



BUSINESS LEADERS URGED TO HELP CURB HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Since 2012, at least 39 under-aged girls have been reported as victims of human trafficking in Macau

P4 MDT REPORT



MAM STRENGTHENS ART PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

The Macau Museum of Art presented its program highlights for 2015 yesterday, emphasising art education

P5



ECHO CHAN SWORN IN AS FORUM MACAU COORDINATOR

P5

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”



WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

GERMANY At least four police cars were set alight and two officers injured yesterday as authorities confronted violent anti-austerity protesters ahead of the inauguration ceremony for the European Central Bank's new headquarters in Frankfurt.

CHINA The Cabinet agency that oversees China's biggest banks, oil producers and other government companies has announced plans to have outside auditors examine their foreign assets in a new move to tighten control over state industry. The announcement comes amid a spreading anti-corruption crackdown led by President Xi Jinping in which executives of companies including PetroChina Ltd. and China Mobile Ltd. have been detained. [More on p11](#)

INDONESIA may not execute 10 drug smugglers in the near future pending rulings on legal appeals filed by some of them. Vice President Jusuf Kalla said yesterday the government has to be careful and await the decisions by the Supreme Court. The execution of nine foreign and one Indonesian inmates were adjourned since four of them filed judicial reviews and two challenged the president's rejection of clemency in the administrative court. The foreigners include three Nigerians, two Australians, four men from Brazil, France, Ghana and a Filipino woman.

More on backpage

TUNISIA | TERRORISM

Attack on museum leaves 21 dead, mostly tourists

P15



AP PHOTO

Electricity tariffs expected to be stable or to decrease this year

P3

Gaming sector may be called on to offer higher support to creative industries

THE majority of members of the Committee of Cultural Industries have suggested that a lack of venues is due to what they term the “sluggish development” of the local creative industries. Some of them also suggested in the first plenary meeting of the year that the SAR government and gaming operators should help nourish the nascent sector, which is currently struggling in the market. During the three-hour meeting, some committee members also mentioned that arts education and international exchanges have an influential role in further developing the creative industries, which is said to lack concrete branding and international horizons.

Four committee members – including Angela Leong, Si Ka Lun, Jenny M. F. Kong and Agnes Lam – identified the city’s limited space for artistic ventures as the source of obstacles in the sector’s advancement. They sugges-



Agnes Lam

ted that parts of “idle facilities”, such as the Macau East Asian Games Dome and the “glass house” in Tap Seac Square, could be made available by the government for the cultural sector. This would allow the creative industries to showcase their offerings to the public. In order to broaden the horizons of talented local artists, the vice-president

of the committee, Chui Sai Peng, offered to subsidise trips to exhibitions abroad for eligible candidates from the art industry. He also expressed the hope that the hotel and casino operators could contribute to the city’s cultural and creative industries by potentially including these industries’ products in their procurement plans. “Not only the gaming operators,

other large-scale corporations should contribute [to the industry],” he said. “The gaming operators conduct lots of procurements every year. Could we negotiate with them (...) in order for them to hire local brands?”

However, he also said that the definition of “local brands” needs to be clarified from a financial standpoint, for the sake of contributors from the gaming industry.

Another committee member, Agnes Lam, urged the government to establish continuing education funds targeting children with financial difficulties who wish to pursue an arts education outside schools. “In our society, those teenagers or children who are able to receive arts education basically come from middle-class families, or even high-class families,” the 43-year-old professor said.

“Actually, the poorer the children, the fewer opportunities they have to receive an artistic

education despite the little education from their schools.” She also suggested introducing “cultural consumption vouchers”, similar to existing medical vouchers, to encourage more purchases of art-related products. The idea, she confessed, received mixed opinions from the industry as it could produce varied results. Supporters of the notion believed that such discount vouchers would help the industry market, while opponents of the idea voiced concerns that the vouchers would render artwork “worthless.”

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, who presided over the session, concluded that the government could adopt the initiative to purchase and use art products from local brands. He revealed that the Financial Services Bureau has been preparing a guide on the matter, and expressed his confidence that the gaming operators would be willing to accept the committee’s proposal.

However, according to Tam, the city’s existing regulations and laws might not support some of the “creative suggestions” that could emerge in discussions. Additionally, all the funds and subsidies – which he claimed were limited – had to be well-allocated and their usage made more transparent to the public. **Staff reporter**

EDUCATION

UM Law degree no longer automatically recognized in Portugal

The University of Macau’s Law degree (taught in Portuguese) is no longer automatically recognized in Portugal, following changes added to its curricula.

“The degree can be recognized [as a legitimate law degree in Portugal], but will no longer be automatically recognized” as it has been in the past, according to a knowledgeable source to speaking to Lusa news agency.

Until now, a joint agreement – signed based on the opinion of a group of legal experts – allowed UM’s Law degree to be automatically recognized in Portugal.

The agreement, which was signed by the then Portuguese Education Minister and the Macau go-

vernor, took into account the curricula that the degree offered at the time of signing. The bachelor’s degree that UM now offers is still a five-year study program; however, changes were introduced to the length of its academic courses, and new subjects were also added.

The same source said that the current UM Law degree will most likely still be recognized in Portugal. However, the source stressed that “authorities are no longer obliged to do so, as had previously been the case,” because the agreement currently has no effect.

“If the academic program changed following an internal discussion over the matter, then I think it was mainly done

so that the degree could be adapted [to changes taking place] in Portugal,” said Gabriel Tong, vice-rector of UM’s Faculty of Law.

Without mentioning what kind of changes were discussed and implemented in the UM’s law degree, Mr Tong stressed that Macau wishes to maintain “a close relationship with Portugal” when it comes to legal matters. He added that UM is also committed to maintaining its law degree taught in Portuguese.

Mr Tong acknowledged that there is a need to “face this situation and to strive for the [UM Law degree] to continue to be recognized in Portugal.”

MDT/Lusa

Lionel Leong visits SMEs in need of revitalization

REVITALIZATION works are necessary to keep the aging neighborhoods economically alive and developed, according to some shopkeepers from the northern, central and three-lamps districts. They divulged these views to Lionel Leong, Secretary for Economy and Finance, as he visited the districts recently.

The shop owners from the four neighborhoods demanded for the government to put in more effort towards revamping the old facilities, optimizing traffic plans and their supporting measures, as well as curbing soaring rents across the different areas – issues that they believed were behind the stores’ shrinking customer base and sales decreases.

After the visits, the secretary held a talk with representatives from different sectors and organizations, exchanging opinions on how to rejuvenate the neighborhoods’ sluggish economy in response to the city’s new economic transition. Some expressed concerns with the possible rental issues for stores following



economic revitalization, while others welcomed the idea to resuscitate old areas, the latter of whom assumed that the stores and shops in a revitalized neighborhood might enjoy robust sales despite the increased rents.

Lionel Leong said that the districts’ economic development could facilitate the city’s move towards the goal of appropriate economic diversity, and also make society more balanced. Through solving economic plights in certain neighborhoods, the city’s featured old brands and shops would find space to thrive, he argued.

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Electricity tariffs to remain stable 'or even decrease'

Catarina Pinto

MACAU'S electricity tariffs are likely to remain stable or even register a small decrease as of next month, according to the chairman of CEM's executive committee, Mr Bernie Leong.

Speaking on the sidelines of CEM's Spring lunch with the media, Mr Leong said that "because of the overall importation price, we are not expecting a big change. They will remain more or less like what they are now." In addition, he recalled that since "the oil market is quite stable now, and even recording a decrease over the previous year, we expect that we could keep our tariffs quite stable or even [record] a reasonably small decrease."

Mr Leong stressed that CEM is committed to increasing local energy production, provided that the oil price remains stable, particularly by focusing on natural gas production. "This is our target; we [will] try this year to produce more of our own energy," he stated.



Bernie Leong

He acknowledged, however, that Macau's energy generation capacity is somehow limited, because there's a need to replace outdated equipment and infrastructure. Currently, about 88 percent of Macau's energy is still being imported from mainland China.

Looking to take advantage of a "relatively low oil price situation" to increase local energy production, CEM is discussing with the Macau government the possibility of replacing old generation capacity with "new modern, state-of-the-art and also environmentally friendly tech-

nology to produce energy."

According to Mr Leong, in this case, natural gas is the best source of fuel. As a new government lineup took office last year, he believes that this is the right momentum needed to re-launch discussions on this matter.

"We are working on a proposal to submit to the government. In due time, we will make an announcement, but we will try [to submit it] during the first half of this year," he revealed.

As a more environmentally friendly energy source, natural gas would benefit all Macau citizens. "I would say it would [reach] all Macau people," said Mr Leong, stressing that "all Macau people could benefit [from natural gas], because at the end of the day this kind of technology, paired with the reasonable price of the natural gas, could produce relatively economic energy in Macau."

If it moves forward with the natural gas project, CEM foresees a MOP1.7b investment budget.

Meanwhile, CEM submitted its annual development plan, which is

valued at MOP1 billion, to the authorities. "This MOP1 billion will be invested in our transmission and distribution network, which is, of course, [intended] to cope with an increasing power demand from our customers," said Mr Leong.

Last February, Coloane residents raised concerns over the black smoke being emitted from CEM's Coloane Power Station, but company representatives had said that emission levels meet both EU and Macau SAR guidelines and standards. Yesterday, Mr Leong reiterated, "CEM is complying with Macau government regulations, as well as EU guidelines, for this kind of technology." Nevertheless, he acknowledged that "we still have room for improvement, so we are trying to make sure that emissions are as low as possible, and that the visual impact should also be minimized as much as possible."

As the next wave of casino resorts takes shape in the Cotai Strip, Mr Leong also forecasts a five-percent increase in energy consumption this year.

3,000 mangroves to be planted this year

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) plans to plant 3,000 mangroves this year to increase the coverage area of Macau's mangrove forest. The Bureau has been collecting mangrove seeds and cultivating saplings since 2009, and has already planted over 20,000 mangrove trees in the coastal mudflat along the Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental in Taipa. A member of IACM's administrative committee, Leong Kun Fong, said whilst on a tree-planting activity yesterday that the bureau's plan is to plant no less than 3,000 mangroves every year, and thus build a green belt at the bank. The IACM also planted fifty trees near the bicycle lane in Taipa yesterday.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Brook Yang

EXPERTS and human right activists have called on Macau and the region's business leadership to help end human trafficking and modern-day slavery. They urged local companies and gaming operators to take a clear stance and build a collaborative effort to "clean up the house."

Data shows that since 2012, at least 39 under-aged girls have been reported as victims of human trafficking in Macau. But the actual number could be bigger, according to experts at a summit hosted on Tuesday by the Good Shepherd Centre.

"We don't know the precise numbers, but we do know what the picture is in Macau. Young, vulnerable girls are being targeted in [mainland] China and are being brought to Macau illegally," said Richard Welford, chairman of CSR Asia. Those girls are reportedly between 14 and 17 years old. They were often school dropouts and lured by the idea that this was "a chance to make a lot of money," but end up being exploited.

"It's the typical story," said Aris Tam, a local researcher at the Macau Polytechnic Institute. "After entering the network, they are often resold by dealers and change sites. Macau's economy is booming, there is much demand and [the dealers] re-

Experts call on business leaders to help curb human trafficking



Richard Welford (center)

ceive more money. That's why they are brought to Macau," he told the audience.

Experts emphasized that there are two sides to the story. "What we are failing to do is

tackle the root causes of why that criminal activity is actually happening. There are criminals targeting these vulnerable girls and bringing them here, but there is also a demand for those girls here in Macau because of the type of industry that is developed in Macau," said Welford.

Political will from the Macau government to tackle these issues has been observed by experts. Ms Kathleen Ferrier, expert in International Relations and a member of the UN-associ-

ated Expert Review Group, said that it is "a huge advantage" but yet still not enough, unless the NGOs, the academia, and the business sector all play a part.

"There is a lot more we can do in Macau, particularly working with the casinos and the hotels to address this illegal activity," said Welford, suggesting that the big corporates put in "a lot more work and support on the ground, a lot more awareness-raising about the illegal activities, and a lot more outreach."

Some casinos are 'in denial'

SOME casinos in Macau are still "in complete denial that there is even a problem," argued the CSR Asia chairman, Richard Welford.

"I can walk outside their casinos and, within ten minutes, three girls would approach me offering me services. When I talked to them about that problem, they said it's not their problem because it's outside of their casino. That doesn't wash with me. You've got to do an awful lot more than just saying girls outside my hotel are not my problem," he stressed.

The expert argued that the resorts could be losing money because of "this sleazy image that Macau actually now has," when, really, companies could make more profit by showing that they are involved in responsible business activities.

"Myself and a lot of my friends in Hong Kong are no longer coming to Macau, because it's not a terribly responsible place, not a terribly at-

tractive place. (...) The casinos in Macau need to take a stance. I do not hear enough casinos talking about human-trafficking and modern-day slavery," he said.

Experts suggested that hotels and casino resorts should think about how to link their own security with the public security and the police. Moreover, they should look closely into their supply chain for food and goods, as the issue is not only one of sex trafficking, but also a labor issue, and can be found just about everywhere.

Matt Friedman, CEO of Mekong Club, suggested that the private sector needs encouragement, and so one or two corporates need to step up to make a positive role model.

"Rather than people looking at it and saying, 'What is the public sector doing? What is the government doing? What are the NGOs doing?' I hope it comes to a point where people ask, 'What is the collective doing?'" he said.

GRANT BOWIE: 'A SENSE OF HUMANITY'

"I THINK clearly we understand there's a very large sex worker industry in Macau. Clearly that is a significant issue, and frankly it's very sophisticated, and that's often difficult to address," MGM's CEO Grant Bowie told the Times, on the sidelines of the summit held in his

casino resort. "Just because it's not nice, just because it's distasteful, doesn't mean we shouldn't talk about it. In fact, it's the complete opposite," he added. "We need to be mindful that we need to have a sense of humanity towards everybody who comes to Macau."

COOPERATION

Three berthing areas chosen for free-sailing yacht scheme

THE government has chosen two wharfs located in Coloane and a maritime area near the Ocean Gardens to establish the berthing areas for free-sailing yachts journeying between Zhongshan city and Macau. Among these, the Mari-

time and Water Bureau will renovate the Coloane Village wharf (Ponte Cais De Coloane) for it to serve as an immigration checkpoint for yacht passengers.

The trial scheme for yachts to travel freely between Macau and Guangdong

Province will be launched in the middle of this year. Maritime and Water Bureau director Susana Wong revealed yesterday that the three berthing areas, also including the Concordia Industrial Park pier in Coloane, will provide approximately 170 ber-

ths in total.

The bureau will gradually open these three berthing areas, starting from the maritime area at the Concordia Industrial Park pier, which will provide 50 berths. Wong said that the other two sites' opening up

will depend on the actual needs once the trial scheme has started implementation.

The future checkpoint at Ponte Cais De Coloane will receive passengers of free-sailing yachts. Passengers arriving at the other two berthing areas

will be transported to the checkpoint by small boats. The government will conduct a public tendering process for launching such a service and other basic berthing services.

Meanwhile, the authorities plan to include the Macau Yacht Club and the Macau Fisherman's Wharf into the trial scheme, in order to boost the local yachting industry. **BY**

Museum of Art strengthens art promotion activities

Paulo Barbosa

THE Macau Museum of Art (MAM) presented its program highlights for 2015 yesterday. The director, Chan Hou Seng, said that the museum intends to enforce its art education programs through measures like converting its ground floor into an art recreation area for kids and continuing to organize art courses tutored by local artists.

In 2015, a total of 18 exhibitions will be showcased. Some of those will focus on the museum's collection as organized thematically. These will include abstract paintings, portraits, 19th-century historical paintings, prints and old photos. But there are also "world-class exhibitions" scheduled for this year. The highlights of the contemporary shows to be exhibited this year include video installations by the renowned French artist Robert Cahen (between June and September), as well as works by Zhou Chunyu, a popular Chinese contemporary artist (between October and January 2016).

As usual, several local artists



Chan Hou Seng (center)



The museum workshop's facilities

will present their works through the 'Macau Arts Window' project. MAM will also continue its annual exhibition series: 'Calligraphy, Painting, and Seal Carving of the Ming and Qing Dynasties,' which presents works by two iconic masters of the 19th century; and 'Treasures from the Palace Museum,' showcasing the beauty of architecture in the Forbidden City.

Overall, Chan Hou Seng said that the museum is trying "to create conditions for public participation according to their needs and tastes. It is important to get people inspired, as culture vitality is essential in the process of urban development." He stressed that

the museum "is not only a space for presenting artworks and cultural relics, but also a space where people can be enlightened through co-participation, direct experience and informal learning."

Chan Hou Seng also made a review of the work that was developed last year. He said that the MAM organized 26 exhibitions in 2014 and received a total of 360,000 visitors, marking a year-on-year increase of 30 percent. The director stressed that the local museum has cooperated with internationally renowned museums like the Louvre Museum, the Palace of Versailles, the Musée d'Orsay and the Pompidou Centre. He highlighted that

MAM organized the first international exhibition of art education in Macau, 'Art Arena - Project from Centre Pompidou,' which he deemed to be "a remarkable experience for viewers," turning the museum "into an interactive

playground."

MAM also organized nearly 900 parallel art exploring programs last year, including guided tours, creative workshops, art courses, talks by experts, thematic study, exchange programs for tertiary schools and academic symposiums. According to the calculation made by the museum, more than 27,000 people took part in these activities, "including children, parents, art enthusiasts, art educators, artists, experts and people with impaired vision."

Several art course instructors spoke at the media gathering yesterday. Artist James Wong has been teaching at the museum for over ten years. He stressed that the museum began to develop facilities for education in 2006, and has been expanding them ever since.

"The museum's educational facilities can be compared to those in universities," he said. "Those facilities enable students to experience every kind of printmaking method."

DIRECTOR PRAISES MANAGEMENT CHANGE TO IC

THE MUSEUM'S budget for this year will remain the same as in 2014, amounting to MOP40 million, according to Chan Hou Seng. Asked about the transfer of the museum's management from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the director said that it's an ongoing process, but a date has not yet been established to realize the transfer. However, he said that the staff and organizational chart are expected to remain the same. "Since the IC has a lot of resources and cultural venues, I think that the museum will be able to provide a better service to the public after the change," he said.

New Forum Macau coordinator vows to strengthen 'platform role'

THE former executive director at the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Ms Echo Chan, officially took office yesterday as the new Coordinator of the Support Office to the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macau).

Chan has been in her new post for nearly two weeks now, and revealed that she will roll out the work according to the soon-to-be released government Policy Address and the secretariat's established plans.

"I will apply my experience, accumulated in my years at the IPIM, to this new job post, especially to assist in the development of economic, trade and cultural cooperation between Lusophone countries and the mainland, as well as Macau," she stated.

The new coordinator vowed that she will devote her work to enabling the mainland and the Portuguese-speaking countries to fully benefit from



Echo Chan

Echo Chan is successor to Ms Rita Santos, who had held the post since the creation of Forum Macau

Macau's platform advantages.

Chan said that the Support Office will "further assist in China's goal of building Macau into a platform, and encourage more institutions

and enterprises to participate in our activities and training, so as to strengthen their exchanges with representatives from Lusophone countries."

She also expects more effort to be put into Macau society in order to cultivate Sino-Luso bilingual talent.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, directed the inaugural ceremony. He believes that Ms Chan will bring her expertise into her new role.

"During her work at the IPIM over 23 years, she was recognized for dedication, enthusiasm and outstanding performance. Being in charge of market expansion in the Portuguese-speaking countries was one of her main tasks. (...) She has great knowledge of, and has accumulated rich experience in, economic and trade exchange with the Lusophone countries," he said of Ms Chan.

Echo Chan is successor to Ms Rita Santos, who had held the post since the creation of Forum Macau in 2003, and retired from the role on March 3. **BY**

SURVEY

Guia Hill pedestrian tunnel seen favorably

MORE than 90 percent of respondents to a survey were in favor of excavating a pedestrian tunnel through the Guia Hill, connecting the areas of Horta e Costa and NAPE. The project is expected to encourage people to walk instead of drive to work or schools in that neighborhood, according to an online opinion poll conducted by the General Association of Macau Clerical Employees.

The association disclosed the poll results in a press conference yesterday. It concluded that 94.3 percent of the 826 surveyed people showed strong support for the Association's proposal of erecting a pedestrian passage at the Guia Hill for commuters who frequent the two districts.

The online poll, which began at the beginning of February, has also reflected that 89 percent of the respondents expressed a willingness to use the tunnel, while 60 percent of them were actually daily commuters between the two districts.

However, 5.1 percent of respondents in the poll objected to the plan, as they were afraid that the excavation would take a toll on the nearby surroundings, as well as on the structure of the mountain and its existing tunnel. They also ex-

pressed concerns about a possible misallocation of public funds for the project.

The vice president of the association, Ron Lam U Tou, told media that the government has failed to provide a detailed time frame for the tunnel construction, despite the proposal surfacing two years ago. "The respondents' major opinions are to implement [the excavation] as soon as possible," said the vice president. "We hope the government can offer an explicit response and a detailed time frame for the proposal in its policy address, especially in the field of transport and public works." He also hoped that the proposal could eventually become a reality.

Ron Lam told media that the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Rosário, is expected to meet with him on April 9 to discuss the proposal and the opinions collected from through the survey. However, he said that the location of the meeting was yet to be settled.

According to the association's vice president, the online poll, which has been running for one and a half months, will remain open until the date the meeting takes place. **Staff reporter**

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Rodrigo Orihuela

Inditex sales growth accelerates as Zara owner adds stores

INDITEX SA, the world's largest clothing retailer, reported accelerating revenue growth after an expansion of online sales and new stores helped drive a 5 percent profit increase last year.

Sales increased 13 percent in the six weeks through March 14, the Arteixo, Spain-based owner of the Zara and Massimo Dutti chains said yesterday in a regulatory filing. That gain implies like-for-like store sales growth of 6 percent, better than the 5 percent increase in the year ended Jan. 31, according to Anne Critchlow, an analyst at Societe Generale SA.

The first-quarter sales performance "is a beat versus existing consensus forecasts at around 4 percent, suggesting good support to date for full-year estimates," Critchlow said in a note to clients.

Inditex is battling fast-fashion competitors like Hennes & Mauritz AB and Associated British Foods Plc's Primark by entering new markets and boosting online sales. The falling euro has also helped, as the retailer's costs are highly euro-focused. Like-for-like sales rose 5 percent last year.

Inditex rose 2.4 percent to 28.84 euros at 9:04 a.m. yes-



Customers browse goods for sale inside a Zara home store, operated by Inditex SA, in Barcelona, Spain

terday in Madrid, extending the stock's advance this year to 22 percent.

After boosting its number of stores by about 5 percent to 6,683 through January, Inditex said it plans to open as many as 480 outlets this year, including three in New York. It also plans to start online sales in Hong

Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

In January, the company acquired a 4,400 square-meter building in New York's SoHo neighborhood, continuing a strategy of building large stores in the top shopping areas in some of the world's biggest cities, such as Milan, where the retailer operates in the Corso

Vittorio Emanuele shopping district.

Inditex generates more than one-third of its revenue from stores outside of Europe. The euro weakened 17 percent against the dollar in the company's latest fiscal year. A weaker euro boosts Inditex's profitability because the re-

Inditex plans to start online sales in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan

tailer sources 65 percent of its garments from Europe and surrounding areas, according to Sanford C. Bernstein.

The stock is a "way to play euro weakness," Jamie Merriam, a Bernstein analyst, wrote before the release. "This is particularly attractive when most apparel retailers have net U.S. dollar cost exposure."

Net income climbed to 2.5 billion euros (USD2.7 billion) in the 12 months through January from 2.38 billion euros a year earlier, the company said. Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg had estimated profit of 2.49 billion euros. **Bloomberg**

AD



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Cathay Pacific profit lags estimates on fuel-hedging loss

Clement Tan

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd., Asia's largest international airline by passengers, reported profit that lagged analyst estimates as losses from fuel hedging masked gains in passenger numbers.

Net income rose 20 percent to HKD3.15 billion (USD406 million) in the year ended December, Hong Kong-based Cathay said in a stock exchange statement yesterday. That compared with the HK\$3.49 billion average profit estimate in a Bloomberg survey of 16 analysts. Sales at HK\$106 billion matched estimates.

Cathay had a HK\$911 million loss from hedging its fuel purchases as last year's sudden crash in oil prices left several Asian carriers holding bets made when crude oil prices were around \$100 a barrel. Fa-



Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. signage is displayed as travelers stand at the company's check-in area at Hong Kong International Airport in Hong Kong

[Cathay's] annual fuel costs actually went up year on year, instead of decreasing, which is primarily due to their fuel hedging losses

AJITH KOM
DIRECTOR OF ASIA TRANSPORT
RESEARCH AT UOB KAY HIAN,
SINGAPORE

cing intense competition from Middle East carriers like Emirates and Etihad, Cathay said passenger numbers increased 5.5 percent last year to 31.57 million, as the airline added flights to the U.S. and more travelers came from Northeast Asia.

"This is a fairly robust set of results, but the issue is the size of the realized hedging loss," said Geoffrey Cheng, BoComm International's head of transportation and industrial research.

Cathay shares closed down 0.6 percent yesterday at HK\$16.94 in Hong Kong trading.

Several Asian carriers were projected to suffer paper losses as last year's sudden crash

in oil prices took them by surprise. Carriers will have to account for those hedges or pay charges to unwind contracts prematurely.

Cathay said it also has HK\$12.5 billion in unrealized losses on its fuel hedges, which will remain in place until 2018.

Cathay's "annual fuel costs actually went up year on year, instead of decreasing, which is primarily due to their fuel hedging losses," said Ajith Kom, director of Asia transport research at UOB Kay Hian in Singapore. "The key is whether they can take advantage of current low prices."

Cathay Chief Executive Officer Ivan Chu told Bloomberg

TV yesterday afternoon that the airline is happy with its current hedging position, and that the oil-price decline has been a net positive for Cathay.

Oil's plunge and airlines' hedging losses are a reprise of 2008 and 2009, when Cathay, Chinese carriers and Singapore Air all reported millions of dollars in losses because of their bets on fuel. Singapore Airlines Ltd. last month reported S\$216 million (\$156 million) in fuel-hedging losses for 2014.

Cathay Chairman John Slosar said at a yesterday afternoon news briefing that the full benefit of lower oil prices will be felt only this year, and the airline will continue to hedge its

fuel purchases "where it makes sense."

Martin Murray, Cathay's finance director, told reporters the carrier has hedged 61% of its fuel needs for this year at \$95 a barrel and 60% of its 2016 needs at \$85 per barrel. That proportion falls to 50% in 2017 at \$89 a barrel and 37% at \$82 per barrel in 2018, Murray said.

Passenger yield, which measures money earned from carrying travelers each kilometer and is a key indicator of an airline's performance, fell 1.8 percent to 67.3 Hong Kong cents, the company said in its earnings statement. Yield from carrying cargo and mail declined 5.6 percent to HK\$2.19.

Cargo demand is beginning to pick up for carriers across Asia. Cathay was one of the five biggest airlines in the world in terms of freight carried in 2013.

Last year "saw the first significant boost in volumes since 2010, a trend we expect to continue this year," Tony Tyler, IATA director-general and chief executive, said March 10.

Cathay currently operates cargo services to 45 freighter destinations around the world. It launched new freighter services to Calgary, Mexico City and Phnom Penh last year, and started a specialized air freight service for wine.

Chief Executive Chu said when he took over last year that he planned to ramp up investments in new products. In the past year, Cathay has announced it's investing in a U.S.-based sustainable biofuel developer to help it achieve carbon-neutral growth from 2020.

Cathay also is retiring its Airbus Group NV A340-300s as part of a fleet modernization program that's seeing the airline replace older, less-efficient planes with newer models from Airbus and Boeing Co. Cathay currently operates 147 aircraft, with an average fleet age of 8.09 years. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

NICCOLO CHENGDU COMING SOON



Niccolo by Marco Polo announces the opening of Niccolo Chengdu, a new urban luxury hotel and the first ever Ultratravel Collection property in China, on 15 April 2015.

Niccolo hotels are a new collection of contemporary urban luxury hotels. The first to carry the Niccolo name, Niccolo Chengdu, will offer 230 guestrooms and suites. Scheduled to open in stages from 28 March, simulations will commence initially followed in early April with trial stays.

"The opening of Niccolo Chengdu will be an exhilarating event as it is the first of the Niccolo brand," said Mr. Andrew Abram, General Manager. "To have an exceptional team looking after each of our guests in a truly luxurious setting in the centre of the city is a unique concept that everyone should experience. We look forward to welcoming you to Niccolo Chengdu soon."

JW MARRIOTT AND THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTELS TO OPEN IN MACAU

With both the JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton, Macau set to open on May 27, on Tuesday Marriott International, Inc. announced the official launch of bookings on www.jwmarriottmacau.com and www.ritzcarlton.com/macau. Set within Galaxy Macau, guests have the option of choosing wither Asia's largest JW Marriott – JW Marriott Hotel Macau, or at The Ritz-Carlton, Macau, the brand's first All-Suite hotel.

"The opening of these two new hotels at the Galaxy Macau integrated resort will redefine the standard of luxury in Macau," said Rauf Malik, Vice President of Operations at JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The



Ritz-Carlton, Macau. "Through this carefully crafted range of opening offers, we will give our first guests a holistic taste of the truly exceptional experiences that these hotels will provide. Our guests can choose to indulge in the simple elegance of the JW Marriott Hotel Macau or immerse themselves in the legendary experience that defines The Ritz-Carlton, Macau."

SANDS CHINA SELECTS WINNER OF SPORTS UNIFORM DESIGN COMPETITION

Sands China and the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) came together recently to hold the Sands China Sports Uniform Design Competition in support of both Macau's fashion industry and to promote the cultural and creative industries in the city. The competition lasted for two months and after judging and deliberation, the award winners were announced at a prize presentation ceremony Tuesday at The Venetian Macao.

Wong Chi Leong, a local fashion designer took the top prize among the entries received from local fashion designers and fashion design students at CPTTM. Based



on four criteria – creativity and originality; practicality and wearability; compatibility with Sands China's corporate image; and overall aesthetic appeal – the competition saw Wong earn the grand prize of MOP 10,000 and a certificate, while five merit award winners each received MOP 2,000 and a certificate.

PORTUGAL

IMF advocates radical reform of the State



Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

THE International Monetary Fund recommended Tuesday that the Portuguese government should carry out radical reforms to the State, as well as to salaries and pensions, according to the report by a technical mission published Tuesday.

The IMF mission that was in Portugal to prepare for the regular assessment of the country under Article IV, given to all members of the IMF, also recommended that the Portuguese government should take advantage of the favourable international climate, the euro and lower interest rates, to solve the problems of the eco-

nomy.

In the statement, the technical mission said the only way to create jobs was for the economy to grow more than is currently expected, especially in exports and investment and "to make this happen structural reforms provide the biggest boost to increased competitiveness."

Recalling that a number of structural reforms had already been launched, the IMF stressed the need to review some that were not having the expected result, as well as to complete others that were started but not completed and, in some cases, to launch further reforms to address other constraints on the Portuguese economy.

The weak euro, low interest rates resulting from the ECB's flexible monetary policy and the low price of oil may be a unique opportunity for the government, the IMF mission said, as they are giving a "strong positive boost to the economy." **MDT/Macauhub**

Mozambique plans to pave 2,100 kilometers of roads by 2019

THE government of Mozambique plans to pave about 2,100 kilometers of national and regional roads by 2019, according to the 2015-2019 Five-Year Plan, which will be voted on by the Mozambican parliament from the end of March.

The plan will entail asphaltting an annual average of about 420 kms of roads, down by about 180 kms compared to last year, when 602 kms of national and regional roads were paved, according to the plan.

At the same time the government plans to repair almost 2,800 kms of roads, an annual average of 560 kms, almost double the rate recorded in 2014 of 283 kms.

The government's plan outlines construction, repair and maintenance of 57 bridges, along with routine maintenance of 20,000 kms of roads and periodic maintenance of 5,000 kms.

According to the Integrated Program of the Ministry of Development Planning and Investment (MPD), revised in June 2014, the country's road network spans approximately 30,000 kms including primary, secondary, tertiary



and side roads.

The primary road network (5,971 kms) has 4,728 kms of paved and 1243 kms of unpaved roads, whilst the secondary network (4,915 kms) has only 838 kms paved and 4,078 kms unpaved.

The tertiary network (12,603 kms) is the largest, but it is also less paved: 11,936 kms have no asphalt.

Among the priority projects for the expansion of the road network that are already in progress, the MPD noted the Catembe-Ponta do Ouro road with Chinese funding of US\$725.8 million, which

includes construction of the Maputo-Catembe suspension bridge.

The N6 road repair projects, between Machipanda and Beira, in the provinces of Manica and Sofala also has funding from China (USD433 million) as does the Maputo Ring Road with a budget of US\$298.84 million.

The ministry also noted the N13 road, in Niassa province, linking the towns of Cuamba, Mandimba and Lichinga, costing US\$261 million will be financed by the African Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

These two organizations will also fund with 150.19 million dollars building the Nacala Corridor III road linking the towns of Much, Madimba and Lichinga in northern Mozambique.

Construction of the N104 road along the Nampula-Nametil section, has a cost of US\$75.4 million, with funding from South Korea, while the rehabilitation of the road linking the towns of Tica, Buzi and Nova in the province of Sofala, is budgeted at US\$149.72 million, with India as a financier. **MDT/Macauhub**

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XINJIANG

Beijing's secret plan to track militants and bring them home

DAYS after Indonesia arrested four Uighur terrorism suspects in September in the country's east, China dispatched three intelligence officers to ask authorities to hand them over.

While Indonesia initially demurred, China has now secured a preliminary agreement for the men to be returned after a trial in Jakarta, according to Irfan Idris, a senior official at Indonesia's anti-terrorism agency. The four, who are yet to be charged, face potential execution if repatriated.

China pressed for the deal as part of a global operation begun last year to return terrorism suspects to Chinese soil, according to two people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified because the initiative is confidential. Many of the suspects are members of the Turkic-speaking Uighur Muslim minority, they said.

With the program, China is using a combination of diplomatic muscle and domestic suppression to counter Islamic extremism in the western province of Xinjiang, home to most of the country's Uighurs and a region Beijing has long struggled to control. The initiative raises questions about whether Uighurs fleeing for fear of persecution may also be caught in its net.

"Beijing has long been concerned about the potential linkages between radicalized Uighurs and Islamist groups in Central Asia and Afghanistan, a concern only heightened with U.S. and NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan," said Michael Clarke, a research fellow at Griffith University in Brisbane who specializes in Xinjiang. "Moreover the perceived growth of 'terrorism' and radicalism in Xinjiang threatens that region's stability and economic development."

The risk for China is that any anti-Islamist push inflames separatism in Xinjiang. Its stated focus is to limit violence linked to alleged separatists in Xinjiang, after the bloody stabbing of at least 29 people at a train station in the city of Kunming in March 2014, and to stop them joining extremist movements such as the Islamic State.

While China hasn't joined the U.S.-led international coalition against the Islamic State, it is working with some neighbors to find people who have sought to train with IS



Heavily armed Chinese police officers patrol near a mosque in a Uighur neighborhood a day after Han Chinese mob's attack in Urumqi

or with the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, a militant group that seeks independence for Xinjiang and parts of Turkey and Central Asia, according to the people with knowledge of the program. More than 100 suspects have been repatriated to China over the past year, they said.

"China is monitoring the movements of Uighurs in Indonesia," said Sugeng Wahono, minister counselor for political affairs at the Indonesian embassy in Beijing who attended a January meeting between his country's anti-terrorism agency and China's top security chief Meng Jianzhu at Beijing's Diaoyutai state guesthouse.

"They are being hunted" by the Indonesian authorities, he said, referring to three Uighurs being sought alongside the four currently detained.

China has said little in public about its global hunt for suspected terrorists. During

China is monitoring the movements of Uighurs in Indonesia

SUGENG WAHONO
MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, INDONESIAN
EMBASSY IN BEIJING

the legislature's annual meeting in March, Lu Xinhua, spokesman for the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said China has launched an "anti-terrorism cooperation mechanism" with more than 10 neighbors. The goal is to share intelligence and curb terrorism especially by the ETIM, which operates from Pakistan.

Meng also hinted at efforts to repatriate suspects when he attended an international meeting of security agency chiefs in June in Russia. He has traveled to Southeast Asia and the Middle East as President Xi Jinping's special envoy for cooperation on law enforcement and security.

"Some countries have already sent back a batch of terrorists that were based outside of China," Meng was cited as saying in video footage aired on Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV.

Retired General John Allen, President Barack Obama's envoy on the Islamic State, said last month in Singapore he'd like to exchange information with China on the fight against the militant group.

The U.S. would like "to brief on what it is we are doing, to talk about those common aspects of the threat, whereby sharing perhaps best practices or even sharing information we could cooperate in some regard," he said. "But we've just not had that conversation

to this point."

China's National Security Commission and the Ministry of State Security don't have media offices and were unavailable to comment.

The campaign is similar to the one operated by the Ministry of Public Security to track down economic fugitives - known as "Operation Fox Hunt 2014" - which authorities say has brought back nearly 700 Chinese. The two campaigns started around the middle of last year.

"Abroad, its counter-terror strategy is not only focused on countering networks that might be linked back home, but also recognizing the reality that China finds itself with a global footprint," said Raffaello Pantucci, director of International Security Studies at the London-based Royal United Services Institute. "That means its nationals can increasingly be found in dangerous areas where terrorist groups operate."

Ansyad Mbai, who was head of Indonesia's anti-terrorism agency when the Uighur suspects were arrested, said the four men detained were traveling on Turkish passports.

"For the China government this is a very serious issue," he said. China was "very worried that these people were going to be handed over to the Turkish Embassy."

China's actions may cause unease among some western

governments given that human rights groups say Uighurs are also leaving for fear of ill-treatment in Xinjiang. The U.S. declined to send back to China 22 Uighur terrorism suspects held in Guantanamo Bay, citing the risk of political persecution.

Uighur advocates have accused China of a broader crackdown on daily life that includes limiting beards and headscarves, and instructing people not to fast during Ramadan.

Tensions between Uighurs and Han Chinese in Xinjiang have increased over the past year, with more than 100 people reported killed. Uighurs account for about 45 percent of Xinjiang's 22 million people.

"China is trying to portray all Uighur refugees as Islamic extremists," said Alim Seytoff, head of the Washington based Uyghur Human Rights Project. "No country should extradite any Uighurs back to China because of the political persecution they face there."

Asluddin Hatjani, attorney for the four detained Uighurs in Indonesia, said his clients claimed they were only "taking a leisurely tour" of the region.

"The Chinese embassy has provided a translator for the men, but it appears they are frightened of him," Hatjani said, adding he was unaware of the nature of the evidence against the men who could be charged under anti-terrorism laws that carry a potential death penalty.

As China looks to contain violence in Xinjiang, lawmakers are deliberating the country's first anti-terrorism law, expected to pass later this year.

"The name of the game is if you do anti-terrorism campaigns, you'll have collateral damage and casualties," said Kam Wong, a criminal justice associate professor at Xavier University in Ohio who teaches courses on China's security forces. "The big hole in China is there is no terrorism law. There're no clear definitions of terrorism or terrorism organizations" until the law is passed.

It's unclear how the proposed law may be applied to hundreds of people suspected to be from Xinjiang who are now being held in Thailand and claim to be from Turkey.

Worasi Piriawiboon, a lawyer representing 17 people held in Bangkok for the past year for illegal entry, said his clients have Turkish passports and has petitioned a court to let the group, among them 13 children, be deported to Turkey.

"The immigration police don't allow them to go back," Worasi said. "They mention to the court that China's government doesn't allow," he said. "The police told me this is a sensitive case." **Bloomberg**

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN

Youth mark anniversary of occupy parliament movement

YOUTH groups in Taiwan are marking the anniversary of a movement that occupied the island's parliament and scuttled the ratification of a trade pact with China, Taiwan's biggest trading partner and erstwhile political foe.

A rally outside parliament yesterday evening followed by an overnight event Sunday will draw new attention to what has become known as the Sunflower Movement, which handed Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou his toughest crisis since taking office in 2008.

Stung by the occupy movement and tens of thousands of sympathy protesters, Ma's Nationalist Party lost nine local elections in November, prompting him to resign as party head.

Protests last year also dealt a blow to Taiwan's relations with China, which have improved during Ma's term but remain tense because of Beijing's desire to have the island unify with the mainland. Beijing has claimed Taiwan since the Chinese civil war of the 1940s, but Taiwanese prize their democratic self-rule.

Relations between Taipei and Beijing have changed little since last year's protests, with no new deals reached between the two sides, chilling Taiwan's economic expansion. Ma's government has kept quiet on China since the local election losses as the party



In this April 7, 2014 file photo, students occupying the Parliament floor line up in protest against a trade pact with China in Taipei

gears up for the January 2016 presidential election, which may be decided in part by voters who want more distance from China.

"The government people are cautious because there's so much that could go wrong when

it comes to China," said Ross Feingold, senior adviser with U.S.-based consultancy firm D.C. International Advisory. "If an agreement is on the table, somebody is going to criticize it."

The Nationalists' chief oppo-

sition, the Democratic Progressive Party, advocates more restraint in negotiating with China, playing to the ideals of the Sunflower Movement protesters.

On the night of March 17, 2014, several hundred people,

apparently led by university students, entered the parliament's normally guarded assembly hall in central Taipei to stop a proposed fast-track ratification of a Taiwan-China service trade liberalization pact. The pact was signed in 2013 and would open markets to 144 sectors, including finance.

Parliament has not ratified the trade deal, irking China as well as Ma's government.

Additional young Taiwanese joined protesters outside the gates of parliament to question whether Taiwan should continue economic ties with China as long as the two sides are politically at odds. They named their movement after the sunflower, saying they were looking into the light of Taiwan's problems.

A civilian group called the Economic Democracy Union prepared for a concert and speeches yesterday. Member Chien Nien-you said the group wants more public oversight over deals between Taiwan and China and more flexibility in the constitution for introducing legislation, so that "everyday people's ideas can get heard." AP

Cabinet announces audit of state company assets abroad

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

THE Cabinet agency that oversees China's biggest banks, oil producers and other government companies has announced plans to have outside auditors examine their foreign assets in a new move to tighten control over state industry.

The announcement comes amid a spreading anti-corruption crackdown led by President Xi Jinping in which executives of companies including PetroChina Ltd. and China Mobile Ltd. have been detained.

The State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission announced Monday it was soliciting tenders from outside auditors for contracts to examine the companies. It said the firms chosen must



be incorporated in China and local branch offices are ineligible, which would rule out the use of foreign firms.

State-owned banks and oil, mining and other companies are quickly expanding their investments abroad, especially in buying resource assets in Africa, the Americas and Australia.

The audit is intended to "address growing concerns about lack of transparency" about the assets of state companies, the official Xi-

nhua News Agency said.

The foreign assets of the 110 state companies directly controlled by the Cabinet were estimated at 4.3 trillion yuan (USD700 billion) at the end of 2013, according to Xinhua.

This week, the party announced the vice chairman of PetroChina, Asia's biggest oil and gas producer, was under investigation for what the company was a possible discipline violation, the party's term for corruption.

The company and its parent, China National Petroleum Corp., are among China's biggest foreign investors. At least four other executives of PetroChina or CNPC have been detained.

Beijing has encouraged state companies to expand abroad and has eased controls on their activities as part of efforts to diversify the Chinese economy.

That has led to complaints managers of politically influential state companies might be misusing their assets.

Among other things, Chinese economists believe a big share of foreign investment into China really comes from units of state companies abroad that are improperly trying to take advantage of tax breaks and other incentives. AP

HONG KONG

Customs detects nearly 5,000 illegal milk powder export cases over past year

FROM March 2014 to February 2015, Hong Kong's Customs and Excise Department detected a total of 4,986 cases of illegal export of powdered formula, involving the arrest of 5,000 people, Hong Kong's Secretary for Security Lai Tung-kwok said yesterday.

Replying to a lawmaker's question in regard of parallel trading in the Legislative Council, Lai said the Hong Kong government is very concerned about the nuisance caused by parallel trading activities to the daily lives of residents. The law enforcement agencies have been implementing a series of countermeasures in accordance with the law.

According to Lai, 61,200 kg of powdered formula was seized in the illegal export cases from March 2014 to February 2015. Of the 5,000 arrested in these cases, 1,748 were Hong Kong residents, 3,235 were mainland residents and 17 were of foreign nationality.

Lai said the Immigration Department of Hong Kong has established a "watch list of suspected parallel traders" to strengthen the interception of persons when entering Hong Kong, and if the purposes of their visits are in doubt, the department will consider refusing their entry and repatriating them immediately.

As of the end of February 2015, the department has included information of more than 13,500 suspected mainland parallel traders in the watch list and refused over 28,500 entries, he said. Xinhua

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA

Canberra and Vietnam agree to closer defense ties, S China Sea stability

VIETNAM and Australia agreed to closer security ties yesterday, including training Vietnamese troops in Australia as Canberra seeks to balance its relationship with its biggest trading partner China and relations with other neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung told reporters that his Australian counterpart Tony Abbott had agreed during a meeting at Parliament House to strengthen cooperation on security and defense in a range of areas, including experience and information sharing, English-language training and special forces cooperation.

"We agreed on the importance of the assurance of peace, stability, maritime security and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, in compliance with international law," Dung said.

China says it has historical claims to a huge swath of the South China Sea that overlaps with the claims of several neighbors, including Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines, fueling concerns of a conflict.

Abbott said 120 Vietnamese military personnel would be trained in Australia and Vietnam would take part in joint military training exercises in Australia.



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, left, and Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott hold a joint media conference at Parliament House in Canberra

He acknowledged a growing security relationship between Australia and Vietnam in recent years. Australian troops fought alongside the U.S. against the Vietnam communists during the Vietnam war.

"We have both prospered in peace over the last 40 years because of the stability that our region has enjoyed and anything which disturbs that stability is something that we would mutually deplore and mutually work to ensure didn't happen," Abbott said.

"We both support freedom of navigation by air and by sea in the South China Sea. We both deplore any unilateral change to the status quo. We both think that disputes should be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law," he said. AP

SINGAPORE

Gov't says founding father Lee's condition deteriorates

THE condition of Singapore's 91-year-old founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, has deteriorated further at the hospital where he's been treated for about six weeks, the government said yesterday.

Lee was admitted to Singapore General Hospital on Feb. 5 for severe pneumonia and was later put on life support.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement yesterday that Lee "remains critically ill in the ICU and has deteriorated further."

On Tuesday, it had said that Lee's "condition has worsened due to an infection. He is on antibiotics. The doctors are closely monitoring his condition."

Singapore's first prime minister, Lee ruled for 31 years until 1990, and has been credited with transforming the city-state from a sleepy tropical port to a wealthy, bustling financial hub with one of the highest average incomes in the world.

Under Lee and his successors, including his son, current Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore — known for its ban on chewing gum sales and canings for crimes some countries would rule as minor — has strictly controlled public speech and assembly, though it has become socially more liberal and allowed greater artistic freedom in recent years.

Lee commands immense respect among Singaporeans, who this year will celebrate the country's 50th independence anniversary. AP

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Todd Pitman and Esther Htusan,
Yangon

MYANMAR

'Midnight inspections' show military still powerful

THE knock at the door of her family's home came without warning in the dead of night, just as it always did during Myanmar's long era of military rule.

Outside, a group of government officials announced they had come to verify who was living there, citing a law that empowers the state to enter private homes any time they wish. When the woman opened the door, they hauled her son away.

Such intrusions, known here as "midnight inspections," have declined dramatically since Myanmar's army ceded some power in 2011 and opened the country as never before. But the law that facilitates them is still on the books and being employed to suppress dissent. It's just one facet of the massive power the military continues to wield here despite the country's much-touted transition from junta rule.

"They knocked on the door saying they needed to conduct a midnight inspection, but when we opened it, they took my son," the distraught mother said of the 1 a.m. visit last week. The woman spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared both for her safety and that of her son.

Several of those detained recently had been deemed sympathetic to students whose protests against a new education law were brutally crushed by police this month. The night the woman's son was taken into custody, The Associated Press documented three other inspections that ended with student activists being detained.

The legislation allowing "midnight inspections," known as the "Ward or Village Tract Administration Law," has been on Myanmar's books for nearly a century, since British colonial times. It was adopted by successive military juntas, which used it to monitor political opponents and restricting their movements, helping smother pro-democracy uprisings in 1988 and 2007.

The law requires families to obtain permission from the state to host guests in their own homes, in some cases every three days, regardless of how long the visitors are staying. People who rent their homes are also considered "guests," as are squatters who have built dwellings on land they don't own.

In the impoverished Yangon neighborhood of Dala, residents say administrators drive around on rickshaws equipped with speakers reminding people to register guests or "face charges according to the law." Violations are punishable by seven-day jail terms and fines of about USD50.

AP PHOTO



Administration officers of Yarza Thingyan ward display a family household register-book to The Associated Press journalists in Dala, in the suburbs of Yangon

The law gives administrators the right to examine "the places needed" to ensure compliance, paving the way for "midnight inspections." This grants local officials "almost boundless authority" over their subjects, according to the Bangkok-based advocacy group Fortify Rights, which is releasing a report called "Midnight Intrusions" today urging the government to dismantle the law.

The group says the law "represents a systematic and nationwide breach of privacy" that has been used to obstruct public gatherings and stymie political activists, some of whom have sometimes been refused permission to host guests for training workshops.

"It's a remnant of authorita-

They knocked on the door saying they needed to conduct a midnight inspection, but when we opened it, they took my son

ANONYMOUS MOTHER

rian rule that's still being used to control the population," Fortify's executive director Matthew Smith told The Associated Press. He said he fears that as Myanmar moves toward elections expected later this year, "we're going to see this implemented more and more."

Although the local administrators who enforce the law are elected, they report to and must be approved by the Home Affairs Ministry, a portfolio overseen by the army. The home affairs minister, Lt. Gen. Ko Ko, was accused in a Harvard study last year of bearing responsibility for the execution, torture and enslavement of civilians during his time as a military commander.

The government says the law is aimed at ensuring peace and security. Parliament member Thein Nyunt said the law is essential in a country still wracked by rebel fighting and ethnic tensions.

"It's too early to speak of abolishing it. You can't look at it solely from a human-rights perspective. We need stability first," he said. But he added, "We need to ensure the law is used to protect, rather than oppress."

Changing the law is not a priority for opposition parties, which are more focused on amending the nation's charter, in part to ease the military's hold on power. At present, soldiers are guaranteed 25 percent of parliament seats and the army

commanders hold the "right to take over and exercise state sovereign power" if an emergency is deemed to threaten the union.

Smith also said many people are so habituated to submitting to the midnight-inspections law that they don't even consider it intrusive, or a violation of human rights.

Home inspections typically include community representatives of the government, police, army and intelligence services, even firefighters. The Myanmar Red Cross also has taken part, though last month announced it would no longer allow staff to participate.

In the Dala neighborhood, several residents interviewed said that although they had not experienced "midnight inspections" for nearly a year, they were still required to register guests with the township administrator.

Dala resident Htwe Yi said most people were used to the process. When a 17-year-old relative came to stay with her recently, she had to send him to the township administrator's office to get permission first. For three weeks, her family had to register the boy every three days, until authorities relaxed the requirement to each week.

Though administrators are prohibited from collecting fees during their duties, Dala residents said they routinely come to homes holding out bowls to

collect cash. The residents said they typically pay between 50 U.S. cents and a dollar.

In one township administrator's office in Dala, where geckos scampered across wooden desks covered with paper and notebooks, administrator Sein Win denied that he or his staff take payments from residents.

Records are kept in simple pen-and-paper ledgers, which list guest names alongside their age, national identity card numbers, host names and addresses, where they've traveled from and the amount of time the government has allowed the guest to stay.

Asked how long the data is stored, Sein Win pointed toward the ceiling, where cobwebs shrouded seven large white rice sacks perched on two thick bamboo poles. Each sack was filled with ledgers going back to 1994.

Pyone Cho, a pro-democracy activist who spent much of the last 20 years in jail, said the government uses the data when it needs to: "I know, because when I was in prison, they came to me with records of where I had been in this and that year."

Whether authorities enforce the laws or not, "people remain afraid of them," he said. "This was used as a weapon to oppress us for decades. We're still traumatized. Everybody knows they can enforce these laws against us whenever they wish." AP

ISRAEL

Netanyahu's Likud surges to stunning election win

Aron Heller, Tel Aviv

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party scored a resounding victory in the country's election, final results showed yesterday, a stunning turnaround after a tight race that had put his lengthy rule in jeopardy.

With nearly all votes counted, Likud appeared to have earned 30 out of parliament's 120 seats and was in a position to build with relative ease a coalition government with its nationalist, religious and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies. Such a government would likely put Israel at odds with the international community over settlement construction and its opposition to Palestinian statehood, and continue clashing with the White House over hardline policies.

The election was widely seen as a referendum on Netanyahu, who has governed the country for the past six years. Recent opinion polls indicated he was in trouble, giving chief rival Isaac Herzog of the opposition Zionist Union a slight lead. Exit polls Tuesday showed the two sides deadlocked but once the actual results came pou-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party supporters react to exit poll results at the party's election headquarters in Tel Aviv

ring in early yesterday, Likud soared forward. Zionist Union wound up with just 24 seats.

Given the final results, it is all but assured that Israel's largely ceremonial President Reuven Rivlin will task Netanyahu with forming a new government. Netanyahu says he hopes to do so quickly, within two

to three weeks.

"Against all odds, we achieved a great victory for the Likud," Netanyahu told supporters at his election night headquarters, declaring victory even before final results were known. "I am proud of the people of Israel, who in the moment of truth knew how to distinguish

between what is important and what is peripheral, and to insist on what is important."

Netanyahu focused his campaign primarily on security issues, while his opponents instead pledged to address the country's high cost of living and accused the leader of being out of touch with everyday peo-

ple. Netanyahu will likely look to battle that image now by adding to his government Moshe Kahlon, whose upstart Kulanu party captured 10 seats with a campaign focused almost entirely on bread-and-butter economic issues. Kahlon is expected to become the country's next finance minister.

A union of four largely Arab-backed factions became Israel's third largest party — with 14 seats — and gave Israel's Arab minority significant leverage in parliament for the first time. Ten parties in all made it into parliament.

Herzog, who appeared poised only days ago to stage a coup, conceded defeat, saying he called Netanyahu and offered him congratulations. He signaled that he would not join forces with Netanyahu and would rather head to the opposition.

"I think that at this moment what Israel needs most of all is another voice, a voice that offers an alternative and a voice that tells it the truth," he said outside his Tel Aviv home.

Netanyahu's return to power for a fourth term likely spells trouble for Mideast peace efforts and could further escalate tensions with the United States.

In a dramatic policy reversal, he said he now opposes the creation of a Palestinian state — a key policy goal of the White House and the international community. He also promised to expand construction in Jewish areas of east Jerusalem, the section of the city claimed by the Palestinians as their capital. **AP**

Jovana Gec, Aida Cerkez and Dusan Stojanovic, Srebrenica

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

8 Srebrenica massacre suspects arrested

PROSECUTORS have made Serbia's first arrests of people suspected of carrying out killings in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, The Associated Press has learned — a significant milestone toward healing the wounds of Europe's worst civilian slaughter since World War II.

Serbian police arrested eight men yesterday who are accused of taking part in the slaughter of more than 1,000 Muslims at a warehouse on the outskirts of Srebrenica, a team of Serbian and Bosnian prosecutors told the AP. Altogether, more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed in the eastern Bosnian enclave by the Serbs in 1995 — the only atrocity in Europe to be labeled genocide by the United Nations since World War II.

Serbian prosecutors said they initially arrested seven suspects in pre-



Serbia's war crimes prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic speaks during an interview in Belgrade

dawn raids at different locations in Serbia, then caught the eighth suspect later yesterday after a manhunt.

Chief Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic told the AP that all those arrested "are former members of a special brigade of the Bosnian Serb police."

Serbia in the past has

put on trial men who took a group of prisoners away from Srebrenica to be killed. And in 2011 it arrested Ratko Mladic — the warlord who masterminded the slaughter — and sent him to an international criminal court in The Hague, Netherlands. But yesterday's arrests are Serbia's first attempt to bring to justice men

who got their hands bloody in the killing machine known as the Srebrenica massacre 20 years ago this July.

"It is important to stress that this is the first time that our prosecutor's office is dealing with the mass killings of civilians and war prisoners in Srebrenica," Bruno Vekaric, the lead Serb prosecutor in the case, told the AP.

He said Serbia was approaching a key moment in confronting its past.

"We have never dealt with a crime of such proportions," said Vekaric, Serbia's deputy War Crimes Prosecutor. "It is very important for Serbia to take a clear position toward Srebrenica through a court process."

Munira Subasic, head of the Mothers of Srebrenica group, called the arrests "good news."

"It was time for Serbia to do something," she said. "This is a message to all criminals who fled and thought they are safe from justice that they can never rest."

The biggest arrest in the sweep was Nedeljko Mladragovic, the commander dubbed "Nedjo the Butcher," who went on to become a successful businessman in Serbia, the AP has learned.

More than 100,000 people were killed and millions were left homeless in Bosnia's 1992-95 war when Bosnian Serbs, supported by neighboring Serbia, rebelled against Bosnia's declaration of independence from Serbia-led Yugoslavia.

The collaboration yesterday by prosecutors from former wartime enemies Serbia and Bosnia — supported by the U.N. war crimes tribunal

— is the most important case of judicial teamwork helping to heal the war's festering wounds.

The arrests follow a December sweep by the same team of prosecutors of 15 suspects in a separate wartime atrocity: a massacre that followed an abduction from a Bosnian train.

Many Serbs still view as heroes their wartime leaders — including Mladic and former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, who are on trial at the U.N. war crimes tribunal — and believe they were victims of a Western plot.

That makes the current campaign to detain the triggermen deeply sensitive. Serbia's conservative government is allowing the prosecutions to move forward in part because it's eager to join the European Union. **AP**

Tunisia hostage crisis ends with 17 tourists dead

Bouazza Ben Bouazza

ATTACKERS opened fire yesterday at a major museum in Tunisia's capital, gunning down 17 tourists as dozens more sprinted to safety. At least 21 people in all were killed, including two gunmen, but some attackers may have escaped, authorities said.

The attack on the famed National Bardo Museum in Tunis was the first on a tourist site in years in Tunisia, a shaky young democracy that has struggled to keep Islamic extremist violence at bay.

It wasn't clear who the attackers were but security forces immediately flooded the area. Tunisia's parliament building, next to the museum, was evacuated.

Private television Wataniya showed masked Tunisian security forces escorting dozens of tourists up nearby steps and away from the danger, as armed security forces pointed guns toward an adjacent building. Many elderly people, apparently



Tourists and visitors from the Bardo museum are evacuated in Tunis

tourists, ran in panic to safety, including at least one couple carrying two children.

Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid said 21 people were killed: 17 tourists, two gunmen, a Tunisian security officer and a Tunisian cleaning woman. He said the dead tourists came from Italy, Poland, Germany and Spain. He said two or three of the attackers remained at large.

Several other people were reported wounded in the attack, including three Poles and at least two Italians. The Italian Foreign Ministry said 100 other Italians had been taken to a secure location.

Some of the Italians at the museum were believed to have been passengers aboard the Costa Fascinosa, a cruise liner making a seven-day trip of the western

Mediterranean that had docked in Tunis.

The attack was a strong blow to Tunisia's efforts to revive its crucial tourism industry. The National Bardo Museum, built in a 15th-century palace, is the largest museum in Tunisia and houses one of the world's largest collections of Roman mosaics among its 8,000 works. The museum is near the North African nation's parliament, 4 kilometers from the city center. A new wing with contemporary architecture was built as part of a 2009 renovation, doubling the surface area.

Tunisia recently completed a rocky road to democracy after overthrowing its authoritarian president in 2011, seen by many as the start of the so-called Arab Spring. The country has been more stable than other countries in the region, but has struggled with violence by Islamic extremists in recent years, including some linked to the Islamic State group. It also has extremists linked to al-Qaida's North Africa arm who occasionally target Tu-

nisian security forces.

A disproportionately large number of Tunisian recruits — some 3,000, according to government estimates — have joined Islamic State fighters in Syria and Iraq.

The American Embassy in Tunis was attacked in September 2012, seriously damaging the embassy grounds and an adjoining American school. Four of the assailants were killed. Overall, though, the violence that Tunisia has seen in recent years has been largely focused on security forces, not foreigners or tourist sites.

The attack comes the day after Tunisian security officials confirmed the death in neighboring Libya of a leading suspect in Tunisian terror attacks and in the killings of two opposition figures in Tunisia. Ahmed Rouissi gained the nickname of the "black box of terrorism." The information on his death was made public by security officials giving testimony in parliament and cited by the official TAP news agency.

Libya, which has devolved into chaos, is a source of major concern for Tunisia.

Also a major worry is the Mount Chaambi area on the border with Algeria where al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb has reportedly been helping a Tunisian group which has killed numerous soldiers. AP

AD

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what's ON



CULTURES OF CHINA, FESTIVAL OF SPRING (CONCERT)

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Grand Auditorium, Macau Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: Free

LANGUAGE: Mandarin

ENQUIRIES: 2856 8832

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

'THE INNER LIGHT: CONTEMPORARY NIHONGA
BY ARLINDA FROTA'

TIME: 10pm-7pm (Monday to Friday)

3pm-7pm (Saturday, closed on Sunday and

Public Holidays)

UNTIL: March 28, 2015

VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery, Av. Da Praia
Grande No. 749, R/C, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

ENCHANTING FLOWERS:
EXHIBITION OF MARCO SZETO'S PAINTINGS

TIME: 10am-6:30pm

UNTIL: March 29, 2015

VENUE: Calçada Da Barra No. 16 R/C LJ A,
Edif. San Chak, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

GRAND TAIPA NATURAL PARK

PARK AND SCULPTURE ZONE: 24 hours

GRASS-SKIING FIELD: 2:30pm-5:30pm (Tuesdays
to Fridays); 10:30am-5:30pm (Weekends and public
holidays)

VENUE: Rampa do Observatório, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

Enquiries: (853) 2888 0087

Offbeat

IKEA NIXES MASSIVE HIDE AND SEEK
GAMES AT DUTCH STORES

Ikea has a message for people wanting to converge on its stores for giant games of hide and seek: Go play someplace else. The phenomenon has taken off online in the Netherlands where a whopping 19,000 people signed up to a Facebook group promoting a game at Ikea's Amsterdam branch next month. Another 13,000 signed up for a game in the Ikea store in the city of Utrecht.

But the Swedish retail giant has bad news for folks wanting to hide among its room-like furniture displays: The numbers signing up are getting out of hand and the events have been blocked.

"We have contacted these pages on social media and humbly asked them to have their hide and seek games somewhere else," Ikea spokeswoman Martina Smedberg in Sweden said Tuesday.

Ikea doesn't want to be a spoilsport, but safety comes first. "In general we are happy that our customers are playful and want to have fun together with friends and family," Smedberg said. "But unfortunately this hide and seek phenomenon has reached proportions where we can no longer guarantee the security of those who are playing or our customers and employees."

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | RTPi Live |
| 18:10 | Brazil Avenue (Repeated) |
| 19:00 | Montra do Lilau (Repeated) |
| 19:30 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Talk Show |
| 21:30 | Criminal Minds S8 |
| 22:10 | Brazil Avenue |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Champions League Highlights |
| 23:50 | Miscellaneous |

cinema

CINETEATRO

19 MAR - 25 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



THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Theo James

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 119min



RUN ALL NIGHT

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra

Starring: Liam Neeson, Ed Harris, Joel Kinnaman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 114min

MACAU TOWER

05 MAR - 18 MAR

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, Theo James

Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 119min

this day in history

1982 ARGENTINE FLAG HOISTED
ON S GEORGIA

A group of Argentines have landed at the British colony of the Falkland Islands in the south Atlantic and planted their nation's flag. About 50 Argentines are reported to have arrived at Leith Harbour, on South Georgia, about 1,400 miles east of the Falklands archipelago off the Argentine coast.

South Georgia is a dependency of the disputed Falklands Islands which Britain claimed in 1833. The British Antarctic survey team at Grytviken, on South Georgia, reported their arrival today.

They are understood to have a commercial contract to remove scrap metal at Leith Harbour but there are reports they arrived aboard a ship chartered by the Argentine Government.

The group has been asked to leave immediately and seek British permission to work on the island. There is no indication of what the group's motivation is or whether it has hostile intentions.

The Foreign Office has not commented on the incident and it is not known if Britain will dispatch the Royal Navy's patrol ship HMS Endurance, which is in the Falklands area, where about 40 marines are stationed at any one time.

Today's events are seen as a provocative step in the on-going dispute between Britain and Argentina over the sovereignty of the islands. Argentina calls the Falkland Islands the Islas Malvinas and it has claimed sovereignty over it ever since the end of Spanish rule.

Last month, talks in New York between the two countries broke down after Argentina declared it would break off negotiations with London to seek other means of solving the dispute more speedily.

But Britain maintains the Falkland Islands, made up of two main islands and nearly 300 smaller ones, will not be handed to Argentina without the approval of the islanders and British Parliament.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The arrival of the Argentines on the island was not reported in Britain until two days later when the Foreign Office released a statement. Government sources said it was most likely sponsored by a commercial company and not the Argentine Government.

But within days the situation escalated and on 2 April Argentine forces invaded the islands as the military Junta decided to use force instead of diplomacy to regain the territories.

Many did not expect Britain to retaliate but on 5 April a British task force set sail and 655 Argentines died along with 255 British servicemen in the ensuing war. It ended on 14 June when the commander of the Argentine garrison at Port Stanley surrendered to British troops.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Don't panic. No garden can be fruitful year round. Imagine winter, fall and spring if you need some help staying grounded. They may give you more understanding of the cycles of your finances.

Taurus April 20-May 20 It may feel like a good personal day, but the timing for taking the day off is all wrong. Accounts call you to your desk, with or without your permission. Stand firm and attend to them.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You and money are not partners at the moment. In fact, money is in charge of you. If you want to break free of this tyrant, you'll have to stop thinking of it as your ultimate authority.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Losses may be shadowing you like stray dogs. It's hard to avoid bringing stress home, but the last thing you need is anxiety in your castle. Leave it on your desk at all costs.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Keep a clear picture of what you want. Circumstances might not be perfect to get it, but that shouldn't stop you from trying, and with enthusiasm. Listen to market conditions, and then act.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 All your hard work will pay off, but it might not be a financial return. If you're single, you may meet someone. And if you're married, you may have a second honeymoon. None of the above? Savor your takeout!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Old issues never die, they just come back to haunt you. Make sure everything is above board, no matter how tempted you may be to hide the facts. Balancing the books should be an exact science.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're just as determined as the next person, but with less to go around, that won't help you get a slice of the pie. Channel all of your willpower into a implementing a new financial plan.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Everyone is focused on money. You've never seen so many concerns voiced in such a direct manner. Your usual escape route is off limits, of course. That means no shopping!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 A positive monetary outcome is in the future, if you have enough stamina and energy to get to it. It's further away than you would like, but use its shimmering image as your carrot on a stick.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You could flail away all day long but that will only make you tired. Don't fight a bit of belt tightening. Put some restrictions on your own spending before circumstances do it for you.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 No pain, no gain is an unlikely metaphor for these financial times, but this is more than a readjustment. It's a rebirth. Think of yourself as the midwife, mother and baby all wrapped into one bundle.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

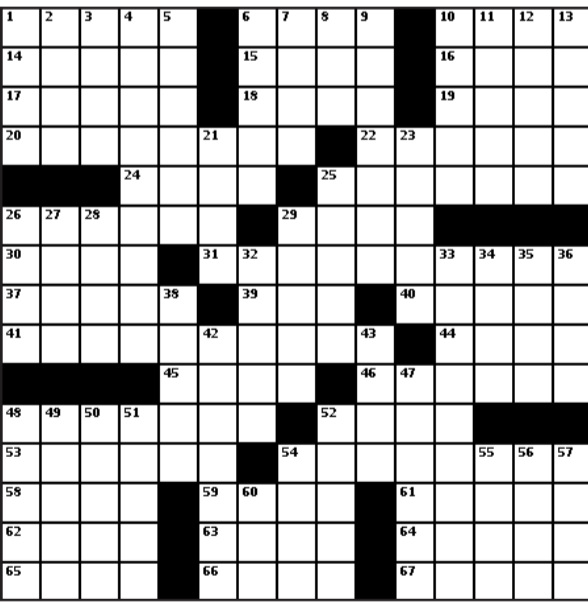
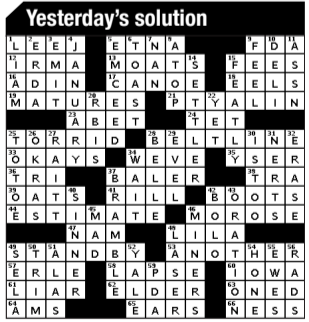
WORLD

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- High-fives; 6- Bounce back; 10- The ___ the limit!; 14- French textile city; 15- Hgt.; 16- Gator's cousin; 17- Bury; 18- Infrequent; 19- Verdi heroine; 20- Preserve; 22- Wheel; 24- Story; 25- Normally; 26- Most reasonable; 29- French summers; 30- Cockney greeting; 31- Concerned with childbirth; 37- Doughnut-shaped surface; 39- End for Siam; 40- Turkish palace; 41- Secondary; 44- Franklin D.'s mother; 45- Lethargic; 46- Regard; 48- Marsh gas; 52- Organization to promote theater; 53- In danger; 54- Engrossed; 58- Storage shelter; 59- Canadian gas brand; 61- Alamogordo's county; 62- Golf's Ballesteros; 63- Age unit; 64- Bottled spirit; 65- Greek goddess of strife; 66- Transmitted; 67- Perfect places;

DOWN: 1- Meager; 2- Director Wertmuller; 3- Prefix with meter; 4- Abundant; 5- Some mattresses; 6- Causing goose bumps; 7- Scottish social unit; 8- Not him; 9- Supervise; 10- Milan's La ___; 11- Shrimplike crustaceans; 12- Warble; 13- Fearsome; 21- Choir member; 23- Boots; 25- Say; 26- Tennis matches are divided into these; 27- Baseball family name; 28- Workers' rights org.; 29- Blue book filler; 32- Light grayish brown; 33- Turned over again; 34- Dies ___; 35- Part of TLC; 36- Former name of Thailand; 38- Eliot's Marner; 42- Asses; 43- Hankerings; 47- Straight man; 48- Pool stroke; 49- Early anesthetic; 50- Rome's Fontana di ___; 51- Conceals; 52- Scrub (a mission); 54- Slippery ___ eel; 55- Nota ___; 56- "___ Brockovich"; 57- Female rabbits; 60- Spot



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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Rob Harris, London

ANALYSIS | FOOTBALL

Wenger seems further than ever from winning European Cup

ARSENAL has perfected qualifying for the Champions League. Winning it remains as elusive as ever.

Under manager Arsene Wenger, Arsenal has played in the group stage of Europe's top club competition for 17 straight seasons. The team even reached the final once, losing to Barcelona in 2006.

But while the Arsenal leadership seems satisfied by such consistency and the financial security it offers, the lack of European silverware is a glaring omission from the 65-year-old Wenger's record.

It was a familiar hard luck story for Arsenal on Tuesday, coming oh, so close with a strong second-leg performance against Monaco but ultimately falling out of the competition in the last 16 for the fifth straight season.

The Gunners became the first European team to score at Monaco this season — twice, in fact — while preventing the hosts from hitting the target once. But it wasn't enough after a defensive implosion at the Emirates Stadium in the first leg last month led to a 3-1 loss.

Despite Arsenal's 2-0 win on Tuesday, Monaco eliminated the London club on away

goals, just as Bayern Munich did in 2013 following another 2-0 win away from home for the Gunners.

There will be the familiar grumbling about the away-goals rule, which Wenger has lobbied UEFA to scrap, but the reality is that the team repeatedly falls short.

"In the first game, we didn't have that mental level you need to compete at the highest level," Arsenal captain Per Mertesacker said. "That was missing but you could see last night how good we are as a team and how well organized we can be."

"We need to consider that every day in training and in games. That is why we are so far away from winning the Champions League. When you get knocked out, you are far away."

And Arsenal is no closer to re-establishing itself as the dominant force at home despite more than USD180 million spent on players in



Arsene Wenger

the last two years — largely on attacking players Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil.

The FA Cup triumph last May did end a nine-year trophy drought and Arsenal is back in the semifinals next month. But in the Premier League, Wenger's team is third — seven points behind leader Chelsea — and unlikely to lift the trophy for the first time since the unbeaten 2003-04 season.

Finishing in the top four seems certain, though, and even defending champion Manchester City could be overtaken for second place.

"We could take some positives from the Monaco performance and ... many things can happen in the Premier League still, with many twists and turns," said midfielder Aaron Ramsey, who scored Arsenal's second goal in Monaco. "We will be looking to concentrate on ourselves and take full advantage of the games we do have left." AP

Jeter arrives in Japan for charity baseball game

Jim Armstrong, Tokyo

FORMER major league teammates Derek Jeter and Hideki Matsui will take part in a charity baseball game to support survivors of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan — and Jeter repeated a desire to own a team someday.

Participating in the game at Tokyo Dome on Sunday will be a group of student baseball players from the Tohoku region that was devastated by the 2011 disaster that killed more than 15,000 people. Profits will go toward helping children in the region.

Jeter and Matsui will also put on a baseball clinic and take part in a home run derby. On Saturday, the pair will throw out the ceremonial first pitches at a preseason exhibition at Tokyo Dome between Matsui's old club, the Yomiuri Giants, and the Nippon Ham Fighters.

Jeter, who retired from Major League Baseball last year after 20 years, said he's looking forward to a break



Former NY Yankees Derek Jeter, left, and Hideki Matsui smile after a press conference on a charity baseball game in Tokyo

from the game and reiterated a desire to become an owner.

"I need to get away from (baseball) for a little while, I've been doing it professionally for 23 years," Jeter said. "At this moment, I'm not thinking about getting back in the game. My ultimate dream is to one day

own a team, but that's in the future."

Recalling his own experiences after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York, Jeter said he was hoping to help children in Japan who are still dealing with the aftermath of the disaster. While the earthquake and tsunami struck four

years ago, many of the participants from the area are still coping with the loss of family and friends and living in temporary housing.

"The kids will never forget what happened," Jeter said. "But if they can come out and have fun and enjoy themselves through the sport of baseball, that's what we're trying to do here."

Matsui, the 2009 World Series Most Valuable Player, said Jeter's presence will go a long way. "Having Jeter here is a wonderful thing," Matsui said. "I'm happy, and the kids taking part in this event will be thrilled. We hope they have a great time, and return to Tohoku with some great memories."

Matsui was recently rehired by the New York Yankees as a special adviser to general manager Brian Cashman, and Jeter said his former teammate will have much to offer.

"Not only was he successful here in Japan, one of the biggest stars in the country, he came over the United States and did the exact same thing," Jeter said. "There aren't too many players that can say that ... so he has a lot of knowledge, and will be able to share that with as many people as he wants to do." AP

Thai club Buriram United maintains lead in Group F

THAI club Buriram United maintained its lead in Group F of the Asian Champions League yesterday after holding J-League champion Gamba Osaka to a 1-1 draw.

Hiroyuki Abe gave Gamba the lead in the 39th minute but Theerathon Bunmathan equalized midway through the second half to preserve Buriram's unbeaten start.

The Thai Premier League champions improved to seven points while Gamba picked up its first point.

Buriram, which reached the quarterfinals in 2013, has already recorded impressive 2-1 wins over South Korean club Seongnam and Chinese qualifier Guangzhou R&F.

In Robina, Australia, Brisbane Roar and Suwon Bluewings finished in a 3-3 draw as both teams improved to four points in Group G. Devante Clut scored his second goal of the match in the 80th minute to ensure a point for the hosts.

In Guangzhou, China, 2013 champion Guangzhou Evergrande scored three second-half goals to beat Japanese club Kashima Antlers 4-3 and increase its lead in Group H.

FC Seoul and Western Sydney Wanderers finished in a goalless draw in the group's other match. AP

F1

Sauber settles contract dispute with ex-driver Van der Garde

Chris Lines

FORMER Sauber test driver Giedo van der Garde says he has settled his contract dispute with the team for "significant compensation" while accepting his Formula One career is effectively over.

Van der Garde had a deal to be one of the team's race drivers this season, but Sauber did not honor it, and legal judgments in Switzerland and last week in Australia before the season-opening race supported the Dutchman's claims.

He said on his Facebook page yesterday that the compensation meant "my rights have finally been recognized and that at least some justice has been done," but said he was "sad and disappointed" that his F1 ambitions are over, and still bewildered at Sauber's decision-making. "I had hoped at last to be able to show what I am capable of, driving a car for a respected midfield team in the 2015 season," Van der Garde said. "This dream has been taken away from me, and I know that my future in



AP PHOTO

Formula 1 is probably over."

The settlement ends a long-running dispute that was a dramatic backdrop to the start of the season last weekend in Melbourne, Australia.

Having received the backing of a Swiss employment tribunal, Van der Garde took his case to the local Supreme Court of the state of Victoria, where he won the initial hearing and Sauber's appeal.

Pressing his claims further,

Van der Garde filed contempt of court charges against the team for not immediately facilitating his installation as a driver in Australia. These charges threatened to impound the team's equipment and possibly lead to the detention of team principal Monisha Kaltenborn.

He finally agreed to drop that action, allowing drivers Felipe Nasr and Marcus Ericsson to compete in Melbourne, where the team put in a surprisingly

strong performance, with the cars finishing fifth and eighth.

Van der Garde said yesterday he dropped that contempt of court case because it would have "wrecked" the team's weekend, and hurt Nasr and Ericsson most of all.

"I decided I did not want to live with that idea, even though it was only the team's management that was responsible for the bizarre situation I found myself in," Van der Garde said.

His career supported through his billionaire father-in-law, he said his sponsor forwarded money to the team during 2014 for a 2015 drive.

"Effectively, it was my sponsor's advanced payments that helped the team survive in 2014," Van der Garde said.

"Sauber's financial decision-making in this case is bizarre,

“This dream has been taken away from me, and I know that my future in Formula 1 is probably over

VAN DER GARDE

and makes no sense to me."

He said his experience "will serve as an example to illustrate what should change, and that new regulations will be implemented to help protect driver rights."

"There are numerous examples of talented drivers with good intentions, but without the sort of professional support that I have had, who have been broken by Formula 1, and who have seen their careers destroyed."

He said he will pursue opportunities in sports cars and touring cars. **AP**

Parma owner Manenti arrested in new blow to crisis-hit club

CRISIS-HIT Serie A club Parma suffered another blow yesterday with the arrest of its new owner and president, Gianpietro Manenti, accused in a failed hacker credit card scam.

Prosecutor Michele Prestipino Giarritta said Manenti was accused of being part of a scam in which hackers using cloned or stolen credit cards or infiltrating bank accounts tried to transfer about 4.5 million euros (USD4.8 million) that Manenti could have disguised as revenue from sponsorships or gadget purchases.

The scam was foiled before any transfers to Parma accounts took place, the prosecutor

said. In all, 22 people were detained in a sweep Wednesday involving two separate but related investigations.

Manenti took over as Parma's new owner and president last month, agreeing to pay off the club's debts, which are estimated at nearly 100 million euros (\$110 million).

Players haven't been paid in months, and a bankruptcy hearing has been set for today. Parma captain Alessandro Lucarelli said the Manenti arrest was "disgusting."

"I hope sooner or later this all ends because honestly we can't take any more," Lucarelli said. **AP**

BASKETBALL

Obama picks undefeated Kentucky to win NCAA title

Angela Greiling Keane

PRESIDENT Barack Obama is picking the University of Kentucky Wildcats to win the men's college basketball championship next month. Saying he thinks they can have an undefeated tournament after winning all 34 of their regular season games, Obama told ESPN he picked Kentucky to beat Villanova University's team in a Wildcats versus Wildcats final on April 6.

"There's a reason they're the favorite," he said in an interview telecast yesterday from the White House. "They're a really good team." Obama rounded out his Final Four in the tournament with the University of Arizona and Duke University. In his five years of picking brackets in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's tournament as president, Obama has chosen the winner correctly only once. That was in 2009 when he picked the University of North Carolina.

Of Arizona, Obama said they're a team that doesn't get as much at-

“There's a reason they're the favorite, they're a really good team

BARACK OBAMA

tention as they should because their West Coast games are aired after people on the East Coast have gone to bed. He also said it pains him to pick the University of Louisville to lose in the "Elite Eight" - the final eight teams - because Rick "Pitino's such a great coach."

Obama also said he'd support rule changes for college hoops to speed the game like the National Basketball Association has done. He called for a 30-second shot clock in college basketball.

While he considers himself an avid basketball fan and says he wishes he had more time to watch ESPN's



AP PHOTO

Kentucky forward Willie Cauley-Stein (15) dunks the ball as Auburn forward Alex Thompson (20) and Auburn guard Devin Waddell look on during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game

"SportsCenter," Obama in his budget proposal in February proposed ending a tax deduction for donors who give to colleges in exchange for seats at sporting events. **Bloomberg**

opinion

HK Observer
Robert Carroll



BASEL DAZZLE

Regardless of widespread pessimism about the future of the core aspects of the local economy, there is no doubt that the vibrant health of the territory has given it a new role as an arts hub for both fairs and auctions. Art Basel, the world leader in art fairs, had USD3 billion worth of art for sale at the Hong Kong fair alone – one of three annual Art Basel fairs. Purists may complain about the over-commercialization of art at major fairs, but there's no doubt that the vortex created by events like this one is a substantial stimulus for local galleries, artists and creative media in general – not to mention party-goers. It generates such a buzz that even Michelin-starred restaurants compete with each other to produce the best artistically themed dishes.

Surprisingly, in hindsight, this development has come about in what was not-so-long-ago a near cultural desert. Showing that despite fears about the erosion of rights and freedoms, Hong Kong, as an English-speaking, duty-free entrepôt with excellent infrastructure and service industries, has got what it takes to be one of perhaps only two cities in East Asia able to host such prestigious events – the other being Singapore.

Why harp on about an industry servicing a tiny elite that buys and collects major works of art? Because, firstly, although it may not be of much interest to, or affect, the average man on the street, creating and maintaining regional hubs are some of the well-established means of expanding the local economy, thanks to geography, history and human capital. Hong Kong has recently become for art and wine what it has long been for air transport shipping and siting of regional headquarters: an internationally recognized center for art and wine.

Diversification of the economy has long been an official goal here, particularly the encouragement of creative industries. Producing and collecting art may well be considered effete, belonging to a rarified atmosphere and beyond reach for most citizens in the territory. However, ever-increasing numbers of young artists and designers reveal that many more are making careers in industries that were once considered impossible dreams because the opportunities were just not there. As is clearly demonstrated in major hubs for creative industries, such as London and New York, there's a mushroom effect in a range of arts; not just fine art, but popular arts entertainment, design and related supporting industries.

We should not also forget the more intangible benefits of being a hub for prestige events selling high-status goods; its valuable publicity that translates into high-end tourist dollars. We are well-established as one of the must-visit great cities of the world for top spenders, so Art Basel and the now many satellite events joining in for 'Hong Kong Art Week' can only be good for Brand Hong Kong.

Next time you take a plane out of Hong Kong, you may want to reflect on why you are asked to pay a surcharge of HKD180 per person for the privilege of funding a new runway, when the airport authority can afford to fund and borrow for the extension itself. Hong Kong's air space is crowded and will remain so until there's more access to Guangdong airspace, but there's been no progress there. Some experts say that we could more fully utilize existing facilities if Guangdong opened up its skies, and then a new runway would be unnecessary. So why is the government avoiding putting the matter to debate in the Legislative Council? Is it because it knows that when the project is held up to finer scrutiny, holes may appear in its arguments and in the reasoning of the airport authority? We already have enough polemical – many say wasteful – and expensive infrastructure projects. Furthermore, these are draining the public purse at a time when health funding is not keeping up with needs, schools are being closed down instead of allowing smaller classes and better teaching, and the question of much needed provision for the elderly is not being addressed.

THE POLICE: 3 BURMESE CHILDREN STABBED IN US WERE AGES 1, 5, 12

Police say three Burmese children – ages 1, 5 and 12 – were stabbed to death and two other people hurt in an attack at a North Carolina home. Police said in a statement yesterday that 18-year-old Eh Lar Doh Htoo is charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. The names of the three people killed in the Tuesday night attack haven't been released, nor

has any possible motive. An adult and another juvenile were wounded. Lt. Ronda Allen says the suspect and victims knew each other. She says that all are Burmese and that a language barrier is affecting the investigation. Htoo is expected to appear in court today. District attorney Scott Thomas says more charges are expected.

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Roadside | 30-50 Good |
| High Density Residential Area | 40-60 Moderate |
| Ambient | 25-45 Good |

SOURCE: D5M6G

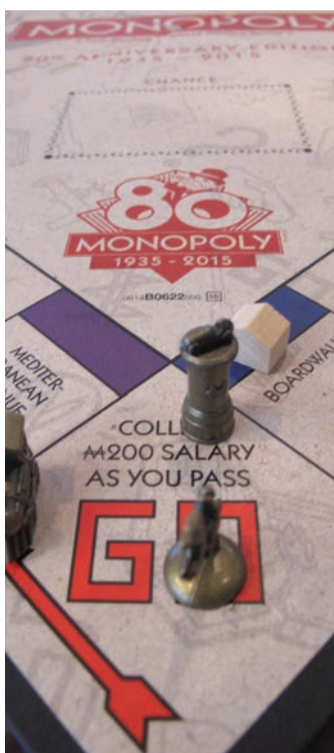
10 things you might not know about Monopoly

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

1. Charles Darrow of Philadelphia developed the game in 1933 and sold it to Parker Brothers on March 19, 1935. A stenographer and actress, Elizabeth Magie, filed a legal claim for her similar "Landlord's Game" in 1903, but Monopoly's current owner, Hasbro, says: "The Monopoly game as we know it today was designed by Charles Darrow."

2. The original game Darrow sold to Parker Brothers contained items from his own home: A piece of oil-cloth covered the board and the cards were handwritten. The houses and hotels were made from wooden molding scraps, and the die-cast tokens were inspired by Darrow's nieces, who recommended metal charms from charm bracelets be used. The first 10 tokens were an iron, purse, lantern, race car, thimble, shoe, top hat, battleship, cannon and a rocking horse. The current standard version of the game includes eight tokens: battleship, top hat, Scottie dog, race car, thimble, boot, cat, and wheelbarrow.

3. Within a year of Monopoly's release in the U.S., 35,000 copies of the game



This year's championship will be held in September in Macau

were being made each week, selling for USD2 apiece.

4. There are 40 spaces on the Monopoly board and 28 properties (22 color-coded streets, four railroads, and two utility spaces). There are 32 houses and 12 hotels.

5. To keep games shorter, a Speed Die was introduced into the standard game in 2008.

6. The three most landed-on properties in the standard game are Illinois Avenue, "GO" and B&O Railroad.

7. The total amount of money in a standard Monopoly game is \$20,580.

8. Every few years, national champions from around the globe meet for the Monopoly World Championship tournament. The first winner was Lee Bayrd from the United States in 1973 in Liberty, New York. The most recent winner was Bjorn Halvard Knappskog from Norway in 2009, winning the game in 41 minutes, 30 seconds. This year's championship will be held in September in Macau.

9. In 2008, nearly 3,000 Monopoly fans around the world set the world record for the most people playing the game at the same time.

10. In 1988, San Francisco jeweler Sidney Mobell created the most expensive Monopoly set in the world, consisting of 18- and 23-karat gold, and 42 diamonds. It was valued at \$2 million. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Paul McCartney has agreed to induct his former Beatles mate, Ringo Starr, into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next month. Stevie Wonder, Patti Smith and John Mayer will also usher in new members, the hall announced yesterday.

WORLD BRIEFS



VANUATU Relief workers rush to deliver desperately needed food and water to survivors living on Vanuatu's outer islands after a monstrous cyclone wiped out entire villages and flattened vast swathes of the South Pacific nation's landscape. Planes carried food, water and medical supplies to hard-hit Tanna Island, where aerial assessments showed more than 80 percent of homes or buildings had been partially or completely destroyed by Cyclone Pam.

BANGLADESH A court in Bangladesh's capital yesterday indicted a leader of a hardline Islamist group and seven students in the hacking death of an atheist blogger two years ago.

NEPAL A court in southern Nepal sentences a man to 35 years in prison for the rape and murder of a 7-year-old girl in a case that sparked outrage in the Himalayan nation.



JAPAN U.S. first lady Michelle Obama is visiting Japan and Cambodia, who are among Asia's richest and poorest nations, to highlight cooperation on helping girls finish their educations. The five-day trip that began in Tokyo yesterday is Mrs. Obama's first visit to Japan.

USA - CUBA New direct charter flights between New York City and Cuba are now taking off. Cuba Travel Services has started offering a weekly Tuesday charter between John F. Kennedy International Airport and Havana for people authorized by the U.S. government to visit the island. In January, the Obama administration announced it would be easing travel restrictions.

USA A U.S. Air Force veteran and airplane mechanic plotted to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group and was arrested on terrorism charges, federal prosecutors said Tuesday. Tairon Nathan Webster Pugh, of Neptune, New Jersey, was due yesterday in a New York federal court after being indicted on charges of attempting to provide material support to a terrorist group and obstructing justice.