



IAS IMPLEMENTING NEW SUBSIDY SCHEME

The Social Welfare Bureau has a new subsidy scheme addressing NGOs that provide social services to the community

P4



'TOURISM CAPACITY OF MACAU HAS REACHED SATURATION'

"It does not come as a surprise if certain problems occur," said the deputy director of the HK and Macau Affairs Office

P7 NPC AND CPPCC MEETINGS



SECRET HISTORIANS PRESERVE PAST IN CHINA

P11



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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Beijing police detained movie actor Wang Xuebing on a suspected drug offense, adding to a number of celebrities who have been caught in anti-drug actions, Chinese state media reported late Tuesday. The official Xinhua News Agency said the star of the Golden Bear award-winning film "Black Coal, Thin Ice" was detained along with another person Monday.

HONG KONG authorities announced yesterday that they have banned the import of poultry meat and products from Moniteau County, Missouri, USA. The HK Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's Center for Food Safety (CFS) announced that in view of a notification from the US authorities about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza in Moniteau County, it has banned the import of poultry meat and products (including poultry eggs) from the county with immediate effect for the protection of Hong Kong's public health.

JAPAN Small clusters of survivors, bundled up against a chilly wind, gather along Japan's northeast coast to remember the nearly 19,000 lives lost in the March 11, 2011, tsunami. Four years later, the region is still struggling to recover.

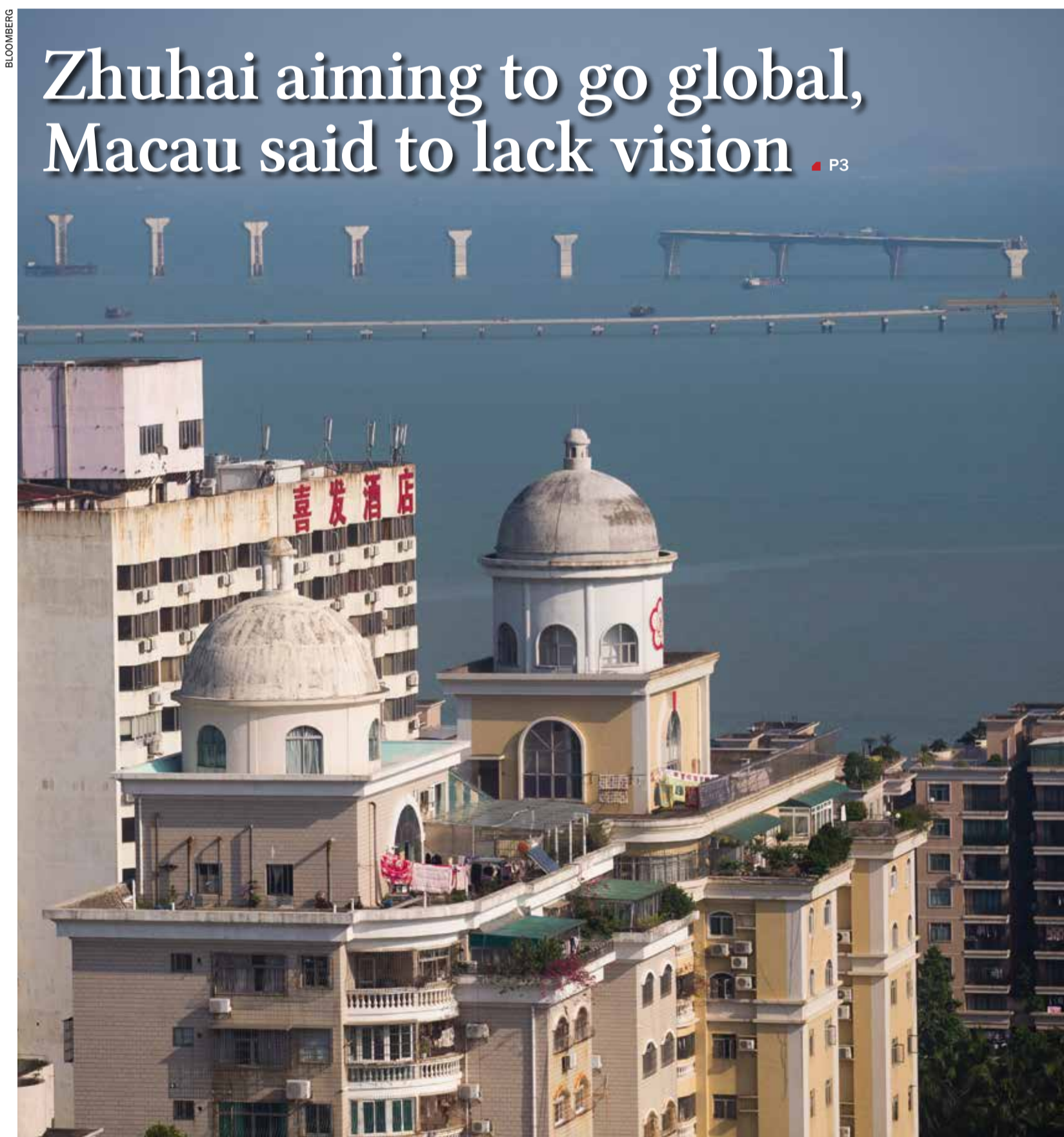
NETHERLANDS-INDONESIA The Dutch government must pay compensation to widows and children of Indonesian men summarily executed in their country's war for independence, according to a court ruling that could open the door to many more claims.

INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA A senior Indonesian official warns Australia to tone down criticism of planned executions of two convicted Australian drug traffickers, saying that Canberra should be grateful to Indonesia for keeping asylum seekers away from Australian shores.

More on page 18

Strong pataca likely to put off visitors, ease inflation

P2 MDT REPORT



Zhuhai aiming to go global, Macau said to lack vision

P3

BLOOMBERG

Strong currency eases city's inflation while driving away visitors

Brook Yang

EUROPEAN tourists might have noticed that their wallets shrank by 30 percent when visiting Macau comparing to a year ago. The same has happened for British and Japanese visitors, who are paying 14 and 20 percent more respectively while holidaying in this booming tourism destination.

The costs might go even higher in June if the American Federal Reserve raises interest rates, as the pataca will increase further in value following the rising dollar it's indirectly pegged to.

Comparing to the Euro or Pound, Chinese visitors' RMB only suffered a mild drop against the pataca. However, if the exchange rate is to rise further, those Chinese visitors – who make up nearly 70 percent of the city's tourist arrivals – may be dis-

RENATO MARQUES



It's highly likely the dollar's going to continue rise against the RMB unless the Chinese intervene

RODNEY BRUCE HALL

suaed from visiting Macau.

"The Chinese yuan only fell 3 percent against the USD in the past six months; if it were to fall 10 percent or 20 percent from where they stood six months ago, that would generate problems for Chinese tourists who want to come to Macau. It's a real danger of loss of visitors," said Rodney Bruce Hall, professor of international relations at the University of Macau.

The scholar believes it's possible for the "bad news" to affect Macau's visitor turnout, thereby hurting the city's employment in the long run. "The American economy is really

quite strong, the Chinese economy is weakening. So it's highly likely the dollar's going to continue rise against the RMB unless the Chinese intervene," he explained to the Times.

"Meanwhile, if we don't get the high-roller visitors back at some point, it's going to continue to be a strong headwind to Macau's economy as well. (...) It could hurt employment if the visitors quit coming and people dealing baccarat lose their jobs," he added.

To cope with the possible trend, the scholar suggested the government develop policies to boost low budget entertainment

and low-cost accommodation.

But as a city living largely on Chinese tourists as well as on imports from the mainland, a stronger pataca is not all a bad news to Macau. "Macau suffers lower inflation than it would otherwise," said the scholar.

Not only can the city buy its daily necessities and imports from the mainland and European suppliers at cheaper prices, its citizens can spend less when travelling to European and other destinations.

Moreover, the rising dollar can deflate Macau's real estate bubble, as the territory will increase its interest rates

following US monetary policy.

"Now it's much better the US dollar going up than going down," assessed Macau-based economist Albano Martins. "The supply of money into the market will be restrained, which will ease the pressure over the real estate market."

Nevertheless, the economist indicated the benefits from a rising USD to Macau are only "by chance", as the two economies happen to both be in a rising cycle at the moment.

"Because of the peg to the USD, when the US makes its [monetary] policy, we have to follow the US policy. But during the majority of the time, they were in different cycles of economy," he stressed.

"Many people forget that in the past when we had a recession in 1996 to 2000, the US economy was growing. They tightened the currency by pushing up the interest rates, but what we needed was to release the currency," explained the economist.

Mr Martins suggested that the pataca peg to the USD through the HKD no longer makes much sense, as Macau's economy has less and less to do with the US but is rather largely linked to the Chinese economy.

"When the RMB is freely convertible, it's good sense that we should link to the yuan rather than USD. Maybe in ten years, both HKD and MOP would switch their peg to RMB, that's my prediction," he added.

Gov't pushes on talent development through incentive plans

THE task force on local talent cultivation held its first meeting of the year, reviewing its work since its establishment a year ago. The Talents Development Committee's (SCDT) assignments include a revision of the incentive funding scheme for specialized talents, the formation of a one-s-

top information platform for staff training, and a discussion of cooperation with international institutions.

Led by Wu Zhi Liang, the talents training program task force has expanded its work into subfields: the Elites Nurturing Plan, the Incentive Plan for the Qualified

Professionals, and the Skilled Talents Acquiring Plan. It aims to cultivate multiple types of specialized personnel that Macau needs, under the government's strategic deployment for talent development.

One of the immediate focuses of the task force is drafting the "Incentive

Plan for Qualified Professionals," which is expected to support Macau's professionals working in various sectors to obtain high-profile qualification certificates and licenses.

The task force is also committed to forming a framework of cooperation with enterprises, in order to accelerate vocational

training and accreditation. Moreover, it is developing a mobile app which, despite being in the initial stages of development, will collect information on existing training projects and certification exams for citizens to browse.

As for the cultivation of leaders, the committee is now in discussion with

UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization] about sending local youths to intern at the organization.

"[We are] also actively negotiating with universities in Portugal about cooperative projects, in order to create more opportunities for local students to study there, and thereby fostering bilingual talent [...] not only understanding Portuguese and Chinese but also other valuable skills," the press release added. **BY**

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaodailytimes.com
SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaodailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
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Zhuhai aiming to 'go global' with Hengqin

THE Hengqin pilot free trade zone, an area of 28 square kilometers, is bringing new prospects not only to Macau but also to the adjacent city of Zhuhai. With the area's advantages waiting to come into full play, Zhuhai is aiming to "go global" with the help of regional cooperation, said its mayor, Jiang Ling.

Mr Jiang, who became mayor of Zhuhai this year, was cited by the China News Service as stating that Hengqin will continue to explore institutional innovation in the years to come so as to play its special role in the region.

"With the help of the Hengqin Free Trade Area (FTA), Zhuhai is to go global in its collaboration with Macau, connecting to the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road," he stated, adding, "Guangdong-Macau cooperation and institutional innovation are the two backbones for the development of the Hengqin FTA."

Liang pointed out that Macau and Hengqin are mutually benefiting from the cooperation in various areas, such as trade and economic cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries, the tourism and leisure industry, as well as their development of the pharmaceutical industry.

"And with the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the three areas will make up an international metropolitan region. It also means that Zhuhai is the only city directly linked to Hong Kong and Macau by land. In this international metropolitan region, Hengqin's comprehensive advantages will come into full play," he stressed.



Cranes operate at a residential construction site in the Gongbei district of Zhuhai

To fulfill its expectations, the Hengqin FTA has found that it is vital to push for institutional innovation.

"A free trade area isn't a park where people only enjoy preferential policies and introduce foreign investment. An interna-

tional, market-oriented and legal business environment should be realized, and institutional innovation be carried out," said Jiang.

"A successful FTA shouldn't depend on all kinds of preferential policies. In fact, some preferential policies are just transitional. What makes enterprises stay is the good institutional environment in the FTA," he added.

Accordingly, tedious examinations and approval formalities are bypassed when enterprises enter the FTA; their intellectual property rights, investment and trade also need to be protected.

"We now need to carry out further institutional innovation in accordance with the law. It won't be easy in the future. Therefore, institutional innovation will be a key step for Hengqin," concluded the mayor. **BY**

ANALYSIS

MSAR needs to avoid becoming 'gaming neighborhood'

MACAU needs a new strategy in order to avoid becoming just a 'gaming neighborhood' catering to Chinese tourists, according to a local economist. José Isaac Duarte claims that the authorities in Zhuhai have set up an "ambitious plan" that includes Hengqin Island, which hinders Macau's "ambitions for geographical expansion," an expansion that he considers critical to the aim of diversifying the economy.

"The plan includes leisure parks, harbors, convention centers, luxury residential condominiums and projects that compete with Macau. What is left for Macau is gambling in a diversification scenario that will inevitably be limited," he told Lusa.

The economist argues that the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone authorities are designing a plan that matches their own local interests. However, it remains to be seen "how Macau's interest should be defended," including the maintenance of the region's identity and uniqueness.

"There is the need for strategic reflection, if someone is willing to do it," José Isaac Duarte said. "Either we go down a different path, or the economy will rely increasingly on gaming and people will visit only to gamble." He added that nowadays most of the visitors only remain for a few hours and spend little money. Hence, "There is the need to attract tourists with diversified interests and who are willing to stay longer." **MDT/Lusa**

COOPERATION

Market access for local service providers facilitated

GUANGDONG province will further facilitate market access for service providers from Hong Kong and Macau, China's State Council announced on Tuesday.

Local authorities in Guangdong are required to make adjustments to regulations on administrative approval, in order to boost service trade liberalization for investors from Hong Kong and Macau, according to a decision released by the State Council.

Businesses owned by Hong Kong and Macau investors will no longer be treated as foreign companies, whose estab-

lishment or business conversion usually needed to undergo examination and approval procedures, the Council said.

According to the decision, Guangdong will further open the local services industry to investors from Hong Kong and Macau under the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

Further adjustments are required for rules that regulate the telecommunications industry, joint school operation, sea transportation, entertainment, video gaming and civil aviation. The mainland signed the CEPA with Hong Kong and Macau in 2003 to forge closer ties.

Over 80 evacuated from nursery

Over 80 people had to be evacuated yesterday morning from the postnatal nursery of the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital. This followed the dropping of a fire extinguisher onto the floor, thereby releasing a chemical that, according to a fire department source, could affect people's health. According to a Health Bureau statement, at the time of the incident, there were 33 mothers, 34 babies and 20 workers in the affected department. All of them were "immediately transferred to other nurseries." The Health Bureau also acknowledged that during the evacuation, two workers felt "slightly indisposed" due to chemical inhalation. The fire department announced that the fire extinguisher was still within its expiration date.

Secretariat for Administration and Justice webpage



The Secretariat for Administration and Justice has opened a new webpage (www.gsj.gov.mo) featuring Chinese and Portuguese versions. The welcome message states that the webpage aims to enhance the interaction between the secretariat and the community, and to release relevant information. The page is open for residents to post their opinions and suggestions.

Journalist discusses freedom of expression limits

A workshop for journalists focusing on the limits of freedom of expression following the terrorist attack in the newsroom of French satirical newspaper "Charlie Hebdo" will be held at the Rui Cunha Foundation on March 20 between 5pm and 7.30pm. Organized by the European Union Academic Program in Macau (EUAP-M) in partnership with the Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPI) and the Rui Cunha Foundation, the workshop will be conducted by Portuguese journalist and professor Adelino Gomes, with the main theme "Charlie, the Islamic State and the Heart of Journalism." The workshop is open to Macau-based professional journalists, and will be conducted in Portuguese with Cantonese translation.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Representatives of the gov't inter-departmental group carry out land resumption work in Ilha Verde.

IAS to spend extra MOP150 million in new subsidy scheme

Catarina Pinto

THE Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) is estimating spending MOP150 million more than usual between July and December, as a new subsidy scheme is due to be implemented addressing non-governmental organizations that provide social services to the community, IAS president Iong Kong Io revealed.

Speaking on the sidelines of a IAS staff spring lunch yesterday, Mr Iong said that IAS has a comprehensive idea of how much money social service institutions will be spending, and that the Bureau's estimated budget for subsidies granted between July and December will see an increase of MOP150 million.

In January, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, revealed that the government would be implementing a new subsidy-granting scheme in June for non-government organizations that provide social services to the Macau community. The current scheme is being revised in order to help local institutions cope with skyrocketing rents, and to prevent social workers from leaving their posts for hi-



Iong Kong Io

gher-paid jobs elsewhere. The government intends to broaden the subsidy scheme so

that it covers a higher number of expenses that local institutions have to cope with, such as

rents, electricity bills and staff wages.

According to Mr Iong, the new scheme will address 200 associations. "The [scheme's] future plan will be based on a reasonableness principle. Subsidies will be granted in accordance to the associations' needs (...) we also need to define a set of criteria for salaries. After several months of discussion with the associations, we finally reached a consensus. With the new scheme, the government will spend more than MOP150 million," he stated.

Mr Iong added, "After granting the subsidies, IAS will con-

tinue to oversee these institutions' performance."

The scheme is being revised, focusing on four main areas: personnel; associations' general activities; specific activities; and the rendering of regular social services.

IAS also announced recently that it would be increasing the total subsidy amount that is granted to non-governmental institutions by 6.8 percent. IAS said at the time that the Bureau hopes to continue supporting social service initiatives, while improving the benefits granted to social workers, primarily in terms of income.

View on domestic violence 'remains unchanged'

THE Social Welfare Bureau's view on domestic violence, which will be listed as a public crime, remains unchanged, says IAS president Iong Kong Io. Speaking on the sidelines of a spring lunch organized for IAS staff, the president of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) recalled that "the domestic violence bill already passed its first reading and is now being discussed in detail [by the 1st Legislative Assembly Standing Committee]." He added that the "IAS position [to list domestic violence as a public crime]

stands. This will not change."

With the new law, domestic violence will be handled as a public crime, which means that legal action against the perpetrator can be put forward even if the victim does not file a complaint. However, the draft already casts doubts over "mild violence cases," such as a slap, and that they will not be considered domestic violence.

A recent statement from the Public Security Police sparked further controversy, as it said that PSP was against the listing of domestic violence as public cri-

me, Portuguese media reported. However, according to Mr Iong, the PSP head, Leong Man Cheong, had already clarified that the PSP are not against domestic violence being listed as a public crime. Rather, they were just urging authorities to provide a clearer definition of domestic violence in order to facilitate better law enforcement. "At the moment, legal experts are working on the drafted bill to make it clearer, so that police officers know how to act upon domestic violence cases," Mr Iong said.

ENTERTAINMENT

Music-based light storm makes comeback

Catarina Pinto

Alight storm returns to this year's Venetian Carnevale as performers Amy Osborne, Fleur-Marie Hoefkins and Naomi Hunter join forces on stage to bring a show of pure electricity. The performance, also brought here by the Lords of Lightning, will feature three lightning towers in a combination of music, dance and lightning bolts, the performers revealed in an email interview.

The casino resort's carnival, which will feature performances and other festive activities in The Venetian Macao's outdoor lagoon area for the fifth consecutive year, runs from today until March 29. Sands China expressed in a statement that the "Venetian Light Storm", which debuted here last year, is one of this Carnevale edi-



tion's highlights, too.

The audience can expect to see three beings, dressed in chainmail suits, emerging completely surrounded by "the glow of electrical discharges," the casino operator added.

Amy Osborne, Naomi Hunter and Fleur-Marie Hoefkins have all studied dance at Bath Spa University in England. Amy is an independent dance artist, teacher and performer who just recently completed her profes-

sional working experience at Disneyland Paris. Naomi is a contemporary dancer and is currently studying for a master of arts in dance, while Fleur-Marie, who earned her first degree in contemporary dance in 2007, has been performing with the Must-Dash dance group at Glastonbury festival.

Eager to amaze the crowds, the performers designed the choreography around the tempo of the music. "It drives the

show from a slow pace of discovery on to a climactic ending," the performers contributed.

The artists said that their equipment is now controlled by music via a computer, which allows them to improve the choreography and the show in general.

Speaking about the storyline, the performers clarified that the show will "be more music-based...The story follows three beings who realize they have the power within themselves to not only control lightning, but also to make music with it and to dance."

The performers will be wearing chainmail suits for protection, as the show harnesses over 4 million volts of electricity.

"I started experimenting with lightning when I was very young. I finally decided to create a show from it, and performed for the first time in 2001 in my home country of New Zealand. Since then we have performed all over the world and still enjoy the thrill of exciting the audience," said Carlos Van Camp, the creator of Lords of Lightning.

Rainbow of Macau writes to UN

THE Rainbow of Macau association, which advocates for LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) rights, has sent a letter to the United Nations criticizing Macau's government for not including same-sex couples in the new domestic violence bill, which passed its first reading at the Legislative Assembly in January.

Jason Chao, spokesperson for Rainbow of Macau, said in a press release that AL's First Standing Committee – which is now reviewing the bill – did not "express interest in advancing LGBTI equal rights in the domestic violence [legislation]." According to Chao, the Committee's chairwoman, lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang, told him that, "the government insisted on its stance" of not including same-sex couples in the legislation.

"We have no other option but to resort to the United Nations," Chao concluded.

In a letter addressed to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Rainbow recalled that when the new law comes into force, "LGBT people will be excluded from the same level of protection as their heterosexual counterparts." The association believes that this constitutes "de facto discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation."



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GAMING

Fitch Ratings still confident in Macau

Unlike other rating agencies, Fitch Ratings is still optimistic about Macau's long-term business future, saying that business should pick up in the second half of the year. "While the recent operating declines are concerning, we are encouraged by the fact that the long-term fundamentals for the higher-margin, lower-volatility mass business remain intact," the analysts said. The agency projects that Macau's gaming revenue will slide by 4% in 2015, a figure that, Fitch says, would represent "mild sequential improvement throughout the first half of 2015 relative to the last quarter of 2014". Gaming revenues would also be aided by the opening of Galaxy Macau and Melco's Studio City's expansion projects. Fitch Ratings added that while dividends may have to be cut as a result of the stagnating numbers, it remains "hopeful that the six casino operators are all in a good enough financial position to withstand the lower revenues." Deutsche Bank predicted earlier in the week that gross gambling revenue in Macau would sink by 30% in 2015, a staggering forecast that has blown its initial 13% forecast completely out of the water.

Judge insists Sands China hand over documents to former CEO

Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas

A Las Vegas Sands subsidiary has been ordered, again, to hand over documents without redactions in an ongoing wrongful termination lawsuit against the company.

After an evidentiary hearing that began in February, Clark County District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez said Sands China Ltd. has undermined the search for truth by refusing to hand over documents to former CEO Steven Jacobs. Jacobs' lawsuit alleges a host of misdeeds were committed by the company, parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp., and the parent company's chairman and CEO, Sheldon Adelson.

Las Vegas Sands, which owns The Venetian and The Palazzo on the Las Vegas Strip, owns a 70 percent stake in Sands China, which has four casino resorts in Macau including The Venetian and Sands.

A company spokesman said lawyers would appeal the deci-



BLOOMBERG

sion to a higher court.

"We are disappointed in the court's decision and do not believe it is supported by the evidence," said Las Vegas Sands spokesman Ron Reese in an emailed statement. "Sands China intends to seek review from a higher court."

Jacobs was fired in July 2010 and filed his lawsuit three months later. Since then, the case

has been delayed with disputes over documents sought by his lawyers, and multiple appeals.

The company's lawyers have cited the Macau Data Privacy Act as the reason for not producing documents or for redacting names and email addresses, which Jacobs' lawyers have argued make it impossible to glean information from them.

Gonzalez made her ruling Fri-

day. It also ordered Sands China to pay five different legal organizations a total of USD250,000 and to cover Jacobs' legal costs on the matter. She said redactions could only be made in the case of privilege, which allows for some nonrelevant information or trade secrets, for example, to be blacked out.

Gonzalez first issued sanctions against the company in September 2012. Then in March 2013, she again affirmed her order that the Macau Data Privacy Act could not be used as justification for the redactions and ordered an evidentiary hearing. An appeal by Sands to the Nevada Supreme Court was denied in August, but lawyers for Jacobs have said the documents have continued to be withheld or redacted against the court's wishes.

The case still faces a hearing scheduled for April on whether or not the court has jurisdiction on the matter since Sands China isn't based in the United States. **AP**

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NPC AND CPPCC MEETINGS

'Tourism capacity of HK and Macau has reached saturation,' says Zhou Bo

THE deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, Zhou Bo, has claimed that "the tourism capacity of Hong Kong and Macau has by and large reached saturation, as shown in the studies conducted by the two SAR governments," according to a report by mainland newspaper Southern Metropolis Daily.

The report, quoted by South China Morning Post, added that the individual visit scheme will be altered to better suit Hong Kong's situation. The scheme allows residents of 49 mainland cities to travel on their own to Macau and Hong Kong.

Zhou said that adjustments to this scheme would be in response to the concerns raised by Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying regarding the tourism scheme. With tourism capacity reaching its limit, Zhou added, "It does not come as a surprise if certain problems occur."

In Hong Kong, skirmishes between residents and mainland tourists have recently emerged, and calls to cut down the scale of the individual visit scheme have also arisen. Four protests against parallel traders from the mainland have taken place in the neighboring SAR in the past two months, South China Morning Post reported.

Meanwhile in Macau, the government has been discussing the city's tourism capacity as well. Chief Executive Chui Sai On recently asked the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, to prepare a report on Macau's tourism capacity, which is due to be submitted to the central government by May.

As the National Committee of the Chinese Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the annual



The second plenary meeting of the third session of China's 12th NPC is being held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC) are taking place in Beijing, NPC delegates Leong Iok Wa and Ho Sut Heng have seen fit to respond to the issue of rampant phone scams in Macau. They have jointly suggested at the consultative

conference the establishment of a mechanism for criminal and judicial assistance for Macau and mainland China, and hope to sign it into law soon. They believe the agreement would better prevent and combat cross-border crimes. **CP**

Local delegates vow to strengthen national education

SEVEN Macau delegates to the nation's top advisory body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), jointly put forward a proposal to strengthen national education for local youngsters.

They hope that the Ministry of National Education will be able to collaborate with the city's Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) to compose the teaching materials for national education.

The seven Macau CPPCC representatives said that the current education materials needed to be reviewed to foster "moral quality, legal concepts and patriotism" among the younger generation, drawing on Hong Kong's experience of the Umbrella Movement.

According to TDM radio news, one of the Macau CPPCC delegates, Wong Pan Seng, advised that "negotiated democracy" should be introduced into the education materials, which he thought could "consolidate the national consciousness" by infusing it among the youth over a number of years.

David Chow sees opportunity in gaming slowdown

THE downturn of gaming revenue over the past nine consecutive months implies that there is an opportunity for the local gaming industry to "think about creating new markets," suggests casino tycoon David Chow.

The billionaire, who also served as Macau's CPPCC (Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference) delegate, said in Beijing that casinos have recovered their costs and also possess cash and financing capability, which means, "Even if the gaming revenue plunges to MOP15 billion per month, it won't be a big deal."

Chow argued that the nine-month plunge only means that there have been no significant increases in gambling revenue, whereas the government still has sufficient surplus. Furthermore, he believes that the adjustment period will last two more years until the HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is put into operation.

"The adjustment period depends on the conditions of the world that surrounds us. To find the new market, we need at least two years. And only when the supporting [transportation] facilities are built up can we drive up the tourist flow," he stressed, as cited by TDM.

To explore other sources of visitors apart from the mainland, Chow said that supporting policies are still needed. The prompt construction of light railway transit, the city's transport planning, and more international flights are among the aspects that need to take effect, as well as a more regulated tourism industry.

Nevertheless, the tycoon stated that the government is not responsible for the downturn, and that it should be able to overcome it. "Some [operators] have gained a lot of profit, which has made the license equivalent to being granted for free. With so much money already earned, why are they still arguing? Can't we just earn less for now?"

As for the speculation that the government is going to grant one more gaming license to a Chinese-owned enterprise, Chow responded by saying that the sector needs to wait and see when the review of the industry starts.

"The review of the gaming industry is a political decision. If there's really going to be one more, it will be fair to everyone," he said. "It doesn't matter how many gaming licenses we will have or how many people are operating casinos; the most important thing is that these people [operators] can explore new markets." **BY**



AMLPM_Associação dos Médicos de Língua Portuguesa de Macau
澳門葡語醫生協會
Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians

AMLPM GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2015 CALL TO MEMBERS

According to the regulations, and in compliance with Article 9th, no. 4 of the Statute of the Association, published in the Official Gazette of the MSAR no. 38 - 2nd Series, 22nd September 2010, we hereby call the General Assembly of the Association of Portuguese-Speaking Physicians of Macau, to take place on March 25, 2015, at 7:00 pm, at the Clube Militar de Macau, covering the following agenda:

1. Annual Report, Results and Accounts of 2014.
2. Opinion of AMLPM Fiscal Board.
3. Vote of the Annual Report and Accounts referred to the year 2014
4. Plan of Activities for 2015
5. Others.

All the members admitted, according to Article 4th, n0.2 and Article 9th, n0.8 and N0.9, of the Statute, have the right to vote. If, at the scheduled time of the meeting, a quorum is not achieved, the Assembly shall convene on second call, at 7:30pm on the same day, whatever the number of members present, in compliance with Article 9th, n0.7, of the Statute.

Macau, on 12 March 2015

The President of General Assembly:
Maria Paula de Matos Pimenta Simões



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Anthony McCartney
Entertainment Writer, Los Angeles

A jury's verdict that Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke copied Marvin Gaye's music to create their hit song "Blurred Lines" won't just be felt by the singer's pocketbooks — it has the potential to change how musicians work and could open the door to new copyright claims.

An eight-person jury determined Tuesday (yesterday, Macau time) that Williams and Thicke copied elements of Gaye's 1977 hit "Got to Give It Up" and ordered the pair to pay nearly USD7.4 million to the late singer's three children.

Gaye's daughter, Nona Gaye, wept as the verdict was read and later told reporters, "Right now, I feel free. Free from ... Pharrell Williams' and Robin Thicke's chains and what they tried to keep on us and the lies that were told."

The music industry may feel new constraints in the coming years as artists — and lawyers — sort through the verdict and its implications.

Howard King, lead attorney for Thicke and Williams, told jurors in closing arguments that a verdict for the Gaye family would have a chilling effect on musicians' trying to evoke an era or create an homage to the sound of earlier musicians. Williams contended during the trial that he was only trying to mimic the "feel" of Gaye's late 1970s music, but insisted he did not use elements of his idol's work.

"Today's successful verdict, with the odds more than stacked against the Marvin Gaye estate, could redefine what copyright infringement means for recording artists," said Glen Rothstein, an intellectual property attorney with the firm Greenberg Glusker.

"The Gaye verdict is precedential in that whereas prior to



Singer Robin Thicke



Pharrell Williams

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'Blurred Lines' verdict likely to alter music business

today, it was generally understood that paying homage to musical influences was an acceptable, and indeed commonplace way of conducting business and even showing respect for one's musical idols, after today, doubt has been cast on where the line will be drawn for copyright infringement purposes," Rothstein said.

The Gaye family will seek an injunction against "Blurred Lines," which will give them leverage to negotiate for royalties and other concessions such as songwriting credits.

Music copyright trials are rare, but allegations that a song copies another artist's work are common. Recently, singers Sam Smith and Tom Petty reached an agreement that conferred songwriting credit to Petty on Smith's song, "Stay With Me." The agreement was reached because Smith's song

resembled Petty's hit "I Won't Back Down."

"Unfortunately, today's jury verdict has blurred the lines between protectable elements of a musical composition and the unprotectable musical style or groove exemplified by Marvin Gaye," said Larry Iser, an intellectual property lawyer who has represented numerous musicians, including Jackson Browne and David Byrne, in music copyright cases. "Although Gaye was the Prince of Soul, he didn't own a copyright to the genre, and Thicke and Williams' homage to the feel of Marvin Gaye is not infringing."

King, who also represents numerous musicians, said record labels are going to become more reluctant to release music that's similar to other works.

"This is going to make them more conservative, and less

■ A jury determined that Williams and Thicke copied a Marvin Gaye song to create 'Blurred Lines' and awarded more than USD7 million to Gaye's family

likely that you're going to have new music," King said.

That assertion was mocked by Richard Busch, the lead attorney for the Gaye family.

"While Mr. Williams' lawyer

suggested in his closing argument that the world would come to an end, and music would cease to exist if they were found liable, I still see the sun shining. I still see the wind blowing, and I still see the clouds in the sky. The world has not come to an end," Busch said after the verdict. "The music industry will go on."

So too will Williams' career, said Joe Levy, editor-at-large at Billboard.

"For Pharrell the story moves on," Levy said. "It will move on quickly."

Williams is a seven-time Grammy Award winner whose songs that he's either performed or produced have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide. His hit "Happy" has helped make him a household name, as has his work as a judge on NBC's singing competition show, "The Voice." AP

corporate bits

PANDORA LAUNCHES COLLECTION AT GALAXY'S CRYSTAL LOBBY



Danish global jewelry brand Pandora held a global exclusive launch of its Spring 2015 collection yesterday at Galaxy Macau. Dozens of guests gathered at Galaxy's Crystal Lobby,

taking the opportunity to be the first to see the latest collection. According to a press release, the new collection is designed under the idea of captivating moments and messengers of springtime.

With over ten thousand shops worldwide, Pandora designs, manufactures and markets modern jewelry made from genuine materials, to inspire women to embrace their individuality.

CAM HOLDS 2015 SPRING DINNER



CAM's Chairman of the General Assembly Mr. Charles Lo Keng Chio, Chairman of

the Board of Directors Mr. Ma lao Hang, Chairman of the Executive Committee Dr.

Deng Jun and all staff attended CAM's Spring Dinner, which was held on 4th March 2015 at MGM Macau to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Goat.

At the opening, Mr. Ma lao Hang delivered a welcome speech where he expressed appreciation to the management teams and staff for their hard work at Macau International Airport and CAM in 2014, on MIA's 20th anniversary.

During the Dinner, all departments and offices were granted commendation certificates, with outstanding staff being awarded additional Staff Loyalty Awards, Staff of Excellence Awards, Recognition of Collaboration & Team Work Awards and Safe Driving Awards.

PPRICE differences of various food products in the cities of Maputo and Nelspruit, South Africa, have shown the existence of an excessive profit margin in the Mozambican market, according to a study released yesterday in Maputo.

The study entitled "Price Variations in Mozambique", carried out by the Program for Economic and Enterprise Development (SPEED), US organization USAID, in partnership with the Confederation of Business Associations (CTA), said that this excessive mark up even exists in supermarkets operating in both countries.

Assessing the price of eight products – sugar, chicken, corn flour, tomato, cooking oil, baked beans, tomato paste and canned tuna – the analysis sought to explain the reasons why Mozambican consumers purchase goods in the city of Nelspruit, in the border province of Mpumalanga, located about 200 kilometres from the Mozambican capital, despite a growing supply of goods to the Mozambican market.

Despite not indicating the composition of a possible basket of goods, the authors concluded that travelling be-

MOZAMBIQUE

Prices higher than in South Africa



View of Maputo, Mozambique

tween the two countries to purchase goods could lead to savings of at least USD82, taking into account the cost of travel in a utility vehicle, which is around the same amount.

By operating in the two cities, supermarket chains Game, Spar and Shoprite were selected to serve as a comparative reference, said the study, which is now available on the SPEED program's website.

With profit margins ranging

from 81 percent to 92 percent in the case of processed foods (baked beans, tomato paste and tuna) and up to 50 percent for basic foodstuffs (the remainder, according to the classification of the Mozambican authorities), the study shows that the price differences are greater than transfer costs from one market to another.

"The price difference is large enough to cover the costs of trade, including import duties and applicable sales tax. In the

case of a formal retailer, this includes potential customs delays costs, and compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, among others," noted the authors.

The analysis also showed that the devaluation of the South African currency, the rand, against the metical, which has been observed continuously over the last two years (currently one rand is equivalent to about 2.7 meticals) is not being reflected in the price of products imported from South Africa, indicating an increase in the profit margins of retailers.

In terms of the reasons for the profit margins of retailers operating in the Mozambican market, the study notes the cost of renting commercial space, "which is four times higher in Maputo," as well as rates of corporate tax, which "is four percentage points higher." **MDT/Macauhub**


East Timor posts trade deficit of USD893 million



East Timor's prime minister Rui Araújo talks with a taxi driver in Dili

East Timor's balance of trade in 2014 recorded a deficit of USD893 million, an increase of 13.79 percent year on year, said the Statistics Directorate of the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday in Dili. The quarterly statistical statement said that in 2014 Timor-Leste exported goods worth US\$91.96 million, most of which were "re-exports", an increase of 13.72 percent compared to 2013. Imports amounted to US\$982.23 million, which was 14.64 percent more than in 2013, when the country imported products worth US\$838.47 million. Fuels and vehicles accounted for the largest shares of Timor's imports, with the main countries of origin being Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and Portugal.

AD




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SEMINAR

MACANESE FAMILIES

THE CASE STUDY OF THAILAND

SPEAKERS:
 Dr. Jorge Forjaz: Historian Genealogist (Portugal)
 Dr. Pathorn Sequeira: Musician, Composer and Educator (Thailand)


DATE/TIME: March 14th (Saturday), 2015 at 3:00 pm

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

Due to the limited registration, please contact the following for reservation at your earliest convenience:
 Tel: 2852 2550 / 2852 3205 (Ms. Vera Leça / Ms. Vera Leong / Ms. Karen Lao)
 E-mail: creativealbergue@gmail.com


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Mainland tightens baby formula rules after NZ poisoning scare

Matthew Brockett
and Tracy Withers

CHINA stepped up scrutiny on New Zealand baby formula imports as orders for the product fell, a day after the South Pacific nation revealed a plot to poison baby food.

New Zealand milk powder must have a government certificate and an importers' examination report to prove it doesn't contain the toxic pesticide 1080, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said in a statement.

"Our major customer is China and I think what happens over the next 48 hours is going to be critical," said Michael Barnett, chairman of the New Zealand Infant Formula Exporters Association. "It has the potential to be disastrous for exporters, whether they be big or small, because it's reputational risk. It's about food and it's about New Zealand."

Exporters say they've had some orders reduced or halted after police revealed Tuesday that they're investigating an anonymous threat to poison infant formula with 1080 unless the government stops using it by the end of this month.

It's the third dairy contamination scare in two years for a nation that relies heavily for



economic growth on dairy exports, which are worth NZ\$14 billion (USD10 billion) a year and account for 29 percent of total overseas sales. China is the biggest customer.

Threatening letters were sent to Fonterra Cooperative Group

Ltd., the world's biggest dairy exporter, and Federated Farmers in November, police said on Tuesday.

Tests of more than 40,000 samples had found no trace of the poison, the government said, defending its decision to

delay disclosure while police investigated.

"I will continue to buy milk powder from New Zealand as I trust its quality and my girl is used to its flavor," Isabelle Rao, a Beijing-based mother, said in an interview. "I don't think the

New Zealand government will let its pillar industry fall apart and will solve the problem very soon."

The poison threat comes after a botulism scare in 2013 prompted a global recall of some Fonterra products and an import ban by China until it was proved to be a false alarm.

In January that year, Fonterra said traces of a fertilizer additive had been found in some of its milk products. They were within safety guidelines and posed no health risk, it said.

Milk safety in China became a major issue in 2008, when locally made melamine-contaminated milk powder may have killed at least six infants, causing the collapse of Fonterra's partner Sanlu Group.

"We've made it clear to the Chinese we take these things seriously and we don't sweep them under the carpet," said Darren Gibbs, chief New Zealand economist at Deutsche Bank AG in Auckland. "The reality is it's probably a hoax and probably just a nutter and probably no more risk than you get in any country."

Some baby formula exporters reported their distributors had reduced order volumes or put orders on hold, though there has been no ban, NZIFEA's Barnett said in an interview.

Police said yesterday they are continuing their investigation to find the anonymous letter writer, who included 1080 samples with their threats. The pesticide is used to control rats, opossums and stoats that kill New Zealand's native birdlife, such as the flightless kiwi. **Bloomberg**

Joe McDonald,
Business Writer, Beijing

CHINA is reviving growth of its nuclear power industry with approval of its first new project in two years.

The Cabinet's planning agency approved construction of two additional reactors at a power plant in the northeastern province of Liaoning, a unit of state-owned China General Nuclear Power Corp. said in an announcement released Tuesday through the Hong Kong stock exchange.

China is the world's biggest energy consumer and nuclear power plays a key role in government plans to curb surging demand for imported oil and gas. Foreign suppliers of nuclear power equipment are looking to China as a major future market, though Beijing wants to produce as much of its own techno-

logy as possible.

Beijing suspended approvals of new nuclear plants after a tsunami hit northeastern Japan in March 2011, crippling the Fukushima plant's cooling and backup power systems and causing partial meltdowns in the worst nuclear disaster since the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe.

The moratorium was lifted in 2012 following a review of safety standards and existing Chinese facilities. The government said it would allow only a small number of new plants to be built. It said they would be in coastal areas and would be required to meet the most stringent safety standards.

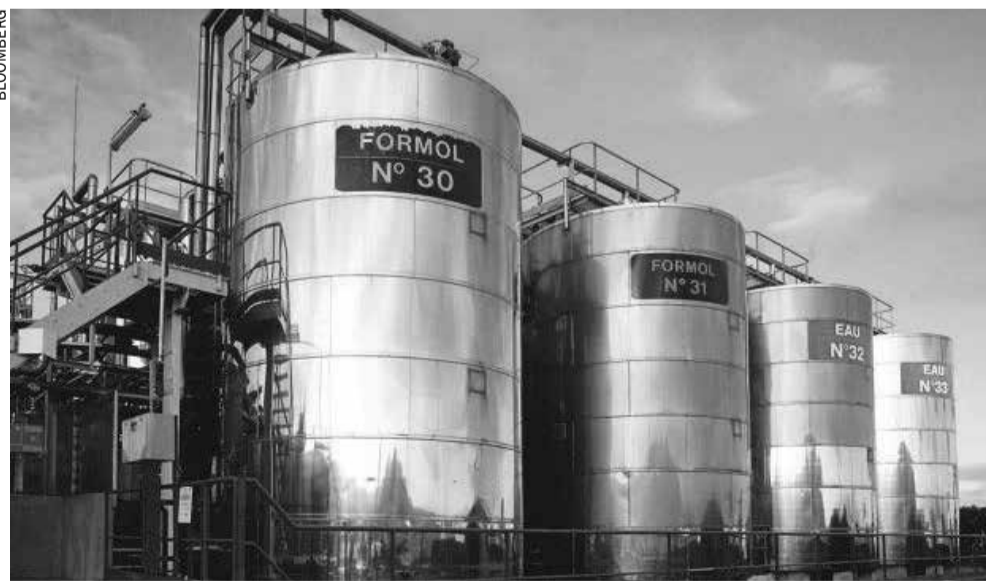
The government's Xinhua News Agency described the reactors in Liaoning as the first nuclear projects approved since the moratorium was lifted. However, a utility

Beijing approves new nuclear reactors in industry revival

company announced in January 2013 it had begun construction in the eastern coastal province of Shandong of what it said was the first nuclear power plant since the end of the ban.

Last year, the government said it hopes to generate 30 percent of China's power from renewable sources such as solar and wind as well as from nuclear by the end of this year. That was up from an earlier target of 15 percent from renewables plus 5 percent from nuclear by 2020.

The two newly approved reactors will be at the Hongyanhe Nuclear Power Plant, which has four operating reactors,



according to yesterday's statement by CGN Power Ltd., a publicly traded unit of China General Nuclear Power. The facility is located in Wafangdian,

about 100 kilometers north of Dalian, a major port city.

It said the project still requires approval by nuclear regulators and gave

no timetable for construction. The brief statement gave no details of which companies would supply equipment for the new reactors. **AP**

Jack Chang and Isolda Morillo

IN his small ground-floor apartment just a few blocks from Beijing's landmark Bird's Nest stadium, Chinese language teacher, writer and do-it-yourself documentary maker Xu Xing is urgently preserving what he can of China's forbidden past.

Traveling usually by himself all over the country, the tall 58-year-old has recorded hours of interviews with everyday Chinese who were jailed, sometimes for years, on the barest of political charges during the decade-long spasm of social chaos known as the Cultural Revolution. Xu has edited that footage into documentaries that he only shows to those he trusts, in living rooms and coffee houses, preserving for history memories kept secret for decades.

"I want it so that this never happens in China again, so this is my tireless job," Xu said on a recent afternoon sitting at his kitchen-top editing bay. "I tell the people I interview, 'Clearly, I can't bring you any money or other reward. The main thing I do is let other people know your story.'"

With the ruling Communist Party zealously enforcing its own version of Chinese history, Xu's truth-telling is nothing less than an act of defiance. The government has largely succeeded in erasing or playing down whole swaths of Communist-era history by controlling what's talked about in the country's classrooms, museums and books, as well as in other areas of public life.

Ask the average Chinese under the age of 30 about the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, which scholars say claimed the lives of hundreds of pro-democracy student activists and bystanders in the heart of Beijing, and the answer will likely be ignorance or at best vague recognition. The same amnesia cloaks other dark periods of 20th-century Chinese history such as the catastrophic famines of the late 1950s, widely blamed on the government's push to rapidly industrialize, and the Cultural Revolution, which persecuted millions from 1966 to 1976.

Fu King-Wa, a journalism and media studies professor at the University of Hong Kong, said many of his students from mainland China learned of the Tiananmen massacre for the first time through his lectures.

Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese city, enjoys more freedom compared to the mainland, where Chinese who research and publicize the past on their own are often censored or jailed for causing trouble.

"This is authoritarian control of people's access to information. They want to create a unified version of how to understand this historical issue," Fu said.

Xu and other secret historians



Tsering Woesser, a Tibetan poet, shows old photos of the Chinese military destroying temples and persecuting Buddhist priests and officials in the far western region of Tibet, which were taken by her father during the Cultural Revolution, at her home on the outskirts of Beijing

Secret historians preserve past amid state amnesia

have taken it upon themselves to preserve photos, interview eyewitnesses and do the archival work that the Chinese government has banned most historians inside the country from doing.

You Weijie, whose husband died in the Tiananmen massacre, has conducted interviews with relatives of more than 40 other victims and stored the audio and video recordings overseas. Some are available online.

Tsering Woesser held onto dozens of her father's old photos of the Chinese military destroying temples and persecuting Buddhist priests and officials in the far western region of Tibet during the Cultural Revolution. In 2006, a Taiwan

Memory is important to people, and if the person is there, the memory is there. If the person isn't there, then the memory has disappeared

TSERING WOESER

-based publisher put out a book of the photos.

Others in China run underground history magazines or preserve their memories of China's forbidden past in paintings.

These secret historians are exposed to police surveillance and, in many cases, to near-poverty, because they have little opportunity to make a living from their work.

Woesser, You and Xu said they were aware of the dangers they invited by speaking to The Associated Press, but said they had already been the targets of police scrutiny and were willing to run the additional risk.

"They're afraid of this," Xu said of Chinese authorities. "They don't let anybody see this. This is their crime."

The Chinese government's concerns about historical revision were spelled out in what was believed to be a confidential party document leaked to the public in 2013 and first printed in a Hong Kong newspaper.

The document called out critics who consider the Chinese Communist Party to be "a continuous series of mistakes," and warned that "historical nihilism" rejecting the party's version of history "is tantamount to denying the legitimacy of the CCP's long-term political dominance."

For China's secret historians, however, documenting that history is the only way to make sure its tragedies aren't repeated.

Woesser, a Tibetan poet, said she had wondered as a girl why her father had taken photos of the destruction in the region, especially since he had been sent there as a Chinese soldier in the 1960s to help tighten the government's hold. Later, she said, she herself returned to track down the people captured in those photos.

"A lot of people have already died," she said, seated beside a private altar she's built to the exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama. "So I think this is a very urgent thing. Because memory is important to people, and if the person is there, the memory is there. If the person isn't there, then the memory has disappeared."

At different times, Woesser has been placed under house arrest for her work. You said she has also been placed under surveillance; police are permanently stationed on the ground floor of her apartment building. Xu is often stopped and questioned by local police while tracking down Cultural Revolution survivors.

What they find and record often clashes with how the Chinese government memorializes the country's tumultuous history since 1949, when the Communist Party seized control after a brutal civil war.

In the government's telling, the student protesters who filled Tiananmen Square demanding political reforms were launching a "counterrevolutionary riot," and only 300 or so were

killed, as opposed to about 1,000 victims counted by other sources. The famines sparked by the Great Leap Forward of the 1950s, which scholars believe claimed upward of 30 million lives, are known in official versions as "three years of natural disaster," with at most a few million perishing.

The Chinese government has acknowledged some fault for the Cultural Revolution, saying the political purges were "responsible for the most severe setback and the heaviest losses ... since the founding of the People's Republic." Still, the period is rarely mentioned in Chinese media, and few relics of the time appear outside private collections.

That amnesia comes at an enormous price, and not just for victims who have yet to see justice or compensation, said Xun Zhou, a history professor at the University of Essex who has interviewed hundreds of rural Chinese about the famines of the Great Leap Forward and other historical events.

Avoiding that history has prevented any move toward the kind of reconciliation that in other societies has helped heal historical wounds, she said.

"If you're going to have reconciliation, you have to talk about things in the open, you have to face these unresolved historical issues," Xun said. "Now, there's no national memory of history. There's only individual memory, no collective memory." AP

THAILAND

Parents of ex-princess jailed for insulting monarchy



Thailand's Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, right, with Princess Srirasmi

The parents of the now-estranged wife of Thailand's crown prince have been sentenced to two and a half years in prison on charges of defaming the monarchy, in the latest legal action against relatives of the former princess, who until recently was in line to be the country's next queen. The well-publicized split of Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn and his third wife, former Princess Srirasmi, has been accompanied by a public shaming of a number of her family members, who have been accused of insulting the monarchy, a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Yesterday, a court found Srirasmi's parents had misused the crown prince's name during a dispute in 2003 with a neighbor who was then prosecuted on a bogus fraud charge.

PHILIPPINES

23 Muslim rebels killed in clashes with military

Officials say Philippine troops have killed at least 23 Muslim rebels in renewed clashes in the restive south, raising the insurgents' death toll in a three-week government offensive to nearly 100. The offensive was launched against a renegade rebel group called the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, which is blamed for the Jan. 25 deaths of 44 police commandos who stormed the rebel stronghold in search of top terrorist suspects. The military reported Monday that 73 rebels and a suspected foreign militant were killed since the offensive began Feb. 25. Military spokesman Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc said yesterday that additional 73 died when fresh fighting broke out in Maguindanao province. Two marines were also killed and 72,000 people displaced. The main Muslim rebel group has signed a peace deal.

SOUTH KOREA

Nut rage flight attendant sues Korean Air, former exec

Youkyung Lee
Business Writer, Seoul

A flight attendant who says she was living her dream by working for Korean Air is now suing the airline and its infamous nut rage executive, claiming the bizarre onboard tantrum ruined her career.

Kim Do Hee, the flight attendant, is seeking compensation through a trial in New York city after she was verbally and physically attacked by Korean Air heiress Cho Hyun-ah, according to a statement yesterday by two American law firms, the Weinstein Law Firm and Kobre & Kim.

Cho, a vice president overseeing cabin service at the time of the Dec. 5 incident, was enraged that Kim, 27, served her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a dish.

After a heated confrontation with crew in the first class cabin, Cho ordered head flight attendant Park Chang-jin off the plane, forcing it to return to a gate at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

It is the first civil lawsuit connected with the nut rage case, which infuriated South Koreans and hogged global headlines. Last month a South Korean court sentenced Cho, 40, to one year in prison for violating aviation security



In this Dec. 30, 2014 file photo, Cho Hyun-ah, former vice president of Korean Air Lines Co., arrives at the Seoul Western District Prosecutors Office in Seoul

laws, using violence against a flight attendant and other charges. Cho, who is the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, has appealed the ruling from prison.

The summons filed Monday with the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Queens said Cho screamed obscenities at Kim and hit and threatened her.

She was also pressured to lie to government investigators to cover up the incident and to appear in public with Cho "as part of an orchestrated effort to

try and rehabilitate Cho's public image," the summons said.

Kim is seeking compensatory damages and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the trial.

Kim was unable to resolve the dispute privately and both Korean Air and Cho did not engage in "any substantive" settlement discussions with Kim's lawyers, the statement said. Cho will be held responsible for the damage that she has caused to Kim's career, reputation, and emotional well-being, it said.

During Cho's trial in Seoul last month, Kim testified that Cho's power at the airline was "unimaginably big" and she could not refuse her orders.

She also said Korean Air was her dream job since she was a high school student but after false rumors spread on the Internet about her accepting a professorship in exchange for lying to investigators, she could not return to work as a flight attendant.

Both Cho's lawyer and Korean Air Lines Co. did not respond to a request for comment. AP

PAKISTAN'S largest city was on edge yesterday after troops raided the headquarters of a well-known political party, arresting about 20 suspects and seizing weapons, a spokesman said.

The early morning raid in Karachi, the country's economic hub, took many in this teeming metropolis by surprise, especially since it targeted a prominent party with a presence in the national parliament.

The troops seized a large cache of assault rifles and detained suspects — including six "known criminals" — from the Muttahida Quami Movement's offices in the heart of the city, said Col. Tahir Mahmood, a spokesman for a Pakistani paramilitary force known as the Rangers. The force is deployed to aid police and other forces to control law and order and militancy in the violence-riddled city.

The spokesman showed the media heavy weapons he said were seized from the offices and for which he said the party did not have licenses. Mahmood claimed MQM sheltered criminals and obstructed life in the neighborhood by placing barricades in the streets.

Soldiers sealed the building and handed responsibility for it over to police, he said. It will remain in police custody until an investigation is completed, he said.

But MQM officials hotly disputed Mahmood's account of the raid. Party leader

PAKISTAN

Troops raid prominent political party HQ in Karachi



Pakistani paramilitary troops raid the Muttahida Quami Movement's offices in Karachi

Faisal Subzwari accused the Rangers of killing one MQM worker and said the weapons were licensed and necessary to guard the offices against Taliban threats. The party has been outspoken against the Taliban and other militants who have a major presence in the city. Another party leader, Farooq Sattar, condemned the raid as politically motivated.

The Rangers spokesman made no mention of any firing. A police officer, Saleem

Akhtar, said they were investigating the death of one MQM worker.

The MQM controls most of Karachi but is often accused by opponents of using violence to bolster its power. Its leader, Altaf Hussain has lived in self-imposed exile in Britain since 1992. The party has complained in recent months that their operatives have been targeted in military and police operations designed to quell violence in the city. AP

Laura Mills, Moscow

RUSSIA

THE main suspect in Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov's killing has signs of torture on his body and was forced to confess to the shooting, a human rights activist said yesterday.

Investigators didn't confirm or deny the accusations made by Andrei Babushkin, a member of a Russian human rights commission. But they said Babushkin may have broken the law by making the comments.

Babushkin told The Associated Press that he visited the detention center where main suspect Zaur Dadaev had been held on Tuesday.

Babushkin said there were abrasions on Dadaev's body and that he had been "tortured by those who detained him" and later taken to the Investigative Committee, where "he was forced to confess."

Five people have been detained in connection with Nemtsov's shooting on Feb. 27. Dadaev was the only one who, according to a judge, confessed to the killing, though in court he didn't admit guilt.

The commission that Babushkin belongs to is an unoffi-

cial advisory body to the president. It operates under the auspices of the Kremlin, but many of its members are respected activists with decades-long careers in human rights work in Russia.

Russia's Investigative Committee said in a statement that Babushkin and a journalist accompanying him had been allowed to visit Dadaev's prison cell only to see the conditions under which he was being held, but had broken the law by publicizing details about the case.

"Such actions may be regarded as interference in the investigation," the statement said.

The committee said that this was "a violation not only of the rules (of visiting rights) but also of the law," and said that both Babushkin and the journalist would be questioned by investigators.

The committee, however, didn't confirm or deny Babushkin's claims that Dadaev



Zaur Dadaev, one of five suspects in the killing of Boris Nemtsov stands in a courtroom in Moscow

had been mistreated.

In an interview published with the newspaper *Moskovsky Komsomolets* by journalist Eva Merkacheva, Dadaev said that he had been detained for two

days with a bag over his head.

"They shouted at me all the time: 'Have you killed Nemtsov?' I told them, 'No,'" he was quoted as saying.

When investigators told him

that a friend who had been detained "would be released if I confessed, I agreed. I thought they would save him, and that I would be brought to Moscow alive." AP

USA

Clinton trying to put emails to rest and prepare for 2016

HILLARY Rodham Clinton tried to get the rollout of her likely presidential campaign back on track by admitting she should have used a government email address while serving as the nation's top diplomat — an admission that sought to quell a political furor that even some Democratic allies said she could no longer avoid.

The focus on Clinton's emails has jumbled what had been expected to be a smooth glide toward the kickoff of her presidential campaign next month. The former secretary of state had planned to spend March promoting her work on women's equality, a signature issue for someone who could become the nation's first female president.

Instead, questions about Clinton's email habits have dominated her activities in the past week, following revelations that she used a personal email account at the State Department and did so via a private server kept at her home in suburban New York.

While Democrats have dismissed the notion that Clinton's emails are something voters will care about come Election Day 2016, her silence — aside from a late-night tweet sent last week — had led several of her former colleagues in the Senate to urge her to tell her side of the story.

During a news conference Tues-



Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to reporters

day at the United Nations, after she had delivered a previously scheduled speech on women's rights, Clinton pledged that all her work-related email would be made public "for everyone to see." But she also acknowledged that she deleted tens of thousands of emails related to personal matters. She refused calls from Republicans to turn over the email server she kept at her home to an independent reviewer.

"The server contains personal communications from my husband and me, and I believe I have met

all of my responsibilities, and the server will remain private," Clinton told reporters who crammed into a hallway to ask questions at her first news conference in more than two years.

Clinton defiantly declared that she did nothing improper in exclusively using a private account for official emails while secretary of state.

"I fully complied with every rule I was governed by," Clinton said in the 20-minute news conference that marked her first comments on the controversy. AP

FRANCE

Jewel heist on highway triggers manhunt for attackers

Angela Charlton, Paris

ABOUT 15 armed assailants attacked two vans carrying millions of euros worth of jewels on a French highway yesterday, forced out the drivers and sped away, according to police.

Gendarmes and other authorities are combing the Burgundy region southeast of Paris for the attackers, after the latest in a string of big jewel heists in France in recent years.

No one was injured in the attack on the A6 highway connecting Paris and Lyon, and the drivers of the two vans were left at the scene unharmed, a police official said. The perpetrators escaped in four cars and the two vans, which police found burned and abandoned in a forest near the site of the attack, the official said. The jewels remain missing.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to be publicly named.

In November, two gunmen robbed a Cartier jewelry boutique in a tony and tourist-filled Paris neighborhood, fled police in a chase across the Seine River, took a hostage — and then surrendered.

In 2013, the Cannes Film Festival was hit by two high-profile thefts. First, a gunman walked into a jewel show at the Carlton International Hotel, stole USD136 million in loot, and disappeared down a side street. Then, two armed men made off with a haul of luxury watches on the same promenade.

Last month, eight people were convicted in connection with one of the most spectacular jewel thefts in recent French history at a Harry Winston boutique in Paris. In the 2008 hold-up, three cross-dressing gunmen stole about \$92 million in goods. AP

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're somewhat irritated with one of the people in your life...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You can't let yourself lecture people today - tempting as that may be.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Focus on your friends and family today - or maybe your closest business contacts...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to make a big deal out of today's choice - and how torn you are.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your adventurous energy is absolutely amazing right now - so make sure that you're free to follow up on every impulse!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You have to let the universe call the shots today - otherwise, things are sure to get weird for you and your people.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You've got to stick with whatever is on your plate right now. The good news is that you should be able to glide right through today's projects...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You feel larger than life - so act like it! You may get lost in the crowd of others who are also trying to impress the world...

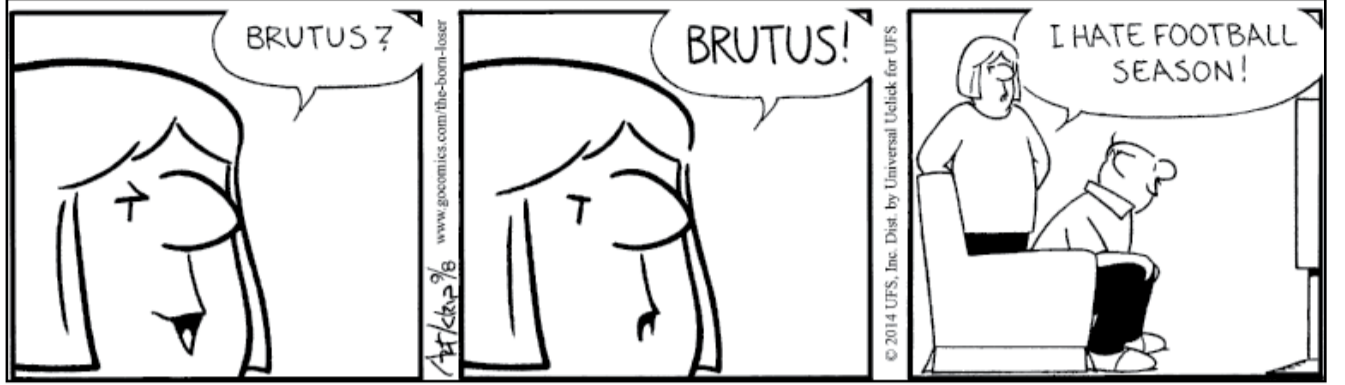
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can bring a smile to almost any face today - so start with yours! You find that one particular act of kindness is repaid really quickly...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You are moving at much greater speed today - so much so that you may leave your allies in the dust!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's a day of communion - which can mean different things to different people. You may feel spiritual, or you may need to spend time in the company of those whose values match yours.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Take care to just keep it quiet today - you may want to shake someone by the collar until they straighten out...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

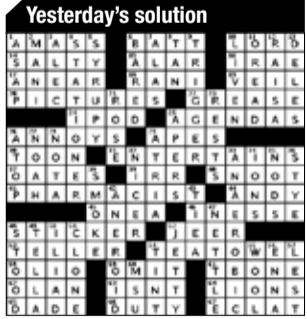
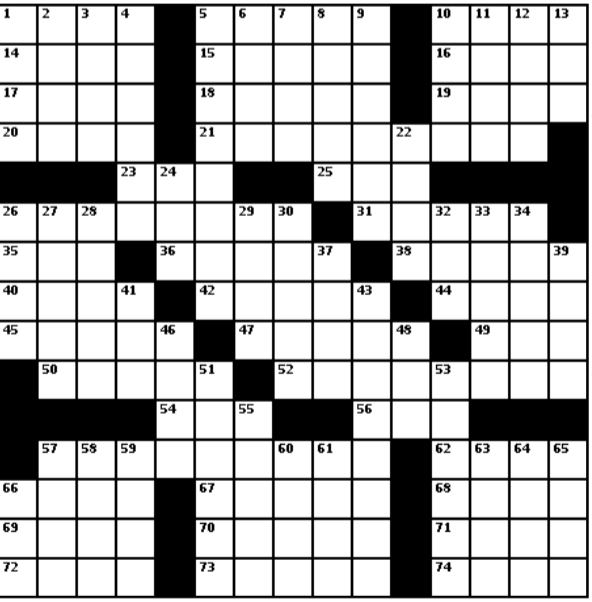
Sudoku puzzles categorized into Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Table with 4 columns: Location, MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather data for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Caustic solutions; 5- Some Celts; 10- DEA agent; 14- Canadian gas brand; 15- Actor Delon; 16- Olive genus; 17- Thin stratum; 18- Please, in Potsdam; 19- Sudden assault; 20- Chicago paper, for short; 21- Anglers; 23- Shoebox letters; 25- Period of history; 26- State in the central United States; 31- Recreation; 35- Former Bush spokesman Fleischer; 36- Mohawk River city; 38- Great bargain; 40- Barbecue fare; 42- Fishhook line; 44- Mosaic piece; 45- Shouts; 47- Sorrow; 49- Deity; 50- Capital of South Korea; 52- Large handkerchief; 54- Where it's at; 56- Fuel type; 57- Two weeks; 62- Clue; 66- It's a long story; 67- God of Islam; 68- "Jaws" boat; 69- Sword handle; 70- Aromatic spice; 71- Public disturbance; 72- Minerals; 73- Arabian republic; 74- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto);



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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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CRICKET

Sangakkara retiring from ODIs in style at World Cup

Dennis Passa
Sports Writer

KUMAR Sangakkara's record-setting performance at the Cricket World Cup just might help Sri Lanka move past its runner-up status at the last two tournaments.

Sangakkara, who scored 124 runs yesterday against Scotland, became the first batsman to score hundreds in four consecutive one-day internationals. He combined with Tillakaratne Dilshan (104) in a 195-run, second-wicket partnership as Sri Lanka posted 363-9 on the way to a 148-run win.

"Sometimes things just fall into place, everything clicks," Sangakkara said while accepting man-of-the-match honors at Hobart, Australia.

"It's difficult to pinpoint it. Maybe it's because I'm making a lot of better decisions, the right decisions at the right time, taking risks at the right time, being more calculated, being a

bit more positive. I don't know what that one thing is, but whatever it is, it's working for me at the moment, and I'd like to hold on to that for as long as I can."

Sri Lanka completed its pool games with a 4-2 record, and looks like it will face South Africa in the quarterfinals next week in Sydney. Sri Lanka won the World Cup in 1996, and lost the finals in 2007 to Australia and in 2011 to India.

Sangakkara also passed Adam Gilchrist (52) at the top of the list of most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in World Cup matches, with 54. He also passed 500 ODI dismissals.

He earned the praise of his teammates after the match.

"It is a great experience to play with Kumar," Dilshan said. "I hope we can continue to bat as long as possible together, and keep on producing the big partnerships."

Opener Lahiru Thirimanne was equally as effusive.

"We are all privileged to sha-

re the same dressing room with him," Thirimanne said. "It is fantastic he is playing so wonderfully at the moment, and hopefully he continues his form in the quarterfinals."

Scotland lost opener Kyle Coetzer, caught and bowled by Lasith Malinga, on the second ball of the innings, and never threatened to win its first World Cup match in 13 attempts. The Scots were bowled out for 215 runs in the 44th over. Freddie Coleman (70) and captain Preston Mommsen (60) put on a fourth-wicket century partnership in the only bright spot for Scotland.

On Thursday, South Africa plays the United Arab Emirates at Wellington, New Zealand, and skipper AB de Villiers says his team must win its final Pool B match to be assured of making the quarterfinals.

Second-place South Africa has been inconsistent so far, twice scoring 400-plus runs in big wins over the West Indies, Zim-



Kumar Sangakkara

babwe and Ireland, but losing to India and Pakistan.

A win against bottom-place South Africa a second-place finish in Pool B behind India. Should it suffer a major shock, South Africa would likely finish pool play in a three-way tie on six points, but would be favored to progress thanks to a superior net run rate.

"It's a must-win for us, very important," de Villiers said. "We'd really like to get to eight points and make sure we finish second in the group."

The 42-game preliminary round ends on the weekend. New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Australia and Bangladesh have clinched quarterfinal places in Pool A. India, with five consecutive wins, is guaranteed a first-place finish in Pool B ahead of its final pool match against Zimbabwe in Auckland on Saturday.

Pakistan and Ireland, who meet in Adelaide, Australia, on Sunday, are in third and fourth place, respectively. The West Indies, in fifth place and finishing against UAE, could still advance. **AP**

AD



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Dave Skretta
Sports Writer, Kansas City

ON a cold night on Tobacco Road, North Carolina and Duke went back and forth in an overtime college basketball thriller. It was gripping, edge-of-your seat stuff. Tense down to the final second.

In short, it looked nothing like Duke's game against Florida State nine days earlier, when the teams missed five 3-pointers, two free throws, and committed five turnovers all before the first media timeout. Florida led at that point, 2-0.

"Never seen a media timeout with a score quite like this," tweeted ESPN analyst Jay Bilas, an outspoken critic of the state of college hoops. "Maybe in baseball."

Bilas is not alone in his concern. Scoring is at a near-record low this season. Fouls are soaring. Attendance has dropped precipitously in many places, and U.S. television ratings are struggling to reach last year's levels.

The fact that the NCAA Tournament, starting next week and long-considered recession proof, has struggled to build buzz is perhaps the most damning evidence of the dire state of the game.

"I do have some healthy concerns," said Dan Gavitt, the NCAA vice president for men's college basketball. "If the game continues to go in the direction it has been the last several years, with scoring being down and physical play being up, it could really hurt it."

That's a sobering assessment from one of the game's most important stakeholders.

Attendance in men's Division I basketball has fallen for seven straight seasons, from an average of 5,327 in 2006-07 to 4,817 last year. The Southeastern Conference even asked its TV partners for flexibility in scheduling to help drive fans to the arena.

Not that life has been easy on broadcasters, either. ESPN and CBS, two networks with a long college basketball tradition, have both weathered a decline in ratings this season. As of last week, ESPN was averaging

BASKETBALL

Will hard season for college hoops take luster off playoffs?



Portland's Thomas van der Mars (12) battles for the ball with Brigham Young's Corbin Kaufusi, left, and Jordan Chatman, right, during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the semifinals of the West Coast Conference tournament

just under 1.5 million viewers on its main network for men's basketball games, down about 6 percent from the same period last year.

The NCAA tried to intervene last year, instituting rules designed to boost scoring and

Scoring is down. A lot of that is bad offense

BILL SELF
KANSAS COACH

free up offenses. They have failed to stick. Now, some schools have resorted to outlandish gimmicks to sell seats, and TV executives have been forced to expand pregame shows to help drive interest.

"We do so many games, you see all kinds," said Nick Dawson, the senior director of programming and acquisitions for ESPN, whose job is to help televise more than 1,300 games. "There are some played at a high level, fantastic entertainment value, great flow. We've seen a bunch. But you also get a bunch that don't have that flow, and that don't live up to those expectations."

Just consider some of those games:

— Georgia Tech was held to 28 points by Virginia in late January, one of three times Virginia has kept an opponent below 30 points. In one of those games, Virginia didn't do a whole lot better, grinding its way to a 45-26 victory over Rutgers.

— Arizona and Utah, two teams with national title aspirations, combined for 46 fouls a couple of weeks ago. Arizona star Stanley Johnson went 3 for 19 from the field.

— Think that was a lot of fouls? St. Francis and LIU-Brooklyn conspired to com-

mit 66 fouls and shoot 97 free throws last month, accounting for nearly half of the points scored.

— In a game against West Virginia, Kansas went 0 for 15 from beyond the arc, and won.

"Scoring is down. A lot of that is bad offense," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It is easier to coach defense than offense, and a lot of times easier to stop people than it is to exploit people. A lot of coaches feel that way."

Self is among the faction that believes college basketball is still a robust product, albeit one that could benefit from a few tweaks. In interviews by The Associated Press with more than a dozen coaches, players and administrators, a few ideas continually came up, dealing either with the layout of the court or the mechanics of the game.

On the court, several officials suggested widening the lane, which would curtail some of the physical play in the post while allowing more freedom of movement. They also suggested extending the 3-point line to the NBA arc, which would revive the once-crucial mid-range jumper.

In terms of game play, the NCAA is already experimenting with shortening the shot clock to speed up offense. Some officials, including Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby, also want to reduce the number of available timeouts, forcing teams to play through adversity.

"With social media, Facebook, Twitter, you can dissect it backward and forward, and you can find something wrong with it if you want," TCU coach Trent Johnson said. "But I think the Final Four and the NCAA Tournament is still a great event, as exciting as there is." **AP**

AN investigation into alleged "ghost races" and faked results in endurance racing in the United Arab Emirates has been ordered by the International Equestrian Federation.

The governing body said yesterday it sent allegations against the UAE equestrian body to its integrity unit, run by former London Metropolitan Police chief John Stevens.

The claims by British

UAE investigated for alleged fake endurance horse races

newspaper The Telegraph follow widespread reports of doping and horse abuse in endurance racing in the Middle East. The discipline is popular in the region with royal family members often competing in races of up to

120 kilometers across the desert.

Last month, the FEI withdrew recognition for the two remaining UAE-hosted endurance events, in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, on the international race calendar.

The UAE federation

has allegedly registered results with the FEI for qualifying races that were never run. The Telegraph reported that results — with detailed interim times and speeds — appeared to be copied exactly from earlier valid races.

Faking results could put the welfare of horses at risk by clearing them to compete at a higher level beyond their ability or fitness levels.

If the allegations are proven, the UAE could forfeit hosting the en-

durance world championships scheduled in Dubai in December 2016.

The FEI acted against the UAE last month after an international furor, when images circulated of a horse with two broken forelegs dying at a national-level race in January in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE federation did not immediately respond to calls and emailed requests for comment. **AP**



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A New Chapter in China-Portugal Cultural Exchange

JOANA VASCONCELOS at MGM MACAU

A modern fantasy begins in Macau. MGM MACAU invites the youngest artist ever to exhibit at Château de Versailles, Joana Vasconcelos from Portugal, to display her 20 x 35m monumental installation - *Valkyrie Octopus*. Soaring over the space, the artwork embraces the stunning 1,008 square meters Grande Praça with eight elongated tentacles, delivering blessings under her guardianship.

