

INT'L DRAGON BOAT RACES OFFER HIGHER PRIZE MONEY By increasing the prize money, the

Sports Development Board hopes to attract more international teams to Macau's races



RENOWNED ARTIST TRANSFORMS GRANDE PRAÇA A multicolored octopus created by Joana Vasconcelos is taking shape at the heart of MGM Macau's Grande Praça





AD

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA's inflation rebounded to above 1 percent in February, driven by a faster rise in food costs. More on p10

SOUTH KOREA U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert was set to be released yesterday after five days in a South Korean hospital for treatment of injuries caused by a knife attack. Lippert has been hospitalized at Seoul's Severance Hospital since Thursday when a knifewielding man slashed him on the face and left arm during a breakfast forum. More on p13

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Apple unveils new smartwatch



JAPAN Nobel-winning author Kenzaburo Oe says Japan's push to restart some nuclear reactors following the Fukushima disaster could lead to another crisis, and urges the government to follow Germany's example and phase out atomic energy.

INDIA-USA "India's Daughter," a rape documentary banned from airing in India receives its U.S. premiere at a star-studded event that includes actresses Meryl Streep and Freida Pinto. More on p14

More on backpage

2 MACAU _{澳聞}

Melco launches recruitment for Studio City resort



ASINO operator Melco Crown Entertainment has begun recruitment for Studio City, its new casino and entertainment resort. The company will offer up to 10,000 job opportunities, thousands of which have

been allocated to local residents.

A careers fair was launched for Macau ID holders on Monday and will run untill Thursday. The fair is being hosted at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, where a ballroom has been decorated

with a setting that corresponds to Studio City's cinematic theme.

Upon entry, candidates are greeted by neon signs that read, "The Audition: Are You In?" posters at the fair advertising the company's employee loyalty program,

which grants an additional month's salary to new nonmanagement employees who join before August, and another five-month salary to be received in 2018. According to Melco Crown's Co-Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho, the company has offered 16,860 internal transfers and promotions to its staff over the past six years.

"This is not by chance, but the result of an active policy of internal development, and is very much a part of the supportive culture of the company," he stressed in a press release. "At Melco Crown Entertainment, we believe that developing our people is creating a future for the company.

Last year, Melco's in-house learning academy trained over 10,000 employees. According to the press release, it has also launched a "Back to School Program" that offers employees a chance to complete their high school diploma. BY

Two bodies linked to shipwreck found on Hac Sa beach

OCAL authorities announced ves-⊿terday that they have recovered two more bodies at Hac Sa Beach, believed to be victims of last month's shipwreck off Coloane.

A small boat, which capsized off Coloane Island on February 27 with a group of seven to eight people on board, may prove to be a new clue for the Guangdong Police, who are working to uncover a radical Uighur group attempting to join the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group, Hong Kong's Ming Pao newspaper reported. Based on the initial accounts of survivors, local authorities concluded that the boat was smuggling mainland Chinese nationals, who were coming to Macau to gamble. Information provided by Macau Customs, the Judiciary Police, and the Public Security Police indicates that a woman's body was recovered last

Tuesday. A man's body was found on Sunday. Both cases have been referred to the Judiciary Police for further investigation.

The woman, aged 58, was found with her Chinese passport, but the man was found naked and therefore without identification documents. He had sustained a chest injury. Both autopsies have yet to be completed.

The two bodies are believed to be victims of an incident involving a capsized boat off Coloane Island. According to Macau authorities, in addition to the missing people, four other illegal immigrants aboard the boat managed to swim ashore and escape. The Ming Pao Daily reported that the capsized boat belonged to a migrant smuggling agency, which was trying to smuggle Uighurs from Xinjiang. They would then be transferred to Southeast Asian countries and would



SPORTS Int'l Dragon Boat races offer higher prize money



Catarina Pinto

THE prize money granted to win-L ners of the International Dragon Boat Races will be increased significantly this year from USD15,000 to a total of USD36,000, the vice-president of the Macau Sports Development Board (ID), Allen Lau, said yesterday at a press conference.

By increasing the amount of prize money, the Macau government hopes to attract more international teams to the competition, which will be held on June 13, 14 and 20.

Macau's small dragon boat races will be held on June 13 and 14, for the open and women's categories. The Macau International Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race (open and women's categories), as well as the Macau University Student Invitation Standard Dragon Boat Race, will be held on June 20.

Mr Lau stressed that by increasing the amount of prize money for international races, ID hopes to capture the attention of more renowned international teams, thus "encouraging athletes to achieve greater success." The top three teams of the international races will be awarded USD10,000 (first prize), USD5,000 (second) and USD3,000 (third) respectively. Last year, prize money was set at USD,3000, USD2,000 and USD1,000 respectively.

The registration period opens tomorrow. Interested participants can register at the Dragon Boat Association of Macau in person or online on the association's website.

The races are organized by ID in cooperation with the Dragon Boat Association of Macau, China. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is co-organizing the event with the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau. Mr Lau said that local dragon races "will add cultural and touristic features" to the event. In addition to the races, there will be food stalls around the Nautical Center of Praia Grande, as well as dragon boat exhibitions and other entertainment.

eventually join ISIS camps. However, the local authorities have found no evidence to corroborate these allegations. MDT/Lusa

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Hospital under probe again following death of elderly woman

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) into the sudden death of a 78-year-old woman at Conde São Januário hospital (CH-CSJ), just a few weeks after the death of a baby boy prompted a similar probe.

According to a statement issued by the Health Bureau (SSM), the patient's family has requested that police authorities launch an enquiry into her death, hoping that an investigation could shed some light on the cause.

According to SSM, she sought treatment at Conde São Januário hospital on March 6 for "a minor stroke." The woman was admitted to the hospital for further medical treatment after a diagnosis by the emergency room's neurologist. The doctor overseeing her case on March 9 determined the patient's condition to be stable and discussed discharge procedures with her family.

The SSM reiterated that the patient's clinical condition



remained stable until March 9 at 5pm, adding that the woman "had always remained conscious" upon admission to the hospital.

However, her condition "suddenly worsened significantly at 5.13pm." A cardiac monitor revealed that the patient was suffering from a slow heart rate. The SSM said that emergency treatment was provided, adding that medical staff performed CPR for about an hour. However, the patient did not recover.

SSM stressed that when medical staff learned of the patient's deteriorating condition, they informed her family. "After the sudden death of this patient, the SSM and the CHCSJ sincerely expresses its condolences to the family.'

The family has asked the PJ to reassess the patient's cause of death. The Health Bureau said it is available to assist the PJ's investigation, and added that the hospital would be awaiting their reports.

Police authorities also lau-

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nched a probe into the death of a five-month-old baby boy who died last month after taking medication prescribed at Macau's public hospital. The baby's parents also filed a complaint with the PJ.

The baby was brought to the hospital on February 19 after regurgitating milk. He was allegedly prescribed antiemetic Domperidona and the anti-allergy medicine Dimetindeno. The baby, who suffered from favism (a genetic disorder triggered by the lack of a specific enzyme) and a minor heart problem, was sent home. However, his condition quickly worsened.

Upon the boy's return to the hospital, two doctors issued a notice of critical condition, stating that the boy was suffering from dehydration, shock and sepsis. He was pronounced dead at 7.45pm.

The baby's family has questioned whether the hospital's treatment was appropriate. SSM is investigating the case internally. **CP**

Paid vacation policy may help reducing crowds

The Central Government intends to further implement "paid vacations" under its Labour Contract Law to prevent large numbers of mainland Chinese tourists from visiting Macau during the Golden Week vacation, said Ho Iat Seng, member of the National People's Congress Standing Committee. The 57-year-old told the Macao Daily the new regulation might entitle mainlanders to freely choose their days off each year to go on holidays. By that time, it is expected that the daily number of Chinese tourists to the territory would be more balanced.

CPPCC delegates suggest single customs clearance

Ten Macau CPPCC delegates jointly proposed implementing a "unilateral customs clearance" system at the Hengqin border by putting related laws and regulations into place. The current clearance mode, they claimed, no longer served the growing number of tourists from both sides, resulting in the checkpoints' low efficiency and inconvenience caused to visitors. The delegates also suggested building a "joint inspection station" which could accommodate the surging number of tourists. They also believed that such a pilot scheme could extend to the Zhuhai and Macau checkpoints later when it was proven successful.

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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

EDUCATION Schools that leave out the boys

THEY do not share a class-**I** room, nor do they play together in the school's corridors. They don't even look at each other during school breaks. In Macau, there are schools where boys are not allowed.

Mandy, Daisy and Sally share more than the uniform at Lady Fatima's School. For most of their lives, they have attended a girls' school. They don't have a lot of male friends. They feel more comfortable and more relaxed in the school environment without the presence of boys.

They don't meet boys very often so when that happens they seem a little bit immature

SHELLEY GRACE CALANGI

AD 🖿



Now aged 18 and about to begin university, they will take up a new challenge, which will inevitably result in their interaction with male students.

Having studied at an all-girls' school "is not a big issue" for any of them. They even describe a few advantages: "We did not have to worry about the way they look at us. We could say whatever we want, speak loud or even sing during our school break," Daisy said.

Sally speaks of a sense of freedom, namely during sports classes. "We needed to carry

heavy bags ourselves," she recalled. Mandy added that they felt less pressure in an all-girls' school compared to other girls who study alongside boys, particularly in subjects related to science.

Lady Fatima's School, located in one of Macau's most densely populated areas, the Toi San neighborhood, has 1,700 students in 54 different classrooms.

"We strive to improve the position of women in Macau society. That's been one of our focuses over the past 60 years," said the school's principal Cecilia Lao, acknowledging that communication problems between girls and boys might arise. The school has therefore responded to this by providing its students with exchange opportunities, where they can socialize with boys. This has helped developed their trust.

The English section of Santa Rosa de Lima College is also dedicated to girls. Venus, aged 17, has attended the school since she was a child and her sister has followed in her footsteps.

As president of the student union, Venus has more contact with male students from other schools. She sees it as a natural process but acknowledges that some of her colleagues "are a bit nervous" whenever they have to deal with boys. Nevertheless, she recognizes there are clear differences between her and colleagues from regular schools. "In my phone, I only have telephone contacts of other girls, whereas for colleagues of other schools [their contact list] is more balanced,"

she explained.

Shelley Grace Calangi, a teacher at Santa Rosa de Lima, acknowledged that teaching at a girls' school "is a great challenge." "We need to adapt our teaching methods to [our students'] different needs and their abilities," she said.

On one hand, teaching at a girls' school allows students to explore various issues in a more in-depth manner, particularly when it comes to sexual education; on the other, having different perspectives "is also healthy and beneficial," and "can encourage students to continue developing an interest in the opinions of others"

The teacher added that being at a girls' school encourages students to view the world from a female perspective. At the same time it is challenging because it only brings with it a certain amount of experience. Ms Calangi also said that it can prompt "identity issues."

"They don't meet boys very often so when that happens they seem a little bit immature. As they do not meet them often, they do not always know what to say, how to act or what is right or wrong," she concluded. Macau has eighty-seven schools, eight of which provide single-sex education. MDT/Lusa



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Catarina Pinto

multicolored octopus structure is slowly taking shape at the heart of MGM Macau's Grande Praça. Its tentacles are taking over the square's famous aquarium. Acclaimed contemporary artist Joana Vasconcelos said her latest creation, "Valkyrie Octopus," aims to combine "the past, tradition, and the future."

"That's what happened here in Macau: Macau combines the Portuguese tradition with the casino, which represents the future. It's amazing to be able to do this through my work; to be able to have access to such an immense and marvelous space and create something completely new, which is to create art in a casino," she told local artists on Monday in an event coorganized by MGM Macau and Macau Closer.

MGM Macau has invited acclaimed Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos to develop an artwork specifically designed for the main square of the casino resort. The installation is officially scheduled to open on Sunday.

Before exchanging ideas with local artists at a private dinner on Monday, Joana walked them through the edgy creation taking shape at MGM's square.

Known for using traditionally feminine crafts such as crochet or textiles, or even using unconventional elements to create unnerving and imposing sculptures and installations, Joana explained that this time she felt compelled to incorporate Macau's unique colors and elements into the piece.

"We talked with a Feng Shui master, and he told me a lot of things that made sense, regarding the colors of the tiles and the aquarium. My usual pattern of colors is darker, as I use the Portuguese colors. So normally I would have used a lot of black. But here I had to think of Macau colors, a lot of silver and gold, which are closer to the Chinese taste," she recalled.

This, the artist acknowledged, is one of the most exciting aspects about connecting with



Edgy 'Valkyrie Octopus' is taking over MGM's aquarium

lace napkins at the Palace of Versailles, to designing one of her most famous pieces "The Bride" – a chandelier made entirely of tampons – Joana has done it all.

"This is what I have been doing for years, relating to places out of the ordinary. Contemporary artists are being compelled to get out of their comfort zones and of their usual environment and put their abilities to good use in diverse environments," she pointed out.

Modern artists are increasingly adopting challenges that lead them to create and explore art outside museums or galleries. They are being encouraged to showcase their artworks in unconventional places and, most importantly, to create art specifically related to those environments. "What matters to me is that my work relates to the surrounding environment and its architecture," Joana said, adding that in a space like the Grande Praça - which is intended to portray Lisbon - it was not too difficult to create an engaging piece of art. "It was easy to interpret the architecture. This is Lisbon; here we have the façades, the Portuguese pavement, and the aquarium, which is an element I had to relate and interact

with," she recalled.

"I have been developing projects that are completely out of the ordinary and out of what the art establishment might entail. Of course I have displayed my artworks in museums and galleries, the primary contemporary art places for exhibitions. But throughout my artistic life, I have also been doing quite the opposite: displaying my artworks in old palaces, for instance, which is not easy," she concluded.

James Chu, Carlos Marreiros, António Conceição Junior, and Konstantin Bessmertny were among the local artists and curators who joined the Portuguese artist on Monday for a tour of her ongoing work at MGM Macau's square. António Conceição Junior told reporters that Joana's exhibition is of great importance "as we haven't had the presence of such a significant Portuguese artist since Macau's handover." Mr Conceição Junior added that Joana's installation is particularly meaningful, as many of its comprising elements are linked to Portuguese culture. He welcomed the exchange of ideas between Portuguese and local artists, and concluded that such events should be held more often, so local artists have the opportunity to reflect upon the

artwork alongside its creator.

Painter Konstantin Bessmertny added, "I have always had a conflict with the way casinos were built, but I see that Joana could adapt and change everything I don't like to make it a more artistic [place]. I would be happy to see more artists of such caliber and importance displaying their artwork here in Macau."

CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Ltd., Grant Bowie, said that the operator will, "continue efforts to bring in monumental art experiences of this caliber, as [part of] our commitment to expanding Macau's diversified offerings as a premier international hub of leisure and tourism."

"Valkyrie Octopus," which measures 35 meters in length, 20 meters in height and weights 1,200 kilos, will be on display from March 15 to October 31 at MGM Macau's Grande Praça.

ARTIST LAUNCHES LOCAL PARTNERSHIP IN MACAU



other cultures: adapting to different tastes and surrounding environments and allowing artworks to develop a unique relationship with the space. "You transform your way of thinking and adapt it to different patterns, colors and aesthetics. That's what contemporary artists do," she stressed.

Creating an art piece for a casino resort isn't an impossible challenge. Despite never having prepared an exhibition for a casino, the artist has created works for unconventional venues that are not usually associated with contemporary art. From a controversial exhibition featuring two extravagant warlike lions covered in white

PORTUGUESE ARTIST Joana Vasconcelos confirmed yesterday that her foundation would sign a protocol with the House of Portugal (Casa de Portugal) granting Macau residents scholarships and internship opportunities at her studio in Portugal. "We are signing a protocol here so that we can strengthen this relationship and give an opportunity to people in Macau to do an internship at my studio or apply for a scholarship to study visual arts in Portugal," she revealed.



CCAC says secretariat dissolution is legal

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has ruled that the dissolution of the secretariat of the Urban Planning Council is lawful. Following a complaint from the New Macau Association, CCAC noted yesterday that the council is responsible for issuing opinions on the processes of drafting, implementing, reviewing and amending urban plans. "While the law provides that the composition and operation of the Council are stipulated by complementary administrative regulations, it does not provide for or restrict whether or not a secretariat shall be established under the Council," CCAC stated.

Man dies at Galaxy construction site



A 42-year-old man died yesterday at the construction site of the Galaxy resort in Cotai, according to a TDM report. The mainland Chinese employee fell 12 meters. The man reportedly fell to his death while setting up a bamboo scaffolding structure.

AD 🖿

Gaming shares drop as Deutsche Bank latest to turn bearish

Kana Nishizawa

GAMING shares from Sands China Ltd. to Wynn Macau Ltd. dropped as Deutsche Bank AG recommended selling all six Macau casino operators, joining a chorus of investment banks that don't see a recovery anytime soon.

The opening of two new gaming venues this year isn't expected to boost demand, and the market is underestimating pressure on casino operators' profit margins, Deutsche analyst Karen Tang wrote in a note dated yesterday. Gaming revenue will fall 30 percent this year from 2014 compared with the previous estimate for a 13 percent decline, and the slide may continue in 2016, Tang wrote. "I don't think brokers are cou-

rageous enough to recommend buying at this moment," said Ben Kwong, a director at brokerage KGI Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong. "The number of visitors is dropping due to China's anticorruption policies and opera-



ting costs are rising."

Deutsche yesterday cut five Macau casino operators to sell from hold or buy, while maintaining its sell rating on shares of the sixth, SJM Holdings Ltd. Wynn dropped 6 percent at the close in Hong Kong. Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. lost 4.8 percent, while Sands China slid 3.7 percent. SJM, MGM China Holdings Ltd., Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. each slumped at least 3.2 percent. Casino shares accounted for the biggest five drops on the MSCI Hong Kong Index, which fell 0.9 percent.

The gaming companies lost

about USD92 billion in market value over the past year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Casino revenue plunged the most on record in February as Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign continued to deter VIP gamblers at a time when the nation's economic slowdown is already curbing spending in the former Portuguese colony.

Bets on casino stocks to fall have increased, with short interest as percentage of outstanding shares for Sands China climbing to 0.6 percent on March 6, near the highest since August 2013, according to data I don't think brokers are courageous enough to recommend buying at this moment

compiled by Markit Group Ltd. and Bloomberg. Short interest for Wynn was near a record high, while MGM China was at levels not seen since June 2012. Gross gaming revenue this year may drop 18 percent, JP-Morgan Chase & Co. said on March 8, when it cut ratings on Sands and Wynn. HSBC Holdings Plc and Citigroup Inc. are projecting declines of 21 percent and 16 percent, respectively. Barclays Plc said casino receipts may fall until the fourth quarter. **Bloomberg**



ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING CONVENING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with the law and the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Annual General Meeting of Companhia de Electricidade de Macau – CEM, S.A. registered at "Conservatória dos Registos Comercial e de Bens Móveis de Macau" under reference no. 590 (SO), will be held on the 30th March 2015 (Monday) at 5:30 pm, at the office of the Company, CEM Building, 14th floor, Estrada D. Maria II, in Macau, to transact the following business:

1. Discuss and approve the Annual Report of the Board of Directors and the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2014, and the Supervisory Board's opinion;



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Paediatric Surgery : Dr. C.K. Yeung
Paediatrics : Dr. Leung Ping, Dr. Melody Z.Q. Zhang
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Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan
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3. Election of corporate bodies;

4. Other business.

The documents related with points 1 and 2 of the convening notice and all connected documents are available for Shareholders' consultation, during office hours, at the office of the Company.

Macau, 16th February, 2015

The President of the Board of the General Meeting

Dra. Pansy Ho



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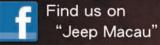


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BUSINESS

Apple CEO Tim Cook embraces technology and luxury to win in smartwatches

Tim Higgins

PPLE Inc. is betting that its first new gadget in five years, a smartwatch costing from USD349 to more than \$10,000, will offer the right blend of technology and luxury to lure even more customers and boost sales.

Apple Watch has a customizable face and will run 18 hours with typical use, Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said at an event in San Francisco Monday (yesterday, Macau time). He was making the case for why consumers would want to add another digital product to their daily lives, highlighting the watch's ability to track health, send notifications and serve as a status symbol.

"Apple Watch is the most personal device we have ever created - it's not just with you, it's on you," Cook said. "Since what you wear is an expression of who you are, we designed Apple Watch to appeal to a whole variety of people with different tastes and different preferences."

The watch will be available for preorder on April 10 and will reach consumers in Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, the U.K. and U.S. on April 24. It comes in two sizes, with the Sport model priced at \$349 and \$399 and the midrange version starting at \$549. The high-end Apple Watch Edition starts at \$10,000.

With the smartwatch, Cook is pushing Apple into a new product category that seeks to



Apple CEO Tim Cook talks about the new Apple Watch during an Apple event in San Francisco

further immerse users into the company's digital universe. As a health and fitness tracker, the watch opens new possibilities in the health industry. It also expands the number of devices that work with Apple Pay, the company's new mobile-payments system. To fully work, the watch, which has a color touchscreen, needs to be paired with an iPhone running the latest software, iOS 8.2, which was released yesterday. The device shows text messages and e-mails, and offers features called "digital touch" that enable watch-to-watch communication. It can also track health and fitness information and send reminders.

Earlier at the event, Apple unveiled its thinnest-ever MacBook personal computer, weighing 900 grams and measuring 13.1 millimeters high. The notebook, which includes new technologies behind its keyboard and track pad, runs on an Intel Corp. chip, and comes in silver, gray and gold with a 12-inch retina display. Apple will ship the new PC on April 10 and prices start at \$1,299.

Cook also announced an exclusive Apple TV partnership with Time Warner Inc.'s cable channel HBO for its standalone service. HBO's subscription service will be available outside of a traditional pay-TV package starting next month. Apple also cut the price of Apple TV to \$69. HBO's streaming channel will cost \$14.99 a month.

Cook also said Apple Pay, the company's mobile-transaction service, is now supported by 2,500 banks. New applications for health and medical research were also unveiled, including diagnostic tools that can help patients with Parkinson's disease and diabetes.

Apple Watch, first revealed in September, marks the first new gadget to be released since Cook became CEO in 2011. The new product, plus new larger-screened iPhones, have helped boost optimism about Apple's growth, sending its shares to a record high in recent weeks.

The sophistication of the applications available will be key to wooing Apple Watch buyers. Just as the App Store has been a key reason for the iPhone's success, tools for Apple Watch will help determine how customers use the gadget and whether it will be a sales hit.

A watch feature called glances, unveiled yesterday, provides a way to quickly check messages, calendar items, weather and what music is playing. New communication tools let users send drawings sketched on the watch to another Apple Watch owner.

The watch sends reminders if you have been sitting too long. Health is a main focus for the watch. The device tracks daily movements and sends reminders if you have been sitting too long. At the end of the week it will send a report about how you did toward

your goals and set new targets for the coming week. "It's like having a coach on

your wrist," Cook said at the event. Demonstrating Apple's push in to fashion, the Cupertino,

California-based company showed a video of model and maternal-health advocate Christy Turlington Burns using the watch while running a half-marathon in Africa. Bloomberg

corborate bl

ciety to take the initiative to save lives by contributing to local blood banks. The corporation's collective blood donation saw more than 20 staff attending, many of whom hoped that the company could organize more socially beneficial activities in the future. In 2000, CESL Asia introduced the non-profit "CESL Asia Social Investment" fund with an objective to enhance the intellectual, social, cultural and physical well being of the community and staff members. Each year, CESL Asia in partnership with its team members and other likeminded organizations provides resources in support of the objectives established in the Social Investment Program.

SANDS MACAO WINE TASTING EVENTS ON MARCH 13 and 27



Sands Macao is holding its next two wine tasting events at Sands Paiza Lounge on March 13 and 27. The events will feature seven selected wines from Watson's Wine and eight selected wines from Seapower respectively. On March 13, wine lovers will be able to sample

a selection of wines from Australia and New Zealand, including Shiraz, Cabernet and Chardonnay. According to the organizers, "These wines are characterized by rich fruit aromas with a wonderfully fresh finish. The tasting will be rounded off with a sparkling wine that shows a beautiful balance and an extraordinary length".

On March 27, wine lovers can enjoy New World red and white wines from Baron Edmond de Rothschild, with a total of eight wines available (six red and two white). Both wine tasting events will offer a selection of matched snacks to go with the wines.

CESL STAFF DONATE BLOOD



The president and CEO of CESL Asia Mr Antonio Trindade last Saturday 7 March led the group's social investment volunteers to the Macao Blood Transfusion Service Centre to give blood. Mr Trindade hoped that their proactive involvement in the collective blood donation could encourage the rest of the company and so-

Mozambique's economy projected to grow 7.5 pct

HE government of Mozambique expects the country's economy will to grow 7.5 percent this year, down 20 basis points on the forecast for 2014, according to the proposed Economic and Social Plan (PES).

The PES proposal for 2015, to be submitted to Parliament indicates that the inflation rate is projected at 5.1 percent, according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

The inflation rate is projected at 5.1 percent

The spokesman for the Council of Ministers, Mouzinho Saide, said the PES proposal defines the main objectives for 2015, the first year of implementation of the current government's Five Year Plan



Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi visits a flood affected area in the central Province of Zambezia

established following the last general election.

The proposal provides that exports of goods will reach US\$5.987 billion and the country will have foreign reserves of US\$3.623 billion, equivalent to 4.2 months of imports of goods and services. Other PES 2015 objectives focus on creating employment opportunities, and improving environmental management and increased transparency in the use of natural resources. MDT/Macauhub

ANGOLA

Private investment expected to create 41,000 jobs

THIRTY-SIX priva-

L te investment projects created under the program for acceleration of diversification of Angola's economy, will create 41,000 direct jobs in the next three years, the Angolan Economy Minister said Monday in Luanda.

A single Japanese company in the textile sector, according to the Angolan minister, has ongoing recovery and expansion of three factories in Angola, in an investment of billions of dollars, which is considered an "accelerator" of the process of economic diversification.

The total private investment included in the program for acceleration of economic diversification, with private projects already programmed along with other new ones, amounts to US\$22.7 billion and involves seven groups considered to be a priority.

This is the case of agriculture, fisheries, oil and gas, geology and mining, tourism, transport and energy and water, and "projects in these areas will be treated as priority by the government," said the Economy Minister.

In the process of diversification of the economy, according to figures submitted by the Minister, the weight of agriculture in Angola's Gross Domestic Product grew between 2012 and 2014, from 7 percent to 12 percent, while the services sector increased from 22 percent to 27 percent in the same period.

At the Angola/Japan Business Forum, Koichi Yajima, of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), noted the state bank was open to financing investments in Angola, by Japanese investors in the agricultural sector. **MDT/Macauhub**

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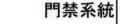




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Lawmakers' pollution battle adds to growth challenges

CHINA'S Lunar New Year visits to relatives. For provincial Governor Du Jiahao, day two of the biggest holiday on the calendar found him doing something altogether different.

CHINA 📭

The chief of central Hunan province went on a two-hour bicycle ride along the Xiang River, checking its water quality.

"It wasn't just for show," Du, who said work to clean up the river is in its third year, shared last week on the sidelines of a gathering of lawmakers in Beijing. "I asked somebody who was fishing, 'Can you really catch any fish here?' He said, 'If I can't catch fish, why am I still standing here?' This is a piece of data from a plain civilian."

The good fortune of the Xiang River fisherman isn't shared by hundreds of millions of other Chinese exposed to air and water pollution that's becoming the focus of this year's annual legislative gathering. Premier Li Keqiang said pollution is a blight on people's lives and would be fought with "all our might" while provincial officials are touting their efforts.

"Legislators are emphasizing it further," said Jim O'Neill, the former chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management. "It is a few years now since the government started to make environmental protection a major priority, and given the evidence that's on the ground, the actual quality of the environment may have deteriorated further."

Measures to rein in pollution add to strains on an economy that is already contending with a weakening property market, overcapacity, and a crackdown on corruption. Li last week announced a target for this year's expansion of about 7 percent, the



and stressed a "new normal" requiring structural adjustments to deliver "quality, efficient and sustainable development."

"If the development model doesn't change, China will stagnate," said Derek Scissors, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington who focuses on Asia economies. "To be valuable, the new normal must signify this new development model. Otherwise, it's just a slogan trying to cover for a weaker economy."

The fallout from three decades of rampant economic growth cost China close to 10 percent of gross domestic product annually in the past decade, according to estimates from the Rand Corporation.

The debate over the environment intensified before the legislative gathering when a documentary film "Under the Dome," which criticizes the government's handling of the environment, was released. Viewed by more than 100 million people, it vanished from major Chinese websites March 6.

Some government officials had openly praised the film, with environment minister Chen Jining comparing it to "Silent Spring," Rachel Carson's 1962 take on the environmental damage wrought by the U.S. chemical industry that spurred a nationwide ban on the use of DDT in agriculture. Thick smog regularly blankets China's cities, forcing many residents of metropolises such as Beijing and Shanghai to wear masks to try to protect against the toxins. Ninety percent of the 161 cities whose air quality was monitored in 2014 failed to meet official standards, according to a report by China's National Bureau of Statistics last week. About half of China's rivers have dried up since 1990 and those that remain are mostly contaminated. "The government has to do something," said Chen Wenbin, a delegate from Fujian province on China's east coast. "There is growing concern. Government cabinets have been under a lot of pressure to tackle it."

China will this year cut energy intensity by 3.1 percent and target a range of pollutants, Li told legislators last week.

"The officials are as determined to clean the air as you and me because they breathe the same air and so do their children," said Tao Dong, chief regional economist for Asia excluding Japan at Credit Suisse Group AG in Hong Kong. "It's absolutely crucial to get the act together."

The main economic drag will likely begin a year from now and continue through about five years, because the government can't shut polluters like coal-burning power stations until alternatives are built, he said.

In contrast to former years, where faster economic growth was a badge of honor for provincial governors, officials this time around are boasting of their environmental activism.

Chen Guoying, head of Hebei's environmental protection department, pledged to win the war even if the province has to sacrifice economic growth in the short term. Hebei cut coal con-

Inflation returns to above 1 percent but deflation risk looms

CHINA'S consumer inflation slightly picked up in February but analysts say this is unlikely to be sustained, heightening looming deflationary risk, which will put pressure on policymakers to further ease policies.

China's consumer price index (CPI), the main gauge of inflation, grew 1.4 percent year on year in February, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

The stronger than expected reading quickened from the 0.8 percent gain in January, the lowest level in more than five years.

NBS statistician Yu Qiumei attributed the rebound to rising food and travel prices during the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday. Distortions caused by the timing of the Spring Festival, which fell on Feb. 19 this year, also played a part, the NBS explained.

Food prices, which account for nearly one-third of China's CPI weighting, increased 2.4 percent year on year in February.

"The year on year CPI rebound mainly reflects distortions, but seasonally adjusted data continues to suggest downward pressure on prices," noted a research report by China International Capital Corp. (CICC).

Nomura agreed: "We continue to expect inflation to remain relatively low and still see disinflationary pressure in the economy".

During an interview yesterday on the sidelines of the annual session of China's top political advisory body, central bank vice governor Yi Gang said China's CPI will remain positive in the foreseeable future.

"The authorities are closely watching the index, and Japan and Europe face higher deflation risks," he added. Since 2014, major economies have stepped up monetary stimulus measures in efforts to counter deflation and boost sluggish economic growth.

China's producer price index (PPI), which measures wholesale inflation, plunged 4.8 percent year on year in February, marking the 36th straight month of decline, pointing to continuing weak market demand.

Analysts said the PPI decline can hardly bottom out in the absence of significant improvements in property investment and overcapacity problems.

Dragged down by a housing slowdown, softening domestic demand and unsteady exports, China's economy grew 7.4 percent in 2014, the weakest annual expansion in 24 years. And a string of economic indicators for the new year, including manufacturing and trade data, all suggested continued weakness.

To try to arrest the economic slowdown, China's central bank announced on Feb. 28 it would slash the benchmark deposit and loan interest rates by 25 basis points, the second such cut in three months.

Previously, it had lowered the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for banks to inject more monetary to the economy

But analysts largely believe more such easing moves will be needed.

"The deflation risk has put more pressure on the central bank to further cut interest rates and the reserve requirement ratio," said the CICC report.

Nomura forecast an interest rate cut in the second quarter and three RRR cuts over the course of the year.

The annual government work report, delivered by Premier Li Keqiang at the opening of the national legislature's annual session, set this year's economic growth target at around 7 percent and inflation control target at around 3 percent. **Xinhua**

lowest goal in more than 15 years,

44

Given the evidence that's on the ground, the actual quality of the environment may have deteriorated further

JIM O'NEILL FORMER CHAIRMAN, GOLDMAN SACHS ASSET MANAGEMENT sumption by 15 million tons, closed 141 mines and stopped work to improve 478 mines last year, Chen said Monday.

The prospect of new pollution laws prompted companies SPC Environmental Protection Tech Co. and Beijing SDL Technology Co. to rise to record highs last week after the "Under the Dome" documentary sparked renewed attention to the issue.

In the industrial city of Tangshan in Hebei province, two hours drive east of Beijing, the need to reduce emissions is causing the closure of plants, said party secretary Jiao Yanlong.

"Even though it hurts the bones and the muscles, and the cost is tremendous, the city has to do it," he said. **Bloomberg**



A customer purchases steamed buns from a vendor at a market stall in Beijing

HINESE officials said yesterday that members of the country's Muslim Uighur ethnic minority have gone overseas to fight with the Islamic State group, which controls sections of Syria and Iraq, and returned to take part in plots at home.

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Authorities in the far-western region of Xinjiang, which borders Afghanistan and Pakistan, will strengthen their crackdown on terrorism and extremism as a result, regional representatives said at a discussion on the sidelines of China's legislature.

Xinjiang has seen repeated violence as members of the Muslim Uighur minority group have bristled under what they say is repressive Chinese government rule. Attacks blamed on Uighurs have also occurred in other parts of the country, including a car which plowed into Beijing's Tiananmen Gate in 2013, killing five people.

"There are Uighurs that have fled overseas and joined the Islamic State," said Zhang Chunxian, Communist Party secretary of Xinjiang. "The organization has a huge international influence and Xinjiang can't keep aloof from it and we have already been affected. We have also found that some who fought returned to Xinjiang to participate in terrorist plots." He didn't elaborate.

Beijing has previously blamed the violence on Islamic militants with foreign connections who

Beijing says Muslim Uighurs have joined Islamic State group



A delegate, left, from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region speaks during the Xinjiang delegation group's meeting on the sideline of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

HONG KONG AIRLINES FLIGHT DIVERTED AFTER BOMB THREAT

A HONG Kong Airlines plane flying from Beijing to Hong Kong was diverted to the central Chinese city of Wuhan after getting a bomb threat. Flight HX337, with 295 passengers and crew, landed safely at Wuhan Tianhe International Airport at 2:29 p.m., more than two hours after leaving Beijing, the airline said in a statement. Everyone aboard got off the plane safely and investigators were checking the Airbus A330-200. No bomb was reported found yet.

Calls made after working hours to the Wuhan airport and the local police's media affairs office weren't immediately answered. Last month, an Air China plane bound for Beijing was forced to land in Chongqing after a bomb threat, according to China Daily. China sentenced a man to four years in prison last December for making bomb threats to an airline, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing a court in southwestern Yunnan province. are seeking an independent state in Xinjiang, but has offered little evidence and ignored calls for independent investigations. Uighur groups say police have used indiscriminate deadly force against people protesting the government's policies in the region.

The Global Times, a newspaper affiliated with the ruling Communist Party, said in December that about 300 Chinese are fighting alongside the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Zhang said authorities would take measures to stop people from going abroad to fight with the group, and that he expects "fewer and fewer cases" of that happening. "We are confident that we can fix it," he said.

Another official, Shohrat Zakir, said a yearlong crackdown on terrorist activities in the region "has won wide support from people of all ethnic groups." **AP**

Indian police break up protest at Chinese Embassy

INDIAN police yesterday detained about a hundred Tibetans who were protesting outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi on the anniversary of a failed 1959 uprising against China's rule in Tibet.

Protesters interlocked their hands and tried to form a chain around the embassy before police stepped in and dragged them away.

Some protesters shouted "Free Tibet" and "Rise up for freedom," while others tied themselves together with an iron link chain. Some Ti-



Indian policewomen pull Tibetan exiles to detain them during a protest in New Delhi

betan men had painted their bodies and faces in the yellow, blue and red colors of the Tibetan flag. Officers were seen struggling with the protesters as they separated them and carried them to

police jeeps and buses. Police officer Dhruv Narain said the Tibetans were being held at nearby police stations and would be released later yesterday.

The protest was to mark the 56th anniversary of the uprising, which led to the flight of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetans' spiritual leader, and the establishment of the Tibetan government-in-exile in a northern Indian town.

Tibetan activists said they were dedicating their protest to the memory of the 130 Tibetans

who have self-immolated since 2009 to protest Chinese rule in Tibet. China maintains that Tibet has been part of its territory for more than seven centuries, while many Tibetans say they were effectively an independent country for most of that time. In the Himalayan town of Dharmsala in nor-

of Dharmsala in northern India, thousands of Tibetans, carrying flags, banners and placards, marched to mark the uprising's anniversary.

Lobsang Sangay, the prime minister of the

government-in-exile, reaffirmed his commitment to the "Middle Way" approach of engaging China through dialogue to achieve a meaningful autonomy for Tibetans in the country. Tibetans are "not seeking separation from China, but genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people," Sangay said in speech before the march began.

China rejects the Dalai Lama's quest for greater Tibetan autonomy from Beijing, saying it is a covert bid for independence. **AP**

MYANMAR

Police charge at student protesters with batons

Gemunu Amarasinghe, Letpadan

HUNDREDS of riot police charged at students protesting Myanmar's new education law yesterday, pummeling them with batons and then dragging them into trucks, bringing a quick, harsh end to a weeklong standoff.

Police threw stones and jumped over fences as they broke up the demonstration. Some students and monks were chased into a Buddhist monastery, said Honey Oo, a student leader.

"Many people were beaten and several arrested," she said by telephone.

After the crackdown, police were seen celebrating and shouting, "Victory! Victory!"

Myanmar only recently began moving from a half-century of brutal military rule toward democracy. But the nominally civilian government installed four years ago has been grappling with the consequences of newfound freedoms of expression. It has been especially sensitive about public protests, arresting hundreds of people since taking office for peacefully expressing their views.

In November, around a hundred students began protesting a new education law, saying it curbs academic freedom. They have been joined by monks and other activists, bringing their number to around 200 in the last nine days, when they started a sit-in on a road near a monastery in Letpadan, about 140 kilometers north of Yangon, the country's biggest city.

They wanted to march to Yangon, but security forces blocked them, forming a human chain and setting up barbed wire barriers.

Authorities warned "action would be taken" if they tried to go ahead.

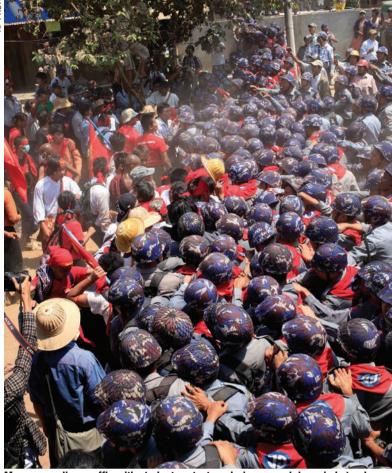
Earlier yesterday, the two sides had appeared close to reaching an agreement. Police said the students could march to a nearby town and then be transported to Yangon in government-provided trucks, but then demanded that the protesters refrain from shouting slogans or waving flags along the way.

More than 400 police blocked the road. The protesters, many wearing red T-shirts and bandanas, tried to push their way through the riot police, dressed in helmets and camouflage fatigues. Some monks in maroon robes joined the students.

The police then turned on the students, chasing after them with batons and sticks. Associated Press photographers said some protesters were beaten in the head, punched and kicked as they were dragged to the waiting trucks.

Several protesters were arrested, including two student leaders, Min Thwe Thit and Phyo Phyo Aung.

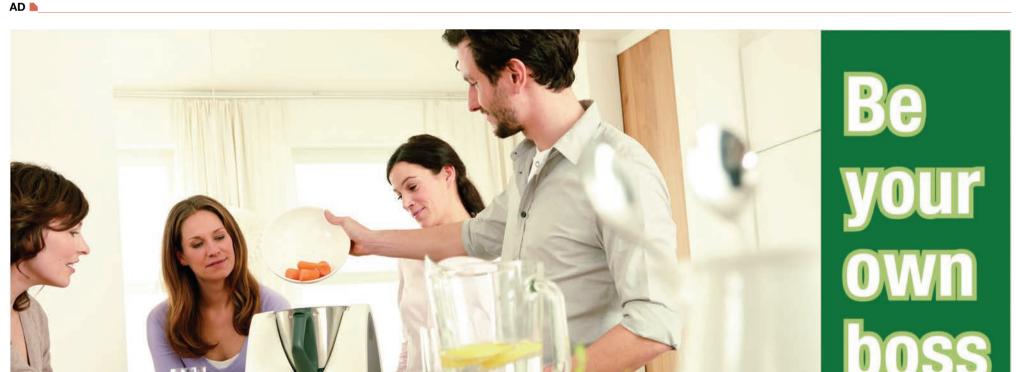
Myanmar's government is es-



Myanmar police scuffle with student protesters during a crackdown in Letpadan, 140km north of the country's main city Yangon

pecially sensitive about protests in Yangon because the city was the scene of 1988 pro-democracy demonstrations that spread through the country, eventually leading to the collapse of the previous military junta.

The government has crushed several protests in and around Yangon in the last week, usually by dragging demonstrators into trucks. **AP**





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Times

EXTERNAL ASIA-PACIFIC

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

Joint Content of Section 2018 Solution Solution

Lippert told reporters assembled at Seoul's Severance Hospital that he felt "pretty darn good, all things considered" after the "scary incident" on Thursday, when police say an anti-U.S. activist slashed his face and left arm during a breakfast forum in Seoul.

Lippert, his face bandaged and his arm in a brace, would not comment on the specifics of the attack because of the police investigation. He refused to discuss possible new security measures, except to say U.S. officials would take "a hard look" at procedures in South Korea and then make a decision.

He said that since arriving in Seoul this past fall, he and his staff "have felt embraced and welcomed by the Korean people."

"In return, we have made it our mission to be open and friendly. And that will not change," he said.

SOUTH KOREA

Knifed US ambassador released from hospital



South Koreans hold pictures of U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert during a rally denouncing the attack on the ambassador, in downtown Seoul

Lippert, who has endeared himself to many South Koreans by regularly walking his basset hound around his compound in downtown Seoul and giving his newborn son a Korean middle name, said he was deeply moved by messages of support. He said the attack would only strengthen an "unbreakable bond" between Seoul and Washington as the allies work to deepen military, economic and cultural ties.

Media images of the bleeding ambassador shocked many in South Korea, a strong U.S. ally since the Korean Peninsula was split into a pro-American South and pro-Soviet North at the end of World War II, and caused an outpouring of public sympathy. President Park Geun-hye and other senior officials visited Lippert in the hospital, while activists held a series of pro-U.S. rallies near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul.

Hundreds of activists rallied again in Seoul yesterday, waving U.S. and South Korean flags and holding signs with congratulatory messages for Lippert on his hospital release. They also called for the strengthening of South Korean-U.S. ties.

Doctors removed the 80 stitches needed to close the cut on Lippert's face, Severance's general director, Yoon Do-heum, told reporters. He said the ambassador was still feeling some pain in his arm, but that it was manageable with medicine. He said Lippert may experience sensory problems in his left hand for several months. **AP**

Authorities investigating threat to poison baby formula

AN anonymous blackmailer threatened to poison infant formula in New Zealand to protest the country's use of poisonous baits for pest control, and sent dairy giant Fonterra packets of milk powder laced with pesticide, police said yesterday.

Prime Minister John Key said the threat was likely a hoax, and assured parents that formula was safe for babies to drink. But the announcement prompted fears of a backlash against



A Fonterra milk powder factory at Pahiatua, New Zealand

and other formula with 1080 unless New Zealand

Primary Industries said it had tested over 40,000

Gov't orders N. Korean diplomat out for smuggling gold

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

BANGLADESH'S government has ordered a North Korean diplomat to leave the country after discovering USD1.4 million of unauthorized gold in his bag when he arrived at Dhaka's airport, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday. The ministry summoned North Korean Ambassador Bi Song Hyon

Korean Ambassador Ri Song Hyon on Monday and gave him a 72-hour deadline to send the diplomat, Son Young Nam, back home, the official said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. Local media, citing unidentified



the country's economically crucial dairy industry.

Fonterra, the world's largest exporter of dairy products and New Zealand's biggest company, and farming association Federated Farmers both received anonymous letters in November, police said. The letters were accompanied by small packages of milk powder that tested positive for a concentrated form of the agricultural pesticide 1080 (ten-eighty), which is used by the country's conservation department to control pests such as rats and possums.

The letters threatened to contaminate infant

stopped using it by the end of March, New Zealand Police Deputy Commissioner Mike Clement said. New Zealand uses 80 percent of the 1080 produced worldwide, and many animal welfare advocates oppose its use, arguing it causes animals to suffer slow, painful deaths.

Since November, dozens of police have been trying without success to figure out who sent the letters, Clement said. The blackmailer had threatened to go public by the end of the month, prompting officials to make the announcement yesterday.

The nation's Ministry for

product samples and found no evidence that any were contaminated.

"We are advised it is extremely unlikely anyone could deliberately contaminate formula during the manufacturing process and there is no evidence that this has ever occurred," Key said. "While it is very likely this threat is a hoax, we as the government have to take it seriously and I can assure you that we are."

Although Fonterra received one of the letters, the blackmailer did not specifically threaten the dairy company's products, Clement said. **AP**

sources, reported Monday that Son, the embassy's first secretary for commercial and economic affairs, had already left the country secretly on Sunday night.

The 27 kilograms of undeclared gold was seized from Son when he arrived last Thursday at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalam International Airport, police said.

No charges were lodged against Son because of his diplomatic immunity, and he was eventually handed over to officials from the North Korean Embassy, said Rashidul Islam Khan, commanding officer of the airport's armed police battalion. Khan said the diplomat arrived on a late-evening flight from Singapore and was passing through the "nothing to declare" channel in customs when he was stopped. An official asked to scan his carry-on luggage and he refused, Khan said. "We challenged him and found the

gold in his luggage. We seized the gold," he said.

Khan said the diplomat admitted under questioning that he was carrying the gold illegally.

The North Korean Embassy could not be reached Monday night for comment.

Sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs have largely cut it off from the international financial system, and it may have wanted to sell the gold to gain badly needed hard currency. North Korean diplomats have also been accused in the past of involvement in counterfeiting and drug trafficking. **AP**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Banned Indian rape documentary debuts in US; Streep attends

Michael Balsamo, New York

rape documentary banned Afrom airing in India received its U.S. premiere at a star-studded event that included actresses Meryl Streep and Freida Pinto.

The screening of "India's Daughter" at Baruch College began Monday (yesterday, Macau time) with a vigil as Oscar-winner Streep lit about a dozen candles honoring the Indian medical student who died after being gang-raped on a bus in 2012. Organizers said about 650 people attended the event.

"Tonight we light these candles to honor the value and the work of Jyoti Singh's short, promising life," Streep said. "She was India's daughter. Tonight she's our daughter too."

The woman was attacked when she and a male companion boarded a private bus in Delhi. The documentary details a brutal account of how six men



Actress Meryl Streep arrives for the premiere of the film "India's Daughter" at **Baruch College in New York**

beat her friend and then gang-raped her in the bus before tossing her onto the street. She was found naked on the side of the road and later died of her injuries. Four men were convicted and sentenced to death for the rape and murder.

The victim's parents have publicly named their daughter and have said they want the world to know about her plight.

"Ultimately, this is a film that needs to go out," said Pinto, the Indian actress known for her role in "Slumdog Millionaire," who does not appear in the film. "This is not a shame -India documentary."

The film's U.S. premiere follows a week of controversy in India.

The uproar centered around comments made by one of the convicted rapists interviewed for the film. He blamed the victim for taking a bus late in the evening.

"A decent girl won't roam

around at 9 o'clock at night. Housework and housekeeping is for girls, not roaming in discos and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes," he said.

The documentary, by British filmmaker Leslee Udwin, herself a rape victim, was to have aired on an Indian television station on Sunday, International Women's Day, but a court order halted the broadcast. It was done in the interest of maintaining public order, according to Indian authorities. Instead, the station showed a blank screen.

"India's Daughter" first was screened in Britain on a British Broadcasting Corporation channel last week. Indian viewers cannot see it on the BBC website, but it can be seen on YouTube.

"This film in no way is propagating violence in order to solve the problem. In fact, what we're saying is let's do this in the most civilized possible way ever," Pinto told The Associated Press before the film's screening.

"This is not just an India problem; this is a problem that inflicts almost every country in the world," she said. "There's not a single country in 2015 that is free of sexual violence against women." AP





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EGYPT Cairo's Mother Theresa serves children of slums



Maggie Gobran, known as "Mama Maggie", kisses the foot of a child as she places a new slipper on her foot after washing her feet at a community development center she founded, in the Manshiet Nasr neighborhood of Cairo

Merrit Kennedy, Cairo

N a slum inhabited by Cairo's legions of informal garbage collectors, children in tattered sandals walk down muddy, trash -strewn alleys to get to Mama Maggie's community center, where their feet are washed, their wounds are dressed and they are encouraged to learn and play.

On a recent day "Mama" Maggie Gobran herself, dressed all in white, washed the face and feet of a young girl who had lost her right arm in a machinery accident before giving her a fresh pair of sandals and sending her off to play with the others. "I want each child to know how much I love them. I appreciate them, I respect them," she said. Her organization, called Stephen's Children after Christianity's first martyr, has started nearly 90 such centers, and she estimates they have helped more than 30,000 low -income Egyptian families. They focus on Coptic Christians, a minority that has long complained of discrimination, though Gobran says they help Muslim children as well. These days there are more people in need of her services than ever before. The 2011 uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak led to years of unrest that have taken a heavy toll on the economy. The informal

areas she targets, where impoverished residents string up their own power lines and rig their own water taps, are steadily expanding.

Gobran, a 65-year-old Copt, has worked in such areas for more than three decades and has been compared to Mother Theresa, but she comes from an upper middle-class background. She previously worked as a marketing executive and as a computer science professor at the elite American University in Cairo.

"At the American University, they were very good, but they had other people to go to serve them. But these people, they don't have any," she said. The Manshiyet Nasr slum is home to the city's trash collectors, who run a vast grass-roots recycling program there. Children in threadbare clothes wander the muddy streets while their parents sift through giant mounds of garbage, much of it hauled by donkey cart from across the city of 18 million. A different world beckons from inside the community center. In the courtyard, a teacher and a group of giggling kids play with a parachute. Another group draws pictures. Upstairs, a doctor examines a sore on a little girl's foot, and teenage boys who dropped out of school learn to make leather shoes. Stephen's Children has long provided early childhood education programs, which Gobran says are crucial to breaking the generational cycle of poverty, but after the age of seven the children had to rely on the state.

In Egypt's decrepit public schools, poorly paid teachers often rely on private tutoring and families must pay out of pocket for one-on-one attention. An estimated USD2.4 billion is spent every year on private tuition in Egypt, according to the U.N., with the extra expense widely seen as essential for passing exams.

"Teachers need better pay – they'll extort. Students need better instruction — they'll go buy it," says education researcher Motaz Attalla. "These things are really major strucEgypt. And she chose this neighborhood specifically because it's one of the most densely populated areas and one of the oldest slums," said Ines Fawzy Malak, who runs the school.

With its small classes, clean facilities and emphasis on creativity, the Farah School stands in stark contrast to the crowded, unruly classrooms in public schools across the country.

Kindergarteners practice writing English and Arabic letters in a brightly painted classroom. At the morning assembly a student receives a prize for a poem she wrote about Egyptian Christians who were kidnapped and beheaded by Islamic State militants in neighboring Libya.

IVORY COAST Former 1st lady gets 20 years' jail for violence



Simone Gbagbo

Former first lady Simone Gbagbo was sentenced yesterday to 20 years' jail by an Ivory Coast court for her part in post-election violence that killed more than 3,000 people four years ago. Her lawyer, Rodrigue Dadje, called it a "purely political decision to keep her out of the political game." But there was jubilation from a prosecutor. "We have shown that impunity cannot continue in Ivory Coast," said Soungalo Coulibaly, a state lawyer who participated in the legal action. Former President Laurent Gbagbo awaits trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague for alleged war crimes including rape, murder and persecuting political opponents before his fall from power in 2011. Ivory Coast refused the international court's order to surrender his wife for trial there on similar charges. Instead, an Ivorian court found her guilty of undermining state security. She had pleaded not guilty.

UKRAINE **President says** arms withdrawal almost complete



Ukraine's president says government and Russian-backed

tural challenges."

This year, the World Economic Forum ranked Egypt 141 out of 144 countries for quality of education. Despite major advances in recent decades, nearly 30 percent of Egyptian adults are illiterate, according to the U.N.

"Parents would come back and say, now the children have good basics, but we don't have a good school for them," said Maha Victor, a coordinator for Stephen's Children.

In response, the organization opened its first school for older children in 2012 in Khosoos, a poor town north of Cairo.

"Mama Maggie thought of the Farah School because of the problems of education in

Another is applauded for her athletic achievement.

"This school is a lighthouse for the Khosoos neighborhood. A lot of teachers want to join and be part of the crew. We have a big waiting list for the children," said Malak.

Gobran hopes to duplicate its success elsewhere. "We have plans even after my lifetime. They will continue every year - a number of schools, a number of centers, a number of people.'

She says "it's never enough," given the scale of poverty in Egypt. But "whatever it takes, we try to give them support. And then we learn from them." AP

separatist forces have pulled back the bulk of their artillery and rocket launchers from the front line in the east, in compliance with a cease-fire deal. Petro Poroshenko told a state broadcaster Monday evening that some heavy weaponry remains in place at the airport of the rebelheld city of Donetsk, however. Progress in the arms-withdrawal process agreed at high-level peace talks last month will boost attempts to bring a definitive end to a conflict that has killed more than 6,000 and displaced 1.5 million people. The pullback is being overseen by hundreds of monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has complained of a lack of cooperation by the warring sides.

16 INFOTAINMENT 資訊/娛樂

MacauDaily Might Here &

what's ON



OIL PAINTINGS EXHIBITION OF YANG YAO TIME: 10am-7pm UNTIL: March 13, 2015 VENUE: UNESCO Centre of Macau, Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

CUTTING IT FINE

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

COOKIN' NANTA

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays) 5pm & 8pm (Saturdays & Sunday) 8pm (March 22, 2015) UNTIL: March 22, 2015 VENUE: Sands Theatre at the Sands Macau/ No.203, Largo de Monte Carlo, Macau ADMISSION: MOP280 up

"ONE HUNDRED PHOTOGRAPHERS FOCUS ON MACAU" EXHIBITION TIME: 24 hours UNTIL: March 22, 2015 VENUE: Level 2 Showcase, MGM Macau ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays) VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT) ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

RED SANDALWOOD ART EXHIBITION OF OLD BEIJING CITY GATES TIME: 12pm-9pm (Tuesdays to Sundays, open on Mondays that fall on a public holiday) UNTIL: March 22, 2015 VENUE: Level 2 MGM Art Space ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

CALIFORNIA CARE HOME OPERATORS FACE ABUSE CHARGES

<u>TV canal macau</u>

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Fairyland of Earth Builing
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Documentary Series



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



this day in history



2004 MANY DIE AS BOMBS DESTROY MADRID TRAINS

At least 170 people have died and 500 have been injured as huge explosions tore through three Madrid train stations during the morning rush-hour. Near simultaneous blasts hit Atocha station in the centre of the Spanish capital and two smaller stations, Santa Eugenia and El Pozo.

Early reports say that two bombs exploded on one intercity train as it pulled into Atocha station at 0730 local time. Blasts were also believed to have taken place on two suburban trains on the rail line leading into the station. The government said there were four explosions altogether.

Juani Fernandez, 50, who was on a platform waiting for a train, said: "People started to scream and run, some bumping into each other. I saw people with blood pouring from them, people on the ground."

Paramedics have set up an emergency field hospital outside Atocha, which is a major railway station used by commuter, intercity and subway trains. Madrid rescue services official Cesar Gomez said there was "a multitude" of injured at the station.

Emergency services are trying to rescue commuters trapped on the trains. Hospitals in the city have appealed for people to come forward to give blood.

A vast morgue has been set up in an exhibition hall and busloads of relatives are arriving to try to identify remains. Authorities have warned it is almost impossible to match body parts. All trains in and out of the Spanish capital have been cancelled.

Spain's national telephone operator, Telefonica, has urged people to send text messages instead of making calls to take the pressure off the network, which has collapsed.

No group has admitted carrying out the attacks but the Spanish government blames Basque separatist group Eta for the bombings, which come three days ahead of Spain's general election.

Campaigning for the election has been suspended for the time being. "There is no doubt Eta is responsible," said Spain's interior minister Angel Acebes following an emergency cabinet meeting. "Eta had been looking for a massacre in Spain," Mr Acebes added. Mr Acebes said there was no prior warning of the explosions.

The leader of one outlawed Basque party linked to Eta denied the Madrid bombings were the work of the separatist group. He suggested "Arab resistance" elements could be behind the attacks.

Some experts on Eta said the bombings did not fit the group's usual profile for attacks. Eta have frequently phoned warnings ahead of attacks in the past. Police are reported to be hunting for two men seen jumping on and off trains further down the line from the sites where the explosions happened.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Owners of a Northern California care home accused of abandoning patients in a case that garnered national attention were charged Monday with elder abuse.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris charged owner Herminigilda Noveda Manuel and administrator Edgar Babael with felony charges of abandoning 14 patients at the financially struggling Valley Springs Manor facility in Castro Valley, south of Oakland. Each faces 17 years in prison and \$84,000 fines if convicted.

State officials closed the home in October 2013, and the two are accused of walking out on the patients, some of whom were mentally ill. A cook and janitor not trained for medical care said they helped the patients as best they could for at least two days before paramedics finally arrived. The cook and janitor stayed with the patients even though they hadn't been paid in weeks.

Orrin Grover, a lawyer who previously represented the home, didn't respond to an email inquiry Monday. A phone number provided by the California Bar Association was temporarily disconnected. The charges were filed in Alameda County, where the home was located. Manuel withdrew her attempts last year to keep her license to operate in California.



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 **The** final figure for the number of dead was 191 and at least 1,800 people were injured. There had been fears of a terrorist attack in the run-up to the Spanish elections. Twelve days earlier, police had intercepted a van bound for Madrid which was packed with explosives. They blamed Eta.

The government had reported there were four bombs in the Madrid attacks although it later emerged there were 10. Eta was seen as the prime suspect but the day after the blasts an Arabic tape with Koranic quotes was found in a suspect van near Madrid. At least one group claiming links to al-Qaeda said it planted the bombs. A letter purporting to be from al-Qaeda was also sent to a London newspaper and referred to the attacks as Operation Death Trains. A parliamentary commission was set up to investigate the train bombings as Spaniards demanded to know how the attacks were possible. The inquiry lasted five months and more than 30 people were called to testify.

The conservative government lost power in the election three days after the attacks, amid suspicions that they misled the public by claiming that Eta was to blame. Several weeks after the train bombings, seven suspects blew themselves up when police tried to arrest them in a flat in Leganes in Spain.

Twenty-nine people are on trial in Spain in connection with the bombings.

In March 2007 Britain extradited a Syrian-born Spanish citizen, Moutaz Almallah Dabas, to Spain - he is charged with recruiting the bombers.

MacauDaily (#P##### •

資訊/娛樂 INFOTAINMENT 17

BEFORE I ANSWER THAT, I HAVE A POLICY MATTER-YOU'LL

HAVE TO PAY IN

ADVANCE IN

THE FUTURE

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Things are getting pretty heavy today - so make sure that you're ready to handle it all! Very little can be avoided on a day like today, but that means that the future should be much simpler.



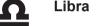
May 21-Jun. 21

Help a friend or a colleague in need today - you may not have the energy to make progress on your own responsibilities. Things are sure to get a lot more interesting as you dive into their issues!



Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You have to open up a cold case from your past. The good news is that you are sure to learn something new if you do so. Things are likely to get a lot sweeter for you in the future!



Sep.23-Oct. 22

You've got to take care of business today - your energy demands it! You may not be totally sure what people want of you, but you should still be able to make a big difference in the end.



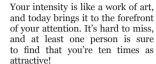
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A wild dream takes you by surprise and leaves you feeling a bit nutty when you wake up - but it's got a coded message that's worth hearing. Spend some time pondering the details you can remember.

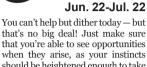


Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Work on your career today — even if you're perfectly happy where you are right now! You never know what opportunities are opening up until you take a look. Change is good todav!







Taurus

April 20-May 20

that's no big deal! Just make sure that you're able to see opportunities when they arise, as your instincts should be heightened enough to take advantage of them.



Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A big question faces you today one that may cause some serious scrambling if you don't face it headon. Things are starting to get a little weird, but you can deal with them if you're brutally honest.

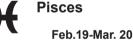
Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your innate intensity is a huge asset today - so make the most of it! You should find that your amazing personal energy helps you to make the most of a situation that seems somewhat dire.

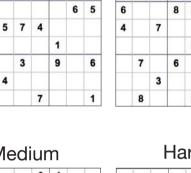


Dec. 22-Jan. 19

A good friend needs some advice - can you deliver? Your mental energy is up to the task, but you also need to be able to deliver it in a package that they find acceptable. Work at it!



You feel somewhat like a doormat today - but only because you're so open and welcoming! Nobody is seriously thinking of abusing your hospitality, at least not for the time being.





HE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

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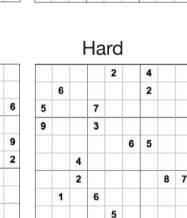
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DO YOU SEE PROSPERITY IN

MY FUTURE ?

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-20	-8	clear/overcast
-1	10	clear
-3	4	clear/cloudy
4	15	overcast/cloudy
-1	14	clear
8	16	drizzle/cloudy
12	17	overcast
8	26	clear
-1	11	clear
3	11	cloudy
4	13	overcast/cloudy
3	12	cloudy
12	19	drizzle/moderate rain
13	16	overcast/drizzle
15	17	cloudy
0	6	drizzle
0	11	drizzle/cloudy
4	12	drizzle/overcast
2	9	cloudy/drizzle
4	9	moderate rain
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CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Compile, accumulate; 6- Inner layer of a quilt; 10- Lady's man; 14- Saline; 15- Banned apple spray; 16- Dies ___; 17- Lend _; 18- Title bestowed upon the wife of a rais; 19- Face concealment; 20- Scenes; 22- Lubricant; 24- Apple player; 25- To-do lists; 26- Bugs; 29- Primates with short tails or no tail; 30- Animated character; 31- Amuses; 37- Novelist Joyce Carol ____; 39- Discount rack abbr.; 40- Snob; 41- Druggist; 44- Hardy boy; 45- Draft classification; 46- Actually existing; 48- Adhesive label; 52- Taunt; 53- Bank employee; 54- Dishtowel; 58- Potpourri; 59- Leave out; 61- Steak order; 62- Pearl Buck heroine; 63-She Lovely?": County: 66- Obligation: 67- Acclaim: 64- Big cats; 65- Florida's Miami-

DOWN: 1- Quickly, quickly; 2- The ____ Lipaper; 5- Mawkish; 6- Revealed; 7- Word of woe; 8- Light brown color, common to pale sunworshippers; 9- Part of a gun; 10- Energize; 11- Mountain nymph: 12- Mrs. Gorbachev; 13- Strikes out; 21-Red flower; 23- Breaks; 25- Copycats; 26- On the peak of; 27- Ark builder;

_ Love; 3- A Baldwin brother; 4- Seller of

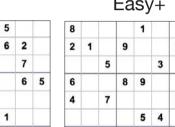
esterday's solutior

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999 Fire department 28 572 222 PJ (Open line) 993 PJ (Picket) 28 557 775 PSP 28 573 333 Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283 Water Supply - Report 1990 992 Telephone – Report 1000 Electricity – Report 28 339 922 Macau Daily Times 28 716 081





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Medium 8 1

_ chance!; 29- Skylit lobbies; 32-28-More pleasant; 33- Absence of oxygen; 34- Charged particles; 35- Agrees tacitly; 36- Eye sore; 38- Cigarette; 42- Using no fluid; 43- ___ yellow ribbon...; 47- Stinging plant; 48- Rose; 49- I cannot ___ lie; 50-Greek epic poem; 51- Duplicate; 52- Pier; 54- Hue; 55- Fleece; 56- Sicilian resort; 57- For fear that; 60- East Lansing sch.

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Commission Against

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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88



Ex-Arsenal striker Park Chu-young returning to South Korea



John Duerden, Seoul

ORMER Arsenal striker **P** Park Chu-young is returning to his native South Korea to rejoin his former team, FC Seoul, in a move that could rejuvenate his career and boost the K-League's fortunes as the new season gets underway.

The 29-year-old Park was one of the biggest stars in Asian soccer when he left in

2008 to sign with AS Monaco. After three successful seasons in France, he jumped to Arsenal and his form began to slip. He played just seven minutes of Premier League soccer before being released in 2014.

Subsequent loans to Celta Vigo in Spain, Watford in England's second-tier league and most recently Al Shabab in Saudi Arabia also did not bring a return of his scoring touch.

The low point may have come at the 2014 World Cup. Park, who has scored 24 goals in 65 international appearances, played so dismally in Brazil, he was severely criticized after the tournament and lost his place in the national team. Despite his difficulties, former national coach Cho Kwang-rae said he believes Park's move overseas was a positive one and he can still be a playmaker when he returns home.

"He has had a tough time in Europe, but he scored many goals for the national team when I was in charge," Cho said. "His strengths are shoo-

ting and his movement in the space behind defenders. Now he is home with familiar football, culture and teammates, he can recover his form."

Park is also returning to the team where he had his big breakthrough, winning the K-League's Rookie of the Year award in 2005.

"Park has made some poor choices in terms of choosing clubs," FC Seoul coach Choi Yong-soo told Yonhap News Agency on Tuesday. "He is still one of the representative players in Korean soccer however and I have talked to him on the phone and feel that he has matured."

While Park is looking to revi-

ve his career, the K-League is desperate for a star player.

The league has been in the shadow of the South Korean baseball league for years, and in 2011, its reputation was tarnished by a major match-fixing scandal. In recent years, the league has also lost both foreign and domestic talent to the lucrative Chinese Super League, further diminishing interest in the domestic teams. FC Seoul alone has seen four

of its biggest stars go across the Yellow Sea in the past 15 months. If nothing else, it needs a striker now.

"Park still has much to offer," Choi said. "Skill and technique do not lie." AP

United Arab Emirates to host 2019 Asian Cup

THE Asian Football Confederation selected the United Arab Emirates over a bid from Iran to host the 2019 continental champions at its meeting Monday in Manama, Bahrain.

The Asian Cup, which was hosted and won by Australia in January, will be expanded from 16 to 24 teams in the next edition.

AFC president Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said there was no doubt the UAE was better equipped than Iran to host the continent's biggest football event.

"I could say the decision was ... not difficult," he said. "After that we have to be realistic because the UAE's capabilities are bigger and I wish them success because after what we saw in Australia the championship was successful in every sense. So for sure this is a challenge for our brothers, but I hope the organizing committee put in a more successful event than the previous championship."

The UAE hosted the Asian Cup in 1996, when it lost the final on penalties against Saudi Arabia.

Yousef Al Serkal, head of the UAE's football association, said the country's experience hosting the 2009 and 2010 FIFA Club World Cups and the 2013 under-17 World Cup gave it the edge in the bidding process.

"AFC has belief in the UAE to be able to organize a good Asia Cup because the country had previously well organized the FIFA Youth World Cup and FIFA Club World Cup and received glowing reports," he said. "All this led to convincing everybody. There also have been many visits to Iran and UAE and at the end the inspecting commissions were convinced the UAE would do a better job."

The tournament will be held in January, when temperatures are generally cooler in the UAE, with matches played in six venues in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Al Ain. The event will be staged three years before the region is set to host the World Cup for the first time, at Qatar in 2022.

TENNIS | DAVIS CUP Reports of racism mar Argentina's Davis Cup win over Brazil



RGENTINA won Athe decisive singles match against Brazil on Monday to close out a dramatic Davis Cup encounter marred by reports of racist taunts by spectators during the longest singles match ever played in the competition.

Brazil's Joao Souza told the Brazilian website SporTV.com that he heard fans call him a monkey during his reverse singles match against Leonardo Mayer on Sunday. Mayer won it after 6 hours, 42 minutes to level the best-of-five-match series at 2-all.

"I wanted to go to the umpire but I would be jeered even more, it would only make it worse. We know it's tough to play away from home, but racism is a bit too much," Souza told the website. Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci also complained about abuse from the fans during his decisive singles match against Federico Delbonis on Monday. Delbonis won 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 to clinch the victory for Argentina, which earned a spot in the Davis Cup quarterfinals. The match had been suspended because of darkness on Sunday with Delbonis up a set.

"It was the toughest day to play," Bellucci told SporTV.com. "There was a lot of noise, a lot of people talking to me when I was serving. They were cursing at me every time I went for the towel. We knew it was going to be like this, we knew we were not going to be treated as lords."

The Brazilian team, upset at how the players were treated during the matches, skipped the post -match news conference on Monday.

After squandering 10 match points, Mayer finally broke Souza's serve to close out Sunday's match 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 5-7, 5-7, 15-13. The

Argentina's Federico Delbonis, center right, embraces team captain Daniel Orsanic after defeating Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci in a Davis **Cup singles match in Buenos Aires**

Davis Cup match had

been John McEnroe's

hours, 22 minutes.

previous longest singles Serbia in the quarterfinals. The Argentines had reached at least the semiwin over Mats Wilander finals of the World Group in 1982, which lasted 6 from 2010-13. They were upset in the first round by Argentina will next play Italy last year. AP

French sports world mourns athletes who died in crash

LYMPIC gold medalist Camille Muffat had retired from swimming to focus on her personal life, boxer Alexis Vastine had some unfinished business after two disappointing Olympics, and the beloved sailor Florence Arthaud was a pioneer for women in her sport. The three athletes were among 10 people who died as two helicopters filming a European reality show crashed in a remote part of Argentina on Monday.

As France awoke to the news, the country's political leaders and best-known sports figures registered their shock and expressed their condolences on television and social media.

The French sports daily L'Equipe's website carried a picture of Muffat holding her gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle at the 2012 London Olympics alongside the words, "French Sport in Mourning."

French President Francois Hollande spoke of his "immense sadness," while the secretary

of state for sport, Thierry Braillard, said, "French sport has lost three stars."

"Some had finished their careers and one was dreaming of gold in Rio (in 2016)," Braillard said on BFM television. "I'm profoundly saddened."

The helicopters apparently collided in mid-air in La Rioja province, about 1,170 kilometers northwest of Buenos Aires. Eight of those killed were French, the other two were Argentine. Authorities were at the scene of the crash late Monday trying to determine its cause.

Muffat, who was 25, also won a silver medal in the 200 freestyle and a bronze in the 4x200-meter freestyle relay at the London Games. She retired last year with big plans for the next stage of her life. Her friend and agent Sophie Kamoun recalled how keen Muffat was to take part in "Dropped," the survivalist television show she was filming in Argentina.

Alexis Vastine will never get the Olympic gold he so dearly craved — and one he felt was so

xer won a bronze at the 2008 Games in Beijing after a controversial loss to Manuel Felix Diaz of the Dominican Republic in the semifinals. Vastine was ahead in the bout, but was docked points by the referee in the final round. He broke down in tears after the defeat. There were tears again at the London Games four years later when Vastine drew on points with Taras Shelestyuk of Ukraine in the quarterfinals, but lost the bout on the count-back rule.

Florence Arthaud, who was 57, was a pioneer in sailing. In 1990, she won the famed Route du Rhum race — a trans-Atlantic single-handed yacht race between Brittany and the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe on her boat Pierre 1er.

"She was a fighter," said French sailor Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, who was second in the Route du Rhum race in 1998. "At the time it was extraordinary because not many women were doing this. She opened the way for others." MDT/AP

Camille Muffat celebrates with her gold medal at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London

Steve McMorran, New Zealand

INDIA beat Ireland by eight wickets at the Cricket World Cup yesterday, remaining unbeaten after five matches to clinch its place atop Pool B while stalling Ireland's celebrated push for a place in the tournament quarterfinals.

Shikhar Dhawan scored 100 and Rohit Sharma hit 64 in a 174-run opening partnership - its best at a World Cup - as India chased down Ireland's 259 with 13.1 overs remaining. India will stay at atop the pool regardless of the outcome of its last group match against Zimbabwe. Ireland must now take at least one point from the last match of the pool round against Pakistan at Adelaide on Sunday to have any chance of progressing to the knockout stages. India achieved its win with the kind of efficiency which has marked its progress through the tournament. After William Porterfield made

CRICKET India beats Ireland by 8 wickets to top World Cup Pool B



India achieved its win with the kind of efficiency

that has played India at this World Cup.

Ireland's total was also the highest score by any team against India in Pool B. India has in common with Pool A leader New Zealand the fact it has bowled out its opponents in all five of its matches: Pakistan for 224, South Africa for 177, United Arab Emirates for 102 and the West Indies for 182.

Porterfield batted through the 22 overs when the India spinners reined in Ireland's scoring and was out only two balls after pace returned in the form of Mohit Sharma, caught by Umesh Yadav from a leading edge. O'Brien put on 53 with Porterfield for the third wicket, and 61 with Andy Balbirnie (24) for the fourth. He tried to ensure the Ireland run-rate remained high with an innings of 75 which included seven fours and three sixes. But after Balbirnie, O'Brien had no substanital support as Ireland lost five wickets for 21. AP





Indian cricket fans celebrate

67 and Niall O'Brien 75 from 75 balls to give Ireland hope of a competitive total, India took seven wickets for 53 runs.

Faced with an early assault on his seam attack by openers Porterfield and Paul Stirling, who took 57 runs from the first nine overs, India captain M.S. Dhoni introduced spin while maintaining attacking fields and clamped down heavily on the run rate.

Spinners bowled the next 22 overs, Ireland went from 57-0 after nine overs to 144-2 after 31, and the momentum of the game changed in India's favor.

"I think the important

which has marked its progress through the tournament

thing is for everybody to

get runs, to take wickets and to bowl well because in the knockout stages you don't know who you may need," Dhoni said. "So it's important that everybody gets a bit of confidence.

"All of the batsmen have got a bit of batting, in this game the spinners

have done well so everyone is confident."

Porterfield, who made the decision to bat on winning the toss, put on 89 for the first wicket with Stirling (42) to set his team's innings on a sound footing. The partnership was the best for any wicket by any team



opinion

World Views Adam Minter

ASIAN AIRLINES ARE BEGINNING TO RUN OUT OF PILOTS

Asia's aviation market is booming, but the supply of pilots isn't nearly keeping pace with the demand for flights. Airlines are already struggling with shortages in staff. Two Japanese carriers recently cut back on flights because they couldn't find pilots, and the international budget airline JetStar held off on expansion plans in the Asia-Pacific region for the same reason.

Clearly, Asia needs more people who can fly planes. The question is: who should be training them? So far, airlines and governments in the region haven't done much to prepare locals for the job. It's time for aviation companies in the West to lend them a hand.

Last year, Boeing estimated that, between 2014 and 2033, the Asia-Pacific region will need 216,000 new pilots. But according to a 2011 study from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nation's aviation agency, the region is only capable of training 5,000 pilots per year. For anyone who can't earn a spot in a local flight school (many of which are government-run or affiliated), the only option is to apply to one outside the region.

But foreign schools, especially those in the West, tend to be far too expensive for aspiring pilots from Asia. A 2014 survey by the British Airline Pilots Association found that more than half its members spent between 75,000 to 100,000 pounds (USD114,220 to \$152,300) on pilot certifications. A typical applicant from Thailand, say, could never afford that sum -- especially given the relatively meager salaries offered to entry-level pilots by the budget carriers that increasingly dominate the Asian market. (And given their tight profit margins, the budget airlines that dominate Asia are unlikely to raise entry-level salaries anytime soon.)

One way for Asian airlines to get more people in the cockpit, of course, would be to lower the bar for entering it. Japan did as much when it recently announced it would raise the mandatory retirement age for pilots from 64 to 67. That's two years higher than the retirement age recommended, for safety reasons, by ICAO. The older pilots will be subject to stricter health checks and shorter hours. But it's hard to justify taking risks where safety is concerned.

The better solution would be for Asian countries to open more civilian flight schools, ones that people in the region can afford to attend. If local airlines feel they can't afford to do that, or lack the necessary experience, Western companies like Boeing, Airbus and other plane manufacturers should pick up the slack. They would have a direct interest in doing so - they're depending on more Asian flights for their own future profits, after all. (Boeing recently predicted that over the next two decades airlines in the Asia-Pacific region will buy 13,460 passenger jets.)

Boeing already owns and operates flight training centers in China, Singapore, South Korea and Australia. But Western companies should focus on ways to expand the pool of applicants, while

SCHOOLTEACHER PROBED OVER TAPING BUZZ OF CHILDREN'S MOUTHS

Education authorities in southwestern Poland are looking into allegations that a primary school teacher taped small children's mouths shut to silence them. A suspicious mother secretly recorded the teacher's classes. In the voice recordings published by TVN24, a woman is heard threatening that she will again put adhesive tape over a child's mouth. "But it hurt," a small child is heard pleading. The woman's voice also says "I will take your tapes off during breakfast," as children's voices can be heard in the background. The director of the village school in Szczodre, Agnieszka Cichorek, says she was not aware of the teacher's behavior, and the teacher has since been fired. Janina Jakubowska, a spokeswoman for the education authorities, said yesterday that regional school inspectors are gathering facts in the case.



Frazier Moore

SAM Simon, a co-creator of "The Simpsons" and animal-rights advocate who made a midlife career shift into philanthropy and channeled much of his personal fortune into social causes, has died.

Simon died Sunday at his home in Pacific Palisades, Calif., his agent, Andy Patman said. He was 59. He was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer in 2011.

After stints writing for "Taxi," "Cheers" and "The Tracey Ullman Show," Simon helped launch "The Simpsons." During his writing and producing career, he collected nine prime-time Emmy awards.

He left "The Simpsons" after its fourth season under a deal that rewarded him with ongoing royalties from the show, which is now in its 26th season.

He then established the Sam Simon Foundation, which rescues dogs from animal shelters and trains them to assist the disabled. He also donated to Mercy for Animals and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, among other groups. In 2013, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' Norfolk, Va., headquarters were christened the Sam Simon Center in recog-

DECISIVE MOMENT



Sam Simon

nition of his support for that organization.

Simon also funded a Los Angeles food bank. In an interview with The Associated Press in 2013, Simon voiced a desire to spend all of his money on charitable causes. "I'm supporting the charities that I supported during my lifetime," he said, "and I want to continue to do that."

Simon had grown up in Beverly Hills across the street from Groucho Marx, though his father was in the garment industry, not show business.

After turning his drawing talent into a job at an animation studio that made cartoons for kids, Simon submitted a script, on spec, to the ABC comedy "Taxi." His script was bought and produced, and Simon, in his 20s, was hired as a staff writer and soon rose to be the showrunner.

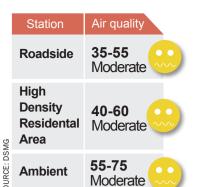
From there he joined a new NBC sitcom called "Cheers," where he was staff writer for its defining first three seasons. In 1987 he became a writer and executive producer on the Fox sketch-comedy series "The Tracey Ullman Show," where he was teamed alongside James L. Brooks, with whom he had worked on "Cheers" and "Taxi," and cartoonist Matt Groening. This trio became the founding fathers of "The Simpsons."

On Monday, Groening saluted Simon's "phenomenal talents, sharp intelligence and sly sense of humor," while Brooks called him "truly one of the great ones. He found so much outside the work to give him pleasure and left so much behind for others."

"The Simpsons" began as interstitial cartoon clips aired during the otherwise live-action "Ullman" show until, in 1989, it was spun off as a Fox half-hour of its own. Simon was named creative supervisor, and he hired the first writing staff as well as creating several Springfield citizens, including Mr. Burns, the cadaverous industrialist, and Dr. Hibbert, the buffoonish physician.

The show — TV's first successful prime-time animated series since "The Flintstones" nearly three decades before caught the public off-guard with its sassy but perceptive look at the culture and opened the door for a new television genre of animation geared toward adults. **AP**

Xinhua/Li Xiang



WORLD BRIEFS



USA-IRAN Democrats in the White House and Congress accused 47 Republican senators of undermining President Barack Obama in international talks to curb Iran's nuclear program, saying that trying to upend diplomatic negotiations was tantamount to rushing into war with Tehran. In an open letter Monday to the leaders of Iran, Republican lawmakers warned that any nuclear deal they cut with Obama could expire the day he walks out of the Oval Office.

ITALY's highest court is hearing what could be the final appeal in former Premier Silvio Berlusconi's infamous "bunga-bunga" case.

SPAIN The Spanish Interior Ministry says police have arrested two people in the north African enclave of Ceuta on suspicion of belonging to a jihadi terror cell and who were prepared to carry out attacks in Spain.

FRANCE's Parliament is starting debate on a bill aimed at allowing doctors to keep terminally ill patients sedated until death comes, amid national debate about whether to legalize euthanasia.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

lowering students' costs.

For example, Western companies could open new training centers in partnership with Asian universities, military academies, and even high schools with aviation and engineering programs. The local institutions could shoulder some of the costs - sparing students additional tuition -- while the companies could offer their expertise in teaching commercial flight.

There are precedents for such partnerships. Last year, Nok Air, a Thai budget carrier, partnered with Japan's All Nippon Airways, a pre-existing flight training center in Bangkok, and Assumption University (Thailand's first university with a flight training program), to create a flight-training center. According to Nok Air, the facility will cut its costs of training pilots by 50 percent -- money that can be passed onto students in the form of lower tuition. Emulating that program won't be cheap or easy. But Boeing and other Western manufacturers should offer their support. It may be the only way to ensure that somebody is qualified to safely fly all the airplanes they plan on selling to Asian airlines. **Bloomberg**



Macau deputies to China's 12th NPC yesterday took part in a panel discussion in Beijing.

A Swiss-made solarpowered aircraft takes off from Muscat, Oman, bound for India for the second leg – and its first sea crossing – in a historic round-the-world trip.

BRAZIL Tough new sentences for the genderrelated killings of women and girls were signed into law Monday by Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff. The law sets a prison sentence of 12 to 30 years for anyone convicted in the "aberrant" killing of a woman or girl in domestic violence, or because of her gender. It also describes those killings as femicides.