



DOWNTOWN REVIVED WITH TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL

P4



SLIGHT BOOST IN LOCAL EMPLOYEES CONFIDENCE

The latest survey released by MUST has concluded that local workers have become slightly more confident compared to last year

P4



TSIPRAS ON FIRST TRIP TO GERMANY AMID TENSE RELATIONS

Greece's prime minister is seeking to halt a downward spiral in relations with the country's key creditor Germany

P14

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA China's biggest state-owned chemical company announces plans to acquire Italian tire manufacturer Pirelli, adding to a string of high-profile Chinese corporate purchases in Europe.

CHINA The flag carriers of New Zealand and China yesterday detailed plans for an alliance that would reinstate direct flights between Auckland and Beijing by the end of the year. The alliance, subject to regulatory approvals, would see Air China introduce a daily direct service between the two cities, while continuing to codeshare on Air New Zealand's daily Shanghai-Auckland service.

JAPAN The governor of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa orders the Defense Ministry to suspend all work at the site where a key U.S. military air base is to be relocated, in a growing confrontation between the island and the central government.

PHILIPPINES A Philippine court begins the trial of a U.S. Marine charged with murdering a transgender Filipino.

AUSTRALIA A seriously ill man begins a two-week ocean voyage on an icebreaker from an Australian Antarctic base to a hospital in Australia.



SOUTH AFRICA A South African judge convicts former Grand Slam doubles tennis champion Bob Hewitt of rape and sexual assault decades after the alleged assaults.

IRAN An Iranian nuclear negotiator urges world powers to find a "common position" to achieve a "balanced" final nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic as a deadline for negotiations looms.

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POLICY ADDRESS

Diversification seen as way to tackle gaming decline

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AP PHOTO



MR LEE KUAN YEW

Lee Kuan Yew, who guided Singapore's transformation, dies at 91

P12,13, OPINION

Catarina Pinto

THE Chief Executive has acknowledged that Macau's government has not yet decided whether or not to launch measures to curb property speculation, or even to introduce domestic rental market legislation.

At a press conference held yesterday after delivering his 2015 Policy Address, Chui Sai On recalled that the real estate sector plays an important role in Macau's economy, but so far the government will not be launching any measures to curb property market speculation or to introduce a law governing the domestic rental market.

"I am going to be honest and sincere and tell you that, currently, Macau's government has not taken any decisions to revise [real estate market] measures, therefore we will remain attentive to the market's changes," he stated, adding that he too finds "prices in the market too high."

He added that, "therefore we are paying attention to



No measures yet to curb property speculation

the population's income and purchasing power." He likewise stated, "In the Policy Address report we continue to

express our hope in a stable development of the real estate market."

Mr Chui reiterated that this is a matter deeply affecting Macau's population, so the government will not make a decision on changing real estate measures and regulations now. Nevertheless, he stressed that through increasing the number of public housing units granted to Macau citizens and through recovering more unused land, the government is hoping to "stabilize the market and develop it in a healthy way."

He pledged to, alongside his team, step up efforts to solve the housing crisis within the next five years.

Upon being asked for how long he thinks the 'adjustment phase' in Macau's economy will last, Mr Chui stated that after a period of great development in the gaming industry, the government had been preparing for a phase of adjustment.

"I believe that in the future there won't be serious consequences [following the gaming revenue decline] in relation to the government's financial situation or to measures relating to Macau's population livelihood," he reiterated.

Nevertheless, he recalled that after gaming revenue declined for nine consecutive months, the government has had to adjust its "economic outlook." He added that the administra-

tion will take advantage of this adjustment period to reinforce the city's infrastructure and promote the adequate diversification of the economy.

In the Policy Address report we continue to express our hope in a stable development of the real estate market

CHUI SAI ON

CHUI SUBMITS REPORT ON TOURISM CAPACITY TO BEIJING

THE CHIEF Executive told a press conference yesterday that he has already submitted a report on tourism capacity to the central government. The offices of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture and the Secretary for Security had been tasked with drafting a report on the city's tourism capacity. The report will analyze whether Macau has capacity to welcome more tourists, while also assessing the cur-

rent individual visit scheme. The government had previously stated that there's a need to optimize tourism capacity. Yesterday, Mr Chui revealed that the Policy Research Office is also conducting a study on Macau's demography, which will be completed in two months. According to the Chief Executive, they're forecasting that Macau's population will reach 710,000 inhabitants by 2020.

Lawmakers react with mixed feelings

LAWMAKERS have reacted to the Policy Address with mixed feelings. As was to be expected, the New Macau Association lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong was one of those most unconvinced, although he stressed that the introduction of a municipal body has potential; although lacking administrative power, the municipal body could have an important advisory role.

"I don't think that we

should put obstacles to the introduction of a municipal body with elected representatives. It's true that this organ is devoid of political power, but it can supervise many local projects. According to the Basic Law, its members must be part of the Chief Executive Election Commission", he said, adding that Macau should be divided into five administrative areas.

Talking to journalists on the sidelines of the Policy

Address presentation, Ng Kuok Cheong said that he was disappointed with the lack of information regarding the use to be given to undeveloped land. "He [Chui Sai On] said that the concession of 22 [undeveloped] land plots would expire soon, and its future usage would be revealed in short notice. But what does it mean short notice? One year, two, three or this month? Is he going to disclose this? The issue is impor-

tant because economic housing could be built on some of those 22 land plots," he said.

Gabriel Tong also agrees with the introduction of a municipal body, stating that the measure could promote civic participation among residents, although the government should clearly define the roles of the new organ. "Comparing the traditional activities of a civic council, Macau is substantially different," said

the lawmaker and scholar at the University of Macau, alluding to the limited powers of the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM).

Chui Sai Peng, the Chief Executive's cousin, was satisfied with the Policy Address, which according to him reveals more in terms of long-term planning.

"It was the first time that a five-year plan was suggested. I think it is a great idea because it can lead to more coherent

and consistent policies. Another good idea is to encourage young people to start businesses; this is a new measure that should be properly analyzed. Relating to the heavy traffic, it is the first time that the Chief Executive has mentioned casino shuttle buses. (...) He will also allow more people to take part in the government through the consultative bodies by introducing a measure to limit the terms to two or three reappointments and a time frame not superior to six years," Chui Sai Peng commented.

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POLICY ADDRESS 2015

Gov't 'optimistic and cautious' over region's economic development

Catarina Pinto

THE government will be using part of its financial reserves to create an investment fund, the Chief Executive (CE) announced yesterday in his 2015 Policy Address. While announcing a series of measures to facilitate the development of the local economy, Chui Sai On reiterated that the government is optimistic yet cautious about Macau's economic development.

The investment fund has been previously mentioned and yesterday Chui confirmed it will most likely become a reality. The fund is intended to boost the MSAR's financial investments and to increase its profitability.

Delivering a speech at yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting, Chui acknowledged that Macau currently faces greater challenges in economic development compared to previous years, but its economy "is well-grounded and its tendency to grow remains."

"The recent slowdown in our economic development [will help] accelerate the economic diversification process," said Chui (see also page 10).

Despite a nine-month consecutive decline in gaming revenue, the Chief Executive reiterated that the MSAR's financial situation remains



stable and presents "a budget surplus of MOP134.327 million and an extra financial reserve comprising of MOP207.804 million." He added that the "budget balance for the 2014 fiscal year reached MOP90.296 million." Chui concluded that the government will remain "alert, optimistic and cautious when it comes to [the region's] current economic situation."

Announcing several measures to ensure positive growth, the Chief Executive revealed the government is considering the introduction of a new long-term mechanism to distribute Macau's surplus. The government will be launch-

ing a study on the financial reserves scheme, which will therefore create a "ceiling for excess reserves seeking to ensure a sufficient amount of surplus to back welfare programs addressing Macau's population while also allowing a just, rational and institutionalized distribution of social wealth."

In striving to boost economic diversification, Chui said that the government is committed to perfecting legislation related to the gaming industry while stressing the importance of monitoring practices. "We will be implementing measures regarding accommodation and transport to non-resident

workers, [which should be] provided by gaming operators," he added.

Moreover, he said that the government will be introducing a five-year plan to diversify the local economy. A specialized committee tasked with building a "World Center of Tourism and Leisure" will be created. Presided over by the Chief Executive himself, the committee will be responsible for designing five-year plans covering a wide range of sectors.

Mr Chui also revealed that a study on the repositioning of Macau's industries will be launched to support the manufacturing of products locally. In addition, further subsidies will be in place to stimulate the creation of cultural items. The Cultural Industries Fund will consider creating an award scheme for cultural industries which aim to provide further support to companies, individuals and associations providing relevant services to society.

Other priorities highlighted yesterday by the Chief Exe-

cutive include the effective management of traffic congestion, one of the population's greatest concerns.

He pledged to launch a series of diversified measures to control the increase in the num-

■ The government will be introducing a five-year plan to diversify Macau's economy

ber of vehicles. Mr Chui also promised to reinforce supervision measures over taxi services and to adjust the number of taxis available in town.

The Chief Executive also told the AL that a study will be launched on the introduction of eco-vehicles and on the decline of emissions, which will also take place through a revision of existing legislation. Finally, he pledged to optimize the shuttle bus scheme, regulating the amount of buses and routes operated by casino concessionaires.

On the social welfare side, Mr Chui announced an increase to a set of subsidies provided to more vulnerable members of society.

The CE also pledged to continuously "improve the quality of democratic elections, promoting a healthy elections culture, while listening to society's requirements about political development." He reiterated that the government will be seeking to reach a social consensus, promoting "the democratic development in a stable way"

A new public housing 'concept and scheme' to be planned

MACAU'S government is planning to establish a new public housing concept and scheme, Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced yesterday. Housing, transport and environmental protection, he stressed, are priorities in this year's Policy Address.

The government will review public housing policies in order to create a new concept and scheme, since "today there are residents who are not able to acquire a house within the private market, but do not meet [all requirements] to apply for a social housing unit [either.]" Therefore, the government is considering the introduction of a different public housing scheme, aimed at helping residents overcome difficulties in acquiring a housing unit.

Chui said that the Macau government is committed to creating an effective long-term mechanism to address housing issues. He pledged to conduct "a full revision of the public housing policy" this year, while also perfecting legislation on the matter. "After launching public consultation, we will be partially

reviewing the affordable housing laws aiming at improving administrative efficiency. The revision of the law is already underway. Based on urban planning and land laws, the government will define a long-term strategy for public housing," he reiterated.

Chui promised to encourage the recovery of unused land. He revealed that, out of 48 unused land lots, twenty-two have already entered the final stage of expired concession declarations.

The chief executive likewise promised to accelerate the grants process for public housing units. He stressed that the government intends to fulfill its promise to provide 28,000 public housing units within the new reclamation land Zone A. The administration will also revise and assess plans for the new reclamation land Zones B, C and D.

He added that the government is this year introducing the concept of "urban renewal," and will promote the redevelopment of old neighborhoods.

MUNICIPAL BODY WITH NO POLITICAL POWER TO BE CREATED

IN HIS 2015 Policy Address yesterday, Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced that the government will be launching a study on the creation of a municipal body that holds no political power. Chui said that this inter-departmental group, to be established this year, would be tasked with launching a public consultation and the creation of a municipal body, to be devoid of political power until 2017. The Chief Executive did not elaborate

on whether this body will be embedded in the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), or even its intended purposes. At a press conference held after the Address, Chui recalled that Macau has previously had municipal bodies aiming to serve the population, and that the government is now considering the creation of one "in compliance with the Basic Law." Before Macau's handover there were two city halls.

Inflation reaches 5.3 percent in February

Macau's Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) for February increased 5.3 percent over the same period as last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The DSEC attributes this increase "to rising rentals for dwellings and dearer charges for eating out, as well as higher charges for package tours during the Lunar New Year period." Compared to February 2014, the price index of housing and fuels increased 10.7 percent. Recreation and culture went up 9.49 percent, and health increased 9.49 percent. For the 12 months before February 2015, the average Composite CPI increased 5.88 percent from the previous period. The price index of housing & fuels (+11.82 percent) and food & non-alcoholic beverages (+5.84 percent) registered remarkable increases.

Lionel Leong launches website and WeChat account

The office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has already launched its official website and WeChat account. According to a statement made by the office, it aims to strengthen interactions with different society sectors. Citizens can now search "SEFRAEM" on the instant messenger for subscriptions, and may also access www.gsef.gov.mo for more information and updates from different departments under the secretariat. Citizens can voice their opinions and proposals through these newly established services.

Chui sends letter of condolence to Singaporean PM

The Chief Executive offered his condolences to the Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, over his father's passing in the early hours of yesterday morning. In a letter, Chui praised Lee Kuan Yew's devoted efforts in leading the country out of difficult times to one of the world's wealthiest nations, as the founding father of Singapore. The CE also described him as not only an old friend to the Chinese people, but a heavyweight political figure on the international stage. The letter also mentioned the former prime minister's great contributions to the cooperation between Macau and Singapore at various levels. The CE hoped that his "phenomenal leadership" and political ambition would remain respected and honored by the city.

Brook Yang

FOR decades Macau's old neighborhoods have been celebrating every second day of the second lunar calendar month with feasts, worship rituals and Cantonese Opera, as the date is regarded as the God of Land's birthday in traditional Chinese folk customs. This year, the day falls on March 21, circling the week around it with celebrations hosted by various neighborhood associations and ancestral temple maintenance bodies.

Located in the central area of the Macau peninsula, the neighborhood at Horta e Mitra has been passing on the ritual for generations at its Fok Tak Ancestral Temple. Mr Lai Tak Heng, an old neighbor who has helped to organize the celebrations since the 1980s, said that the Horta e Mitra area has been the only neighborhood consistently marking the annual celebration over the past three decades.

Organized by the Charitable Association of the Ancestral Temple of Fok Tak at Horta e Mitra, the event will also host a 90 table free feast for the elderly this evening. It will be accompanied by another opera performance, as the finale of this year's celebration.

The Times visited the traditional festival and found an alley decorated with festive banners and lights. For the last few days a stage was set up beside the temple to showcase Cantonese Opera performances. From last



HERITAGE

Downtown revived with traditional festival

Thursday to yesterday, a total of nine performances were presented by an opera troupe invited from Shunde in Guangdong.

Each performance can attract an audience of more than a hundred people, mainly local elderly residents. Nevertheless, the festival not only gathers the elderly, but also the younger generations that have grown up in the area.

"This is a tradition for the neighbors in Bairro Horta e Mitra to gather together. Many young people who grew up in this nei-

ghorhood and went overseas would come back home on this day every year. The participants span for five generations at the feast," said Mr Lai.

The entire event's budget is MOP 900,000, which includes donations from many young people in the neighborhood. Mr Lai stressed that the district's younger generations have been very supportive of the tradition.

Celebrations for this ritual are also being carried out at other major temples dedicated to the God of Land, such as in the Largo

do Pagode do Patane. Furthermore, the city's Cultural Institute has initiated the process for declaring the local folk belief in the Land of God as part of Macau's intangible cultural heritage.

"Society has changed a lot, resulting in different values and opinions in terms of how to promote this tradition. Some other associations focus more on promoting it as a tourism attraction. We just want to pass on the festival's entire custom in its complete form to the younger generations," said Mr Lai.

SURVEY

Slight boost in local employees' confidence

THE latest survey released by the University of Science and Technology, gauging the confidence and satisfaction of local employees, has concluded that the city's laborers have become slightly more confident and remain equally satisfied in general compared to last year.

The ninth edition of the research, carried out by the university's Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) in February, collected a total of 966 phone interviews from local employees aged 16 and above.

The overall index of employee confidence rose 1 percent, from 3.14 to 3.17 on a scale of 1 to 5. Nevertheless, the survey also saw

a dip of 0.3 percent in local laborers' confidence in the employment market.

According to the research, general satisfaction among local employers remains the same, at 3.31 based on the same scale, while the sub-index of personal development has fallen by 0.9 percent.

The two categories obtaining the highest scores were relationships with colleagues and superiors. The outcome, as the survey said, reflected the "city's tradition of harmonious relationship among locals."

However, the fourteen-page report also suggests that employers devote more support and attention to their employees, taking into account instances of high pres-

sure at work and a lack of opportunity for promotion.

According to the research institute, laborers working in the gaming industry are more positive than before in regard to their work environments and to their treatment at work, due to the full smoking ban introduced in mass market gaming floors within casinos, and salary adjustments implemented during the past few months.

The survey reflected that respondents with a higher education background would be more likely to show higher confidence and satisfaction. It also noted that the older the respondent, the less confidence they possessed.

DSEJ pledges investment in special education

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has pledged that it will continue increasing the amount of resources invested into the special education sector, and will ensure it can better respond to expectations from parents and the wider community through close cooperation with related sectors.

In a statement issued yesterday, the bureau said it will "provide more support to the parents concerned about special edu-

cation, and will strengthen the training of teachers, so that they can identify as early as possible the students who are in need of special education."

The DSEJ is carrying out a public consultation this month to revise and improve the special education system in Macau. The current assessment system for students with special needs and the revised draft of the scheme have both drawn serious criticism from related associations, as well as from parents, because its lacks of direction and

inclusive policies.

The bureau explained in its statement that its professional team would provide assessments and "educational arrangements" for students with difficulties. These assessments would be arranged with related personnel including medical staff, and tailored according to the students' "problems" in terms of language, muscle coordination, and physical function.

It also said that the recently held explanatory sessions have

generated active participation from the public. "These opinions and suggestions will be appropriately integrated into the draft; as for the specific implementation, the DSEJ will follow the guidelines and take into consideration social and educational development," it stated. As the Times reported yesterday, the consultation document on revising the local special education system has drawn serious criticism from associations and educators.



Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2015 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights

Coordinate planning to ensure stable development Converge collective wisdom to open new chapters

This year marks the beginning of the fourth-term Macao SAR Government. It also marks the advent of an adjustment period for Macao's economy against the backdrop of a complex and volatile external environment. We must strengthen our vigilance against crisis, and have a clear picture of current and future situations, to achieve stable progress. We will maintain a pragmatic attitude, to consolidate and build on our initial success in various areas; have the courage to bear responsibility for our actions; be open-minded to accept public opinion; and actively make continuous improvements to our work. We will adopt the concept of reform to learn from our experiences, resolve problems and join hands with the people of Macao, in order to make a good start, maintain stable progress and open a new chapter for Macao's development.

Ensuring stable development

Coordinated planning

- Form the Committee for the Establishment of a World Tourism and Leisure Centre and formulate a five-year development plan; and
- Expedite the formulation of population policy.

Economic diversification

- Support convention and exhibition, cultural and creative, and Chinese medicine industries; cultivate Macao's environmental protection industry;
- Establish a system of statistical benchmarks for nascent industries;
- Set international standards for Chinese medicine, and promote synergy and innovation between the industry and the academic and research community;
- Establish the Cultural Industry Incentive Scheme; and
- Commence research on repositioning Macao's manufacturing sector.



Gaming industry

- Conduct a general review and analysis of the development of Macao's gaming industry since it was liberalised;
- Strive to change the gaming industry's pace of development, without changing momentum, to achieve adjustment through stable development; and
- Implement the arrangements for gaming operators and corporations to provide accommodation and transportation for their non-resident employees.

Tourism

- Pay close attention to tourism carrying capacity, and submit a report to the Central People's Government on optimising and making adjustments to the "Individual Visit Scheme"; and

- Adopt a balanced development model to ensure local residents' quality of life.

Small and medium sized enterprises

- Raise the maximum credit guarantee loan amount of the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme to 7 million patacas;
- Continue to support the Scheme to Support Operations of Long-established and Unique Small or Medium-sized Restaurants;
- Increase profit tax allowance to 600,000 patacas;
- Prioritise purchasing locally designed and made products in the public sector, and encourage gaming operators to prioritise using products designed and made in Macao;
- Plan establishing an import, export and re-export credit insurance scheme; and
- Extend coverage of subsidies under the Building Maintenance Fund Scheme to industrial buildings.



Public finance

- Establish the SAR Investment Development Fund;
- Establish a long-term mechanism for allocation of fiscal surpluses; and
- Establish a fund allocation mechanism that links fiscal surplus with the Social Security Fund.



Regional cooperation

- Comply with the general requirements regarding the State Council's approval of commencing work on specifying the SAR's jurisdiction over its customary waters;
- Complete the cross-boundary pleasure boat sailing arrangements in cooperation with Zhongshan;
- Extend the structure of the multiple cooperative services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, expanding coverage to more areas; and
- Enhance trade and cultural exchanges with ASEAN countries.





Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2015 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights

Caring about people's needs

Livelihood

- Continue implementing the following relief measures of the Macao SAR Budget of fiscal year 2015:

Relief measures readjusted for 2015

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| The disadvantaged | Minimum Subsistence Index – 3,920 patacas per singleton household (to be further adjusted this July according to mechanism); ↑ The daily food aid budget under the Short-term Food Assistance increased to 38 patacas; and Disability Gratuity – ↑ 7,500 patacas/year (ordinary) and ↑ 15,000 patacas/year (special). |
| The elderly | Old age allowance – ↑ 7,500 patacas/year; and Pension – ↑ 3,350 patacas/year. |
| Students | Launch Learning Subsidy Scheme for Students Studying Outside Macao; Non-tertiary education: Textbook Allowance – ↑ 3,000 patacas per school year (secondary school student); ↑ 2,600 patacas per school year (primary school student); 2,000 patacas per school year (kindergarten pupil); Students from families with financial difficulties - Meal Allowance: ↑ 3,200 patacas (for all students); Stationery Allowance: ↑ 2,100 patacas per school year (kindergarten pupil or primary school student); ↑ 2,700 patacas per school year (secondary school student). |

Housing

- Implement the construction of 28,000 public housing units in Area A, pay close attention to the progress of works, and complete land reclamation on time;
- Adjust five pieces of reserved land, on which more than 4,000 public housing units can be built;
- Amend the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law, and enhance administrative efficiency;
- Conduct a public consultation on review of the public housing scheme;
- Perfect the existing exit mechanism for well-off public housing tenants;
- Consider introducing new public housing categories;
- Complete the amendment to the Legal Regime of Urban Construction; and
- Complete drafting of the Strata Title Buildings Management Commercial Operation Law.



Land reserve

- Regarding the 48 pieces of land previously announced, 22 of which have entered the final stage of revocation of land grant, and the revocation will soon be gazetted;
- Conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of the development plans of Areas B, C, D and E; and

Transport

- Implement urban renewal concept and facilitate redevelopment of old districts.
- Control growth in vehicle numbers, and reduce repeat road excavations;
- Commence research on deploying electric vehicles;
- Encourage the use of environmentally friendly vehicles, and replace highly-polluting vehicles;
- Optimise bus operational models;
- Solve engineering problems of the LRT Taipa line, and finalise the routing and budget of the Macao peninsula line;
- Amend the relevant system regarding reserved parking spaces in buildings that are under construction;
- Adjust and control the number and routes of casino shuttle buses;
- Strengthen supervision and law enforcement regarding taxi operations, and issue more licences for special need taxis;
- Expedite completion of Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal enhancement work;
- Proceed with construction of Pac On Ferry Terminal, Taipa; and
- Commence rationalisation process for developing the fourth cross-harbour route.



Local employee protection

- Make amendments to the Labour Relations Law, and improvements to the Law on Employment of Non-Resident Workers;
- Consider introducing paternity leave for men;
- Progressively introduce a comprehensive minimum wage system;
- Firmly prohibit import of foreign workers for gaming dealer posts;
- Provide education advancement or continuing education opportunities for local gaming industry employees who have not yet completed their tertiary education; and
- Establish a licensing system for gaming industry employees.



Social services

- Expedite completion of the ten-year action plan for elderly services development;
- Expedite construction of homes for the elderly, and allocate more resources for projects in cooperation with NGOs;
- Focus on formulating the ten-year development plan for rehabilitation services;
- Increase quotas for residential services, and establish more integrated services centres; and
- Launch a new social services subsidy scheme.



Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2015 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights

Medical and health services

- Various facilities of the Islands District Medical Complex have either commenced tender process, awarded tender contracts or entered final design stage, and construction will be commenced in phases;
- Conde S. Januario Hospital's frontline medical staff hostel, Carmo Health Centre, and the infectious disease rehabilitation centre in Coloane Peak will be completed or commence operation this year;
- Provide training to general medicine practitioners and medical specialists;
- Launch the new Elderly Health Support Hotline, and consider providing elderly healthcare services in health centres;
- Review the Tobacco Control Law and propose a smoking ban for all indoor public areas; and
- Commence the third Macao Residents Physical Fitness Assessment.



Education, youth and talent

- Launch the first ever elite cultivation project;
- Establish a young entrepreneur incubation centre;
- Support youth participation in cooperative development of regional economy; and
- Foster local talents in sports.



Improving the environment

Environmental protection

- Commence public consultation on the System for Environmental Impact Assessments;
- Amend laws and regulations on vehicle exhaust emissions and quality of vehicle fuels;
- Introduce natural-gas buses;
- Improve urban air quality; and
- Implement an inert construction and demolition materials and scrap vehicles reuse project in Guangdong.



Security and safety

- Prevent and combat crimes;
- Reserve anti-viral medicines and other materials for protection against seasonal influenza;

- Extend the scope of food inspection to ensure food safety;
- Improve the sewers and drainage systems in all districts; and
- Complete 4G licensing to raise network speed.



New chapters

Public administration

- Implement comprehensive research on the functional restructuring, transfer and merger of the entire public administration organisational structure;
- Consider establishing a municipal organisation that is not an organ of political power;
- Set regulations for consultative bodies, specifying that each tenure should be two to three years; members representing the community may be re-elected or re-appointed once or twice; one should not hold a position for more than six years; and each person may hold positions in not more than three consultative bodies at the same time; and
- Perfect the system for appraising performance of department heads.

Civil servants

- Comprehensively review the entry and position allocation mechanism under the centralised recruitment system;
- Amend the Civil Servant Ranking System;
- Commence research on a civil servant salary adjustment system based on ranking; and
- Launch subsidy measures as appropriate, to benefit junior civil servants.



Legal development

- Intensify the legislation of fundamental laws, especially the laws related to livelihood affairs;
- Refine the Legal System for Public Works Contracts; and
- Complete the amendment to the Budget Framework Law and commence the related consultation process.

Anti-corruption and auditing

- Fully leverage the functions of the CCAC and the Commission of Audit.

Political development

- Extensively listen to opinions from all walks of life and forge consensus, with the aim of promoting democratic development of the SAR.

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Major Policies on Various Areas

Administration and Justice

In line with the policymaking principles of “putting people first” and “scientific decision-making”, the Government will make deepening public administration reform, promoting legal system development, streamlining administrative structures, optimising public services, and enhancing municipal infrastructure and management our top priorities. The Government is committed to maintaining a quality administrative system and solid legal basis for Macao’s long-term development.

Public administration

- Progressively promote restructuring of the public administration system, and consider establishing a municipal organisation that is not an organ of political power;
- Formulate an overall plan for the development of e-Government, and launch more electronic public services;
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the centralised recruitment system, enhance scientific recruitment, and foster a team of professional and efficient civil servants;
- Review the existing Civil Servant Ranking System, prioritise analyses of special ranks and posts, and continue offering living subsidies to junior civil servants;
- Strengthen legal training for civil servants, and enhance their knowledge and ability in administration according to the law;
- Introduce independent bodies to conduct performance assessments, and enhance the rationality and impartiality of the assessment system for department heads; and
- Set limits to terms of office and doubling up of positions for members of consultative bodies, and review the functions of consultative bodies and their ancillary units.



The ID card collection centre of the Identification Services Bureau

Legal affairs

- Improve people’s livelihoods and perfect fundamental laws to progressively establish a centralised, coordinated legislative mechanism;
- Strengthen cooperation with the Legislative Assembly, and facilitate revisions to existing laws by a joint working group;
- Systematically publicise and promote the relationship between the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and the Basic Law, and promote patriotic education to advocate loyalty to our country and to Macao; and
- Promote constitutional development in the Macao SAR in a gradual and orderly manner, and enhance competitiveness of indirect elections and fairness of elections.

Civic and municipal affairs

- Strengthen supervision of food safety, and enhance food safety standards of Macao through regional cooperation; and
- Commence consultations on the centralised poultry slaughtering policy, to determine the correct approach and direction.

Economy and Finance

Steady Economic Adjustments, Promote Diversity, Intensify Cooperation, Enhance Governance and Improve Livelihoods – We will strive to realise steady economic adjustments, maintain a stable financial system and a low unemployment rate. We will continue improving people’s well-being, and implement adequate economic diversification.

Steady Economic Adjustments

- Maintain a stable economic and financial system, and properly handle problems arising from economic adjustments; and
- Assist industries and employees dealing with difficulties during the economic adjustment period.

Adequate economic diversification

- Urge and encourage gaming concessionaires to increase non-gaming elements, and prioritise purchases of Macao products and services;
- Facilitate development and promotion of Macao brands by offering tax concessions and manpower support;
- Enhance support for developing the convention and exhibition industry;
- Facilitate industrial transformation and upgrading; and
- Conduct research on industrial repositioning, boost development of cultural and creative, Chinese medicine and retail industries, and consider establishing a system of statistical benchmarks for measuring development of nascent industries.

Intensify regional cooperation

- Facilitate the development of “One Platform, Three Centres” as a business services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries;
- Strive to realise liberalisation of trade in services with Guangdong within this year; and
- Support and facilitate the establishment of platforms for Guangdong-Macao cooperation, such as Hengqin, Nansha and Cuiheng New Areas, and assist businesses with seeking opportunities in free trade zones in mainland China.

Support small and medium-sized enterprises

- Optimise the business environment and improve administrative services;
- Effectively implement and improve various support schemes;

- Provide comprehensive services for trademark affairs, and consider establishing an import, export and re-export credit insurance scheme; and
- Assist local enterprises with reducing operating costs and resolving problems with inadequate manpower.

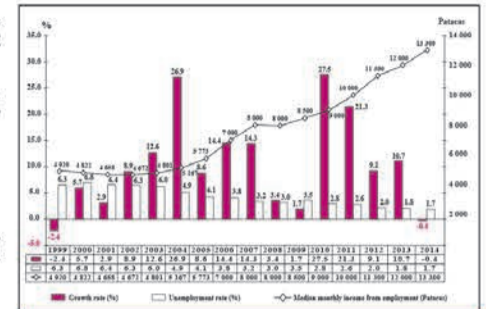
Improve livelihoods

- Effectively safeguard local residents’ employment, and promote upward and horizontal mobility of local employees;
- Provide employment and career development consultancy to young people, improve the Young Entrepreneurs Aid Scheme, and support the establishment of a young entrepreneurs incubation centre;

- Strive to minimise the impact of inflation on people’s livelihoods, and consider developing a commodity price tracking mechanism; and
- Safeguard supplies of goods and services, and protect consumer rights.

Enhance governance

- Commence an interim review of the gaming industry, and promote responsible gaming;
- Expedite amendments to the Framework Law on Government Budgeting, and launch research on effective investment of fiscal reserve and establishment of a long-term mechanism to allocate fiscal surpluses;
- Strengthen monitoring and control of import of foreign workers, and conduct research on labour and employment related issues;
- Establish cross-secretariat and cross-departmental cooperation mechanisms; and
- Improve laws and regulations.



Changes in economic growth rate in real terms and unemployment rate (1999 – 2014)

Security

With a pioneering, progressive spirit, we will strengthen our vigilance; implement the principle of putting people first; converge the power of the public security forces, relevant departments and all Macao citizens to effectively ensure public order, protect people’s personal safety and property, prevent and investigate crimes, and implement cross-border control – to maintain stable development of society, freedom and safety of residents and tourists, and the well-being of Macao people.

Strengthen crime fighting and maintain order and peace in society

Adopt effective measures to prevent and combat serious crime, disturbances of social order and gaming-related crime.

Perfect comprehensive precautionary measures and consolidate the security control system

Expand the scope of community policing; effectively perform safety inspections, intelligence gathering and analysis and crime prevention; improve and consolidate the security control system; and conduct forward-looking strategic planning on safety management for waters and cross-boundary infrastructure.

Enhance policing technology and strengthen crime prevention and law enforcement

Attach importance to application of technology; promote technological training; and strengthen crime combating, and security and order control.

Promote police cooperation and join forces to protect regional safety

Establish practical and effective inter-regional and international police cooperation mechanism and innovative collaboration model.

Develop a new policing concept and establish a modern policing model

Develop a new policing concept, establish a modern policing model, and foster a modern police culture with proactive policing, community policing and public relations policing as guiding principles.

Uphold police discipline and build an efficient police force with integrity

Strengthen police management; build and improve police-oriented disciplinary systems, and internal and external mechanisms.

Perfect the legal system and ensure the law is observed, enforced and safeguarded

Proactively review relevant laws and the legal system as appropriate; promote amendments to laws and legislation; ensure the law is observed and enforced; and enhance enforcement efficiency.

Optimise border-crossing facilities for building a tourism and leisure centre

Adopt measures to improve border-crossing efficiency, relieve pressure at checkpoints, and implement electronic administration for the convenience of residents and tourists.

Provide continuous and diverse counselling on social rehabilitation

Continue to help and support inmates with social rehabilitation, through professional counselling services provided by social workers, seminars and workshops, vocational training courses and other public activities.



Through detailed planning and provision of clear instructions, the police effectively maintain good order of Macao’s tourist spots

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Major Policies on Various Areas

Social Affairs and Culture

We uphold a high sense of accountability and responsibility by placing “caring for the disadvantaged and improving people’s well-being” as the top priority, and strive to “understand people’s situation, listen to public opinion, acknowledge people’s needs, address people’s concern and relieve people’s hardships”. We aim to work together with the public to build a happy home.

Medical and health services

- Introduce new measures for services provision, such as a new triage mechanism to shorten patients’ queuing times;
- Expedite construction of medical and healthcare facilities; and
- Develop new structural management, improve medical services, strengthen medical and healthcare training, and facilitate medical and healthcare reform.



Joint school performance to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region

Education and youth

- Build a well-developed tertiary education system and a quality assurance mechanism;
- Increase investment of resources in education, optimise subsidy measures for tertiary students, and improve the environment for students’ growth and development;
- Enhance youth education and cultivation, and promote education on morality, civic awareness and the nation’s situation; and
- Encourage understanding Chinese culture, and stimulate young people to fully realise their potential and positive attitudes.

Social work and social security

- Strengthen support for the disadvantaged by optimising relief measures and welfare schemes;
- Address the needs of the elderly, and improve childcare, together with services for teenagers and families;
- Promote diverse rehabilitation services, and enhance concern regarding women’s and children’s rights; and
- Speed up the establishment of a two-tier social security system, and improve services.

Tourism

- Develop the general plan for tourism and expedite the establishment of Macao as a leisure centre;
- Regulate tourism management to promote quality tourism services;
- Diversify tourism products, and strengthen international and regional tourism cooperation; and
- Fully leverage synergies by promoting inter-departmental cooperation, and making use of Macao’s unique resources to organise more major events and activities.

Culture

- Fully implement protection of cultural heritage;
- Organise a series of activities to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Macao’s inscription on the World Heritage List;
- Foster talented artists and promote art development and creativity; and
- Strengthen cultural branding, revitalise more space for cultural and art development, and enrich cultural life in the community.

Sports

- Promote a healthy sports concept to foster people’s interest and participation in sport;
- Promote development of competitive sports, through enhancing support, rewards and training for athletes and coaches; and
- Introduce a green construction concept to sports facilities, to enhance environmental friendliness and quality.

Transport and Public Works

The Government will create a better living environment for all residents through effective administration and planning for the future; attach importance to the development of the new urban reclamation zone Area A, which is critical for implementing housing policy; and accelerate progress and completion of major projects that are closely related to people’s livelihoods, with the aim of improving quality of life.

Urban planning and land management

- Commence formulating overall city planning and launch research on a city development strategy;
- Implement plans for the new urban reclamation zone and conduct the third stage consultation;
- Explore land resources and increase the land reserve; advance the new urban reclamation zone project to provide 28,000 public housing units in Area A;
- Follow up on the construction programme of Area B of the new urban reclamation zone, a dedicated area for law courts and law enforcement departments; and
- Consider constructing the fourth Macao-Taipa passage and a new cross-border route between Guangdong and Macao.



Optimising urban development planning to create a quality living environment

Housing

- Conduct research on introducing new public housing categories;
- Expedite construction of public housing units; and
- Improve the application and approval procedures for public housing, to speed up allocation and moving-in arrangements.

Transportation

- Manage private vehicles, build more public car parks, and develop pedestrian systems;
- Optimise bus operations and regulate casino shuttle bus services;
- Expedite construction of LRT’s Taipa line, and commence construction of the Barra Public Transport Interchange;
- Conduct an open tender for radio-despatched taxis, and consider introducing a new service model for taxis;
- Issue more taxi licences, review the taxi licensing scheme and strengthen supervision of taxis; and
- Facilitate the pilot scheme of cross-boundary pleasure boat sailing arrangements between Macao and Zhongshan.

Urban Construction

- Improve approval procedures for and promote development of construction projects;

- Consider redeveloping old districts with urban renewal concepts; and
- Refine property management regulations.

Public works

- Prioritise construction of major public projects related to people’s livelihoods;
- Improve infrastructure related to people’s livelihoods; and
- Strengthen coordination of road works.

Environmental protection, energy and telecommunications

- Launch a consultation on environmental impact assessments, improve air quality and promote waste reduction;
- Deepen regional cooperation on environmental protection;
- Ensure a safe and stable energy supply, and improve waterworks; and
- Complete licensing of new generation (4G) mobile communication services, and enhance the “WiFi Go” service.

Commission Against Corruption

In 2015, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) will continue to fully implement its law enforcement and monitoring functions, and motivate all public bodies to ensure their administration complies with the law.

Action against graft

- Remain committed to preventing and combating corruption, closely monitor areas of public administration considered prone to corruption, and strengthen monitoring of corruption in the private sector;
- Enhance modernised, user-friendly management; strengthen professional training and technical support for investigators; and improve leadership skills of department heads;
- Continue conducting research on legal systems related to the CCAC’s functions, and provide views and recommendations regarding improvements to these systems; and
- Strengthen joint investigation of cross-border cases, and promote regional anti-corruption exchanges and regional judicial assistance.

Complaints to the Ombudsman

- Handle public enquiries and appeals for help, and respond to questions regarding the law and operations of public departments;
- Investigate the legality and rationality of administrative actions and administrative procedures, to ensure they comply with the law;
- Conduct special investigations in cooperation with related departments, on issues for which there are repeated complaints, to enhance administrative efficiency and quality of public services; and
- Commence training programmes for staff, to strengthen their investigation and analytical skills and ability to propose solutions for resolving problems with departmental operations.

Publicity and education

- Intensify integrity education amongst civil servants, to raise the standards of integrity and self discipline;
- Continue to promote the Law of Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in the Private Sector, in order to advocate integrity in governance and business ethics; and
- Promote integrity and moral education among teenagers and the public, extensively raise public awareness of the law, and rally public support for and participation in building a corruption-free society.

Commission of Audit

In 2015, the Commission of Audit will double its efforts in improving the efficacy and efficiency of auditing through steady progress, optimised systems and focused priorities on the basis of its past achievements. It will strive to enhance auditing to help the Government realise the goal of good governance.

Account auditing and computer-aided audit

- The Commission of Audit will continue applying computer-aided audit technology to deepen its account auditing work, and conduct audits of all operating sub-systems of public finance accounts. The commission will also pay close attention to the latest developments of the Macao SAR’s public finance reform, and inspect the Electronic Data-aided Tool and sub-systems of the On-site Audit System in response to actual situations.

Performance audit and special audit

- Following international mainstream development trends of government audits, the commission will motivate its audit subjects to use public funds prudently, optimise workflows, and enhance transparency to enable public monitoring and supervision by relevant authorities. Regarding the Government’s major investment projects, the commission will urge improvements to mechanisms, strengthening management and plugging loopholes.

Continuous audit

- The commission will implement long-term continuous audit of important construction projects; actively promote rational and effective control of construction costs and project management; and intensify auditing of projects that have massive investments, and are highly influential and wide-ranging.

Auditing team

- A series of training courses will be arranged to equip all members of the audit team with professional knowledge up to international standards, and strengthen their abilities in account inspection, investigation and comprehensive analysis.

Audit file management system

- The commission will actively improve management of audit files by developing an audit file management system, which will transfer paper-based documentation to electronic archives for better audit management.

Promote audit culture

- The commission will continue organising seminars to promote audit culture for civil servants, schools and local communities, with the aim of raising public awareness of the Government’s audit work and developing a sense of treasuring public funds.

International exchanges

- The commission will maintain close contact with the National Audit Office, the ASOSAI, the OISC/CPLP and other international audit organisations.

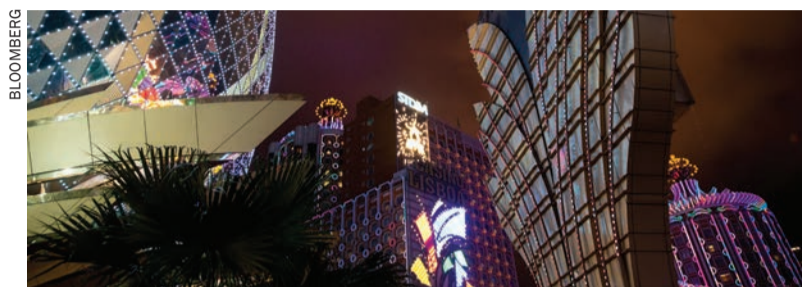
Macau cuts gaming forecast as Chui seeks to move beyond casinos

Stephanie Wong and Fox Hu

MACAU slashed its monthly gambling revenue forecast 27 percent, as the city's chief executive pledged a five-year plan to make the world's largest gaming hub less dependent on casinos.

The city expects average gross monthly gaming revenue of 20 billion patacas (USD2.5 billion) this year, down from an earlier estimate of 27.5 billion patacas, Chief Executive Chui Sai On said in the first policy of his second-term. Macau has entered an "adjustment" period of slower growth and needed to develop a broader range of attractions to draw tourists from around the world, he said.

"Even though the economy has faced major difficulties and



challenges, the overall fundamentals of the economy are good," Chui told lawmakers. "The pace of the economic growth has slowed, prompting us to accelerate economic diversification."

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called on Macau to move beyond gambling as his corruption crackdown and a slowing national economy keep high rollers and middle-class patrons alike away from gaming tables. Ga-

ming revenue is expected to fall for a second year, battering the local economy and the share prices of casino operators such as Sands China Ltd. and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd.

Chui's tourism panel would draft a five-year plan for stable casino growth while expanding the city's tourist offerings, the chief executive said. The MSAR government will evaluate the development of the gaming in-

dustry since ending local casino mogul Stanley Ho's monopoly in 2002 and opening casinos to foreign operators, with the goal of strengthening oversight.

The government also plans to improve airport facilities and expand airline services, Chui said. Macau's economy shrank 17 percent in the final quarter of last year as casino revenues slipped 2.6 percent, the first such annual decline.

According to the median estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News in January, gaming revenues would probably drop another 8 percent drop this year. The most pessimistic expected a 21 percent decline.

The new projection provided by Chui yesterday would represent a 32 percent decline from last year's

average of 29.3 billion patacas, according to data from Bloomberg Intelligence.

Diversifying Macau's economy would take 20 to 30 years and the city should accelerate efforts, Li Gang, director of the Chinese government's local liaison office, said this month.

Chui's administration would also submit a proposal to the central government to improve the travel policies for mainland Chinese tourists, the chief executive said.

Macau's Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said in February that the city wants to study curbs on mainland tourists to ease overcrowding. The city saw 31.5 million tourists last year with two-thirds coming from the mainland, according to city data.

Shares of Macau casino operators have plunged almost 50 percent over the past year, according to the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau China Gaming Market Competitive Peers Index. The gauge comprises the stocks of all six major casino operators in the territory. **Bloomberg**

GAMING

Melco Crown announces pay rise

MELCO Crown Entertainment Limited has announced a five percent pay increase for all eligible non-management employees, effective from the first pay period in April 2015. In a press release yesterday, the gaming operator stated that it regularly reviews its remuneration packages to ensure competitiveness within the market.

According to Lawrence Ho, co-chairman and chief executive officer of Melco Crown Entertainment, "the market in Macau has en-

countered challenging conditions and is experiencing an unprecedented downturn."

"Despite the difficult and uncertain circumstances we face, we have made a decision to provide a five percent increase in the basic salary for all of our non-management colleagues in Macau. Our people have shown, and continue to show, dedication and commitment to our company, and we thank them for their loyal service," he added.



Lawrence Ho

Many employees laid off from VIP rooms, group claims

NEARLY a thousand frontline workers have been laid off in the downsizing and closure of VIP gambling rooms since the end of last year, revealed the casino employee union, Macau Gaming Industry Frontline (FMG).

Ieong Man Teng, head of the union, told local broadcaster TDM radio that a large-scale VIP room cut some 200 employees at once. These were mainly frontline workers such as client hosts and cage cashiers.

Ieong said the employees laid off have been generally reluctant to turn to the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL), as they fear that filing a complaint could have a negative influence on future employment opportunities.

"The VIP room employees really don't dare to seek help from the bureau, because they fear that once the bureau

intervenes, other VIP rooms won't hire them anymore. So they'd rather look for another job on their own," he said, adding that the commercial situation of VIP rooms has been significantly affected by the decline of high rollers, whereas mass floors were unaffected.

Since December last year, DSAL has received complaints over compensation on dismissal from a total of 53 gaming workers laid off by four VIP rooms.

TDM also cited the director-general of the Macau Gaming Enterprises Staff's Association, Choi Kam Fu, who said that workers associated with casino employee unions affiliated with the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) are employed by casino operators rather than the VIP rooms. So far FAOM has yet to receive any complaint over the firing of casino workers.

corporate bits

JML PROPERTY RAISES OVER MOP80,000 TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES

Staff & clients of local property company JML Property stepped up fundraising efforts on Sat 21st March with a 'Trail & Stair' challenge hiking and running through the Coloane trails to raise money for Macau charities and associations. The route was a 15km trail through the Coloane landscape including over 1,500 feet of ascent and descent.

Last year JML raised well over MOP100,000 in donations and are still hoping to break through the \$100,000 barrier this year. Clients and friends have been the main sponsors, and chief corporate sponsors include Zung Fu Mercedes Benz, Macau Golf & Country Club, Lou Sio Fong Lawyer & Associates, WH Furniture and Inception.

A spokesperson for JML said, "We worked with the local community to identify areas needing support and the generosity of all of the sponsors has enabled sizeable donations to each of the chosen charities. We are very happy to be associated with Caritas School for Handicapped Children (Escola Caritas de Macau) as well as the Cradle of Hope and other worthwhile organizations".

Funds have also been passed to the Macau Deaf Association, and EF Orphanage. Other organizations supported include the Good Shepherd Centre in their awareness campaign around Domestic Violence in Macau.

JML Property Managing Director, Keith Lawson said,

"It's a great pleasure for us to be able to make a positive contribution. Family, friends and clients are always very generous and we are lucky to receive so much support". He also stated, "Whilst raising funds is an important goal, it's also about raising awareness and coming together as a community to make a difference, to try to help in any way we can".

JML Property Director, Juliet Risdon likewise added, "We can't thank enough everyone who supported the event with donations, fundraising efforts and participation. The effort this year was again absolutely fantastic, it's only because of this generosity and support that the event was such a success".



Why Beijing wants the yuan to be the world's 5th reserve currency

CHINA is a step closer to obtaining Special Drawing Rights status for its currency from the International Monetary Fund, a move that would see the yuan joining the greenback, euro, yen and British pound.

At a forum on Sunday, central bank Governor Zhou Xiaochuan swapped the topic of a panel discussion so he could pitch the renminbi's readiness for reserve status to his co-speaker, IMF managing director Christine Lagarde. It may have worked.

"The authorities have also expressed interest in having the RMB included in the SDR basket," Lagarde said in a statement at the conclusion of her visit to China yesterday. "We welcome and share this objective, and we will work closely with the Chinese authorities in this regard."

Addition to the SDR - created in 1969 to support the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates after supplies of gold and dollars proved inadequate - would add the yuan to the basket of currencies IMF member countries can count toward their official reserves. Approval at the once-in-five-year review due later in 2015 hinges partly on whether the IMF reverses its 2010 decision that it wasn't "freely usable."

Here are a few reasons why Zhou wants in:

1. Global prestige

Already the world's second-largest economy, its currency has lagged behind in international stakes.

SDR status "will be recogni-



IMF managing director Christine Lagarde

tion of China's rise," said Xi Junyang, a finance professor at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

2. Lower borrowing costs

A reduction in regulations on capital flows accompanying China's SDR push will result in an internationalized yuan. That could help Chinese companies venture abroad and cut their borrowing costs.

"A more open capital market can better meet domestic firm's financing needs," HSBC Hol-

dings Plc analysts including chief China economist Qu Hongbin wrote in a note. "Capital account convertibility and associated reforms are well aligned with China's longer term financing needs."

3. A multipolar world

China's strategic view is for a "multipolar" world where the U.S. is just one player rather than a hegemon. In the past, Zhou has called for expanded use of the SDR as an alternative to the dollar. Globally recogni-

zed reserve status makes that a step closer, at least on the currency front.

4. Price setter

The yuan's use to settle cross-border trade and investment has been rising, but the currency isn't used to set prices of international commodities from oil to iron ore.

"It may help to make the yuan a pricing currency," said Shanghai University's Xi.

That means more influence in setting global commodity pri-

ces and helps remove currency volatility from the equation.

5. Yuan demand

More than 60 central banks currently invest in the RMB, according to an estimate by Standard Chartered Plc. A move into the SDR basket would lure more official buyers.

"One of the key practical implications is that all central banks around the world would become holders of RMB exposure overnight," said Jukka Pihlman, global head of central banks and sovereign wealth funds at Standard Chartered. "But even more significant thing is the automatic acknowledgment of 'Official Reserve Currency' status, which would remove the remaining impediments from several central banks wanting to invest in RMB."

6. Reform driver

To win the SDR prize, China will have to press on with plans to open its capital account - a reform that stands to shake up industries and the way Chinese companies do business.

"It will make Chinese officially more confident in, say, pushing forward full yuan convertibility," said Li Jie, head of the foreign-exchange reserve research office at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing.

7. IMF recognition

For People's Bank of China Governor Zhou, SDR status would represent endorsement from the IMF for his reform efforts that have also included steps to liberalize interest rates and ease the so-called financial repression of savers subsidizing investment-led growth. **Bloomberg**

CHINESE relic experts have determined a 1,000-year-old Buddha statue containing a mummified monk, which is now in possession of a Dutch private collector, is a relic stolen from an east China village in 1995.

The Cultural Relic Bureau in east China's Fujian Province said on Sunday that judging from research and media reports, experts have confirmed that the statue on show in Hungarian Natural History Museum was a relic stolen from Yangchun Village in Fujian in 1995.

The bureau will continue the relic investigation in the village and search for more infor-

Mummified Buddha shown in Hungary stolen from Fujian



mation while reporting to the national cultural authorities in order to

identify and trace the stolen relic in compliance with normal proce-

dures, said a bureau spokesman.

The statue was on a "Mummy World" exhibition at the Hungarian Natural History Museum that opened in October last year and was originally scheduled to be on display until May 17, but was pulled from the exhibition on Friday as the museum said "the Dutch owner withdrew the statue without giving any reason."

Villagers in Yangchun burst into tears while others lit fireworks after

seeing the statue via Chinese TV news earlier this month.

The bureau immediately dispatched experts to the village to investigate the issue. Experts found a large amount of photos, relics and historical records including a pedigree suggesting the mummy was a former ancestor (or Zushi in Chinese) of the local clan.

The statue, formerly housed in the village temple, was stolen in 1995. It wore a hat and clothes when sitting in

the temple, and was worshipped as an ancestor.

According to Yangchun archives, the Buddha, named Zhanggong Zushi, was a local man who became a monk in his 20s and won fame for helping people treat disease and spread Buddhist belief. When he died at the age of 37, his body was mummified and local people made a statue with the mummy inside at around the time in China's Song Dynasty (960-1279). The statue has been worshipped in the village temple ever since.

In the temple, local people still preserve the statue's hat and clothes and other affiliated relics. **Xinhua**



Xi Jinping, China's vice president, left, applauds with Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's minister mentor, during the unveiling of a commemorative marker and bust of the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in Singapore on Nov. 14, 2010

Singapore's Lee seen as an inspiration for modern PRC

Christopher Bodeen Beijing

CHINESE leaders admired modern Singapore's founder Lee Kuan Yew for his toughness, economic pragmatism and insistence on respect for authority. In many ways, Lee's model of "Asian values," combining authoritarianism and economic planning, became China's own blueprint for modernity.

Most significantly, late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping looked to Singapore, with its ethnic Chinese majority, as he embarked on his country's economic reforms in the late 1970s. Those changes would spur three decades of rapid growth and lift China from the grinding poverty and political dysfunction that were legacies of Mao Zedong's centrally planned economy.

"Deng was greatly influenced by what he saw on his trip to Singapore" in 1978, said Su Hao, professor at China Foreign Affairs University. "It's fair to say China's reform and opening policy has a direct relationship with Singapore, where ethnic Chinese demonstrated their ability to create an economic miracle."

Lee, who died yesterday at age 91, and Deng established a close relationship during their several meetings, sharing a starkly practical approach, hard-headed

manner and similarly ruthless bent when their wills were decided.

"Society in Singapore is quite orderly. They manage things very strictly," Deng told his subordinates in 1992, describing how China's special economic zones should copy the city-state. "We ought to use their experience as a model. And we ought to

In many ways, Lee's model of "Asian values," combining authoritarianism and economic planning, became China's own blueprint for modernity

manage things even better than they do."

During Deng's rule, Singapore became a major investor in China, building shopping malls and office buildings, and investing in airlines and infrastructure projects. Deng and Lee also origina-

ted an exchange program whereby thousands of Chinese bureaucrats were sent to Singapore for observation and training.

In 1994, Lee joined with Chinese leaders in establishing the China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park near Shanghai that replicated some aspects of Singapore, with its streamlined bureaucracy, purpose-built offices and factories and integrated working and living spaces, and was meant to be a model for such developments nationwide. The project lost money for several years, but eventually turned a profit in 2001, according to the Singapore government.

Over that period, Chinese leaders became firm believers in Singapore's example of one-party rule and long-term strategic planning, although they never instituted government accountability on a Singaporean level as a deterrent to corruption. Lee shared the Chinese leadership's intolerance of criticism and dissent and believed limits on free speech were necessary to preserve stability.

Yet Deng also recognized the stark differences between the relative manageability of tiny Singapore and the vast challenges of China's massive territory and huge population.

While lifting some of the most

intrusive aspects of Communist Party control, Deng eschewed Singapore's system of parliamentary democracy — albeit skewed in favor of Lee's ruling People's Action Party — and did little to shrink the size of the China's all-encompassing state in line with Singapore's small government model.

"If I had only Shanghai, I too might be able to change Shanghai as quickly. But I have the whole of China," Deng said.

Always skeptical about the application of Western-style democracy to Eastern societies, Lee too had warned China not to pursue political liberalization.

"China is not going to become a liberal democracy; if it did, it would collapse. Of that, I am quite sure, and the Chinese intelligentsia also understands that," Lee was quoted as saying in a 2013 book.

Lee was also an admirer of China's leaders, including current President Xi Jinping, who made a point of dropping in on the then-minister mentor shortly after being tapped as the Communist Party's heir-apparent in 2010.

"I would put him in Nelson Mandela's class of persons. A person with enormous emotional stability who does not allow his personal misfortunes or sufferings to affect his judgment. In

other words, he is impressive," Lee said of Xi.

Despite such mutual respect, ties between the two countries have not always been smooth.

During Mao's era, Lee and other pro-Western Singaporean leaders were denigrated as "running dogs of American imperialism" and Chinese radio broadcasts called incessantly for revolution in Southeast Asia.

While such deprecations ended under Deng, they remained an underlying factor in relations and formal diplomatic ties weren't established until 1990 — the year Lee stepped down as prime minister.

China has also been rankled by Singapore's hosting of U.S. military assets and close relations with Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that Beijing considers a renegade Chinese province. Beijing heatedly protests exchanges between Taiwanese and Singaporean leaders and put relations on hold after then-Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong — Lee Kuan Yew's son, who is now prime minister — paid a private visit to the island in 2004.

One year later, during a visit to Shanghai to accept an honorary degree, Lee Kuan Yew seemed to warn against China abusing its newfound might and ignoring the lessons of past mistakes.

China's young people, Lee said, should be "acutely conscious that China ... has the responsibility and self-interest to assure its neighbors and the world at large that this emergence is benign and not a threat, but a plus to the world." AP



File photo taken on May 12, 1976 shows China's Chairman Mao Zedong meeting with Lee Kuan Yew



File photo taken on May 18, 1993 shows then Chinese President Jiang Zemin (l) meeting with Lee Kuan Yew, in Beijing



File photo taken on Nov. 12, 1978 shows Lee Kuan Yew (front, left) welcoming then Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping (front, right) in Singapore

SINGAPORE

City mourns death of founding father Lee Kuan Yew

Stephen Wright and Jeanette Tan, Singapore

SINGAPORE mourned longtime leader Lee Kuan Yew with raw emotion and a blanket of relentlessly positive coverage on its tightly scripted state television yesterday, mythologizing a man who was as respected as he was feared.

The government announced that Lee, 91, “passed away peacefully” several hours before dawn at Singapore General Hospital. The increasingly frail elder statesman was hospitalized in early February with severe pneumonia.

State TV broke away from its regular programming with a rolling hagiographic tribute to Lee’s life and achievements. In a live broadcast, one of its reporters called the death the “awful and dreaded” news. Effusive tributes flowed in from world leaders, including President Barack Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A self-proclaimed authoritarian who saw the world in stark realist terms, Lee commanded respect from Singaporeans, who this year will

celebrate the country’s 50th anniversary of independence. He led multiracial Singapore with an iron grip for more than three decades until 1990, and is credited with transforming the resource-poor island into a wealthy finance and trade entrepot with low crime and little corruption.

Singapore’s government has declared seven days of national mourning, and flags will fly at half-staff on state buildings. A national holiday has not been declared, and daily life in this pragmatically commercial city of vaulting glass towers and broad, immaculate streets continues to bustle.

Still, there were tears and a deep sense of loss among Singaporeans who lionize Lee for his role in creating an oasis of stability in a region saddled with corruption, political violence and poverty. Many feel he provided them with a roof over their heads by creating a system of state-subsidized housing where the majority of Singaporeans live.

“He’s my idol,” said 55-year-old homemaker Lua Su Yean, standing near the sprawling display of flowers and cards left by Singaporeans at the hospital where Lee spent the



Office workers in the financial district buy special edition local newspapers which feature the life of the late Lee Kuan Yew, yesterday in Singapore

last weeks of his life.

She said her “heart dropped” on hearing the news and got her husband to drive her to the hospital.

“He’s done such great things and there’s nothing bad I can say about him,” she said. “My children grew up listening to my stories about him, and my grandchildren as well.”

Lee’s son, current Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, struggled to hold back tears in a televised address.

Speaking in Malay, Mandarin and English, the prime minister said Lee built a nation and gave Singaporeans a proud identity.

“We won’t see another man like him. To many Singaporeans, and indeed others too, Lee Kuan Yew was Singapore,” he said.

The hearse carrying Lee’s body arrived not long after midday at the Istana government compound, where many in a crowd of several hundred people shouted “Mr. Lee Kuan Yew” and shed tears.

Under Lee and his successors, Singapore was known around the world for its strict social order, including a ban on chewing gum, restrictions on free speech, a practice of bankrupting political opponents with defamation lawsuits, 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 Asia.

His legacy is regarded within Singapore and abroad as substantial, but there also is recognition that a toll was exacted.

■ The government announced that Lee, 91, “passed away peacefully” several hours before dawn at Singapore General Hospital

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at New York-based Human Rights Watch, said Lee’s “tremendous” role in Singapore’s economic development is beyond doubt. “But it also came at a significant cost for human rights, and today’s restricted freedom of expression, self-censorship and stunted multi-party democracy,” he said.

There were also dissenting voices in Singapore.

“This man has put in certain structures which are certainly illiberal, anti-democratic, and

his passing does not mean that they no longer survive,” said blogger Alex Au. “Effort is still needed to dismantle them.”

Tributes from world leaders highlighted Lee’s achievements.

Obama called Lee a “visionary,” saying in a statement that he was “deeply saddened” to learn of his death. Obama, who met Lee during a visit to Singapore in 2009, said his “remarkable” leadership helped build one of the most prosperous countries. Lee also was “hugely important in helping me reformulate our policy of rebalancing to the Asia Pacific,” Obama said.

Neighboring Malaysia, with which Singapore has had occasionally testy relations, said Lee’s achievements were great and his legacy assured. “Malaysia is committed to the future of our relationship with Singapore,” said Prime Minister Najib Razak. China’s Xi said Lee was a “strategist and politician widely respected by international society.”

A private wake for the Lee family was taking place yesterday and today at Sri Temasek, the prime minister’s official residence in the lush tropical grounds of the Istana compound. After that, Lee will lie in state at parliament. A state funeral is set for Sunday.

The government set up condolence boards at Parliament House and Istana and a website called Remembering Lee Kuan Yew, where people can leave messages. **AP**

QUOTE BOX: LEE KUAN YEW’S SHARP WORDS ON THE WORLD, HIMSELF

LEE KUAN Yew, the autocratic founder of modern Singapore who died yesterday, never shrank from expressing his views bluntly. He was known as much for his tough talk as a pithy turn of phrase in campaign speeches, press interviews and parliamentary debates. Here are some of his oft-quoted comments:

Repression, sir, is a habit that grows. I am told it is like making love — it is always easier the second time! (Addressing colonial-era prime minister David Marshall as an opposition Peoples’ Action Party member in the Singapore Legislative Assembly, Oct. 4, 1956)

Whoever governs Singapore must have that iron in him. Or give it up. This is not a game of cards. This is your life and mine. I’ve spent a whole lifetime building this and as long as I’m in charge, nobody is going to knock it down. (Speech at a rally in Raffles Place, Singapore in 1980)

You call me a dictator. You are entitled to call me whatever you like, but that doesn’t make me one . . . do I need to be a dictator when I can win, hands down? (Quoted in an interview with the New York Times at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, 1999)

I have never been over concerned or obsessed with opinion polls or popularity polls. I think a leader who is, is a weak leader. Between being loved and being feared, I have always believed Machiavelli was right. If nobody is afraid of me, I’m meaningless. (“The Singapore Story: Memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew,” 1998)

GREEK BAILOUT

Tsipras on first trip to Germany amid tense relations

Geir Moulson, Berlin

ALEXIS Tsipras is visiting Germany for the first time since becoming Greece's prime minister, meeting Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday as his debt-ridden country and its key creditor seek to halt a downward spiral in relations.

Tsipras' visit comes after Merkel and other European leaders last week told Tsipras to come up soon with budget cuts and tax increases that would enable him to get urgently needed bailout money.

Merkel has downplayed chances of Tsipras producing those measures when they meet, saying "it is not the place for any lists with proposed reforms to be submitted" and they must go to Greece's international debt inspectors, not to Germany.

Tsipras' first weeks in office have been marked by tensions over the two governments' contrasting approaches to the debt



From left clockwise, Francois Hollande, Angela Merkel, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, Jean-Claude Juncker, Alexis Tsipras, Donald Tusk, Uwe Corsepius and Mario Draghi participate in a round table meeting on Greece at an EU summit in Brussels

crisis and Athens' revival of calls for new reparations from Berlin stemming from Germany's World War II occupation of Greece.

Tsipras' party won general elections in January after campaigning against the spending cuts favored by Germany in exchange for 240 billion euros (USD260 billion) in international

bailout money. The new government agreed a month ago to push through reforms in exchange for keeping European Union aid flowing, but has delayed submitting the measures for approval.

German officials have complained about their Greek counterparts making commitments and

then publicly casting doubt on them, but also insist the debt spat isn't a bilateral matter between the two countries.

German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel told ARD television Sunday he hopes for a "new beginning" in relations.

"The Greek government must clearly recognize that the rest of Europe, Germany too, wants to help but that we cannot do that without something in return, without fair agreements on the necessary reforms," he said — though he added that "social hardship is huge" in Greece and must be addressed.

Merkel's governing coalition insists talk of wartime reparations has no place in discussions of Greece's current debt troubles. Greece believes it is due payments for wrecked infrastructure, war crimes and a loan that occupied Greece was forced to make to the Nazis, but German officials say the matter has been resolved through previous

payments and agreements.

The two countries' foreign ministers met on Sunday night and agreed to work on strengthening relations. Germany's Frank-Walter Steinmeier said that the debt crisis must not be allowed to "erode the strong foundations of German-Greek relations."

Greek counterpart Nikos Kotzias, in an interview with German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung, advocated creating a German-Greek panel of experts to examine the reparations issue — but Germany promptly made clear that it isn't interested.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer reiterated that "for us, the chapter of reparations is politically and legally concluded."

Gabriel said that "it makes no sense to make an attempt now to exert moral pressure on Germany along the lines of, 'you must accommodate us more on the question of the euro and in the debt crisis.'"

"The two things have nothing to do with each other," he added.

The parliamentary chief whip of Merkel's conservatives, Michael Grosse-Broemer, was blunter.

"The reparations demands were another distraction from Greece to divert attention from their own failings," Grosse-Broemer told Deutschlandfunk radio. **AP**

AD



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Steven R. Hurst, Washington

USA

Texas Republican Cruz tweets: He's running for president

TEXAS Sen. Ted Cruz, one of the Republican Party's most conservative members, announced early yesterday he is running for the party's 2016 presidential nomination, making him the first among what is expected to be a crowded field of White House hopefuls to officially enter the race.

"I'm running for president and I hope to earn your support!" he tweeted. In an early preview of his campaign message, he says in an accompanying video that "it is going to take a new generation of courageous conservatives to make America great again."

Several other Republicans are expected to enter the race in the coming weeks, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and two Senate colleagues, Kentucky's Rand Paul and Florida's Marco Rubio.

Cruz, 44, is the son of an American mother and Cuban-born father and would be the nation's first Hispanic president.

He has considerable appeal among the Republican Party's base of conservative and small-government, low-tax tea party voters. After his election to the Senate in 2012, the former Texas solicitor general quickly estab-

lished himself as an uncompromising conservative willing to take on Democrats and fellow Republicans alike.

Criticized by members of his own party at times, he won praise from ultraconservative tea party activists in 2013 for leading a 16-day government shutdown in an unsuccessful drive to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Recent Republican history, however, could work against Cruz and other deeply conservative candidates as they battle through state-by-state primaries and caucuses. That selection process is dominated by the most conservative Republican voters and can lead to the nomination of a candidate who is not acceptable to more moderate Republicans and independent voters.

Cruz is set to release a book this summer that he has said would reflect themes of his White House campaign. In a recent



Sen. Ted Cruz

Associated Press interview, he said he wants to counter the "caricatures" of the right as "stupid," "evil" or "crazy."

"The image created in the mainstream media does

not comply with the facts," said Cruz, who does not believe in climate change.

The senator was born in Canada, but two lawyers who represented presidents from both parties at the Supreme Court recently wrote in the Harvard Law Review that Cruz meets the constitutional requirement to run.

Cruz had hinted openly at his interest in seeking the White House for months, and his intention to jump into the race was confirmed Sunday by a strategist for the first-term senator, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity so as not to preclude the formal announcement.

Details about Cruz's campaign launch yesterday were first reported by The Houston Chronicle.

Cruz was scheduled to give the convocation at Liberty University, a private Christian college, in Virginia yesterday. He has

courted evangelicals and other social conservatives as part of an attempt to build a coalition of conservatives frustrated with Republican elders in Washington.

Cruz continues to be a leading voice for repeal of the Affordable Care Act, widely known as Obamacare. He promises to abolish the tax-collecting Internal Revenue Service, scrap the Education Department and curtail federal regulators, likening them to locusts.

He also is a staunch social conservative who opposes both gay marriage and abortion rights. His father, Rafael, is an outspoken evangelical pastor.

On foreign policy, Cruz was among 47 Republican senators who signed a letter to Iran's supreme leader warning that any nuclear deal that is struck with the Obama administration and five other world powers could become null and void after the 2016 election. AP

AD



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A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC AWARDS

- SONGS THRU THE AGES -

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Saturday, April 18, 2015
Oasis @ Galaxy Macau

6:30 - 7:45pm Cocktails
7:45 - 11:45pm Dinner & Dancing
Midnight til ??? After Party @ China Rouge

Dress Code

Come as a Guest of the Music Awards in Black Tie
OR

Come in Costume as Your Favorite Recording Artist (1950's til today)

Tickets

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what's ON



"A SINGULAR JOURNEY – PIANO CONCERT WITH MAESTRO ANTÓNIO VICTORINO D'ALMEIDA AND MADALENA GARCIA REIS"

TIME: 8:30pm

VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre

ADMISSION: MOP100

AGE: 6 Years Old

ENQUIRIES: joasalomao@thescriptroad.org

ENCHANTING FLOWERS:

EXHIBITION OF MARCO SZETO'S PAINTINGS

TIME: 10am-6:30pm

UNTIL: March 29, 2015

VENUE: Calçada Da Barra No. 16 R/C LJ A,

Edif. San Chak, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

'THE INNER LIGHT:

CONTEMPORARY NIHONGA BY ARLINDA FROTA'

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

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

Public Holidays)

UNTIL: March 28, 2015

VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery, Av. Da Praia

Grande No. 749, R/C, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: March 29, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE PROMOTION PROJECT OF MACAU ARTISTS -

CHINESE PAINTINGS EXHIBITION OF CHIO TIN SONG

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: March 25, 2015

VENUE: UNESCO Centre of Macau, Alameda Dr.

Carlos d'Assumpção

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

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

Offbeat

DAVID COPPERFIELD'S ROOFTOP POOL RUPTURES, FLOODS PENTHOUSE

Now you see it, now you don't.

The water in magician David Copperfield's rooftop pool vanished — and flooded his penthouse apartment as well as multiple floors of his New York City apartment building on East 57th Street.

Copperfield's attorney Ted Blumberg told the New York Post that a malfunctioning pump was to blame for the March 8 incident. He said the entire pool drained through Copperfield's four-story apartment and others underneath it, soaking walls and floors.

Copperfield was performing in Las Vegas at the time.

Blumberg said the water spared Copperfield's collection of vintage machines from Coney Island.

He said the pool would be refilled after steps are taken to make sure a similar mishap doesn't happen again.

TV canal macau

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| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | Documentary Series |
| 15:00 | Q & A on the policy report for 2015 |
| 20:00 | News |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Interview |
| 21:45 | Happy Endings S2 |
| 22:10 | Brazil Avenue |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:00 | 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 - 1 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



1989 EXXON VALDEZ CREATES OIL SLICK DISASTER

An oil tanker has run aground on a reef off the Alaskan coast, releasing gallons of crude oil into the sea.

The Exxon Valdez got into trouble in Prince William Sound when it hit Bligh Reef, splitting its side open and releasing oil, with reports of an eight-mile (12.8km) slick.

High winds are affecting attempts to suck the slick from the sea's surface and residents have reported poor air quality as emergency crews try to burn off the top layer of oil.

Booms, which are acting like necklaces on the surface of the sea to contain the oil, are failing to do the job.

Environmentalists are also battling to save sea ducks, which number up to 10 million in the area. Ducks and seals have been discovered drenched in oil near the tanker.

The Coast Guard is dropping chemicals in an attempt to break up the slick but local officials say Exxon is responding too slowly. Exxon Shipping president Frank Iarossi said: "The clean-up is not proceeding well. Believe me, that is an understatement. We have a mess on our hands."

Mr Iarossi said the oil tanker was a mile off course although its navigational systems were working.

It had encountered icebergs in the shipping lanes and Captain Joe Hazelwood ordered his helmsman to take the Valdez out of the lanes to go around the icebergs.

The crew failed to make the turn back into the shipping lanes and the ship ran aground at 1204 local time. Cpt Hazelwood was in his quarters at the time.

A spokesman for the Alaska department of environment said efforts to steer the Valdez back into the narrow shipping lane was like "trying to park a Cadillac in a Volkswagen spot".

Businessmen are afraid the oil slick will affect tourism in the area, famous for whale-watching boat trips.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In 2004, a federal judge in Alaska ordered Exxon to pay \$4.5bn (£2.5bn) in damages for the Valdez oil spill, the largest in US history.

It emerged that the Exxon Valdez had dumped 11 million US gallons (41.8m litres) of crude oil and contaminated about 1,300 miles (2,080 km) of coastline.

Around 250,000 seabirds, nearly 3,000 sea otters, 300 harbour seals, 250 bald eagles and up to 22 killer whales died as a result of the spill.

Exxon captain, Joseph Hazelwood, admitted drinking vodka before boarding the vessel, but was subsequently acquitted of operating a ship while intoxicated.

The Exxon Valdez was repaired and renamed the Sea River Mediterranean and is working in the Atlantic although it is banned from returning to Alaska.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
No matter what action you take, your accounts go down. Welcome to the land of diminishing returns. It's a nice place to visit but you wouldn't want to live there, and luckily for you, this is just a stopover.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You wouldn't rush out and buy a car just because a salesman told you it's a great deal. So why would you make an investment that way? Shop around for the best offer.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
The market is more confusing than ever, but figuring it out is not impossible. Don't rely on the advice of friends and associates. Take the initiative and get the facts yourself.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your quick mind helps you make good picks, and fast. But it also has you speaking before you have a chance to think things through. Take your time, especially if you're feeling suspicious about a sweet deal.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You can have a good time out of anything, even being broke. Look at it as a learning experience. If it's any comfort to you, this is just a passing phase, so get the most out of it.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
If making money is what gives you your true sense of purpose, then you may be at a loss in more ways than one. It's time to readjust more than just your spending. Take a long look at your inspiration, too.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
The phrase 'all business' is misleading. Everything in life is about relationships, especially making money. It's time to do the selfish/selfless dance. In other words, compromising is in your best interest.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
When there's less to go around, people are more desperate for their share. Avoid conflicts over profits today because they could get ugly. Spend your day at the gym instead!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If making money has started to feel like a grind, get ready to have some fun again. It doesn't flow, exactly, but even when it trickles in it feels good. You'll be getting a lot done and enjoying it for a change.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Safety and security come in many forms. If you made it this far on the shoulders of your ancestors, you'll most likely do the same for those who come after you. And that's not just a reference to finances.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
If charity is part of your normal pattern, stick to it. In fact, give until it hurts. Altruism in this environment is a doubly advanced idea, and twice as necessary.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
If you have your head in the clouds, charlatans will think you're ripe for the picking. Don't give so much as the illusion of being lost in a fog, even when you're deep into the numbers.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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|--------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 3 | 18 | clear |
| Harbin | -9 | 6 | clear |
| Tianjin | 5 | 19 | clear |
| Urumqi | 9 | 20 | clear/cloudy |
| Xi'an | 7 | 13 | overcast/shower |
| Lhasa | 1 | 12 | drizzle/overcast |
| Chengdu | 13 | 19 | drizzle/overcast |
| Chongqing | 16 | 23 | cloudy |
| Kunming | 9 | 18 | drizzle |
| Nanjing | 6 | 16 | clear/cloudy |
| Shanghai | 9 | 15 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | 8 | 20 | cloudy/overcast |
| Hangzhou | 6 | 16 | cloudy |
| Taipei | 17 | 20 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| Guangzhou | 17 | 21 | overcast |
| Hong Kong | 18 | 21 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -1 | 4 | flurry/drizzle |
| Frankfurt | 2 | 12 | drizzle |
| Paris | 3 | 14 | cloudy/drizzle |
| London | 2 | 9 | drizzle |
| New York | -5 | 1 | flurry/overcast |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Living in flowing water; 6- Feudal estate; 11- RR stop; 14- Name on a bomber; 15- Without ___ in the world; 16- Dot follower; 17- Filled with understanding; 19- River to the Volga; 20- Fellowship; 21- Forms; 23- Land in la mer; 24- Pollen producers; 25- Sunless; 29- Confronts; 30- Ire; 31- Singer Braxton; 32- Actress Farrow; 35- In spite of; 39- Hesitant sounds; 40- Space; 41- Extreme; 42- Creates; 44- Strikes; 45- Person with new parents; 48- Descartes's conclusion; 49- Begins; 50- Harden; 55- Cologne cry; 56- In keeping with the Gospels; 58- Garden tool; 59- Twilled fabric; 60- Brightly colored lizard; 61- Discount rack abbr.; 62- Judge, e.g.; 63- Hazardous gas;

DOWN: 1- Bottom of the barrel; 2- ___ account (never); 3- Tattled; 4- Hip bones; 5- Seaport in S Sardinia; 6- Dull surface; 7- ___-deucey; 8- A Bobbsey twin; 9- Aeschylus trilogy; 10- Linux variety; 11- Listerine alternative; 12- Memento; 13- Gather; 18- Small mountain; 22- Early hrs.; 24- Actress Berger; 25- Hamlet, for one; 26- Are you ___ out?; 27- Cpls.' superiors; 28- Cry of a cat; 29- Hebrew prophet; 31- Trio; 32- Baseball glove; 33- About, in memos; 34- Turkish titles; 36- Act of seizing authority; 37- Having the shape of a coin; 38- Half of MCII; 42- AWOL chasers; 43- Bear witness; 44- "Smooth Operator" singer; 45- Japanese beer brand; 46- Furnishings; 47- Alternate; 48- Actress Stevens; 50- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 51- Baltic capital; 52- Mil. school; 53- ___-shanter (Scottish cap); 54- Pizazz; 57- "Exodus" hero

Yesterday's solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | U | N | A | L | P | S | E | L | A | H | | |
| O | N | O | P | A | S | T | E | X | I | L | E | | |
| A | S | S | T | H | T | I | O | E | C | O | L | E | |
| S | T | E | W | O | C | A | S | I | O | N | A | L | |
| H | A | R | I | N | A | H | A | T | M | | | | |
| A | S | T | H | M | A | T | I | S | U | T | E | S | |
| R | O | S | S | I | P | O | P | S | N | A | R | E | |
| G | O | A | T | B | A | M | A | C | I | D | I | C | |
| O | T | R | A | E | R | I | S | T | I | C | | | |
| C | O | N | R | A | M | E | L | A | T | I | T | A | |
| C | O | R | D | I | L | L | E | R | A | T | O | P | E |
| L | E | A | N | S | E | I | N | E | S | T | R | A | N |
| L | E | A | N | S | E | I | N | E | O | R | N | E | |
| B | I | R | G | E | R | C | A | S | N | E | A | T | |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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| <p>La Bahia No.1, High Floor Macau 1 Bedrooms Apartment Behind Nam Van lake HKD 15,000 / 507 sq ft Ref: 15030477</p> | <p>The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Luxury Residence HKD 33,000 / 2,488 sq ft Ref: 15015429</p> | <p>Plum Court Ocean Gardens, Taipa 2 Bedrooms Apartment Viewing by Appointment HKD 20,000 / 1,290 sq ft Ref: 15020467</p> | <p>Ieng Kok C Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment Convention Location HKD 8,800 / 559 sq ft Ref: 15020466</p> |

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NBA Spurs win 114-95 at faltering Hawks

SAN Antonio won comfortably at Atlanta 114-95 in weekend's clash of two teams with form lines heading in opposite directions leading up to the NBA playoffs.

The Spurs have won three straight and the Hawks have lost three straight, though they can afford to ease up given they are still eight games clear atop the Eastern Conference, ahead of Cleveland, which won at Milwaukee.

In the key games among playoff aspirants in the West, the Los Angeles Clippers defeated New Orleans, and Phoenix won a close one against Dallas.

Defending champion San Antonio got a season-high 23 points from Tiago Splitter and 20 from Kawhi Leonard. The Spurs never trailed and led by as much as 26 points in the third quarter.

Paul Millsap finished with 22 points for the faltering Hawks.

The Clippers won a fourth straight game by beating New Orleans 107-100.

Blake Griffin scored 23 points and Chris Paul contributed 23 points and 11 assists for Los Angeles, which converted 18 Pelicans turnovers into 30 points and had a 25-6 advantage on second-chance points.

Anthony Davis led New Orleans with 26 points and 12 rebounds in 39 minutes after missing two games with a sprained ankle. Tyreke Evans was sidelined because of the same injury and was replaced in the starting lineup.

Phoenix's Archie Goodwin sank the go-ahead 3-pointer and Markieff Morris added a critical jumper in the final 30 seconds to secure a 98-92 win for the Suns against Dallas.



Atlanta Hawks' Pero Antic, right, of Macedonia, reacts while falling to the floor after making a layup and drawing the foul from San Antonio Spurs' Boris Diaw, left, of France, during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game

The Mavericks rallied from a 17-point, third-quarter deficit and were up 86-80 with 5 minutes to play, but then went four minutes without scoring while the Suns climbed back into the lead.

Eric Bledsoe had 20 points, nine assists and six rebounds for Phoenix.

Chandler Parsons scored 19 points for Dallas, which has lost all three games against Phoenix this season.

Cleveland's LeBron James scored 28 points and sparked a key second-half run with an emphatic dunk to lead the Cavaliers to a 108-90 win against Milwaukee.

J.R. Smith added 23 points

for Cleveland, including three straight 3s to close out the decisive run that turned a six-point deficit into a 93-78 lead with 6:19 left.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 15 points and nine rebounds for the Bucks, who have won six straight.

Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook had 12 points, 10 rebounds and 17 assists for his 10th triple-double of the season to lead the Thunder past Miami 93-75.

Enes Kanter had been expected to miss again with an ankle injury, but took his place and delivered 27 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder, which has won three in a row.

The Heat had five players score in double figures but none with more than 13 points.

Sacramento led most of the game and comfortably beat Washington 109-86, with Rudy Gay scoring 26 points.

DeMarcus Cousins had 20 points, seven rebounds and five assists despite foul trouble for the Kings, who stretched the lead to 20 points in the third quarter and were never threatened from there.

Bradley Beal scored 19 points for the Wizards, who have lost 11 of their past 13 road games.

Toronto's DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points as the Raptors beat New York 106-89.

Detroit won 105-97 in over-

time against Boston, with Andre Drummond having 18 points and 22 rebounds.

Denver's Danilo Gallinari scored a career-high 40 points to lead the Nuggets to a 119-100 victory over Orlando, winning at an Eastern Conference opponent for the first time in 12 games.

Charlotte moved into a playoff-yielding eighth place in the East by beating Minnesota 109-98, with Mo Williams scoring 24 points.

Los Angeles' Jeremy Lin scored a season-high 29 points as the Lakers beat Philadelphia 101-87 in the first meeting of the season between two of the NBA's worst teams. AP



Gianni Infantino

FOOTBALL

UEFA sets 2018 World Cup qualifying format, eyes 14th entry

EUROPE'S World Cup qualifying process will be based on 13 available places for the 2018 tournament, even though UEFA thinks it deserves a 14th.

UEFA general secretary Gianni Infantino said yesterday that Europe will retain the same format of nine qualifying groups. The nine group winners will advance to play in Russia, and the eight best runners-up will enter a playoff round.

With Russia automatically qualified as host, Europe is already set to have

14 teams in the 32-nation lineup.

Still, FIFA has invited its six confederations to pitch for more guaranteed qualifying slots at a May 30 session of its executive committee. Infantino said it would be "objective and fair" for UEFA to seek an extra slot after European teams won the past three World Cups.

In recent years, FIFA President Sepp Blatter has encouraged other continents to seek more World Cup places, likely at Europe's expense.

"To crown the best team you must have the best teams," Infantino said after a

UEFA executive committee meeting.

FIFA will draw the World Cup qualifying groups on July 25 in St. Petersburg.

Europe's 52 eligible teams, which do not include UEFA member Gibraltar, will be drawn into seven six-team groups, and two groups of five.

Gibraltar could be added to the draw if its football federation wins an appeal in May at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. It is challenging FIFA's refusal to accept the British territory as a member. AP

opinion

World Views

William Pesek, Bloomberg

AFTER LEE, SINGAPORE NEEDS A RETHINK

I failed to impress Lee Kuan Yew when we met for the first time a decade ago. It was in December 2004 in Bangkok and he was giving a speech arguing that rumors of America's decline were premature. "America," he declared, was "the most dynamic economy in the world" and would be for many years to come. Afterward, when I asked the founder of Singapore if he was too bullish on the U.S. given the rise of China, he rolled his eyes.

"Why are you such a bad American?" he joked with signature bluntness, before lecturing me on the mechanics of competing in a fast-changing world. Today, as Lee leaves the scene, I'm struck by the irony of that exchange. It's now Singapore's turn to confront questions about whether it can still compete, as Asia's emergence challenges the impressive economy Lee built.

With the gap between haves and have-nots widening and citizens turning against the open immigration policies Singapore long embraced, the Southeast Asian city-state is facing stark questions about its identity. Lee's early successes were based on a unique confluence of factors. Whereas Asian "tigers" Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan relied on productivity gains to drive growth, Singapore appropriated domestic savings, marshaled the population into moderate-paying jobs and led the charge with government-linked companies. While the results were dramatic, a model Paul Krugman once compared to Stalin's Soviet Union has clearly run its course.

The question now is what the new model should be. "For Singapore to maintain its position as a country with Asia's highest per capita GDP, it will need to sustain strong productivity growth to support steadily rising wages, while keeping unit labor costs constrained," says economist Rajiv Biswas at IHS Global Insight. "Singapore's future success will therefore depend on continued transformation of the economy towards higher value-added industries."

Efforts by Lee's son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, to raise Singapore's competitiveness have had mixed results. Five years ago, the government launched a 10-year, \$2.6 billion effort to boost productivity. Instead of rising toward the targeted 2 percent to 3 percent range, growth in worker efficiency has averaged around 0.5 percent in recent quarters.

What's been lacking? Scale, focus and audacity. A true transformation will require a more targeted approach, not to mention spending more than 1/115th the size of the city's \$298 billion economy. Offering cash rebates to companies that pass out flashy new laptops and iPads to workers will achieve nothing. Even the metrics — gross domestic product divided by the workforce — are wrong. Singapore needs more telling indicators, like sales per square foot of retail space or square-foot-per-man-per-day progress in the construction sector.

But the real problem is boldness. In 2010, the government unveiled plans to increase Singapore's expenditure on research and development from less than 3 percent of gross domestic product to 3.5 percent — hardly enough to catalyze a startup boom. Singapore needs to get more creative with grants for cutting-edge R&D across industries — software, biotechnology, energy, logistics and health care among them. Given the backlash against immigration, Singapore must get more out of the 5.5 million-person population it has now — not rely on new recruits.

One way to do that is to curtail the outsized role of government-linked companies. A necessary evil in the 1960s and 1970s, these champions are impeding opportunities for small-to-midsize companies, which tend to be more innovative. To level the playing field, says economist Irvin Seah of DBS, Singapore should help these companies tap growth in faster-growing economies like Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations is actively lowering trade barriers. Why not give smaller companies preferential treatment to strike partnerships in neighboring economies? Also, SMEs in struggling Europe are desperate for joint ventures in overseas markets. Singapore could leverage Europe's technology, experience and reach to internationalize even further.

Clearly, the only way Singapore can maintain the remarkable gains made under its legendary founder is to innovate.

THE BUZZ PARIS ALTERNATES TRAFFIC TO REDUCE CHOKING SMOG LEVELS

Paris authorities have put in place 24-hour emergency measures to limit traffic after record levels of pollution in the French capital.

Yesterday, all cars with number plates that end with an even number will be banned from circulating in the Paris region.

A decision on whether to extend the ban will be announced in the course of the day. Public transportation has also been free over the

weekend, and this is continuing Monday in a bid to encourage drivers away from their cars.

But some Parisian residents believe that taxpayers' money would be better spent seeking out innovative solutions and developing cars that pollute less.

Similar measures were implemented just over a year ago on March 17, when smog also reached dangerous levels.

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Roadside | 55-75 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 55-75 Moderate |
| Ambient | 55-75 Moderate |

SOURCE: DSIMG



AP PHOTO

Czechs deploy wild horses from Britain to save biodiversity

Karel Janicek, Milovice

TWENTY-FIVE years ago it was a military zone where occupying Soviet troops held exercises. Today it's a sanctuary inhabited by wild animals that scientists hope will improve biodiversity among local plants as well as save endangered species.

A herd of 14 wild mares from Britain's Exmoor National Park were moved in January to the former Milovice military base, 35 kilometers northeast of Prague, the Czech capital.

After an acclimatization period at a small enclosure, the horses were released Saturday to a 40-hectare area. Their task is to stop the spread of aggressive and evasive grasses — including bushgrass — that are delicacies for them. The invasive plants began to

grow after Soviet troops withdrew in 1991, threatening the area's original plants and animals. A stallion will join the mares in April.

Dalibor Dostal, director of European Wildlife, the organization behind the project, said scientists decided that using big-hoofed animals such as wild horses, which "maintained the steppe character of nature across Europe for thousands of years," could solve the invasive plant problem in the most effective way. That should also help some 30 threatened species in the area, including the Mountain Alcon Blue butterfly and the Star Gentian flowering plant.

"Alternatives to wild animals are very expensive and their impact on the environment is not very good," Dostal said.

Domestic animals such as

sheep were ruled out because they would feed on the endangered plants, and mechanical cutting costs too much.

"(The horses) will move freely on the pastures the whole year. If they have a source of water and enough space, they don't need any care. They are able to care of themselves," Dostal said.

Environmentalists are already planning to expand the territory and use other big-hoofed animals such as European bison.

The Soviet army that stayed after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of then-Czechoslovakia was the last armed force in the area. Dostal said the soldiers' activities actually simulated the impact of hoofed animals, a reason why "military zones in the Czech Republic are the places with the best biodiversity." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Anjum Naveed

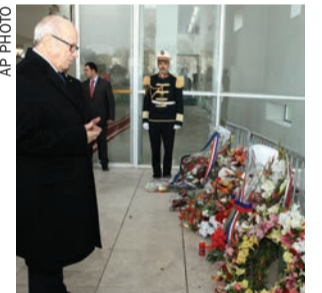


Pakistani Air Force fighter jets demonstrate an aerobatic performance during the Pakistan National Day parade in Islamabad, Pakistan, yesterday. Pakistan has demonstrated its first locally manufactured armed drone aircraft.

WORLD BRIEFS



FRANCE Prime Minister Manuel Valls has hailed the defeat of the far-right National Front in first-round local elections, while minimizing the significance of the third-place finish of his own Socialist party. The National Front was second in Sunday's vote with 25 percent, behind the conservative UMP party and its allies with 29 percent. Socialists and their allies had 21.5 percent, according to the Interior Ministry's official results.



TUNISIA's prime minister has fired five leading security officials after three gunmen attacked a renowned Tunis museum, killing 21 in the deadliest attack on tourists in Tunisia in 13 years, the government said yesterday. The ousted officials include the director of Tunisia's tourist police and the police chiefs for the neighborhood around the National Bardo Museum and for metropolitan Tunis. All but one of those killed were foreign tourists.

UK The British parents who became fugitives after their critically ill son was refused a cancer treatment in the U.K. last year say he's experienced a miracle recovery from his brain tumor. Brett King told The Sun newspaper in an interview published yesterday that the recovery of his 5-year-old son, Ashya, justifies the family's decision to remove him from Southampton General Hospital to seek an innovative treatment abroad. Their decision sparked an international manhunt, and resulted in the parents being briefly jailed.