of Lily Groesbeck was upgraded from critical to stable but critical condition at a Salt Lake City hospital, but her 25-year-old mother, Lynn Groesbeck of Springville, was found dead in the car, police said Sunday.

USA A University of Oklahoma fraternity will close and its members will be suspended after the group's national headquarters says a video of members participating in a racist chant was posted online. Sigma Alpha Epsilon said Sunday that an investigation had validated the contents of a video showing people chanting a racial slur against blacks and indicating that blacks would never be admitted to the fraternity. The chant also references lynching. The national fraternity said in a statement that it was "embarrassed" by the "unacceptable and racist" behavior.