



HOTEL ESTORIL ARTS CENTER RAISES EXPECTATIONS

Youth groups expect that the future arts center will add to Macau's currently limited array of performance venues

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NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING DRAWING PROCESS

The Executive Council has concluded its discussions on the draft bill of an Affordable Housing Law amendment

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SLOWDOWN DEEPENS, STEPPING UP PRESSURE ON BEIJING

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA accuses the Dalai Lama of inciting a wave of self-immolations among Tibetans that are widely seen as desperate protests against Chinese rule in the Himalayan region. The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader has called the deaths sad and ineffective in changing Chinese policy. [More on p10](#)

SOUTH KOREA President Park Geun-hye faces allegations that members of her administration received bribes from a businessman found dead in an apparent suicide last week.



AP PHOTO

GERMANY A protester interrupted the European Central Bank's press conference yesterday, screaming "End ECB dictatorship" while she leaped onto the podium and threw confetti at President Mario Draghi. Security guards dragged the woman off the stage in seconds and took Draghi into a side room.

PAKISTAN's interior minister says security forces have arrested a key suspect in the slaying of a prominent Pakistani politician who was stabbed to death in broad daylight in London in 2010.

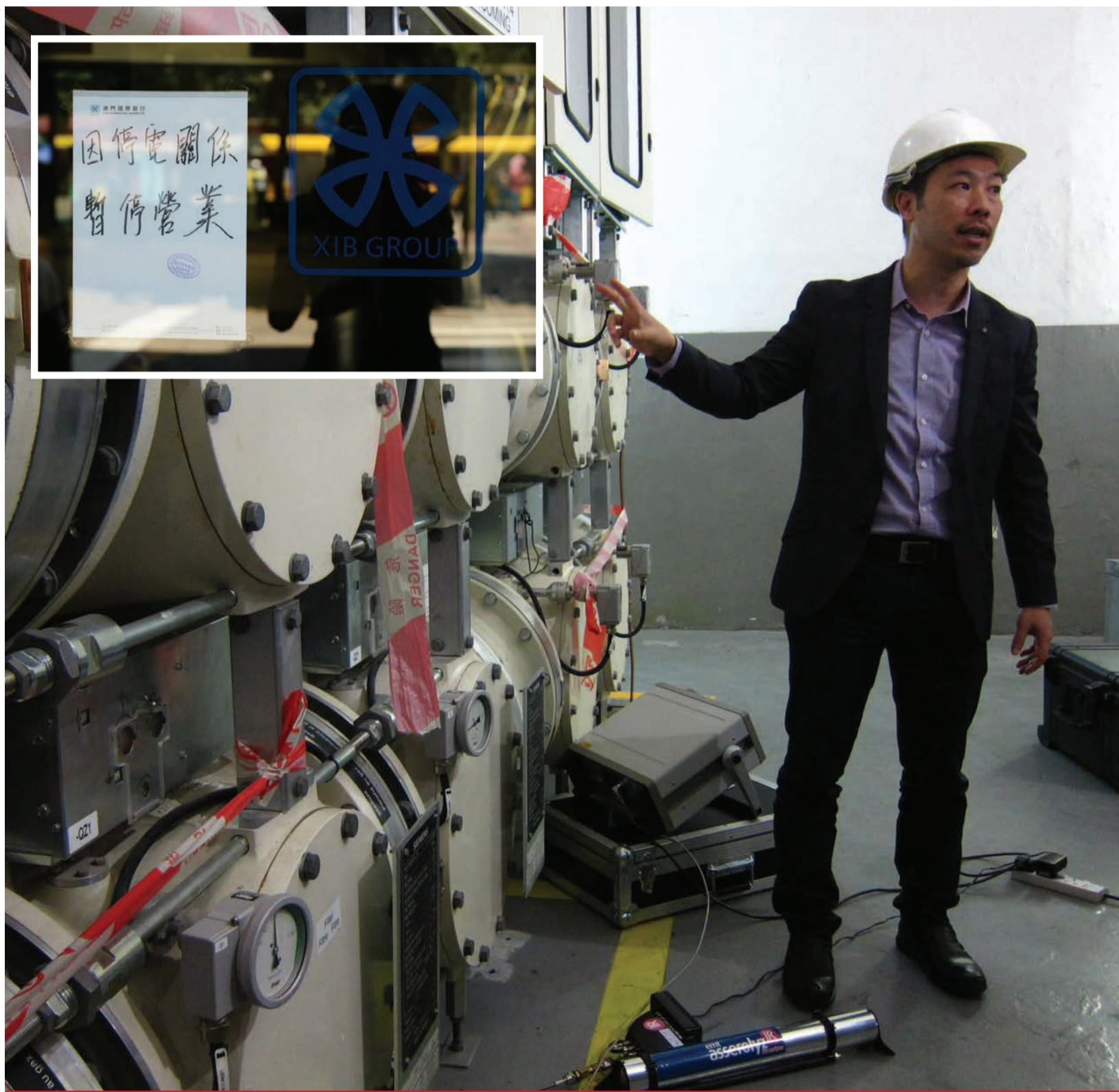
JAPAN's government says the number of scrambles by the country's warplanes has surged in recent years to levels nearly matching the Cold War era amid growing activity by China and Russia in the region.

USA-JAPAN-KOREA Tensions between American allies Japan and South Korea are a distraction in dealing with common threats like North Korea's nuclear weapons, a top U.S. diplomat says. [More on p13](#)

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Massive power outage disrupts city life

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US-based union questions CE regarding 'undocumented' Cotai land deal

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MEETING THE MEDIA

Government spokesperson system to be 'more standardized'

Government spokesperson and director of the Government Information Bureau, Victor Chan Chi Ping, said yesterday that the new government team "was striving to strengthen its dissemination of information and its co-ordination work, in order to make it more standardized, institutionalized and professional."

He announced that meetings with the press would be held on a regular basis to enhance mutual communication and to listen to their opinions with the aim of optimizing the current system.

Speaking at a tea session to almost 60 media representatives from local outlets and overseas correspondents stationed in Macau, Mr Chan revealed details of the plan and reviewed the work of bureaus and the use of new media by government departments over the past year.

Victor Chan said that the



government places great importance not only on communicating with traditional media outlets, but also on the development of new media, "to put into action the Chief Executive's policy vision of increasing government transparency, enhancing the speed and quality of responses, and making better use of the new media". He also noted that "every government department has put more effort into developing a multi-

media platform to better disseminate information and promote its policies."

Currently, while all government departments have their own websites there are also specific sites. Among these are those of the Wealth Partaking Scheme and life-long learning incentive scheme.

Chan explained that policy-making secretaries have committed to launching these websites, "to collect peo-

ple's views and promote policies in various areas".

Mr Chan also said that more than 20 departments had also launched mobile applications for portable devices, providing information on topics ranging from transportation and weather, to emergency services in hospitals. These are intended to provide more updates on the situation to help the public in choosing the services most relevant to their needs.

A week-long program to celebrate Rui Cunha Foundation

Brook Yang

In celebration of its third anniversary, the Rui Cunha Foundation has scheduled a week-long program of events to take place from April 20 to 28, including legal seminars, school events, concerts, book launches and art exhibitions.

The non-profit organization's founder and president, Mr Rui Cunha, told the media on Tuesday that the Foundation has rolled out various types of activities in the past, and is planning to stretch its relations to Macau's neighboring regions.

"We've started to communicate with the neighboring regions. Apart from exchanging experiences in legal studies, our events will also extend to artistic and cultural exchanges, including literary writing, so as to introduce Macau's culture to them," he said.

Mr Cunha further stressed that the foundation's events are not held for any single community, as Macau holds a rich diversity of ethnic groups. The foundation's gallery, also a venue for hosting lectures, is specially equipped with an interpretation room; events

can now add simultaneous translation of speech from Chinese to Portuguese to the previously unidirectional translation of Portuguese to Chinese. Moreover, he announced that a mobile app would be launched this year for releasing information on new events.

As for the celebration next week, events will be rolled out in the categories of law and culture. A total of three seminars on various laws will be held, with the foundation expecting lively debates on the topics of "gaming laws in Macau," "bullying," as well as "the evidence in a criminal process, between the lines of the Criminal Process Code." Also, a new book by Paulo Cardinal will be released, titled "Studies of Fundamental Rights in the Context of JusMacau."

To attract the children's attention, on Monday and Tuesday, the foundation will also bring its law awareness program to two schools. The events will be held at the D. Jose da Costa Nunes Kindergarten and the Portuguese School of Macau, and will focus on the theme of "environmental protection."

As for the cultural events taking pla-



Rui Cunha (center)

ce, the organizer will hold a concert titled "An Afternoon with Piano in Caritas" at the School S. Joao de Brito on Tuesday, and a concert and simultaneous CD release by local group Mowave will take place at the foundation's gallery on Friday.

Yesterday the Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery opened an art exhibition featuring local artist Fortes Pakeong Sequeira's tough path towards artistic creation. The event will be accompanied by a book launch of Pakeong's "Experiencing. Fortes," which documents a set of his artworks.

On Saturday, the gallery will also host the Foundation's "Philosophy Cafe" series, exploring "the meaning of religion today." Following that, a jazz concert will take over the venue, featuring Portugal's jazz master Zé Eduardo.

COURTS

Game installer responsible for Fisherman's Wharf accident

THE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has ruled that the designer and installer of a powerboat game called "River of Fire," which paralyzed a Chinese tourist at the Fisherman's Wharf in 2006, is required to return the equivalent of over MOP2 million in compensation to its insurance company.

The accident occurred within the Fisherman's Wharf's artificial volcano, which had just been opened to visitors. It injured a woman and her son who came to visit Macau from the mainland, with the mother ultimately suffering life-long paraplegia in her lower body as a result.

The victims were then compensated RMB3.8 million by the Companhia de Seguros da China (Macau) S.A, the insurance company of the game designer, Sanderson-Design. The Fisherman's Wharf paid about MOP376,000 in total for the victims' medical expenses and accommodation for the family's visit.

However, the insurance company later found out that the game designer and installer was also responsible for the malfunction, and thus turned to the Court of First Instance (TJB) to seek an order for Sanderson-Design to return its compensation.

According to the insurance company, before the accident happened, a powerboat ahead of the victims' boat had been stuck on the conveyor belt. The facility's sensors also failed to respond so the game's automatic braking system did not start. The staff member responsible for monitoring the game's operations didn't notice the abnormal situation either. Eventually, the two victims were thrown overboard in a chain collision of four powerboats on the conveyor belt.

The TJB ruled in favor of the insurance company, which was opposed by the Sanderson-Design, who in turn then appealed to the TSI. The game designer claimed that the court could not identify that it was at fault in the accident, emphasizing that the Fisherman's Wharf personnel were the ones responsible for supervising the game's operation. Moreover, the company argued that the victim's lifelong paraplegia was not evident, nor was her need of hiring a carer. As such, the designer was not required to provide compensation. In addition, the appellant asked the court to deduct from the compensation amount the expenses that were already paid by the Fisherman's Wharf.

However, the TSI ruled in favor of the insurance company and against the "River of Fire" designer, indicating that "the life of the injured female tourist has completely shifted" since the accident. The TSI agreed with the TJB's judgment that it was evident enough to draw this conclusion based on the victim's life-long paraplegia, and that the individual responsible for the game's operation should not be the facility's owner, but its designer and installer.

Partially upholding the TJB's original verdict, the TSI requested that Sanderson-Design return the compensation to its insurance company, but approved the deduction of the amount paid by the Fisherman's Wharf. **BY**

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ROUGHLY 100,000 users of the region's electricity provider, Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), experienced a power outage yesterday morning to varying extents. The outage was triggered by an abrupt short-circuit at a transformer substation located in the northern district of Canal Dos Patos.

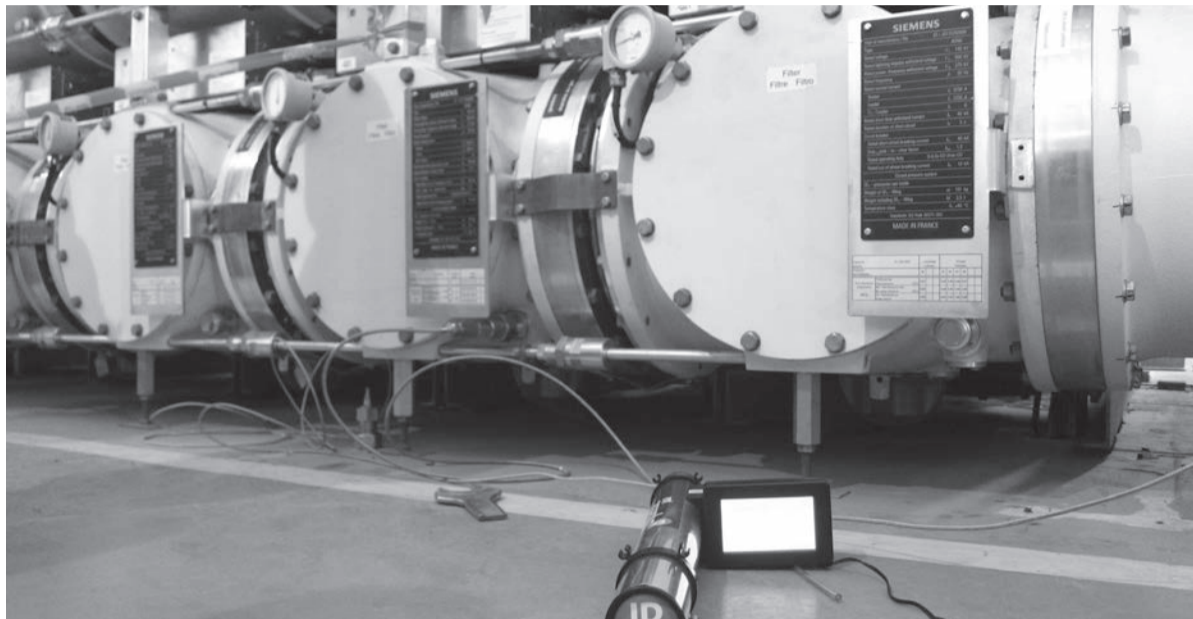
The citywide power cut, which occurred at around 10.55 a.m., resulted in continuous interruptions of communication services and computer systems, as well as the malfunctioning of traffic lights in the city's central and northern regions. It affected the central and northern parts of the Macau peninsula, including Zona Nova de Aterros do Porto Exterior, Horta e Costa and the Central districts as well as the Hengqin campus of the University of Macau.

More than seventy cases of people being trapped in elevators during the period in which electricity supplies were cut-off have also been reported, according to the fire service authorities.

In addition, the incident forced some banks, restaurants and schools in the affected areas to close earlier, with business operations also affected by the power shortage. However, according to announcements made in a cross-department press conference shortly after the utility company managed to restore a normal supply of power to the city in an hour and a half and no major incidents have been reported. Four people who were stuck in lifts were sent to hospital for treatment, yet all were unharmed and in good condition.

During the press conference, the head of the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector, Arnaldo Santos, told media that what the authorities considered a "rare incident" was due to four other transformer substations subsequently malfunctioning. This occurred after part of the so-called "110KV switch" at the north substation went on the blink. He also said that it might

Citywide power outage affects 100,000 households



I believe that the power supply from the Southern Power Grid Company to Macau has been stable and reliable over the past few years

BERNIE LEONG

take at least one week for the utility company to produce a preliminary report into the power failure, and a detailed report would need almost a month to be completed. The Government Spokesperson Office issued a statement saying that these reports have been requested.

So far, the company's technical team has already pinpointed the exact location of the malfunctioned part inside the power substation. However, they still remain uncertain over the cause and the magnitude of the damage suffered by the equipment. "Basically we have found out the malfunction point, yet it was within the switch equipment. We were still unsure of the situation of the damaged part inside and its cause," said the utility company's senior manager Billy Chan during a site visit for media purposes yesterday afternoon. He also added that later the company would conduct an in-depth examination into the broken equipment with its manufacturer in order to devise the most suitable repair scheme. No issues had been detected in advance in the equipment that caused the failure, according to Billy Chan.

CEM denied that such a massive power outage was attributable to unstable power supply from the mainland power provider, China Southern Power Grid Company, from which around

90 percent of the city's power originates.

The chairman of the utility company's executive committee, Bernie Leong, who was also present at yesterday's press conference, said: "I believe that the power supply from the Southern Power Grid Company to Macau has been stable and reliable over the past few years. From the technical and commercial perspective, [the partnership] we think should continue." He also added that the massive blackout was a lesson from which to learn in order to improve their equipment and machines.

The switch machine involved in the power failure incident was

initially installed in 2008, according to Billy Chan. He also told media that a particular part which was losing its effectiveness on the electricity grind would cause effects to its neighboring transformer substations.

The city's overall power supply and usage of electricity will remain in normal condition, uninfluenced by yesterday's power malfunction, according to the authorities. "The design allows some space for us to deal with any malfunction at the equipment, or to conduct repair even if we stop certain parts," said the senior manager. "Even though the switch is now out of service, it won't influence the general power supply in the city, which is still pretty steady."

Among the officials attending the conference was also Ieong Iat Fo, a representative from the Health Bureau. He reassured attendees that the operations at the major public hospital, especially of the intensive care units, the emergency ward and those health centres were only minimally affected by the power failure thanks to their own back-up power suppliers.

During the almost one-hour-long span of power failure yesterday, the fire service deployed a total of 150 officers to support frontline operation and rescue work, according to its chief officer Lam Io Fan. **Staff reporter**

THICK BLACK SMOKE

DURING YESTERDAY'S power outage, thick black smoke was seen billowing from the Coloane power station. The authorities stated that it was a normal reaction called a "cold-start" that occurs when fuel fails to burn completely. The power failure impacted the Hengqin

campus of University of Macau, of which some of its students lacked contingency schemes to tackle similar power accidents. Research work and lectures there during this period were significantly affected due to the shutting down of all electronic equipment.

Tap Seac arts center expected to attract youths into creative industries

REGARDING the government's plan to revamp the rundown Hotel Estoril into a youth center for arts education and live performances, youth and creative industries groups expect that the new center will add to Macau's currently limited array of venues dedicated to furthering the creative industries and to encouraging youth participation.

The vice director of the Macao New Chinese

Youth Association, Ms Leong Sin Man, expressed the group's approval of the plan yesterday, and suggested that the new center should cater more to citizens rather than only being available to art school students.

"Apart from being used by the conservatory, we hope it can also provide theater facilities and space for exhibitions, as well as art courses in which the public can participa-

te. We hope to see a timetable for the public consultation soon, and to see what the plan will be for not only the arts center but for the entire area," said Ms Leong, as cited by TDM.

The director of the Creative Industries Promotion Association of St. Lazarus Church District, Mr Vong Sek Kuan, further indicated that the future arts center should be supervised by the government, but be operated by the

private sector. It is believed that this model can simplify administrative procedures, deepen the area's influence, and help encourage more young people to involve themselves in the cultural and creative industries.

Vong said the current difficulties in developing Macau's creative industry mainly lie in the lack of venues and a human resource shortage in arts management. He thereby suggested that the gover-



Hotel Estoril as it now stands

nment should plan for a large-scale cultural and creative activity center on the future reclaimed land and make plans for talent development.

Citi cuts casino April GGR to MOP18bn

Citi has again cut its April GGR (Gross Gaming Revenue) forecast, this time from MOP20bn to MOP18bn, a decline of 43 percent year-on-year. Citing its gaming industry sources, Citi Research indicated that the Macau table GGR reached MOP7.3bn for the first 12 days in April, including an estimated MOP360m in slot-related revenue. The total daily GGR run rate over the past five days equated to MOP592m/day, roughly in line with the run rate in the first seven days in April (MOP616m/day), said the research institution. Citi estimates an average daily revenue of MOP600m for the rest of the month. At MOP18bn, this would be the lowest monthly run rate since November 2010.

Jetco launches mobile NFC services in HK, Macau

Joint Electronic Teller Services (Jetco) has commercially launched mobile NFC services in Hong Kong and Macau using Gemalto's Allynis Trusted Services Hub (TSH). Jetco is the largest automatic teller machine (ATM) network in the region consisting of 32 member banks. The Hub provides an aggregation service for banks and service providers, delivering secure over-the-air provisioning of payment credentials to their customers' NFC phones. This will allow users to pay for their goods, services, and transportation fees with a simple tap of their smartphones.

Gov't to move up application process of affordable housing units

Brook Yang

THE Executive Council (ExCo) has concluded its discussions on the draft bill of an Affordable Housing Law amendment, which proposed moving up the drawing process of selecting applicants, rather than first conducting a thorough review of all applicants' qualifications.

The bill amended a section of the law, which will allow the Housing Bureau to only conduct a preliminary evaluation of all applications before starting the drawing process. The substantive examination will be held following the selection of applicants.

The bill also suggested applying the revised procedure retroactively to the current batch of over 42,000 applicants, who applied for approximately 1,900 multi-room apartments in 2013. The ExCo spokesperson Leong Heng Teng explained yesterday that the bill would enable the Housing Bureau to process the sizeable amount



ExCo spokesperson Leong Heng Teng

of applications much faster.

"In order to thoroughly examine the current 42,000 applications according to the current law, they will need to wait until the end of 2016 for all their qualification reviews to be completed. Only after that, can they enter the drawing process; and only after drawing, can they be allowed to choose an apartment," he explained.

"If this bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly, the preliminary evaluation will only take a month to com-

plete, and then the drawing process can be launched immediately afterwards," Leong said.

"I believe this is a good news to everyone," he added. "This will allow the applicants [who are not selected] to be sooner made aware of the results and to make the best decision for themselves; it will also allow those selected to choose their apartment sooner."

If the rules change, applicants who fail to pass the preliminary evaluation on qualification will also be included in the drawing process.

Leong explained that this is to ensure everyone's right to affordable housing. If a non-eligible applicant successfully appeals to retain eligibility, such a measure can avoid overthrowing or recommending the drawing result.

The spokesperson further stated that the draft bill is only a partial amendment of the law, which is aimed at "speeding up the procedure and reducing administrative costs." For revisions of other areas, the government is still analyzing the opinions collected in previous public consultations.

"Society has a very large demand for affordable housing, while Macau's land is limited. Thereby the [available] affordable housing units are a resource worth cherishing, and should be better utilized. (...) The government will proceed with its full review of the Affordable Housing Law and officially propose the whole amendment as part of the next stage of the plan," he said.

AD



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US-based union questions CE regarding 'undocumented' Cotai land deal



Signage for the Wynn Palace project, developed by Wynn Resorts Ltd., is displayed at an entry gate to the construction site

THE US-based International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) sent a letter to the Chief Executive Chui Sai On requesting that his office provide details on a deal that ultimately allowed a Wynn Resorts subsidiary to acquire rights to the area of land where the operator is now building its Wynn Palace.

IUOE is once again inquiring about what is described as “the undocumented commitment of land rights in Cotai to a group of businessmen from Beijing”. In doing so, they are asking for more information “on what role former Chief Executive Edmund Ho played in committing these land rights.”

An alleged monetary transaction that took place in 2009 between a Wynn Resorts subsidiary (Palo Real Estate) and the Macau-based Tien-Chiao Entertainment and Investment Company Limited is under scrutiny again. IUOE says that the USD50 million deal allowed TienChiao Entertainment and Investment to relinquish their rights to a Cotai Strip site. In September 2011, Wynn Macau announced that it had received a land grant in Cotai from the Macau government.

IUOE claims to have reviewed over 200 pages of Cotai land documents recently acquired via a request for public records from the Land, Public

PRAISE FOR DSSOPT'S 'COMPLIANCE'

ACCORDING TO the union, the fact that the DSSOPT complied with the IUOE request “may blaze new ground for information requests” in Macau. “We appreciate the Land Bureau’s compliance with our records request, and we hope that our successful request sets

a new precedent for government transparency in Macau,” Mr Fiedler stated. “Stakeholders in the Macau gaming industry, be they investors, reporters, casino employees and their unions, or everyday citizens, should be able to petition the local government for record access.”

Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT).

According to IUOE representative Jeff Fiedler, DSSOPT “handed over more than 200 pages, filed in 31 separate entries, covering step-by-step the land concession process,” beginning with Wynn Macau’s initial application filing in February 2006 and ending with the awarding the concession in December 2011. Those documents were attached to the letter sent to Chui Sai On and are available IUOE’s website, www.CotaiLandDeal.com.

“The voluminous documentation and record-keeping in this Cotai land file, dating back to the mid-2000s, shows that the government did indeed document this land granting process in great detail. The records here contradict the excuse that the Macau government didn’t put things on paper,” Jeff Fiedler said.

“However, the glaring omission in these Cotai land documents is any reference to the Macau government commit-

ting land rights to businessman Ho Ho prior to 2006. Why would the government document seemingly everything concerning this land in Cotai

The records here contradict the excuse that the Macau government didn't put things on paper

JEFF FIEDLER

except this critical and valuable earmark to Ho Ho and his associates?” Mr Fiedler asked.

As has been the case with IUOE’s previous press releases, the “Cotai land deal” is mentioned in great detail, involving the name of Ho Ho and his company (Chinese Entertainment and Investment Company Limited), also owned by Macau businessman Cliff Cheong.

“Of note, an initial member of Ho Ho’s team pursuing the Cotai development rights was an individual named Cliff Cheong. Mr. Cheong testified in an un-

related U.S. lawsuit that he has close family and business ties with Edmund Ho. He further disclosed that Edmund Ho personally asked him to facilitate a joint venture between the two casino operators during the gaming concession tender process in 2002,” the press release states.

In its letter to the Chief Executive’s Office, the IUOE is seeking an explanation of the role that former Chief Executive Edmund Ho played in committing land rights to the Ho Ho group. Further, the letter asks why the government allegedly requested that Wynn Macau deal with the Ho Ho group, as they apparently held no documented right to the Cotai land.

The Times last interviewed Jeff Fiedler via email in June 2014, when the IUOE, which claims to represent “over 2,000 stationary engineers in Nevada casinos,” opened the Cotai Land Deal website. The mentor of the now-defunct website CasinoLeaks-Macau explained that while conducting research on Wynn Macau, the IUOE came across the Cotai land deal,” which he claimed involves “people from Beijing, who were apparently little known in Macau.”

“We thought that by making the research public perhaps people in Macau, Hong Kong, and China might help fill in the gaps,” he explained.

In September, Steve Wynn commented on the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) probe into Wynn’s Cotai land deal. “They were satisfied with the inspection (...) Everything about our land [can be found in] disclosures since 2006 and everything about those transactions is so crystal pure and clean, that you could drink it” Steve Wynn said in a press conference.

However, a day after these statements, the region’s anti-graft agency said it was still examining a land deal from Wynn Resorts Ltd: “Regarding the media’s enquiry into Wynn Macau’s statement about the land deal in Cotai on 23 September 2014, the CCAC makes the following response: The relevant investigation is still underway. To observe the principle of judicial confidentiality, the CCAC will neither make any comments nor provide any supplementary information on the case.” **PB**

Chan Wai Sin to monitor hospital construction

The dismissed director of the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital, Chan Wai Sin, will be monitoring the construction of the Islands Hospital, Alexis Tam revealed yesterday. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture said that the replacement of Chan Wai Sin by Kuok Cheong U ahead of the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital (CHCSJ) is part of ‘normal staff mobility’ processes. Chan Wai Sin will remain as director of the CHCSJ until the end of this month.

Residential mortgage loans up



New approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) increased, while those of commercial real estate loans decreased in February 2015. According to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macau, in February 2015 new RMLs approved by local banks increased 37.8 pct month-to-month to MOP5.3 billion, of which 97.9 pct were extended to residents. In terms of value, new RMLs to residents increased 39.6 pct whereas those allocated to non-residents decreased 15.7 pct. When compared with the same period in 2014, new approvals of RMLs witnessed an increase of 106.9 pct.

Man lights fire on stairwell before moving home

A Filipino migrant worker allegedly set fire to debris that was placed in a stairwell of the building in which he had lived. According to the Judiciary Police (PJ), the arson occurred last Saturday in a residential building located in the Fai Chi Kei area. The next day, the suspect relocated from the building to another area. The man denied the accusation that he had committed the crime, and claimed that he was a cleaner. However, the PJ said that both the neighbors’ testimony and the closed circuit television monitor had showed signs of him committing the arson, and that his own statements were conflicting.

AN INTERESTED PARTY

IN THE letter addressed to Chui Sai On, IUOE claims that it is a shareholder of Wynn Macau’s US-based parent, Wynn Resorts Ltd. and is therefore “an interested party.” Hence, the union says that it has legal rights to the information requested from the chief executive in the letter.



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Nokia in advanced talks to buy Alcatel-Lucent

Matti Huuhtanen, Helsinki

NOKIA revealed Tuesday it's in advanced talks to buy the ailing French telecoms company Alcatel-Lucent, an apparent bid to become a leading global networks operator.

Hopes for a deal were boosted by news that the French government, which has a history of intervening in takeover attempts by foreign companies, would give its blessing.

In a brief statement, Nokia Corp. said the two companies are in negotiations "with respect to a potential full combination which would take the form of a public exchange offer by Nokia for Alcatel-Lucent."

After plunging 7 percent in Helsinki, Nokia stock closed down 3.6 percent at 7.49 euros in late trading while Alcatel-Lucent, which has been losing money since its creation in 2006, saw its share price leap 16 percent in Paris. That put Alcatel-Lucent's market value at 12.7 billion euros (USD13.42 billion).

The Finnish company gave no details of the talks and denied further comment except to say that a further announcement would be made when appropriate.

"Nokia has been reorganizing the business for some time and the networks market is very competitive so it makes real sense to merge the networks," said Neil Mawston from Strategy Analytics near London. "Nokia became a bit of a sprawling mess in the latter years with devices struggling and maps not quite living up to its expectations."

Both companies' chief executives, Nokia's Rajeev Suri and Alcatel-Lucent's Michel Combes, met with French President Hollande briefly on Tuesday afternoon but did not talk to reporters after the meeting. The French government said it would support the deal.

"It's a good operation for Alcatel-Lucent" because it will allow the creation of a "European champion" with "no job cuts" in France, Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron said following the meeting at the Elysee.

Nokia, which began as a maker of paper and gum boots in 1865, transformed into a home electronics firm before becoming an innovator in the wireless industry and the world's top cellphone maker. But it met its match when Apple launched the iPhone and also was unable to compete against Google Inc.'s Android operating system and cheaper handsets from Asia. **AP**

AP PHOTO



The Google logo is seen at the Google headquarters in Brussels

EU raises stakes in Google battle with antitrust charges

Raf Casert, Brussels

THE European Union charged Google yesterday with abusing its overwhelming dominance in Internet searches and opened a probe into its Android mobile system, massively raising the stakes in the five-year antitrust battle.

The move could lead to billions in fines for Google if the case shows that the way it does business in the 28-country bloc is illegal, as well as years of legal wrangling.

The EU can impose fines of 10 percent on annual revenue, or some USD6

billion, and force the company to overhaul its system for recommending websites in Europe.

The EU executive commission said it found that Google "gives systematic favorable treatment" to its Google Shopping at the expense of others in its general search results.

Margrethe Vestager, the EU's competition commissioner, said that was a problem because Google is so dominant in Europe. It has a market share of over 90 percent of Internet searches in the EU, compared with around 70 percent in the U.S.

"It is not based on the merits of Google Sho-

pping that Google Shopping always comes up first," Vestager said. "Dominant companies have a responsibility not to abuse their powerful market position."

She said her chief goal was to make sure multinationals do not artificially deny European consumers as wide a choice as possible or stifle innovation. She noted that one in four companies complaining about Google were U.S. rivals.

Monique Goyens, director general of the European Consumer Organization, said that "Google's market share means it essentially decides which

companies are placed in the shop window."

In the separate probe into Android, the EU alleges that Google is breaking the rules by obstructing rival operating systems, applications and services, hurting both consumers and innovators.

The EU has for years sought a settlement with Google, but says the company has not fully addressed its concerns. The company based in Mountain View, California, yesterday denied the EU claims.

Google has 10 weeks to respond to all the latest allegations. **AP**

corporate bits

XIN KANG CHENG MOTORS SHOWCASES FIVE ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Local automotive dealer Xin Kang Cheng Motors Ltd is currently running an exhibition to showcase a variety of electric models, featuring two vehicles from the Japanese automobile manufacturer Nissan (LEAF and e-NV200), as

well as three Renault electric vehicles, namely Twizy, ZOE and Kangoo. The exhibition has been running since March 31 and will continue until today.

Currently, only a few public and private enti-

ties have their own electrically powered vehicles running on the city's roads. Driving electric automobiles is expected to become a popular choice in the future, as owners are exempt from paying any tax or licensing charges in the territory. It also helps to cut down on all costs associated with driving, and to reduce residents' environmental impact on Macau.

The Nissan e-NV200, a new model only recently introduced here is a cargo van that comes in two versions designed to meet a variety of commercial needs. Its interior allows a capacity of 4,200 liters, while its low 515mm rear load height makes it convenient for loading and unloading goods.

The Nissan LEAF is an award-winning model with an

electric motor, and at maximum speed can reach over 144 km/h. Its lithium-ion battery, more compact and lightweight than ordinary batteries, can even achieve double the energy density of other cars. This model of electric vehicle is appropriate for the daily needs of most urban drivers.

The Renault Twizy is ideal for a city environment like Macau's, with its body area occupying only a third of an ordinary parking space. This model only needs three and a half hours to fully charge its battery, and has a maximum distance of 100 kilometers. For daily journeys of less than 50 kilometers, a fully loaded battery can handle at least two days of traveling.

The Renault ZOE is a model with a variety of built-in equip-



ment. Its highlights include a seven-inch touch screen and R-link multimedia system, both of which offer drivers easy control over audio and navigating systems. Its 65kW horsepower and 220Nm torque engine can achieve a maximum speed of 210 km/h on NEDC mode.

Finally the Renault Kangoo

is a model designed to cater to business use with its maximum capacity of 3,400 liters. This electric automobile is able to carry cargo weighing up to 650 kilograms. It has won the accolade of "International Van of the Year 2012" with its pragmatic design and environmentally friendly properties.



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China gifts office equipment to Cape Verde

CHINA has delivered office equipment to the Cape Verde government amounting to USD800,000 for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other local institutions, under an agreement signed Tuesday in Praia.

The certificate for delivery of the donation was signed by the new Chinese ambassador to Cape Verde, Du Xiacong, and the Cape Verde's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Maria Jesus Veiga Miranda, who praised the cooperation between the two countries.

According to Portuguese news agency Lusa, the delivery of office equipment was the first official act by the diplomat, who replaced Su Jian, after last week handing his credentials to the President of the Republic, Jorge Carlos Fonseca.

The Cape Verdean Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs noted that cooperation with China dated back to early in Cape Verde's independence (5 July 1975) and added that China is a major backer of the country's development.

Maria Jesus Veiga Miranda listed several works funded by China including the Palace of the Government and the National Assembly, the Poilão dam, the National Stadium and the ongoing refurbishment of the Palace of the Presidency. **MDT/Macauhub**

IMF raises its forecast for Portugal's economic growth

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts that Portugal's economy will grow by 1.6 percent this year and 1.5 percent in 2016, after posting growth of 0.9 percent in 2014, according to the World Economic Outlook, published Tuesday in Washington.

In November 2014, when it carried out the first post-programme monitoring of the Portuguese economy, the International Monetary Fund predicted more modest growth both for 2015 and for 2016 of 1.2 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

The IMF also expects the unemployment rate in Portugal to total 13.1 percent this year and 12.6 percent in 2016, which is also more optimistic than presented in the World Economic Outlook 2014, which estimated the unemployment would be



A street cleaner pulls a hose as he works in an arcade at the Comercio square in downtown Lisbon, Portugal

The IMF expects the unemployment rate to total 13 pct this year and 12.6 pct in 2016

13.5 percent in 2015.

Inflation, in turn, is expected to be 0.6 percent this year and 1.3 percent

in 2016 and that Portugal's foreign reserves will total 1.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

in 2015 and 1 percent of GDP in 2016.

The most recent forecasts from the Portuguese government, published in October 2014 in the presentation of the state budget proposal for 2015, pointed to economic growth of 1.5 percent this year and 1.7 percent in 2016. **MDT/Macauhub**

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AD

TIBET

Beijing accuses Dalai Lama of inciting self-immolations



A portrait of Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama adorns a wall of the Tibetan parliament-in-exile in Dharmasala, India

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA accused the Dalai Lama yesterday of inciting a wave of self-immolations among Tibetans that are widely seen as desperate protests against Chinese rule in the Himalayan region.

Similar accusations have been denied in the past, and the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader has called the deaths sad and ineffective in changing Chinese policy.

A report issued yesterday by the Cabinet's State Council Information Office said Chinese police investigations showed such incidents are being "manipulated and instigated" by the Dalai Lama and his supporters.

The report said a strategy to encourage Tibetans to burn themselves to death emerged after the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile based in India recommitted itself to non-violence in 2011.

It cited statements from exile groups that it said encouraged such acts as worthy Buddhist sacrifices and commemorated the victims as martyrs. It also said a monastic arm of the exile government coordinated with monasteries inside China to "remotely plan self-immolations."

"To commit an act of self-violence in a public place is inherently violent behavior whose aim is to create an atmosphere of terror and trans-

mit psychological horror," the report said.

It gave no figures for the number of self-immolations. Independent groups say 113 men and 24 women have set themselves on fire since March 2011 and most have died of their burns.

In the latest incident, 47-year-old nun Yeshe Khando set herself on fire last week near a police station in a Tibetan part of Sichuan province while shouting slogans including "Tibet needs freedom," overseas pro-Tibetan groups reported.

Tibetan areas in China are closed to foreign journalists and such incidents are virtually impossible to independently verify.

Tibetan monks and nuns are among the most active opponents of Chinese rule in the region and face some of the harshest restrictions on their activities. Tibet Communist Party chief Chen Quanguo demanded last week that Buddhist monasteries display the national flag as part of efforts to shore up government control.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for more than seven centuries, although many Tibetans say they were effectively independent for most of that time. The Dalai Lama fled to India during an aborted uprising against Chinese rule in 1959, eight years after Communist troops occupied Tibet. AP

POLLUTION

Sichuan residents demand to know source of foul smell

HUNDREDS of Chinese gathered in the streets of a town in the southwestern province of Sichuan on Tuesday night, demanding to know what caused a bad smell in the air and asking authorities to shut down polluting factories.

Protests of pollution have been rising in China, where members of the public are increasingly wary about pollution and vocal about their health concern.

The government of Weiyuan county said Tuesday that the foul smell was caused by a leak of liquid coolant at a porcelain factory and that authorities were investigating.

But residents said they also are worried about the chemical plants in the town and hoped those plants could be moved out of densely populated neighborhoods.

"Air pollution is quite troublesome because everyone has to breathe," said a resident who only gave his family name of Zhao.

He said thousands of people had taken to the street since the weekend, when a pungent air gripped the city.

Another resident who gave her family name of Wen said



Chinese women wear masks to protect themselves against the pollution in Beijing

the offending plant had been discharging bad air every day. "We hope the plant could be shuttered because it is harmful to our health," Wen said.

In a hotel near the demonstration site, a woman who gave her family name of Luo said about 1,000 protesters gathered near a bus station on Monday with banners and that more — including students in a nearby middle school and their parents — showed up on Tuesday.

"People went to the local government to ask why, but they got no answer," Luo said.

A government statement on Tuesday said the smell was dissipating and that no harmful substances such as benzene, ethyl-benzene and xylenes

were found in the discharged water of the porcelain plant, although local residents said they could still smell the foul air, which they described as stinky and pungent and even causing skin irritation.

The Weiyuan government said it had shuttered the factory's operations and was investigating.

The local police department said it had called in for interrogations seven people who had spread rumor, smashed public property and used violence to thwart law enforcement efforts.

Photos circulating online show clashes between demonstrators and riot police. In some photos, a police car was seen turned on its side. AP

Ninebot buys US personal scooter maker Segway

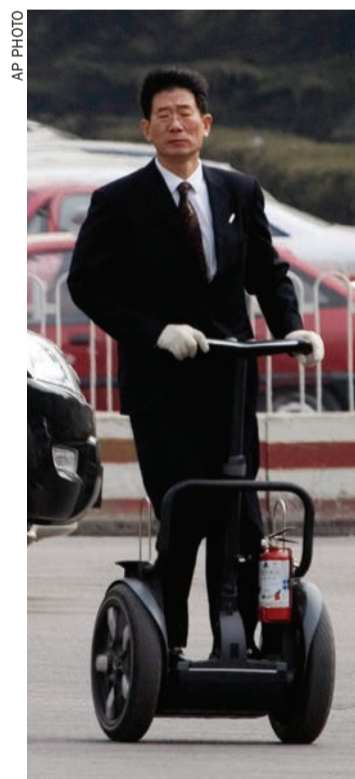
Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

SEGWAY, the iconic but struggling U.S. maker of self-balancing personal electric scooters, has been bought by a Chinese rival.

Beijing-based Ninebot Inc., which makes a range of short-distance motorized transport devices, said yesterday that it bought Segway Inc. for an undisclosed amount. It said it received \$80 million from a group of investors to finance the purchase.

Ninebot's purchase of New Hampshire-based Segway is the latest example of a Chinese company acquiring foreign brands or technology. It's also the latest chapter for Segway, which has passed through several owners and generally failed to live up to the great hype surrounding its launch in 2002.

Segway founder Dean Kamen famously promised that his invention would revolutionize transportation, claiming it "will be to the car what the car was to the horse and buggy." But sales of the two-wheeler failed to



A Chinese man rolls on a Segway during his practice at a parking lot of a club where he sells the personal transporter in Beijing

take off and it earned a goofy reputation thanks to some high-profile mishaps, including President George W. Bush toppling over on one in 2003.

The acquisition comes five months after the U.S. International Trade Commission agreed to investigate Segway's claim that Ninebot and other Chinese companies were infringing on its patents and copyrights.

Segway wanted to block imports of competing scooters into the United States but the deal appears to signal a resolution.

In a statement issued by Ninebot, Segway President Rod Keller said the "strategic alliance with Ninebot will enable us to provide more intelligent and valuable products for our customers."

Ninebot, which was founded in 2012, said it received the \$80 million investment from a group including U.S. venture capital firm Sequoia Capital, the Shunwei Foundation and Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi.

Segway was sold in 2009 to British millionaire entrepreneur James Heselden, who died a year later when he accidentally rode one off a cliff. The company was bought by Summit Strategic Investments LCC in 2013. AP

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

Mainland slowdown deepens, stepping up pressure on Beijing

CHINA'S economic growth slumped to a six-year low as manufacturing and retail sales cooled in the first quarter, stepping up pressure for Beijing to keep its overhaul of the world's second-largest economy on track.

Growth declined to 7 percent from the previous quarter's 7.3 percent, official data showed yesterday. That was China's weakest performance since the global financial crisis, when growth fell to 6.1 percent in the first quarter of 2009.

Much of the decline has been self-imposed as communist leaders try to steer China to more sustainable growth driven by domestic consumption following the past decade's explosive expansion based on trade and investment. But an unexpectedly sharp downturn over the past year has fueled fears of job losses and social tensions.

"China's economy is slowing at a rate with which the government is probably uncomfortable," said Tom Rafferty of the Economist Intelligence Unit in a report.

Beijing has cut interest rates twice since November and launched targeted measures to help exporters and other industries. But economists note China still depends on state-led construction spending and other investment for nearly half its economic growth.

"We still are relying on a traditional growth engine, and that is declining," said a spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics, Sheng Laiyun, at a news conference. "We are in transition between the old and new growth models."

On Tuesday, the country's top



Residents walk past a textile shop offering heavy discounts in Hangzhou in east China's Zhejiang province

economic official, Premier Li Keqiang, warned at a meeting with businesspeople and economists that China faces increased "downward pressure," according to a report on the Cabinet's website.

Li called for regulatory changes to nurture new industries, improve efficiency and generate jobs, the report said. It made no mention of possible short-term stimulus measures.

"The adjustment needs support from consumption while the economy adapts to slower investment," said Andrew Colquhoun of Fitch Ratings in a statement. "It's sobering that the economy has become so reliant on construction and real estate to generate jobs."

Chinese leaders have repeatedly affirmed their commitment to a "new normal" of slower growth. They say their priority is to make the economy more efficient and productive.

But unexpectedly weak trade and construction, industries that support millions of jobs, have prompted expectations Beijing will boost spending or cut interest rates again to shore up growth.

RBS economist Louis Kuijs said he expects Beijing to cut interest rates at least once this quarter, followed by a second cut if the first fails to produce results.

The first quarter was China's weakest since the global financial crisis, when growth

tumbled to 6.1 percent in the first quarter of 2009.

Exports fell 15 percent in March, while housing sales measured by floor space fell 22.5 percent from a year earlier.

Growth in factory output slowed to 6.4 percent from December's 9.8 percent rate, according to yesterday's data. Investment in real estate, factories and other fixed assets was 13.5 percent, down from last year's 15.7 percent expansion.

Retail sales weakened markedly, with growth slowing to 10.6 percent from 2014's full-year expansion of 12 percent, threatening to undercut official efforts to nurture a consumer-driven economy.

That was the weakest sales

growth since 2006, "raising doubts about the stability of consumption amidst the construction and industrial slowdown," said Brian Jackson of IHS Global Insight in a report.

The government spokesman, Sheng, said he had no details of what share of economic growth came from consumption and how much from investment. But he said it should be about the same as last year, when consumption's contribution to overall economic growth rose above half for the first time, reaching 51.2 percent.

This week, the World Bank trimmed its forecast for China's growth to 7 percent this year from 7.1 percent. Earlier, the International Monetary Fund cut its own outlook for China to 6.8 percent from 7.1 percent.

Those rates are well above the low single-digit growth forecasts for the United States and Europe this year but less than half China's peak of 14.2 percent growth in 2007. AP

7%

Growth declined from the previous quarter's 7.3% official data showed

TAIWAN

Taipei not among 57 charter members of Asian Bank

CHINA yesterday announced the 57 intended charter members of the proposed Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, with longtime rival Taiwan left off the list despite expressing a desire to join.

Taiwan's exclusion means it won't participate in drawing up the bank's foundational documents and governance rules, although Beijing says the island is welcome to join later.

Beijing on Monday indicated that issues surrounding Taiwan's accession still need to be hammered out, especially the question of what name the



Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou

island should be referred to by.

Chinese pressure forces Taiwan to participate in international sporting competitions and other events as "Chinese Tai-

pei," the name suggested by Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou when he proposed the island's membership in the bank.

However, Beijing appeared to have rejected that

suggestion. Although it has not offered an alternative, China succeeded in 1986 in having Taiwan's name at the Asian Development Bank changed from "Chinese Taipei," to "Taipei, China."

Spokesman for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, Ma Xiaoguang, told reporters yesterday that Beijing would consider "constructive opinions from all sides" concerning Taiwan's representation in the bank.

"Through practical consultations, solutions will be found for Taiwan to join the bank with an appropriate identity," Ma told a regularly scheduled

news conference.

Following China's Monday announcement, Taiwan's government said it will seek to join later, but would continue to insist on the name "Chinese Taipei."

The U.S. has expressed concern the new bank will allow looser lending standards for the environment, labor rights and financial transparency, undercutting the World Bank, where the U.S. has the most clout, and the Asian Development Bank, where it is the second-largest shareholder after Japan.

While Japan remains among the holdouts,

other U.S. allies such as South Korea, Britain, Australia, France, Germany and Italy have signed on as charter members. The list also includes financial powerhouse Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, India, Brazil, Russia and all 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

China proposed the bank last year as a vehicle for financing the construction of roads, railways, ports and other infrastructure. Beijing has pledged to put up most of the initial USD50 billion in capital for the bank, which is expected to be set up by year's end. AP



In this April 24, 2014, file photo, a diver jumps into the sea to look for people believed to have been trapped in the sunken Sewol



Relatives of victims of the Sewol ferry disaster weep as they stand on the deck of a boat during a visit to the site of the sunken vessel

SOUTH KOREA

Experts doubt ferry sinking will inspire improved safety

Kim Tong-hyung and Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

A year ago, as South Korea writhed in grief and fury after more than 300 people, most of them school kids, drowned in a ferry sinking, it seemed things would never be the same. Yet not much has really changed as the first anniversary of the Sewol disaster is marked today.

Experts believe it will be decades before any major shift is seen in widespread attitudes that make safety subservient to economic progress and convenience. Already there's growing fatigue and frustration among citizens who see their government sliding back to business as usual, and a lack of accountability at high levels.

"I'm tired of talking about the Sewol because it's obvious that nothing has changed because of it," said Choi Chul-su, a 36-year-old office worker in Seoul. "It wasn't supposed to be all about helping families overcome their grief. It was also about the government and society learning from the accident and executing those lessons. But nothing has been done there."

The government blamed the country's deadliest maritime disaster in decades on overloaded, poorly secured cargo and a botched rescue. But South Korea is divided over who's responsible, and a planned investigation by a special committee has stalled amid wrangling over money and personnel.

Authorities, meanwhile, have

come up with measures they hope will prevent similar accidents, including replacing the coast guard with a new massive safety agency and transferring authority to regulate shipping from a body funded by the industry to a publicly funded agency.

There's skepticism that it will be enough, or that officials will handle future crises better. Since the sinking, the country has continued to see fatal accidents that expose lax safety standards and awareness:

■ Not much has really changed as the first anniversary of the Sewol disaster is marked today

— A month after the sinking, a fire set by an 81-year-old dementia patient killed 22 people at a hospital ward that wasn't equipped with sprinklers.

— In October, 16 people watching an outdoor concert were killed when the ventilation grate they were standing on collapsed.

— More than 50 fishermen died in December in the frigid Bering Sea, in an accident police blamed on crewmembers keeping open a storage area to stash more of their catch despite high waves.

A public survey released last week showed nearly nine out of 10 South Koreans believe public safety hasn't improved since last year's sinking. The telephone survey of 1,000 adults, conducted by the Seoul-based Korea Research Center, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Motorcycles and scooters frequently zip along public sidewalks; cars regularly block fire hydrants. South Korea has the highest rate of fatal motor accidents and pedestrian deaths among developed-world nations forming the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, according to the Korea Transportation Safety Authority.

South Koreans working in large buildings can easily go an entire year without participating in a single fire drill, according to officials from the Ministry of Public Safety and Security. Failure to hold a fire drill at least once a year could result in a 500,000 won (USD456) fine for the building's owner, but ministry officials said the drills are frequently formalities involving only the building's safety manager and a few others.

Some recent steps to improve public safety have been rolled back following complaints.

Officials in Gyeonggi province, which surrounds Seoul, cut the number of long-distance commuter buses that allowed passengers to stand in the aisles, but they then backtracked after many people complained that they missed their rides to and from work in Seoul.

South Korea's attitudes toward safety were formed as it recovered from the decimation of the 1950-53 Korean War and rapidly rebuilt itself to become Asia's fourth-largest economy.

"Safety is not just an issue of technology and government regulation, but also a matter of social behavior and morality, and this is not something that can be developed over a span of just a few years," said Park Hee-Kyung, a civil engineering and disaster expert at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Daejeon. "It will be more like 30 to 50 years, and we are just at the beginning of the change."

Safety measures South Korea has taken after the Sewol disaster include the hiring of outside experts to oversee the ship regulating body, requiring all cargo to be processed electronically and truck drivers to submit certificates on the weight of their cargo.

New laws set for July will also set up harsher punishment for crewmembers who don't try hard enough to rescue passengers in need, such as possible lifetime prison sentences for captains. They also allow authorities to revoke licenses of ship operators found responsible for big accidents.

Lee Yun-cheol, 41, a co-head of a shipping company, said monitoring safety standards on passenger ships on domestic routes is "hapless and weak," and more intensive checking and a larger number of inspectors are needed.

State prosecutors have arres-

ted nearly 140 people, including Sewol crewmembers and ferry company employees, over allegations that they contributed to the sinking, and some have been sentenced to decades in prison. But many bereaved family members and their supporters demand a more thorough investigation and say higher-level officials have not been held accountable.

The parents of some student victims have been camping out at a main Seoul plaza for months in protest, drawing criticism from conservatives who say the parents are there illegally, and who want the country to move on from the disaster. In September, some counter-protesters gorged themselves on hotdogs and pizza in front of relatives of victims who were on a hunger strike.

"The bereaved families have lost their senses," said conservative activist Park Wan-seok. "The Sewol incident was just a traffic accident that happened at sea."

Some conservatives also oppose the families' demands that the Sewol be pulled from the sea, saying money shouldn't be spent on raising a civilian ship. Public surveys show a majority of South Koreans want the Sewol to be recovered, at an estimated cost of USD91 million to \$137 million.

Families of the victims recently rejected the government's financial compensation plans, saying they want to first see the ship lifted from the seafloor and a thorough investigation into the sinking. Some other South Koreans also are frustrated by what they view as government inaction.

"The sinking of Sewol represented the failure of an entire system and culture," said Lee Sang-joon, a 33-year-old Seoul resident. "But the government seems unwilling to carefully look into this." AP

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

AVIATION

Plane skids off runway in Japan; about 20 injured

AN Asiana Airlines plane skidded off a runway Tuesday after landing in western Japan, and about 20 people received minor injuries, officials said.

Hiroshima airport reported that the aircraft's tail touched the runway while landing, causing some sparks, but there were no flames, the Mihara City fire department said.

The airport was closed after the accident for an investigation.

Officials found damage to a wireless communication facility near the runway, suggesting the Airbus 320 may have touched it before landing, Transport Ministry official Shunichiro Sasaki said. He said the plane's left wing and left engine were also damaged.

An object believed to be an antenna from the communication facility was found caught in the plane's left landing gear, Kyodo News reported, quoting the Transport Ministry.

Officials said Asiana Flight 162 was carrying 74 passengers and eight crewmembers from Incheon airport in South Korea.

Fire department official Kyoichi Utsumi said about 20 people received minor injuries —



An Asiana Airlines plane sits at Hiroshima airport in Mihara, Hiroshima prefecture, western Japan

mostly bruises and scratches — and no one was hurt seriously. All were evacuated using escape

chutes, and it was not immediately clear if they were injured during the landing or the eva-

cuation. Transport officials said 18 of the injured people were taken to nearby hospitals for

treatment.

TV video showed the escape chutes hanging from the aircraft, with several fire engines standing by as a precaution.

Passengers interviewed by Japanese media described a tense evacuation.

Kyodo quoted an unidentified passenger as saying that the plane bounced when it touched down, then skidded off the runway and stopped on the grass. It said another passenger described seeing flames in the engine. NHK quoted a passenger as saying smoke entered the cabin before the evacuation.

An Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 crashed two years ago as it approached San Francisco's airport in an accident that killed three teenagers and injured nearly 200 others. U.S. safety investigators said the pilots bungled the landing approach by inadvertently deactivating the plane's key control for airspeed, among other errors. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Supermarket shuts website in Veterans' Day furor

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S biggest supermarket chain yesterday apologized and pulled down a website that has been widely criticized of commercializing the centenary of the country's Veterans' Day.

Woolworths, which brands itself as "The Fresh Food People," launched the website "Fresh in Our Memories" late Tuesday to commemorate ANZAC Day on April 25.

ANZAC stands for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, which was part of a disastrous British-led ground invasion of Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula on April 25, 1915. The anniversary of the start of the nine-month campaign by the multinational British Empire force in World War I has become a major national day for both Australians and New Zealanders.

Woolworths invited customers to upload photographs of veterans on the



website. The images were displayed with the slogan "Fresh in Our Memories," the Woolworths logo and "Lest We Forget. ANZAC 1915 - 2015." The campaign immediately drew strong criticism on social media.

Veterans Affairs Minister Michael Ronaldson on Wednesday described the site as an ad. He said he contacted Woolworths as soon as he became aware of the campaign and "asked them to end it."

Under the Protection of Word "ANZAC" Act 1920, permission for its commercial use must be gran-

ted by the government, he said.

"The Australian community quite rightly expects that the word 'ANZAC' is not trivialized or used inappropriately and as minister for veterans affairs, I am responsible for ensuring that any use of the word 'ANZAC' does not provide commercial benefit to an organization," Ronaldson said in a statement.

Woolworths confirmed that the site had been taken down and apologized.

"The site was developed to give our staff and customers a place to put their stories to mark the Centenary of ANZAC," the company said in a statement. "We regret that our branding on the picture generator has caused offense. This was clearly never our intention."

The 1920 legislation carries a maximum 12-month prison sentence and fines of 50,000 Australian dollars (USD38,000) for a corporation and AU\$10,000 (\$7,600) for an individual. **AP**

JAPAN-S KOREA

US: Tensions distract from N Korea threat

Matthew Pennington, Washington

TENSIONS between American allies Japan and South Korea are a distraction in dealing with common threats like North Korea's nuclear weapons, a top U.S. diplomat said Tuesday.

Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken was speaking ahead of a trilateral meeting today in Washington with his Japanese and South Korean counterparts.

Tokyo and Seoul both host tens of thousands of American troops, but the Asian nations have a bitter rivalry over Japan's colonial and wartime past.

Blinken said the U.S. has a strategic stake in the Japan-South Korea relationship and an incentive to work with them to work through their tensions.

"If the relationship is not everything that it could or should be and indeed there are tensions in the relationship, that means that it becomes a distraction to our common agenda," Blinken said, "including dealing with common challenges or threats such as that posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons."

But Blinken said the relationship appears to be on a "positive trajectory" after senior Japanese and South Korean defense and foreign ministry officials held a rare joint meeting in Seoul on Tuesday.

Blinken was speaking at a town hall



meeting at the State Department on U.S.-Japan relations. He will meet today with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki and Republic of Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yong. Senior defense officials of the three nations are due to meet at the Pentagon the same day.

Despite the uptick in high-level diplomatic contacts between Tokyo and Seoul, they remain at loggerheads on issues of sovereignty and history. South Korea wants contrition from Japan over the tens of thousands of women, including Koreans, whom historians say were sent to front-line military brothels to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II. Last week, South Korea also protested changes to Japanese school textbooks to assert Japanese sovereignty over disputed islands held by South Korea.

The leaders of Japan and South Korea will both visit Washington this year, starting with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the end of this month. **AP**

CUBA

Citizens hail removal from US list of state terrorism sponsors

Michael Weissenstein
and Anne-Marie Garcia

CUBAN officials and ordinary citizens alike hailed the island's removal from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, saying the move by President Barack Obama heals a decades-old insult to national pride and clears the way to swiftly restore diplomatic relations.

"The Cuban government recognizes the president of the United States' just decision to take Cuba off a list in which it should never have been included," Josefina Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for U.S. affairs, said Tuesday night (yesterday, Macau time).

Cuban and U.S. foreign-policy experts said the two governments appeared to have taken a major leap toward the reopening of embassies in Havana and Washington after four months of complex and occasionally frustrating negotiations.

"This is important because it speaks to Obama's desire to keep moving forward," said Esteban Morales, a political science professor at the University of Havana. "Now there are no political obstacles. What



A man drives his taxi past a Cultural Center with the word "Cuba" on it, in Havana

remains are organizational and technical problems, which can be resolved."

In a message to Congress, Obama said Tuesday that Cuba's government "has not provided any support for international terrorism" over the last six months and has given "assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future."

Cuba will officially be removed from the terrorism list 45 days after the president's message was sent to Congress. Lawmakers could vote to block the move during that window, though Obama would be all but certain to veto such a measure.

What remains to be seen in coming weeks is whether Cuba will allow U.S. diplomats to move around Cuba and

maintain contacts with citizens including dissidents, the second point of contention in the negotiations on restoring full diplomatic relations.

Cuba is highly sensitive to any indication the U.S. is supporting domestic dissent and that issue may prove considerably tougher than amending the terrorism list. The Obama administration made little

pretense in recent years that it believed Cuba was supporting terrorism.

Cuba was put on the list in 1982 because of what the U.S. said were its efforts "to promote armed revolution by organizations that used terrorism."

That included support for leftist guerrilla groups including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the Basque separatist movement ETA in Spain. Cuba also sheltered black and Puerto Rican militants who carried out attacks in the United States. Among those was Joanne Chesimard, who was granted asylum by Fidel Castro after she escaped from a U.S. prison where she was serving a sentence for killing a New Jersey state trooper in 1973.

Cuba renounced direct support for militant groups years ago and is sponsoring peace talks between the FARC and Colombia's government. Spain no longer appears to be actively seeking the return of inactive ETA members who may be in Cuba.

Obama's decision was welcomed on the streets of Havana.

"Finally!" said Mercedes Delgado, a retired accountant. "The door's opened a little more. That's always good." AP

Deb Riechmann and
Laurie Kellman, Washington

USA

White House standoff with Congress over Iran bill not over

LEGISLATION empowering Congress to reject an emerging Iran nuclear pact is expected to sail through both houses of Congress, leaving President Barack Obama with the tough task of selling the deal to skeptical lawmakers.

The legislation, unanimously approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would give lawmakers a say on what could be a historic deal aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Under the pact, the influential Islamic nation in the Middle East would get relief from economic sanctions stifling its economy.

"I don't know how you cut a deal with the devil and think the devil is going to keep his end of the deal," House Speaker John Boehner said Tuesday (yesterday, Macau time) after Obama bowed to pressure from Republi-



Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., center, shakes hands with the committee's ranking member Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., on Capitol Hill in Washington

cans and Democrats and agreed to sign compromise legislation.

The rare and reluctant agreement between the president and the Republican-led Congress came after the White House maintained for weeks

that congressional interference could jeopardize sensitive negotiations with Tehran. The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China reached a preliminary framework agreement with Iran on April

2 to curb its nuclear program and hope to finalize a pact by June 30.

Despite the resistance from the White House, lawmakers from both parties insisted that Congress have a formal role in reviewing and possibly voting down any deal.

"I have always supported congressional review of any final agreement with Iran," said Sen. Ben Cardin, the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, who emphasized that the bill will not permit any legislative action until after the White House presents Congress with any final deal that can be reached to rein in Iran's nuclear program.

Echoing Boehner's skepticism, Cardin said "there

is no trust when it comes to Iran." He said that's why the final agreement must be verifiable and transparent, and that it's clear that any violations would result in the restoration of the strongest possible sanctions.

The committee approved the compromise bill, 19-0, shortly after White House spokesman Josh Earnest conveyed the president's decision to remove his veto threat. The bill is now likely to clear both houses of Congress. It's expected to come before the full Senate as soon as next week.

Committee Chairman Sen. Bob Corker said Secretary of State John Kerry was lobbying against the measure just a few hours before the vote.

Corker said the White House's sudden support was dictated by the number of senators — Republicans and Democrats — backing the measure.

The White House said that the changes made to the bill made it possible for Obama to support it. The president's foreign policy legacy would be burnished by a deal with Iran.

Earnest said the White House is not "particularly thrilled" about the legislation. He said the administration would withhold final judgment on the bill while it works its way through Congress, but that in its current form, Obama would sign it.

The revised bill shortens from 60 to 30 days the time that Congress will have to review any final nuclear deal. The review period could stretch to more than 80 days depending on various factors, such as when Congress gets details of any agreement. AP



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what's ON



'CLASSIC RECURRENCE – CENTENNIAL EVOLUTION' – EXHIBITION OF WOMEN'S FASHION

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47,

Rua de S. Roque, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853)2835 3341

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431,

basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL PAINTINGS – MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

INSTALLATION 'VALKYRIE OCTOPUS'

BY JOANA VASCONCELOS

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: October 31, 2015

VENUE: MGM MACAU, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

LIVING LIFE OF LEI | FAN CERAMIC ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 30, 2015

VENUE: 10 Fantasia -A Creative Industries

Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro,

Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

Offbeat

CHIMP TUSHI TURNS DRONE-BUSTER IN DUTCH BURGERS' ZOO



Beware! Chimp Tushi at the Dutch Burgers' Zoo is a real drone-buster.

When the zoo sent a drone over the chimpanzee enclosure for a better look at how their 14 apes live, the response was swift.

With the unfamiliar intruder coming close to them, 23-year-old female Tushi waited in a tree, gritted her teeth and with two whacks from a long branch, downed the drone. No sweat.

Zoo spokesman Bas Lukkenaar said this week that "we can write the drone off. It cost about 2,000 euros (USD2,100). Then again, it doesn't surprise that Tushi did this. She is very handy with sticks."

With the camera still rolling on the ground after Tushi's strike, the zoo got some close-up footage anyway — of chimps coming to inspect their kill.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Miscellaneous
15:00	Debate on Transportation and Public Works Policy Report for 2015 (Live)
20:00	News
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Criminal Minds S8
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Champions League: Porto - Bayern Muenchen (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

16 APR - 22 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



CHILD 44

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Daniel Espinosa

Starring: Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min



THE WATER DIVINER

ROOM 3

2.00, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Russell Crowe

Starring: Jai Courtney, Russell Crowe, Olga Kurylenko

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min

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



1987 MP ON GAY SEX CHARGES

Conservative MP Harvey Proctor has appeared in court charged with indecency.

Mr Proctor, who represents Billericay in Essex, said nothing to waiting journalists at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in central London.

In court, the MP was accused of committing three acts of gross indecency with one male and one act of gross indecency with another - both teenagers.

All the offences are alleged to have taken place between June and August last year.

Bachelor Mr Proctor, 40, was remanded on bail until next month after his lawyer, Sir David Napley, asked the court for more time to prepare his case.

"There are various other inquiries to be made and various evidence I am anxious to obtain," Sir David said.

The Billericay MP has denied all the allegations against him.

Lurid allegations surrounding Mr Proctor's sex life surfaced last September when allegations appeared in a Sunday newspaper claiming he had organised gay spanking sessions with boys in his London flat.

Since he was charged eight days ago members of Mr Proctor's constituency party have been demanding a meeting to discuss his future as their MP.

He has already survived two attempts to oust him over the allegations.

Mr Proctor also sits on the executive of the right-wing Monday Club and has expressed controversial views on immigration.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Harvey Proctor resigned as MP for Billericay shortly before his trial in May 1987.

He pleaded guilty and was fined a total of £1,450.

The following year, with financial backing from former colleagues, including Michael Heseltine and Jeffrey Archer, he opened two shops selling luxury shirts.

In 1992 Mr Proctor and Neil Hamilton, then a government minister, were assaulted by two men on a "gay bashing expedition".

Mr Hamilton's nose was broken in the attack in Mr Proctor's shop in Richmond-on-Thames.

In 2000 Harvey Proctor's stores were forced into liquidation after legal action by Customs and Excise over an unpaid VAT bill.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Make sure you get outside and get some exercise today. It'll help clear your head and put things in perspective...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Go ahead and tell your far-out ideas to your colleagues. They'll be impressed with your forward-thinking...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you're not feeling like your intuition is at its very best today, then why not put off making any romantic decisions until tomorrow.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 An unexpected conversation with someone unexpected will produce some unexpected sparks today. And you'll be unexpectedly delighted and encouraged by the prospects.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've got an uncanny ability to turn your dreams into reality, something you demonstrate time and again. Wonder what would happen if you focused those abilities on your love life?

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A little intellectual banter is one of the quickest ways to get your heart rate up. Engage in a friendly debate with someone you think might be a fabulous more-than-a-friend and see what happens.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It might not hurt to let someone help you with a project today. First of all, you could use the help. Second, you might enjoy working closely together.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You may have a dangerous side, but you've also got an incredibly soft side. Balancing those two is the order of the day. Don't hide either; let someone see all your complexities.

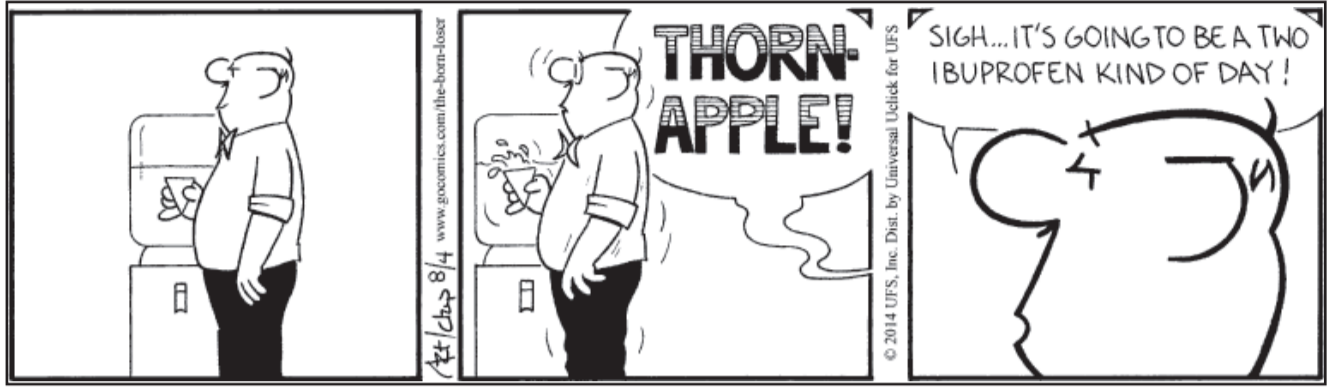
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've misplaced your keys, your cell phone, even that important paper. There's also a good chance you could find yourself wondering what a certain cute someone is doing with your heart today.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your creative side is in full bloom right now. In fact, a virtual garden of music, art and poetry is springing up around you. Make sure you nurture it today so it can continue to grow.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Put yourself first. That's going to be hard with everyone around you vying for your time and attention, but you'll be glad that you set limits for yourself. It will actually make you more generous later on.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Today's a good day for an internal transformation. Try a yoga class. Or meditation? Even a long walk alone will help you get in touch with your innermost thoughts. Take the time for it.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- "Power Lunch" network; 5- Object of worship; 9- Tin Pan Alley org.; 14- Lewd look; 15- Fog; 16- 1965 march site; 17- Jai ...; 18- Breezed through; 19- Now you ...; 20- Feathering; 22- Where junk may be held; 24- Plaintiff; 25- Sacred place; 26- Hardships; 29- Give up; 31- One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"; 32- Greek temple; 33- Offensive time?; 36- Fire starter?; 37- Varnish; 40- Plastic ... Band; 41- Ballpark fig.; 42- Entre ...; 43- Home run king Hank; 45- Somewhat; 47- Opportune; 48- Uphold; 51- ... speak; 52- Blunder; 54- Outpace; 58- Menu; 59- Sushi fish; 61- ... the finish; 62- Puerto ...; 63- Shrinking Asian sea; 64- Normandy town; 65- Vigilant; 66- A ... formality; 67- New driver, often;

DOWN: 1- Put your hands together; 2- 1994 Jodie Foster film; 3- Boyfriend; 4- Incarnadine; 5- Likenesses; 6- Gambler; 7- Verb ending?; 8- Former Fords; 9- Pardon; 10- Hit the roof; 11- Lucid; 12- Compadre; 13- Communion plate; 21- Hearing-related; 23- The ones here; 26- Hoarfrost; 27- Rainbow goddess; 28- Heart; 29- River in NW Mexico; 30- Chits; 32- Sgts., e.g.; 33- Raced; 34- Organic compound; 35- Swank; 38- Make ... for oneself; 39- Singer Bonnie; 44- Person devoted to love; 45- Monetary unit of Albania; 46- Imperative; 47- Dishevel; 48- Capital on the Gulf of Guinea; 49- Instrument for threshing grain; 50- Sham; 51- Kind of battery; 53- Quantity of paper; 55- Poker stake; 56- Racer Yarborough; 57- Collar type; 60- Predating



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



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Oliver Teves, Manila

BOXING

New Pacquiao film shows how poor

AS a dirt-poor rookie boxer in the southern Philippines, Manny Pacquiao started his phenomenal rise to global fame not as the Pacman, as he is sometimes called, but as "Kid Kulafu."

That moniker — the title of a new local film about Pacquiao's childhood — was taken from the label of a cheap wine whose empty bottles he returned for recycling to earn money to help his family.

"Kid Kulafu" opened yesterday in more than 70 theaters across the Philippines starting ahead of Pacquiao's May 2 megafight with Floyd Mayweather. It will be shown in some U.S. and Canadian theaters beginning April 24.

Produced with advice and other assistance from Pacquiao, the film depicts the impoverished world he grew up in well before he became the world's only eight-division boxing champion, one of its highest-paid athletes and the wealthiest member of the Philippine House of Representatives.

"He had every excuse in the book to fail — broken family, no food, no home, nowhere to go, no money, but he still persevered, and that's what I want the people to see — that he is where he is today because of hard work," filmmaker Paul Soriano told The Associated Press.

AP PHOTO



Filipino actor Buboy Villar, who plays the role of the young Manny Pacquiao, poses before the premiere showing of "Kid Kulafu"

The 36-year-old boxer was born in a thatch-roofed house with a dirt floor in the mountains of southern Bukidnon province at a time when anti-communist militiamen were

battling insurgents. One brutal clash near the Pacquiao home forced the family to move to General Santos city, into a shack owned by his uncle, Sardo Mejia.

There often was not enough food for the family; sometimes they ate boiled rice paired with fish entrails or corn on the cob. In the movie, militiamen compel Pacquiao's mo-

ther to hand over two small fried fish she had prepared for her family.

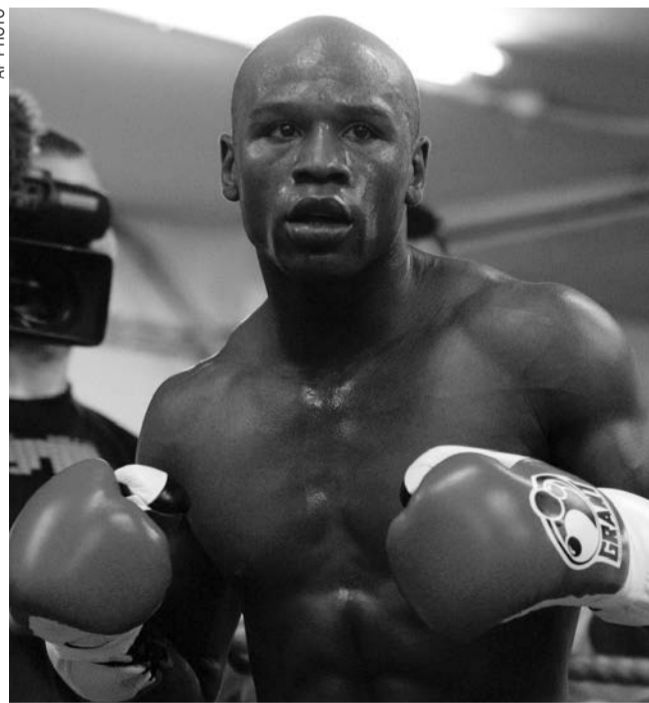
Pacquiao's father later abandoned the family, leaving Manny, the eldest of three brothers, to find a livelihood like most young boys in the country's rural areas. He sold fried peanuts, bread and doughnuts made by his mother, and earned a little money of his own by gathering and selling tiny native lemons called calamansi.

He also worked as a store assistant for Mejia, and collected sacks of empty bottles of Vino Kulafu, which he returned to the distributors to cash in the deposits. Kulafu was originally a Tarzan-like Filipino comic-book hero.

Pacquiao became drawn to boxing after he started watching Betamax tapes of world heavyweight fights with his uncle. Mejia encouraged Pacquiao to box and later trained him, though his mother hated the sport. She wanted her son to be a priest, but was too poor to enter him into a seminary. Still, she ingrained deep spirituality and religious faith in him.

Ironically, Pacquiao's road to boxing was partially paved

AP PHOTO



FLOYD Mayweather Jr. says fans will have to decide for themselves whether it's worth USD99.95 to pay to watch his fight with Manny Pacquiao at home.

Personally, though, he believes the richest fight in boxing history will be must see TV.

"From the matchup it seems like an exciting fight," Mayweather said yesterday. "When I men-

tally picture the fight, to me it looks like it's going to be a very exciting fight."

Mayweather, who could make USD180 million for the May 2 bout, said he doesn't think the fight is overhyped, mostly because it's a matchup fans have waited five years to see. Even if it isn't the so-called Fight of the Century, he said, it will likely go down as one of the big-

Mayweather: Fans will have to decide if fight worth USD99.95

gest fights ever.

"I can't really say it's hype because this is real life," Mayweather said. "You've got two future hall of famers in a megafight."

Mayweather said no one is forced to buy his fights, and that he won't change his style in any fight just to please the fans. Unbeaten in 47 fights as a pro, his biggest goal is to remain that way.

"I'm just thankful and I'm appreciative of whoever has bought pay-per-view, whether they were pleased or they weren't pleased," he said. "When it's all said and done, when the book is written, they're not going to say he was a defensive wizard. They're going to say Floyd Mayweather was a winner."

Less than three weeks before the two greats meet for the welterweight title, Mayweather

took some time off from training for a media day outside the gym he owns near the Las Vegas Strip. He arrived more than 90 minutes late, but seemed eager to keep answering questions even as a desert windstorm threatened to undo the tent in the parking lot set up for his impromptu news conference.

"There's no storm coming," he said at one point.

Mayweather said he is treating Pacquiao as just another opponent, even as he acknowledged the awkward lefty poses some problems in the ring. The difference, he said, is that he will be able to adapt to Pacquiao's style as the fight goes on.

"We'll see what he brings to the table," Mayweather said. "Our styles are totally different. I fight with smarts. Every move is calculated. Every move

is thought out. I'm always 5-10 steps ahead of my opponent."

By contrast, Mayweather said Pacquiao fights the same way every fight.

"I don't know if he can make adjustments," he said. "I'm able to make adjustments. He comes at different angles so we'll have to see. But he's facing a solid, strong welterweight."

Mayweather said Pacquiao may have been surprised last month at the Los Angeles news conference announcing the fight that he looked to be the much smaller fighter when the two stood together. That, he said, was even though Pacquiao was cheating a bit for the cameras.

"He wears the lifts in the shoes," Mayweather said. "I know all the secrets he does."

Mayweather said he wasn't sure how the fight

would play out in the opening rounds, though the consensus among most in boxing is that Pacquiao would try to land big punches early. Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, has said the goal is to make Mayweather work every second of every round and not be able to take any time off.

Mayweather's manager and confidante, Leonard Ellerbe, was more specific, saying Mayweather is looking to make a career-defining statement against Pacquiao. Mayweather will still use all his defensive skills, Ellerbe said, but won't be afraid to attack Pacquiao from the opening bell.

"Floyd Mayweather is going to try to take Manny Pacquiao's head off," Ellerbe said. "You can count on that happening, too. Floyd Mayweather is looking to finish him off." AP

boy grew up to be champion

by his mother when she was struck by a heart attack, Soriano said. The movie depicts the boy entering a fight to win 100 pesos (about \$2) needed to buy her medicine.

With training by his uncle and a friend's father, Pacquiao soon became the amateur boxing derby champion in General Santos, fighting in the open-air ring in the town plaza as Kid Kulafu, a name Mejia came up with. Without telling his mother, he left General Santos to train in a dingy boxing gym in Manila.

"Kid Kulafu" is really a movie about a young boy who grew up with nothing," Soriano said. "All he really had was a dream and he fought and fought and fought until he made those dreams come true."

The movie, with most scenes shot on location, was produced by Ten17P, an independent film company owned by



Filipino filmmaker Paul Soriano talks beside a poster of the movie "Kid Kulafu"

It is a fairy-tale story, but it's true

MARIE PINEDA
PRODUCER

Soriano, a director and producer who also has directed many of Pacquiao's local television ads.

The 110-minute film was

three years in the making, including two years of research and emotional interviews with Pacquiao, members of his family, friends and former train-

ers, Soriano said.

"It is a fairy-tale story, but it's true," producer Marie Pineda said.

The "rags" part of Pacquiao's

rags-to-riches story is all too familiar in the Philippines. Many Filipinos are born into poverty and forced to leave home to find work in Manila or even other countries to support their families. About 10 million Filipinos, a tenth of the population, work abroad and send money back home that helps shore up the economy.

The 17-year-old actor playing Pacquiao, Buboy Villar, also grew up poor with separated parents; he had to scavenge garbage heaps to earn money before becoming a child star in Philippine TV and movies.

While Villar shares Pacquiao's humble beginnings, the boxing skills took more work: He spent weeks building up muscles and learning to move as a southpaw like the champion.

Soriano said the film takes some creative license to compress Pacquiao's first 15 years, but is true to the boxer's life. Pacquiao did not produce or invest in the film but helped in making it, facilitating interviews with key characters and going over the script while but giving Soriano creative freedom, the filmmaker said.

"I think, honestly, what he gave me — his time, his story — I think that was even much more important than any money," Soriano said. "The access he gave me, the friendship that he has given me — that's priceless." AP

GOALKEEPER Jan Oblak made a series of outstanding saves to help Atletico Madrid hold Real Madrid to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal yesterday.

In a repeat of last season's final, cup holder Madrid enjoyed most of the possession and virtually all of the chances — only to leave without a goal and with everything still to do in next week's second leg at home in the Santiago Bernabeu.

"Well, we have been scoring goals in the Bernabeu recently, so anything is possible," Atletico captain Gabriel "Gabi" Fernandez said. "It cost us a lot to get into this match and it's good to have a secure goal. But we've got to hang onto the ball more."

The draw in very windy conditions at Atletico's Vicente Calderon stadium meant that coach Diego Simeone's side has been unbeaten in all seven derby matches this season against Madrid — winning four and drawing three.

His team's excellent defensive record also re-

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Goalkeeper Oblak helps Atletico hold Real Madrid to 0-0 draw



mained intact. Atletico has not conceded a goal at home in the Champions League since a 4-1 win over AC Milan in March last year.

Juventus beat Monaco 1-0 in Turin in the night's

other first-leg match.

Madrid could have opened the scoring after a free kick in the second minute but Oblak stopped Dani Carvajal's shot.

Two minutes later, Oblak blocked Gareth

Bale's effort after Atletico defender Diego Godin had failed to make a clearance, and the Atletico keeper followed up by saving Cristiano Ronaldo's free kick shortly afterward.

Oblak made a spectacular diving save to stop another shot by Bale in the 31st and, after denying both James Rodriguez and Luka Modric before the break, was also kept busy in the second half.

Atletico came out with renewed attacking energy after one of coach Diego Simeone's renowned halftime pep-talks, and midfielder Arda Turan missed a chance when he headed just wide of the near post in the 49th.

Madrid defender Sergio Ramos was fortunate not to be penalized for unleashing an elbow into

Mario Mandzukic's eye in the penalty area shortly afterward. The Croatia forward had to leave the field three times to receive treatment on a bleeding eyebrow.

After that, Madrid had to cope with increased pressure as Atletico launched several attacks.

"The first half was very different to the second half," Madrid captain and goalkeeper Iker Casillas said. "In the first half we were the better side but we were denied by some fantastic saves by Oblak. The tie is still open, very open."

Madrid missed a clear chance when striker Karim Benzema chose to pass to Bale instead of shooting, with the Welshman's shot being blocked by Diego Godin in the 69th minute.

Madrid coach Carlo An-

celotti, who started with his favored attacking formation of Ronaldo on the left, Bale running up the right flank and Benzema as striker, substituted the France international with Francisco "Isco" Roman in the 76th.

Simeone then brought on Raul Garcia — who has recovered from an arm injury — for Antoine Griezmann, Atletico's top scorer with 21 goals.

Fernando Torres replaced Jorge "Koke" Resurrecion in the 81st and Atletico could have scored a late winner, only for Mandzukic's shot to be blocked by defender Raphael Varane.

In the other quarterfinal, a controversial penalty handed Juventus a narrow 1-0 win over Monaco in the first leg, leaving everything to play for in next week's return match in the principality.

Arturo Vidal scored his first goal of this season's competition in the 57th minute of an entertaining match after Ricardo Carvalho was judged to have fouled Alvaro Morata in the box. AP

opinion

HK Observer

Robert Carroll



TV, HKU AND POLITICAL REFORM

Several key elements of Hong Kong's makeup are under threat according to recent news developments. Most importantly unless we get a deal for political reform governance is at stake. Secondly, unless the Chief Executive takes a rational rather than knee-jerk response to ATV's dilemma by allowing a chance to allow the one man who can turn the station around, Hong Kong free-to-air television may well be doomed. Thirdly, unless the University of Hong Kong is left alone to continue to do a great job as one of the very top research and teaching universities not only in Asia but the world according to rankings, we may put that reputation at risk.

Before I go further I must declare my interest in the latter two issues. I worked for both free-to-air broadcasters in Hong Kong - ATV and TVB - cumulatively for six years. Secondly, my wife has been continuously employed teaching at the University of Hong Kong full time for 15 years.

Does this mean I am lobbying for ATV or TVB? I have a certain emotional attachment to both in the form of loyalty of a former employee, but there are no advantages I could receive from them that I can think of.

Well ATV has once again the chance of salvation by an oft-mentioned "White Knight", and once again that white knight is Ricky Wong of HKTV; the spurned suitor of new TV licenses, who ironically had been courted by the then-government to do so. Reportedly the only opponent to the issuing of Wong's had been Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, who opposed his entire Executive Council when the license bid was up for approval. A long-delayed Executive Council meeting to yah or nay renewal of ATV's broadcast license was rushed into action the same day as Ricky Wong made news with a supposed deal to take over ATV. Coincidence?

This time Wong has very sensibly and reasonably suggested that he take over funding the ailing station in exchange for providing programming and getting a fifty-fifty split in advertising revenue. If there was any belief that Wong was aiming at getting control over the station to further subversive political ends as seems to be a suspicion in establishment corners, surely multiple rejections for his takeover of ATV will have wised Wong up to the fact that he must allay fears about his intentions. He is just a businessman after all, not a politician or political crusader. His internet TV programmes are popular with the young unlike yesterdays' leftover offerings from TVB and ATV who have been stuck in the mud with their programming for decades.

So once again the University of Hong Kong is being challenged by the establishment; this time in the shape of ExCo member, Arthur Lee. Lee declared that HKU's rankings went down because some professors attended Occupy Central. What a load of hogwash. The University's Academic staff Association is threatening to sue Lee. Go for it guys. This is the new man in line for a top post at HKU, chairman of the University Council. What happened to that great Chinese virtue, harmony?

The revised plan for political reform legislation will soon be put to the Legislative Council for approval. If there is some movement and relaxation of election conditions, with a proviso that the reform process will continue and not stall, then what's being called universal suffrage, may take place we should go for it. The alternative, to spend another ten years restarting the reform process, may just bring us back to square one but in ten years' time.

THE BUZZ BRAZILIAN TEAMS ON ALERT BECAUSE OF DENGUE FEVER OUTBREAK

Brazilian teams are on alert because of a dengue fever outbreak that has already affected some of the country's top clubs.

Three players were diagnosed with the mosquito-borne disease this week, including Corinthians striker Paolo Guerrero.

Players have been forced to use insect repellent during practice sessions and clubs have

asked health officials to check their training centers for mosquito breeding sites.

In addition to Guerrero, Palmeiras reserve goalkeeper Aranha and young Santos striker Leo Cittadini also have been diagnosed with the disease and won't be able to help their teams in the final stages of the Sao Paulo state championship this month.

Turkish PM says pope joined 'evil front' against Turkey



Catholicos Aram I, the spiritual head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, left, walks past Pope Francis

Desmond Butler, Istanbul

ADDING to angry comments about Pope Francis' description of the Ottoman-era killing of Armenians as genocide, Turkey's prime minister said yesterday that the pontiff has joined "an evil front" plotting against Turkey.

Ahmet Davutoglu made the comments at an event in Ankara outlining the ruling party's platform for June parliamentary elections and presenting its candidates. He called the pope's description of the killings of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians as "the first ge-

nocide of the 20th century" unjust. Turkey responded to the pope's words Sunday by recalling its ambassador to the Vatican.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of World War I, an event widely viewed by scholars as genocide.

Turkey, however, has insisted that the toll has been inflated, and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest, not genocide. It has fiercely lobbied to prevent countries from officially recognizing the massacres as genocide.

"An evil front is being for-

med before us...Now the pope has joined it and these plots," Davutoglu said.

He said Turkey was willing to confront its history, but added: "We won't allow our nation to be insulted through history, we won't allow Turkey to be blackmailed through historic disputes."

Earlier, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan defended Turkey's present-day treatment of Armenians when asked about a resolution on the killings that the European Parliament is expected to consider.

"There are 100,000 Armenians who are either Turkish citizens or not citizens in my country. Have they been submitted to any different treatment?" he said. "They benefit from all kinds of opportunities. We could deport them, but we don't. They are guests in our country."

He said that any resolution by the European parliament would be irrelevant, because Turkey could not accept that its history included genocide.

"Whatever decision they take it will go in one ear and go out the other," he said. "It is not possible for the Turkish Republic to accept such a sin, such a crime." **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	75-105 Bad
Ambient	85-115 Bad

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES The Philippine military says a Muslim rebel commander whose group has pledged support to the Islamic State group has died following a long ailment and was replaced by a Middle East-trained militant.



ITALY The U.N. refugee agency says the shipwreck in the Mediterranean this week, in which 400 migrants are presumed to have died, is among the deadliest single incidents in the last decade. The tragedy comes amid an unprecedented wave of migration toward Europe from Africa and the Middle East. The Italian Coast Guard said it rescued nearly 10,000 people at sea since Friday, which was an unprecedented rate in such a short period, according to spokesman, Cmdr. Filippo Marini. UNHCR Italy spokeswoman Barbara Molinaro says 900 migrants have died or gone missing at sea so far this year.

SOUTH AFRICA More than 2,000 foreigners have sought shelter in refugee camps in the coastal city of Durban after deadly attacks on immigrants, a South African aid group said yesterday. Five people have been killed and 74 people arrested since attacks against immigrants began at the end of March, said police spokesman Col. Jay Naicker in a statement.

INDIA A southern Indian city is shut down by protests after police killed 20 suspected sandalwood smugglers in the forests of Andhra Pradesh state.

GREECE The Standard and Poor's rating agency downgraded Greece's credit grade further into junk status, saying the country's financial commitments would be unsustainable without "deep economic reform or further relief."

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The other side of the city. A top view of San Malo, taken from the Inner Harbor, with the abandoned Grande Hotel in the foreground on a rare sunny day. When will the old Kuok Chai, a piece of the 20th century history puzzle, recover its glory days?