



### MACANESE FAMILIES ENCOUNTER 'LOST MEMORIES'

Historian and genealogist Jorge Forjaz is preparing a new edition of his book "Macanese Families," to be published next year

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### MACAU WITH HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY

Macau and HK will continue to enjoy a high degree of autonomy, Li Keqiang said after the close of China's annual legislature in Beijing

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** An earthquake in the eastern Chinese city of Fuyang has killed two people and damaged thousands of homes. The quake struck in the Anhui province city Saturday afternoon, and 13 people also were injured, officials in the city said. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake measured magnitude 4.7.

**CHINA-MYANMAR** Myanmar denies its warplane bombed inside China during counter-insurgency offensive on the border, as Beijing warns it views the matter "very seriously." [More on p11](#)

**SAUDI ARABIA** The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and two other diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia are cancelling all consular services for two days over security fears. The Embassy says it and missions in Jiddah and Dhahran would provide no consular services yesterday and today due to "heightened security concerns." It did not elaborate.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Superpowers circle each other in contest to control Asia's future **F1**

# Local economy shrinks 17 pct in fourth quarter

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AP PHOTO



# Vanuatu declares state of emergency after 'monster' cyclone

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# St. Regis hotel looking to recruit 700 team members

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE St. Regis Macao, expected to open during the third quarter of this year at Sands Cotai Central, is looking to recruit 700 employees. The luxury hotel brand held its first job fair in Macau on Friday. It hopes to find suitable employees to fill vacancies not only within their hotel operations department, but also for human resources, sales and marketing.

The hotel's general manager of human resources, Rachel Chan, said that a wide range of vacancies is on offer, namely positions in housekeeping, front office, guest services, and food and beverage. Vacancies within the hotel's back-of-house are also available.

Last Friday, the hotel organized the first of a series of

careers fairs to recruit 700 employees. About 180 people were interviewed this time, with St. Regis aiming to showcase their high-quality services to each of the candidates: "It was part of our plan to only receive 180 [candidates], as today's [Friday] job fair is not the only one we will be organizing; it's just the first. We would like to present the kind of service standards that we have for our guests. We would like candidates to have an exclusive experience, as we actually have one butler to one candidate."

Ms Chan added, "We are looking for candidates who have the passion to deliver high-quality services."

Recalling her previous experiences running other job fairs, Ms Chan is convinced that it is possible to recruit all 700 team members.



Acknowledging that all hospitality businesses are facing challenges when recruiting staff in Macau, Ms Chan revealed that one of the schemes in use allows them to hire local students upon graduation. "We actually have partnered with City University, and we have a program to attract high school graduates. We will sponsor them through paying tuition fees for university, and then they will work for us for four years; and we guarantee that by the end of those four years, they will be promoted to a supervisor level," she said.

The St. Regis job fairs will first target Macau residents. If vacancies remain unfilled, the company will then consider applying for foreign worker quotas, said Ms Chan.

She stated that it is important to plan ahead, so that companies have sufficient time to hire locals. However, Ms Chan also acknowledged the difficulties in filling all vacancies by resorting to the local labor force.

"Nevertheless, today was the first time that we have had a university student actually apply for a room attendant position. We accepted her be-

cause she was very suitable, but we asked her: why are you applying for this position? She said she understands that it would be a very labor-intensive position. But she also knows it's a short-term position, and that, being a local, her chance of getting promoted is very high," she recalled.

The St. Regis will offer 400 guest rooms and suites, as well as dining venues. The hotel also features a St. Regis bar. The bar will boast its own twist on the famed Bloody Mary cocktail, which was born at the St. Regis New York in the early 1990s.

**HOTEL ST. REGIS TO OPEN IN Q3**

**THE ST. REGIS** Macao, Cotai Central, will be opening during the third quarter of 2015, the company announced on Friday. The luxury brand's 36th property worldwide will be located at Sands Cotai Central. Paul Cunningham, director of the St. Regis Macao, expressed his confidence in the hospitality industry, despite a consecutive drop in casino revenue, Radio Macau reported. He acknowledged that although the city is going through a difficult time, particularly with regard to the gaming industry, the economy will eventually recover.

## HERITAGE

# Macanese families encounter 'lost memories'

Catarina Pinto

**P**ORTUGUESE historian and genealogist Jorge Forjaz joined Thai musician Pathorn Sequeira on Saturday for a seminar about Macanese families, with a particular focus on Thailand. Mr Forjaz told The Times ahead of the event that many Macanese family members are now trying to retain memories and learn more about their past.

As he prepares a new edition of his book "Macanese Families," to be published next year, Mr Forjaz met member of the Macanese diaspora Pathorn Sequeira, who he describes as "a prominent figure in the Thai music



Jorge Forjaz

scene." Mr Sequeira teaches music at the University of Bangkok and is also the director of the King's private jazz orchestra.

Mr Forjaz recalled that over many centuries, foreigners had settled in

Macau and later followed different paths, departing for various countries.

"The Sequeira family is from Macau. They went to Bangkok by the end of the 19th century. [Pathorn's] great-gran-

## A new edition of the book "Macanese Families" is being prepared

father curiously played a musical instrument, and when he arrived in Bangkok, he promoted a reunion with friends and expats," the Portuguese historian recalled, adding that "they organized a small music group, which they called the Bangkok Philharmonic (...)

that's how the orchestra was born."

"[Pathorn Sequeira's] father was the first director of the King's private orchestra. They didn't remain in contact with Macau back then. So it's interesting to now see [Pathorn] returning to his origins and [embracing] his family's roots here," he added.

Furthermore, he stressed that some Macanese do not know much about their past, explaining, "Sometimes, Macanese people only know that foreign name, and don't know much about their history. So then comes a genealogist from the Azores (Portugal) like me and it's an interesting phenomenon...

this encounter with lost memories," he said.

The seminar "Macanese Families – the case study of Thailand" also looked into the historian's research for the new edition of "Macanese Families," a book comprising 3,300 pages in three volumes.

Mr Forjaz will be in Macau for a month to conduct research, with the support of Albergue SCM, IPOR and the Macanese Communities Council. The new edition also has the support of the Macau Foundation.

Mr Forjaz said that he aims to have the book published next year and to have presented it during the Macanese Communities Meeting.

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# Economy shrinks 17.2 percent

**M**ACAUS economy shrank 17.2 percent in the fourth quarter after casino revenues slumped and visitors cut spending.

Gross domestic product for the full year dropped 0.4 percent following a 10.2 percent decline in the second half of the year, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign prompted high rollers to avoid the world's biggest gambling hub during the peak Lunar New Year holiday period, leading to the city's worst monthly decline in gaming revenue in February. Tighter restrictions on visas and cigarette smoking have also deterred vacationing gamblers.

The industry may face an 8 percent drop in gross gaming revenue in 2015, a Bloomberg survey showed, extending last year's 2.6 percent fall. Gross gaming revenue plunged 49 percent in February.

Visitors from mainland China are also spending less than before, a further blow to the fine-dining eateries, luxury retail malls, and high-end hotels that casinos have set up next to their gambling halls.

Excluding gambling, per-capita shopping expenses by Chinese tourists dipped



32.8 percent to MOP1,079 (USD135) in the quarter ended December, according to DSEC.

Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. are set to open new projects on Macau's Cotai strip later this year, in a bid to woo more visitors. **MDT/Bloomberg**

## ANALYSIS

# Downturn may mean 'the old Macau is dead'

**M**ACAUS gaming industry downturn might mean that "the old Macau is dead," according to a Business Insider analysis. It argued that when the adjustment period is over, "the industry will likely be very, very different."

In an article titled "Wall Street's Macau delusion has really gone far enough," the business-oriented news site refuted Wall Street analysts' optimism on the old operations of Macau's gaming industry.

"The old Macau still lives on to Wall Street analysts," the article said, citing an opinion of investment bank JP Morgan that a stock market recovery will eventuate at around the end of April. It disapproved JP Morgan's view that the current

downturn is "cyclical in nature," and that "the sector can resume its healthy growth once it finds the bottom."

According to JP Morgan, market expectations will be rationalized and new openings should, to a degree, catalyze a recovery in demand. JP Morgan also argues that as "most policy pressures started from mid-2014, gamblers may get used to 'new norms' by mid-2015 and revisit Macau."

In response, Business Insider Senior Finance Editor Linette Lopez also presented a set of economic indicators that "show signs of weakness," including a chart detailing the trends in high-roller spending.

"[Chinese President]

Xi [Jinping] doesn't care if the island's economy suffers, as long as he gets the cleaner, less corrupt China he's been working for. That's what his anticorruption drive is about. That's why there are more cameras in casinos to scare high rollers. That's why even the once untouchable nephew of Macau scion Stanley Ho was arrested along with 99 prostitutes in a sting at Ho's Casino Lisboa," the author stressed. "It's because the old Macau is dead."

"(...) Based on the government's desire to turn Macau into a more family-friendly destination, one can expect that new projects will have fewer [gambling] tables than old ones."

## NPC AND CPPCC MEETINGS

# Delegates return from Beijing with cooperation on their minds

**M**ACAUS delegates to the National People's Congress (NPC) and the People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) have returned home after a week of annual meetings. The feeling which emerged from the consultations held in Beijing is largely positive, and concrete actions have been called for.

"This year's session reflected that the nation [Central Government] attached great importance to the suggestions proposed by the Macau delegates. I believe that Macau's positioning will be clearer in

the formulation of the national 13th Five-Year Plan," said CPPCC delegate Chan Meng Kam, as quoted by TDM.

NPC delegate Ho Iat Seng recognized an improvement in the quality of suggestions being submitted by the Macau delegation, whereas delegate Chui Sai Peng noted that the Congress had responded to their suggestions more quickly this time.

Returning from the NPC meetings, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, also suggested that Macau youths should



learn more about the nation's development.

The development of Macau as a world-class tourism hub, and the consolidation of the region as an intermediary platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, were just a few of the prominent

topics discussed.

Delegate Lei Heong Iok says that now is the time to follow up on the promises made with concrete action. "A long road lies ahead of Macau before our objectives are met. To talk and make promises is not enough. It's more important to strive for concrete action. That's the goal of the government of Macau, which is counting on the participation of all sectors to do so," he told TDM.

This position is mirrored by Chan Meng Kam, who said that greater cooperation with the mainland is

needed. "We need to study how to strengthen cooperation with the mainland in order to diversify Macau's economic development. And in order to foster local talents, we need to cultiva-

te more of them in order to contribute to Macau's principle of 'One Country, Two Systems,'" he said.

The NPC, as China's parliamentary body, concluded its annual session yesterday morning, while the session of the nation's top political advisory body – CPPCC – concluded on Friday. **BY**

## MACAU WITH HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY

**CHINESE PREMIER** Li Keqiang said yesterday that Beijing intends to uphold the principles of "One Country, Two Systems" by granting a high degree of autonomy to Macau and Hong Kong. "Some people are worried

that the central government will tighten its policy toward Hong Kong. I believe that such worries are not necessary," Li said during a press conference held after the conclusion of the annual legislative session (see also page 10).

# Alexis Tam dismisses film ban allegations

**T**HE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has dismissed the allegation that the local government interfered with a screening of the film "Selma," which was reportedly banned from the city's cinemas due to political reasons.

According to the coverage published on the online media outlet Macau Concealers (MC) on March 12, the film, which depicts civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.'s relentless pursuit of race equality for African Americans, would not be released in any of the city's theaters this month.

Nonetheless, the 52-year-old secretary

dispelled the public's concerns while speaking on the sidelines of an art exhibition opening ceremony at MGM yesterday afternoon, claiming that the allegation was "untruthful" and "impossible."

"Our Macau is a society with freedom of speech. How could a film be banned from screening? It is impossible," said Tam. "It is absolutely not a fact and it will never occur."

He added that the absence of the film in the city was possibly due to cinemas' belated applications for screening, or because their schedules were incompatible with the film. He also reassured the media that

it had nothing to do with national education.

The head of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ung Vai Meng, who was also present at the ceremony, told media that the Bureau's entertainment ratings committee has, so far, not received any applications for grading the film.

Nonetheless, the UA Galaxy Cinema confirmed to Macau Concealers that the cinema would not play the film, stressing that its schedule this month was too full for it.

Later yesterday afternoon, the SAR government also issued a statement clari-

fying its support for freedom of speech, and denying any intervention in the screening of "Selma."

The film was embroiled in controversy when John Stephens and Lonnie Lynn, better known by their stage names, John Legend and Common, mentioned Hong Kong during their acceptance speech after winning the Oscar for Best Original Song.

"This bridge [Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge] was once a landmark of a divided nation, but now is a symbol for change," Common said. "The spirit of this bridge connects the kid from the south side of Chicago, dreaming of a better life, to those in France standing up for their freedom of expression, to the people in Hong Kong protesting for democracy." **Staff reporter**



## ENTERTAINMENT | VENETIAN LIGHT STORM

## ‘We feel like we have super powers’

Catarina Pinto

**D**ESPITE lasting for a mere ten minutes, the performance of British professional dancers, Fleur-Marie Hoefkins, Amy Osborne and Naomi Hunter manages to easily capture the audience's attention in a show that harnesses over 4 million volts of electricity.

The Venetian Light Storm returned to town as part of the Venetian Carnevale 2015, which began on Friday.

Presented by Lords of Lightning, a company that displays shows of pure electricity across the globe, the performance first debuted in Macau 2014 and has now returned with only female dancers on stage.

“Last year, the show [was put on] by two male performers. This year, we are looking more into the relationship between the music, the movement and the lightning. And obviously being three females this

**“We’ve had occasional shocks. We need to keep our bodies dry and always cover our hair”**

NAOMI HUNTER



Naomi Hunter (left), Fleur-Marie Hoefkins (right)

year, it's got a lot more dance in the piece,” explained Fleur-Marie Hoefkins, in an interview ahead of the show's premiere on Friday.

“It's the first time that women are doing this. We wanted to make the choreography slightly more feminine – but still powerful,” Amy Osborne added.

The performance features three lightning towers in a combination of lightning bolts, music and dance.

As soon as the performance began on Friday evening, people who were meandering along the Venetian's outdoor lagoon area were immediately compelled to raise their cameras and phones in order to capture the moment.

Having been recruited by Lords of Lightning about three months ago for this show, the three British performers said that what they typically receive from the audience is excitement

and surprise. “They don't quite get how it works. People seem to really love the whole kind of spectacle and atmosphere that it creates with all the choreography, the music, the lightning, and then the fireworks add another element,” said Fleur.

The show relies on Tesla coils that sit inside platforms raised above a stage. If the two male performers from last year, Kino McDonald and Joshua Leighton, seemed like two knights about to engage in a combat, this year's show is more feminine and seeks to engage the audience through dance.

As the artists perform, they almost believe they're super heroes. After being asked about how they feel on stage, Fleur said, “This is awesome. It's very cool.” Naomi added, “We feel we have super powers,” while Amy said, “It's very

powerful and exciting, as not many people can say they've been up there.”

But surely with great powers come greater responsibilities, as performers need to take precautionary measures to avoid any incidents on stage. These measures include wearing chainmail suits, balaclavas and a lot of clothes underneath. “We've had occasional shocks. We need to keep our bodies dry and always cover our hair. We need to make sure all our skin is covered,” Naomi explained.

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 professional work experience at Disneyland Paris. Naomi is a contemporary dancer and is currently studying for a Master of Arts in dance. Meanwhile, Fleur, who earned her first degree in contemporary dance in 2007, has been performing with the Must-Dash dance group at Glastonbury Festival, where the three dancers will also be performing with the Lords of Lightning.

The Venetian Carnevale 2015 kicked off on Friday at the Venetian's outdoor lagoon area, and will run until March 29. The resort's carnival is being held for its fifth consecutive year, featuring street and theatre entertainment, Italian-themed festivities, gastronomy and live music.

This year, organizers have added a St. Patrick's Day celebration to be held tomorrow. The famous Irish holiday will be commemorated around the outdoor lagoon area, “where there will be plenty of beer, Irish dancing and live music,” the operator said in a press release.

ART

## ‘Valkyrie Octopus’ makes its debut

**T**HE opening ceremony of well-known Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos' solo exhibition was held yesterday afternoon at MGM Macau, with the city's high-ranking officials and the corporation's top management attending the event.

The Portuguese artist expressed her gratitude in her opening address to MGM for its support and trust, as well as the opportunity to create and showcase her art piece, which is the biggest of all her previous artworks.

Her latest creation, “Valkyrie Octopus,” which is on display at the resort's Grande Praça from today through to October 31, reflects on the city's integral role in the 500-year history of trade between China, Portugal and the rest of the world.

Pansy Ho, MGM's co-chairperson and executive director, said in her opening address: “This will help to further develop the local arts scene in Macau and deepen the historical and cultural influence of Macau, as well as building bridges between nations and cities to foster greater understanding, trust and respect in everyone.”

The inspiration for the acclaimed contemporary artist's giant artwork came from the special design of the huge aquarium that stands at MGM's Grande Praça, with elements of the ocean and voyages infused. The artist combined artisanal techniques such as crochet and Nisa embroidery, which are mainly from the Portuguese region of Alto Alentejo, in devising the art piece.

The event's guests included the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, and his predecessor, Edmund Ho. **Staff reporter**



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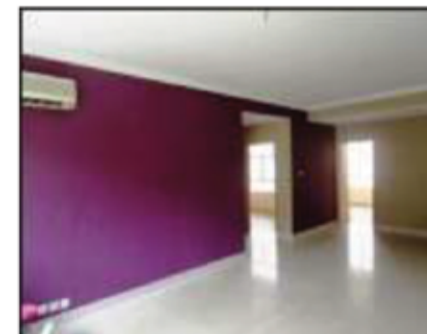
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### More illegal entries busted in joint operation

Macao Customs officers, in collaboration with the mainland police, have cracked three cases of illegal immigration and arrested 14 Vietnamese illegal migrants. The joint operation was conducted last week at the seaside facing the Jockey Club at Taipa. In these cases, the authorities' joint surveillance found several men sneaking into Macau by swimming, before the Customs' patrol speedboats were called in to assist with the search. All the arrested suspects claimed that they had swum from Hengqin Island across to the shore, and that their purpose of entry into Macau was to find jobs. During the joint operation, the mainland police also apprehended twelve cases of intended illegal entry into Macau at the border crossings of Hengqin and Gongbei. A total of 41 Vietnamese and seven mainland Chinese suspects were intercepted as they were readying to enter Macau illegally. Macao Customs said that migrant smuggling had been spotted at the mentioned locations multiple times. Thus, the authorities have reinforced patrols at those spots, and will keep close contact with the mainland's border immigration department.

### COURTS

## TSI upholds speeding motorcyclist verdict

**T**HE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has upheld the original verdict in a case involving a defendant who was sentenced to pay a fine of MOP6,000 with an eight-month driving ban for speeding.

The defendant was charged for driving a scooter at a speed of 101km per hour in the non-motorcycle lane on Sai Van Bridge.

After the ruling was made by the Court of First Instance (TJB), the Public Security Police (PSP) attached an official letter to the dossier, saying that its legal characterization of the offender's behavior in the live record as "speeding more than 30km per hour over the maximum speed limit" was wrong.

The PSP thus changed the incorrect term to



"speeding less than 30km per hour over the maximum speed limit." Following that, the defendant filed an appeal, indicating that the

Court of First Instance's ruling was invalid, and demanded another trial.

The TSI ruled that the TJB's legal characterization of the defendant's behavior was not wrong, and upheld the original verdict. The Court indicated that the maximum speed limit for motorcycles driving on the Sai Van Bridge is 60 km per hour, whether the rider is driving within or outside the designated motorcycle lane.

"The maximum and minimum speed limits for vehicles driving on the Sai Van Bridge were not simply set out according to the driving lanes, but were also differentiated according to the different types of vehicles," the TSI emphasized.

### SECURITY

## Portugal and MSAR organize joint police training

**T**HE head of the Portuguese Public Security Police (PSP) is visiting Macau in order to enhance cooperation with the local police authorities. "This visit is part of a long-established cooperation between PSP in Portugal and Macau's Public Security Police," said Luís Farinha, as quoted by Lusa.

Mr Farinha added that the local PSP was set up using the organizational chart of its Portuguese counterpart. He gave an example of the training that was provided by the Portuguese PSP to set up a special operations group before the transfer of sovereignty to Macau in 1999.

Interviewed by Lusa, the PSP director said that the special operations group was a "jewel" left by Portugal in Macau. "It is a unit with technical and operational capabilities aimed to face the most varied security challenges," he said. In the near future, a group of special agents from Portugal is expected to come to Macau and take part in joint training activities with the local police force. Luís Farinha will remain in Macau until Wednesday.



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EDUCATION

# DSEJ mulls unified registration for kindergarten enrolment

**T**HE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) is pondering the implementation of a unified registration system for the enrolment of kindergarten students. In the meantime, some parents raised public concerns over the reliability of reporting on the enrolment situation from different media outlets.

Some citizens voiced their concerns on a TDM talk show, suggesting that DSEJ should consider establishing an online



unified registration system.

Representatives from the bureau advised that parents should pay close attention to schools and DSEJ for official updates.

One of the DSEJ representatives said: "Everybody please believe the school, because when the schools make a promise, they will announce it together with

DSEJ in order to provide an accurate source to the public."

DSEJ said that the related set-up of the enrolment system was already in the works. "I think the unified registration should be communicated with the school," said Leong Vai Kei, head of DSEJ's Education Department. "If we actually implement it, we will announce it then. The reason is because we will discuss our preliminary proposals with schools by the end of the month. We are confident that the measures will be successful in Macau's operation."

However, she hoped that such measures would not affect students' choice of schools. Enrolment results from different schools will be posted on the 25th of this month.

GAMING

## MGM announces wage hikes

MGM China Holdings Ltd. announced on Friday that salary increases would be granted to its team members, effective March 23. The company said in a statement that due to rising living costs in Macau, non-management team members whose salaries are set at MOP12,000 or lower will be granted a standard raise of MOP700 per month, equivalent to an increase of between 6 and 8 percent. For team members earning above MOP12,000 per month, the salary increase will be set at 5 percent. The operator added that the salary increase adds to the two-month equivalent discretionary and special bonuses that were announced in February.

## Sands China proposes final dividend

Sands China Ltd. has recommended the payment of a final dividend of HKD1 per share for 2014, the company said in a statement. The payment of the final dividend is subject to the approval of the company's shareholders during the upcoming annual general meeting, scheduled for June 17. The statement indicated that if the payment is approved by shareholders, the dividend is expected to be paid on July 15.

# Ultra Music Festival adds Macau to 2015 lineup

**T**HE Ultra Music Festival is coming to town in June as Ultra Worldwide announces further Asian expansion. The premier electronic music festival, under the "Road to Ultra" event concept, will be bringing a single-stage offshoot to Club Cubic on June 13, MTV News Australia has reported.

The Ultra Music Festival producers have been aiming to expand the event across Asia. In addition to Macau, "Road to Ultra"

will also be held in Thailand on June 12. Ultra Bali has also been added to this year's lineup. The festival's international edition at the Indonesian island will take place at the iconic Potato Head Beach Club and the W Hotel at Seminyak Beach on September 25.

According to the festival's website, "Road to Ultra" events are single-stage events with the same focus as the Ultra Worldwide festivals.

Ultra Korea will take place on June 12, and

Ultra Japan will be on between September 19 and 21.

The Ultra Music Festival is an annual outdoor electronic music festival held in Miami, Florida. Created in 1999 by Russell Faibisch and Alex Omes, it became a worldwide event, with international editions held across Europe, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, South Korea, Colombia and South Africa, among other countries. **CP**

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Frederik Balfour

**CELEBRITIES**, billionaires and art moguls have descended on Hong Kong, lured by the chance to buy works by Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso and Jean-Michel Basquiat at Asia's biggest art fair.

Art Basel Hong Kong, an edition of the fair that started in Switzerland, is selling as much as USD3 billion worth of art displayed by 233 galleries from 37 countries, according to insurer AXA Art.

The Hong Kong version has become a major stop on the global art fair circuit of one-stop shopping malls for the mega-wealthy seeking to diversify their stock portfolios with paintings and sculptures by brand names and hot young artists.

First night sales, in a truncated VIP preview that lasted only three hours because the fair format was revamped from previous years, indicated that the economic slowdown in China hasn't dampened sales.

"We were in China before this for two weeks and it certainly wasn't palpable to me," said dealer Sean Kelly, who sold a work by Sun Xun for \$145,000, as well as works by James White and by Hugo McCloud.

White Cube dealer Jay Joplin echoed Kelly's sentiments. "It's been excellent, I'm very happy," he said, adding that his gallery sold works by Damien Hirst, Andreas Gursky and Theaster Gates.

Rachel Lehmann, of Lehmann Maupin was more cautious. "You cannot judge the success of an art fair in three hours," she said. Still, by the end of the evening she had sold two Alex Prager photographs, a work by Tracey Emin, a Hernan Bas painting and several works by Korean artist Do Ho Suh.

Art Basel anchors what is informally called art week in Hong Kong, a time when luxury goods companies, private

# Hong Kong's Art Basel lures collectors chasing Warhol

BLOOMBERG



Polychromed wood sculpture by Jeff Koons of Buster Keaton

banks and Michelin-starred restaurants are pulling out the stops in their pursuit of the vast amount of wealth pouring into the city as art and commerce converge in Hong Kong.

Tate Modern director Nicholas Serota, Swiss collector and auctioneer Simon de Pury and New World Development Co. scion Adrian Cheng were among the expected fair visitors. Gwyne-

th Paltrow, Victoria Beckham, Kate Moss and Robin Thicke were also invited to browse the booths since they were in town for a charity benefit to raise money for amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research, on March 14. Actress Michelle Yeoh was being honored at the fundraiser.

The fair, which began as Art HK in 2008, was rebranded Art Basel Hong Kong two years ago after the owners of Art Basel and Art Basel Miami Beach took over.

Mainland collectors are on the prowl for trophy works to adorn the walls of their homes in Hong Kong, Los Angeles and Sydney, or to fill private museums in China.

Billionaire Liu Yiqian and his wife Wang Wei were in town for the handover of a 15th century Tibetan embroidered thangka they purchased at Christie's Hong Kong for \$45 million in November for their private museum in Shanghai.

Wang Zhongjun, chairman of Beijing-based film company Huayi Brothers International, keeps a Vincent van Gogh still life he bought for \$62 million at Sotheby's New York last fall in his Hong Kong pied-a-terre.

Asia has 492 billionaires, according to the Knight Frank Wealth Report 2015, 53 of whom live in Hong Kong.

Still, dealers said the market lacks the depth and experience of the U.S. and Europe, where collectors have amassed works for decades. China accounted for 22.4 percent of global sales in the art and antiques market, ranking it second behind the U.S., according to an annual re-

port published March 11 by the European Fine Art Foundation. Yet that's a decline from 24 percent in 2013, according to the report.

"There is a vibe around Art Basel and lots of clients want to be part of it," said Edie Hu, art advisory specialist at Citi private bank in Hong Kong. "Though a lot of the cutting edge art might

## Hong Kong has become a major stop on the global art fair circuit of one-stop shopping malls for the mega wealthy

not be to their taste, when they come across something like a Picasso or Warhol they have seen before it's like comfort food, for them."

While dealers are expanding their offerings of abstract and conceptual works, blue chip contemporary artists such as Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons have a captive audience in the region.

"I show Picasso, Basquiat, Henry Moore; they are attracted to this kind of art," said dealer Christophe Van de Weghe, who is bringing two of Warhol's works, and a Gerhard Richter with an asking price of about \$8.5 million. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### CROWNE PLAZA CHANGI BAGS TITLE OF WORLD'S BEST AIRPORT HOTEL 2015



Changi Airport

Crowne Plaza Changi Airport was named World's Best Airport Hotel and Best Airport Hotel in Asia at the 2015 Skytrax World Airport Awards last Thursday, at the Passenger Terminal Expo in Paris, France.

The World Airport Awards results are determined comple-

tely by the votes of travellers over a 9-month survey. The 2015 World's Best Airport Hotel Award is based on nominations by 1.56 million airport hotel guests worldwide, spanning 65 nationalities. It evaluates 12 key performance indicators of the guest experience, including but not limited to hotel

service staff standards, cleanliness and comfort of rooms and accessibility between terminal and hotel.

"To win this prestigious award is a great achievement for the Crowne Plaza Singapore Changi Airport, and underlines its popularity amongst air travellers as the world's Best Airport Hotel," said Edward Plaisted, CEO of Skytrax. "The awards recognize those hotels that combine convenience, comfort and top quality service as an integrated package for today's travellers, and the Crowne Plaza Singapore Changi Airport was a high performer in all of these categories to win the World's Best Airport Hotel title this year."

The hotel is set to increase its room inventory by an additional 243 rooms next year.

### REVEL DENIED IN THIRD ATTEMPT AT SELLING USD2.4B CASINO

Revel AC Inc. failed in its third attempt to sell its bankrupt casino, opening the door for other potential bidders for the Atlantic City, New Jersey, resort.

After months of false starts, Revel finally reached an USD82 million deal with Florida real estate investor Glenn Straub's Polo North Country Club Inc. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Gloria Burns shot down that sale at a Friday hearing in Camden, New Jersey, saying she can't approve it because an earlier version of the deal is still being weighed by another court.

After opening at a cost of \$2.4 billion in 2012, Revel sought bankruptcy protection in June for the second time in as many years. It closed in September

after failing to draw interest for a quick sale. The casino was one of four in Atlantic City to fold last year as competition from surrounding states lured away customers.

The bankrupt casino owner originally had a \$110 million deal with Toronto-based Brookfield Property Partners LP, but Brookfield walked away after failing to come to terms over energy payments.

Straub, who had been the lead bidder at auction, stepped back in to scoop up the property but failed to close the \$95.4 million sale by a Feb. 9 deadline. Revel moved to terminate the deal after the closing date lapsed.

After that agreement was scrapped, new terms were

hammered out resulting in an offer that's more than \$13 million below the previous deal with Polo North.

The judge said she couldn't authorize the transaction because the original sale order is still being challenged by Revel tenants in district court, and it would be improper to "circumvent or interfere with the appeal process."

Last month some of the casino's current tenants, including the owner of a nightclub, successfully challenged the terms of the Polo North sale, saying it improperly stripped them of their property rights. A Philadelphia federal appeals court ruling blocked that part of the deal and sent the dispute back to the district court in Camden.





A Chinese man wears a mask for protection against pollution as he cycles past cars on a road in Beijing

# Revamped environmental law raises hope for mainland cleanup

Jack Chang, Beijing

**P**EOPLE in China who want to take industries to task for fouling their surroundings have been rushing to file complaints and lawsuits this year in a test of legal reforms that toughen environmental penalties and make clear that many public-interest groups have the right to sue.

Environmental watchdogs say people have filed hundreds of complaints with local governments under the new law launched in January, taking advantage of requirements that authorities respond to environmental complaints or risk having the cases be bumped up to higher levels of government. State media reports say at least one complaint resulted in immediate action, when authorities in eastern Shandong province shut down the coal furnace of a rubber factory that had bothered neighbors.

Environmental groups also have filed six lawsuits that have been accepted by Chinese courts, compared with one allowed during the same period last year. The new cases deal with everything from deforestation to illegal dumping by chemi-

cal plants, according to Zhang Boju, executive director of the nonprofit group Friends of Nature, which wrote two of the lawsuits. With a 300,000 yuan (USD48,000) grant from Chinese e-commerce powerhouse Alibaba, Friends of Nature

**Environmental watchdogs say people have filed hundreds of complaints with local governments under the new law launched in January**

has set up a special fund to help other groups prepare their own lawsuits.

In a country where officials often act above the law while willfully ignoring whole swaths of regulations, many Chinese fed up with environmental neglect say the reforms appear to be making a difference. Still,

experts say, their success will depend on the continued receptiveness of the courts and local officials under pressure to curb the country's notorious pollution problems.

"The law brought predictability to the process, where before there was no certainty about what we could do," Zhang said. "We plan to do more cases and we're helping other environmental groups do that as well."

Over the past three decades, Chinese leaders have prioritized economic development over environmental protections — and watched China's skies fill with toxic haze while an estimated 55 percent of its groundwater became unsafe for human use.

Public worries about China's pollution woes were recently highlighted with the release of an online documentary called "Under the Dome" that detailed the health and social costs of Chinese environmental degradation. It received hundreds of millions of views in just a few days, before Chinese censors removed it from streaming sites.

Over the past year, Chinese leaders have repeated that they are serious about cleaning up China's air, water and soil.

They've acknowledged that the country's pollution woes are not only a central source of social instability but, with China the world's biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, also a linchpin in the global effort to avoid catastrophic climate change.

During China's annual legislative sessions, which ended yesterday, China's new environment minister, Chen Lijing, has said the government is committed to making full use of the reforms, and will commit itself to putting into effect environmental protections and inspections.

"A new law can't become a paper tiger," Chen said March 7 in Beijing. "We want to let it become a weapon with steel teeth."

Among its provisions, the revised law specifies what kind of social organizations can file environmental lawsuits, with requirements including at least five years of experience in environmental public interest activities and registration with the government. About 700 groups qualify under the law, according to a report by the All-China Environment Federation, a quasi-governmental coalition that has filed two lawsuits this year.

The law allows authorities to

impose fines for each day violations occur, rather than one-time fines, and requires officials to encourage "self-governing grass-roots organizations," volunteers and others to help publicize and enforce environmental laws.

The country has also launched a special environmental branch of its Supreme People's Court to hear high-level cases and help oversee a network of lower-level environmental tribunals.

"In the previous law, it was a development-based approach, and now the purpose is to construct an ecological civilization," said Ran Ran, an international studies assistant professor at Renmin University in Beijing. "It's a more balanced approach."

Despite the new tools, the reforms don't address a central contradiction in China's largely state-controlled economy: that the governments being asked to punish polluters are often the same ones that own the companies doing the polluting, said Benjamin van Rooij, a professor of U.S.-China business and law at the University of California at Irvine.

"The laws are not going to be a force to push for a green agenda or to even deal with the widespread violation of laws that still exist," Van Rooij said. "So for me, you need more than a change in law. You need political change."

Local groups, however, are hopeful. Friends of Nature said that only one of the four lawsuits they had filed before the reforms took effect was accepted over the past five years, compared to the two filed later and accepted in the first two months of this year. Compared to legal systems in the U.S. or Europe, Chinese courts accept fewer lawsuits in general, and plaintiffs are often put off by paying high legal fees.

Ada Kong, a senior campaigner with the environmental group Greenpeace in China, said she's already seen an attitude change this year among local officials who have in the past been largely hostile to most Chinese citizens or groups calling out polluters.

Just days into the new year, Greenpeace filed a complaint with a city in the northeastern province of Liaoning about wastewater discharged by a zinc smelter. After stalling for a few weeks, the city began checking back regularly with Greenpeace to give progress reports, Kong said.

Recently, the city said the wastewater problem had been resolved. Kong said her group has yet to verify that claim, but added that officials' attitudes have "changed to become more helpful."

"I think it's the law and the government," she said. "They're paying more attention to this now." **AP**



## NPC WRAPS UP

# Party to press ahead with reform as legislative session closes

Joe McDonald, Beijing

Li Keqiang expressed determination yesterday to press ahead with reforms meant to reduce the Chinese government's role in the economy in hopes of spurring growth despite what he acknowledged would be pain for "vested interests" that benefit from regulation.

"This is not nail-clipping. This is like taking a knife to one's own flesh," Li said at a news conference after the close of China's annual legislature in Beijing. "But however painful it might be, we are determined to keep going until our job is done."

During his only news conference of the year, the premier repeated pledges to reduce requirements for government approval of new businesses. He said the number of private businesses being set up has doubled following efforts already underway simplify the process of registering a new enterprise.

Li spoke after yesterday morning's close of the 11-day session of the ceremonial National People's Congress. The legislature does little or no lawmaking work but serves as a platform for the ruling Communist Party to highlight proposed reforms and set a tone for the year's government work.

At this year's meeting, the government lowered China's official economic growth to 7 percent from last year's 7.5 percent and promised to maintain em-



Delegates applaud as Chinese President Xi Jinping, bottom left, and Premier Li Keqiang, bottom right, arrive for the closing session of the annual National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Li acknowledged [there] would be pain for "vested interests" that benefit from regulation

ployment levels, fight corruption and curb pollution.

Li acknowledged that reforms

face opposition from politically influential state companies that might face tougher competition and officials who might see their own status reduced.

"During the course of reform, vested interests will be upset because the government is cutting its own powers," he said, adding that China as a whole will benefit. "This reform, by reducing powers held in the hands of government, has actually helped us to tackle the downward pressure on economic growth," Li said.

The address by Li, 59, afforded him a rare opportunity to

emerge from the shadow of the president and Communist Party leader, Xi Jinping, who has established himself as the most powerful Chinese leader since Deng Xiaoping — author of China's modernization drive in the 1980s.

Although the premier has traditionally overseen the economy and government administration, Xi has absorbed a growing number of portfolios over his first two years in office that have left Li a much diminished figure. Xi has placed himself in charge of policy-making panels on security, the Internet and the eco-

nomy that do not answer to the NPC, making the legislature less relevant.

Li warned that meeting the lower official growth target will not be easy. He said the ruling party is ready to change its macroeconomic strategies if the rate of new job creation dips too low.

"There is considerable downward pressure on China's growth and we still face multiple challenges," the premier said. "When it comes to China's economy, we must meet both ends of maintaining steady growth and making structural adjustments."

Also in Li's work report this year were some targets for battling pollution, a continued emphasis on fighting corruption and a pledge to find jobs for the 7.49 million university students who will graduate this year.

"Enforcement of environmental laws should not be a cotton swab but a killer mace," Li said, vowing to hold polluting factories liable for excessive emissions while also urging members of China's society to take part in cleaning up the environment.

During the annual session that closed yesterday morning, the congress approved a single piece of legislation in the form of amendments intended to modernize and update China's legislative law that acts as a sort of mini-constitution governing how laws are enacted.

While most of the congress' legislative business is conducted by its 150-member Standing Committee, the annual full assembly plays a key role in communicating government priorities to the grassroots and ostensibly is aimed at hearing the concerns of legislators who, though not directly elected, are supposed to represent the interests of Chinese citizens. AP

HONG Kong's residents shouldn't fear that China is tightening its grip on the former British colony, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said, adding that the government is committed to granting the city a high degree of autonomy.

Li made the remarks as the Hong Kong legislature considers adopting a plan granting the government in Beijing the ability to control the city's first election of its chief executive. The proposal triggered pro-democracy demonstrations that choked central Hong Kong last year.

"Some people are worried that the central government is tightening its policy toward Hong Kong," Li said at a briefing after the end

## Hong Kong shouldn't worry that Beijing is tightening grip, Li says



Security personnel march outside the Great Hall of the People before the closing ceremony of the National People's Congress in Beijing

of the Chinese legislature's annual session in Beijing. "I believe that

such a worry is not necessary."

Pro-democracy demons-

trators occupied streets in key parts of the city for nearly three mon-

ths last year, demanding China rescind its plan to vet candidates for the chief executive election. The protests ended without the governments in Hong Kong or Beijing making any concessions to the demonstrators, and Hong Kong's legislature is due to vote on the election plan in the coming weeks.

Pro-democracy lawmakers have pledged to veto the Beijing proposal and the government of Chief Executive Leung Chun Ying may be short a handful of votes to get

the measure passed. If the plan isn't accepted, the chief executive will continue to be chosen by a committee of 1,200 of city elite.

Under the one country, two systems approach, China agreed to allow Hong Kong to enjoy a "high degree" of autonomy from Beijing, and the city's Basic Law, the de facto constitution, sets a goal of holding elections for the chief executive post.

Li said that Beijing remained committed to "ensuring the consistent and full implementation of the one-country, two-systems principle."

"This has been written into the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR," he said. Bloomberg



Nick Perry, Wellington

VANUATU

# Country struggles to account for cyclone damage, deaths

**O**FFICIALS struggled yesterday to determine the scale of the devastation wrought by a monstrous cyclone that tore through the tiny South Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu, with death counts varying in the single digits but expected to rise once communications are restored with outlying islands.

Packing winds of 270 kilometers per hour, Cyclone Pam tore through Vanuatu early Saturday, leaving a trail of destruction and unconfirmed reports of dozens of deaths.

Paolo Malatu, coordinator for the National Disaster Management Office, said two people were confirmed dead in the capital, Port Vila, with another 20 injured. Earlier, Chloe Morrison, a World Vision emergency communications officer, said Vanuatu's disaster response office told her agency that at least eight people died. She had also heard reports of entire villages being destroyed in more remote areas.

The confusion over the death count is largely due to a near-total communications blackout across the country. With power lines and phone circuits down, officials in the capital had no way of knowing what the scope of the damage was on the outer islands, where the storm scored a direct hit.

"We haven't been able to communicate outside Port Vila," Malatu said. "At this point, the damage is severe and we haven't had figures of how many houses destroyed. ... It's really bad, it's really bad."

Officials were planning to head to the outer islands in helicopters, small planes and



In this image provided by UNICEF Pacific, people on a dock view yachts damaged in Port Vila, Vanuatu

military aircraft today to get a better sense of the destruction, Malatu said.

Telephone networks are notoriously spotty in South Pacific island nations such as Vanuatu, particularly in the aftermath of storms. It often takes days before networks can be restored, making it incredibly difficult for officials to quickly analyze the breadth of devastation following natural disasters.

The government declared a state of emergency across the

country and Australia and New Zealand sent in relief supplies. The damaged airport was closed for commercial flights, but the first delivery of supplies arrived yesterday from the Red Cross, Malatu said.

"People are really upset and it's really hard, just because for the last couple of years, we haven't received a really big cyclone like this one," said Isso Nihmei, Vanuatu coordinator for the environmental and crisis response group 350. "Most

people right now, they are really homeless."

He came upon one of the storm's victims on Saturday, while surveying the damage along the coastline with other relief workers. The group spotted a man lying on the ground, not breathing, and rushed him to the hospital. By the time they arrived, however, he was dead, Nihmei said.

Structural damage across Port Vila was extensive, Nihmei said, with the majority of homes se-

verely damaged or destroyed.

Some residents began cleaning up what was left of their wrecked houses and checking on family members. Relief workers, meanwhile, were trying to get temporary shelters to victims as fast as possible, Nihmei said.

Residents awoke to much calmer weather yesterday after many hunkered down in emergency shelters for a second straight night.

Many people who have ventured out from 23 emergency shelters around Port Vila have found their homes damaged or blown away altogether, Morrison of World Vision said. Teetering trees and downed power lines have made parts of the capital hazardous.

She said communications have been so problematic that her aid group hasn't yet been able to account for many of its own 76 staff members on the islands.

For anybody who wasn't in a secure shelter during the cyclone "it would have been a very, very tough time for them," she said.

Vanuatu has a population of 267,000 spread over 65 islands. About 47,000 people live in the capital.

UNICEF estimated that 54,000 children were among those affected by the cyclone. **AP**

MYANMAR

# Gov't denies bombing inside China amid Beijing's protest

Aye Aye Win, Yangon

**A** senior Myanmar official yesterday denied Chinese accusations that one of his country's warplanes crossed China's border and dropped a bomb that killed four farmers during fighting with Myanmar rebels.

The official, from Myanmar's presidential office, said his government regretted the deaths and suggested it could have been the work of a group seeking to create confusion. He also promised "full cooperation" with Beijing into the incident, which has tested

generally good ties that have been strained in recent years by Myanmar's perceived shift toward the U.S.

The farmers' deaths Friday occurred as Myanmar's government stepped up its fight against ethnic Chinese rebels in the country's Kokang region along China's southwestern border.

The official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, cited radar and GPS records as proof that Myanmar fighter jets did not stray into Chinese territory. He also

said Yangon always informs Beijing of its airstrikes in the border region beforehand.

Beijing strongly protested the bombing and said it had sent fighter jets to warn off further intrusion.

Geng Yansheng, spokesman for China's National Defense Ministry, said Saturday that Myanmar warplanes had intruded "multiple times" and that China would take "decisive measures" should they cross over again.

Fan Changlong, vice chairman of the ruling Chinese Communist Par-

ty's Central Military Commission, demanded that Yangon seriously investigate the incident, punish those responsible and apologize to the victims' families, according to a statement on the Defense Ministry's website.

Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang called the bombing a "very distressful matter." Speaking at a news conference after the close of China's annual legislature in Beijing, he said China was able to "firmly safeguard stability in the border areas."

The Myanmar official said Yangon would extend "full cooperation"



In this Feb. 17, 2015, photo provided by the Eleven Media Group, Myanmar red-cross members carry an injured victim during a clash between government troops and Kokang rebels in Kokang, northeastern Shan State

with Beijing and wanted to examine the bomb fragments found in China.

Beijing has disavowed any links with the Kokang rebels in Myanmar, saying it respects Myanmar's sovereignty. Myanmar officials have said former Chinese soldiers have

trained the rebels, an allegation the insurgents have denied.

Myanmar officials blame the renewed fighting on a renegade rebel faction led by Phone Kya Shin that attempted to seize Laukkai, the capital of the self-administered Kokang region. **AP**





Pakistani Christian girls mourn over a family member who was killed from a suicide bombing attack near two churches in Lahore

## PAKISTAN

## Suicide bombers kill 14 people outside churches

K.M. Chaudhry  
and Zrar Khan, Lahore

**PAKISTANI** Taliban suicide bombers exploded themselves near two churches in the eastern city of Lahore yesterday as worshippers were gathered inside, killing 14 people, officials said, in the latest attack against religious minorities in the increasingly fractured country.

In the tense aftermath, angry mobs lashed out at people they suspected of involvement in the attacks — including one person who was burned to death — and Christian crowds set fire to cars in a show of defiance in the country's second largest city and the prime minister's seat of power.

Life in Pakistan is increasingly fraught with danger for religious minorities, especially Christians. They have been targeted by extremist Sunni Muslim militants who object to their faith.

They are also discrimi-

nated against in the wider society where they can often only get menial jobs like garbage collection, and are frequently targets of blasphemy accusations.

The explosions occurred in quick succession in the Christian neighborhood of Youhana Abad at two churches while parishioners were celebrating Sunday morning services inside. The churches are about 600 meters apart.

At least 70 people were wounded, said Zahid Pervez, the provincial director general of health, who gave the death toll.

One unidentified witness told Pakistan's Geo television that the main gate to one of the churches targeted was closed so people were using a smaller gate.

"One bomber exploded himself near that gate, that created chaos and during the course there was another blast," he said.

In the aftermath of the blasts the mood quickly

turned violent. Much of the country is on edge after years of militant violence including an attack on a Peshawar school in December that killed 150 people — mostly students.

Local television footage showed an angry crowd beating a person they thought was connected to the attack, while others attacked buses in the city. The crowds burned to death one person they believed was involved in the attack and tried to lynch another, said Haider Ashraf, deputy inspector general for Lahore.

Two police who were protecting the churches were also killed in the explosions, which he confirmed were caused by suicide bombers.

A spokesman for the Punjab province government condemned the attacks but also said it was unfortunate that the mob had attacked suspects. He said authorities are reinforcing security at the 481 remaining churches

across the city.

Militants appear to be targeting minorities more intensively recently, including attacks on a string of mosques belonging to members of the Shiite Muslim minority sect. In 2013, twin blasts at a church in Peshawar killed 85 people.

"There will be more of such attacks," warned Ahsanullah Ahsan, a spokesman for the Taliban faction that claimed responsibility for the assault, in a statement emailed to reporters.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has his power base in Lahore and his party, the Pakistan Muslim League-N, also runs the Punjab government, where his brother is chief minister. The provincial government has been accused in the past of not doing enough to protect religious minorities and reign in extremist groups based in the province who often whip up religious sentiment against minorities. **AP**

## INDIA

## Robbers gang rape nun in her 70s at school

Manik Banerjee, Kolkata

**A** nun in her 70s was gang-raped by a group of bandits Saturday when she tried to prevent them from robbing a Christian missionary school in eastern India, police said, the latest crime to focus attention on the scourge of sexual violence in the country.

The nun was hospitalized in serious condition after being attacked by seven or eight men at the Convent of Jesus and Mary School in Nadia district, 80 kilometers northeast of the West Bengal state capital of Kolkata, a police officer said.

The men escaped and police are searching for them, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The robbers tied the school's security guards with ropes early Saturday and entered the nuns' room, where the women were sleeping. They took one of the nuns to another room when she tried to block their way and then raped her, the officer said.

The woman who was attacked is either 71 or 72 and is the oldest nun at the school, he said.

The men escaped with some cash, a cellphone, a laptop computer and a camera, all belonging to the school, the officer said. They also ransacked the school's chapel and holy items, the Press Trust of India news agency cited the archbishop of Kolkata, Thomas D'Souza, as saying.

Scores of angry students, their parents and teachers blocked a nearby highway and railroad tracks for several hours demanding swift police action leading to the arrest of the culprits.

Mamta Banerjee, the state's top elected official, strongly condemned the attack and ordered a high-level police investigation. D'Souza appealed to people to maintain peace and harmony in the area.

India has a long history of tolerance for sexual violence, but the December 2012 fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old woman aboard a moving bus in New Delhi caused outrage across the nation.

The outcry led the federal government to rush legislation doubling prison terms for rapists to 20 years and criminalizing voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women. The law also makes it a crime for officers to refuse to open cases when complaints are made. **AP**



Students of Convent of Jesus and Mary School participate in a protest against the gang rape of a nun in her 70s at the Christian missionary school in Begopara, about 80km northeast of Kolkata



ISRAEL

# Netanyahu legacy on the line in vote

Josef Federman, Jerusalem

**A**S Israelis prepare to vote in parliament elections on Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu finds himself at a fateful crossroads: Make history or become history.

If Netanyahu can lead his Likud Party to victory and secure a fourth term in office, he will move closer to overtaking the nation's iconic founding father, David Ben-Gurion, as the longest-ever serving premier — and cementing a status as the dominant Israeli politician of the past two decades.

But if Likud stumbles and finds itself in the opposition — a real possibility, according to recent polls — the Netanyahu era could end with a resounding thud, concluding a career that many would say brought few major accomplishments beyond longevity. Iran and the international community seem headed toward a nuclear deal that Netanyahu abhors, and a resolution to the Palestinian issue seems as distant as ever.

“If he leaves office, he won't leave any dramatic changes,” said Yoaz Hendel, a former aide to Netanyahu. In a turbulent region, one could say “this is the best thing to do,” Hendel said.

The Israeli campaign is widely seen as a choice between two world views: Netanyahu's



Israelis walk by a vandalized election campaign billboard showing Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in Tel Aviv

focus on Israel's many security challenges — he has long been a voice calling for zero tolerance of terrorism — or his opponents' focus on Israel's social problems and high cost of living. It also touches on his support for Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, which the opposition and the outside world detest.

But on a basic level, the campaign is simply a referendum on Netanyahu, a polarizing character who is adored as “King Bibi” by his supporters and reviled by his detractors.

The son of a Jewish historian, and scarred by the loss of his brother in a 1976 Israeli commando raid on a hijacked airline in Uganda, Netanyahu often portrays himself — and his country — in historical terms. He laces his speeches with references to Jewish history, tales of Jewish heroism and warnings that Israel's most sinister enemies lurk around every corner. The main target of his diatribes, Iran, is often compared to biblical enemies and even the Nazis.

“The days when the Jewish peo-

ple remained passive in the face of genocidal enemies, those days are over,” Netanyahu said in a controversial speech to the U.S. Congress earlier this month. “We are no longer scattered among the nations, powerless to defend ourselves.”

But after enjoying a surge of popularity following last summer's war against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, Netanyahu is struggling.

Despite the speech to Congress, his efforts to halt the Iranian nuclear program — which he des-

cribes as the mission of his lifetime — appear to be stumbling as the U.S. seems to move toward a deal with the Islamic Republic.

The speech, delivered over White House objections, has worsened an already troubled relationship with President Barack Obama, boding poorly for the final two years of Obama's term if Netanyahu is re-elected.

Peace efforts with the Palestinians made no headway during the past six years, and Netanyahu has backtracked from his earlier support for a Palestinian state. Yet he has not offered an alternative vision for resolving the festering conflict. Exasperated by years of deadlock and fighting, the Palestinians are preparing to file war crimes charges against Israel after the election.

Shlomo Avineri, a political scientist at the Hebrew University and a former director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, called Netanyahu “a good speaker but a very bad doer.”

He said the standstill in peace efforts, the soured relationship with the U.S., the high cost of living, the emerging international deal with Iran and even last year's war against Hamas — which dealt the group a heavy blow but left its military structure largely intact — all are disappointments for Netanyahu.

“You're being judged on your record,” he said. **AP**

IRAQ

# Kurds claim Islamic State group used chemical weapons

Vivian Salama, Baghdad

**K**URDISH authorities in Iraq said Saturday they have evidence that the Islamic State group used chlorine gas as a chemical weapon against peshmerga fighters, the latest alleged atrocity carried out by the extremist organization now under attack in Tikrit.

The allegation by the Kurdistan Region Security Council, stemming from a Jan. 23 suicide truck bomb attack in northern Iraq, did not immediately draw a reaction from the Islamic State group, which holds a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared caliphate. However, Iraqi officials and Kurds fighting in Syria have made similar



A piece of debris that the Kurdistan Region Security Council said is a gas canister lies at the site of a bomb attack on a road between Mosul, Iraq, and the Syrian border in northern Iraq

allegations about the militants using the low-grade chemical weapons against them.

In a statement, the council said the alleged chemical attack took place on a road between Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, and the Syrian border, as peshmerga forces fought

to seize a vital supply line used by the Sunni militants. It said its fighters later found “around 20 gas canisters” that had been loaded onto the truck involved in the attack.

Video provided by the council showed a truck racing down a road, white smoke pouring out of it as

it came under heavy fire from peshmerga fighters. It later showed a white, billowing cloud after the truck exploded and the remnants of it scattered across a road.

An official with the Kurdish council told The Associated Press that dozens of peshmerga fighters

were treated for “dizziness, nausea, vomiting and general weakness” after the attack. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to discuss the incident.

The Kurds say samples of clothing and soil from the site were analyzed by an unnamed lab in an unnamed coalition partner nation, which found chlorine traces.

“The fact ISIS relies on such tactics demonstrates it has lost the initiative and is resorting to desperate measures,” the Kurdish government said in the statement, using an alternate acronym for the Sunni militant group.

There was no independent confirmation of the Kurds' claim. Peter Sawczak, a spokesman for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which has monitored Syria dismantling its chemical weapons stockpile, said his group had not been asked to investigate the attack.

Alistair Baskey, a spokes-

man for the White House's National Security Council, said American officials were aware of the Kurds' claim, though they had no information “regarding its veracity at this time.”

In the Syrian civil war, a chlorine gas attack on the outskirts of Damascus in 2013 killed hundreds and nearly drove the U.S. to launch airstrikes against the government of embattled President Bashar Assad.

There have been several allegations that the Islamic State group has used chlorine as well. In October, Iraqi officials claimed Islamic State militants may have used chlorine-filled cylinders during clashes in late September in the towns of Balad and Duluiya. Their disclosures came as reports from the Syrian border town of Kobani indicated that the extremist group added chlorine to an arsenal that already includes heavy weapons and tanks looted from captured military bases. **AP**



## what's ON



## NEW YEAR TRADITIONS OF TIANJIN AND CHONGQING MUNICIPALITIES

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: April 12, 2015

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau / Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro No.163

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

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

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

## 'START' - EXHIBITION OF PIXEL ART BY 2UP STUDIO

TIME: 12PM-7PM (CLOSED ON TUESDAYS)

UNTIL: April 19, 2015

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Thursdays)

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## "SEE AND TOUCH"

- TOUCHABLE ARTS EXHIBITION

TIME: 12PM-7PM (CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community

Development Association / Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

## EXHIBITION •FOAM TIP BY ARLINDA FROTA AND TRANSMUTATION BY CAROL KWOK•

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

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: SIGNUM Living Store, Rua do Almirante

Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

## Offbeat

## JAPAN'S SUZUKI SETS RACE WALK WORLD RECORD ON HOME SOIL



Yusuke Suzuki of Japan poses next to his record after breaking the 20-kilometer race walk world record

Yusuke Suzuki of Japan broke the 20-kilometer race walk world record yesterday at the Asian Race Walking Championships. Suzuki won the IAAF Race Walking Challenge in his home town with a time of 1 hour, 16 minutes, 36 seconds, a mark 26 seconds faster than that set by Johann Diniz of France just a week ago.

Suzuki covered eight kilometers in 30:25 and made the

halfway mark in a national 10 kilometer record of 38:05, giving a clear indication he was on course for a fast time. He finished comfortably ahead of his rivals, breaking Diniz's mark of 1:17:02 set at the French Race Walking Championships in Arles, France, on March 8. This is Suzuki's third Asian title. He also won in 2010 and 2013.

## TV canal macau

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

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

12 MAR - 18 MAR



## CINDERELLA

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Starring: Lily James, Richard Madden, Cate Blanchett

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min

## CHAPPIE

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Neil Blomkamp

Starring: Sharlito Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 120min



## THE BOY NEXT DOOR

ROOM 3

2.15, 4.00, 7.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Rob Cohen

Starring: Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman, John Corbett

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 91min

## STAND BY ME DORAEMON (3D)

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 95min

## MACAU TOWER

05 MAR - 18 MAR

## CHAPPIE

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Neil Blomkamp

Starring: Sharlito Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 120min

## this day in history



## 1978 ALDO MORO SNATCHED AT GUNPOINT

Former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro has been kidnapped in Rome. Mr Moro's escort of five police bodyguards were killed when he was snatched at gunpoint from a car near a cafe in the morning rush-hour.

Chief police investigator Signor Moro said 12 gunmen took part in the attack on the former prime minister as he was being driven to parliament. Police have set up dozens of roadblocks and all exits from the city are being watched. Helicopters are hovering overhead and anti-terrorist officers have been sent to the airport.

The extreme left-wing Red Brigade, in a telephone call to a Rome newspaper, has said it kidnapped the Christian Democratic leader, 61. A spokesman said: "We kidnapped Aldo Moro. He is only our first victim. We shall hit at the heart of the state."

The man demanded that the Turin trial of Renato Curcio, who is suspected of leading the Red Brigade, and 14 others accused of membership of the group should be suspended.

Witnesses reported seeing a white Fiat car move in front of Mr Moro's vehicle, along with a man on a motorbike. The Fiat braked hard and Mr Moro's car crashed into it.

Gunmen jumped out of the Fiat and others who had been waiting nearby raised pistols and sub-machine guns.

Trade unions have called a 24-hour general strike and workers have left many shops and offices in the city in a shocked reaction to the kidnapping of the much-respected statesman.

Investigators are examining spent bullet cases at the scene of the crime and among guns seized they found "a rarely used Soviet weapon".

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti has condemned those who took Mr Moro, saying they were "destroying the fabric of the nation and threatening to make it ungovernable".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In the aftermath of the kidnapping, security forces made hundreds of raids in Rome, Milan, Turin and other cities in their search for Mr Moro.

For two months, Mr Moro was held at a secret location in Rome allowing him to send letters to his family and politicians - begging the government to negotiate with his captors. The government refused all pleas from family, friends and the Pope Paul VI to concede to any demands. Eight weeks after he was kidnapped, the body of Mr Moro was found riddled with bullets in the boot of a car in Via Caetani in central Rome.

The Red Brigade was a left-wing terrorist group formed in 1970 with the sole aim of overthrowing capitalist Italy by violent means. Most of their leading members had been captured and imprisoned by the mid-1980s.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've got to find people you can get along with...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You feel a bit put out over today's weird news, but that just means that you've got to deal with your mood...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You discover something really exciting and new today - and it may involve a shift in perspective.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to avoid conflict - but it may come looking for you. It's all cerebral at first, so see if you can find a way to merge your ideas with those that seem to be contradictory.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You can devise great solutions to common problems today - but only if you are willing to change your behavior.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Someone needs your honest opinion - but you still need to temper it somewhat. If you're just straight-up critical, you're unlikely to teach them...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your social intuition is helping you figure out who needs what from you today - and making it much easier to deal with their issues.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Conflict is likely today, and you may need to back down if things start to get too fierce.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Conflict is likely today, and you may need to back down if things start to get too fierce.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your finances are much on your mind today - so do something about them!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your finances are much on your mind today - so do something about them!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Ease up on yourself - you need a break! Someone close may inspire you to relax and just enjoy what you've got...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Collapse; 6- Bugs, clunkers, and rides, e.g.; 10- Eldest son of Noah; 14- Courtyard; 15- ... saw Elba; 16- Table d'...; 17- In the least; 18- Cereal grain; 19- Dept. of Labor division; 20- Try again; 22- Inherited from a mother; 24- Balderdash; 26- Keep; 27- Endurance; 31- Flee; 32- Folded food; 33- Hot stuff; 36- Descartes's conclusion; 39- Choir member; 40- Daybook; 41- Estimator's phrase; 42- KLM rival; 43- Nymph chaser; 44- Aspect; 45- Op. ...; 46- Rudimentary component; 48- Less fresh; 51- ...-X; 52- Grifter; 54- Christian festival; 59- Dissolve; 60- "The Time Machine" people; 62- South American ruminant; 63- Prefix with logical; 64- Trigonometric function; 65- Shinto temple gateway; 66- Small gull; 67- Sign of injury; 68- Pine;

DOWN: 1- Box; 2- After the bell; 3- D-Day beach; 4- Eight furlongs; 5- North Star; 6- Bus, bigwig; 7- Composer Khachaturian; 8- Pave over; 9- Sororal; 10- System of aircraft navigation; 11- Anwar's successor; 12- Patriot Allen; 13- Repast; 21- Director Howard; 23- Sewing case; 25- Unspoken; 27- RR stops; 28- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 29- After John in the NT; 30- Cattle call; 34- Cut and dried grass; 35- Like some vbs.; 36- Dies ...; 37- Org.; 38- Champagne name; 40- Undated; 41- Resistance unit; 43- Immature herring; 44- Punishment; 45- Small territorial district; 47- Levi's rival; 48- Celsius, for one; 49- Floor worker; 50- Souvenir; 52- Struck, old-style; 53- Barrett of gossip; 55- Gin flavorer; 56- Skater Lipinski; 57- Bahrain bigwig; 58- Drops from the sky; 61- Comparative suffix;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for clues.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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Contact Number: +853 6668 1771



www.ming-jia.com.mo



F1

# Hamilton leads 1-2 finish for Mercedes at Australian GP

Chris Lines, Melbourne

**L**EWIS Hamilton beat teammate Nico Rosberg in a one-two finish for Mercedes at the Australian Grand Prix yesterday, as the team extended its 2014 dominance into the opening race of the new Formula One season.

Hamilton led from start to finish and beat Rosberg by 1.3 seconds at the Albert Park circuit, with Sebastian Vettel finishing third in his first race for Ferrari.

"My team has done an awesome job and it is an incredible feeling to continue winning," Hamilton said.

"Nico was very quick throughout the race. It was really trying to manage the fuel and the tires, not knowing the limit in terms of how far they can go.

"Once you get a one or two-second gap, you manage that — there is no need to eke out more. When Nico turned up the heat I was able to react."

Rosberg once again finished runner-up, which was a position he occupied far too often last year, but was both gracious and tenacious when referring to his teammate.

"Lewis drove like a world champion today, but I was driving to the max every lap and I will be doing my best to give this guy a big



Lewis Hamilton of Britain, followed by teammate Nico Rosberg of Germany, leads the field at the start of the Australian GP

## Vettel finished third in his first race for Ferrari

run for his money," Rosberg said.

With few people expecting anything but a one-two finish for Mercedes, the real race in Melbourne was for best of the rest, and Vettel was delighted with taking that crown.

"It's not a victory, but for us it feels like a victory after a horrible season last year," Vettel said. "There's a lot of work ahead to beat these two and Mercedes, but I'm sure we will."

A series of pre-race inci-

dents meant only 15 cars started the race, and only 11 finished, with Jenson Button last in the uncompetitive McLaren-Honda, and the only driver not to receive championship points.

Williams driver Felipe Massa finished fourth and Felipe Nasr was fifth for Sauber, providing some welcome good news for that team after a week of legal battles and a 2014 season without a single championship point. Nasr's fifth was the best finish by a driver on debut since Hamilton finished third in this race in 2007.

Local favorite Daniel Ricciardo was sixth in a disappointing race for Red Bull, which clearly has not solved the issues with its Renault engine. The Aus-

tralian spent much of the race trying and failing to pass the Sauber in front of him, which was an alarming decline for a team that until recently was the sport's pre-eminent power.

Force India drivers Nico Hulkenberg and Sergio Perez were seventh and tenth in a good finish by a team which made a very late start to its season preparations.

Sauber's Marcus Ericsson was eighth — the first championship points for a Swede in 26 years — and Toro Rosso's Carlos Sainz Jr. finished an encouraging ninth on debut.

Williams driver Valtteri Bottas was ruled out of the race by a back injury suffered in qualifying, while the McLaren of Kevin Magnussen and the Red Bull of Daniil Kvyat both suffered engine failures on the installation lap and did not start.

It was a dismal day for Lotus, with Pastor Maldonado crashing out at the first bend after being clipped from behind, and Romain Grosjean retiring after just one lap.

Toro Rosso's 17-year-old rookie Max Verstappen retired with engine trouble just after mid-race, and Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen stopped after he was released from a pit-stop with his left rear tire not properly fitted. **AP**

## opinion

### Sports Views

John Leicester

### NOT EVERY F1 SEASON CAN OR NEEDS TO BE A CLASSIC

Anyone who tells you this new Formula One season will be a classic, packed full of thrilling uncertainties, is stretching the truth. The outcome — Mercedes' super-quick cars again scooping up both the team and driver's championships — is so certain you could bet your house on it. The biggest uncertainty is which Mercedes driver, Lewis Hamilton or Nico Rosberg, will be champion. Such a meager diet of suspense will struggle to hold the interest of casual F1 fans.

So be it.

While predictability isn't brilliant, some alternatives are worse. As Mercedes cleans up and TV viewers switch off in droves, as millions did in 2013 when Sebastian Vettel dominated for Red Bull, expect renewed discussion about how to improve the F1 "spectacle."

As though drivers risking life and limb to wrestle twitchy multi-million dollar marvels of modern technology around winding circuits at hundreds of kilometers an hour isn't spectacular enough. Lest anyone forget: Jules Bianchi remains unconscious and hospitalized five months after his horrific crash at the Japanese Grand Prix last season and concussion from an accident in preseason testing for McLaren has forced Fernando Alonso to miss this weekend's season-opening Australian Grand Prix.

Still, because F1 is the most narcissistic of sports, fixated on looking glamorous, there will be talk yet again about what can be done to make races more unpredictable. The absurd idea of sprinkling circuits with water to make them slippery — why not grease while we're at it? — could come back from the dead. There may be calls for yet more tweaks to tires or to cars' aerodynamics to ease overtaking. And there will be arguments for a shift to bigger, noisier 1,000-horsepower engines to generate more "wow" and dent Mercedes' advantage.

Or, alternatively, F1 could accept and do a better job of explaining to casual observers what it is: a sport of cycles where dynasties wax and wane. For the moment, Mercedes is to F1 what Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls were to NBA basketball, the team to unseat. It is for rivals to catch up, not for F1 to seek ways to put spanners in the Mercedes works.

Instead of fretting about Mercedes' superiority, F1 should celebrate that feat of engineering. When so much brainpower and hundreds of millions of dollars are invested in teams' hunt for hundredths of seconds of extra speed, it is truly remarkable that one of them has pulled so far ahead. Switching from McLaren to Mercedes from 2013 was the shrewdest move of Hamilton's career.

In 2014, the eventual champion or Rosberg started from pole position for 18 of the 19 races. And, on average, their qualifying advantage over the next best team was a whopping 0.655 seconds. Only in three races were they beaten, by Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo, the only other driver to win last season.

Mercedes' rivals subsequently worked furiously to narrow the gap. Yet, if anything, indications from preseason testing and the initial warm-ups in Melbourne are that they slipped even further behind.

"Mercedes are out of reach," Vettel conceded Friday. This from a four-time world champion now driving a Ferrari.

The races to come will tell, of course. But don't expect an array of Grand Prix winners like in 2012, which had eight, or a down-to-the-wire contest like 2010, when the last race had an unprecedented four drivers still in contention for the title.

In 1988 and 1989, McLaren-Honda dominated, with Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost battling within that team as Rosberg and Hamilton are now at Mercedes. From 2000-2004, Michael Schumacher cleaned up with Ferrari. Vettel got his four in a row from 2010-2013, when Red Bull was on top. Now is Hamilton's chance to string together championships and Rosberg's to stop him.

The simple fact: not every F1 season can or even needs to be a classic. **AP**

BOXING

## Mayweather, Pacquiao agree to Olympic-level drug tests for bout

Mason Levinson

**FLOYD** Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao agreed to blood and urine testing ahead of their May 2 world-championship welterweight boxing match.

A plan to have Mayweather, 38, and Pacquiao, 36, fight in March 2010 fell apart over a dispute about the method of drug testing, according to ESPN. Mayweather demanded random blood and urine testing — which now are more commonly used than they were at the time — which Pacquiao declined

to accept, ESPN said.

The fighters have enrolled in the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's registered testing pool, which requires them to be available for random tests before the fight. USADA oversees drug testing of all U.S. Olympic sports, following protocols established by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

"It's a strong statement of the importance of clean and safe competition to have these two fighters voluntarily agree to have a WADA level anti-doping program implemented for this fight," Travis Tygart, chief

executive officer at Colorado Springs, Colorado-based USADA, said in a news release.

Mayweather will receive 60 percent of the money split between the two in a fight that could gross around USD400 million, according to ESPN.

Mayweather enters the Las Vegas bout with a 47-0 record, including 26 knockouts. He's won world championship belts in five weight classes. Pacquiao is 57-5-2, with 38 knockouts and world titles in eight different weight classes. **Bloomberg**



opinion

Insight  
Paulo Barbosa



MACAU SHOULD LEAD HENGQIN'S DEVELOPMENT

I have always wondered why Hengqin Island was left undeveloped for centuries. The land is obviously uneven and lumpy, which makes it harder to build there. Until the 1980s, Zhuhai was little more than a fishermen's village, with plenty of space available in the mainland.

It's also an historical fact that Hengqin Island – or Mountain Island, as the Portuguese prefer to call it – has been involved in what could be deemed a "soft territorial dispute." By soft, I want to emphasise that nobody was hurt in the process of fighting for the island's sovereignty; that is, if the deaths caused by the pirates that swarmed the island during the 19th century are not taken into account.

History books recount how the Portuguese administration tried to control three islands that stood very close to the Macau Peninsula: D. João (known as Xiao Hengqin by the Chinese), Montanha (Da Hengqin) and Lapa (Wanzai). Those islands were all scarcely inhabited. The Portuguese established some military and religious outposts there. A large number of Catholic missionaries had based themselves in Wanzai as early as the 17th century, in such a way that led to the place becoming known as "priests island." Showing that cooperation had usually been the name of the game in Macau since its founding, joint operations between the local administration and Chinese forces were conducted in order to fight the pirates that found refuge in Hengqin and adjacent islands, including Coloane.

In 1938, Portuguese forces occupied the islands, allegedly in an attempt to defend the locals from the Japanese invasion that isolated and constantly threatened Macau, and which left the city in a perilous situation. The Japanese encircled Macau. The almost uninhabited islands were effectively controlled by them in 1941. After the surrender of Japan, the Chinese occupied the islands. In 1947 during the Chinese Civil War, the Portuguese governor, Albano Rodrigues de Oliveira, signed bilateral agreements with the Nationalists – perhaps one of the few that was endorsed by the Communists. With those agreements in hand, Macau abandoned claims to control the three islands – these incidentally became two islands later on, after D. João and Montanha islands were joined together by land reclamation projects.

This historical introduction shows that the territorial limits of Macau have neither been been consensual nor consistent over the centuries. Scholar António Vasconcelos de Saldanha studied the issue in detail and concluded that the ongoing Hengqin project is, "in a way, the reconsideration of Macau's [territorial] limits."

The central government apparently decided that Macau should have a major role in determining what use is given to Hengqin Island. "The solution found allows an extension of Hengqin Island usage [to Macau], but nevertheless the territory is excluded from the MSAR limits," Mr Saldanha wrote.

By allowing Macau to voice its thoughts on Hengqin's development, Beijing seems to be acknowledging that the island is more critical to the region's development than it is to Zhuhai. If, by chance, the island would be considered part of Macau, this region would have potential comparable to Hong Kong or Singapore.

Some of the members of the local ruling class also share this idea. It is reported that the region's first chief executive, Edmund Ho, tried to implement a plan that included buying Hengqin.

That did not happen, and the solution found for Hengqin's development appears to be worse for Macau, since the region's role in the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee seems to be a minor one. It is not enough to have Edmund Ho as a member of the advisory committee for Hengqin's development. On the New Area official webpage, the first thing we see in capital letters is "Hengqin Area of Zhuhai." Other official documents mention the "Hengqin New Area of Zhuhai Special Economic Zone."

The committee's director, Niu Jing, predicts that more than one-third of the population on the nearby island will be made up of Macau residents by 2020. Hengqin's growth is being largely financed by Macau. However, I ask again: except for the UM campus (under local jurisdiction), does Macau have the weight to decide on the development of an island where thousands of its residents are expected to live?

It doesn't seem so. This was an historical mistake permitted by Beijing. Macau should lead the island's development, thus realizing the MSAR's geographical expansion and diversifying its economy. Not the other way around.

THE BUZZ BHUTAN WINS ON 1ST DAY OF 2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

FIFA's lowest-ranked team won on the first day of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. Bhutan, ranked 209th by the governing body of world soccer, beat Sri Lanka 1-0 in Colombo last week as Asian qualifying began. Tshering Dorji scored the lone goal six minutes from fulltime. Also, host India defeated Nepal 2-0 at Guwahati with striker Sunil Chhetri scoring two second-half goals but also missing a penalty. At Doha, Yemen beat Pakistan 3-1 on goals from Abdulwasea Al Matari, Mohammed Boqshan

and Ala Al Sasi. For Pakistan, Hassan Bashir was the scorer. Brunei beat host Taiwan 1-0 at Kaohsiung on a first-half goal from Adi Bin Said. East Timor and Cambodia were also among the winners. Chiquito do Carmo scored twice in the first half as East Timor beat Mongolia 4-1 in Dili, while Cambodia defeated Macau 3-0 in Phnom Penh. The second-leg matches will be on tomorrow, with the winners advancing to the second round, as well as the next round of qualifying for the 2019 Asian Cup.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

FAW group chairman Xu faces Communist Party graft probe



Xu Jianyi (left) seen accompanied by Chinese premier Li Keqiang and German Chancellor Angela Merkel

THE chairman of China FAW Group Corp., which partners with Volkswagen AG and Toyota Motor Corp. to build vehicles in the world's largest auto market, is being investigated by the Communist Party's top anti-graft watchdog.

Xu Jianyi was suspected of serious violations of party discipline and the law, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in a statement on its website yesterday. An FAW spokeswoman, who asked not to be named according to company policy, said she couldn't immediately comment due

China's campaign against corruption has increasingly focused on state-owned enterprises

to the lack of details on the matter.

The auto executive, who also served as FAW's internal Communist Party

chief, is the latest of more than 100,000 officials snared during President Xi Jinping's two-year campaign against corruption, according to official data. That crackdown has increasingly focused on state-owned enterprises, with 26 of the biggest firms named by the country's anti-graft chief as inspection targets last month.

Besides FAW's joint ventures with foreign automakers, the Changchun, China-based company also makes the Red Flag L5 limousine, which, costing at least 5 million yuan (USD799,000), is the country's most expensive vehicle. Formerly called First Automotive Works, the automaker was started by the Party as a linchpin of China's industrial policy.

Investigators were looking into potential corruption at FAW Group, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported in October, citing the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The company needed to sort out internal issues before following through on plans to go public, Xu said Thursday during the National People's Congress in Beijing. **Bloomberg**

WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR A crowded double-decker passenger ferry capsized in northwestern Myanmar after being slammed by huge waves, killing 34 people and leaving more than a dozen missing, officials and state television said Saturday. Rescuers pulled 167 survivors from the sea and brought them to safety after the Aung Tagun 3 went down near Myebon in Rakhine state late Friday.



SRI LANKA Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Sri Lanka's former civil war zone on Saturday, in a sign of solidarity with minority Tamils who are calling for regional autonomy to end a decades-old ethnic conflict.

BRAZIL A bus carrying about 50 passengers plunged down into a deep ravine in the mountains of southeastern Brazil late Saturday, killing at least 40 people a police official said.

SIERRA LEONE Ten clinicians with a Boston-based nonprofit organization responding to the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone are to be transported to the United States after one of their colleagues was infected with the deadly disease. Partners in Health said in a statement Saturday that the medical workers would be evacuated on non-commercial aircraft and isolated in Ebola treatment facilities.

IRAQ The Kurdish government says the Islamic State group used chlorine gas as a chemical weapon against peshmerga fighters. Meanwhile, Iraqi security forces engage in fierce clashes with the extremists as they continue their offensive to retake Tikrit. More on p13

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Lui Siu Wai



A visitor views an art installation titled the "Boat" in Hong Kong. The 18-meter-long artwork is made of bamboo, cotton threads and over 12,000 pieces of Chinese art paper.



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*A New Chapter in China-Portugal Cultural Exchange*

## JOANA VASCONCELOS at MGM MACAU

A visionary contemporary artist enters the spotlight in Macau. MGM MACAU invites world-renowned artist, Joana Vasconcelos from Portugal to exhibit her monumental installation - *Valkyrie Octopus* at Grande Praça. Her largest artistic creation to date, *Valkyrie Octopus* measures 20 meters in height, 35 meters in length and weighs 1,200 kilos. Taking almost 10 months to complete, the artwork required more than 4,000 meters of fabric. Don't miss this masterpiece's multiple colors, organic figures, compelling creativity and uncanny features that will prompt you to look up and gaze in utter amazement.



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