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Approaching the 10th anniversary of George Best's death, his son is telling the full story of their turbulent relationship for the first time

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** The U.S. stood firm on rejecting membership in a new China-led infrastructure bank, citing concerns it will fall short of international standards even as the rest of the world's biggest economies sign up for the initiative.

More on p11

**MALAYSIA** Kuala Lumpur proposes two new anti-terror laws that reintroduce indefinite detention without trial and allow the seizure of passports of anyone suspected of supporting terror acts.

**MALAYSIA** The passing of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew leaves former Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad — who shared some traits with Lee but left a very different legacy — as the last of a generation of old-guard leaders in Southeast Asia. More on p13

AP PHOTO



**PHILIPPINES** A month long offensive against hard-line Muslim rebels ended yesterday after 139 insurgents were killed, 12 others were captured and bomb-making strongholds were seized by regular troops. Ten soldiers were killed and 30 others were wounded in the marshy boundary of Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces in the South. The clashes displaced 120,000 villagers.

**BANGLADESH** A blogger is hacked to death by three men in Dhaka, and two of the attackers are caught near the scene, police say. The killing came one month after a prominent Bangladeshi-American blogger known for speaking out against religious extremism was hacked to death. More on p13

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# Lionel Leong says gaming industry needs 'check-up'

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## Zhongshan invests in regional cooperation

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POLICY ADDRESS | ECONOMY AND FINANCE

# Lawmakers request gov't to control foreign labor quotas



Catarina Pinto

**F**OREIGN labor policies have been once again debated at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting. This is following requests from some lawmakers to implement a temporary ban on imported labor if needed.

The Secretary for Economy

and Finance, Lionel Leong, yesterday attended the plenary session to discuss his cabinet's action plan for this year.

As an advocate for the rights of local workers, lawmaker Lei Cheng I stated that the Human Resources Office is not managing the non-resident workers recruitment program

to the best of its abilities. "Local employees do not see their salaries being revised because of a large scale recruitment of foreign workers," she recalled.

Lei suggested that the government implement a temporary ban on the import of foreign labor, so that more job vacancies could be allocated to residents.

"The government needs to put a stop to the import of foreign workers. It should implement a measure preventing the import of foreign workers for a [certain] period of time following the first [wave] of authorizations given to foreign workers. We have over 170,000 non-resident workers... could you tell us the number of foreign workers we still need?" she stated.

Au Kam San, who is also known for his dedication to championing the labor rights of residents, suggested that, "the import of foreign workers is affecting the distribution of social resources."

"The government is authorizing more quotas [for the hiring of foreign workers] than needed. Saying that we lack a sufficient number of workers is easy (...) We need to truly understand whether we are lacking [residents] to fill in those vacancies," he recalled, adding that the government is actually not enforcing a limit to quotas provided to companies.

"As long as there's a green light [to recruit foreigners], labor imported will be nearly

## Foreign workers have greatly contributed to our economic development

LIONEL LEONG

unlimited, and it will affect locals, who might end up unemployed," he reiterated.

Responding to the concerns of lawmakers, Secretary Lionel Leong highlighted foreign workers' contributions to Macau's economic development. "We have always stated that we only hire foreign workers when there's not enough locals [to fill in the positions]," Mr Leong stressed.

He added that, "we cannot hide their contribution to MSAR's development. We have a 1.7 [percent] unemployment rate. Foreign workers have greatly contributed to our economic development."

Moreover, he confirmed that the percentage of residents, for instance, working in the construction sector and those working in the education sector account for more than 50 percent of the overall number of employees.

Lawmaker Lei Cheng I further stressed that Macau residents are facing higher inflation, which is partially triggered by the recruitment of many foreign workers who now live in Macau.

Au Kam San added that, "nobody is against the import of foreign workers. They're rather against the import of foreign workers on a large scale. He believes "Macau is opening its doors indefinitely." He therefore called on the government to provide a clearer plan on how many non-resident workers should be hired, and which sectors should not be permitted to recruit from the local labor force.

Fong Chi Keong, on the other hand, recalled that not all Macau residents are interested in working, for instance, for the construction sector, and therefore it is not always possible to recruit locals.

The secretary assured that the Human Resources Office follows up closely the recruitment process of foreign labor within the construction sector. Once major construction projects end, most of these workers will also leave Macau, he added.

When it comes to small and medium-sized enterprises, however, the secretary announced that measures will be taken to speed up recruitment procedures.

Mr Leong returns to the AL today to continue discussions on his cabinet's action plan for 2015.

### BUDGET FRAMEWORK LAW TO ENTER LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN 2015

**THE BUDGET** Framework Law is due to enter the legislative process within this year, Lionel Leong revealed. Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong requested more details on amendments to the Budget Framework Law, as its revision allows for better management of the budgeting of public works. Lawmaker Ng recalled that major public works, such as the LRT and the Pac On Ferry terminal, have often demanded a budget much bigger than the ones which have been initially

set. Mr Leong revealed that the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) has already provided a first draft of the law, but will request further consultation from the Commission of Audit. The government will also launch a public consultation on the law. "We are hoping that the law enters legislative process in 2015," he said. The secretary also said that following amendments to the law, the budgets of major public works will have to be discussed at the AL should they be exceeded.

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Catarina Pinto

POLICY ADDRESS | ECONOMY AND FINANCE

# Interim review of gaming concessionaires this year

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has confirmed that the gaming industry needs a “check-up” in order to allow for the assessment of casino operators’ performance over the past ten years.

Mr Leong reaffirmed that the government will develop an interim review of the performances of gaming concessionaires this year, as he presented his cabinet’s action plan for 2015 at yesterday’s Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting.

As the current gaming concession contracts are due to expire between 2020 and 2022, the government announced last year that it would start reviewing the operators’ work this year.

Through the interim reviewing of gaming contracts, Mr Leong said, the performance of each gaming operator will be assessed based on eight main areas.

For now, the government will be studying: the extent to which operators have influenced Macau’s society; whether or not operators have introduced non-gaming elements and these services’ respective development; the percentage of non-gaming and gaming components; job creation and career progress opportunities



## SPECIALIZED GROUP TO STUDY DOMESTIC RENTAL MARKET

**THE GOVERNMENT** is setting up a specialized group to study the city’s real estate market. This specialised group will also focus on domestic rental legislation, the Lionel Leong, said. Asked by lawmakers to provide details on the measures that his cabinet will implement to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) overcome challenges, Mr Leong acknowledged that these companies are often faced with skyrocketing rents. “The government created a specialized group to study the real estate sector. This group will then suggest [the implementation of measures] to the government,” he stressed. The secretary added that, “we know there are many issues related to rental [contracts] and we have heard voices in society calling for a revision or the outlining of a new law. We have sector representatives in this working group, and we will be promoting the healthy development of the real estate market.”

**We need to properly review the gaming operator’s work, so that we know how to intervene and improve its performance**

LIONEL LEONG

afforded to locals; and the company’s social responsibility programs, among others.

The secretary stressed that negotiations for the renewal of gaming concession contracts will be based on this mid-term review of gaming companies’ performance. This will also assist in the creation of a medium- to long-term plan for the development of Macau’s gaming industry, Mr Leong added.

“Based on these eight areas, we will draw a conclusion on the effects of the gaming industry development, and see whether goals [that had been] set out were achieved,” the Secretary said.

Mr Leong described the interim review of gaming contracts as a “a check-up.” “After the liberalization [of the gaming market], we need to conduct a proper review of the gaming operator’s work, so that we

know how to intervene and improve their performance,” he reiterated.

He added that, “people do not make check-ups only when they’re sick, it’s also to know if they are ill. With this review, we will help [gaming] companies to do a ‘check-up’ and realize their shortcomings, and [to find out] what can they do to rectify those shortcomings.”

Other measures announced

for the gaming industry include the maintenance of a three percent cap on gaming table growth in the next ten years (counting as of 2013).

The government will also be looking into improving responsible gaming programs, as well as looking to prevent pathological gambling and problem gambling, according to Mr Leong.

He also pledged to tackle the spread of gaming-related problems in residential areas, while promoting the relocation of gaming arcades to locations outside residential areas.

Authorities will also urge gaming operators to promote responsible gaming programs, in a bid to curb the negative impact of the gaming industry in Macau’s society.

Lawmakers had asked how the government plans to review the performance of gaming concessions. Legislator Angela Leong called on the government to listen to the opinions of Macau’s population and the gambling sector while moving forward with the interim review.

Mr Leong said that the government is hoping to hear the opinions of both the gambling sector and Macau citizens within this year.

## MICE sector set as priority for economic diversification

**L**IONEL Leong unveiled his cabinet’s plans to diversify the local economy, emphasizing the need to boost the convention and exhibition sector first. This is in order to hopefully prevent MSAR’s economy from relying solely on the gaming sector.

“The exhibition and convention sector is one of the most important industries for the promotion of Macau’s economic diversification,” he assured.

Mr Leong acknowledged in a speech that Macau’s economic development has entered “an adjustment phase,” as casino revenues have declined over nine consecutive months since June last year.

He also revealed that Macau saw a 21.1-percent decrease in gaming servi-

ces exports in the second semester of last year. In the same period, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted 10.2 percent in real terms, representing a negative growth of 0.4 percent in 2014.

Foreseeing a negative growth in GDP for this year as well, the government is now committed to boosting Macau’s MICE sector (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions). The government will work on attracting internationally renowned fairs and exhibitions, and will aim to foster regional cooperation in the convention and exhibition sector, Mr Leong added.

He pledged to implement policies backed by the central government, eyeing the expansion of the MICE sector.

To further develop the non-gaming sector, the government will launch a study on the potential role of Macau industries in economic diversification, while also focusing on developing the Guangdong-Macau Traditional Chinese Medicine Industrial Park.

The government will also call on gaming concessionaires to boost their non-gaming offerings. It will later assess whether operators are complying with current concession contracts while analyzing their investments in non-gaming components.

Moreover, Macau’s administration is considering requesting that gaming operators give preference to products manufactured in Macau.

# Broadway Macau partners with local SMEs

**BROADWAY** Macau's newest project under the Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), of which the grand opening is expected to be held on May 27, will feature a variety of outlets for eateries and restaurants that are already renowned across the city. More than 20 cooperating brands from the retail and food and beverage sectors – some of whom are cooperating with gaming operators for just the first time – attended the project's launch ceremony yesterday.

The project is a reflection of the demand from society and the government urging gaming operators to contribute to the development of local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It has successfully wooed a total of 30 SMEs, and is the result of "over HKD5 billion in investment," according to GEG. Nearly 60 percent of these brands are "time-honored local brands" and among them are: I Son; Xie Cheng Seafood & Hotpot Restaurant; Hou Choi Seafood And Chinese Fondue Restaurant; Fong Seng Lai Kei Restaurant; Hang Heong Un; Wong Kun Sio Kung; Chi Kei Ngao Chap; Ving

Kei Tao Fu Min Sek; San Ma Lo Seng Kei Chok Pan; Dragon Portuguese Cuisine; Wa Sang Hong; Ngau Ngau; Lei Ka Choi; Chi Sasa Japanese Cuisine and The Roadhouse Macau.

The vice-chairman of the group, Francis Lui, told media at the launch ceremony that some tourists have told him that a desire to try local cuisine was the main reason for visiting the city.

Confident about the market's prospects, the casino operator believes the group has sufficient hardware and resources to ex-



Francis Lui

pand the local cuisine market at the new venue.

"Looking back at Macau ten, twenty years ago, there were many distinctive small stores full of character. Striving to retain these traditional characteristics of Macau, we hope to spur the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, and to share the fruits of economic success through the healthy diversification of the gaming industry," said Francis Lui. He added that GEG would do its utmost to assist each SME with which it collaborates. "In daily operations, GEG will also provide support

in areas such as management, maintenance, security, cleaning, finance, team member training and marketing, to ensure SMEs' smooth operation and to jointly promote local brands."

The group, according to its vice chairman, has devoted a whopping 95 percent of its investment to developing non-gaming facilities in the second phase of Galaxy Macau, in a move to distance itself from other gaming outlets.

However, Francis Lui still admitted that the success of gaming-related services would be the driving force behind the

success of non-gaming elements. In the face of mounting demand for different services and facilities from the mass market, the group's future efforts will continue to concentrate on diversifying its offerings.

One of the partner eatery owners, Lo Pong Long, who operates a Cantonese congee store, told media that GEG has approached them with a "favorable offer," which has lessened their concerns about operating additional outlets. "The renovation cost will be paid in a four-year instalment without interest. As a massive organization, it is easier for them to apply for human resources from the Labor Affairs Bureau, as the process associated is likely to be less complex," the retailer said.

Seeking to attract tourists by branching out to non-gaming activities, the Broadway at Galaxy Macau project will mainly consist of an area dedicated to food and beverage, retail, performance and entertainment. The resort will recreate New York's famous theater district with a 3,000-seat venue, showcasing international performances as well as Asian culture, GEG said in a statement.

Looking back at Macau ten, twenty years ago, there were many distinctive small stores full of character

FRANCIS LUI

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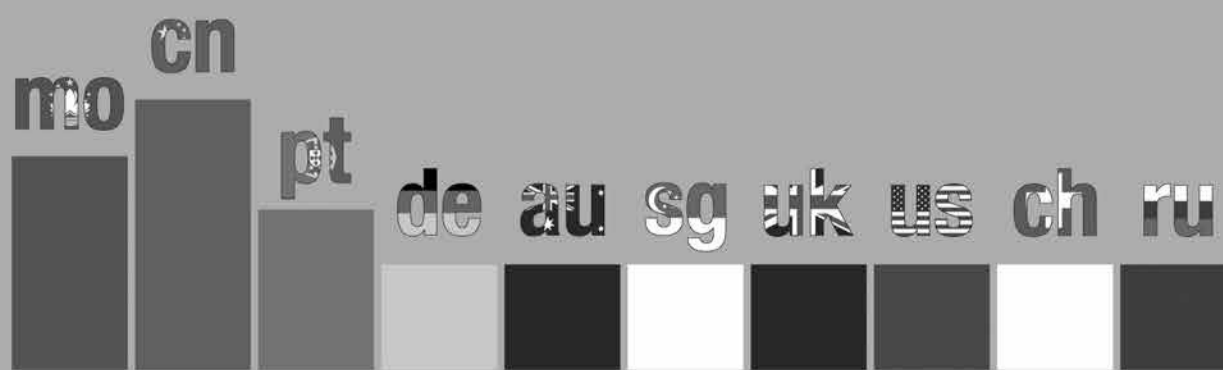
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Brook Yang, Zhongshan

**W**ITH a pioneer scheme for yachts to travel freely between Macau and Zhongshan becoming a reality this July, the topic of improving cooperation between the two cities is heating up. It was one of the themes addressed at the Zhongshan European and American Business Forum, which was held last Saturday.

The scheme seems to have been the catalyst for cooperation-based dialogue. Both governments expect Macau and Zhongshan to lead the way for a more diversified Guangdong-Macau that extends beyond industrial benefits.

In light of this success, developers are already eyeing Zhongshan's coasts to build integrated residential communities with condos, villas and berths, and to introduce a world-class marina lifestyle. Some of the other sectors that are expected to benefit from this cooperation include boat manufacturing, logistics and tourism.

A border checkpoint building was recently capped at the Zhongshan Marina, and is scheduled to commence operations in June and to start welcoming visitors in July. By then, visitors will be able to travel a mere 45 minutes by water between Zhongshan and Macau's Inner Harbor.

"It didn't happen by chance, but rather naturally, due to the two cities' historical origins, geographical advantages and industrial features," said the deputy director-general of Zhongshan Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau, Zhang Junfeng, when explaining Zhongshan and Macau's intention to build a stronger partnership.

"The yacht scheme [that] we will launch this year is a very good attempt. Both sides are striving to find a good cooperative point, and on that basis, we'll extend the space and scope for cooperation, finding more win-win opportunities from which the regions can benefit mutually," he told the Times on the sidelines of the forum, as part of a new session at Zhongshan's "3.28 Trade and Investment Fair," which has become the city's annual tradition since 1990.

"We've been thinking that Zhongshan has a quite solid foundation in secondary industry, such as the processing and manufacturing industries; and Macau has its unique advantage in international trade, especially through connecting with Portuguese-speaking countries. So we hope Macau can help the products made in Zhongshan go global, and that can in turn help Macau diversify its industry base," he added.

Known as the hometown of the founding father of modern Chi-

# Zhongshan transforms itself, invests in regional cooperation



An avenue in Zhongshan

na, Sun Yat-sen, Zhongshan was called Xiangshan County in ancient times. It was eventually renamed to honor Sun. According to the presentation made by Zhongshan authorities, Macau was also historically under the jurisdiction of Xiangshan County, and many of its local residents originate from Zhongshan.

## Visitors can travel 45 minutes by water between Zhongshan and Macau's Inner Harbor

Zhongshan, which is 30 minutes away by light rail transit from Zhuhai's Gongbei border, achieved a GDP of USD45.4 billion last year. Seventy-two percent was contributed by the output value of its professional towns. The prefectural-level city is home to 16 provincial professional towns and 35 national industrial bases, and is trying to upgrade them with new technologies and international standards through improved regional and global engagement.

In 2013, an area of about 230 square kilometers in Zhongshan was to be developed into a new district, which was to be named after Sun Yat-sen's birthplace. The area, which exceeded Macau in size by seven and a half times, will be jointly developed by the MSAR and

Zhongshan governments in accordance with a framework agreement signed last July.

Compared to the plan on Hengqin for development led by large companies, the Tsuihang New District is expected to offer more opportunities to small and medium-sized enterprises. It starts with an area of five square kilometers in which to build a Guangdong-Macau comprehensive cooperation demonstration zone, and is said to defy the conventional cooperation model of running cross-border industrial zones.

According to the Party Secretary of Zhongshan, Xue Xiaofeng, "the Tsuihang New District is accelerating, with several projects implemented and infrastructure development involved." "The Tsuihang New District has increasingly become a popular destination for investment, and contracts will be signed on projects estimated to be worth 5.9 billion yuan during this fair," Xue said in the opening remark of the "3.28 Trade and Investment Fair."

As for the demonstration zone, a civil servant from the Tsuihang New District has revealed that "the industrial planning has just started." Moreover, the district has set up a European Industrial Zone, which is targeted at steadily growing industries.

The fair's theme clearly indicated that the city is striving to restructure, transform and upgrade itself economically, and warmly welcomes more talents from beyond Zhongshan's borders who have "new projects, products, and ideas." The Party Secretary vowed that the go-



A trade fair was held in the city on Saturday

vernment wants to build Zhongshan into "a talent magnet" and to make it "an ideal choice for starting a business."

"Realizing that talent and innovation are the leading factors in advancing economic restructuring and upgrading, Zhongshan vigorously advocates and promotes large scale entrepreneurship and innovation. In 2014, the percentage of social research and development funds in total GDP has been raised to 2.4 percent. The industrial technological reform investment was up by 66 percent," he stressed.

Mr Zhang also discussed the theme of Zhongshan's technological reform, suggesting that the city's industrial transformation and improvement is precisely where the opportunity lies for foreign enterprises, who are invited to introduce their core technologies and new perspectives to the urban area.

He explained that the city's

**We hope Macau can help the products made in Zhongshan go global, and that can in turn help Macau diversify its industry base**

ZHANG JUNFENG

investment and business environment is advantageous, and that its cooperation mechanism with foreign enterprise is becoming more and more flexible after years of opening up and reform. Moreover, he said that the city has accumulated a large group of experienced talents in the fields of management and technology.

"The business conditions in mainland cities have shifted significantly. The foreign enterprises that are present in Hong Kong and Macau can also consider investing some part of their production chain in Zhongshan. We also hope that they can come here to take a look, and get to know our environment for business, living and social services, so that they can consider building up cooperation, and perhaps even invest and settle down here," he added.

Speakers from the United States and Europe also praised Zhongshan as a "very well-run city," where authorities have strived to create attractive conditions for foreign businesses.

"One thing that's going to change dramatically over the years in China is that, for a long time now, China has been a low-cost producer of volume products, and that's going to change dramatically in the next 10 to 15 years. If you look at the vision that we are given from Beijing, China wants now to step out of its cheap, cheap labor, and they want to begin the next chapter with innovation, high technologies, etc. Like it or not, that's where China's going," said Mr Eugene O'Hagan, an international business recovery specialist at the forum.

# Sands Retail announces partnership with Planet J

**S**ANDS Retail announced yesterday that the world's "first-ever live-action role-play theme park" is set to open at Shoppes at Cotai Central. This is the direct result of a partnership with Planet J. According to a press release issued by Sands China, the company has developed "the concept of a player-centric 'Live-Action Role-Play' (LARP) theme park experience that will see entire families immersed in alternate worlds where reality and fantasy become one."

The park will extend over 90,000 square feet, and will be the first permanent LARP theme park in Macau. "Set against the fantastical backdrop of the Magic Sto-



ne Kingdom, players will be tasked with saving the kingdom from the evil Magic Stone creatures. Each player will be accompanied by personalized mobile gear – the "Magic Scroll" – that connects with over 200 games, forming part of the quest into an incredible fantasy world that blends state-of-the-art technology with experiential storytelling," describes the press release.

"Planet J is a fantastic addition to the entertainment landscape in Macau, and we are proud to be the company who has brought it here," acknowledged David Sylvester, Las Vegas Sands senior vice president of retail.

## GAMING

### Melco's 2014 profit decreases

**M**ELCO International Development Limited has announced that its total profit in 2014 reached HKD1.49 billion, compared to the HKD1.60 billion profit recorded in the previous year. This represents a 6.8-percent decrease.

The company said in a statement that it has "maintained steady growth with remarkable progress made on its exciting development pipeline in Macau and overseas."

On Friday, the group announced its 2014 annual results in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

It revealed that core gaming and Macau business units under the group's major associate, Melco Crown Entertainment Limited, "delivered a stable financial performance despite the challenges encountered." Net revenue and adjusted property EBITDA amounted to USD4.8 billion and

USD1,285 billion respectively.

The group added that Studio City, its Hollywood-inspired gaming and entertainment complex, which is currently under development at the Cotai Strip, remains on track to open in the third quarter of this year. Melco's statement further noted that a special short movie based on a Studio City storyline, called "The Audition," has been produced in collaboration with a number of

Hollywood stars.

Melco recalled that the opening of City of Dreams Manila marked another milestone for the company's expansion in Asia.

The group is reportedly currently pursuing other projects, including a gaming and resort development project. This project is expected to open in Russia's Primorye region in 2015. It is also pursuing casino projects in Barcelona, and in the Republic of Georgia.

The chairman and CEO of Melco, Lawrence Ho, said that, "Melco group has achieved stable growth despite the challenging market conditions in 2014 (...)

the satisfactory results achieved in the financial year of 2014 have been primarily driven by the success of the premium mass market table games business at City of Dreams, operated under our key associate Melco Crown Entertainment, while we have also gained greater market shares in mass market and VIP segments."

Mr Ho added that, "looking ahead, we are positive about the overall long-term outlook of the gaming, leisure and entertainment markets in Macau (...) We are positive about development prospects in the long-term, as it is bound to become more diversified."

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# Registration Measure for First-time Kindergarten Students

To facilitate the student recruitment of the academic year 2015/2016 and under the principles of optimising services and providing convenience to parents, the **Education and Youth Affairs Bureau** continues to implement the "Registration Measure for First-time Kindergarten Students" (hereinafter referred to as "the measure"). Parents must submit the registration slip to the school in which they decide to enroll their children.

## Objectives:

- Under the principle of parents and children's freedom of choice, the measure sets the dates for schools to release the admission list and for enrolment, so that parents can make their decisions as early as possible to enroll their children in kindergartens for the first time.
- Under the principle of schools' autonomy in recruiting students, this measure simplifies the schools' administrative work, and informs the schools about the number of new students as early as possible so that they can be well prepared towards the new academic year.

## Eligibility:

Macao residents and non-Macao residents\* aged between 3 and 5 by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (born between 2010 and 2012) who will be enrolled for the first time in the kindergartens in Macao.

## Information about grade repetition at the kindergarten level:

In accordance with the provision of Clause 3 of Article 7 of Law No. 9/2006 – the "Fundamental Law of Non-tertiary Education System", "Unless requested by the parent, students at the kindergarten level should not be required to repeat any grade level."

Except for special circumstances, parents should not require their children to repeat any grade level.

- Registration status ● Parents can check the registration status of their children on the DSEJ website.  
 enquiry ● For details, please refer to newspapers, leaflets or visit the DSEJ website.

Hotline: 8397-2309

DSEJ Website: <http://www.dsej.gov.mo>

\* Non-Macao residents refer to children who meet the requirements for attending infant education and possess a stay or residence permit for over 90 days issued by the authorised entity of the MSAR.

## Timeline:

Application for admission	From 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2015
Release of admission list/ waiting list by schools	Admission list: before 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015 Waiting list: 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015
Printing registration slip	From self-service kiosks/ DSEJ website: 14 <sup>th</sup> March to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 ● Macao residents: With the child's identity card, the registration slip can be printed out at the self-service kiosks used for printing out medical vouchers. (Each registration slip can only be printed out once. Photocopies are invalid.) ● Non-Macao residents: The registration slip can be printed out after the relevant information has been successfully registered on the DSEJ website. DSEJ counter (for special cases): 14 <sup>th</sup> March to 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2015
Submission of registration slip	Students on admission list: 25 <sup>th</sup> March to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 (during school's office hours) Students on waiting list: 1 <sup>st</sup> April to 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2015



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# Prada Posts 28pct drop in profit



Pedestrians walk past a Prada SpA store in the Tsim Sha Tsui area of Hong Kong

Andrew Roberts

**P**RADA SpA reported a 28 percent drop in full-year profit as fewer Chinese shoppers splurged on USD2,950 leather handbags and other luxury products.

Net income in the year through January fell to 450.7 million euros (\$490.9 million), Milan-based Prada said yesterday in a statement. Analysts had predicted 468 million euros, according to the average of estimates compiled by

Bloomberg.

Prada plans to open fewer stores and introduce more bags priced in the range of 1,000 euros to 1,200 euros as it seeks to revive revenue that fell last year amid a slowdown in China. The moves are designed to redress errors such as having an overly expensive product mix and a lack of novelty that have led shoppers to spend elsewhere, according to Exane BNP Paribas.

"There has been a major overhaul of certain internal production processes, the

effects of which will be visible from next year," Prada said in the statement.

Revenue fell 1 percent to 3.55 billion euros, the owner of brands including Miu Miu said in February. Prada's shares climbed 3 percent to HK\$51.85 as of 9:38 a.m. in Hong Kong trading, while the benchmark Hang Seng Index advanced 1.3 percent.

Global economic uncertainty and political and social tension have affected several markets, while fewer tourists have also weighed on sales, the

company said.

Sales in the Asia-Pacific region - the group's largest market, contributing 36 percent of the total - dropped 3 percent, driven by poor performance in Hong Kong and Macau, the company said. Revenues in Europe were down 5 percent, it added.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's crackdown on corruption and official ex-

## Sales in the Asia-Pacific region dropped 3 percent, driven by poor performance in HK and Macau

travagance have damped Chinese tourists' demand for luxury goods and kept high rollers away from Macau, the world's largest casino gambling hub.

Mainlanders accounted for 78 percent of Hong Kong's visitors last year, and their changing habits have rippled through the economy and dragged down luxury companies. Sales of luxury goods plunged 14 percent last year, when the city saw its first annual drop in retail sales since 2003.

Revenues in the Middle East surged 14 percent, helped by demand for footwear and Miu Miu-branded products. Sales rose 8 percent in Japan and 1 percent in Americas, the company said. **Bloomberg**

## Citic leads brokers rally as China seeks to further open markets

Jonathan Burgos

**C**ITIC Securities Co. jumped to a two-month high as brokerages advanced after China's securities regulator said it will do more to open mainland financial markets.

Citic rose 7 percent to HKD29 at the midday break in Hong Kong, set for the highest close since Jan. 15. Haitong Securities Co. gained 6 percent to HKD19.04. The China Securities Regulatory Commission is focusing on implementing previously-announced measures allowing companies from Hong Kong and Macau to enter China's securities industry, it said Friday. The regulator also expanded the number of fund-management firms eligible to buy Hong Kong stocks through the Shanghai link.

"A further opening up of mainland markets should help boost trading flows between China and Hong Kong," Castor Pang, Core Pacific-Yamaichi Hong Kong's head of research, said by phone. "This will improve the business of brokerages with operations in both China and Hong Kong."

Mainland and Hong Kong equities jumped yesterday after China's central bank governor said that economic growth had slowed too much and that there was scope for additional easing. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index of mainland shares traded in Hong Kong surged 3.4 percent, poised for the highest close in more than three years.

Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. advanced 4.8 percent to HK\$187.40. Mainland investment in Hong Kong stocks via the Shanghai bourse link increased yesterday after the CSRC said money managers no longer need to be part of the Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor program to use the exchange connect. Investors used 1.6 billion yuan (USD260 million) of the 10.5 billion yuan daily quota as of the lunch break, the most since Jan. 5, according to exchange data compiled by Bloomberg.

Mainland investors had bought a net 30.6 billion yuan (\$4.9 billion) of Hong Kong shares as of March 27, or 12 percent of the available aggregate quota, since cross-border trading debuted on Nov. 17.

China also raised an investment limit for a foreign fund-management company to a level that exceeded a previously announced cap last week, signaling a relaxation that would broaden access to its capital markets. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MGM MANAGEMENT RECOGNIZED WITH FOUR AWARDS



MGM China Holdings Limited has been recognized by the renowned financial publication FinanceAsia in the "Asia's Best Companies Poll 2015."

The company was ranked among the top five in all four categories of the polling for large cap companies that are listed on the Hong Kong Stock

Exchange (SEHK).

"To have our local management team recognized as being one of the best managed companies on the Exchange, alongside some of the most successful companies in the region, is a great compliment to the capabilities and dedication of our Macau team," said Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China.

The poll gathered votes from over 250 investors and analysts who hail from all companies on the SEHK and across the region. The companies were assessed on overall management, corporate governance, investor relations and commitment to strong dividend payments.

### CEM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Annual General Meeting of Companhia de Electricidade de Macau - CEM, S.A. (CEM) was held today at the CEM Building. The Annual General Meeting approved the 2014 Annual Report. The total gross consumption in 2014 reached 4,677 gigawatt-hours (GWh), signifying an increase of 6 percent compared with 2013. The peak demand was 845 me-

gawatts (MW). The net profit in 2014 was MOP608 million. According to a press release issued by CEM, the reliability of the electricity supply, based on CEM's responsibility, "was 99.9997 percent, a figure higher than that of the previous year."

While the oil price was still relatively high for the whole of 2014, the price of imported

electricity was up by about 1.6 percent due to the appreciation of the Renminbi.

The capital investment of CEM was MOP743 million in 2014, of which MOP539 million was assigned to the upgrade and expansion of the transmission and distribution network. In order to align with the government's target of decommissioning the Macau Power Plant, CEM stated that it will continue to negotiate with the government to replace some old and inefficient diesel power generation units with a set of eco-friendly and efficient combined cycle gas turbine generators. This, according to CEM, will ensure that the local power generation capacity is retained, and that the power supply is safe and stable.



**C**HINESE companies that have applied to acquire Portugal's Novo Banco (NB), which inherited the "healthy" assets of the beleaguered Banco Espírito Santo, are considered favorites for the deal, which may be the largest ever involving Chinese investors in Portugal.

# Chinese amongst favorites to buy Portugal's Novo Banco

Carlos Costa, Governor of the Bank of Portugal, confirmed last week that seven companies had put forward non-binding proposals for the acquisition of Novo Banco, half of the total that had initially expressed interest in the acquisition and which had been accepted by the financial sector regulator (15).



Among them are, according to the Portuguese press, three strong Chinese candidates: Fosun, which recently bought the largest Portuguese insurer (Fidelidade), Angang Insurance and the Bank of China.

value of over 5 billion euros and that "lower than this amount would be a bad deal."

Novo Banco has advantages, he said, "the cleanest balance sheet of all, reflecting all impairments and the lower exposure to housing loans amongst Portuguese banks," as well as the, "best commercial machine in the Portuguese banking markets and the ideal platform for entry into the European banking system."

Among the analysts who have followed the process is João Rendeiro, former president of former bank BPP, who believes that one of the three Chinese competitors will buy Novo Banco, paying at least 5.2 billion euros.

Of the three, he considers the strongest candidate to be Fosun, which is already considered the largest Chinese investor in Portugal following the acquisition

of insurer Fidelidade, hospital healthcare network Espírito Santo Saúde, as well as significant holdings in companies such as power grid manager Redes Eléctricas Nacionais – REN. At the stage of binding proposals its is believed that Fosun may partner other Chinese candidates.

Rendeiro's estimate for the value of Novo Banco would be above what was invested by the Portuguese banking sector's Resolution Fund, managed by the Bank of Portugal, which prevented the collapse of BES.

Other analysts, such as lawyer and influential politician Mar-

ques Mendes, point to a value of around 4.5 billion euros. An important factor in the final price will be the risk of litigation which may be taken on by the buyer, as the former BES has creditors totalling billions of euros, which the Bank of Portugal has referred to Novo Banco.

Without protection against future lawsuits, just as BESI investment bank was sold to the China's Haitong International, it is believed that the price of Novo Banco will be substantially lower.

The other candidates to buy the bank include Spain's Santander and Banco Popular, as well as Portugal's BPI and US fund Apollo.

Upon delivery of the non-binding proposals, the Bank of Portugal will choose four or five candidates to proceed to the next stage, with rounds of direct negotiations and binding prices and the process is expected to be concluded by August.

The deal may be the largest

ever involving Chinese investors in Portugal, beating the privatization of 21.35 percent in power company EDP, in December 2011, whereby China Three Gorges paid 2.69 billion euros, pledging also to invest 2 billion euros in EDP's renewable energy projects by 2015.

Portugal was the fourth country in Europe to receive the most Chinese investment in the last decade, ahead of much larger economies such as Spain or even Italy, according to a comparative study by the Rhodium consultancy, prepared for law firm Baker & McKenzie.

Since 2000, the study noted, the UK has been by far the largest investment destination – USD16 billion – followed by Germany (US\$8.4 billion), France (US\$6.7 billion) and Portugal (US\$6.7 billion). Some analysts have pointed to higher amounts invested by Chinese investors in Portugal, in the order of US\$10 billion. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Xiaoqing Pi

**C**HINA'S central bank chief said that the nation's growth rate has tumbled "a bit" too much and that policy makers have scope to respond, underscoring forecasts for further monetary easing in the world's second-largest economy.

"China's inflation is also declining, so we need to be vigilant to see if the disinflation trend will continue, and if deflation will happen or not," People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan, 67, said Sunday in remarks at the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual conference on the southern Chinese island of Hainan. "China can have room to act," both with interest rates and "quantitative" measures, he said.

Zhou's remarks follow signs that China slowed further in the first quarter, after recording its weakest expansion since 1990 last year. Underscoring the commitment to support growth, the central bank on Monday lowered the down payment requirement for some second-home buyers.

"It's part of China's broad effort to arrest a slowdown," said Zhao Xijun, a finance professor with Renmin University in Beijing. "It will help boost sentiment as the government is again encouraging people to buy property. At the same time, there's a fundamental difference from the stimulus we saw in 2009 -- the government is trying to ease curbs to get the property market back to normal, not to instill another round of frenzied speculation."

The PBOC cut the minimum down payment to 40 percent from 60 percent for people who haven't paid off their existing mortgage but are buying a second home to improve their living conditions, the central bank said on its website.

Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News also expect the PBOC will lower both benchmark lending rates and banks' required reserve ratios, adding to cuts made in recent months.

Chinese stocks trading in Hong Kong posted the biggest gain this year, with China Citic Bank Corp. leading gains for lenders. The yuan rose the most in almost a week.

China's leadership is trying to wean the economy off debt-fueled property investment and old-line polluting industries, shifting toward services and domestic-consumption led growth. While President Xi has repeatedly said his nation is comfortable with a "new normal" of less-rapid expansion, officials are also wary of the slowdown weakening too much.

The economy expanded



Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), gestures as he speaks during a news conference in Beijing

## Zhou says PBOC has room to act on growth slowdown

6.28 percent in February from a year earlier, Bloomberg's monthly growth tracker shows, and the government's official factory reading due Wednesday likely worsened, according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg.

"A further deterioration in March would be another reason to expect a ratcheting up of policy support," Bloomberg economists including Tom Orlik wrote in a report. Efforts to lower money market rates may include "an imminent move on the reserve requirement ratio," they wrote.

Premier Li Keqiang this month set a growth target of about 7 percent for this year, while pledging action if it slows toward the lower limit of the range and cuts into jobs and income. Zhou said at Boao Sunday that the economy had slowed "a bit too sharply," while adding that patience was needed to see the effect of steps already taken.

Even with a more moderate pace than in the past, Xi told Boao attendees Saturday that his nation "will continue to provide countries including Asian nations more markets, growth, investment and cooperation opportunities."

China is building its influence even amid the slowdown, championing new lending institutions, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which saw additional nations signing up in recent

**China's inflation is also declining, so we need to be vigilant to see if the disinflation trend will continue, and if deflation will happen or not**

ZHOU XIAOCHUAN

days. U.S. allies including the U.K., Australia and South Korea are among the supporters of the AIIB, after they set aside American opposition.

Zhou at Boao Sunday highlighted how China is working

on reform of its currency, the yuan, which has been subject to limits on capital flows and restricted movements against counterparts. China will revamp foreign-exchange regulation "relatively radically" this year, the PBOC chief said. Earlier this month, he pressed the head of the International Monetary Fund to consider the yuan for inclusion as an official reserve currency -- by adding it to the fund's special drawing rights unit.

In addressing the risk of deflation, Zhou's concerns reflect those of many counterparts around the world. Japan saw its benchmark gauge of inflation stagnate in February, according to a report released on Friday. European monetary policy makers have stepped up easing to combat the danger of falling consumer prices, which can inflate the real burden of loans.

"Further policy easing is on the way, there's no doubt about that," said Guan Qingyou, chief macro-economic researcher with Minsheng Securities Co. in Beijing. "The central bank seems to realize that it's better to act sooner than later given consideration to China's deepening slow-

down and deflationary pressure."

The major economy with perhaps the least concern on that score is the U.S., which has enjoyed a strengthening job market in recent months. As a consequence, the Federal Reserve has been preparing the ground for its first interest-rate increase in years, a shift that has seen the dollar climb since the middle of last year.

Zhou told an audience that included central bankers from Japan and Germany that by many nations easing policy, the dollar could become too high. Officials will need to be cautious about capital flows, he said.

The governor said that patience is needed to observe the impact of monetary measures. The PBOC announced its first interest-rate cut in two years in November and followed with another reduction announced Feb. 28. It also lowered banks' reserve ratio requirements last month.

The room the country has to move on monetary policy "is not necessarily for quantitative easing," Zhou said. There is scope "on both the price side and the quantitative side," he said. **Bloomberg**

# US reiterates rejection of China led bank as more nations join

**T**HE U.S. stood firm on rejecting membership in a new China-led infrastructure bank, citing concerns it will fall short of international standards even as the rest of the world's biggest economies sign up for the initiative.

While China made it clear it would welcome the U.S. in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the U.S. still prefers to collaborate through existing international financial institutions, a U.S. Treasury official told reporters in Beijing yesterday after Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew held a day of meetings there with leaders including Premier Li Keqiang.

China is seeing European nations including Germany and the U.K., along with other U.S. allies such as Australia and South Korea, seek to join the new institution in defiance of U.S. warnings that it may lack the standards of institutions such as the World Bank. Japan is likely to join the infrastructure bank within a few



Jacob "Jack" Lew, U.S. treasury secretary

months after pressure from companies there, according to the nation's ambassador to China, the Financial Times reported yesterday.

The U.S. believes it would be best for the issues over the bank's standards to be resolved and confronted, the Treasury official told reporters on

condition of anonymity. The U.S. and China had good discussions about partnerships with existing institutions to ensure that the bank would meet high standards, the official said.

The initial decisions about what kinds of projects the bank invests in will be an im-

portant signal on how it will proceed, and the U.S. can be helpful by offering advice, according to the Treasury official.

Lew was visiting Beijing to discuss bilateral economic issues and this year's U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue, to be held in Washington.

The dialogue was established in 2009 to advance relations between the world's two biggest economies.

Lew will also give a speech on U.S.-China relations in San Francisco today.

The U.S. official also said that China's steps toward a more market-determined exchange rate should help as it seeks inclusion in the Interna-

**U.S. warns that the new China-led bank may lack the standards of institutions such as the World Bank**

tional Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights basket, a sign of reserve-currency status.

The IMF in late 2015 will conduct its next twice-a-decade review of the basket of currencies its members can count toward their official reserves. IMF chief Christine Lagarde said in Beijing last week that the yuan "clearly belongs" in the basket and the fund would work with China to that end. **Bloomberg**

## Payment requirement for some second homes lowered

**C**HINA lowered down-payment requirements for some second homes, further easing mortgage policies as the government seeks to prop up the property market and counter an economic slowdown.

The People's Bank of China cut the minimum down payment to 40 percent from 60 percent for some people buying a second home before paying off an existing mortgage. The central bank made the announcement on its website.

Yesterday's move adds fuel to the central bank's efforts to arrest a slide in home prices and spur growth in an economy that the government targets to expand at its slowest pace in 15 years. New-home sales slumped 17 percent in the first two months of 2015 from a year earlier despite a move in September to relax mortgage restrictions, as well as two interest-rate cuts since November.

More supportive policies "may not help much," Credit Suisse Group AG's Hong



Kong-based property analyst Jinsong Du wrote in an e-mailed note today before the announcement. Du said developers had already been offering down payments below the official level in some cities. "The national housing market should stay weak," Du said.

Futures on the FTSE China A50 Index rose as much as 0.8 percent in Singapore trading after the close of mainland markets.

The number of cities with month-on-month price declines rose in February to 66 from 64 in January among the 70 tracked by the gover-

ment, after falling for three consecutive months. Industrial output, investment and retail sales missed analysts' estimates in January and February, suggesting more stimulus is needed to boost the world's second-largest economy.

In September, the central bank broadened homebuyers' access to lower down payments and mortgage rates that were originally designed for purchasers of first homes. New-home sales recorded the first year-on-year increase in 12 months in December only to fall again in January and February. **Bloomberg**

## Guangdong makes new bid for PanAust as copper prices falter

David Stringer

**G**UANGDONG Rising Assets Management Co., a state-owned Chinese investor, made a new offer for PanAust Ltd. valuing the copper producer at about A\$1.1 billion (USD773 million). The target's shares jumped the most in six years.

The cash bid of A\$1.71 a share from PanAust's largest shareholder was unsolicited and made when both the producer's shares and copper and gold prices are trading at or near five-year lows, the Brisbane-based company said today in a statement.

PanAust, which has mines in Laos and is seeking to develop one of the world's largest undeveloped copper and gold deposits at Frieda River in Papua New Guinea, last May rejected as too low Guangdong Rising's previous offer of A\$2.30.

PanAust rose 40 percent to A\$1.715 in Sydney trading, its largest advance since Jan. 5, 2009. It had plunged 23 percent in the year before today as copper slipped 7 percent.

The board "will consider the takeover offer and will provide advice to shareholders in due course," the producer said in the statement.

Guangdong Rising's offer meets its objective of securing high quality non-ferrous metals projects globally,

the bidder said yesterday in a separate statement. Guangzhou-based Guangdong holds 22.5 percent of PanAust, according to its statement.

Deals to acquire copper assets or producers rose last year to the highest since 2006, with transactions worth \$20.3 billion proposed, pending or completed, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Copper demand is poised to rise as China's shift to consumption-led growth spurs demand for energy transmission and household appliances, all of which require the metal. **Bloomberg**

**Copper demand is poised to rise as China's shift to consumption-led growth spurs demand for energy transmission and household appliances**

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Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

# With Lee's passing, Mahathir is last of SE Asia's old guards

**T**WO of Asia's best-known strongmen, Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew and Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad, had much in common — a streak of authoritarianism, little tolerance for dissent and vision that changed the face of their countries.

But friends they were not, and the two rarely saw eye to eye. In fact one of their only agreements was to move their countries' time — which was 7 1/2 hours ahead of GMT — forward by half an hour to be in line with world time zones.

"I am afraid on most other issues we could not agree....I cannot say I was a close friend of Kuan Yew, but still I feel sad at his demise," Mahathir wrote on his blog on Friday.

With Lee's death at age 91, Mahathir remains the last of a generation of old guards in Southeast Asia, which boomed economically under their authoritarian leadership and came to be known as the "tiger economies." Indonesia's Suharto, spoken in the same breath as these two, died in 2008.

Both Lee and Mahathir were English-educated leaders, who successfully delivered economic prosperity — to varying degrees — and gave international prominence to their countries. They were respected, but ruled with iron fists, curbing civil liberties and using harsh laws against political opponents.

Yet Lee and Mahathir leave starkly different legacies from their time in power.

During his 31 years as prime minister, Lee transformed Singapore, a marshy island trading post with no natural resources, into Asia's richest nation as measured by GDP per capita, five times higher than Malaysia. He crushed corruption at all levels, built a top-notch, efficient bureaucracy, set up an excellent education system and



In this April 27, 2005 file photo, Singapore Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, left, and former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad shake hands at the latter's office in Putrajaya, outside Kuala Lumpur

focused on creating world-class service industries that would be competitive in a global market.

Mahathir, meanwhile, fostered a patronage system by giving out contracts to his cronies, and his policies increased bureaucratic red tape. Despite having far more resources and a much bigger workforce, he promoted and protected inefficient industries such as steel and cars with tariff protection.

"Both men are equally Machiavellian in their methods. They are both alike in the kind of politics they employ but Lee Kuan Yew achieved much, much more than Mahathir despite having a lot less resources and capital," said Malaysian political analyst Ibrahim Suffian.

Although the two were contemporaries — Mahathir is only two years younger — Lee shot to prominence much earlier. He

was already the prime minister of Singapore when it became independent of British colonial rule in 1963. The same year the small island-nation joined neighboring Malaya to form the Federation of Malaysia, believing it needed to be part of a bigger country to survive. Mahathir became a Parliament member in 1964, and that was the first time the two met.

"We crossed swords many time during the debates. But there was no enmity, only differences in our views of what was good for the newborn nation," Mahathir wrote.

But the federation was a marriage that was doomed to fail. For one, the ethnic Malay leaders of Malaysia were suspicious of Lee, an ethnic Chinese. Soon ideological and political differences surfaced, and Singapore was expelled from the

federation in 1965, leaving Lee to set his own course with a vision that until today defines Singapore.

He ensured that the country ran on meritocracy. He demanded the best prices and most efficient companies handle government projects. Government-linked companies compete for projects with private companies. Although ethnic Chinese are a majority in Singapore, and Malays and Indians form large minorities, nobody gets special preference.

"Despite his autocracy, Lee Kuan Yew was driven with building meritocracy that saw Singapore grow by leaps and bounds, but Malaysia is hobbled by its racial politics and insecurities," Ibrahim said.

Mahathir, who became prime minister in 1981, championed an affirmative action program for the country's Malay majority, which to this day is the root cause of deep disenchantment among the minority Chinese and Indians. Mahathir saw the Malays — with good reason — as downtrodden and gave them privileges in business, education and housing. He promoted race-based politics to ensure that his Malay party dominated politics. That legacy continues.

Lee faced criticism for the strict limits on free speech and public protest, which he insisted were necessary to maintain stability and order and to promote economic growth in his multiethnic, multi-religious country. Although his electoral politics to quash the opposition were questionable, his Peo-

ple's Action Party, or PAP, has members from all races.

"Lee was an unshakeable bulwark against majoritarian tendencies that could have easily overwhelmed Singapore," said Cherian George, a Singapore author, academic and commentator. "Lee went to the extent of amending the republic's Constitution to stop any party from sweeping into power without minority support," he wrote on his blog on Sunday.

Mahathir, a doctor-turned-politician and Malaysia's fourth prime minister, helped turn the country from an agricultural backwater into a key trading nation during his 22-year rule before stepping down in 2003. With the help of massive petroleum and palm oil revenues, he oversaw grand infrastructure projects such as the Petronas Twin Towers, which once were the world's tallest; he also built a technology hub, a new capital city and an F1 race track.

He also used a security law allowing indefinite detention without trial against political opponents and critics. And unlike Lee, he was no friend of the West. In fact, he lost no opportunity to criticize it, especially the U.S. war in Iraq.

Singapore's higher wages, standard of living and merit-based system have drawn tens of thousands of Malaysians, mainly ethnic Chinese, to the city-state. A 2011 World Bank report said more than 1 million Malaysians live abroad and warned the outflow of skilled workers could hurt Malaysia's economy. AP

BANGLADESH

# Blogger hacked to death in Dhaka

**A** blogger was hacked to death by three men in Bangladesh's capital yesterday, and two of the attackers were caught near the scene, police said.

The killing took place a month after a prominent Bangladeshi-American blogger known for speaking out against religious extremism was hacked to death in Dhaka.

In the latest incident, Washiqur Rahman Babu, 26, was declared dead at a hospital shortly after being attacked in Dhaka's

Tejgaon area, police official Biplob Kumar Sarker said.

Two suspects, both students at Islamic schools, were captured and three meat cleavers were recovered, Sarker said. The third suspect fled, he said.

One of the suspects told reporters they attacked Babu because he had disrespected Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

"I stabbed him because he humiliated my prophet," said Jikrullah, a 20-year-old student at Hathajari Madrassah in

the southeastern district of Chittagong, without elaborating.

Jikrullah said he traveled from Chittagong and stayed overnight at a mosque to attack Babu.

The other detained suspect, Ariful Islam, also 20, is a student at an Islamic school in Dhaka's Mirpur area. They named a third suspect, but details about him were not available.

It was not immediately known what kind of blogging Babu did, but the suspects told police they targeted him for anti-Islamic

writings, Sarker said.

Two of Babu's cousins told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where his body was being kept, that he recently joined a travel agency in Dhaka after finishing his studies, and they were not aware of any blogging he had done.

Local media reported that Babu had a Facebook page that contained the line "IamAvijit," meaning he was a follower of Avijit Roy, the Bangladeshi-American blogger who was hacked to death late last



A Bangladeshi policeman escorts Jikrullah, left and Ariful Islam, two among three suspected of the killing of a blogger as they are presented before the media in Dhaka

month.

Roy, a Bangladesh-born U.S. citizen, died after being attacked at Dhaka University as he was leaving a book fair with his wife. A previously un-

known militant group, Ansar Bangla 7, claimed responsibility for the attack. Detectives have arrested one suspect in the case, and the FBI is helping with the investigation. AP

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GERMANWINGS TRAGEDY

# Prosecutors: Co-pilot treated for suicidal tendencies

**T**HE co-pilot of Germanwings Flight 9525 that crashed into the French Alps last week had received treatment for suicidal tendencies several years ago, prosecutors said yesterday.

Duesseldorf prosecutors say co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, 27, had received psychotherapy "with a note about suicidal tendencies" for several years before becoming a pilot.

"In the following period, and until recently, further doctor's visits took place, resulting in sick notes without any suicidal tendencies or aggression against others being recorded," prosecutors' spokesman Ralf Herrenbrueck said in a written statement.

Authorities believe, based on data from the plane's cockpit voice recorder, that Lubitz locked his captain out of the cockpit and ignored his pleas to open the door while manually sending the plane into a fatal descent on what should have been a routine flight.

Prosecutors said they have so far found no indication of a motive that might have prompted Lubitz's actions, nor any sign of a physical illness.

Asked about reports that Lubitz had problems with his vision, Christoph Kumpa, another spokesman



Flags representing different nations are deployed during an homage ceremony with family members of victims, in front of a stele, a stone slab erected as a monument, set up in memory of the victims in the area where the Germanwings jetliner crashed in the French Alps, in Le Vernet, France

for the Duesseldorf investigators, said there was no documentation showing that Lubitz had any physical ailment affecting his sight.

All 150 people on board were killed when the Airbus A320 plane flying from Barcelona to Duesseldorf slammed into a French mountain on March 24.

Meanwhile, Australia responded to the Germanwings air disaster by mandating that at least two crew members be present at all times in cockpits of larger domestic and international airliners.

Deputy Prime Minister Warren

Truss said airlines including Qantas and Virgin Australia would implement the changed security protocols from yesterday. It would apply to all commercial flights with a least two flight attendants or more than 50 passengers. A flight attendant would enter the flight deck if one of the two pilots left it for any reason.

Previously, most Australian airlines have allowed their pilots to be alone on the flight deck.

Truss said pilot suicide was suspected behind more than a dozen plane crashes over the past 40 years.

MDT/AP

## 3 generations, all named Emma, die in France crash



Flowers are offered in front of a stele, a stone slab erected as a monument

**F**ROM a lush suburban valley near bustling Barcelona, three generations of a well-heeled family set off last week for a fun trip to Manchester, England: 12-year-old Emma Solera Pardo, her mother Emma Pardo Vidal, and grandmother Emma Vidal Bardan.

They were on their way to pick up the youngest Emma's teen brother as he finished a semester abroad to hone his English, do some sightseeing and then head home together.

But the Germanwings flight 9525 taking them to Duesseldorf for a connecting flight to Britain slammed into the French Alps.

Juan Pardo Yanez — little Emma's grandfather, the father of her mother and the former husband of the eldest Emma — was virtually speechless after returning from a trip for relatives of the 150 crash victims to the accident zone in Seyne-Les-Alpes, France, where investigators working in a ravine were collecting small pieces of the plane and body parts ahead of a painstaking

identification effort.

"There is nothing that can be done or could be said to me to change the loss of these three so dearly loved ones," Pardo Yanez told The Associated Press and other journalists outside a Barcelona crisis center set up for victims' relatives.

About 400 friends and relatives of the daughter, mother and grandmother gathered for a private Mass at a monastery in Sant Cugat del Valles, choking up as they went inside to commemorate those lost from the family that moved to the community of about 85,000 about a decade ago.

The youngest Emma's father, Juan Ignacio Solera, is the founder and chief executive of iVOOX, a company that makes a popular software application for podcast downloads.

Emma went to a Catholic school just a five-minute walk away from the family's apartment in a cluster of buildings ringed by high brick walls. Her death hit classmates incredibly hard, said principal Maria Reina Montoro, who could only come up with one word to describe how they felt: "Destroyed."

While somewhat quiet and timid, the youngest Emma was a dedicated tennis player who regularly practiced at a club, said Manu Navas, director of the club's tennis academy. Emma's mother also played paddle tennis there.

"She wasn't a player who stood out, but what I would highlight about her was her attitude. She never took no for an answer," Navas said of the girl.

Pardo Yanez didn't say how he would try to help rebuild his life and family now that his ex-wife is gone along with one of his daughters and a granddaughter.

But he was sure of one thing: "I will return with all my children to the site where all of them have died." AP

NIGERIA

# US, UK: Signs of political interference in election



A young Nigerian girl walks past election posters, some showing presidential candidate, Muhammadu Buhari, in Kaduna, Nigeria

**T**HE United States and Britain said yesterday here are signs that the vote counting for Nigeria's presidential election may be subverted by "deliberate political interference."

A joint statement says the countries would be "very concerned" by any attempts to undermine the independence of the electoral commission and distort the will of the Nigerian people.

The statement came just before the electoral commission began the official collation of votes from 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja, in the presence of party representatives, national and international observers and media. The adding up of votes from all over Nigeria began about two hours later than scheduled.

For the first time in Nigeria's history, a presidential vote appears too close to call, analysts have said of the high-stakes election to govern Africa's richest and most populous nation. The race has come down to a contest between President Goodluck Jonathan and former military dictator Gen. Muhammadu Buhari.

"So far, we have seen no evidence of systemic manipulation of the process. But there are disturbing indications that the collation process — where the votes are finally counted — may be subject to deliberate political interference," said a statement signed by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his British counterpart, Philip Hammond.

"The governments of the United States and the United Kingdom would be very concerned by any attempts to undermine the independence of the Electoral Commission (INEC), or its chairman, Prof. (Attahiru) Jega; or in any way distort the expressed will of the Nigerian people," the statement said.

There was no immediate comment from Nigeria's ruling party or government.

Nigerians are waiting in hope and fear for results of a presidential election in which voting was relatively smooth nationwide despite technical glitches, deadly attacks by Islamic extremists and allegations of political thuggery in some areas.

The winner of the vote in Africa's most populous and richest nation could be announced late Monday or on Tuesday, electoral officials said. MDT/AP

## what's ON



**SENSIBILITY – PAINTINGS & SCULPTURES EXHIBITION**  
**FERNANDO SIMÕES**  
 TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)  
 UNTIL: April 18, 2015  
 VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

**NEW YEAR TRADITIONS OF TIANJIN AND CHONGQING MUNICIPALITIES**  
 TIME: 9am-9pm  
 UNTIL: April 12, 2015  
 VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau / Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro No.163  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

**HOMAGE TO MASTERS WHO INSPIRED US – WORKS BY 10 HONG KONG AND MACAU ARTISTS**  
 TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)  
 UNTIL: May 10, 2015  
 VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

**“START” – EXHIBITION OF PIXEL ART BY 2UP STUDIO**  
 TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)  
 UNTIL: April 19, 2015  
 VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

**JOANA VASCONCELOS AT MGM MACAU**  
 TIME: 24 hours daily  
 VENUE: MGM Macau, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE  
 ADMISSION: Free  
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## Offbeat

## GRANDMA IS A CENTERFOLD: REST HOME BARES ALL FOR CALENDAR



The stars of a charity calendar are in their 80s and 90s, but that didn't stop the men and women from an assisted living facility in Ohio from showing a little skin.

Miss March, who's 88,

wears a green top hat and not much else in the calendar from Pleasant Pointe Assisted Living, and the centerfolds are two women in their 90s who seem to be playing poker with strategically placed oversized cards.

Flip to February and you'll see a smiling, white-haired Dottie Rutter soaking in a bubble bath and flower petals, with chocolates and lingerie nearby.

At 87, she's the same age as the youngest of three models standing in the cover photo, where their bare feet and shoulders peek out from behind a banner they hold advertising the Barberton, Ohio, facility and the affiliated Pleasant View Health Care Center.

It reads: "Pleasant View, Pleasant Pointe." Another resident in the calendar is covered only by a large exercise ball.

Administrator Teresa Morris told The Akron Beacon Journal that the residents were clearly having fun the morning the photos were taken.

"The residents were like 20-year-olds – giggling, and having the time of their lives," Morris said. "I do not believe the elderly should just sit around staring at each other. I want a fun environment where I challenge them and they challenge me."

Money from the USD12 calendars goes toward a fund providing shoes for children in the local schools in the city of Barberton.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Documentary Series
15:00	Debate on Economy and Finance Policy Report for 2015 (Live)
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

26 MAR - 01 APR



## 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

## LOST AND LOVE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Peng Sanyuan

Starring: Andy Lau, Jing Boran, Sandra Ng

Language: Mandarin (english and Chinese)

Duration: 106min

## RUN ALL NIGHT

ROOM 3

7.30 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



## 1953 QUEEN MARY LAID TO REST IN WINDSOR

Queen Mary has been laid to rest next to her late husband following a funeral service at Windsor Castle. More than 1,500 mourners, including many royal dignitaries from around the world, attended the service at St George's Chapel in Windsor today.

The former Queen's body was brought by car from London to Windsor in the early hours of this morning. It had lain-in-state at Westminster Hall from 29 to 30 March during which time nearly 120,000 people filed past her coffin to pay their last respects.

Princess Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes was born on 26 May 1867 to Prince and Princess Francis of Teck. The Princess, who was known as May from her earliest days, married Prince George of Wales on 6 July 1893 and became his Queen on 6 May 1910.

The couple, who had six children, reigned until King George's death on 29 January 1936. Queen Mary died on 24 March at her home, Marlborough House in London, after having suffered gastric problems for several weeks. She was 85.

During the week since her death messages of sympathy have arrived from around the world. As mourners arrived in Windsor for the funeral this morning hundreds of wreaths and cards of sympathy lay on the lawns outside the castle.

Queen Mary's coffin draped in her banner of arms was brought into St George's chapel for the service by six military pallbearers. The funeral service, broadcast by the BBC, was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Francis Fisher.

The Queen, wearing a long black veil, paid her final respects by sprinkling earth three times from a silver bowl onto the coffin as the Archbishop declared her resurrection to eternal life with the words 'Earth to Earth, Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust.'

As she left the catafalque the Queen gave a deep curtsy. Queen Mary will be laid to rest next to her late husband in the tomb built in St George's Chapel following his death. Later in the day a memorial service was held at St Paul's Cathedral for members of the public. About 4,000 people attended. The Queen has declared that official court mourning for Queen Mary will last until 25 April.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In August 1953 a grant of probate, published at the Principal Probate Registry in London, revealed that Queen Mary had left £379,864 in her will.

Queen Mary was the wife of George V and mother to Edward VIII and George VI.

She was an austere and regal figure, but this made her more, rather than less, admired, and her strong sense of duty and her steadfastness through both World Wars earned her an enduring affection.

This most traditional of monarchs, however, oversaw some of the biggest upheavals the Royal Family has ever seen.

The worst came when, to her strong disapproval, her son, Edward VIII, abdicated the throne to marry the divorced American, Wallis Simpson.

She outlived three of her children as well as her husband.

She lived to see her granddaughter, Queen Elizabeth II, ascend to the throne - the third of her descendants to do so - but died three months before the formal coronation.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
It's a time for new activities, so head out there and try to figure out what's next for you. Don't spend too long pondering, though — you've got energy to burn, and it has to be used soon!

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
You've got to take extra time when making decisions today — though at least one person is trying to pressure you to make a quick call. Hold your ground and give them the look that says you mean business.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Someone far out on your network — maybe a friend of a friend of a friend — can help out tremendously today. Ask around and see if you can figure out who knows what. It couldn't hurt!

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
An authority figure is making your life miserable today — though that is a two-way street! See if you can pull back from whatever confrontation is brewing and come at it again tomorrow.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You are having a blast, now that your mind is fully engaged with the day's activities. You may find that you've got a big smile on your face even during the most boring of presentations.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Your energy levels are high, and you should find that you can take on almost anything or anyone. You're sure to be in demand as others see what you are capable of, so expect a few requests.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Your working relationships are key to your success today. One contact may have a new gig for you — or at least may be able to hook you up with someone else you can profit from nicely.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You need to take your fitness more seriously today — so hit the gym, take the stairs or try biking to work (and everywhere else). You've got the right kind of energy to focus on your body.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Your powerful, active energy makes the world your oyster today — so get busy! You can rack up many successes as you explore new ways to leave your mark. It's a good day to be you!

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You're more worried than usual — which may really be saying something! The good news is that your worries might actually inspire some positive effect, so think hard and then get busy!

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Your altruistic side is out on display today, so try to get your friends or colleagues to let you know what they need. If they're good, turn toward the community at large and help in a bigger way.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
You can't make out the reality behind the troubles at work or at home, thanks to a hidden variable that doesn't become clear for another few days. That's okay — things should start to move fairly soon.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

			3	4	6				7
									5
				2					
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9	1								
5									
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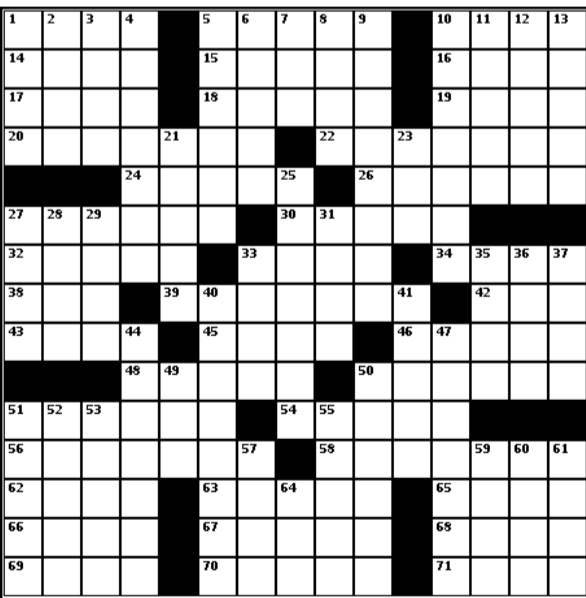
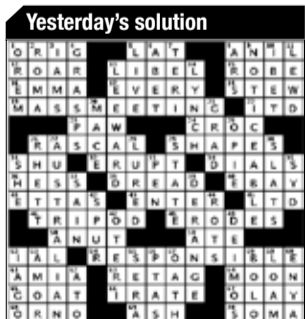
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	12	14	drizzle
Harbin	-1	8	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	11	13	shower/drizzle/moderate rain
Urumqi	-4	4	moderate snow
Xi'an	14	19	cloudy/overcast
Lhasa	3	18	cloudy/shower
Chengdu	17	26	cloudy
Chongqing	20	30	cloudy
Kunming	10	26	clear
Nanjing	17	27	cloudy
Shanghai	15	26	overcast/cloudy
Wuhan	16	28	cloudy
Hangzhou	17	28	cloudy
Taipei	20	27	cloudy/overcast
Guangzhou	21	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	25	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-3	1	light snow
Frankfurt	5	13	drizzle/moderate rain
Paris	12	14	drizzle
London	9	11	drizzle
New York	2	7	drizzle/clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Young cow; 5- Bikini blast; 10- Charts; 14- Iranian coin; 15- Trio; 16- "East of Eden" director Kazan; 17- Comics canine; 18- Construct; 19- Tirade; 20- Water buffalo; 22- Parched; 24- Military fur hat; 26- Newspaper executive; 27- Mountaineering aid; 30- Sign up; 32- Hasta \_\_\_; 33- Understanding words; 34- Dextrous, lively; 38- Poivre's partner; 39- Created by humans; 42- Eureka!; 43- Mgr.'s helper; 45- Sports figure; 46- Kitchen gadget; 48- Foil maker; 50- Breakfast food; 51- Formal order; 54- Some hybrids; 56- Unifit; 58- Rhinoplasty; 62- Give a ring; 63- Mild oaths; 65- Au naturel; 66- End in \_\_\_ (draw); 67- Spine-tingling; 68- Work without \_\_\_; 69- Nipple; 70- Resided; 71- Not so much;

**DOWN:** 1- Gator's cousin; 2- Verdi heroine; 3- Den; 4- Run-down hotel; 5- Comfortable; 6- Pulsate; 7- Afore; 8- Denomination; 9- Tied up; 10- Gaily; 11- As \_\_\_ resort; 12- Mottled mount; 13- Nymph chaser; 21- Full-bosomed; 23- Altar answer; 25- Polite agreement; 27- Ingrid's "Casablanca" role; 28- Billiard implements; 29- Slippery swimmers; 31- Tidy, without fault; 33- A big fan of; 35- Bern's river; 36- Perlman of "Cheers"; 37- \_\_\_ Grey, tea type; 40- Climbed; 41- Fencing blades; 44- Small, sassy woman; 47- Weapons supply; 49- Wreath of flowers; 50- Broom room; 51- Gold coin; 52- Related on the mother's side; 53- Eyelashes; 55- Wait \_\_\_ Dark; 57- Increased in size; 59- Sixth month of the year; 60- Keats creations; 61- Wagers; 64- Exist;



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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

AUSTRALIAN players sheltered behind dark glasses yesterday at a public reception the day after their victory over New Zealand in the Cricket World Cup final.

Captain Michael Clarke carried the World Cup trophy and, as the players mounted the stage in front of thousands of fans at open-air Federation Square, they smiled wanly and waved to the crowd.

Clarke was asked what the over-riding emotion was on the day after Australia had achieved its fifth World Cup and he grinned and said: "We're all a bit hung over to be honest."

It had been a late night, and an even earlier morning. Australian newspapers and websites ran photographs Monday of coach Darren Lehmann and players, still in their team uniforms, holding the trophy on a hotel balcony as the sun rose over Melbourne.

After speeches from the Australian deputy prime minister and other government dignitaries on Monday, Clarke told fans how vital their support had been in the team's victory. He said the Australian side had embraced the pressure and expectation of playing at home and had executed their game plan calmly and efficiently throughout the tournament, culminating in its seven-wicket win Sunday night at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The players then left the stage to mingle with the crowd, signing autographs and posing for photographs.

New Zealand will have its own, more muted celebration today with a welcome home parade in downtown Auckland. The parade was planned before the outcome of the final was known but with the understanding it would go ahead whatever of the outcome of the final.

Organizers believed the New Zealand team had done enough, in winning all eight games leading into the final and in qualifying for the final itself, to



## Bleary-eyed Australians celebrate World Cup win

make a celebration of its achievements a necessity.

That decision reflected the mixture of mild disappointment and pride with which New Zealanders viewed Sunday's loss. They weren't able to en-

**It was a wonderful event with many thrilling highs and magic moments which will live long in the memory**

NARAYANASWAMI  
SRINIVASAN  
INTERNATIONAL CRICKET COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN

joy a fairytale finish to the New Zealand campaign but could still celebrate the quality of the team's performances and behavior leading into and after the final.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key visited the team in its locker room after the final to express his pride in its performance.

"Win, lose, or draw I was always going to go and have a drink with them and congratulate them," Key said.

While New Zealand couldn't win the World Cup on Sunday, it may have helped to save the tournament.

Traditional 50-overs cricket has lost some of its popularity in recent years with the rise of the shorter, Twenty20 format and with a proliferation of test matches between the world's strongest teams.

But the manner in which Australia and New Zealand, espe-

cially, but all 14 teams at the World Cup played the one-day game won back fans whose interest in the format might have dwindled.

More than one million fans passed through the turnstiles at 49 World Cup matches in Australia and New Zealand over the six weeks of the tournament, including 93,013 at the final — the largest crowd for a single day of cricket in Australia's history.

"It was a wonderful event with many thrilling highs and magic moments which will live long in the memory," International Cricket Council chairman Narayanaswami Srinivasan said Monday. "Australia has set a new benchmark for limited-overs cricket."

New Zealand's adventurous style of play, allied to its essential modesty, also captured the imagination of cricket fans throughout the world. Australia carried the hopes of its nation

into Sunday's final but New Zealand carried the support of fans from other teams which had failed to make it to the championship match.

Australia wicketkeeper Brad Haddin was accused after the match of "sledding" or verbally abusing New Zealand players. He later admitted he had done so, saying it was because the New Zealanders are "too nice."

"You know what? They deserved it," Haddin said. "They were that nice to us (when the teams met in a pool match) in New Zealand and we were that uncomfortable. I said in the team meeting 'I can't stand for this anymore. We're going at them as hard as we can'."

New Zealand coach Mike Hesson refused to apologize for New Zealand's niceness.

"Different teams play the game different ways," Hesson said. "We are pretty proud of the way we go about things." AP

### SAILING

## Joint leaders of Volvo Ocean Race quit with broken mast

THE Chinese boat sharing the overall lead in the Volvo Ocean race was forced to quit the fifth leg yesterday when it broke a mast in the Southern Ocean.

The incident could hardly have happened in a worse spot for Dongfeng Race Team, 240 nautical miles (445 kilometers) from Cape Horn in southern Chile, one of the most remote places on Earth.

The breakage in the top section of the mast means the team cannot properly maneuver the boat. No members of the nine-strong crew on board were injured.

The boat's French skipper, Charles Caudrelier, sent a message to his team, saying he was devastated by the breakage. His team of Chinese rookies had been joint leaders with Abu Dhabi Ocean Race

at the halfway point of the nine-month, offshore race.

"The mast broke without warning, in about 30 knots of wind," Caudrelier said. "We are unable to sail safely on starboard tack, but we are able to make reasonable speed on port tack. We will head towards Ushuaia, Argentina, and assess our options."

The team was on its way to Itajaí in southeastern

Brazil from Auckland, New Zealand, on the 6,776 nautical mile leg, the most treacherous of the race, when the accident happened.

Volvo Ocean Race organizers said they had alerted maritime safety organizations and were doing everything they could to assist the crew.

Dongfeng will now face a race against time to have the boat transported from Ushuaia to

Itajaí to start the next leg to Newport, Rhode Island, with a new mast. The fleet is scheduled to set sail for the sixth leg to the U.S. on April 19.

It is the second major breakage to hit the seven-strong fleet since the race began on Oct. 11 from Alicante, Spain.

On Nov. 29, during the second leg in the Indian Ocean, Denmark's Team Vestas Wind badly damaged its boat after it

smashed into a reef. The crew escaped unhurt after wading through waters known to be shark-infested to reach safety. The vessel is now being rebuilt and the team hopes to rejoin the race in June for the final two legs.

In all, the race will cover 38,739 nautical miles, visiting 11 ports and every continent. It is due to conclude in Gothenburg, Sweden, on June 27. AP

# Alcoholism, violence and neglect: life as George Best's son



An April 7, 1978 file photo showing Pele, left, and former Irish soccer star George Best, smiling together during an awards luncheon for Pele in Los Angeles



A Thursday, March 16, 2006 file photo showing Calum Best leaving Manchester Cathedral after a tribute service to his father

**Rob Harris**  
AP Sports Writer

**T**HERE'S one place where the memory of George Best is forever of the stylish winger who bamboozled defenders and thrilled fans. Immortalized in bronze outside Old Trafford, a statue featuring Best is as much as a crowd-puller as the Manchester United icon was in his footballing prime.

It's where Best's only child now goes for a glimpse at what one of the game's first international superstars looked like before alcohol took over his life, and then destroyed it.

"I go up there and take pictures in front of him, just like everybody else does," 34-year-old Calum Best said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I'm a fan in that respect."

Calum never got to see his father winning trophies at United in the 1960s, and collecting personal accolades for his extraordinary dribbling and goals. Born in 1981, Calum instead endured a tumultuous relationship with a father who struggled to cope with the end of his playing career and revealed in a hard-drinking playboy lifestyle before dying at 59 from multiple organ failure.

Approaching the 10th anniversary of the death in November 2005, Calum is telling the full story of their turbulent father-son relationship for the first time.

"Although he was on this pedestal of being this amazing,

iconic footballer, which I will always be proud of, there's a darker side to it," he said. "My dad suffered from a drink problem, which meant we suffered, which meant our relationship suffered."

Nothing is off limits in Calum's book about his father, which was published yesterday: violence, neglect and, of course, the extent of the drinking problem.

The focus on the flaws over the footballing exploits in "Second Best" has angered George's family in his native Northern Ireland, with his sister's husband, Norman McNarry, telling local media in Belfast that the book's "nastiness" was a "betrayal." Raising the family rift himself at the start of the interview, Calum acknowledged: "It's kicked up a fuss."

"Belfast feel they are probably protecting their own," Calum added. "It's not an attack on my dad. I'm my dad's num-

**My dad suffered from a drink problem, which meant we suffered, which meant our relationship suffered**

CALUM BEST

ber one fan. I love him to bits, more than anybody. But this isn't about George Best the footballer. This is about me having alcohol dependency in my relationship with my father."

The relationship was as fraught as it was fragmented, with the Atlantic Ocean separating them for much of Calum's childhood.

The 1968 European player of the year was at the San Jose Earthquakes when his first wife, Angie, gave birth. Calum's arrival didn't curb the binges, and the couple separated from George. By 1986, Angie sought to shield Calum from his father's chaotic life, applying for divorce before returning to California after a few years in England.

George didn't even turn up to the custody hearing, and the sense of abandonment felt by Calum is reflected throughout the book, as is a constant pursuit of his father's love and attention. It was rarely fulfilled.

Back in the U.S., Calum started discovering the extent of his father's past prowess through "absolutely mind-blowing" videos of some of the 180 goals scored in 465 United appearances.

But Calum's first visit to Old Trafford with his father was far from a bonding experience. Like so much of their time together, it ended in tears. The 11-year-old Calum was abandoned in the evening by his drunken father, who took until the following afternoon to re-emerge.

And by then Calum was old enough to realize his father's alcoholism was being splashed across newspapers. "I would come into town for my trips to see him and everyone would be like, 'He's so excited to see you,'" Calum recalled. "As soon as I'd get here he'd go on a three-day brandy bender."

One trip to London in 1995 was traumatic. Calum had enough of trailing around pubs so returned to his father's flat. When George later returned in a drunken mess, he accused his 14-year-old son of having an affair with fiancée Alex.

"You're not my son," Calum recalled being told as his father attacked him. "You're not even meant to be. I hate you."

Reflecting on the night 20 years later, Calum said: "It was one nasty situation."

The constant rejection hurt, and seems to explain Calum's own wild ways as a hell-raising teenager enjoying the surfer-boy lifestyle on the West Coast while bingeing himself on drink and ever-harder drugs. Calum played football, but never wanted to emulate his father. "It was hard enough living up to my dad's reputation without trying to play," Calum said.

But Calum's life has mirrored his father's. A modeling career faded after his teens as drinking, drug-taking and womanizing took over, even as George was seriously ill.

Although George received a liver transplant in 2002 and briefly looked to have turned a corner, alcohol was just too

hard to resist.

The yearning for a drink made a coaching career impossible. George looked increasingly gaunt while working as a television pundit — when he turned up.

"I saw in his eyes he wanted to change but he wasn't able to," Calum said between sips of mineral water in a fashionable London hotel.

A bad reaction to medication to control the alcoholism forced George into hospital in 2005. He never left, dying two months later when his organs gave up.

"If alcohol didn't take over he could have had a whole second chapter that we could have shared together," Calum said.

Now he feels closest to his father on visits to Manchester to see United, joining in the enduring Best songs and always stopping to take pictures at that statue of Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, the "Holy Trinity" who won two English titles and the 1968 European Cup.

Even today George Best, who retired at just 27, is regarded as one of the most talented players to grace the game.

"Not a day goes by when I don't get into a black cab or meet someone somewhere who talks about what a legend my dad was and I'm the first person to say, 'Thank you,'" Calum said.

"He's such a hero in the football world. I don't think that legend will ever die. If I've got anything to do with it, it will never die."

opinion

Our Desk

Catarina Pinto



OUR ENVIRONMENT NEEDS ANOTHER POLICY ADDRESS

It's that time of the year when the Chief Executive attends the Legislative Assembly plenary meeting to discuss his action plan for 2015. Until April 17, all five government secretaries have a chance to debate their cabinet's policies for the current year with legislators.

The Macau International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition ended last weekend, and it made me think about some of the ways in which Macau's green features can be protected and improved.

While Chui made a pledge to tackle environmental problems, I fail to see its potential effectiveness.

"We will be launching a study on the use of eco-vehicles," he said. It definitely seems like a good measure, regardless of its delay. It should have been implemented years ago, as it doesn't even seem such a difficult goal to achieve.

"The government will promote the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, [the creation of more] green spaces and [the improvement of] the urban air quality," he continued.

This here seems largely positive. In reality, it is problematic because we have not been told how the government intends to achieve these goals.

From my perspective, a Policy Address should not only inform citizens of measures the government plans to take, but should also shed some light on how the government plans to achieve certain goals.

I believe we could learn a bit more from our neighboring SAR on this matter. Don't get me wrong, reading over a Policy Address document is a highly mundane task, be it here or in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, our neighbors seem to be presented with a rather more comprehensive Policy Address in terms of environmental issues than we are.

If we focus on environmental issues in Hong Kong's Policy Address, for instance, we can not only see clear goals and targets, but also strategies the government plans to adopt in order to achieve them. Regarding transportation, Hong Kong's leader said, "We will set up low emission zones in Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok at the end of this year where franchised bus companies can only deploy low-emission buses."

In terms of waste, he added, "The government is taking forward a number of initiatives to achieve the target of reducing our per capita municipal solid waste disposal rate by 40 percent in a decade (...)."

Regarding food waste, the Hong Kong government said that it has introduced "A Food Waste and Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014-2022." "[The plan] promotes reduction at source, food donation, recyclable collection and turning food waste into energy. The plan sets the target of reducing food waste disposal in landfills by 40% in 2022."

On this side of the Pearl River Delta, however, the government's proposed actions do not seem as clear when it comes to tackling pressing environmental issues.

The local government has pledged to introduce "measures to control the emission of oil fumes in restaurants and other establishments." It will launch a public consultation regarding those measures this year. Meanwhile, we wait.

They will also be promoting the reduction of waste at the source. This sounds promising. However, how will it be done? The government will be launching two public consultations: one related to reducing the use of plastic bags; the other referring to the management of construction waste. Until we have concrete strategies in front of us, we wait.

We all know Macau's pollution problems are not only triggered by its busy traffic flow, but also by a host of additional factors. And surely the local government alone will not be able to deal with all of these factors, which are common to the region.

Also, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works is yet to present his cabinet's action plan for 2015. For now, hope for more transparent environmental protection measures remains.

It seems that, at times, everything is possible when governments put particular interests aside. Eco-friendly vehicles, for example, need to be a reality in Macau sooner rather than later. The time, really, is now.

THE WILD RHINO ENTERS NEPAL CITY, KILLING 1 AND INJURING SEVERAL

A wild rhino has entered a city in southern Nepal, killing a woman and injuring several other people. Government administrator Ram Prasad Thapaliya says the rhino entered Hetauda yesterday, terrorizing residents. Teams with tranquilizer guns and elephants were on the way to the city to help out.

Thapaliya says the rhino killed a 61-year-old woman on the outskirts of Hetauda, a city of

about 135,000 people that borders forested area. An unknown number of people were injured inside the city. Thapaliya says attempts to chase the animal out of the city by blasting vehicle horns and beating drums were unsuccessful, with the animal running from one area to another. Hetauda is about 80 kilometers south of Kathmandu, Nepal's capital.

MEDIA

Killing of journalists should be a war crime

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

THE president and CEO of The Associated Press called yesterday for changes to international laws that would make it a war crime to kill journalists or take them hostage.

Gary Pruitt said a new framework is needed to protect journalists as they cover conflicts in which they are increasingly seen as targets by extremist groups.

"It used to be that when media wore PRESS emblazoned on their vest, or PRESS or MEDIA was on their vehicle, it gave them a degree of protection" because reporters were seen as independent civilians telling the story of the conflict, Pruitt said.

"But guess what: That labelling now is more likely to make them a target," he said in a speech at Hong Kong's Foreign Correspondents' Club.

Last year was a particularly deadly year for the AP - four of the news cooperative's journalists were killed on assignment. Globally, 61 journalists were killed in the line of duty in 2014, bringing to more than 1,000 the number who have died since 1992, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

One of the most high profile killings was that of AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus, who was shot by a police officer while covering elections



Gary Pruitt

in Afghanistan. AP reporter Kathy Gannon was severely wounded in the same attack. Two other AP staff - videographer Simone Camilli and translator Abu Ali Fash - were killed in Gaza when an unexploded missile went off. In addition, AP photographer Franklin Reyes Marrero died in a car accident while returning from an assignment in Cuba.

Pruitt said existing international laws should be updated to protect journalists. He proposed creating a new protocol to the Geneva Conventions to make the killing of a journalist a specific war crime. He also suggested adapting articles of the International Criminal Court, which deals with war crimes, to specifically cover journalists.

While acknowledging that these measures would not necessarily prevent journalists from getting killed, Pruitt said it would raise awareness of the idea that media workers, like doctors and nurses, should not be targeted during war.

Journalists deserve such protection as the nature of war changes, Pruitt said.

Journalists are increasingly becoming targets of extremist groups because don't need media organizations to get their message out - they can use social media instead.

"They don't need us, they don't want us. They want to tell their story in their way from start to finish with nothing in between and a journalist is a potential critical filter that they don't want to have around," he said.

"The larger world, however, needs us. They need us to get the real facts out or the complete story out. Not just one side as they want to tell it," he added.

The rising trend of terrorist and extremist groups resorting to kidnapping and ransoming journalists to raise money is also making it more dangerous to report from conflict zones, Pruitt said. Even more worrying, such groups are also increasingly killing journalists to get attention.

"A beheading becomes a bloody press release," he said.

The AP and other news organizations have also taken steps to protect freelancers, who often don't have the training and support offered to staff journalists.

Last month they endorsed a set of guidelines for freelancers that calls for them to be treated in the same way as staffers. They should be given, for example, first-aid and survival training and proper equipment. AP

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

WORLD BRIEFS

**THAILAND** Transport minister says Thai junta leader may exercise extraordinary constitutional powers to expedite safety improvements in the aviation sector, which is facing international sanctions.

**GERMANY** Prosecutors say the co-pilot of the Germanwings passenger plane that crashed in the French Alps had received treatment for suicidal tendencies. Duesseldorf prosecutors say that Andreas Lubitz received psychotherapy "with a note about suicidal tendencies" for several years before becoming a pilot. More on p15

**TURKEY** Turkish Airlines said it diverted an Istanbul-to-Sao Paulo flight to Casablanca, Morocco, yesterday after finding a note with the word "bomb" in the toilet. The communications office at Mohammed V Airport in Casablanca confirmed that the flight had landed there. The airliner, a Boeing 777, with the flight number TK15 is carrying 256 people.



**ISRAEL** Former Israeli PM Ehud Olmert was convicted yesterday of unlawfully accepting money from a U.S. supporter in a retrial on corruption charges, the latest chapter in the downfall of a man who hoped to lead the country to a historic peace agreement with the Palestinians.

**PAPUA** A powerful earthquake rattled the South Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea yesterday, generating a small tsunami and frightening locals near the epicenter, but prompting no reports of damage or injuries. A tsunami of half a meter was measured in the harbor of Rabaul, a town near the epicenter of the magnitude-7.7 earthquake.

**SOUTH PACIFIC** A pair of strong earthquakes (magnitude 6.4 and 6.5) strikes off the South Pacific nations of Tonga and Samoa, but there are no immediate reports of injuries or damage and no tsunami warning is issued.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua



Earthquake hits China. This photo taken yesterday shows the rubble from a damaged building after a 5.5-magnitude earthquake hit Xinliu Village in Jianhe County (Guizhou Province).