



IRISH MINISTER SAYS MORE PLANNING NEEDED

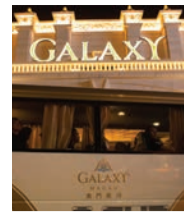
Irish Minister Alan Kelly says that Macau should start planning long-term environmental policies

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The Broadway at Galaxy Macau resort will recreate New York's famous theater district with a 3,000-seat venue

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

SINGAPORE As the health of the founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew deteriorated on the weekend, thousands of Singaporeans visit his hospital and a community center to leave flowers, gifts and emotional messages of support. *More on p14*

JAPAN Four years after a towering tsunami ravaged much of Japan's northeastern coast, efforts to fend off future disasters are focusing on a nearly 400-kilometer chain of cement sea walls, at places nearly five stories high. Opponents say it will harm the environment while doing little to protect residents.

AUSTRALIA A country of just 24 million that is thousands of miles from Syria and Iraq has been unusually fertile ground for Islamic State recruiters. *More on p13*

AFGHANISTAN Women's rights activists dressed head-to-toe in black broke with tradition yesterday to carry the coffin of a woman who was beaten to death by a mob in the capital Kabul over allegations she had burned a Quran. The mob of men beat 27-year-old Farkhunda before throwing her body off a roof, running over it with a car, setting it on fire and throwing it into a river near a well-known mosque.

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Stop trying to ground the Gulf airlines

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Taiwanese mark anniversary of occupy parliament movement

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Two crashes injure six

Two traffic accidents occurred yesterday morning, resulting in six people being injured. At 1 a.m. yesterday morning, two taxis collided head-on halfway along the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge, leaving one driver and five passengers with minor injuries. According to the Public Security Police, one of the taxis allegedly strayed over a line and into the path of oncoming traffic, crashing into another taxi traveling in the opposite direction. The vehicles were both seriously damaged at their head-on point of contact. Two traffic lanes on the bridge were closed for nearly half an hour due to the accident. By the early afternoon, the five people injured had been discharged from the hospital. Both drivers had passed blood alcohol testing. Another collision occurred at 7 a.m. on the Avenida 1 de Maio, when three private cars crashed, leaving one person injured.

Women's Sports Carnival ends successfully



The Macau Sports Development Board's 13th Macau Women's Sports Carnival came to an end yesterday morning. The objective of the two-day event was to encourage local women to foster a life-long habit of exercise by engaging in sporting activities. In cooperation with the Women's General Association of Macau, this year's event was divided into two sections, which over the past two days took place in the morning and afternoon respectively. The first part of the Carnival involved a seminar exploring the significance of weightlifting to women, during which representatives from different women's associations around the globe came together to exchange their opinions. Another part involved sports games where participants, placed in two different categories according to their age, competed against each other to win prizes.

MTel network installation underway

Telecommunications company MTel has so far received more than 2,000 phone enquires and applications for services since the company was granted a license to provide internet services to the public in January. The company said in a press release that the installation of fiber optic networks in different buildings in the city has been progressing. The work was to respond to the growing demand for the city's broadband services and those cables required after the 4G services were made available in the market. The telecommunications company is expected to introduce around 500 Wi-Fi hot spots across the territory for the public and tourists visiting town.

Catarina Pinto

THE second visit from an Irish minister in just three months is a testament to the European country's willingness to forge deeper relations with Macau. A new strategy of sharing experiences on a wide range of issues emerged when the new Irish consul-general to Hong Kong and Macau, Peter Ryan, took office. On Friday, Alan Kelly, Irish Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, told reporters that Macau should start planning long-term environmental policies.

If Ireland is known for endless green landscapes, Macau is regarded more as a concrete jungle. As it is growing at such a fast pace, Macau "needs to plan for the future (...) so that in a generation or two, you can see the gradual [progress]," said Mr Kelly, ahead of a meeting with the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, on Friday.

Mr Kelly acknowledged that Macau could learn from a very environmentally friendly country like Ireland. "One thing that Macau can learn from Ireland is that we have very green brands... but it comes [down] to policies and regulations, and a change in minds, which don't happen overnight. We have millions living in Dublin; yet it's a reasonably green environment because of policy changes throughout the years," he recalled.

Proper planning is key, in Mr Kelly's opinion, as well as environmental control regulations. However, in a

Irish minister suggests forward planning on environmental issues



Alan Kelly

city like Macau, where construction took place at such a rapid rate and planning measures were at times neglected, how can the government begin to tackle long-standing environmental issues?

"You've got to retroplan. You can't change the fact that you are where you are; what you really need to do is to start thinking about how to retroplan within the environment that has been created... you can re-sustain and refine it. It has happened in many different places around the world, and many Irish companies have been involved in that," he stressed.

He added, "You may need to change some forms of planning; you may need to restructure. And I think

GOV'T SHOULD CHANGE URBAN REGULATIONS

THE IRISH Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly, has suggested that the Macau government first tackle issues related to the built environment, and the process through which it is being planned. "I would change regulations as to how that's done, and quickly," he told reporters on Friday.

that's what the Secretary wants to talk to me about: [to discuss,] from our own experiences, how [the government here] can do that."

Furthermore, the minister believes that designing new long-term and sustainable policies is crucial, as "there's never a wrong time to start doing the right thing."

According to Mr Kelly, the Macau government must reflect upon - in the transportation area, for instance - "what policy initiatives you can make that can [promote]

a more sustainable environment and obviously [allow] better movement of people." Moreover, local authorities need to ask, "What changes can you make that can have an immediate effect?"

Betting on green policies does not mean damaging economic growth, the Irish minister concluded. "I think it's possible that both go hand in hand. I have to say that, across my whole visit to China and Hong Kong, environmental issues have been the number one topic of conversation," he said, adding that "air quality is one of the big issues we are facing, [in addition to] water quality, soil quality for food production, and waste management."

Mr Kelly stressed that addressing environmental issues cannot be postponed and that governments need to tackle them. Otherwise, coming generations will invariably pay a higher price.

In this context, Mr Kelly believes that Ireland has vast experience in dealing with environmental matters and has developed the most appropriate technologies, which could be useful to a city like Macau.

More visits on the horizon

THE Irish Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly, was in town last Friday, marking the second visit to Macau by an Irish government minister since January. Visits from Irish government officials to Macau do not end here, Mr Kelly hinted.

"I've spent the last week and a half in China, and now Hong Kong and Macau. In particular relation to Macau, we see great potential here - potential for sharing experiences, but also potential from an enterprise side of things, where there are companies that can offer a huge amount of services," he acknowledged.

He added that, "Macau is changing at a

rapid rate, and we would like to share our experiences. So, yes, you will see more government officials from Ireland visiting. You might even see me again here in a few months."

In addition to meeting the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, whose portfolio includes environment-related issues, Mr Kelly also met with Irish business community members, namely Niall Murray, chairman of the Irish Chamber of Commerce of Macau (ICCM).

Last January, the Irish Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Simon Harris, visited Macau on a similar mission.

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EDUCATION

Plan for students with special needs received with skepticism

Brook Yang

THE government's consultation document on revising Macau's Special Education System has drawn serious criticism from related groups and educators. Spokesperson for the city's visually impaired citizens, Albert Cheong Chi Pong, criticized the document and the current system for showing a lack of knowledge and respect towards people with disabilities, thus failing to provide equal access to education for different types of disabled students.

The city's Special Education System currently provides inclusive classes at regular schools for children and youths with "slightly weak learning ability", and special education classes for those with "significant overall learning difficulties." The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) asserts that it has been taking inclusive education as the main development direction of the system, and arranges for special needs students to study in regular schools as much as possible.

Nevertheless, to receive access to mainstream education, children with learning difficulties must firstly go to the bureau's Centre of Psycho-pedagogical Support and Special Education to take the integrated assessment or assessment of cognitive ability for their "education placement."



Mr Cheong, who served as the director of the Macau People with Visual Impairment Rights Promotion Association, indicated that those assessments only fit people with mental disabilities, but are being used as a one-size-fits-all measuring stick.

"The evaluation asks you to count money, but how can you count money if you have a visual disability? Then if you can't count money, you are [classified as] mentally disabled," he explained to the Times, adding that inapplicable students should refuse to take the assessment.

The critique was echoed by local scholar and civil group leader Agnes Lam, who also pointed out the assessment system's lack of focus.

Hosting a discussion on the topic yesterday at her monthly "Civic Roundtable" event, Ms Lam said it can easily cause misjudgement if simply adopting the integrated assessment, especially to those with autism, who may

be even gifted. "Special education has a wide range, where students with physical handicaps, visual impairment, hearing impairment and autism have large differences in learning," she stressed.

According to the DSEJ, special education for those in need will be carried out through "adopting a suitable individual education plan (IEP)." However, in the making of the plan, "there's no input from the students and their parents," said Mr Cheong.

"Special education was supposed to serve students with special needs, but why do the students have no right to speak out? Students' voices are absent in the entire process. No matter what they [the government] will provide, we just can take it, but what we want is choices and our right to choose," he stressed.

The administration's choice of words in the consultation document is another bone of contention for special groups. "They use words like 'placement,' 'handi-

capped,' which have a derogatory sense and are very disrespectful. Anyone with disabilities would feel being discriminated against, uncomfortable, and unfair for that," Mr Cheong stressed. "It shows a problem in the thinking and attitude of the people who made the consultation document."

The director further indicated that the authorities' plans for disabled students often tend to be a bad fit, and at the root of this is their "discrimination at heart" plus the absence of participation from the disabled.

"It's not only a lack of understanding, it's their attitude towards people with disabilities. They think the people with disabilities just need to survive, but survival is far different from living; we need the freedom to choose a life," he stressed.

"The policy makers only see the disability in them, but don't see their ability. That's a huge problem. We don't need special schools, we need equal opportunity, equal access to education; we need technology like screen readers and scanner programs; we need support like counseling services," he urged.

Social Welfare Bureau statistics show that Macau has 700 people registered with a visual impairment. But the number should be a lot higher at between 25,000 and 30,000 according to the global ratio, suggested Mr Cheong.

HK man allegedly commits suicide in hotel room

Local police have launched an inquiry into the alleged suicide of a Hong Kong man in a guesthouse near Senado Square last Saturday. According to a statement released by the Judiciary Police (PJ), the man in question, aged 52, was a Hong Kong citizen, and allegedly took his life by slitting his wrists in a locked room on the hotel's fourth floor. The incident came to light after the deceased, who was supposed to check out of the guesthouse on Saturday, was found sitting unconscious on a chair in the bathroom by the hotel's staff. Staff claimed that the man had been acting normally since his check-in on March 18. Police said in the statement that the man's death was deemed unsuspecting after a preliminary investigation, but that the cause was yet to be confirmed by further examination.

Nuno Santiago exhibition opens



The Cultural Affairs Bureau unveiled a painting exhibition titled "This Is Where I Will Always be - Works by Nuno Santiago" at the Tap Seac Gallery last Friday. A total of twenty-eight paintings by the Portuguese artist are being showcased until May 10. According to the organizer, the artist has used a variety of textures on large canvases, combining abstract visual elements to create mysterious spaces. In doing so, he allows the audience to experience the atmosphere and the ideas intrinsically associated with each work. Guided tours will be provided according to a set time schedule operating throughout the exhibition period, and audio description tours will be available for the visually impaired.

Traditional Okinawan dancing performance tomorrow



THE Ichiban Club from the University of Macau (UM) will be holding its annual Ichiban Day tomorrow, featuring a traditional Okinawan folk dance called "Eisa," which will be performed by a dancing group from the Japanese islands of Okinawa.

The day-long event, which seeks to deepen locals' understanding of Japanese culture, will bring the Japanese dancing team "Ryukyu Kajimaya" - literally translated as "Okinawa's windmills" - from Okinawa to Macau. The group's performance will be divided in two 30-minute parts, one held in the morning and another in the afternoon.

The chairman of UM's Japanese society, Jones Lam Chi Hang, disclosed to the Times in a phone interview that the almost self-sponsored group of around 30 dancers, which has

performed in Taiwan and in other parts of Japan, would make its Macau debut. "We also welcome interested individuals from outside our school to come and enjoy the group's performance, as it is rare to see authentic Okinawan dancing here in Macau," said Jones Lam, who also emphasized that the local government should attach more importance to cultural exchanges and Macau-Japan interactions.

Vivian Lai Si Weng, former head of the Japanese club and also one of the dancers, told the Times that she took part in an exchange program to Okinawa in 2013, and it was then that she got to know "Okinawa's windmills" project. She decided to invite the group to Macau for a traditional performance. "This is also another way to promote Japanese culture here, and they are all very willing to perform in Macau, even though they have to pay for the flights and accommodation on their own," said the 22 year-old.

Besides the above-mentioned event, the club also organizes other seasonal gatherings and activities to increase the connection between students from Macau and Japan. Every year, around Christmas, there will be an end-of-year party where members of the club will come together to bid farewell to the

year with games and drinks; this is called "Bonenkai" in Japanese.

Seasonal activities also include building a Japanese-style haunted house when Halloween approaches, and it is through this type of event that the club seeks to expand its activities and attract more members. In February, the club held a singing competition where contestants were only allowed to perform Japanese songs.

Japan's internationally-renowned pop culture, modernization and hospitality were some of the reasons for the pair's affections towards the country, prompting them to join the student society. Jones Lam told the Times that he felt motivated to spread Japanese culture across the city, given that he had, by the age of 18, already fallen in love with the Japanese culture and its language.

Traditional Japanese foods and desserts will be served during the event, where there will also be information boards promoting Japanese culture. The pair expressed hope that the event, which is one of the few activities in Macau that promotes cultural ties with Japan, could expand into a larger occasion provided that the club receives more financial grants from the university and the SAR government. **Staff reporter**

North district to be highlighted in overall urban planning

The government has resolved to draft an overall urban plan of Macau, with the planning of the North district - in particular the Northwest district - to take precedence, according to the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) director, Li Canfeng. Li stressed, in a reply to the written enquiry of lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, that the government intends to change the current situation in which the North district lags behind in the city's overall development, and to improve its conditions not only for commercial development and livelihood, but also for the city's image. "The SAR government has been conducting various works in recent years in order to improve the overall urban planning for the area of Border Gate, and also for the Northwest district. These works include the drawing up of the urbanism plan of Ilha Verde, the conceptual urban planning of Border Gate and its surrounding environment, as well as proposing the Guangdong-Macau new channel project," he said.

PHILOSOPHY CAFÉ

How absolute can freedom of expression be?

Catarina Pinto

THE second Philosophy Café held at the Rui Cunha Foundation last week posed a challenging question that aimed to trigger debate over the concept of freedom of expression and its potential limits. This time conducted by Nicolas Le Jeune, a PhD student at the University of Macau, the event's organizers raised the question of whether we "should have absolute freedom of expression."

"The first [philosophy café] was focused on the role of China in the world today. The second session looks at whether we should have absolute freedom of expression. It's a very different topic, and I suggested it just after the event in France, because I think it's important to discuss it further," Nicolas Le Jeune told the Times, recalling the terrorist attack on satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo last January in which two gunmen killed 11 people and injured 11 more inside the publication's offices in Paris.

Le Jeune acknowledged that the question of freedom of expression is challenging to address and respond to. "One of the limits we could say we have is made apparent when what we want to express has harmful consequences for others, or when you promote violence. So of course, there's a limit. But it's also interesting to discuss where that limit stands," he recalled.

Xavier Garnier, director of the Alliance Française de Macao, who also presided over the debate, added that, "A limit [to freedom of expression] could be, for instance, differences in cultures or religions. When you offend another religion or culture, this is a limit. But in France, blasphemy is not a crime."

Beatrice Machet, a French poet who also led the debate



■ ■
One of the limits we could say we have is made apparent when what we want to express has harmful consequences for others or when you promote violence

NICOLAS LE JEUNE

last week, reiterated that blasphemy is not a legal offense in France, and has not been since it was scrapped from the law during the French Revolution.

Ms Machet added that there are a number of issues attached to freedom of expression, particularly for artists. "Creativity or art is nothing if you're not allowed to express yourself," she acknowledged.

The talk, which gathered about 30 people at the Foundation's gallery, rapidly evolved into a comprehensive discussion, in which most of the attendees agreed that there should be a limit to what can be freely said.

Where exactly that limit begins or ends, however, tended to trigger conflicting opinions.

The Charlie Hebdo attack was likely prompted by the paper's controversial cartoons which depicted the Prophet Muhammad. A cartoon mocking ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had also been tweeted just one hour before the attack.

Since January 7, which saw the deadliest terrorist attack in France's history since 1961, discussions have been raised over the limits of freedom of expression.

Ms Machet recalled that French culture is very much grounded on the ability to express an idea through satire. Even the king's court, she stressed, had clowns presenting the king with informative theatre, so that he knew what the population truly thought of him.

"Even if you are a bit provocative, it's appreciated in France," she added, pointing out that there's a clear difference between disrespecting people and discussing ideas. "We respect people, but ideas are to be discussed," she reiterated, hinting that the cartoons were not mocking the Prophet himself, but rather mocking certain ideas and possibly the consequences resulting from the spread of those ideas. Therefore, according to Machet, satire is about reflecting on what surrounds us.

However, not all shared the same opinion, recalling that cultural differences can add more complexity to the matter.

"We are used to criticizing religion in Europe, but, in other countries, they're not used to that. For them [the cartoons] were more powerful than [they were] for us," a participant said.

Another participant commented, "I don't think we should be allowed to say everything; not everything we say can set us free."

One member of the audience stressed that what we draw or write might be hurtful to others. Furthermore, it may damage social harmony, which, as Nicolas Le Jeune pointed out, is a very important concept in Chinese society. "[Harmony] comes from music, and it tells us we can have different notes and still be harmonious. At the same time, harmony can be problematic if it means we only have one voice," he recalled.

One participant expressed the opinion that the Charlie Hebdo attacks unveiled a clear asymmetrical relationship between Western and Muslim communities. He believes the latter group is not being given the same respect and economic opportunities.

Another participant expanded on this discussion of East and West, concluding that although freedom and human dignity are priorities for Western countries, other nations do not see these concepts as main concerns.

The inaugural philosophy café at the Rui Cunha Foundation was held in February. On that occasion, UM professor William Franke addressed the topic of philosophical universalism and the role of China in the world today.

The philosophy café is a joint initiative of the Rui Cunha Foundation and the University of Macau, aiming to encourage discussion and critical thinking while also addressing current affairs.

The second instalment was also co-organized by the Alliance Française. "It's very important for philosophy to be present in the city," said Nicolas Le Jeune, adding that "philosophy concerns everybody, and it's important to discuss philosophy with everyone, rather than only with experts or philosophers."

Survey shows local teenagers lack foreign language proficiency

RESearch conducted recently by the Macao Youth Federation on the subject of the development and competitiveness of local youths indicates that the city desperately needs to strengthen its foreign-language education for teenagers, especially taking into account the city's strategic role as a world travel and leisure

center, and a bridge between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

According to the survey, which was circulated among 1,225 local youths aged between 13 and 29, only 66 percent of those surveyed are proficient in English, while less than one percent are proficient in Portuguese. Chan Iat Peng, one of the repre-

sentatives from the Federation who was present at the press conference on Saturday, suggested that the SAR government should create more foreign-language learning opportunities – such as organizing more language training and exchanges for young people – in order to enhance Macau citizens' linguistic capabilities.

The Federation also proposed the establishment of an assessment mechanism for foreign-language teachers, which they believed could "boost" and "unify" professionalism among the teachers.

The research revealed that only 24 percent of the respondents were professional certificate-holders, regardless of their fields

of study, while more than half of them had not attained any certification. The remaining 11 percent are currently undertaking professional courses.

Responding to the growing demand for professional recognition in the job market, the representative from the federation also urged the government to devise a

time-frame for introducing a professional accreditation system in the city. In recent years, the topic of establishing such systems in various fields has provoked heated discussion, but has drawn mixed opinions from the public. This has made it difficult to reach a consensus on a potential system's implementation.

TV debate reveals conflicting opinions over national education

YESTERDAY morning's TDM Forum highlighted conflicting opinions over the hot topic that is the imposition of national education in local schools, which has stirred up citywide debate over the past few weeks.

Among the six guest speakers participating in the discussion, half of them spoke in favor of the introduction of national education introduction – which many have des-

Au Kam San said that a local independent body would be necessary to prepare local teaching materials for schools

cribed as a form of “brainwashing” by the central government.

They said that a country's citizens should learn more about its national situation. However, lawmaker Au Kam San questioned whether the teaching materials compiled and published by the mainland would be reliable and objective, adding that a local independent body would be necessary to prepare local teaching materials for schools.

He also argued that nowadays there were many different media outlets disseminating information on current affairs based on the mainland that teenagers can access, stressing that the mission of educators is rather “to nurture citizens for the city, the nation and even the world.”

The head of the Macau chapter of the General Association of Chinese Students, Leung Chi Ho, cited the declining Chinese identity among local youngsters as a just cause for defending national education, claiming that the existence of this identity is “crucial” for youth to develop their career plans.

The director of Education Research Centre, Vong Sou Kuan, countered this claim, stating that national identity changes from time to time, and that it is too early to decide if it is really “declining” or not.

Ho Sio Kam, president of the Chinese Educators Association of Macau, believes that the rise of China on the world stage is itself a good reason to learn about what has been going on across the border.

The forum also heard supportive voices from citizens, with most of them criticizing the prevailing accusation that national education was “brainwashing” youths, saying that this view was biased. Some of the attendees said there was nothing wrong with being proud of one's own country.

The main argument revolved around the teaching materials which would be adopted, which could address lots of issues regarded as sensitive in mainland China.

MEDIA

NY Times launches Chinese monthly in Macau, HK



THE New York Times is launching a monthly Chinese-language print publication in Hong Kong and Macau. AFP reported that the publication will include global news and opinion and lifestyle content from The New York Times, as well as local content. The publication will be written in simplified Chinese and will target Chinese audiences. The

Times is one of several Western media outlets whose websites have been blocked in mainland China.

According to the NYT group, the 24-page publication will be titled “Chinese Monthly” and will be launched on May 1 with a print run of 50,000 copies. It will be made available in hotels, airline lounges and residential complexes, and

on newsstands in Hong Kong and Macau.

“Approximately 20 percent of the content will be devoted to local news and events in Hong Kong and Macau,” according to a NY Times statement. The paper will be produced by the International New York Times, while editorial content will be overseen by Ching-Ching Ni, who is the editor-in-chief of the Chinese-language news website for the group.

“Our Chinese audience has grown enormously through cn.NYTimes.com, and we are excited to complement our digital offerings by bringing high-quality coverage of world affairs, business and culture to our Chinese readers in print,” Craig Smith, managing director for China at the Times, told AFP.

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* THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' *

Galaxy bets on Macau Broadway wooing tourists as net falls

Daryl Loo and Billy Chan

GALAXY Entertainment Group Ltd. is banking on two new casino resorts, due to open in May, to draw enough Chinese tourists and help stir a rebound in the city's hard-hit gambling industry.

"I believe we will gradually see a recovery in the second half of this year, I'm not worried about whether there is any massive structural problem," deputy chairman Francis Lui said at a briefing in Hong Kong last week, after Galaxy reported earnings plunged 25 percent in the fourth quarter. The second phase of Galaxy Macau and the Broadway at Galaxy Macau will be the city's first new projects in more than three years.

Like the five other Macau operators that reported results before it, Galaxy has been buffeted by China's anti-corruption campaign that scared off high-stakes gamblers. Gambling revenue in the city fell for the first time last year, and a bigger drop is expected



Dancers perform for visitors at the Galaxy Macau casino resort

this year amid China's slowing economy, a ban on smoking in casinos, and stricter rules on visas that also damped business from mass market gamblers.

Galaxy rose 1.7 percent to close at HKD36.10 in Hong Kong trading, underperforming the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau Gaming index which rose 2.6 percent. The stock has declined 17 percent so far this year, against the Hang Seng Index's 3.3 percent gain.

The company's "fundamentals remain weak and operating trend will continue to take time

to see improvements," HSBC analysts including Charlene Liu wrote in a note today, lowering the price target for Galaxy to HK\$38.50 from HK\$39.90, while maintaining a "neutral" recommendation.

Galaxy "won't change its long-term business strategy in the midst of business cycles", said Lui, son of the Hong Kong-based company's billionaire chairman founder Lui Che Woo. The company has already hired 2,500 of the 8,000 employees it needs for the new projects, on track to open May 27, according to the

younger Lui.

The Broadway at Galaxy Macau resort will recreate New York's famous theater district with a 3,000-seat venue, showcasing international performances as well as Asian culture, the company said in a statement.

Galaxy's adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or adjusted Ebitda, fell to HK\$2.7 billion (\$348 million) from a year ago, in line with the HK\$2.78 billion median estimate of eight analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News.

Macau's economy shrank 17.2 percent in the fourth quarter after casino revenues slumped, as China's anti-graft campaign led high rollers such as officials and senior executives to avoid the world's biggest gambling hub. The gambling industry may face another 8 percent drop this year, according to the median estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News showed, after falling 2.6 percent last year.

Galaxy's projects will be the first among a slew of new projects

opening in Macau's Cotai Strip, including Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd.'s Studio City casino resort, as operators target to draw more mass market tourists as Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the city to diversify away from casinos.

The casino operator submitted its application for gambling table allocations for the new projects earlier this week, Francis Lui said. Its VIP business has also held up better than its competitors due to its relationship with the stronger junket operators, even as mid- to smaller-sized junkets come under pressure, the younger Lui said. The middle-men bring in high-stakes players and loan them the cash to gamble with.

Galaxy's VIP business did better than other Macau casinos for a fourth quarter, with revenue from high rollers falling 17 percent compared with the average of 33 percent decline citywide, Tim Craighead, head of Asian research at Bloomberg Intelligence, wrote in a note today.

The amount wagered at Galaxy's VIP tables fell 23 percent in the fourth quarter, the smallest decline among Macau casino operators, the rest of which saw slumps of 28 to 44 percent, according to data compiled by Bloomberg Intelligence.

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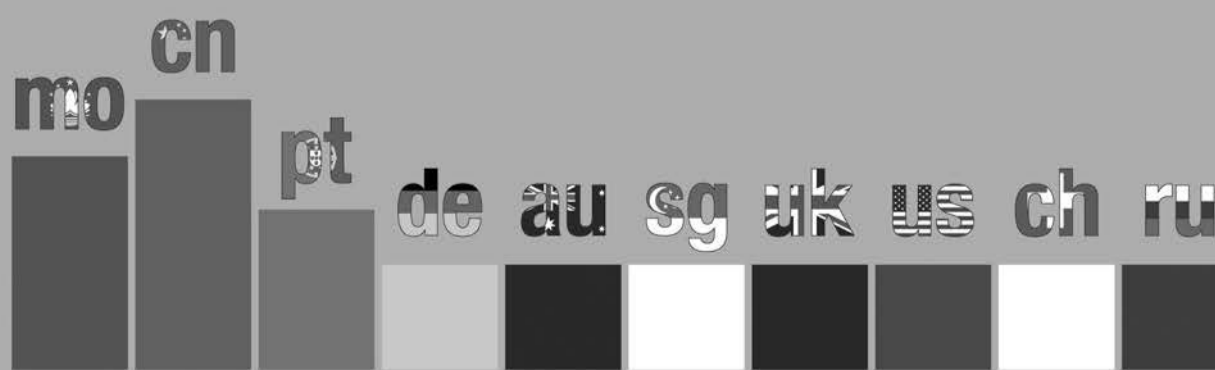
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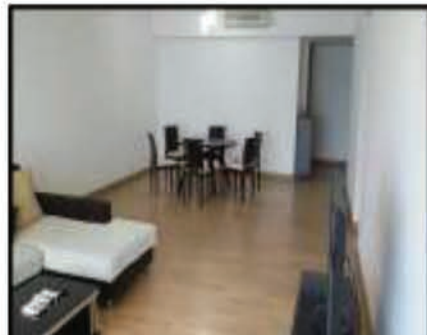


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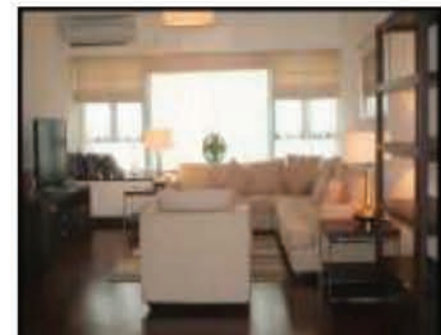
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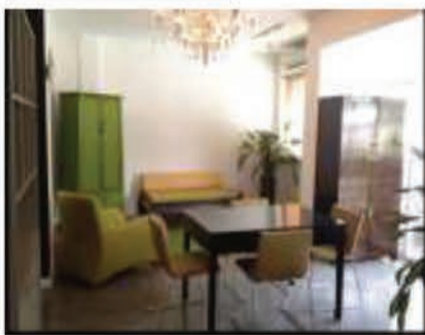
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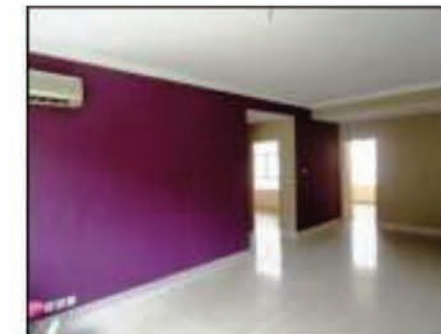
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Airline world's tiny secret: infatuation with model planes

Scott Mayerowitz,
Airlines Writer, New York

IN America, businessmen shake hands. In Japan, they bow. But all over the world airline executives engage in a greeting that is all their own: the exchange of model airplanes.

When airlines start flying to new cities, make deals with other carriers or finance new jets, these high-quality models — typically one to two feet long — provide the perfect photo backdrop, can help break the ice or serve as a cherished “thank you.”

While a business card might be quickly stuffed away in some desk drawer, models remain prominently displayed on the desk of politicians and industry power brokers. Puerto Rico's governor, Alejandro García-Padilla, has models from JetBlue, Lufthansa, Avianca and local airline Seaborne in his office. Each has established or expanded service to the island since his 2013 inauguration.

“It's one of these gifts that people get and don't put in the closet,” says Jeff Knittel, who oversees aircraft leasing for financier CIT Group Inc.

European aircraft manufacturer Airbus took in 1,456 passenger plane orders from 67 airlines around the world last year. It also placed 30,000 of its own orders — for model Airbus jets.

Multimillion dollar plane purchases are decided on the fuel efficiency of a jet, its maintenance costs, how much cargo it holds and how far it can fly. However,



Fiji Airways model planes are lined up awaiting completion at Pacific Miniatures in Fullerton, Calif.

■ When airlines start flying to new cities, make deals with other carriers or finance new jets, high-quality models provide the perfect ‘thank you’

desktop models help start the conversation, says Chris Jones, vice president of North American sales for Airbus.

“Putting a model on the table won't sway a deal but it might get their attention,” Jones says. After the sales pitch, the model is left behind for the most-senior person. “It's a little bit of a teaser.”

The tradition of exchanging model planes has been around for decades. Walk through the headquarters of any airline and rows of models — including those of competitors — can be spotted.

Gerry Laderman, senior vice president of finance and procurement at United Airlines has collected his fair share after 30 years in the business. There's no room left in his Chicago office, so new acquisitions are displayed on the hallway windowsill.

“I stopped counting after 100,” Laderman says. “My wife doesn't let me bring home models anymore.”

Model planes have their roots with aerospace engineers, who used them in an age before computers to design planes and then test them in wind tunnels.

Then in 1946, two workers from the Douglas Aircraft Co. started Pacific Miniatures with the encouragement of the aircraft manufacturer. It was right after World War II and Douglas faced a major challenge in getting nervous travelers to fly.

“They were tasked with promoting the romance and luxury of air travel,” says Fred Ouweleen, Jr., current owner of the company affectionately

known as PacMin.

The company, based in Fullerton, California, created large cutaway models that showed aircraft interiors to a public that had — for the most part — never stepped foot on a plane. Those models would become a mainstay of travel agencies for decades.

Soon there was demand for smaller models that could fit on people's desks and bookshelves. Today it is those models, scaled to one hundredth of the size of a jet, that PacMin is best known for. The company focuses on the details — tiny instruments are used to apply decals by hand to each model.

“In the case of a fire, I think those would be the first things grabbed and taken out of the building,” Ouweleen says.

PacMin produces the planes for more than 4,000 customers around the world with the typical order just being a handful of planes. “A large order for us is 100,” Ouweleen says. Still, more than 15,000 models are sold a year ranging in price from USD130 to \$1,500 each, depending on the size, speed and difficulty of the order. Privately-held PacMin employs 165 people and sees \$10 million in annual sales.

Members of the public generally can't buy PacMin models, although plenty end up on eBay, with sellers generally asking \$200 to \$400.

Even those in charge of a fleet of real jets like to collect the models.

JetBlue CEO Robin Hayes has 15 models in his office and dozens more on nearby shelves. They include an Airbus A330 that a sales representative for the aircraft maker once gave him. That particular jet isn't in JetBlue's fleet — yet — but the model remains in his office.

“Some people like going to a museum and looking at art. Some people like a nice bottle of wine,” Hayes says. “I like nice model airplanes.” AP

corporate bits

LMF, GABRIEL O PENSADOR AND BLADEMARK PERFORM AT VENETIAN MACAO



Hong Kong's LMF, gab-gifted Gabriel o Pensador from Brazil and Macau's Blademark performed at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena Saturday as part of The Script Road

Concerts.

LMF, with the songs “Little Traitor” and “LMF”, Gabriel O Pensador with “Até Quando” (“Until When”) and Blademark with “One5 One0”

came together for a hip-hop-heavy triple bill for the 4th annual Macau Literary Festival. The festival highlights Macau's position as an important platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Sponsoring The Script Road Concerts is part of Sands China Ltd.'s ongoing contribution to the development of arts and culture in Macau.

This Script Road Concerts is a musical event that is part of the 4th annual Script Road — Macau Literary Festival which continues the tradition of curating a daring program of independent music from Chinese-speaking and Portuguese-speaking artists as well as from international stars and home-grown talent from Macau.

“NOW YOU SEE ME 2” SHOOTS SCENES AT VENETIAN AND SANDS MACAO



The action thriller film “Now You See Me 2,” produced by Lionsgate's Summit Entertainment label and slated for a June 10, 2016 release in theatres around the world, shot scenes over the last several days on location at The Venetian Macao and Sands Macao. The film, a sequel to the 2013

Summit Entertainment hit “Now You See Me” that grossed more than USD350 million at the global box office, stars Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson, Lizzy Caplan, Dave Franco, Daniel Radcliffe, Jay Chou, Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman. Sands China Ltd. brought

the Hollywood production and its stars to Macau as its latest move to further promote the city as an international tourist destination.

“Unforgettable experiences await visitors at Sands Macao and Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao,” said Scott Messenger, Senior Vice President of Marketing, Sands China Ltd. “Our properties are landmark, must-visit destinations; having them featured in major motion pictures is a great way to boost the global profile of Macau as a world center of tourism and leisure. With film shoots, movie premieres, concerts, award shows, sporting events and more, our properties are the place to be to see the brightest stars, putting Macau ever-increasingly in the international spotlight.”

MOZAMBIQUE

World Bank provides technical assistance for forest project

TECHNICIANS from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), of the World Bank Group, will support the forestry investment project of Portucel Moçambique, under an agreement signed Thursday in Maputo.

According to the agreement, IFC will advise Portucel Moçambique “on enhancing the sustainability of forestry operations” in the country, a paper pulp and energy production project, with an associated investment of USD2.3 billion and a strong community service component.

“Our commitment can be seen, in addition to the 7,000 jobs we will create, in the fact that we are one of the few companies, if not the only one, which in Mozambique added an investment of US\$40 million in community development to its project,” said Friday Diogo da Silveira, CEO of the Portucel Soporcel group, of which Portucel Moçambique is a subsidiary.

The agreement involves a

partnership with IFC, which since December has been a shareholder in the project, with 20 percent, in which a team of experts from the international institution will provide advice over a period of two years on working with communities, covering 130,000 people in Manica and Zambezia provinces.

The agreement involves a sum of over USD1 million, Silveira told Portuguese news agency Lusa, without giving the precise value of advisory from IFC, “which has a lot experience in this type of project.”

The investment, described by Portucel Moçambique as “the largest integrated project of forestry for cellulose pulp and energy production from biomass in Africa,” is intended entirely for export, with annual sales estimated at US\$1 billion, starting in 2023, which according to Jin-Yong Cai, the CEO of IFC, makes it “the largest business outside the extractive sectors and infrastructure” in the country.

MDT/Macauhub

China wants to strengthen partnership with Angola

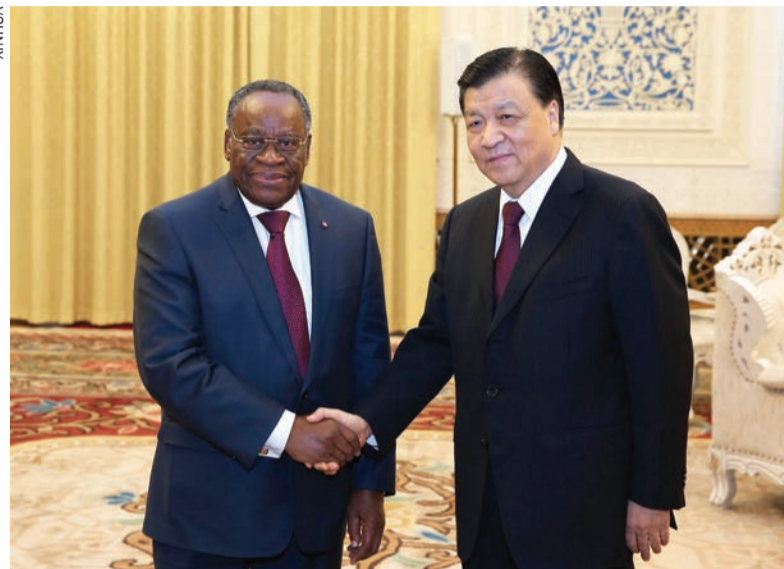
CHINA “aims to strengthen the strategic partnership with Angola,” the official Chinese news agency Xinhua reported, citing statements by Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

At a meeting in Beijing with a delegation of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), Angola’s ruling party, Liu Yunshan said that the CPC “attaches great importance to relations with the MPLA” and to “stepping up the exchange of experiences on governance,” according to Xinhua.

Liu Yunshan, head of propaganda and ideological action of the CPC, is one of seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee, the summit of power in China.

The Angolan delegation, headed by the Vice President of the MPLA, Roberto de Almeida, Tuesday began a “working visit” to China aimed at “strengthening friendship and cooperation” with the CPC.

Besides Beijing, the MPLA de-



Liu Yunshan (r) meets with a Angolan delegation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The delegation was headed by Roberto de Almeida

legation will visit Hangzhou and Shanghai, and return to Luanda on the 26 March.

China has been one of the main partners of national reconstruction in Angola, by granting loans for reconstruction projects, particularly of the railways and other infrastructure, and is also a major customer of Angolan oil.

China has been one of the main partners of national reconstruction in Angola

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Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo revive talks after history disputes

Analysts say getting the summit talks back on track is crucial to prompting more high-profile bilateral talks where sensitive issues can be discussed.

Since taking office in early 2013, South Korean President Park Geun-hye has never held official one-on-one talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, although U.S. President Barack Obama brought them together for a three-way meeting last year in The Hague.

Chinese President Xi Jinping met Abe last November on the sidelines of a regional conference that Beijing hosted in their first meeting since both took power in late 2012, but the meeting ended without a breakthrough. Park and Xi have met five times.

Despite their harsh history, the three countries are closely linked economically, with China the biggest trading partner of both South Korea and Japan. They are also members of now-stalled regional disarmament talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

During Saturday's meeting, the three foreign ministers agreed to continue their efforts to restart the nuclear disarmament talks to produce substantial progress in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The rifts among the three nations have been a source of concern for the United States, which wants a stronger alliance with its key allies South Korea and Japan to better cope with a rising China and the increasing nuclear threats from North Korea.

Japan and South Korea host 80,000 U.S. troops, the core of America's military presence in the Asia-Pacific, while China is the main backer of South Korea's chief rival, North Korea. **AP**



From right, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida pose during the 7th trilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Seoul, South Korea

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

MEEETING for the first time in three years, the foreign ministers of China, South Korea and Japan agreed Saturday to work together to improve ties strained by historical and territorial issues and restore trilateral summit talks among their leaders.

Anti-Japan sentiments in South Korea and China have grown sharply in recent years over what is seen as Tokyo's

push to obscure Japan's brutal colonization of the Korean Peninsula and invasion of China in the first half of the 20th century. Three-way talks among the countries' top diplomats had been subsequently suspended, and there has been no trilateral meeting of the countries' leaders since 2012.

The foreign ministers said in a joint statement after Saturday's meeting in Seoul that they would make efforts to re-

sume trilateral summit talks "at the earliest convenient time for the three countries."

"The three foreign ministers, based on the spirit of looking squarely at history and moving forward to the future, have agreed to make joint efforts to properly resolve related issues, improve bilateral ties and strengthen trilateral cooperation," South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se said at a joint news conference.

Despite the agreement, it re-

mains to be seen whether the summit talks can be realized anytime soon.

"The problems related to history are not about the past, but are about the present," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the news conference. He said the countries should not allow their relations to be hurt further by historical issues.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida avoided talking about contentious issues during the news conference.

State newspaper attacks Tibet groups' Olympic protest

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

TIBETAN groups calling on the IOC to reject Beijing's bid for the 2022 Winter Games are out of touch with the Himalayan region and their campaign is "doomed to failure," a Chinese state newspaper said Saturday.

In an editorial, the Global Times accused the organizations of pandering to foreign audiences and said their accusations of rights abuses would "only cause laughter" among International Olympic Committee officials responsible for evaluating Beijing's bid.

"They feel excited in



A Chinese girl waves the Chinese national flags and wears the 2022 Olympic bid logo to show her support at the ski resort in Yanqing, a suburb of Beijing

slapping Tibet and China. The repeated protests also fit certain needs of Western societies, which will win them some re-

sources for survival in the West," the editorial said. "They are doomed to fail," concluded the paper, a nationalistic tabloid pu-

blished by the ruling Communist Party publication People's Daily.

A coalition of more than 175 Tibet organizations on Thursday said they sent a report to IOC President Thomas Bach underlining that the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing failed to improve human rights in China.

The 12-page report said repression in Tibet is "currently at an all-time high" and warned that giving the Olympics to China again would be "making the same mistake twice."

Beijing is competing against Almaty, Kazakhstan, for the right to host

the 2022 Games. Kazakhstan has also been criticized for its human rights record.

The Tibet groups say the IOC should reject Beijing and consider the Almaty bid "with extreme caution."

In its response, the Beijing 2022 Bid Committee said it was natural for groups to "raise specific interests around major sporting events," but that it believed politics shouldn't intrude into sports.

"Beijing 2022 will continue to follow the Olympic Charter and stand by the effort to keep politics and sport separate," the committee said in a statement.

The exchanges come days before a 19-member IOC evaluation panel is to begin inspections in Beijing on Tuesday. The full IOC will select the host city on July 31.

Tibetan groups launched similar complaints ahead of the 2008 Games and were in the forefront of widespread street protests that marred China's unprecedented global torch relay.

China claims Tibet has been part of its territory for seven centuries and communist troops occupied the region following their 1949 victory in the civil war against Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists. **AP**

TAIWAN

Students mark anniversary of occupy parliament movement

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

ABOUT 300 university students gathered outside Taiwan's legislative house yesterday evening, kicking off a scheduled 31-hour demonstration to mark the anniversary of a movement that occupied the island's parliament.

The students were preparing for a march scheduled for tonight around the compound that hundreds of student-led activists occupied for 24 days last March in what became known as the Sunflower Movement.

Last year's actions set back Taiwan's relations with China and continue to be felt. The students are demanding that officials deal cautiously with old enemy China amid public worries that Taiwan is getting too economically close to Beijing.

"Economic integration between China and Taiwan moved beyond what the center of gravity of public opinion in Taiwan could tolerate," said Denny Roy, senior fellow at the East-West Center think tank in Honolulu, recalling last year's occupation. "The inevitable effect has been to slow down this integration."

Beijing has claimed sovereignty over Taiwan since the Chinese civil war of the 1940s, but Taiwanese prize their democratic self-rule. President Ma Ying-jeou's Na-



Protesters gather outside the parliament to mark the first anniversary of 2014 "Sunflower Movement" where student groups stormed the parliament grounds, in Taipei

tionalist Party government began talking to the eager Communist leadership in 2008, leading to a batch of agreements that authorities said would help Taiwan's economy.

But protesters last year questioned the transparency of the deals with Beijing and

whether Taiwan should sign them at all while the two sides are politically at odds.

The activist group Black Island Nation Youth Front organized the latest demonstration to pressure lawmakers into approving a bill that would strengthen oversight over future agreements with China. **AP**

First passenger flight with cooking oil lands successfully

Hainan Airlines announced it finished China's first passenger flight with sustainable biofuel on Saturday, a milestone for the country's commercial aviation industry. The flight, which carried more than 100 passengers from Shanghai to Beijing in a Boeing 737, used biofuel made by Sinopec from waste cooking oil collected from restaurants in China. The airplane's two engines were powered by the fuel blended of approximately half biofuel and half traditional jet fuel, the company said. "We are honored to see our flight with safe and effective biofuel," said Pu Ming, vice president of Hainan Airlines, also the flight's pilot. Boeing has been collaborating with Chinese airlines to develop aviation biofuel industry. In 2011, Air China conducted China's first test flight with aviation biofuel in a Boeing 747.

Ex-police chief detained in death of woman

A retired senior police chief in China's northern region of Inner Mongolia has been detained in the shooting death of a woman, the official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday. Zhao Liping, who once presided over police affairs for Inner Mongolia, was detained on a charge of intentional homicide, and the case was under further investigation, Xinhua said. Prosecutors were yet to file any charge against the 63-year-old Zhao, who served as the region's top police officer from 2005 to 2012, and was a vice chairman for the region's political consultative conference before retirement. Caixin, a publication known for investigative reporting, said the victim is believed to be a 28-year-old female who was shot to death Friday in the city of Chifeng. Caixin says Zhao was intercepted by police while on the run. It said Zhao had disposed of the body, which was later recovered in a village in Chifeng. No motive was reported by either Xinhua or Caixin.

CHINA DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Vice Premier says rapid growth isn't what economy needs

CHINA doesn't need the rapid economic growth of the past and will instead focus on tasks including returning the blue to Beijing's skies, Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli told global executives gathered in the city for the China Development Forum.

"It is both impossible and unnecessary to maintain the very high growth of the past," said Zhang, a member of the seven-man Politburo Standing Committee, the nation's top decision-making body. "We've paid the price for that," he said yesterday. "It's not sustainable."

China's growth has cooled as officials rein in local-government debt, crack down on graft and strengthen environmental laws after economic expansion averaged about 10 percent annually over 30 years. Premier Li Keqiang's targeted gain of about 7 percent in gross domestic product this year would be the smallest increase since 1990.

"Maintaining a growth rate of 7 percent for the next few years is not possible," Nouriel Roubini, an economist who teaches at New



Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli

York University's Stern School of Business, said at the China Development Forum on Saturday. "The only way you could do so is by increasing further the amount of credit relative to GDP and that increase of leverage eventually is going to lead to massive losses."

President Xi Jinping and other leaders describe the slowdown as a "new normal" and a "higher quality" of expansion. Yesterday, Zhang said reducing the growth rate is "prudent" as the government seeks to improve the economy's structure and tackle

challenges such as large wealth gaps between regions.

The country's leaders unleashed an unprecedented boom by channeling millions of people from the countryside to factories making shoes, toys and electronics for export, and by spending on the roads, power plants and ports that allowed China to become the world's largest trading nation. That model is no longer sustainable.

China's advantages have weakened

as labor costs increase, Zhang told the forum attended by chief executives including Microsoft Corp.'s Satya Nadella, HSBC Holdings Plc's Stuart Gulliver, International Business Machines Corp.'s Virginia Rometty and Ford Motor Co.'s Mark Fields. International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said in a speech that China "badly needed" structural reforms.

Separately, commenting on anti-monopoly cases, Zhang said the government won't treat foreign companies differently than domestic ones. In February, Chinese regulators fined Qualcomm Inc. \$975 million and set licensing rates for the company's mobile-phone chip technology after finding it guilty of antitrust violations. **Bloomberg**

IMF WELCOMES BEIJING'S EFFORTS TO BOOST REGIONAL INVESTMENT

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund chief Christine Lagarde said yesterday that China's economic slowdown is legitimate and that Beijing can contribute to global prosperity. Speaking at the opening of the China Development Forum in Beijing, Lagarde praised Beijing for its work to build a legal system and address pollution. She said she welcomed Beijing's efforts to boost investment outside China,

referring to the new Beijing-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. She said China is "clearing the path to further engagement with the world through investment, trade and more participation in the multi-lateral dialogue." China established the regional lending institution last year and put up most of its initial USD50 billion in capital with the goal to finance construction of roads and other infrastructure.

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Rod McGuirk, Canberra

ISLAMIC STATE

Australia a puzzling hotbed for militant recruiting

A nightclub bouncer who reportedly became a terror group leader. A man who tweeted a photo of his young son clutching a severed head. A teenager who is believed to have turned suicide bomber, and others suspected of attempting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State movement. All of them, Australian.

The London-based International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence reports that between 100 and 250 Australians have joined Sunni militants in Iraq and Syria. Given Australia's vast distance from the region and its population of just 24 million, it is a remarkable number. The center estimates that about 100 fighters came from the United States, which has more than 13 times as many people as Australia.

Experts disagree about why Islamic State has been so effective recruiting in Australia, which is widely regarded as a multicultural success story, with an economy in an enviable 24th year of continuous growth.

Possible explanations include that some Australian Muslims are poorly integrated with the rest of the country, and that Islamic State recruiters have given Australia particular attention. In addition, the Australian government failed to keep tabs on some citizens who had been radicalized, and moderate Muslims have been put off by some of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's comments about their community.

Greg Barton, a global terrorism expert at Monash University in Melbourne, said Australia and some other countries underestimated Islamic State's "pull factor."

"We're all coming to terms with the fact that this is a formidable targeter and predatory recruiter that goes after individuals one by one with a very masterful use of technology, and our sense of confidence that because we've got society working well makes us secure misses the point," Barton said.

Muslims make up about 2.2 percent of the population in Australia, compared to just 1 percent in the United States. And while many U.S. Muslims are from families who migrated in pursuit of the American economic dream, a larger proportion of Australian Muslims are from families who fled Lebanon's civil war in the 1970s and '80s.

Australian Muslims of Lebanese origin are largely based in Sydney, the country's biggest city. They have been less successful in integrating into Australian society than many other groups, and the first Australian-born genera-

AP PHOTO



In this Dec. 15, 2014 file photo, a hostage runs to armed tactical response police officers for safety after she escaped from a cafe under siege at Martin Place in the central business district of Sydney

tion of these migrant families has been overrepresented in terrorism offenses and general street crime.

Mohammad Ali Baryalei, an ethnic Lebanese who reportedly became a high-ranking member of Islamic State's operational command, was formerly a Sydney nightclub bouncer and bit-part television actor. Australian security agencies suspect he single-handedly recruited dozens of Australians and helped them enter Syria.

■ For a country of just 24 million that is thousands of miles from Syria and Iraq, Australia has been unusually fertile ground for Islamic State recruiters

Once a Sydney street preacher with the Muslim group Street Dawah, Baryalei was reportedly killed in battle in Syria last fall at age 33. The Australian government has yet to confirm his death.

Baryalei is accused in court documents of inciting from afar Islamic State sympathizers in Sydney to brutally slay

a randomly selected victim. Security services recorded a telephone conversation between him and Omarjan Azari, who is awaiting trial on charges that include preparing to commit a terrorist act.

"What you guys need to do is pick any random unbeliever," Baryalei allegedly told Azari, according to court testimony. "Backpacker, tourist, American, French or British, even better."

Sydney-born Khaled Sharrouf, also ethnic Lebanese, horrified millions last year by posting on his Twitter account a photo of his 7-year-old son clutching the severed head of a Syrian soldier. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry described the image as "one of the most disturbing, stomach-turning, grotesque photographs ever displayed."

Sharrouf's appearance on the Syrian battlefield highlighted a flaw in Australia's defenses against Islamic State: lax border security. Sharrouf had served a prison sentence in Australia for planning a foiled terrorist attack and had been banned from leaving the country, but used his brother's passport to leave in 2013.

The Australian government acknowledged there was a problem with a system of airport security that was more focused on who was coming in than on who was leaving. The government announced in August that biometric screening will be rolled out at all Australian international airports as part of 630 million Australian dollars (USD500 million)

in new spending on intelligence, law enforcement and border protection.

Counterterrorism police units have been attached to major airports to screen passengers. The unit at Sydney Airport was instrumental in recently intercepting two Sydney-born brothers, aged 16 and 17, who were about to fly to Turkey without their parents' knowledge. Authorities suspect the brothers were headed to Syria.

Australia's net still has holes.

Jake Bilardi, an 18-year-old who converted to Islam a few years ago, had avoided Australia's counterterror radar when he left his Melbourne home for Syria in August. After Bilardi's family reported him missing, police found chemicals that could be used to make a bomb at his home. Images of Bilardi armed with a rifle in front of Islamic flags appeared on social media sites later that year.

A picture of a young man resembling Bilardi behind the wheel of a van was posted this month with claims from Islamic State that foreign fighters from Australia and other countries took part in a near-simultaneous attack in Iraq that involved at least 13 suicide car bombs and killed two police officers. The Australian government has yet to confirm Bilardi's death.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has been granted enhanced powers to prevent Australians joining IS and, in some cases, from returning to Australia. She has canceled about 100 passports, including Bilardi's,

though he left before his passport was revoked.

Keeping would-be militants from leaving Australia, however, increases the risk that they will wreak havoc at home.

Numan Haider, an 18-year-old Muslim Australian of Afghan origin, stabbed two Melbourne police officers and was shot dead in September, a week after his passport had been canceled. He had caught authorities' attention months earlier over what police considered to be troubling behavior, including waving what appeared to be an Islamic State flag at a shopping mall.

In September, the government raised Australia's terrorist threat level to the second-highest level on a four-tier scale. Police attempting to disrupt terrorist plots have raided scores of homes. Several suspects have been charged and others have been detained without charge under new counterterrorism laws. The nation's main domestic spy agency is juggling more than 400 high-priority counterterrorism investigations — more than double the number a year ago.

But the intensified vigilance was no hindrance to Man Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric with a long criminal history. In December, Monis took 18 people hostage at a downtown Sydney cafe, forced them to hold up a flag bearing the Islamic declaration of faith against a cafe window and demanded he be delivered a flag of the Islamic State group. Monis and two hostages were killed at the end of a 16-hour siege.

A government review found that Monis had fallen off a terrorist watch list despite repeated warnings to security services from members of the public concerned by his online rants. As a Shiite Muslim, he was thought an unlikely recruit to Islamic State, a Sunni Muslim movement.

As traumatic as the hostage crisis was, it could not be compared to the enormity of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States.

Barton, the Monash University expert, said Australia may prove to be not so different from the United States, if Islamic State expands its influence in America.

"It may be a lag effect," Barton said. "It may be in six months' time, the figures are much more comparable." AP

SINGAPORE

Citizens leave flowers, cards as Lee's health worsens

Stephen Wright, Singapore

AS the health of Singapore's founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew deteriorated on the weekend, thousands of Singaporeans visited his hospital and a community center to leave flowers, gifts and emotional messages of support.

Lee, 91, was hospitalized in early February with severe pneumonia. In the past week his condition has worsened to critically ill and the government has given daily updates. The latest, yesterday, said he had "weakened further."

Lee commands immense respect among Singaporeans, who this year will celebrate the country's 50th independence anniversary. He led Singapore with an iron grip for more than three decades until 1990, and is credited with transforming the resource poor island into a wealthy



Well-wishers leave flowers and cards at the hospital where Singapore's 91-year-old founding father Lee Kuan Yew has been treated for the past six weeks

bustling financial hub with low crime and almost zero corruption.

At Singapore General where the elder statesman is hospitalized, 26-year-old university graduate Kim Lee fought back tears as she stood near the growing pile of flowers and cards.

"I came to give him my medal. I just finished a running event this morning and I came to give it to him," she said. "To me he is more than a champion."

Singaporeans overseas also sent in messages of support. Among the cards was one from the Netherlands, signed "a faraway Singapore son." Another message hailed the "countless extraordinary things" Lee did for the tropical city-state and wished for his recovery.

State media reported that about 1,000 people had gathered at a community center in Lee's electorate, also leaving cards and gifts and

writing messages on a giant banner.

Under Lee and his successors, including his son, current Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore was known around the world for its strict social order including a ban on chewing gum, restrictions on free speech and canings for crimes some countries would rule as minor. In recent years, it has become socially more liberal and the fragmented political opposition made gains in Singapore's last elections in 2011.

After stepping down as prime minister, Lee remained part of the Cabinet and an influential figure in Singapore and the region.

"We are very proud of Mr. Lee. He built Singapore into something so famous and so good," said David Kwok, 52. "Our people are very grateful to him." AP

CAMBODIA

Michelle Obama urges students to seek more freedoms

MICHELLE Obama urged Cambodian students to finish their education and speak up to demand greater freedoms and more equality on a landmark visit to a Southeast Asian country that has been ruled by an authoritarian strongman for decades. The U.S. first lady's comments on Saturday did not explicitly criticize Cambodia's human rights record or its government under Prime Minister Hun Sen. But she sent a pointed message, and one that she delivered seated beside Hun Sen's wife, Bun Rany. Human rights groups praised the remarks as a rare foray into foreign affairs for a first lady. "Even though Mrs. Obama didn't name names, it's more than we have heard in a long time from a first lady on a foreign trip," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch. "Now it's time for President Obama to state publicly what rights benchmarks he expects to see from Cambodia, and press Hun Sen to commit to it." Mrs. Obama wrapped up a five-day trip to Asia yesterday to promote the U.S.-led education initiative "Let Girls Learn," which she and the president announced earlier this month. The community-based program, to be run by the Peace Corps, is meant to help millions of girls in the developing world stay in school and overcome economic or cultural pressures that force many to drop out. AP

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George Jahn and Bradley Klapper, Lausanne

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

US cites progress in nuke talks, though deal is unclear

WITH 10 days to a nuclear deal deadline, top U.S. and Iranian officials spoke Saturday of substantial headway, and Iran's president proclaimed that agreement was within reach. But America's top diplomat said it was up to Tehran to make the decisions needed to get there.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said "achieving a deal is possible" by a March 31 target date for a preliminary accord that is meant to lead to a final deal by the end of June that would crimp Tehran's nuclear programs in exchange for sanctions relief.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was more circumspect, as he spoke to reporters after six days of negotiations in the Swiss city of Lausanne. The talks, made "substantial progress," he said, but "important gaps remain."

"We have an opportunity to get this right," Kerry said, as he urged Iran to make "fundamental decisions" that prove to the world it has no interest in atomic weapons.

But in a rebuff of President Barack Obama's latest attempt at outreach, Iran's supreme leader warned against expectations that even a done deal would end the chill between the two nations.

The U.S. thawed its 30-year freeze on talking to Tehran — in place since the Iranian revolution and siege of the American Embassy — in 2009 and joined other nations at the nuclear negotiating table. That was followed with a series of secret U.S.-Iran nuclear meetings starting in 2012, which led to a 15-minute telephone conversation two years ago between Obama and Rouhani and the



Protestors hold signs in front of an artificial missile during a demonstration against Iran outside of a meeting of EU foreign ministers at the EU Council building in Brussels

now routine meetings between Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Obama, in a message to Iranians celebrating the Persian new year this week, suggested that success at the talks could build on trust, proclaiming it was up to both nations "to seize this moment and the possibilities that can bloom."

But Ayatollah Ali Kamenei gave Obama the cold shoulder. "Negotiations with America are solely on the nuclear issue and nothing else," he told a crowd in northeastern Iran.

"We do not talk with US over regional issues. In the regional issues, America's goals are completely opposed to our goals."

In a reflection of the delicate state of negotiations, other officials differed on how close the sides were to a deal.

Top Russian negotiator Sergey Ryabkov and Iran's atomic energy chief Ali Akbar Salehi said in recent days that technical work was nearly done. But French officials insisted the sides were far from any agreement.

Kerry departed later Saturday to meet with European allies in London, in part to ensure unity, before returning to Washington. Kerry said the U.S. and its five negotiating partners — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — are "united in our goal, our approach, our resolve and our determination."

But France, which raised last minute objections to an interim agreement reached with Iran in 2013, could threaten a deal again. It is particularly opposed to providing Iran with quick relief from international sanctions and wants a longer timeframe for restrictions on Iran's nuclear activity.

"France wants an agreement, but a robust agreement," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told French radio. "That is to say, an accord that really guarantees that Iran can obviously have access to the civil nuclear (program)."

"But to the atomic bomb? No." One encouraging sign is the apparent narrowing of differen-

ces on Iran's uranium enrichment program. Tehran insists it wants to enrich only for energy, medical and research purposes, but much of the world fears it could turn the process toward making the fissile core of a nuclear warhead.

As the current round wound down this week, officials told The Associated Press that the United States and Iran are drafting elements of a deal that commits the Iranians to a 40 percent cut in the number of machines they use to enrich. The Obama administration is seeking a deal that stretches the time Tehran would need to make a nuclear weapon from the present two to three months to at least a year. AP

YEMEN

Shiite rebels seize 3rd largest city, protests erupt

Ahmed Al-Haj, Aden

SHIITE rebels backed by supporters of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh seized Yemen's third largest city of Taiz and its airport yesterday, security and military officials said, as thousands took to the streets in protest.

If the rebels hold onto the city, the capital of Yemen's most populous province, it would be a major blow to embattled current President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who established a base in the southern city of



In this photo taken on Friday, March 20, 2015, militiamen loyal to President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi ride on an army vehicle on a street in Aden

Aden just 140 kilometers away after fleeing the rebel-held capital last month.

The seizure comes a day after the rebels, known as Houthis, called for a general mobilization against forces loyal to Hadi, who had just given a defiant speech challenging the Houthis in his first public address since leaving Sana'a.

Brig. Gen. Hamoud al-Harathi, the commander of special forces units based in Taiz, rejected Hadi's legitimacy as president. Meanwhile, thousands demonstrated

in the city against both the Houthis and Saleh, prompting the rebels to disperse them by firing into the air and beating them back with batons.

The security officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the press.

The Shiite rebels swept into Sana'a in September and now control it and nine of the country's 21 provinces.

The turmoil has undermined Yemen's ability to combat al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the target of a U.S.

drone program, and the country now also faces a purported affiliate of the extremist Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for a series of suicide bombings killing at least 137 people Friday.

A day earlier, U.S. troops evacuated a southern air base crucial to the drone program after al-Qaida militants seized a nearby city.

All these factors could push the Arab world's most impoverished country, united only in the 1990s, back toward civil war. AP

what's ON



NEW YEAR TRADITIONS OF TIANJIN AND CHONGQING MUNICIPALITIES

TIME: 9am-9pm

UNTIL: April 12, 2015

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

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

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

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

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

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

UNTIL: April 19, 2015

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

"SEE AND TOUCH"

- TOUCHABLE ARTS EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community Development Association / Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

EXHIBITION 'FOAM TIP BY ARLINDA FROTA AND TRANSMUTATION BY CAROL KWOK'

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

UNTIL: March 31, 2015

VENUE: SIGNUM Living Store, Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

Offbeat

GAZA STRIP FAMILY BUYS 2 LION CUBS AS UNUSUAL PETS

These aren't your typical kittens. A family in the Gaza Strip city of Rafah has bought two lion cubs from a local zoo, keeping these unusual pets in their home.

The 2-1/2-month-old cubs now play with Saed Eldin al-Jamal's grandchildren at his home and already eat about half a kilogram (1 pound) of meat a day.

Al-Jamal said Saturday that he knew the cubs eventually will become dangerous. He said: "In one month, they will start being kept in a cage for our own safety."

Most of the zoo animals in Gaza have been hauled into the isolated territory through smuggling tunnels linking the territory to Egypt. In 2013, a pair of newborn lion cubs died shortly after they were proudly unveiled by Gaza's Hamas rulers.

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13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Documentary Series
15:00	Chief Executive's speech on the policy report for 2015
16:58	Chief Executive's Press Conference
19:30	News
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:00	Portuguese Music
00:45	RTPi Live

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

19 MAR - 01 APR

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



1983 REAGAN LAUNCHES COLD WAR INTO SPACE

President Reagan has unveiled plans to combat nuclear war in space. The Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) proposes a defensive shield, using laser or particle beam technology to "intercept and destroy" incoming missiles as they travel through the stars.

Defense analysts have described it as the first major attempt to move away from the 30 year-old Cold War strategy of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) - where the threat of nuclear attack acts as a deterrent.

In a televised address from the White House the US leader said: "We seek neither military superiority nor political advantage. Our only purpose - one all people share - is to search for ways to avert the danger of nuclear war."

Speaking just half an hour after the House of Representatives (HoR) had rejected the Republican Party's demands for 10% increases in defence spending, President Reagan attempted to justify his \$2 trillion, five-year military spending plans.

In the first major congressional revolt against Mr Reagan's economic policies the HoR have voted in Democrat proposals to reduce the Republican budget by more than half.

The President said: "They're the same kind that led the democracies to neglect their defences in the 1930s and invited the tragedy of World War II."

Senior White House aide Michael Deaver reported a positive reaction to Mr Reagan's scheme: "He has had the most favorable response to any speech since he was elected President."

Critics argue SDI contravenes the Soviet-American Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972. Article V of the treaty states: "Each party undertakes not to develop, test or deploy anti-ballistic missile systems or components."

President Reagan has stressed SDI does not entail the actual development of a defensive shield, but is a program for research and development.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Reagan's SDI became known as "Star Wars" - after the George Lucas film. President Andropov of the USSR was highly critical of the plan, saying it violated the 1972 ABM Treaty and there was little difference between building up weapons for purportedly defensive or offensive purposes.

The Democrats in the US - and even some Republicans - claimed Reagan's initiative was an expensive and unfeasible diversion from his administration's domestic failures. SDI signaled a new round in the Arms Race and a worsening of the relationship between the US and the USSR.

The increasing financial strain it placed the Soviet Union under contributed to the break up of the regime. SDI was abandoned in 1993 and the department was renamed the Ballistic Missile Defence organization.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're not sure whether someone is bluffing or if they're all business. Your internal radar is off, and that can be a real problem. Don't sign any agreements until you're clear one way or the other.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Not all strategies are geared toward the masses. Pick one out that suits your individual needs, not those of your friends and neighbors. When it comes to making dividends, it pays to go solo.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If money has dried up, so has your patience. Frustration is pooling over to other things. It's hard to be clear when it's legitimate and when it's just plain you, so err on the side of temperance.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Be prepared for your mind to wander. That means don't do any detail-oriented tasks, like balancing the books. That's okay for the day, because there's not much to reconcile anyway.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Having no financial dealings with others is close to impossible, even for the sake of a good cause. But when it's downright mandatory, you'll be surprised at how easy it can be. Get some practice.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There's no such thing as fast and easy in today's market. People who aren't as organized as they need to be just aren't going to make it. Don't be one of them. Keep things in order.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Things are slowing down, and that's not all bad. At least you don't have too many things on the go to enjoy the smaller things in life, and that's more valuable than you've realized.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Don't let the promise of prosperity retreat into your fantasies. Trees may not be dripping with gold but that doesn't mean there isn't money to be made. Working hard will still make your fantasies reality.

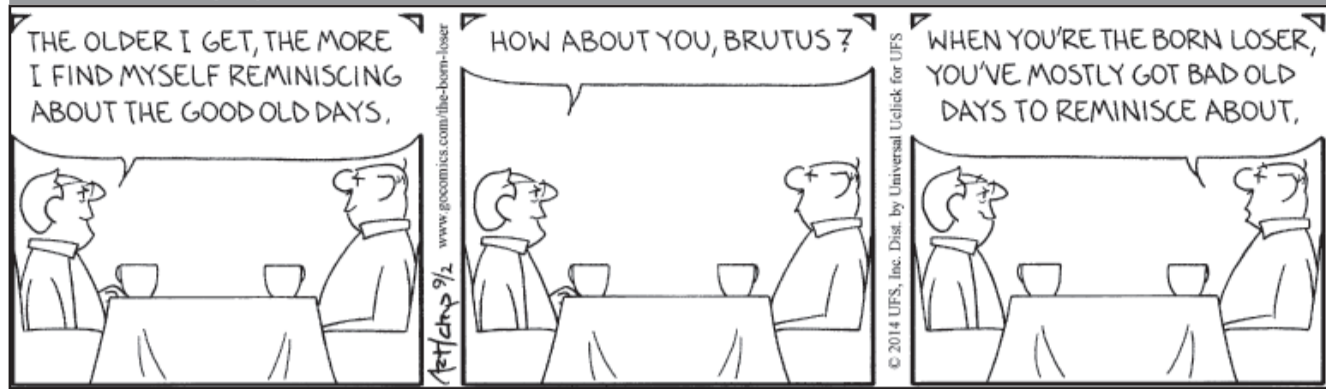
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Misplacing things, not getting revved up to start the day - these are legitimate responses to the downturn your accounts are experiencing. But the sooner you pull yourself together, the sooner your money will rally.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Giving money away will make that much more come back to you. That may sound more like creative writing than nonfiction, but you know intuitively that it makes financial sense. Be glad to help.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Don't overspend. When you and the masses are all using same financial strategy, it has a domino effect. That may not be good for the economy but it's good for your bank account, so keep it up.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Each bit of profit is like squeezing blood from a stone. So when you make a few cents, you'll feel like celebrating. Go ahead, because there's plenty more to be made!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- A void; 5- Swiss peaks; 9- Psalms interjection; 14- Up ___ good; 15- Gone by; 16- Banishment; 17- Gal Fri.; 18- ___ Silver, away!; 19- French school; 20- Simmer; 21- Occurring at irregular intervals; 23- Mata ___; 24- Slangy denial; 25- PIN requester; 26- Suit makers; 29- First name in spydom; 33- Respiration disorder; 36- ___ the season...; 37- Western Indians; 38- Martini's partner; 39- Explosive sound; 40- Trap; 41- Capricorn's animal; 42- Block up; 43- Like stomach secretions; 44- Other, in Oaxaca; 45- Controversial; 47- Heston's org.; 49- ___ Brooks, filmmaker responsible for "Blazing Saddles"; 50- Arguing; 54- Mountain chain; 58- Drink to excess; 59- ___ a million; 60- French summers; 61- Teheran's country; 62- Inclines; 63- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik"; 64- Writer Sarah ___ Jewett; 65- Sad song; 66- Some DVD players; 67- Tidy, without fault; DOWN: 1- Secret supply; 2- Plantain lily; 3- Big name at Indy; 4- In spite of; 5- Loss of voice; 6- Secular; 7- Hallucinatory; 8- Greek portico; 9- Now you ___; 10- Pope's power; 11- Large cat; 12- ___ breve; 13- Back part of the foot; 22- Back talk; 27- Parisian pal; 28- Tear; 30- Somewhat; 31- Actress Hatcher; 32- Just ___; 33- Jason's ship; 34- Smoke deposit; 35- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 39- Hole goal; 40- Biol., e.g.; 42- Bargain; 43- Books of maps; 46- Sister of Venus; 48- Wash lightly; 51- Baseball manager Joe; 52- Bucky Beaver's toothpaste; 53- Principle; 54- Chilled; 55- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 56- Back; 57- Sly look

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

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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Pou Kei Unit A Macau apartment listing: 870sq ft / HKD 5.3M, Apartment with Rooftop, Ref: 14075408

Tong Cheng Hin, Unit D Macau apartment listing: 396 sq ft / HKD 3.3M, Low Floor Apartment, Ref: 15015430

Excellent Investment Property Nova City Tower 14 Taipa listing: 1,340 sq ft / HKD 9.3M, Excellent Condition, Ref: 14105419

Millennium Court Tower 1 Unit F, Macau listing: 1,501sq ft / HKD 15.3M, Carpark Available, Ref: 14075407

La Bahia No.1, High Floor Macau listing: 1 Bedrooms Apartment Behind Nam Van lake, HKD 15,000 / 507 sq ft, Ref: 15030477

The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa listing: 4 Bedrooms Apartment Luxury Residence, HKD 33,000 / 2,488 sq ft, Ref: 15015429

Plum Court Ocean Gardens, Taipa listing: 2 Bedrooms Apartment Viewing by Appointment, HKD 20,000 / 1,290 sq ft, Ref: 15020467

Ieng Kok C Macau listing: 1 Bedroom Apartment Convention Location, HKD 8,800 / 559 sq ft, Ref: 15020466

JML Property logo and contact information, including website and phone numbers.

Pele embarks on global sponsor tour after renal failure recovery

Tariq Panja

PELE is going on a world tour on behalf of sponsors four months after kidney failure left him hooked up to a dialysis machine in a Brazilian hospital intensive care unit.

The 74-year-old, the only person with three World Cup winner's medals, will travel to Britain, China and Australia to promote companies including sandwich chain Subway.

Pele suffered renal failure in December after contracting a hospital bug following surgery to remove kidney stones. Known as "O Rei" or the King in Brazil, he spent two weeks in Sao Paulo's Israelita Albert Einstein hospital.

"Thanks to God I'm already fine," Pele said by phone from London, where he was attending an event for Subway. "I'm already able to travel again and for that reason I'm here giving hugs to my friends in England."

Pele, whose 21-year career



ended in 1977 with a stint at the New York Cosmos, remains a popular figure for endorsers and is part-owner of a New York-based company that controls his commercials agreements. In the lead-up to last year's Brazil World Cup, Pele was signed up to be a pitchman for companies including

Swiss watchmaker Hublot SA, Procter & Gamble Co., Volkswagen AG and Emirates airline.

Pele was set to travel north from London to attend Liverpool's game with Manchester United yesterday. From there, he heads to Australia and China.

He said experience gained

touring with his former team Santos and the Brazilian national squad lets him know what to expect from his itinerary.

"It's not changed very much from when I played football," he said.

Pele joked that his health has improved to the point that he'd like to be picked as one of the three overage players eligible to represent Brazil in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. He'd pick two other former Santos players, Neymar and Robinho, to line up alongside him. When Pele was active, professionals were not allowed to participate in the Olympics.

"I'll prepare myself now, stay physically fit to play in the Olympics for Brazil," Pele said.

Pele, who won the World Cup in 1958, 1962 and 1970, was named Football Player of the 20th Century by soccer governing body FIFA and Athlete of the 20th Century by the International Olympic Committee. **Bloomberg**

German building firm probes alleged bribes in Brazil



GERMAN construction company Bilfinger SE says it is investigating allegations that employees at a unit in Brazil paid bribes to local officials in connection with orders to equip security control centers in cities hosting World Cup games.

Bilfinger said yesterday it launched a "comprehensive investigation" involving outside auditors and a law office after receiving internal information last year about suspected bribery payments to public officials and employees of state companies.

It said "suspicions have now been substantiated" but the investigation isn't yet complete, with questions remaining about who received the payments and the amount involved.

The allegations are linked to orders to supply monitor walls for security control centers in what the company called "several large municipalities." The company said the orders' value totaled some 6 million euros (USD6.5 million). **AP**

AD



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FOOTBALL | EPL

Gerrard sent off as Man United beats 10-man Liverpool 2-1

STEVEN Gerrard was sent off less than a minute after coming on as Manchester United beat Liverpool 2-1 yesterday in the Premier League with two goals from Juan Mata.

The 34-year-old Gerrard was shown a straight red card for stamping on Ander Herrera after replacing Adam Lallana at the start of the second half.

Mata scored in the 14th minute at Anfield before doubling the lead with a spectacular scissor-kick in the 59th after an assist from Angel de Maria.

Daniel Sturridge got one back for Liverpool in the 69th before Wayne Rooney's penalty was saved by Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet right at the end.

Soccer great Pele was among those watching what is traditionally the biggest match in English football.

Fourth-place United strengthened its grip on a Champions League spot, moving five points clear of fifth-place Liverpool. Goals from the outstanding Mata decided the outcome but Gerrard's indiscipline was a major contributory factor in Liverpool's first league defeat since losing 3-0 at Old Trafford in mid-December.

Referee Martin Atkinson had no choice at the inexcusable stamp from the most experienced player on the field. Gerrard leaves for the Los Angeles Galaxy in the summer and this was his last match against United.

Much had been made of the success of Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers' 3-4-2-1 formation he first em-



Liverpool's Kolo Toure, centre, walks from the pitch with his younger brother Manchester City's Yaya Toure after the match between Liverpool and Manchester City

ployed in that Old Trafford reverse. However, it worked against Liverpool in the first half Sunday as United manager Louis van Gaal was the man with the right plan.

United played a high mid-field four behind lone striker Rooney, pushing Mata and Ashley Young into advanced positions. Mata, in particular, used it to great effect against the relatively inexperienced Alberto Moreno.

Spanish World Cup winner

Mata cleverly moved from outside to inside and back again to generate space for himself and left-back Moreno was left in a quandary whether to mark or hand over to center-back Mamadou Sakho.

Herrera spotted this weakness and in the 14th threaded a pass between the two Liverpool players for his compatriot to run onto and clip a shot past Mignolet. It was a rare moment of quality

from either side as Sturridge thrashed an ambitious left-foot volley over and Lallana wastefully drove wide from Liverpool's best move of the match that involved Raheem Sterling, almost anonymous in the first half, and Jordan Henderson switching play from right to left for Sturridge to provide the perfect lay-off.

Gerrard's emergence after the interval offered renewed optimism, but that ended almost immediately with his dismissal. He will now miss the trip to Arsenal after the international break and the FA Cup quarterfinal replay at Blackburn four days later.

Phil Jones escaped with a yellow card for clattering Henderson out by the touchline with a high challenge but that was the least of Liverpool's problems as Mata finished off a clever reverse pass from substitute di Maria to acrobatically volley home.

Philippe Coutinho teed up Sturridge to score his fifth goal of an injury-disrupted season, offering late hope to the hosts. Although Liverpool made light of its numerical disadvantage, United — with Marouane Fellaini winning virtually every header at both ends of the pitch — had enough discipline to hold on.

United could even afford for Rooney to have a penalty saved by Mignolet in added time after Emre Can's foul on Daley Blind.

Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel incensed United in the closing moments of the game for what appeared to be a nasty challenge on goalkeeper David de Gea. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Juventus beats Genoa 1-0 to go 17 points clear in Serie A

Carlos Tevez scored again to help Juventus beat Genoa 1-0 and provisionally move 17 points clear at the top of Serie A. Tevez, who also had a penalty saved at Juventus Stadium, scored the only goal of the game with a magnificent finish to increase his tally to 16 league goals for the season and take sole lead of the goal scoring table. It was also the Argentina forward's 24th goal in all competitions, following a double in Wednesday's 3-0 win at Dortmund, which sent Juventus through to the Champions League quarterfinals. Roma visits Cesena later, desperate to cling onto second spot. Lazio, which is a point behind, hosts Hellas Verona.

SKI

Fenninger seals 2nd straight WCup title



Austrian racer Anna Fenninger withstood a strong challenge from rival Tina Maze to successfully defend her World Cup and giant slalom titles after winning the season-ending GS race yesterday. World giant slalom champion Fenninger finished 22 points ahead of Olympic champion Maze of Slovenia in the overall standings and sealed the trophy in style with a commanding performance on the Roc de Fer course. "It was a good season and in the end it was so tight," the 25-year-old Fenninger said. "I think we're both winners." Fenninger finished .38 seconds ahead of countrywoman Eva-Maria Brem — her only rival for the GS title — and .46 clear of Maze, the World Cup champion two seasons ago.

GOLF

Madeira Islands Open canceled because of bad weather

Organizers canceled the Madeira Islands Open because of continuing bad weather yesterday. In a statement on the European Tour website, chief operating officer Keith Waters said "we are already in discussions with the club and the sponsors to reschedule the event for another week" later this season. Heavy winds and rain sweeping the Portuguese island for the previous three days did not let up, leaving the Clube de Golf Santo da Serra flooded. Organizers had already reduced the tournament to 36 holes on Saturday in an effort to salvage the European Tour event. The field was only able to complete the first round on Saturday, with Denmark's Joachim B. Hansen leading by one stroke. This is the second straight year weather has disrupted the tournament. Last year, heavy fog during the first three days forced organizers to reduce it to 36 holes.

BOXING

Manny Pacquiao welcomes Tim Tebow to his training camp

MANNY Pacquiao welcomed a high-profile visitor to his training camp Saturday with ties to his native Philippines: Tim Tebow. Pacquiao is preparing for his much-anticipated fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. on May 2 in Las Vegas. The Heisman Trophy-winning former Florida QB posted photos on Instagram of the two together in Pacquiao's gym in Los Angeles. "Awesome being with my Filipino

and Christian brother," Tebow posted on his Instagram account. Tebow, who is known for being very open about his Christian faith, was born in the Philippines to missionary parents.

Pacquiao spokesman Fred Sternburg said Tebow and Pacquiao know each other and embraced when Tebow came to the gym. Promoter Bob Arum was also there and they watched Pacquiao spar seven rounds, Sternburg said.



Tim Tebow

"Bob said when he left Tebow was still there," Sternburg said. "They seemed to be getting along."

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



MINIMUM UNDERSTANDING

Previously, we addressed in this column the local reading of the new normal. Each Secretary of MSAR Government simply manages their portfolio at the micro level. The Chief Executive and Central Government, ditto Liaison Office, take care of the guidelines to address the MSAR's macro-management.

For instance, the next phase of development of the gaming sector, which considers policies like diversification, will benefit from the full cooperation of the Central Government. Yao Jian, deputy-director of the Liaison Office in Macau, in an interview with China News Service, was more than clear when he stated that diversification was to be promoted jointly by the Macau Government and the Liaison Office.

Meanwhile, Leong Vai Tak has his hands full with SMEs, the minimum wage, and regional cooperation with Zhongshan.

Believe it or not...there is no minimum wage in the Macau Special Administrative Region. Not even the modest goal to have legislation granting a standard benefit to cleaners and security personnel working in property management companies ran as a matter of urgency in the Legislative Assembly. As a matter of fact, the AL passed the first reading of a minimum wage law back in July 2014. But then the law stumbled in never-ending discussions on the technical details of a piece of legislation that was to be redrafted into a universal minimum wage bill.

As usual, or rather, as déjà vu in the legislative house, lawmakers voiced serious concerns, reservations, reevaluation of all kind towards a law that had passed the first reading smoothly. Likewise the discussion on increases in property management fees, economic impact on SMEs, or overall inflationary pressure. Enough is enough, as technicalities are of an endless stock. The Secretary for Economy and Finance changed the game to one of plain policy: the government intends to introduce a minimum wage by 2018.

Whatever the arguments legislators may take to the table, Lionel Leong is not ready to compromise on the implementation of the minimum wage for cleaners and security guards this year, and on its inclusiveness to all workers by 2018. Both employers and worker representatives gave their general agreement to the policy target designed by the Secretary of Economy and Finance. Leong Vai Tak is open to meet workers' and employers' associations to exchange ideas on the implementation of the universal minimum wage, be it "immediately or gradually".

Given the anachronistic void of a minimum wage, one could bet that the Legislative was ready to echo without much ado the Executive will to upgrade Macau's status from a territory already lacking a comprehensive regulatory framework regarding trade unions. It will probably be a safe bet...but we could not feel a jot of enthusiasm from the AL president, Ho Iat Seng, and, more worrisome, indirectly-elected legislator Chan Chak Mo took upon himself the role of the unconvincing friend. "We don't know how the economy will be in three years". To level things, we should also consider the evaluation made by political heavyweight, Cheang Chi Keong, who gave it unusual hype: the implementation of the Minimum Wage represents a great step forward.

We do have to bear in mind that when we address this void as anachronistic, we would rather name it bizarre, since - and just to look across the Pearl River Delta - the universal minimum wage in Hong Kong only came into effect in May, 2011. Before that, there was, indeed, a fixed minimum wage for the very specific class of lowest-level unskilled worker, the foreign domestic helpers.

The history of the minimum wage is not a very old one, indeed. The saga began in New Zealand in the closing stages of 19th century, crossed over to Australia, years later, and London sent somebody to assess the experience. Poetically, or not, it was the report on New Zealand that led Winston Churchill to introduce the Trade Boards Act.

THE BUBBLE IN JAPAN
THE BURGER KING WILL SELL COLOGNE

For hamburger aficionados who want the smell even when they can't get a bite, Burger King is putting the scent into a limited-edition fragrance. Burger King said Friday that the Whopper grilled beef burger-scented cologne will be sold only on April 1, and only in Japan. Sounds too good to be true? It's not an April

Fools' Day joke, though the company chose the date deliberately. The limited "Flame Grilled" fragrance can be purchased at 5,000 yen (about USD40), including the burger. There will be only 1,000 of them. Burger King said it hopes the scent would also seduce new grill-beef burger fans.

ANALYSIS | UNITED STATES

Asians will be the wealthiest

Cass Sunstein

THE growing national concern about economic inequality raises many questions. One has to do with demographic groups. Are some doing better than others? If so, exactly why?

A new study from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis shows that as most people assume, education is a key both to mobility and to the accumulation of wealth. But another important factor is economic decision-making. And when it comes to financial prudence, whites and Asian-Americans appear to be doing a lot better than Hispanics and African-Americans.

Consider some numbers. From 1989 to 2013, the median wealth of white families stayed essentially constant, rising (in inflation-adjusted dollars) from USD130,102 to \$134,008. For Hispanic families, in contrast, the value grew significantly, but from a low starting point: \$9,229 to \$13,900. For African-American families, the story is similar: The median rose from \$7,736 to \$11,184.

The biggest advance by far was made by Asian-American families, who experienced an increase from \$64,165 to \$94,440 (including a significant spike since 2010). For most of the past two decades, their median income has been higher than that of whites, and if current trends continue, their median wealth will soon be higher, too.

What accounts for this? Since 1989, Asian-Americans have enjoyed an explosive growth in educational attainment. In



2013, 65 percent of Asian-Americans ages 35 to 39 had a four-year college degree - compared with 42 percent for whites, 26 percent for African-Americans and 16 percent for Hispanics. Over time, these differences are bound to produce increases in both income and wealth.

Hispanics and African-Americans have much less wealth than whites and Asian-Americans -- 90 percent less. Revealingly, this difference between the races is much greater than the income gap. Hispanics and African-Americans earn 40 percent less than whites and Asian-Americans do.

Part of the explanation for the wealth disparity involves financial decision-making. African-Americans and Hispanics show less asset diversification, and they hold twice as much debt as their Asian-American and white counterparts. They appear to be borrowing at higher interest rates and investing in assets that have low returns, such as housing.

To evaluate financial decision-making, the authors of the Fed report looked at people's savings rates, credit-card bal-

ances, debt-to-income ratios and missed payments over the course of a year. On these measures, which the researchers combined to produce a "financial health scorecard," Asian-Americans and whites have been quite comparable since 1992 (with Asian-Americans doing better from 2007-2013) - and Hispanics and African-Americans have lagged.

You might think that education could explain the variations. After all, if one demographic group has more college graduates, it should do better not only in terms of income and wealth, but also on the financial health scorecard.

But that's not what the study found. Within the same categories of educational attainment, the differences among demographic groups remain almost the same. On the financial health scorecard, the gaps between Hispanics and whites, and between African-Americans and whites, are greatest at the higher levels of educational attainment.

And at every level of education, Asian-Americans show much better financial health than African-Americans and Hispanics. Holding income constant, they have managed to do relatively well in both saving money and avoiding debt.

While education matters to income and intergenerational mobility, economic well-being also depends on people's financial decisions, which can enable them to accumulate wealth. Reducing inequality -- and promoting what Governor Jeb Bush calls a "right to rise" - is in significant part a matter of helping people to improve those decisions. **Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

USA-AFGHANISTAN

Slowing the pace of U.S. troop withdrawals from Afghanistan will headline President Barack Obama's talks with visiting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, yet America's exit remains tightly hinged on the capability of Afghan security forces even after more than a decade of training and billions of U.S. dollars.



USA-ISRAEL President Barack Obama said he takes Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "at his word" for saying that an independent Palestinian state will never co-exist with Israel as long as he is in office, yet another sign of the strained relations between longtime allies.



USA A machete-wielding man who was shot during a bizarre rampage at New Orleans' international airport died Saturday afternoon, shortly after authorities revealed that he had also been carrying a bag of Molotov cocktails when the melee began. Richard White, 63, was shot Friday night as he chased an unarmed Transportation Security Administration agent through a concourse full of frightened travelers.

MEXICO The son of a Mexican wrestling legend died early Saturday from a blow suffered in the ring, the Baja California state prosecutor's office said. Pedro Aguayo Ramirez, known as Hijo del Perro Aguayo, fell unconscious on the ropes, apparently after receiving a flying kick from fellow wrestler Oscar Gutierrez, known as Rey Mysterio Jr., according to video of the match in a municipal auditorium in Tijuana.

TUNISIA A third attacker in the deadly assault on the Bardo museum is on the run, Tunisia's president said yesterday, declaring his country at war with the extremists who killed 21 people at one of North Africa's most revered cultural institutions. President Beji Caid Essebsi said the attack involved "three aggressors" and the third man escaped.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Paulo Barbosa



One of the most famous Portuguese journalists, Adelino Gomes, took part in a workshop for journalists on Friday, focusing on freedom of expression and its limits in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the French satirical newspaper "Charlie Hebdo." The event was promoted by the European Union Academic Programme in Macau, in partnership with the Portuguese and English Press Association and the Rui Cunha Foundation, the latter of which hosted it. Over 20 local journalists attended the workshop.