



MACAU GP TO HAVE 'CELEBRITY RACE'

"Actors and celebrities will take part in a race that will capture worldwide attention," Alexis Tam revealed

P2



REGION SAID TO BE LACKING CANCER PREVENTION MEASURES

The Health Bureau indicated that the most commonly diagnosed cancers in 2012 were lung, breast and colorectal cancers

P7 MDT FEATURE



CHINA FREES 5 WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

P11



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AD

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WORLD BRIEFS

SKOREA-JAPAN South Korea lifts an overseas travel ban on a Japanese journalist charged with defaming the South Korean president.

INDIA Violent protests erupt in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir after a civilian and a militant were killed in an encounter with the army.

MYANMAR Government troops have occupied more than 20 strategic positions held by ethnic Kokang rebels in two months of fierce fighting near the border with China, state media say, but a spokesman for the insurgents denies the claim.

AUSTRALIA's government says it has completed preparations to send about 300 additional troops to Iraq.

AUSTRALIA A golfer who was bitten on the leg by a crocodile while playing at an Australian tourist resort says he was partly at fault for hitting his ball in the water and disturbing the aggressive reptile while it sunbathed.

USA Fresh from a two-day road trip, Hillary Rodham Clinton is making her 2016 campaign debut in Iowa at a small-town gathering reminiscent of her Senate "listening tour."

More on backpage



New hospital design projects to be concluded by Q3

P3 POLICY ADDRESS

MACAU GP

Celebrity race aims to capture worldwide attention

Paulo Barbosa

DURING yesterday's policy address presentation, Alexis Tam was questioned by lawmaker Vong In Fai about which race will replace the FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC). The WTCC event in Macau was dropped from the local race calendar. The secretary revealed that, at his request, a "celebrity race" will be added to the Macau Grand Prix program. "Actors and celebrities will take part in a race that will capture worldwide attention," he said.

Regarding the International Automobile Federation's (FIA) decision to drop Macau from the WTCC calendar, Alexis Tam gave a different version of the events. "There are fewer teams [in WTCC], and the championship is not as attractive as it used to be. The [WTCC] organization couldn't meet the demands of the Macau Grand Prix," he revealed.

Alexis Tam further said that the Grand Prix Committee coordinator, Costa Antunes, had assured him that this year's edition will surpass 2014's. A press conference to announce more details about the program will be conducted soon.



WTCC race in Macau

In December, it was announced that the FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) would not be returning to Macau in 2015. The decision was made by the FIA World Motorsport Council, who met in Doha, Qatar.

The hosting duties of the final race of the championship were awarded to Qatar (to take place at night, like the Singapore F1 GP) instead of Macau, where the world title was decided so many times.

Some days after the council's meeting, WTCC's general manager François Ribeiro, explained the decision to drop Macau: "As much as the Macau Grand Prix has helped the WTCC to get a first taste of racing in Asia, we now

have a solid broadcast base in the region and a presence in China, Japan and now Thailand," he said. "We [the WTCC] take this opportunity to thank the Macau Grand Prix organizers for having hosted us since 2005. The WTCC has matured over its 10 years of existence, and we have therefore decided to look for new alternatives in a new region that can open up new markets, better TV schedules and be closer to our home base, allowing the material to be returned to Europe quicker."

Mr Costa Antunes said at the time that FIA's decision was "normal," and that the GP Committee would look for another race to replace the WTCC. That substituting race is still unannounced.

Lionel Leong reaffirms strict control in gaming table growth

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has reiterated the government's principle behind the granting of new gambling tables, saying that, "A decade from 2013, the average growth in the number of gambling tables will be strictly controlled within 3 percent." Meanwhile, he stressed that each application made by casino operators for additional gaming tables will be strictly examined for approval in an overall assessment, rather than simply calculating how to divide the sum.

Leong told the media on the sidelines of an event yesterday that the overall assessment includes evaluating the applicant's market competitiveness, the project's non-gaming elements, the applicant's collaboration with small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as whether the applicant is able to cooperate with the city's goal of building a world-class leisure and tourism center.

The secretary also revealed that, so far, the government has received one operator's application, and that project is expected to open next month. He said that the authorities are analyzing the application, and will reveal the result in due course.



Lionel Leong (4th right, first row) attended a spring cocktail reception hosted by the Macau Monetary Authority

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Macau taxis turnaround

Dear Editor

I note with interest that TDM covered the once-contentious Macau taxi issue on their Sunday forum over the weekend - and a mere 12 people attended! Secretly, I am pleased so few people turned up. That might seem strange but I see it as a great sign that all the heat has left this issue. There has now been a dramatic reduction in activity on the Macau Taxi Driver Shame Facebook group. Why has the heat left the issue? Because the issue is essentially solved under the current paradigm of strict enforcement by the PSP. The prevalence of taxi fishing in Macau is down from almost 100% saturation to surely less than 10%. Anything above 0% is wrong, but I think anything less than 10% is bearable.

In fact, the "new normal" of taxis is starting to really bite amongst the "evil"

drivers. I am anecdotally hearing of so-called "rogue" drivers shrugging their shoulders and leaving the industry. They are starting to accept their fate. The days of fishing, cheating and lying to their customers are over. This isn't just a one-month blitz, this is a sustained and ongoing change of paradigm in their industry. My message to them is either start servicing customers properly or get out!

I can't offer enough congratulations to Mr Wong Sio Chak, Secretary for Security (and therefore in charge of the PSP). From what I have heard about him he is a tough guy, and that's great. That's exactly what this issue needed. I hear he's also getting tough on other aspects of Macau traffic problems. Great! Congratulations also to Mr Rosario (the Secretary for Transport and Public Works) who is no doubt working with Mr Wong on this.

We here at the Macau Taxi Passengers Association were sometimes critical of the government when there was no enforcement, so to be fair we need to praise the government when they get something right. Thank you, Mr Wong Sio Chak for being the man behind this tough enforcement which has been so successful in transforming Macau's taxi industry - almost overnight. Thank you so much. I've never met you in person but if I ever do I shall shake your hand so hard you might feel like it's going to fall off!

I really thought with the level of apathy we sometimes see in Macau that it would be impossible for the PSP to sustain the strict enforcement on the taxi industry that they have. But it's now been three and a half months and there is no let up!

Whatever is being done to motivate those policemen to go out there and enforce against the bad taxi drivers,

keep doing it, please! Fantastic job, it's great to see someone in public office in Macau having such an impact that directly affects the day-to-day well-being of the citizens of Macau. Well done, Mr Wong.

A final comment: We still do need a new system for issuing taxi licenses in Macau. The old system is broken. And we need the new proposed legislation passed - the legislation proposed as part of the public consultation process DSAT set in motion on the Macau taxi industry almost a year ago. If we don't get that legislation passed, the taxi industry might go back to what it once was. And we never want to see that terrible state of affairs rear its ugly head in Macau again.

Andrew W Scott
President

Macau Taxi Passengers Association

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Paulo Barbosa

ALEXIS Tam revealed yesterday that the projects related to the construction of the future Islands Hospital will be concluded in August or September. The hospital is to be located on a site adjacent to the Seac Pai Van Reservoir on the Estrada do Istmo.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture was at the Legislative Assembly for a second day to present the policy address for the areas that he supervises. He said that a plan to train the medical staff who will work at the new health facility will start mid-year, once the hospital's design projects are concluded. According to information released previously, the hospital will be based on a 706-bed-capacity complex.

"We have a human resources plan for the [Islands] hospital. I made it clear when I was sworn in that we must develop the health infrastructure and the hardware, as well as enhance the staff's quality and the software," Alexis Tam said. The secretary acknowledged that the salaries paid to doctors are not attractive enough to "hire doctors with a very, very high quality. But that doesn't mean that we won't hire them. We will." He said that he will take part in meetings in Beijing next week to meet with mainland health authorities in order "to bring high-quality doctors to Macau." The secretary argued that Macau should set up a medical faculty, "but not now." The current focus should be on post-graduate studies in order to train specialized and differentiated doctors.

During the debate, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho argued that the biggest problem of the health system was the lack of hospital beds, which leads to difficulties for hospitals in accepting patients and then to the overcrowding of emergency wards. He raised concerns over the state of affairs, alluding to the appointment of Kuok Cheong U as the director of the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital (CHCSJ): "Everything seems to be well according to the Health Bureau director, because he will only stay in the post for one

SWIMMING POOL OPEN ALL YEAR

THE SECRETARY reiterated that the Hotel Estoril is going to be rebuilt as a youth center for arts education. But he added that the swimming pool adjacent to the hotel will also undergo major changes. "The pool will be open all year long and will have warm water," he said.

POLICY ADDRESS | SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE

Hospital design projects to be concluded in Aug–Sept



Alexis Tam (center)

Hengqin land bought by Macau could be leased to local companies

year; then [he will be replaced by] Mr Kuok," he said.

The Health Bureau (SSM) director Lei Chin Ion admitted once again that the bureau's predictions were wrong. He said that the new emergency department of the CHCSJ "is three times bigger" than the previous facilities, and was expected to cater for the needs during the coming five years. However, the influx of visitors during the CNY caused strain to the services. "I don't know where so many patients are

coming from," the SSM director remarked, adding that the number of people who resort to doctors in the public system is much higher in Macau than in Singapore or Hong Kong.

There was curiosity, following the announcement made on Monday, over the fact that the government has had several meetings with mainland authorities in order to buy land in Hengqin Island and set up social services there. Lawmaker Si Ka Lon inquired: "The spaces in Hengqin are going to be paid for by Macau, but will they only be made available for local residents or also to the Zhuhai population?"

Alexis Tam repeated what he said on the first day of his policy address presentation, saying that the model of the Hengqin land acquisition is still being defined. "If the land is bought by us, we can define how it's going to be used. It is

a very interesting model; the government can be the adjudicator and organize public tender to lease those lands to private companies," he revealed.

Several lawmakers raised the theme of technical-professional schooling, noting that the local students clearly prefer to undertake university degrees. As a result, several types of technicians are lacking, while bachelor holders are in excess. Alexis Tam attributed the phenomenon to a certain "Chine-

se traditional mentality" that he considered limitative. "We must avoid those limitations and articulate ourselves with the world. In Europe, the carpenters earn almost as much as a bachelor holder. They don't need to have a degree to earn quite well. We must trace that path," he said, adding that local institutions like the Macau Polytechnic Institute and the Institute for Tourism Studies are organizing suitable programs.

LACK OF 'LEISURE PLACES' AND TOURIST INFO

LEONEL ALVES gave the examples of several world capitals to illustrate the need to "create leisure places" in order to attract tourists. These places include facilities such as esplanades, where tourists could enjoy the outdoors. Noting that the high rents are almost pro-

hibitive for those spaces in Macau, the Macanese lawmaker said that "the public initiative could replace the private" in these cases. He suggested that kiosks should be set up in order to cater for tourists, disseminating books and information about Macau.

Paul Pun disagrees with building nursing homes in Hengqin



RENATO MARQUES

THE secretary-general at Caritas Macau, Paul Pun, is opposed to the government's idea of building high-end nursing homes in Hengqin for the local elderly population, saying that it would not meet the imminent needs of Macau seniors.

The move to the neighboring island, according to Mr Pun, would make those

receiving the service lonely and isolated, as the venues are out of Macau. He also pointed out that a sense of family was what they actually needed. Furthermore, the head of the care organization believed that the city still had some land available for the establishment of small-scale elderly care service providers.

Fourth industrial accident this April leaves one dead

Yesterday afternoon, the city saw its fourth fatal industrial accident to occur in the month of April. A male worker who did not take necessary safety measures fell to his death from a scaffolding structure in the northern district at around 3.40 p.m. The death was reported to local police by a colleague who worked with the 47-year-old on a construction project. He heard the man shouting behind him and saw the man lying in blood on the pavement. He was pronounced dead while being rushed to the hospital.

Fingerless body discovered in Coloane

A male body has been found floating in the sea near a temple in Coloane, according to the police authorities. At around 8.40 a.m. yesterday, a local female citizen discovered the body of a deceased man, approximately 30 years old, when she was walking past the temple, and called the police immediately. The initial inquiry carried out suggested that the man's topless body, wearing a gold necklace and with his index finger long removed, had been floating in the sea for an extended time. The man's identity remains unknown.

Anti-fire safety regulation complete by year's end

THE modified safety regulations aimed at preventing fire will entitle the city's fire service to additional legal enforcement power, which, according to Ma Io Weng, the commander of the Fire Service, would allow the department to penalize local entities that are found to breach the safety policy. Weng also revealed that the current fire station in Coloane is facing expansion work.

Speaking on the sidelines of an official conference on preventive measures against possible tropical cyclones this year, the commander told the media that the amendment bill for this anti-fire regulation would likely be complete by the end of the year. This comes after years of deliberation between the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau and the fire department since a public consultation was launched in 2009.

By the time the new set of policies comes into effect, the fire service, which currently serves as merely a fire-fighting opinion-provider, will be able to



Ma Io Weng

obtain legal mandate to punish offenders. "It will help make the work between the two departments clear and efficient, and also make it convenient to carry out work for us," said Ma. "Originally we were an opinion-providing department, but now it will make us law enforcers who possess the rights to penalize. This is the major duty-split," he added.

The existing regulation has confined the fire service's power to only conducting on-site inspections, as any issues that are discovered have to be passed to other government departments for legal execution.

The department head also told

media that the amended regulation would increase the department's workload, as the authorities would need to beef up their public relations efforts towards the population.

In further work, the authorities plan to establish another fire substation around the checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in the new reclamation area, and will collaborate with related officials from the neighboring two cities on rescue works.

The location that was previously selected for the establishment of a fire substation and emergency rescue center was for the area

of Coloane which was abandoned due to technical problems. Ma told media that a new venue near the Macau East Asian Games Dome will replace the former spot. The project is expected to take almost five years to finish before the substation becomes fully operational. However, the authorities plan to start work soon in expanding the existing Coloane station, in order to meet the public demand for a fire service. "For the expansion of our current Coloane station, one year is enough. To ensure that the entire area of Coloane is fully protected, the current expansion work is intended to help the fire service meet the internationally required 'six-minute' span for rescue work," said the department head, also proclaiming that the authorities so far have sufficient manpower to respond to the needs arising outside the Macau peninsula. **Staff reporter**

FIVE TYPHOONS EXPECTED WITHIN THE YEAR

THE METEOROLOGICAL authorities anticipate that Macau will see four to six tropical cyclones this year, with at least one of them a possibility to merit the hoisting of signal number eight. The first typhoon might appear as early as the middle of June,

while the last one might come in September. Meanwhile, the government has also launched a WeChat account, together with an electronic display device, at the Portas do Cerco (Border Gate) in order to release typhoon-related information to the public.

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Chinese Brush Painting Exhibition opens at City of Dreams

MORE than 200 Chinese brush paintings created by illustrious Chinese master painters and calligraphers are now on display for free in the Grand Ballroom on the second floor of the Grand Hyatt Macau. The exhibition was organized by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, with support from other art associations from the mainland and the MSAR.

Aiming to promote the philosophy of art and culture, as well as to reinforce the spirit of the principle "love China, love Macau," the exhibition runs until Thursday. Exhibited masterpieces include paintings and calligraphic works presented by Mr Liu Dawei, President of the Chinese Artists Association, Mr Yan Gongda, vice chairman of the Chinese Calligraphers Association, and Mr Xiao Han, President of the China Talent Research Professional Committee for Painting and Calligra-



phy, among others.

"I am honored to have gained tremendous support from the Macau SAR government and all supporting bodies. Knowing that Melco Crown Entertainment has been supporting the central government in pursuing adequate diversification of Macau's cultural development, I would like to extend my special thanks to Melco Crown Entertainment – particularly the Co-chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mr Lawrence Ho, for his genuine support making this exhibition a success, from planning to the opening. I am

glad that we shared the same vision to nurture the cultural development of mainland China and Macau, as well as to enhance the artistic and cultural development of Macau," said Li Xiaolin, President of the organizing body, while officiating at the opening ceremony.

The city's Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, the Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, Edmund Ho, as well as the Director of the Liaison Office, Li Gang, were also present at the exhibition's opening ceremony yesterday afternoon. **Staff reporter**

Anselmo Teng stresses region's Lusophone link

ANSELMO Teng, Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM), highlighted yesterday the region's unique role as the platform for trade and economic cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries during a lunch meeting organized by the Macau European Chamber of Commerce (MECC). During yesterday's event at the Sofitel Hotel, Mr Teng delivered a presentation titled "The Role of Macau as the Platform between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries – The RMB perspective."

According to a press release issued by MECC, Mr Teng gave a brief introduction to the local banking system and RMB business in Macau. He went on to describe the region's strong ties with mainland China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. According to the AMCM Chairman, by exploiting its own competitive edge, Macau could play a role in the internationali-



zation process of RMB, and facilitate RMB trades or investments among those Lusophone countries. Mr Teng also stressed the importance of enhancing the "go global" strategy of Chinese enterprises through Macau's role as a trade and economic platform – particularly while the internationalization of the RMB deepens – thus generating significant synergy between countries and mutually beneficial financial cooperation.

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Catarina Pinto

THE Health Bureau (SSM) believes that although Macau's cancer incidence rate has not recorded an increase over recent years, "it is expected that with a growing population more people will suffer from cancer." Doctor Dulce Maia Trindade, a specialist in public health from the Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians (AMLPM), told the Times that Macau is in need of a greater investment in cancer prevention.

Data provided by the Health Bureau shows the most commonly diagnosed cancers in 2012 were lung, breast and colorectal cancers.

As in Hong Kong, Macau suffers from urban pressure, and the cancer incidence rate is linked to citizens' lifestyles, says Dulce Trindade, who's been working as a specialist in public health in the city for the last 20 years.

"The scenario could have been different in Macau, a city with a rather small population and privileged in terms of resources, having a healthcare network in close proximity and dynamic associations that enrich Macau's quality [in terms of healthcare] also available," she recalled.

However, Trindade told the Times that Macau is lacking further investment in cancer prevention, as well as in early detection and regular check ups. Furthermore, there's a need to invest in palliative and rehabilitation care, "an area in which there has been little investment and in which Macau lacks [the necessary] 'know-how'."

"We need to better manage health resources and take a giant step toward reverting [a situation in which] the community has not provided cancer patients with enough care, not only in terms of specialized hospital treatment but also in terms of support provided to their families through caregivers – for instance home care or through medical auxiliaries, social service students or even volunteers," she recalled.

The physician added that, "the-

RENATO MARQUES



HEALTH

Region said to be lacking cancer prevention measures

re are terminal patients needing quality care, which could ease their suffering, providing them with a dignified end-of-life and close affection."

Trindade recalled that data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows that, since 2001, oncological diseases were the main cause of death, accounting for over 500 deaths each year here in Macau.

The physician said that a gradual increase of lung and airway tumors, as well as colorectal, liver and prostate cancer in men, is worrying. "The concern is even greater in females," she acknowledged, as breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed, although not accounting for a higher mortality rate.

"The survival [rate] of cancer

patients has been increasing thanks to a number of factors, namely scientific progress behind new therapeutic approaches, healthcare professionals commitment to constantly enhancing their knowledge, and local healthcare policies that have prioritized curative care," she stressed.

Raising awareness and prevention of the killer disease is another step that could be taken. "There's a lot more to do to prevent risks associated with oncological diseases. We are all informed of the risks but still unwilling to change our behavior," the local doctor said.

Suggested measures to strengthen our immune system include changing a lifestyle associated with obesity by saying goodbye to sugar- and fat-based diets and adopting a diet based on fruits and vegetables, while reducing the consumption of salt. In addition to a healthy diet, playing sport is key to avoiding a sedentary lifestyle.

"A sedentary lifestyle is also in great part responsible for an increase in the incidence rate of chronic diseases, which contribute to aggravate other risks associated with cancer," Ms Trindade added.

Regular health check-ups are also advised by physicians – particularly for women, who should have a mammogram regularly after the age of 30.

Other measures to prevent cancer include taking the hepatitis-B vaccine, to avoid liver cancer, and the HPV vaccine to avoid cervical cancer.



“The community has not provided cancer patients with enough care

DULCE MAIA TRINDADE

"Changing our behavior and our lifestyle depends solely on us. But sometimes we also need to look for help to help cement those decisions," the doctor said.

The Health Bureau recalled that the cause of the majority of cancers is still unknown, but various factors may increase the risk of cancer, such as genetic, environmental and lifestyle factors.

SSM said it has been monitoring each type of cancer, and stepping up efforts to invest in monitoring and prevention resources, as well as in the control and treatment of the disease.

This year, SSM will launch a pilot project for the screening of colorectal cancer.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 8.2 million people worldwide died from cancer in 2012. Cancer also figures among the leading causes of death across the globe. According to WHO, the number of new cases is expected to rise by about 70 percent over the next two decades.

HK: Lifestyle to blame for rise in cancer deaths

FIGURES from the Department of Health and Hospital Authority in Hong Kong show that cancer has claimed 18 percent more lives than a decade ago, South China Morning Post recently reported.

According to Dr Daniel Chua Tsin-tien, associate director at Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital's department of radiotherapy, many cancer-related deaths are preventable by a healthier diet, exercise and regular medical check-ups. In Hong Kong, lung, colorectal, breast, liver and prostate cancers are the five most commonly diagnosed and account for 60 percent of all new cases. According to the Department of Health, 31 percent of 43,399 deaths (13,589), were caused by cancer, compared with 11,510 in 2003.

Dr Chua said he believed breast and colorectal cancers would continue to have high incidence rates in Hong Kong, due to lifestyle habits such as smoking, and diets rich in meat and fat.

A 'NO SMOKING' ALERT

DOCTOR DULCE Maia Trindade, a public health specialist from the Association of Macau Portuguese Speaking Physicians (AMLPM), has stressed that smoking is the main factor associated with lung cancer, and is surely a risk behavior that could be avoided. In addition to reducing the risk of lung cancer, avoiding smoking would also have an impact on the prevention of other

respiratory and dermatological problems. Poor air quality is another risk factor associated not only with cancer but also with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the physician recalled. At a recent panel discussion organized by the medical association, experts called for a multidisciplinary and inter-service approach to solve the pollution matter, Ms Trindade said.

FT: Hong Kong market rally starts to reshape global league table

CHINA Construction Bank has overtaken JPMorgan, Facebook and Chevron in terms of size, a sign of how a dramatic stock market rally in Hong Kong "is reshaping the league table of the world's largest companies," the Financial Times noted on Monday.

The surge has come even as Chinese economic indicators worsen. China's exports slumped 15 per cent in March, raising the prospect of disappointing first-quarter economic growth.

The market capitalization of Hong Kong-listed shares set a new record yesterday, passing the HKD30tn mark for the first time to close at HKD30.55tn (USD3.9tn). The Hong Kong share market has risen 17.6 per cent in the past month, making it the best performer in the world this year outside the Chinese mainland.

The surge in valuations comes as investors, wary of frothy valuations in Shanghai and Shenzhen, switch into lower-priced Hong Kong stocks. A move by the Chinese authorities to give mutual funds access to the Hong Kong market via Stock Connect has also boosted share volumes in the territory.

As a result, "a host of companies now eclipse their global rivals," FT said. CCB, China's second-largest lender by assets, has risen by a fifth in the past month, giving it a market capitalization of US-D248bn. It is now the 15th biggest company on the FTSE All World index, and the third ranked bank after local rival ICBC and US-based Wells Fargo.

"Other price changes have been equally impressive." Online games



A woman smiles as she chats with a man at a brokerage house in Fuyang in central China's Anhui province

maker Tencent - up 27 per cent over the past month - is now larger than Amazon, Oracle and Samsung Electronics, while Air China has a bigger market cap than Singapore Air and Cathay Pacific combined, following a 42 per cent rise.

Citic Securities, China's leading brokerage, has gained 45 per cent over the past month. At \$61bn, it now has a significantly larger market cap than either Blackstone or Credit Suisse. China Merchants Bank rose 25 per cent yesterday alone, putting it ahead of Barclays, Mitsubishi UFJ and Royal Bank of Canada, with a market cap of \$91bn.

According to FT, the arrival of billions of dollars from mainland China has triggered a 65 per cent appreciation in the share price of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, valuing the operator at \$44bn, comfortably above global rivals.

The HKEx has now displaced American CME Group (Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group), with a market capitalisation of \$31bn, as

the world's largest exchanges operator in the past month.

The Hong Kong bourse also outstrips fellow US derivatives exchange operator Intercontinental Exchange, which owns the New York Stock Exchange and has a market valuation of \$25bn.

The increase in activity has raised expectations for the earnings performance of HKEx. The Hang Seng index is now up 12 per cent since the start of the month.

HKD30.55tn

HK-listed shares' market capitalization, a record set on Monday

Trade groups urge China to suspend rules on foreign technology



A paramilitary police officer stands guard in front of Tiananmen Gate in Beijing

TRADER groups from the U.S., Europe and Japan urged China to suspend guidelines that limit banks from using foreign technology, saying the policies discriminate against outsiders and limit Chinese companies' security options.

In a letter dated Monday, 31 trade associations asked the ruling Communist Party's cyberspace leading group to halt the rules from the banking regulator that are aimed at spreading the use of "secure and controllable" or Chinese-developed Internet and technology products.

"Approaches that keep out certain technologies would likely render China's affected industries slower to innovate, more costly to operate, and less capable of managing dynamic security threats leaving Chinese networks less secure," the groups said in the letter.

The protest follows a similar letter that several of the same groups sent in January seeking urgent talks with the party's cyberspace leading group about the regulations, which they called "an overly broad, opaque, discriminatory approach to cybersecurity policy." China has unveiled a national strategy, reported by Bloomberg News in December, to purge most foreign technology for banks, state-owned enterprises and the military by 2020.

China's cyberspace administrator didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment about the letter. Cyberspace minister Lu Wei said in February others must resist making "false allegations" and countries should manage the Web together. He reiterated that China welcomes investment so long as those entering the country obey Chinese law. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION MENUS AT PORTOFINO, DYNASTY 8 AND GRAND ORBIT



To celebrate Mother's Day, The Venetian Macao's Portofino and Sands Cotai Central's Dynasty 8 and Grand Orbit will serve up special menus on May 9 and 10.

On May 10, Portofino will offer a special four-course menu featuring selections such as white asparagus with sautéed fresh morel mushrooms, Soft poached organic Egg and Chervil Vinaigrette; lemon-leaf scented

chickpea soup with pan-roasted scallop; a choice of veal sirloin "Rossini" with goose liver medallion, truffle sauce, scallion-olive oil mashed potatoes and spring vegetables, or barramundi fillet on baby spinach, sautéed clams, spring vegetables and saffron sauce; with strawberry and rhubarb compote with vanilla ice cream and moscato zabaglione to finish.

CEM ANNOUNCES 2ND QUARTER TCA SUBSIDY

The continued fall in international oil prices resulted in the decrease in CEM's local generation cost, thus this quarter's Tariff Clause Adjustment (TCA) dropped slightly. According to the calculation under the concession contract, the TCA for the 2nd quarter will be 42 cents per kWh, 3 cents lower than the previous quarter.

To fulfill its corporate social responsibility, CEM announced that it will continue to offer a TCA subsidy for Tariff Group A customers (mainly residential customers and small and medium enterprises supplied with low voltage, covering more than 99% of the total number of customers), from 42 cents, the contractual calculated value, reduced to 35 cents with a 7-cent per kWh reduction. Likewise, the TCA for Tariff Group B, C and D will be decreased to 42 cents per kWh, down 3 cents per kWh comparing with the previous quarter. Benefitting from the continued fall in oil prices, local generation in the previous quarter was increased, accounting for 19.3% of the total generation, while purchase from the Macau Refuse Incineration Plant and importation from the mainland made up 4.4% and 76.3% respectively.

GALAXY AND CARITAS MACAU HOLD INCLUSIVE ARTS WORKSHOP FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Galaxy Entertainment Group ("GEG") and Caritas Macau held the "Me and My Galaxy" Inclusive Arts Workshop for people with disabilities at the East Square of Galaxy Macau on Saturday. During the workshop, the GEG volunteer team and 40 Caritas Macau service users together created a six-meter-by-two-meter painting to foster social inclusion.

Mr. Paul Pun, Secretary General of Caritas Macau, said the workshop was meaningful as it gave their

members an equal opportunity to participate in arts creation and promote social integration for all. "We are grateful that not only has GEG committed to its business, but it has also continuously assisted those in need in the community. Through interacting with the GEG volunteer team, our members have more opportunities to stay in touch with society, improve their emotional management and social recognition," he said.



MOZAMBIQUE

Factory funded by China boosts agricultural production

THE inauguration of the Chokué Agri-Industrial Complex, developed with funding from China, opens up new horizons for agricultural production in Gaza province, southern Mozambique, which now has another unit for rice processing and product storage.

Launched in the first half of 2013, the factory was officially opened on Monday by the President of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, who sent a message of thanks to the Chinese authorities for their support for the project.

Through the Export-Import Bank (Exim) of China, the government of Mozambique received a subsidized loan of USD60 million for construction of the factory, which is considered strategic for the development of agricultural capacity of the inner region of Chokué, where the country's largest irrigation system is located.

Currently managed by state company Hidráulica do Chokué (HICEP), the irrigation system was created during the colonial era and has in recent years undergone repairs, which led to an increase in rice production, the crop that takes up most of the land along the channels, whose irrigation capacity exceeds 30,000 hectares.

The Chokué Agri-Industrial Complex (CAIC) was designed taking into account the needs of rice processing, now guaranteeing a capacity of at least 60,000 tons of rice per year, which will considerably shorten the distance previously covered by producers as the nearest unit, in Xai-Xai, owned by Chinese project Wambao



Agriculture, is 130 kilometers away.

However, in addition to rice, the factory will also process tomato and cashew nuts. This year alone it is expected to 1,200 tons of tomatoes and 480 tons of cashews and the

complex also has a storage area for 30,000 tons of vegetables.

Another important aspect of the project was the installation of cooling systems with a capacity to store 15,000 tons, which is expected to extend the shelf-life of vegetables, thus impro-

ving the bargaining power of local producers.

The complex, whose shareholder structure includes state stake holding management company Igepe, with 70 percent, the Limpopo Valley Agricultural Company (Saval),

with 10 percent and HICEP (20 percent), is expected to employ around 200 workers.

With a view to transforming Gaza province into "Mozambique's grain store" local authorities have been promoting contacts between farmers from the Chokué region and Wambao Agriculture, with state ir-

Launched in the first half of 2013, the factory was officially opened by the President of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi

rigation company RBL, which manages the second irrigation system in Gaza province, as intermediary.

In this second irrigation area Wambao Agriculture has an investment project valued at US\$250 million, which is primarily designed for production of rice, and one of Wambao's commitments is to transfer knowledge and technology to Mozambican farmers. **MDT/Macauhub**

Fourth largest destination for Norwegian aid to Africa

MOZAMBIQUE in 2014 was the fourth largest recipient of development aid provided by Norway in a group of 20 African countries, with an estimated total of 375.9 million Norwegian Kroner (USD46.3 million), reported Mozambican daily newspaper Correio da Manhã.

The newspaper, citing the annual report of the Norwegian Embassy in Mozambique, added that the list of 20 African countries is led by neighboring Malawi, with 531.9 million Norwegian Kroner, followed by Tanzania and Somalia.

Between 2009 and 2014 Mozambique received around 2.5 billion Norwegian Kroner (US\$308 million) from Norway for several socio-economic projects, especially focused on Education, Energy, Health and support for the state budget.

In an analysis of Mozambique's performance the Norwegian Embassy report stated that, despite the strong economic growth of the country for at least the last ten years (average of 7 percent per year), this "has done little to reduce poverty."

The report mentions, however, impro-

vements in Mozambique such as in public financial management, particularly revenues, foreign aid, payment transactions, wage disbursement, procurement and external auditing, as well as to transparency of public financial management.

Norway is a major player in the development of power transmission line between Mozambique and Malawi, financed by the World Bank, the implementation of which is, however, at a standstill due to disagreements between the two countries. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



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Beijing hopes European film buff will raise festival profile

Louise Watt, Beijing

THE veteran European festival chief that Beijing hopes will raise the profile of its annual film event says his passion for movies stems from trips to China that started during the Cultural Revolution.

Marco Mueller's latest of more than 100 trips to China is as general adviser to the fifth Beijing International Film Festival that opens Thursday. The Swiss-Italian's hiring is part of attempts by Beijing municipal government and national film authorities to promote their festival, along with an international jury led by Luc Besson and a speech by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Mueller first visited China in 1974 as part of a batch of European exchange students and scholars. It was toward the end of Chairman Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in which millions were persecuted for their political beliefs, social background or because of personal vendettas.

Already proficient in Mandarin, Mueller asked if he could research his master's thesis on mass literature at a university rather than study at a Beijing language institute.

He jumped at an offer to go to Manchuria, in China's northeast. However, once there, he could do little research because libraries were closed to foreign exchange students and scholars.

So he decided to focus on film and started going to the movies twice a day. This too eventually left him frustrated, largely because of China's strict restrictions on film during that period, when even classics from the earlier Communist Party period were banned. In the packed university auditorium in a 1950s Soviet-style building in Liaoning province, he saw movie adaptations of revolutionary operas, North Korean films and Soviet classics.

"I started watching a lot of Albanian historical dramas, Romanian thrillers — some Romanian thrillers only lasted 55 minutes because nothing extreme ... not even a kiss, was allowed on screen at that time," Mueller said in an interview this week.

His impression of Chinese cinema suddenly changed when he was studying in Nanjing as China entered a new era in 1976.

"Very quickly the films that had been forbidden during the Cultural Revolution started coming out," said Mueller, adding that he was amazed at their wealth and variety. "Films were playing in football stadiums with gigantic



audiences."

He said that some revolutionary melodramas had been revived, and "through the special genre that melodrama is you could project a lot of the interpersonal conflicts that could otherwise never hit the screen."

He saw the 1961 classic revolutionary drama "Red Detachment of Women" — about a servant girl abused by a village warlord who is rescued and ends up joining and leading a troop of women soldiers — and its director, Xie Jin, immediately became his favorite.

In 1982 in Turin, Italy, Mueller put on the first major retrospective on the history of Chinese cinema held outside China. Some films had been regarded as lost by China's film archivists, so he went hunting for them. He found a trove from the 1940s in the basement of the Golden Eagle theater in Havana's old Chinatown.

He promoted Chinese films when he was artistic chief at the Rome, Venice and Locarno film festivals. Beijing has asked him to be chief consultant for the city's festival for five years, but he says he is testing it this year.

Fifteen films will compete for the festival's 10 Temple of Heaven Awards, including best feature film and best director. They include South Korean "The Whistleblower," U.S. movie "Ex-

perimenter," Indian film "Fig Fruit and the Wasps," and two Chinese films, "Wolf Totem" and "The Taking of Tiger Mountain."

Mueller, who has produced several films including the Oscar-winning 2001 Bosnian film "No Man's Land," selected the international films along with a team of his programmers. They whittled 500 candidates and presented 40 of them to the festival's executive committee, comprised of film professors, researchers and professionals, including distributors. The committee further pared the list by eliminating what would likely be rejected by China's censors, Mueller said.

All the non-Chinese nominated films will have their international premieres at the eight-day festival, as opposed to just their Asian premiere or China premiere, as in years past.

Other films being screened during the festival include many that haven't played in mainland theaters, including this year's Oscar winners "Birdman" and "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

The festival is different from the grassroots Beijing Independent Film Festival, which showcases independent films that aren't approved for release in China, frequently runs into trouble from authorities and was blocked from taking place last year. **AP**

Official says PRC may raise damages caps for IP violations

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

CHINA is considering raising its notoriously low limits on damages for intellectual property violations and strengthening litigation on trade secret theft, a Shanghai city official said yesterday.

The comments by Lyu Guoqiang, commissioner of Shanghai's Intellectual Property Office, echo an action plan issued in December by the State Council, China's top administrative authority, which called for "increasing the application of criminal fines" as part of an effort to enhance criminal enforcement and judicial protection for intellectual property.

Taken together, the moves suggest a deepening commitment to IP enforcement in China, which is trying to wean its economy from low-end manufacturing and seek growth from innovation instead.

"Enhancing intellectual property protection is out of the intrinsic need of China's economic development and economic transformation," Lyu said.

Patent awards are currently capped at 1 million

yuan (USD160,905), trademark violations at 3 million yuan and copyright violations at 500,000 yuan — fractions of the potential compensation offered in U.S. courts. Those low levels and a general lack of faith in China's legal system have pushed some brands to seek redress using courts outside of China.

"Many rights holders complain the damages are too low," Lyu said. "China is not America. Our economies are different, but we still need to consider adjusting the damages standards."

He said the government also was considering allowing brands to pursue punitive damages, as is done in many Western countries, and make it possible to get injunctions issued earlier in cases alleging theft of trade secrets.

"They want to learn from other systems," said Michael Mangelson, the intellectual property attache at the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai. "They believe the U.S. has a system in place that facilitates innovation. That's the focus for China now." **AP**



Christopher Bodeen
and Isolda Morillo, Beijing

Authorities free 5 women's rights activists after month detention

CHINESE authorities have released five women's rights campaigners whose detentions for more than a month sparked an international outcry and underscored the government's tight restrictions on independent social activism.

The women were freed Monday under a form of conditional release that keeps the investigation open for another year and allows formal charges to be brought later, said Liang Xiaojun, a lawyer for one of them.

The activists, aged from 25 to 32, were known for colorful protests that included "potty parity" sit-ins and street theater to denounce spousal abuse, and their detentions brought international calls for their release, including from the United States, Britain and the European Union.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said China should "support them, not silence them" in their fight against sexual harassment and other injustices toward women, and #FreeTheFive became a popular Twitter hashtag.

Human rights activists said the release was driven by Beijing's desire to avoid marring its reputation on women's rights and creating a public relations disaster, especially ahead of a September commemoration of a key women's rights summit held in Beijing in 1995.

Amnesty International Regional Director for East Asia Nicholas Bequelin said he had no doubt the release resulted from a political and diplomatic decision at a senior level.

"It shows that China does have a bottom line when it comes to embarrassment on the world stage," Bequelin told The Associated Press. "There's a price that China is not ready to pay to enforce its prohibition on independent organizing."

As of late Monday night, all five had either returned or were on their way to their homes in Beijing and elsewhere in China,



In this July 31, 2014 file photo, women's rights activist Wei Tingting, right waits outside a court in Beijing

including the southern metropolis of Guangzhou and the eastern resort city of Hangzhou. Calls to the Haidian District Detention Center in western Beijing, where they had been held, rang unanswered.

Other lawyers could not be reached by phone, but posted messages on social media saying their clients had been freed.

An anti-discrimination group working with the activists, the Beijing Yirenping Center, said in a statement that continuing to treat the women as criminal suspects was "neither legal nor reasonable." Late last month, Beijing police raided the center's office and confiscated computers and financial documents.

"They deserve public recognition and rewards," center co-founder Lu Jun wrote of their activism. "The arrest and detention of them is a glaring injustice."

In a statement, Amnesty International called the women's release an "encouraging breakthrough" but "an incomplete step." It said China must end the investigation and exonerate the five.

The European Union also urged authorities to drop the investigation of the women.

Hong Lei, spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed yesterday that the activists were released on bail. He said the matter was dealt with in accordance with Chinese law.

"It is part of China's sovereignty for the Chinese judicial authority to observe and enforce the law and to fight crime," Hong said. "That is a principle a country under the rule of law must stick to."

Under the conditions of their release, the five remain formally under investigation for the next year and must report their movements to police and

be available for interrogation at any time. They are also barred from discussing the case among themselves or gathering as a group, lawyer Wang Qiushi said.

The women — Wang Man, Zheng Churan, Wu Rongrong, Wei Tingting and Li Tingting — were detained last month as they prepared to distribute posters and stickers against domestic violence on International Women's Day on March 8. They were accused of creating a disturbance and, if convicted, could have been sentenced to up to three years in prison. Five others detained at the same time were released earlier.

China's Communist Party-led government maintains tight restrictions on all forms of public protest, and campaigners say conditions for independent activists have grown increasingly harsh under President Xi Jinping.

While the government has

■ The activists, aged from 25 to 32, were known for colorful protests that included 'potty parity' sit-ins and street theater to denounce spousal abuse

commented little on the case, it appeared that the women's detentions were linked more to their penchant for media-friendly street actions than their advocacy of women's rights.

In 2012, the activists briefly took over public men's restrooms in Beijing and other cities to demand more women's facilities. That year, Li and two other women strolled down a busy Beijing shopping street wearing bloody wedding dresses to denounce domestic violence.

Amnesty's Bequelin said that, given the case's high profile, he expects police to keep a close eye on the five. The legal restrictions on them will likely be sufficient to "if not silence, then considerably mute their voice," he said.

Along with the international outcry, Bequelin said the fact that the women made no political demands helped their cause, along with the weakness of the accusations against them.

"It helped that they hadn't actually committed any wrongdoing," he said. AP

Amid tensions, Li meets Japan delegation

CHINESE Premier Li Keqiang met yesterday with a Japanese delegation led by ex-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, amid halting efforts to reduce lingering tensions between the countries before this year's 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of World War II.

Li told Kono that the last two years have been difficult, but "both sides have the wish to impro-



Yohei Kono, left, head of the Japanese Association for the Promotion of International Trade, shakes hands with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing

ve things." That was a reference to a festering island territorial dispute and what Beijing sees as moves by some in Japan to shirk their country's responsibility for the war.

A brief meeting in November between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping helped break the ice, but a full range of exchanges has yet to be restored.

Kono said that meeting was made possible by the "enormous efforts and wisdom of diplomats from both countries" and that members of his delegation from the Association for the Promotion of International Trade wished to "push forward the bilateral ties with the spirit of respecting history and facing the future."

Kono is considered a strongly pro-China

member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and has counseled against any backtracking on his country's acceptance of responsibility for the war that began with Japan's 1937 invasion of China and included atrocities such as the Nanking Massacre.

The war remains an extremely sensitive issue among Chinese and any weakening of Japan's past expressions of guilt by hawkish Prime Minister Abe is likely to deal a further setback to relations. AP

Youkyung Lee, Ansan

ONCE or twice a week, a mother's ritual begins.

Shin Jumja applies pink lipstick and face powder, gets in her car and drives to the high school her oldest son attended before his death. Sometimes she brings a colorful plant.

She passes students running in the hallways and steps into his quiet, empty classroom. As the outside noises fade, she walks to the front right corner where a framed picture of her 17-year-old son, Jeong Hwi-bum, smiles back at her from his desk.

He and 249 other students from Danwon High School died a year ago in the sinking of the ferry Sewol. All told, more than 300 people were killed.

Shin gazes at the picture of her son in his dark gray school uniform. As she wipes several of the desks and chairs with tissues, her eyes moisten. Sunlight pours in from the windows onto the potted plants, many with yellow or orange flowers, which sit on nearly all the desks in memory of the children.

"I know this is all vain, doing this for a child who's no longer with me," she says. "But my son liked to see his mom wearing makeup. When I didn't put any on, he'd ask me if I was feeling all right."

Hwi-bum was a gentle, perceptive young man, she says, the first to recognize whenever she got a new haircut. He loved her cooking and liked drawing better than soccer.

Shin, 43, prays silently. She vows not to forget her son — and to find out what went wrong on April 16, 2014, when the ferry her son and his friends were taking for a school trip sank off the southern coast. Nearly one year after the deadly sinking united South Korea with shock and remorse, the country is divided and a planned investigation by a special government committee has stalled amid wrangling over money and personnel.

The first time Shin visited her son's classroom was the day of his funeral. Holding his picture, she walked into the classroom and found his name on the desk.

"For the first time I learned that my son had a dream," she said, pointing to a piece of paper taped to the desk that said her son wanted to be an automotive designer. "My son liked drawing and he learned painting after school, but I didn't know he wanted to become a car designer."

The school has left open many of the classrooms used by the dead pupils, offering victims' relatives and friends a space to remember the dead. Parents like Shin take care of the classrooms, sweeping the floors and watering flowers.

When she is alone here, she



Shin Jumja, mother of Jeong Hwi-bum, who died in the sinking of the ferry Sewol, wipes her son's portrait at a table decorated with tributes and flowers in a classroom at Danwon High School in Ansan

SOUTH KOREA

Visiting empty desk of ferry victim helps mom cope

writes letters to her son and looks at pictures of him on her phone. A nearby blackboard is covered with messages of grief and hope. She tries to imagine what her son felt when he was in the classroom.

"I come here and feel like he's still living here, like he's still playing here, still taking classes here, maybe even fighting with friends," she says through tears as she sits on her son's chair.

"When I'm here, my heart hurts but I also feel comforted. So I come here alone at least three or four times a month."

The family was too overwhelmed by emotion to sit together for Hwi-bum's 18th birthday on April 3.

His father first locked himself in the bedroom, then left home in tears without eating. His younger brother, 14, ran away to school.

His mother, left alone with a table full of her son's favorite foods, quietly sang a birthday song.

Shin weeps now as she remembers the electric shaver she bought as a present for a boy who died too young to have a beard.

After the tragedy, Shin's family moved out of the home where Hwi-bum was raised, partly to avoid the pain of constantly confronting memories of him. In their new apartment, Hwi-bum has his own bedroom. Shin still keeps clothes

that he used to wear as a baby, his books and pictures, and letters of sympathy from people she's never met.

During her last phone call with her son, a few minutes before the ship made a sharp turn and started listing, he told her that he had just bought a drink after having breakfast.

■ 17-year-old Jeong Hwi-bum and 249 other students from Danwon High School died a year ago in the sinking of the ferry Sewol

When Shin finally received the bag that Hwi-bum carried onto the ship — retrieved by divers — she found an unopened can of Pocari Sweat, his favorite drink, inside. Since then, she always keeps at least two bottles of the sports drink in the fridge because she feels like "he'll just open the door and come home."

Except for her school visits and late-night grocery shopping, Shin doesn't go out much. She said she didn't even notice that

the cherry trees were in bloom during a recent interview with The Associated Press.

She dreads dealing with her neighbors: "Even though people aren't staring at me, I feel like they're looking at me with pity."

She has devoted more time to her hobby, gardening, making sure that the plants in the living room, in Hwi-bum's bedroom and in his classroom are healthy.

Shin saw her son in a video shot during the sinking ship's last minutes. It had come from a cellphone retrieved from the ship, along with the bodies.

"An announcement tells people not to move. My son sits tight. But I know, as his mother, that he was terrified," she said.

Shin cannot forgive the captain and the crew members of the Sewol, who were among the first to escape the ship on a coastguard rescue boat. The captain is appealing 36 years' imprisonment. Other crewmembers are appealing after receiving five to 30 years in prison sentences.

"Even though they couldn't rescue everyone, they could have at least made an announcement to evacuate," she said.

She's also haunted by the night before the school trip, when Hwi-bum said he didn't want to go. Shin believed that it wasn't right to miss a school activity,

even though her son was afraid of taking a ship.

Shin says South Korea has learned little from the tragedy, even after its president vowed to solve the regulatory and safety problems that contributed to the sinking. "There's nothing that has improved after Sewol," Shin said. The country is still "not a safe place."

"Even after such a huge tragedy, people who give orders from the top don't worry about this and are busy evading responsibility. That's why I think these accidents will continue," she said.

The country is no longer united over the legacy of the ferry disaster. Some people express fatigue and ask victims' relatives to move on.

"People say they cry when they're traveling in a foreign country and see South Korea's national flag. For me, I don't like my country anymore," Shin said.

"This country abandoned us," she said. "So I abandoned my country."

Still, she wants to improve safety for her younger son and her future grandchildren. Her husband joins other relatives of the victims in a square in central Seoul to pressure the government to hold those responsible for the disaster accountable.

"For those children," she said, "I believe we must find out the truth." AP

JAPAN

Court rejects bid to restart of 2 nuclear reactors



A freighter, left in foreground, carrying MOX, a mixture of uranium and plutonium oxide, arrives at the Takahama nuclear power station in Takahama town in Fukui prefecture

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

A court issued an injunction yesterday ordering two nuclear reactors in western Japan to stay offline, rejecting regulators' safety approval for the facility ahead of their planned restart later this year, a decision that could further delay the government's restart plans.

The Fukui District Court ordered the operator, Kansai Electric Power Co., not to restart the No. 3 and No. 4 reactors at the Takahama plant

in Fukui prefecture, which is home to about a dozen reactors.

The court criticized the Nuclear Regulation Authority's safety standards for being too lax even with stricter requirements imposed following the Fukushima crisis after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The ruling said meeting the new standards does not guarantee the safety of the Takahama reactors.

Kansai Electric said it planned to appeal the ruling,

calling it "extremely regrettable and unacceptable." It said the Takahama reactors' safety had been endorsed by the regulators.

In the wake of the crisis, all 48 reactors in Japan were taken offline for safety checks. None have gone back online except for another two reactors in Fukui for a brief period in 2012 and 2013.

The first two reactors, in southern Japan, scheduled to go back online have also received regulatory approval and are making final preparations

toward a planned restart this summer. But there is also a separate injunction request before a court seeking to halt that.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's pro-business government has been pushing for a restart, saying prolonged stoppages are not good for Japan's economy. His government is also expected to compile a new energy mix that would keep nuclear power at around 20 percent of Japan's energy needs.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that the government was wa-

iting the Takahama development and that it hoped the reactors are deemed safe by the regulators to restart.

In the ruling, the court cited that four of Japan's 17 nuclear power plant complexes had suffered through earthquakes exceeding their anticipated seismic motions over the past decade and that the Takahama plant could be next.

■ The Fukui District Court ordered the operator, Kansai Electric Power Co., not to restart the No. 3 and No. 4 reactors at the Takahama plant

"Excluding the Takahama plant from the risk of such earthquakes is merely a groundless optimism," said the ruling, released by a group of lawyers for the plaintiffs. "An accident at the plant could cause irrevocable damage."

The presiding judge, Hideaki Higuchi, cited spent fuel storage pools without proper containment and a moratorium for a compulsory radiation-free emergency command center among examples of "the lack of rationality" by Japanese nuclear regulators.

A group of residents and their supporters requested the injunction in December, saying a massive earthquake exceeding the facility's quake resistance standards could cause tremendous damage to the region, similar to the Fukushima crisis. **AP**

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA

THE Australian government has ramped up pressure on parents who oppose vaccination by threatening to withhold child care and other payments from families that fail to immunize their children.

The government announced this week that families could lose up to 15,000 Australian dollars (USD11,400) per child per year in tax and child care benefits from Jan. 1, 2016, unless their children are vaccinated under a "no jab, no pay" policy.

The crackdown comes as similar moves to limit vaccination waivers in the United States have

proved to be deeply divisive.

It also follows a new focus on vaccinating children in Australia after the death of a four-week-old baby last month of whooping cough in the west coast city of Perth. The parents of Riley John Hughes are campaigning on social media to eradicate the disease. It is particularly dangerous to babies under six months who are too young to be fully

vaccinated.

The government is removing a category of "conscientious objector" that allowed parents to remain eligible for full welfare benefits despite not immunizing their children.

While 97 percent of Australian families that claim tax benefits for their offspring are vaccinated, the number of children under 7 years old who are not vaccinated because their pa-

rents are objectors has increased by more than 24,000 over the past decade to 39,000, a government statement said.

Parents will still be able to resist immunizing their children on medical and religious grounds without financial penalty.

But Family Services Minister Scott Morrison said only one church with fewer than 1,000 members had registered with the government its

objection to vaccination.

Morrison would not publicly name the church, for fear that families would join the congregation to abuse the loophole. He told Perth Radio 6PR on Monday that the exemption would be closed if it was abused.

The public response to the announcement has been largely positive, but the head of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South

Wales, Prof. Raina MacIntyre, said the policy was unlikely to change the views of hardcore anti-vaccinators.

"Bringing in something draconian like this is not a very good public health strategy," she told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The minor Greens party welcomed the policy, but said the government should also boost vaccination rates by investing in public education programs and subsidizing vaccines.

The government of neighboring New Zealand, where 94 percent of children are vaccinated, said it does not intend to follow Australia's example. **AP**



This combination made from file photo shows Blackwater guards, from left, Dustin Heard, Evan Liberty, Nicholas Slatten and Paul Slough

Sam Hananel, Washington

USA

DEFENSE lawyers are vowing to appeal the convictions of four former Blackwater security guards after a federal judge handed down lengthy prison terms for their roles in a 2007 shooting of unarmed civilians in Iraq.

Attorneys identified several issues Monday (yesterday, Macau time) as likely forming the basis of an appeal, including vindictive prosecution and whether State Department contractors could be charged under a federal law that covers the overseas crimes of Defense Department civilian employees.

The move comes after U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth sentenced former guard Nicholas Slatten to life in prison and three others to

30-year terms for their roles in the shootings that killed 14 Iraqi civilians and wounded 17 others in Baghdad's Nisoor Square.

Slatten, who witnesses said was the first to fire shots in the melee, was sentenced to life after being convicted last October of first-degree murder. The three other guards — Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard — were each sentenced to 30 years and one day in prison for charges that included manslaughter, attempted mans-

laughter and using firearms while committing a felony.

The incident strained U.S.-Iraq relations and caused an international uproar over the use of private security guards in a war zone.

Lamberth announced the sentences after a daylong hearing at which defense lawyers had argued for leniency and presented character witnesses for their clients. At the same time, prosecutors asked that those sentences — the minimums mandatory under the law —

be made even harsher. He rejected both requests.

Appearing in court wearing leg shackles and prison garb, the former contractors insisted they were innocent.

"The verdict is wrong, you know that I am innocent, sir," Slatten told the judge.

"I feel utterly betrayed by the same government I served honorably," Slough said.

But Lamberth said he fully agreed with the jury's guilty verdicts and praised the Justice Department and the FBI for investigating the shooting

and putting the truth "out there for the world to see."

Nearly 100 friends and relatives packed the courtroom to show support for the men, with many openly weeping throughout the proceedings. Several came to the podium, some choking back tears, to speak glowingly of the men they knew as role models and patriots who only wanted to help serve their country.

In Baghdad, taxi driver Bara Saadoun Ismael, who received two bullets in his abdomen in addition to 60 pieces of shrapnel in different parts of his body in 2007, is not satisfied with the verdict, demanding capital punishment.

"This verdict is less than what they deserve," Saadoun, 36, told The Associated Press in a phone interview in Baghdad. "They did hurt us a lot and for what they did to us they must face execution." AP

NIGERIA

President-elect: Can't promise to find Chibok girls

Michelle Faul, Lagos

ON the first anniversary of the kidnapping by Islamic extremists of hundreds of girls from a school in northeast Nigeria, President-elect Muhammadu Buhari said yesterday that he cannot promise to find the 219 who are still missing.

"We do not know if the Chibok girls can be rescued. Their whereabouts remain unknown," Buhari said in a statement. "As much as I wish to, I cannot promise that we can find them."

The statement by Buhari, a former military ruler of Nigeria who was democratically elected on March 28, is a marked departure from President Goodluck Jonathan, who, after his administration initially denied there had been a kidnapping, made hollow promises that they would be rescued.

But a year after the April 14-15 mass abduction at a school in Chibok, a town in northeast Nigeria, hope has dwindled. Activists are marking the anniversary with a change in their slogan from "Bring Back

Our Girls — Now and Alive" to "Never to be Forgotten."

"We hear the anguish of our citizens and intend to respond accordingly," Buhari's statement said. "This new approach must also begin with honesty."

Several dozen girls managed to escape as the kidnappers were taking the hostages to the Sambisa Forest in northeast Nigeria, but 219 remain missing. They may have been split up and some eyewitnesses said some were taken across the border into Cameroon.

A hopeful message addressed to the captives from Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai promised the girls scholarships and said they must never lose courage.

The 17-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate — who has stood up to the Taliban — chastised Jonathan's administration and the international community, saying neither have done enough to rescue the girls. The activist for girls' education spent her birthday in Nigeria in July, meeting with the parents of the kidnapped girls.

She said she and millions of people around the world stand in solidarity with the girls who have come to be known as "the Chibok girls."

They were kidnapped by Boko Haram. Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau claimed they had converted to Islam and been married off to his fighters.

Their kidnapping sparked international outrage around the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls. In New York City, the campaign said the Empire State Building would be lit up yesterday

night, over the hours the girls were snatched, in its purple and red colors symbolizing its call for an end to violence against women and girls.

At least 2,000 women and girls have been abducted by Boko Haram since the start of 2014, and many have been forced into sexual slavery and trained to fight, Amnesty International says.

Hundreds of boys and young men also have been kidnapped and forced to fight with the extremists, or slaughtered for refusing to do so, it said. AP



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what's ON



TOM DIXON'S EXHIBITION
BY SIGNUM LIVING STORE
TIME: 10:30am-9:30pm
UNTIL: May 5, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Espace Louis Vuitton One Central Maison/
Avenida de Sagres
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 3576

FLORES DA PRIMAVERA~INK, OIL AND PASTEL
PAINTINGS BY MARCO SZETO
TIME: 10am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: April 30, 2015
VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store and art
gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A,
Edifício San Chak, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

"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

THIS IS WHERE I WILL ALWAYS BE
- WORKS BY NUNO SANTIAGO
TIME: 10am-7pm
UNTIL: May 10, 2015
VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery/ Avenida do Conselheiro
Ferreira de Almeida, 95
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

TEA CULTURE HOUSE
TIME: 9am-7pm daily
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House,
Lou Lim Ioc Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro
Ferreira de Almeida
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

Offbeat

MANUFACTURING FIRM SEEKS TO BUILD WORLD'S LARGEST SURFBOARD

AP PHOTO



A Rhode Island engineering technology and manufacturing company has set out to build the world's largest surfboard.

WPRO-AM reports that Bristol-based mouldCAM is building the board for the Visit Huntington Beach campaign in California, which hopes to break the world record for the most people to catch a wave on a surfboard.

mouldCAM says the board will be 13 meters long by 3.3 meters wide and will hold 62 people. The board will be sent to California to be painted and finished before heading to Huntington Beach.

Project manager Bob Steel says an aerospace engineer is working with the project to make sure the weight distribution is correct on the day of the ride in mid-June. Sixty-two people must stand on the board for 10 seconds to break the record.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
20:30	Montra do Lilau
21:00	Bedlam Behind Bars
21:40	Brazil Avenue
22:10	TDM News
23:00	Champions League Highlights
23:30	Documentary Serie
23:50	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:30	RTPi Live
01:00	Champions League: Porto - Bayern Muehen (Live)

cinema

CINETEATRO

09 APR - 15 APR



FAST AND FURIOUS 7
ROOM 1
(2D) 2:15, 4.45, 9.45 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm
Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min

TWO THUMBS UP
ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Lau Ho-leung
Starring: Francis Ng, Simon Yam, Leo Ku, Patrick Tam, Cheng Ho-nam
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 103min

SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER
ROOM 3
(2D) 4.00 pm
(3D) 9.30 pm
Director: Paul Tibbitt
Language: Chinese (English)
Duration: 92min



HOME
ROOM 3
2.15, 5.45, 7.30 pm
Director: Tim Johnson
Language: Chinese (English)
Duration: 94min

MACAU TOWER

09 APR - 22 APR

FURIOUS 7
2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm
Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min

this day in history



1986 US LAUNCHES AIR STRIKES ON LIBYA

At least 100 people have died after USA planes bombed targets in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, and the Benghazi region.

Around 66 American jets, some of them flying from British bases launched an attack at around 0100hrs on Monday.

The White House spokesman, Larry Speakes, has said that the strike was directed at key military sites but reports suggest that missiles also hit Bin Ashur, a densely populated suburb in the capital.

Colonel Muamar Gaddafi residential compound took a direct hit that killed Hanna Gaddafi, the adopted baby daughter of the Libyan leader.

President Reagan has justified the attacks by accusing Libya of direct responsibility for terrorism aimed at America, such as the bombing of La Belle discotheque in West Berlin 10 days ago.

President Reagan made a TV address to the American people two hours after the attack.

In it he said: "When our citizens are attacked or abused anywhere in the world on the direct orders of hostile regimes, we will respond so long as I'm in this office."

He argued that America was exercising its right to self defence as defined by Article 51 of the UN charter.

The presidential spokesman, Larry Speakes, said, "US forces have executed a series of carefully planned air strikes against terrorist targets in Libya."

He added: "Every effort has been made to avoid hitting civilian targets."

The attacks began soon after an increase in coded radio traffic between US ships and planes off the Libyan coast had been noticed.

The fighter jets appear to have been both carrier based aircraft, operating in the Mediterranean and British based bombers which would have refuelled in mid air.

The Americans hit the harbour's naval academy, the capital's military airport and army barracks.

Tripoli's embassy area and residential districts also suffered extensive damage.

The Tripoli central hospital and two other medical centres say they have treated hundreds of injured people, including a number of Greeks, Italians and Yugoslavs.

Mobs of angry survivors have taken to the streets shouting: "Down, down USA. Death to all Americans."

There are also fears that Britain may be subject to terrorist attacks because some of its involvement in the raids.

The Syrian based terrorist group, Arab Revolutionary Cells, has announced on Lebanese radio that it will target both British and American interests.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President Reagan said he had irrefutable evidence that Libya was responsible for the West Berlin night club bombing on 5 April 1986 which killed two American servicemen and a Turkish woman.

The British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, justified Britain's involvement in the campaign by supporting America's right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

The extremist group Arab Revolutionary Cells said it murdered two British and one American hostage in Lebanon on 17 April 1986, in retaliation for the US attack.

Fifteen years after the air raids, a German court ruled that the Libyan secret service was responsible for the West Berlin bomb attack.

In September 2004, Libya agreed to pay \$35m to 150 non-US victims of the 1986 Berlin disco bomb.

Libya said it will not pay for US victims until Washington compensates it for the lives and property lost in the subsequent US air strikes on Libya.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can rack up quite a few points today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You need to find some new way to take care of your home chores...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You get so much done today that you may wonder if you have anything left for tomorrow...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You should find that your terrific energy is perfect for whatever you have to do today...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are feeling all too modest today - it may be that your energy is somewhat used up...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Rally the troops around the home front - it's time for a house meeting!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Someone is in dire need of your assistance - so get a move on!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You can get what you want today - but only if you give up first!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You need to stretch your mental powers to their limits today - feel the burn!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Don't be too surprised if you experience a sudden rush of energy that helps you finish a chore or project...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Animals are more in sync with you today. It's a great time to hang out with your pets, or acquire a new one.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your sweetie is sweeter than ever - or, if you're single, your own romantic energy is drawing others closer than usual.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Peruse; 5- Urn; 9- Pouches; 13- Archipelago part; 14- Actress Verdugo; 16- Reverberate; 17- Take ___ your leader; 18- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 19- Part of Q.E.D.; 20- U-Haul competitor; 22- Westerns; 24- Person that is no longer popular; 27- Golden Rule word; 28- Skiing style; 29- Felon; 33- Battery units; 34- Country singer McEntire; 35- Carry; 36- U.K. record label; 37- Family car; 38- Over there, old-style; 39- Granny; 41- Dentist's request; 42- Exhaust; 44- Quivered; 46- ___ Pieces; 47- Trompe l'___; 48- Dry run; 49- Reasoned; 52- Part of the Holy Trinity; 53- Rotate; 57- Before long; 58- Functional; 60- Langston Hughes poem; 61- Come again?; 62- Tendon; 63- Sleeps briefly; 64- Congers; 65- Camp beds; 66- Clarified butter;

DOWN: 1- Outer edge; 2- End for Siam; 3- Cockpit abbr.; 4- Re-enter the atmosphere; 5- Buyer; 6- Extraterrestrial; 7- Prophet; 8- SASE, e.g.; 9- Make sure; 10- Land measure; 11- Blacken; 12- Drunkards; 15- Eternal; 21- Cravings; 23- PIN requester; 24- They do not possess; 25- Baseball's Roberto; 26- Slat; 27- Living in a city; 29- Yielded; 30- "The Highwayman" poet; 31- Make up; 32- Makes a loan; 34- Drive back; 37- Bezzant; 40- Quantities; 42- Paris possessive; 43- Necking; 45- Fuzzy buzzer; 46- Continues a subscription; 48- Apartment sign; 49- Even ___ speak...; 50- Architect Mies van der ___; 51- Score; 52- Prefix with Tibetan; 54- Four Corners state; 55- Thick cord; 56- Facial feature; 59- Involuntary muscular contraction;



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
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IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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Rob Harris
Sports Writer, Burnley

FOOTBALL | EXTRA TIME

Burnley wins admirers, punches above its weight in England

WITH chimneys rising from the former cotton mills which nestle between tightly-packed houses, Burnley provides a quintessentially English vista for fans at the town's soccer stadium.

From the days Burnley was the world's cotton-weaving capital through the hardships endured as the thriving textile industry collapsed, Turf Moor has been a constant presence for 132 years. While many of England's pioneering 19th-century clubs have abandoned their original homes, Burnley has remained at the heart of its community.

These days, the global platform for this town of 73,500 — smaller than the capacity of Manchester United's Old Trafford — is provided by world soccer's richest domestic competition rather than industry.

"This is what this game started as, it's almost like a time capsule," former United States midfielder Kyle Martino said on his first visit to Burnley to analyze Saturday's match against Arsenal for American broadcaster NBC.

It's not only the audience for games that has spread far beyond the Pennines mountains. Burnley's fan base extends beyond Britain, with the online store selling merchandise to the United States and Asia.

"We punch above our weight," Burnley chief executive Lee Hoos said from inside the cramped office he likens to a rabbit warren. "It's one of the romantic stories of football."

A parsimonious policy ensures the riches generated by being in the Premier League are not squandered on big-money contracts for aging players as some other teams have done after gaining promotion.

"We didn't bring in a lot of flash Harrys," said Hoos, an American using an English colloquialism and not singling out clubs like Queens Park Rangers, who did just that.

Burnley's net transfer spending



■ Burnley's net transfer spending was barely USD12m after climbing from the League Championship last May

was barely USD12 million after climbing from the League Championship last May. That's despite knowing it will generate at least \$90 million in television money and prize money even if its stay in the Premier League ends next

month after one season.

"There are too many examples of clubs who have gone out chasing glory and ended up in administration (bankruptcy protection)," Hoos said. "You look at other clubs around here in Lancashire and the amount of debt they are carrying, and quite frankly they have unsustainable business cases."

Burnley hasn't always been a nobody. The team won the English title in 1921 and 1960. And don't write off the club now surviving among the elite in this gilded age of soccer.

Through determination and doggedness, Burnley has defied expectations. The team, led by gravel-voiced manager-of-the-year contender Sean Dyche, enters the final six games of the season a point off last place in

the standings but only two points from safety.

"We knew it was going to be difficult moving into this league and people were writing us off but we're still there, we're still fighting," Burnley defender Kieran Trippier said. "We've got a spirit and our belief is so strong."

It was only a slender 1-0 loss to second-place Arsenal on Saturday when Burnley was a constant threat. As Hoos quipped: "The only reason we lose games is because the referee blows the whistle too soon."

Burnley has stunned several big-spending teams in recent weeks: drawing 1-1 at leader Chelsea, beating champion Manchester City 1-0 and holding Tottenham to a 0-0 draw.

"It shows you don't have to be

huge if you apply yourselves correctly," Hoos said. "From a foreign perspective, us Yanks, we love those underdog Cinderella stories."

Given how English the club is, perhaps it's surprising to discover the day-to-day operations are run by an American with a jersey from baseball's Baltimore Orioles hanging in a tiny office he has to share. Hoos started working in soccer with Fulham in the 1990s and gained further experience at Southampton and Leicester before ending up in northern England at Burnley.

It didn't take long for Hoos to realize that in this town less than an hour's drive from Manchester United, the soccer club binds the community unlike many others where bigger clubs can compete for loyalties. That adds to a sense of responsibility, particularly to embrace and help the next generation of fans.

"To help the town itself lift itself," Hoos said, explaining a scheme that will see teenagers who obtain good grades rewarded with free tickets.

Burnley has admirers at the top of the English Football Association, which is trying to introduce new rules to force Premier League squads to include more homegrown players. The entire starting lineup on Saturday was from Britain while Arsenal's contained only one British player: Wales international Aaron Ramsey.

Much to the chagrin of some agents, Burnley will not take a gamble on signing players with exotic names based on YouTube clips when there is talent to be found closer to home with a better understanding of the club.

"All it takes is one person not pulling their weight," Hoos said, "and the bottom drops out." AP

SWIMMING

Michael Phelps returns to pool after suspension

MICHAEL Phelps will compete in his first swim meet this week since returning from a six-month suspension following a second drunken driving arrest.

The 18-time Olympic champion is entered in five events in the Arena Pro Swim Series meet in Arizona that begins today.

Phelps is entered in the 100-meter butterfly to-

morrow, 100 backstroke and 400 freestyle on Friday, and 200 individual medley and 100 free on Saturday. Also entered in those same five events is his longtime rival Ryan Lochte.

The Mesa meet was the first one Phelps swam in after coming out of a 20-month retirement last year.

Phelps' suspension was handed down by USA

Swimming in October, just after his arrest in his hometown of Baltimore. It ended on April 6.

The 29-year-old swimmer also was banned from participating in this summer's world championships in Russia, although USA Swimming has had informal discussions about Phelps possibly competing. Phelps qualified for the world meet in the 100-meter bu-

terfly, 100 freestyle and 200 individual medley before being suspended.

Since his arrest, he has completed a six-week inpatient rehabilitation program and also gotten engaged.

Joining Phelps and Lochte in the field in Arizona are fellow Olympic gold medalists Katie Ledecky, Tyler Clary, Natalie Coughlin, Matt Grevers and Allison Schmitt. AP

AP PHOTO



opinion

World Views
The Editors, Bloomberg

CHINA'S GREAT WALL OF SAND

China is building new harbors and airstrips on various reefs and atolls in the Spratly Islands – facilities that, Beijing confirms, will be used for military as well as civil purposes. The U.S. and its allies in the region need to weigh their response with care.

New images showing the extent of these land-reclamation efforts in the South China Sea have aroused concern, and critics are accusing the Barack Obama administration of fecklessness in the face of provocation. The issue isn't quite so clear-cut. Sharper thinking is needed about when and how to challenge China's growing assertiveness.

While claiming that the construction was intended for "typhoon shelters, navigation aids, search-and-rescue centers, marine meteorological forecasting stations" and the like, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson admitted the new installations would also be used for military purposes. They'll enable Chinese naval vessels to refuel, and jet fighters to patrol, far from the mainland. They could help China impose a threatened air-defense identification zone over the South China Sea. In January, even foreign ministers from the normally reticent Association of Southeast Asian Nations expressed "concern" at the scale of recent construction.

Yet this "great wall of sand," in the words of U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Harry Harris, is not as brazen a move as one might think. Other claimants to the Spratlys have built military facilities, including airstrips, on islands and atolls they control. The reclaimed land doesn't necessarily strengthen China's legal claim to the territory or surrounding waters. And the facilities probably wouldn't be much use if it came to a shooting war, given their vulnerability to bombs and missile strikes.

The U.S. cannot expect to frustrate every manifestation of China's rise and expanding ambitions. It needs to pick its fights judiciously. Beijing is wrong to try to change the status quo in a tense region, and the administration should say so – but if the U.S. hopes to do more than that, it must develop usable measures capable of imposing real costs.

Unifying the various other claimants in the region is crucial. China notices when Southeast Asian nations speak with one voice. Arguably, President Xi Jinping launched his most recent charm offensive in response to the backlash over last summer's deployment of a huge Chinese oil rig in waters claimed by Vietnam. The idea of joint ASEAN patrols, perhaps including Japan, is still far off. But if, in the meantime, smaller nations can resolve or at least suspend their own territorial disputes, they'll be able to apply more diplomatic pressure.

Beijing has been dragging out negotiations with ASEAN over a binding code of conduct. If this continues, members should work with the U.S. to develop their own. That would draw a bright line between regionally accepted norms and Chinese actions. Similarly, the U.S. should continue to press governments to follow the example set by the Philippines and submit their claims to international arbitration. The aim should be to entrench a rules-based order that China will find harder with time to ignore.

The U.S. should also do more to bolster the defenses of nations such as Vietnam and the Philippines by improving their maritime "domain awareness" and command-and-control systems. While engaging with Beijing on codes to avoid accidental clashes in the air and on the sea, the U.S. must also be clearer about actions by China that would cross a line. These should include any attempt to seize territory occupied by another claimant, unilaterally declaring an air-defense identification zone, and provoking incidents by aggressively deploying its massive fleet of "white-hulled" paramilitary vessels and fishing boats. The U.S. should at least consider deploying "gray-hulled" naval vessels in response to Chinese coercion, even at the risk of escalation.

The hope, it goes without saying, is to lessen tensions, not worsen them. But Beijing must understand that, if it goes too far, escalation is the risk it runs.

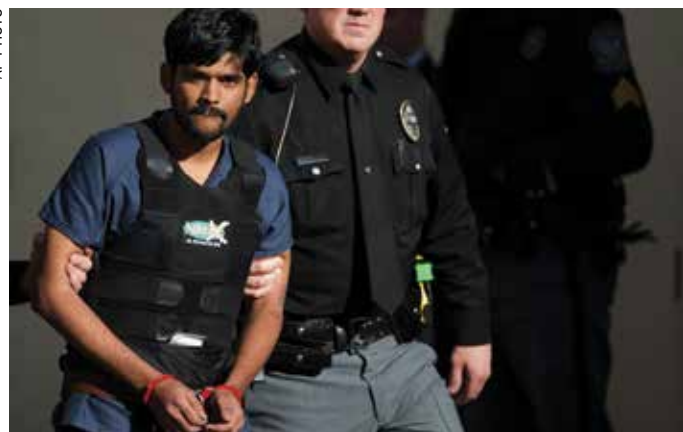
THE BUZZ CONSERVATIVES PUSH FOR NFL, NBA, MLB FRANCHISES IN BRITAIN

Britain's Conservative Party says it will push for American football, basketball and baseball franchises to be based in the country.

The pledge features in the manifesto launched by Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday ahead of next month's general election.

The NFL and NBA have been playing regular-season games in London for several years. And a study last year by accountancy firm Deloitte, commissioned by the NFL, showed that a franchise in London could generate more than USD250 million a year for the country.

US: Convict trashes his lawyers, says execution would be better



Raghunandan Yandamuri is escorted from a Montgomery County district court

A man from India sentenced to death in the killings of a baby and her grandmother in what prosecutors called a botched kidnapping plot said he's so dissatisfied with his attorneys he'd rather be executed now than continue seeking a new trial with them.

Raghunandan Yandamuri, who had served as his own lawyer before being convicted of murder, accused the attorneys of not responding to his calls or letters. He said yesterday (Macau time) in Montgomery County Court if his appeal keeps going the same way he would rather be executed immediately.

Judge Steven O'Neill called that "a little dramatic."

Attorney Henry Hilles said he and colleague Stephen Heckman have spent

more time with their client "than has ever occurred in Montgomery County history."

Yandamuri, 29, was a technology professional from India and knew the baby's parents. He was convicted of murder in the 2012 slayings of 10-month-old Saanvi Venna and 61-year-old Satayrathi Venna. He was expressionless as the verdict against him was read in October.

Prosecutors argued Yandamuri hatched the kidnapping plot to pay for a gambling habit. They said he was mired in gambling debts and told police he committed the crime after losing at least USD15,000 at a casino.

He told investigators he panicked after the grandmother, who had opened her family's apartment

door to him, was killed in a struggle over a kitchen knife he had carried.

He told police he accidentally dropped the baby, put a handkerchief over her mouth to quiet her and tied a towel around her head. He said he then left the baby – with her dark hair, huge dark eyes and white dress – in a trash-strewn, unused sauna in a basement fitness center and when he returned hours later with milk for her she was unconscious.

Yandamuri knew the baby's parents, who also were young Indian tech professionals, from his King of Prussia apartment complex. He had gone to a birthday party for the baby's mother, had met the visiting grandmother and used family nicknames in a ransom note demanding \$50,000, authorities said.

"They both are working, so I thought maybe they have some money," Yandamuri told police in a videotaped statement. "My intention was not to kill anyone or not to harm anyone. I only tried to kidnap the baby."

At trial, though, Yandamuri argued two other men forced him at gunpoint to help and said he was pressured into confessing. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-75 Moderate
Ambient	65-75 Moderate

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS



USA Percy Sledge, who recorded the classic 1966 soul ballad "When a Man Loves a Woman," has died. He was 74. Coroner Dr. William "Beau" Clark of East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, confirmed to The Associated Press that Sledge died early yesterday morning.



USA An airport worker who fell asleep and found himself trapped in a plane's cargo hold forced a Los Angeles-bound Alaska Airlines flight to return to Seattle on Monday afternoon. The flight had to return to Seattle when noises were heard from the worker in the hold as the plane took flight.



UKRAINE Fighting rages on the outskirts of the rebel stronghold of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine despite an agreement reached by the Ukrainian and Russian foreign ministers.

TURKEY-UK Turkish authorities have begun deporting back to Britain nine British citizens who were arrested trying to cross into Syria, a Turkish official said yesterday. One of the group was expelled late Monday.



SOMALIA Ten people were killed yesterday in an assault on the offices of Somalia's education ministry and seven attackers were also killed, said a government spokesman. The fatalities include eight civilians and two soldiers, said spokesman Ridwan Haji Abdiweli.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Tim Ireland



"Propeller (Air Pavilion)", 1937, by Sonia Delaunay at the Tate Modern gallery, London. The piece is part of The EY Exhibition, a new retrospective on Sonia Delaunay which opens to the public today.