

LOCAL YOUTH UNINTERESTED IN SCIENCE

A Nobel laureate says the education system in Asia must change in order to engage more young people in science

P2



US-BASED UNION ON THE WATCH FOR JUNKETS

P3 GAMING



BLAST AT COLOANE POWER STATION

A fire at the Coloane power station injured a worker after a generator malfunctioned and caused an explosion

P3

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

MALAYSIAN police said yesterday that they have detained 12 men with suspected links to the Islamic state group who are believed to be plotting attacks on strategic government targets in the country.



KAZAKHSTAN Voters turned out in abundance at polling stations yesterday for a presidential election guaranteed to overwhelmingly reconfirm the incumbent, Nursultan Nazarbayev, 74, who has ruled over the former Soviet republic for more than 25 years.

More on [backpage](#)

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Med
traffickers
are acting
like tour
operators
says
investigator

F1

Death toll from Nepal earthquake tops 2,500.

P11



Hospital publicizes new infant death, doctors call for vaccination

P4

Catarina Pinto

THE education system in Asia must be improved in order to engage more young people in science, said Nobel Prize winner Shuji Nakamura. The Japanese professor, who invented blue LED lighting, told the Times that, "although children in elementary school are very much interested in science, when they go on to high school they're too focused on the national entrance examination."

Alongside Isamu Akasaki and Hiroshi Amano, Nakamura received the 2014 Nobel Prize for Physics, "for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources."

According to the Nobel Prize official website, blue LEDs proved to be much more difficult to create. The blue light LED has allowed for the production of more modern energy-efficient white lamps, and enabled the creation of color LED screens.

Speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of the Blue LED Exhibition, on display at the Macau Science Center until May 6, Professor Nakamura stated, "It seems the purpose of the education system, especially in Asia, is just to go to a famous university, and that's why we do not have as many young people interested in science here."

"When they're children they are very interested, but we need to think of how we can change the education system because young people need to focus on science rather than being

NOBEL LAUREATE | SHUJI NAKAMURA

Education system should change to get youth involved in science

too concerned about entering a famous university," said the Japanese Nobel Laureate, who is currently a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

When he and his colleagues made the first blue LEDs in the early 1990s, Professor Nakamura did not imagine it would someday be widely used by millions across the world. "When I started I only expected that [blue] LED could be used for displays like those in a football or baseball stadium where we have big LED screens," he told The Times.

According to a BBC report, red



Young people need to focus on science rather than being too concerned about entering a famous university

SHUJI NAKAMURA

and green LEDs had been around for quite some time. Blue LEDs posed a challenge for scientists back then; without them, the three colors could not be mixed to produce the white light we now see in LED-based computers or TV screens.

Blue LEDs are now widely used in our daily lives: inside the lights and screens of smartphones, or white LED lamps used in many households and offices.

Mr Nakamura noted that the blue LED lamps are much more energy-efficient than conventional lighting such as incandescent or fluorescent lamps.

"By using LED, we can reduce energy consumption and it can contribute a lot to minimizing global warming," he stressed.

The professor recalled that the use of LED lighting is particularly helpful in a city like Macau. "Macau enjoys many different kinds of lighting, especially at night. Many people are trying to use LED in order to reduce energy consumption," he added. "By reducing energy consumption, they can reduce air pollution too."

The Nobel Laureate gave a public lecture on Friday at the Macau Science Center, which organized the event in cooperation

with the Association for Promotion of Science and Technology.

The event was also sponsored by casino operator MGM Macau. The company took the opportunity to consult with Professor Nakamura on promoting sustainability within its facilities.

The director of Facilities Management at MGM Macau, Peter Chan, told the Times that the casino operator has implemented a process to save more energy and water. "If we have efficient lighting we can cut down on our energy consumption bill. But at the same time we need lighting with nice colors. So the professor has a very nice product," he acknowledged.

Professor Nakamura told reporters that LED lighting is more expensive, but considering the low energy usage, users get their money back within one year.

Throughout the public lecture, the Nobel Laureate spoke of the challenges encountered to invent the blue LED and its significance, while also addressing his experience of winning a Nobel Prize.

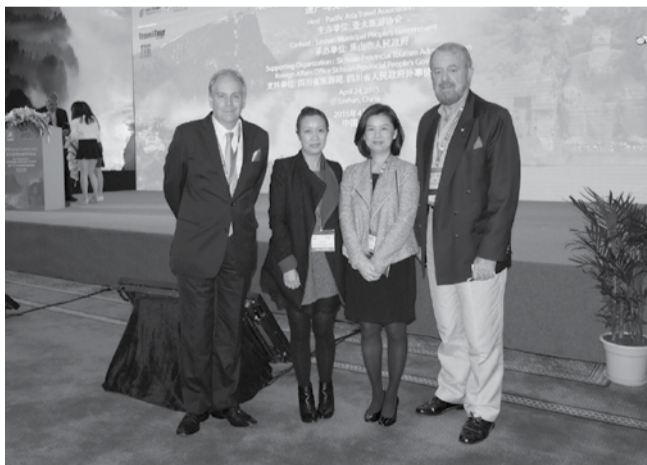
The Blue LED Exhibition is on display at the Macau Science Center until May 6 and is free of charge.

TOURISM

MGTO attends PATA Board meeting in Sichuan

THE Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) attended the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Board Meeting held in Leshan, Sichuan province yesterday. Throughout the last few days of the conference, MGTO also joined the PATA Annual Summit, the Annual General Meeting and other key meetings of the association.

The Head of MGTO's Communication and External Relations Depart-



Kathy Iong (second from right) with PATA CEO Mario Hardy (first from left) and new PATA Chairman Kevin Murphy

ment, Kathy Iong, was in Leshan for the event, where she represented MGTO at the PATA Board Meeting. MGTO is one of the PATA Board members for the years 2014-2016, hence its seat at the meeting. MGTO also attended the PATA Annual General Meeting yesterday, which was followed by the announcement of a new PATA chairman and vice chairman, Kevin Murphy and Andrew Jones, respectively.

The four-day event also included the PATA Annual Summit 2015 conference, held on Friday. This year's conference, themed "New Dimensions of Heritage and Culture Tourism", featured opening remarks from China National Tourism Administration Vice Chairman Li Shihong and officials from Sichuan, as well as presentations from domestic and international speakers on topics such as heritage site preservation,

social media in China and sustainable travel.

Founded in 1951, PATA is a non-profit membership association dedicated to the responsible development of the Asia-Pacific travel and tourism industry. Macau has been a PATA member since 1958. PATA members include 87 government, state and city tourism bodies; 31 airlines, airports and cruise lines; 61 educational institutions, and hundreds of travel industry companies.

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR_Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com

DESIGN EDITOR_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alberto Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Riscion, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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US-BASED International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) has sponsored the launch of a website called Macau Gaming Watch. The organization, which claims to represent over 2,000 stationary engineers in Nevada and previously launched the now-defunct website CasinoLeaks-Macau, calls the new site “independent” and “critical,” and aims for it to be “the first-stop source for people investigating gaming in Macau.”

With a local union affiliate in Las Vegas, the IUOE said it supports an organizing drive by employees of Wynn and Encore casinos, owned by Wynn Macau’s parent company, Wynn Resorts. “The IUOE is constantly organizing new members in Las Vegas. Whenever engaged in organizing or bargaining we seek to thoroughly research the company. Doing so helps the IUOE better represent its members,” stated the website.

The new site has relea-

GAMING

US-based union on the watch for junkets



sed information on Macau junkets and VIP gaming operators, including the “Neptune Guangdong Group” and “Hoi Fong” Entertainment. Drawing on the “recent tumult” in Macau’s

gaming industry, the IUOE said that it is now expanding its research to explore more elements of the industry. “The site will initially look into Wynn Macau’s junkets. However, we will later

explore the junket/VIP operators at other casinos as well,” it says.

The IUOE, declaring itself a shareholder of Wynn Resorts Ltd, has also launched a website called Cotai Land Deal. The site has presented its ongoing research as a real estate transaction of the Wynn Macau’s Cotai land, with key documents and findings.

Similarly, the new website said its findings are, “based on public records and publicly available information from Macau, Hong Kong, mainland China and other jurisdictions [...] They include corporate filings, stock exchange disclosures, court judgments, property records and regulatory documents.” **BY**

Blast at Coloane power station injures one CEM employee



THE power station in Coloane caught fire yesterday morning after a set of power generating units exploded at the station complex, wounding a male worker carrying out periodic inspections on-site.

The blaze, which broke out around 10:30 a.m, was extinguished within six minutes by the fire service that arrived on the scene shortly after. The Go8 generation unit at the power station reportedly experienced a blast that spanned around a 600 square meter area, with a local 53-year-old staff member’s forearms left slightly burned by the resulting heat wave. The injured, surnamed Tong, was said to be performing a routine patrol when the explosion took place and was later hospitalized for medical treatment. He has already been discharged from the hospital.

A total of five workers were working at the station complex at the time when the incident happened. Howe-

ver, the other four staff managed to evacuate on their own.

The explosion, which happened without warning at the Coloane station yesterday, did not trigger any power outages or instabilities in power supply in the city, a senior manager from the public utility company CEM Ip Kam Veng proclaimed. The company representative told media that an inquiry into the damaged equipment would start later after the firemen have dealt with the complicated environment at the complex.

According to him, the set of power generating units has been running for 19 years, with 6 more to go before reaching the supposed 25-year operation limit of similar equipment. Those units have always been subject to annual inspections and maintenance. The electricity company had already filed a scheme to the government for equipment unit updates before the incident. **Staff reporter**

CRIME

Suspected member of Korean prostitution ring arrested

A Korean man approached the police authorities at the airport asking for help over the weekend as he was subjected to illegal detention and physical violence by four other Korean men, one of whom was among the suspects of last week’s major Korean sexual manipulation scandal, said the Judiciary Police (PJ), who have already made an arrest.

The crime came to light after the 22-year-old Korean victim, awaiting his flight at the waiting room, actively sought official assistance from the police officers stationed there. He told them that he had been badly beaten and forced into flying back to Korea by one fellow countryman, reportedly one of the founders of the large-scale Korean prostitution ring busted by PJ last week.

Formerly hired as an interpreter for the syndicate, the victim was placed under illegal detention for hours last Friday after being attacked by the Korean man on bail in an apartment in the NAPE district, together with three other Koreans. Their partnership ceased as the man failed to pay the victim for the time he worked for the group. However, the Korean suspect thought the victim had tipped off the police authorities about their prostitution plot. He then coerced the victim to leave the city.

GGCT raises travel alert for Nepal

The city’s Tourism Crisis Management Office issued a travel caution yesterday afternoon, warning local citizens to ditch trips to the quake-ravaged country of Nepal. The office said it has so far received no requests for assistance made from there. The authorities also urged Chinese nationals currently in the country to exercise caution and adopt appropriate safety measures, as the area still remains vulnerable to aftershocks with inadequate resources and paralyzed traffic. Locals can dial a 24-hour travel hotline - (853) 2833 3000 for assistance. The contact number of the duty officer at the Embassy of China in Nepal is 00977-9801029888, and is also available for consular protection and assistance.

Donations for quake rescue efforts



The Macau Red Cross has donated MOP300,000 from its disaster relief funds to support the aid efforts in Nepal, which was struck by two massive earthquakes over the weekend. The donation has already been remitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Another local charitable group, Caritas Macau, also sought financial support by organizing fundraising activities at its own store, the Good Fortune Charity Shop. The group appealed to society to make financial contributions in support of the rescue operations in Nepal. Additionally, the two institutions have also created bank accounts for citizens who wish to make donations to the devastated nation. Separately, the World Vision of Hong Kong and Macau branches have funded a total of HKD 1.56 million to the relief operation underway in the affected areas of Nepal. The sum is expected to benefit 50,000 refugees. The city’s branch has created bank accounts to collect local donations for the humanitarian efforts.

Costs may halve with local crematory facilities

The head of the commerce chamber for the sector of interment services, Cheung Chi Wai, expects that the current costs associated with funeral services may halve if the city were to introduce facilities and venues for cremation to dispose of human remains in future. At present, the average cost required for dealing with a corpse could reach around MOP40 or 50,000, with around MOP15,000 spent on body preservation and transportation to the mainland for cremation, revealed the chamber president, adding that neighboring regions’ environment-friendly funeral practices could serve as good references. Last week, Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan expressed the government’s intent to build crematory facilities in new reclaimed areas, on a current affairs program hosted by Lotus TV Macau. In mid-February, some representatives from the commerce chamber also petitioned the authorities to erect local crematory venues and government-run funeral parlors, to meet the growing demand for local cremation and to avoid monopoly in the industry.

HEALTH

Hospital publicizes new infant death, doctors call for vaccination

Brook Yang

THE Health Bureau (SSM) revealed the news of a child's death induced by influenza. The case was only made public on Saturday, but happened some weeks earlier, after a three-year old boy was sent to the public hospital on April 5 for high fever with respiratory infection symptoms. The infant eventually died on April 8 due to epilepticus, consequential brain edema and multiple organ failure.

Doctors from the Conde de São Januário Central Hospital (CH-CSJ) explained that the main cause of the child's death was not the influenza B strain of the virus but multiple symptoms; however, the flu aggravated his primary diseases as an inducement.

The bureau held a press conference on Saturday, revealing the fatal case and calling for the public to strengthen their influenza prevention by vaccination. The head of SSM's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Lam Chung, stressed that the child could have



RENATO MARQUES

been prevented from the infection if he had been vaccinated.

According to the bureau, the hospital had repeatedly suggested inoculating the infant against the flu, but the family was concerned that the vaccination might worsen his underlying congenital diseases, namely congenital growth retardation and history of epilepsy.

The hospital further explained that the reason why the case wasn't released until two weeks after the incident was because "it took several doctors to discuss and seek the cause of death, and that the case might cause panic

among citizens if it was released without a precise investigation result."

Moreover, the authorities revealed that the boy was reported as sick during public holidays, where he didn't go to creche or out of the house. The family's domestic helper also showed respiratory infection symptoms during the period, but whether it was related to the child's infection was uncertain.

In Macau, the most common influenza cases are caused by the H1N1 and H3N2 strains of influenza A, as well as by influenza B. The peak period for the highly

contagious infection is from January to March every year. According to the city's monitoring date on influenza cases, in the past month, the pediatric department has seen the prevalence rate of influenza decline from 135 to 117 in every 1,000 children. However, the proportion of influenza B patients increased to 50 percent of all flu cases this month, representing five times that of the percentage in February.

While most patients are able to recover from the flu on their own within 2 to 7 days, the elderly, infants and chronically ill patients

face a bigger chance of developing complications or even death. The SSM stressed that vaccination has been the most effective means of preventing infectious disease; it urged that everyone in the community be vaccinated, in order to build an immunity barrier for vulnerable groups.

Accordingly, SSM has been offering free vaccinations since last September to those aged between 6 months to 17 years old, and above 60, as well as other residents with chronic diseases. So far, 86,000 residents have been vaccinated against influenza. The bureau said that the current vaccines are said to be effective against the popular influenza B virus, but are not effectively preventing the H3N2 strain. Therefore, it has introduced 10,000 doses of a new vaccine to prevent H3N2, and plans to start vaccinating elderly residents in early May.

SSM REFUTES RUMORS OVER VACCINE'S SAFETY

SSM STRESSED in a press release yesterday that some parents have a mistaken understanding about vaccines, as there have been rumors that have "seriously distorted the effectiveness and side effects of vaccines." The bureau indicated that vaccines can barely cause any severe harm or death,

while the chance of developing severe harm after contracting a disease that could've been prevented by vaccination is much higher. In addition, SSM attributed Macau's low occurrence of severe and fatal cases of influenza during flu seasons to "a relatively high coverage of vaccination."

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Jean-Jacques Annaud delivers lecture at MUST

Catarina Pinto

FRENCH film director Jean-Jacques Annaud gave a lecture to Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) students on Friday for the MUST International Film Exhibition Lecture. The lecture focused on Mr Annaud's latest film, "Wolf Totem," a Franco-Chinese production released earlier this month in Hong Kong.

Mr Annaud, the director of films such as Seven Years in Tibet (1997) and The Name of the Rose (1986), spoke before a packed room of students eager to know more details about the techniques he used when filming "Wolf Totem."

The film features student Chen Zhen, who is sent from Beijing to Inner Mongolia to teach shepherds, and ends up learning about their special bond with the wolf population.

The 2015 Chinese drama is based on a novel of the same name by Lu Jiamin.

Jean-Jacques Annaud told students how he managed to film "Wolf Totem" with real wolves and how it took about three years to train them.

Mr Annaud and his crew filmed "Wolf Totem" in Inner Mongolia over the course of one year, but he travelled there regularly for the past three years, since starting pre-production on the film.

The celebrated director's interest for photography and cinema started at a very young age, he told the students. He stressed his good fortune



Jean-Jacques Annaud

in being afforded opportunities to, "do movies with absolute freedom, including the one I just did."

He advised students pursuing cinema to focus on original storylines and films, which would give them a better chance at achieving fame. However, he also said when it comes to cinema, one needs to bear in mind that "the beauty of this industry is that a lot of it is unpredictable" and that even a small production film could become a blockbuster.

His 1997 film "Seven Years in Tibet" was banned in China, and the director was also reportedly banned from entering the country alongside starring actors Brad Pitt and David Thewlis. Nevertheless, he was still invited to chair the jury at the Shanghai Film Festival in 2012 and was later hired to direct "Wolf Totem."

According to the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, "Wolf Totem" was a huge success in mainland China, with more than 18 million spectators.

Elaine Wynn loses dissident drive to retain Wynn board seat

Christopher Palmeri

ELAINE Wynn lost her bid for re-election to the board of Wynn Resorts Ltd. after failing to win over enough shareholders to back her dissident campaign.

Wynn, 72, was asking investors to keep her on the board of the casino company co-founded by her ex-husband, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Steve Wynn, after other directors declined to renominate her. They said a legal dispute between the two over her voting rights is influencing board decisions.

The matter came to a vote at the annual meeting Friday in Las Vegas. Elaine headed into the meeting with more than 19 percent of the votes in her corner. She and her ex-husband, 73, control that amount, and he's obliged by contractual agreements to support her candidacy.

"While I am certainly disappointed by the result of today's vote, I am hopeful that I have once again served as an agent for change and improvement for this company, which I love so deeply," Elaine Wynn said in a statement later.

She attended the meeting, but didn't speak. The board's recommended nominees, John J. Hagenbuch and J. Edward Virtue, were re-elected. The



Elaine Wynn

I am hopeful that I have once again served as an agent for change and improvement for this company, which I love so deeply

ELAINE WYNN

th by the Wynn Resorts board: Hagenbuch and Virtue. Glass, Lewis & Co. told clients to vote for the company's nominees and not Elaine Wynn, saying it believed management's position that her legal dispute is influencing her board decisions. Institutional Shareholder Services Inc., another adviser, said its clients shouldn't vote for any of the nominees, citing what it said were longstanding problems with executive pay and perks at Wynn Resorts.

Elaine Wynn has been embroiled in litigation with her ex-husband over her 9.4 percent stake in the Las Vegas-based casino company. The dispute dates back to an agreement the couple had with Kazuo Okada, an early Wynn Resorts investor, that gave Steve Wynn control over shares held by all three.

Elaine Wynn, whose 9.54 million shares are valued at about \$1.23 billion, sought to end that agreement in 2012, a move Steve Wynn is fighting. Okada's holding was redeemed by the company in a separate dispute.

"I really think it's terrible," said Ellyce Rumick, an investor who flew in from Deerfield, Illinois, for the meeting and backed Elaine Wynn. "You have to have a woman's perspective."

Stephen Chang, a banker from Orange County, California, backed the company's candidates while acknowledging Elaine Wynn's contributions and her desire to control her voting stake.

"There's a better way to do it," he said, referring to her fight to gain control of the shares.

Bloomberg

ONE SHOT NEWS



The Macau Anglican College organized its 4th Science Exhibition last week. The event aimed at encouraging students to learn by experimenting how science works outside the classroom



International Museum Day carnival

In celebration of "World Telecommunications and Information Society Day", "International Museum Day" and "International Children's Day", visitors will be granted free entrance to the Communications Museum from May 14 to 17 (Thursday to Sunday) and May 30 to 31 (Saturday to Sunday). The International Museum Day 2015 postcard issued by Macao Post will be distributed for free at the Museum's Reception Counter from 9.30a.m. on May 14 to 5.30p.m. on May 17.

Expert calls for specific legislation on fundamental rights

Catarina Pinto

PAULO Cardinal, legal adviser to the Legislative Assembly over the past 20 years, launched his book "Studies on Fundamental Rights in Macau's legal system" last week at the Rui Cunha Foundation. Mr Cardinal believes that although the city's Basic Law contemplates citizens' fundamental rights, specific legislation to safeguard these rights should be drafted.

Speaking on the sidelines of the book launch, Mr Cardinal noted, "The Basic Law and joint declaration already contemplate a comprehensive list of fundamental rights, but it can always be improved."

Highlighting some areas in which further legislation could be drafted, Mr Cardinal recalled the need for "a general law contemplating fundamental rights." "We need a law safeguarding the exercise of fundamental ri-



Paulo Cardinal (right)

ghts, establishing the limits of these fundamental rights, and addressing matters like how we can follow up on court decisions if we are set before a violation of a fundamental right."

Mr Cardinal recalled that Macau's legal system used to feature "amparo" appeals, which worked as a remedy for the protection of constitutional rights. He added that a similar mechanism should be introduced focusing solely on the defense of fundamental rights.

Specific legislation for trade

unions is also needed, he stressed. "Another area where there's a clear gap is in the universal freedom of association. We have the right to form unions but we do not have a trade union law. If the Basic Law allows for the creation of unions then it indicates there should be a trade union law regulating those unions and the freedom of association [activities]," he acknowledged.

Mr Cardinal added that there's also a need for specific legislation against discrimination based on gender, sexual orienta-

tion and race.

Upon being asked about non-resident workers' rights, Mr Cardinal acknowledged that they could be better safeguarded: "Macau has a tradition of welcoming refugees and of needing people from outside to help build up its economy and society, and therefore we cannot look to those people as mere 'tools' that came here to build hotels or roads; or serve at our homes and restaurants. We need to ensure they have rights; for instance, this week it has been debated that non-residents should have access to the social security system."

Presenting his book, which gathers several of his articles written between 1993 and 2015, Mr Cardinal stressed that Macau needs further studies and research addressing its legal system. "We need to focus on studying, researching and training in order to improve Macau's legal system," he said.

In addition, he recalled the lack of translators. "Legal translation is very demanding and we do not have enough translators (...) Macau's particular legal system can exist only as long as it is easily thought and used in Chinese as it is in Portuguese." Mr Cardinal stressed that there's also a need to further citizens' knowledge of the MSAR's legal system.

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Adam Minter

ANALYSIS

Cirque du Soleil will have a tough time in China

IT'S no secret that Cirque du Soleil has been in need of a savior. After spreading to 271 cities around the world in the 1990s and 2000s, the producer of elaborate circus events has more recently hit hard times. In 2013, the company laid off 400 employees, mostly at its Montreal headquarters, citing rising expenses and the global economic downturn. It looked like Cirque had finally slipped off its high wire.

Just in the nick of time, a Chinese company seems to have swooped down to stop its plummet. Last weekend, Fosun International, China's largest private conglomerate, announced that it had acquired a minority stake in Cirque du Soleil in order to add a "unique element" to what the company calls its "happy lifestyle area" (which includes hotels and resorts, including Club Med) that target China's growing middle class. It seems like a clear win-win: Cirque gets a massive new market for its kitsch, and Fosun gets to shift its business model away from China's slowing real estate sector.

But Cirque du Soleil's saga isn't over quite yet. There's plenty of reason to doubt the Chinese public will have much interest in what Cirque is selling. Fosun's challenge will be to convince the company's creative staff that Canada's idea of "happy lifestyle" entertainment doesn't overlap with China's.

Cirque du Soleil has been active in China for the past decade, but it hasn't ever shown much talent for entertaining Chinese audiences. In 2007, it staged its first-ever China shows in Shanghai. They were well received, though not particularly well attended. And why would they be? In China, at least, Cirque du Soleil offers very little in acrobatic spectacle (rope tricks, spinning plates, death defying heights) that the Chinese haven't been



Aspect of a Cirque du Soleil show

doing on stage, in their own circus performances, for centuries. In fact, in most large Chinese cities there are several expertly staged choreographed acrobatic shows that cater to Chinese audiences – and for cheaper ticket prices than what Cirque du Soleil charges.

Part of the problem is that Cirque du Soleil has resisted catering to local Chinese tastes. The best example of this misguided approach was the Canadian national pavilion that the company was commissioned to design for Expo 2010, better known as the Shanghai World's Fair. Prior to its opening in April 2010, I interviewed Johnny Boivin, Cirque's Director of Creation, who explained to me the company's approach to the building:

"So I said why don't we go really honestly about who we

are... and talk to the Chinese without using the language. In this project we don't speak but rather we show people images so they know what we are talking about."

Boivin was true to his vision – to a fault. Visitors to the pavilion were ushered through two rooms. The first provided an opportunity to peddle a bike on a virtual tour of Canada; the second was a darkened room where visitors were asked to sit on the floor and watch atmospheric images of Montreal bleed into each other on a screen.

Whatever its aesthetic merits, this showed a complete misunderstanding of what Chinese audiences expect in exchange for buying tickets (and standing in line, as they sometimes did for hours at Expo 2010). The first thing is that no paying Chinese audience would ever vo-

lunteer to sit on the floor; in the West, this might resonate with theatergoers eager for a shift in perspective, but from the Chinese perspective it comes across as cheap and uninviting.

More importantly, Cirque du Soleil's sedate aesthetic bears little relation to the spectacle and bling that middle class Chinese tend to associate with paid entertainment. No surprise, most visitors walked quickly through Cirque's exhibition with little more than a glance at the images, and then wandered off in search of national pavilions that offered more excitement.

Sometimes the company seemed to neglect even more basic sorts of market research. In 2012, it pulled out of a 10-year contract at The Venetian resort in the Chinese casino mecca of Macau after disappointing ticket sales. Cirque had somehow

failed to understand that Macau wasn't a typical tourist destination, but a city associated in the Chinese imagination with gambling and other unsavory financial dealings. Needless to

“
Cirque had somehow failed to understand that Macau wasn't a typical tourist destination

say, the city's traditional clientele rarely brings family along.

None of this is to suggest that Fosun is wrong for buying Cirque du Soleil. At the very least, its newly developed expertise at designing theaters will prove useful to Fosun's real estate and hotel developers. Moreover, given the rapidly growing demand by China's middle class for "happy lifestyle" products, it would be hard for Cirque's shows to prove a total failure. Chinese tourism is booming, and if a Cirque du Soleil production is the only entertainment available at a Fosun-owned hotel or resort, the guests – who won't necessarily be Chinese – might just be convinced to go and see it.

But for now, Cirque du Soleil is just another Chinese-owned circus. Unlike the others, though, this one still needs a Chinese audience. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM OFFERS RECREATIONAL TOUR TO IFT STUDENTS



On April 21 and 23, MGM Macau organized a recreational tour for more than 60 Hotel Management students from the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT). The tour showcased a wide range of the hotel's non-gaming facilities and other hotel services to teach students the importance of providing guests with diversified leisure experiences. During the visit, the students toured the current

art installation Valkyrie Octopus, by contemporary Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos.

On April 21, MGM Macau partnered with Special Olympics Macau and the Charity Association of Macau Business Readers to organize an Art Workshop for more than 60 Special Olympics athletes from different parts of the world, to finish six canvas paintings together with MGM volunteer team members.

Throughout the visit the students had the opportunity to not only expand their knowledge about the hotel facilities, but also to exchange their ideas and thoughts on the arts, cultural exchange and social responsibility commitment initiatives provided by the hotel.

LIVE SCREENING OF PACQUIAO VS. MAYWEATHER

Following his unanimous victory against Chris Algieri at The Venetian Macao last November, Manny Pacquiao (57-5-2, 38 KOs) will lace up his gloves once more on May 2 (U.S. time) to face Floyd Mayweather (47-0, 26 KOs) in Las Vegas. Locals and guests will be able to enjoy the "fight of the century" at the only venue in Macau with access to the live closed circuit feed, The Venetian Macao, from 8:30 a.m. Sunday, May 3.

In addition to the main event, the live feed will also broadcast two other bouts. Pacquiao, the Boxing Writers Association of America's "Fighter of the Decade" for the 2000s, and Mayweather, an



11-time world champion in five weight divisions and the universally recognized number one pound-for-pound fighter in the world, will face off in a welterweight world championship unification bout.

BACKSTREET BOYS BLOW CROWD AWAY AT THE VENETIAN MACAO

The Backstreet Boys brought their brand of boy band magic to the stage of The Venetian Macao's Cotai Arena last Friday night with their In A World Like This Tour. The concert, presented by Live Nation Lushington, drew a diverse crowd who were rewarded with a performance by the biggest-selling boy band of all time.

The five members proved that they had not lost any of their vigor as they sang and danced through their extensive back catalogue, including hits like "All I Have To Give," "As Long As You Love Me" and "I'll Never Break Your Heart". The band also performed several songs from their new album "Permanent Stain", "Breathe" and "Show 'em (What You're Made Of)".



Consisting of Brian Littrell, Kevin Richardson, Howie Dorough, A.J. McLean and Nick Carter, the multiple award-winning and Grammy-nominated group has sold more than 130 million records worldwide and is recognized as the best-selling boy group in history. Not only did their first 9 albums all debut in the top 10 on the Billboard Top 100, the band has also gone gold and platinum in 46 countries.

Angola plans to raise external funding



A worker counts 500 denomination kwanza currency banknotes in an office in Luanda, Angola

THE Angolan government plans to raise USD10 billion to build infrastructure that it considers essential, including a new oil refinery, the Angolan Economy minister told the Financial Times.

“There are projects that have been delayed, others have not yet begun and there are some in progress that will be delayed,” said Abraão Gourgel in an interview with the newspaper, adding that taking into account that most of the infrastructure projects were being funded foreign credit lines the impact will be reduced.

In order to obtain the necessary funds for construction of infrastructure, including a new refinery that will cost US\$6 billion, the Economy Minister announced that the government later this year would issue Eurobonds worth between US\$1 billion and

US\$1.5 billion.

The World Bank is also putting together a loan of US\$500 million, the first of its kind for Angola, with Gourgel saying that credit lines with several countries, such as Brazil, China and Spain, may be increased.

Overall, the government of Angola wants to raise US\$15.2 billion by issuing debt in the domestic market and US\$10 billion in foreign markets.

Angola’s economy, which depends on exports of oil and diamonds, has been suffering the effects of the drop in the price of oil, and the national currency, the kwanza, suffered a sharp devaluation, and is currently worth 110 kwanzas per US dollar.

In the interview, the Angolan minister said the fall in oil prices would be an incentive for Angola to diversify its economy. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Int’l construction fair held in 2016

THE 1st Mozambique International Construction Fair is due to take place in the first half of 2016 under an agreement signed Thursday in Maputo by the Portuguese Industrial Association Foundation and the Mozambican Institute for Export Promotion (Ipex).

The document for organisation of the fair was signed by Maria João Rocha de Matos, for the AIP Foundation and João José Macaringue on behalf of Ipex, during a ceremony that was attended by over 200 Portuguese and Mozambican businesspeople.

The Tektónica Moçambique and Mozambique-Portugal Cooperation prizes and awards were also given at the meeting and the Ipex chairman received the Personality 2015 award.

The Tektónica Moçambique fair ended Thursday in Maputo at the end of the Mozambique-Portugal 2015 business week organised by the AIP Foundation, with the support of several public and private institutions from both countries. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Academy: Nurturing the Next Generation

The educational arm of the company is aiming to build on its 10 years of work in the local community

The Sands China Academy is one of the ways Sands China Ltd. gives back to the local community by both developing team members and other local talent in Macao.



Participants and special guests attend the Introduction of Sands China Academy & Sharing Session on the Local Talent Development Programme event at The Venetian Theatre.

Training is the keystone in the company’s service development strategy. As part of the Sands China Academy, and to support the government’s education initiative to develop local talent, in 2008 the Adelson Advanced Education Centre was built as the primary training centre for Sands China team members.

In 2014, Sands China provided more than one million hours of training for Team Members with over 80% of the attendees being local. The training covers 56 different scopes including but not limited to language skills, proper application of work techniques, professional skills, product knowledge, service excellence and leadership. For the training of professional skills, the Table Games Training Centre alone conducted 2,708 classes last year, providing a total of 975,178 hours of training for dealers. To date, the company has offered over 15,000 promotions which have involved nearly 13,000 local team members. More than 2,100 local team members have been promoted three times or more, and almost 2,000 have been promoted to leadership roles.

The Academy has two main components: the Team Member Training & Development Programme, which focuses on providing training opportunities to help team members to move up in the company, and the Professional Development of Macao Locals (non-employees) Programme, which aims to develop and support non-team members, including college students, retail professionals and other hospitality workers.

The Team Member Training & Development programme includes a wide range of programmes and classes designed specifically to improve individual performance that will in turn benefit the company and Macao.

One of the most important courses is the recurrent education programme which enables Macao ID card holders who did not complete secondary education to finally do that, putting them on the first rung of the career ladder.

University diplomas are then within reach for local team members through a partnership with the Centre of Continuing Education of the University of Macau. The diploma programme in business has been developed to help supervisory-level team members with a solid foundation of knowledge of the business environment.



A lecture in progress at the Adelson Advanced Education Centre.



Team members at a training session in a classroom in the Adelson Advanced Education Centre.

The Leadership Development Programme (itself a part of the Team Member Training & Development programme) aims to create the leaders of the future by giving participants access to a network of business leaders, professionals, senior government officials, and leading scholars in the hospitality and MICE industries.

Internationally, Sands China has also invested in its local leaders by sponsoring them to attend the Advanced Program in Casino & Hospitality Management (APCHM). The program was delivered by top ranking business schools for executive MBAs in the world, including the CATÓLICA-LISBON School of Business and Economics in Portugal and the Kellogg School of Management in Chicago.

Sands China also offers programmes to local professionals in addition to team members, including scholarships, internships, career talks, professional seminars and lectures delivered by professionally certified senior executives. Established in November 2013, the Sands Retail Academy aims to enhance service quality for retail professionals at Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Venetian and Shoppes at Cotai Central. So far, around 1,000 retail employees have participated in the training courses, and 438 employees from 130 retailers graduated.

Finally, there is the Career Experience Opportunity Programme. Aimed at providing work experience for university students who wish to join the hospitality industry, it provides hands-on training in hotel, catering and culinary management. It culminates with an opportunity to be employed as a supervisory level (or above) trainee upon graduation.

Sands China will continue to invest in local team members to encourage them to be world-class in their fields and pave the way for them to be the leaders of tomorrow, building Macao’s future as a world center of tourism and leisure.

ONE of five leading Chinese feminist advocates said she went through lengthy and verbally abusive interrogations after she was conditionally released in a case that has attracted international attention.

Wu Rongrong, a 30-year-old advocate for women's rights, said in a statement released Saturday that she endured an eight-hour police interrogation in a hotel room in the eastern city of Hangzhou. She said her interrogators insulted her at length, calling her selfish and ungrateful and telling her that she brought shame to social activists.

"I finally walked out of the horrible Room 226 at 10:30 p.m.," Wu wrote. "In cold winds, I was full of tears. I felt both my body and my mind were near collapse. I didn't know my way home. I was helpless and scared."

Wu could not be reached as she was banned from speaking to the media, but her lawyer Lu Zhoubin confirmed the statement's authenticity.

A policeman who Wu alleged was involved in her interrogations declined to be interviewed, and Beijing police did not immediately respond to a faxed request for comments.

Wu and four others were detained last month, just ahead of the International Women's Day, as they were planning to hand out stickers and flyers against sexual harassment in several Chinese cities.

The detentions of Wu, Li Tingting, Wei Tingting, Zheng Churan and Wang Man drew an unusual amount of attention

Feminist: Long hours of interrogations after release



Indian women's rights activists wear masks of The Beijing Five to express their solidarity and demand their immediate release in New Delhi on March 18, 2015

overseas. Foreign governments, rights groups and luminaries including U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton criticized the arrests as an overreaction by a repressive Chinese government.

The women were released after 37 days without any for-

mal charge, but they remain criminal suspects. Foreign governments and rights groups have been urging Chinese authorities to drop the investigations. China's foreign ministry has responded by saying the investigations are an internal judicial affair that foreign entities

should not interfere with.

Lu Jun of the non-governmental organization Yirenping said the police acts against Wu were unethical.

Wu's lawyer said Wu is obligated to answer to summons for police interrogations but argued that Wu and others are

innocent. "The charge against them stems from an activity that did not occur at all," the lawyer said.

He said Wu also was ill-treated while in detention when her medicine was withheld for days and when she was forced to sleep on the floor. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippines urges ASEAN to stop Beijing

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

THE Philippines yesterday urged its fellow Southeast Asian countries to take immediate steps to halt land reclamation by China in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, warning that failure to do so will see Beijing take "de facto control" of the area.

Malaysia's foreign minister, however, said that the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations will avoid confrontation with China and continue negotiations with Beijing on a binding code of conduct that would govern behavior in the area.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told a meeting of



Protesters display placards during a rally at the Chinese Consulate at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines. The placard urges China to "stop its reclamation activities in the Mischief Reef"

ASEAN foreign ministers that if China's construction of artificial islands on reefs claimed by other countries is allowed to be completed, Beijing will

impose its claim over more than 85 percent of the sea.

Rosario urged the grouping to "stand up" to China by urging it to halt its

reclamation work, which threatened to militarize the region, infringe on rights of other states and damage the marine environment.

He warned that China, which has been dragging its foot on ASEAN's push for a code of conduct, will aim to complete its reclamation activities before it agrees to conclude the code. If this happens, he said the code will legitimize China's reclamation.

"The threats posed by these massive reclamations are real and cannot be ignored or denied," he said. "ASEAN should assert its leadership, centrality and solidarity. ASEAN must show the world that it has the resolve to act in the common interest."

China, Taiwan and

ASEAN members Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Brunei have overlapping claims in the South China Sea, which includes busy sea lanes and rich fishing grounds, and is believed to have large undersea deposits of oil and natural gas.

ASEAN has maintained a cautious stand in the dispute to avoid angering China, a key trading partner.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman told reporters that ASEAN is "very much concerned" about the reclamation, but that sending an ultimatum to China to stop work could backfire and hurt peace and stability in the region.

"It will be much appreciated if China can stop work and sit down with

ASEAN countries to find a solution," he said. "ASEAN must send the right signal and make the right move. We must avoid any measures that are counterproductive either to ourselves or to China."

Officials from ASEAN nations and China are scheduled to meet in May and June to discuss the issue, he said.

The Philippines filed a case with an international arbitration tribunal in 2013 challenging China's claim.

Beijing has defended the reclamation, saying it is Chinese territory and the structures are for public service use and to support Chinese fishermen.

Anifah has said that ASEAN leaders are expected to raise concerns over Chinese land reclamation at their two-day summit starting Monday and will seek to speed up plans for the code of conduct with China. **AP**

Binaj Gurubacharya and Katy Daigle, Kathmandu

NEPAL

More than 2,500 confirmed dead in earthquake

SLEEPING in the streets and shell-shocked, the Nepalese cremated the dead and dug through rubble for the missing yesterday, a day after a massive Himalayan earthquake killed more than 2,500 people. Aftershocks tormented them, making buildings sway and sending panicked Kathmandu residents running into the streets.

The cawing of crows mixed with terrified screams as the worst of the aftershocks — magnitude 6.7 — pummeled the capital city. It came as plane-loads of supplies, doctors and relief workers from neighboring countries began arriving in this poor Himalayan nation. No deaths or injuries were reported from early yesterday afternoon's quake, but it took an emotional toll.

"The aftershocks keep coming ... so people don't know what to expect," said Sanjay Karki, Nepal country head for global aid agency Mercy Corps. "All the open spaces in Kathmandu are packed with people who are camping outdoors. When the aftershocks come you cannot imagine the fear. You can hear women and children crying."

Saturday's magnitude 7.8 earthquake spread horror from Kathmandu to small villages and to the slopes of Mount Everest, triggering an avalanche that buried part of the base camp packed with foreign climbers preparing to make their summit attempts. At least 18 people died there and 61 were injured.

The earthquake centered outside Kathmandu, the capital, was the worst to hit the South Asian nation in over 80 years. It destroyed swaths of the oldest neighborhoods of Kathmandu, and was strong enough to be felt all across parts of India, Bangladesh, China's region of Tibet and Pakistan.

By yesterday afternoon, authorities said at least 2,430 people had died in Nepal alone, with 61 more deaths in India and a few in other neighboring countries. At least 721 of them died in Kathmandu alone, and the number of injured nationwide was upward of 5,000. With search and rescue efforts far from over, it was unclear how much the death toll would rise.

But outside of the oldest neighborhoods, many in Kathmandu were surprised by how few modern structures — the city is largely a collection of small, poorly constructed brick apartment buildings — collapsed in the quake. While aid workers cautioned that many buildings could have sustained serious structural damage, it was also clear that the death toll would have been far higher had more buildings caved in.

Aid workers also warned that the situation could be far wor-



Volunteers work to remove debris at the historic Dharahara tower, a city landmark, after an earthquake in Kathmandu

se near the epicenter. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered near Lamjung, about 80 kilometers northwest of Kathmandu, in the Gorkha district.

Roads to that area were blocked by landslides, hindering rescue teams, said chief district official Prakash Subedi. Teams were trekking through mountain trails to reach remote villages, and helicopters would also be deployed, he said by telephone.

■ Saturday's magnitude 7.8 earthquake spread horror from Kathmandu to the slopes of Mount Everest

Local aid worker Matt Darvas said in a statement issued by his group, World Vision, that he heard that many remote mountain villages near the epicenter may have been completely buried by rock falls.

The villages "are literally perched on the sides of large

mountain faces and are made from simple stone and rock construction," Darvas said. "Many of these villages are only accessible by 4WD and then foot, with some villages hours and even entire days' walks away from main roads at the best of times."

Nepal's worst recorded earthquake in 1934 measured 8.0 and all but destroyed the cities of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan.

With people fearing more quakes, tens of thousands of Nepalese spent Saturday night outside under chilly skies, or in cars and public buses. They were jolted awake by strong aftershocks early yesterday.

"There were at least three big quakes at night and early morning. How can we feel safe? This is never-ending and everyone is scared and worried," said Kathmandu resident Sundar Sah. "I hardly got much sleep. I was waking up every few hours and glad that I was alive."

As day broke, rescuers aided by international teams set out to dig through rubble of buildings — concrete slabs, bricks, iron beams, wood — to look for survivors.

In the Kalanki neighborhood of Kathmandu, police rescuers finally extricated a man lying under a dead body, both of

them buried beneath a pile of concrete slabs and iron beams. Before his rescue, his family members stood nearby, crying and praying. Police said the man's legs and hips were totally crushed.

Hundreds of people in Kalanki gathered around the collapsed Lumbini Guest House, once a three-story budget hotel and restaurant frequented by Nepalese. They watched with fear and anticipation as a single backhoe dug into the rubble.

Police officer RP Dhamala, who was coordinating the rescue efforts, said they had already pulled out 12 people alive and six dead. He said rescuers were still searching for about 20 people believed to be trapped, but had heard no cries, taps or noises for a while.

Most areas were without power and water. The United Nations said hospitals in the Kathmandu Valley were overcrowded, and running out of emergency supplies and space to store corpses.

Plumes of smoke, meanwhile, rose above the capital as friends, relatives and others gathered by the river to quickly cremate loved ones' remains.

Most shops in Kathmandu were shut; only fruit vendors and pharmacies seemed to be doing business.

"More people are coming now," fruit seller Shyam Jaiswal said. "They cannot cook so they need to buy something they can eat raw."

Jaiswal said stocks were running out, and more shipments were not expected for at least a week, but added, "We are not raising prices. That would be illegal, immoral profit."

The quake will likely put a huge strain on the resources of this impoverished country best known for Everest, the highest mountain in the world. The economy of Nepal, a nation of 27.8 million people, relies heavily on tourism, principally trekking and Himalayan mountain climbing.

With Kathmandu airport reopened, the first aid flights began delivering aid supplies. The first to respond were Nepal's neighbors — India, China and Pakistan, all of which have been jockeying for influence over the landlocked nation. Nepal remains closest to India, with which it shares deep political, cultural and religious ties.

India suffered its own losses from the quake, with at least 61 people killed there and dozens injured. Yesterday's aftershock was also widely felt in the country, and local news reports said metro trains in New Delhi and Kolkata were briefly shut down when the shaking started.

Other countries sending support yesterday included the United Arab Emirates, Germany and France.

After the chaos of Saturday — when little organized rescue and relief was seen — there was more order yesterday as rescue teams fanned out across the city.

Workers were sending out tents and relief goods in trucks and helicopters and setting up shelters, said disaster management official Rameshwar Danggal. Mukesh Kafle, the head of the Nepal Electricity Authority, said power was restored to main government offices, the airport and hospitals.

Among the destroyed buildings in Kathmandu was the nine-story Dharahara Tower, a Kathmandu landmark built by Nepal's royal rulers as a watchtower in the 1800s and a UNESCO-recognized historical monument. It was reduced to rubble and there were reports of people trapped underneath.

Nepali journalist and author Shiwani Neupane tweeted: "The sadness is sinking in. We have lost our temples, our history, the places we grew up." **AP**



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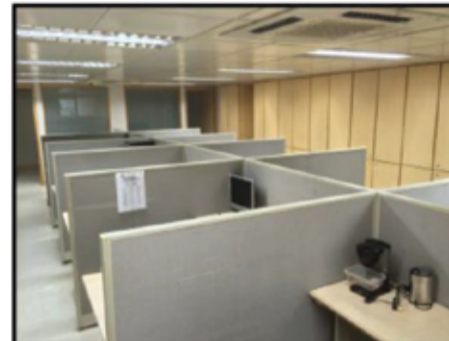


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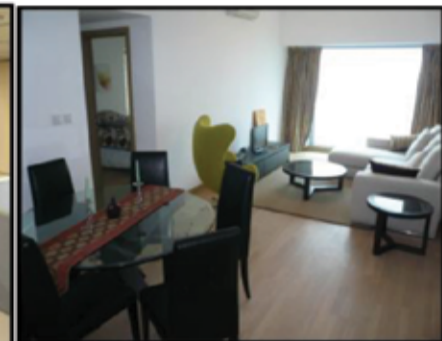


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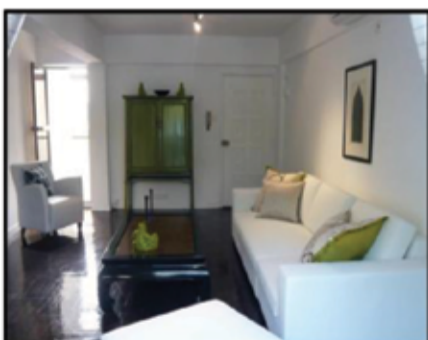


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Desmond Butler, Gallipoli

WWI ANZAC ANNIVERSARY

Thousands honor soldiers on 100th year of Gallipoli battle

FOR the first time at age 95, Bill Grayden has come to Gallipoli, where his father stormed the beach and took a bullet through his lung during the ill-fated British-led World War I invasion.

Grayden was among thousands of Australians and New Zealanders who made the pilgrimage from the southern hemisphere to this distant peninsula in Turkey. They joined world leaders at a dawn service Saturday marking exactly 100 years since the invasion, which had aimed to secure a naval route from the Mediterranean to Istanbul through the Dardanelles, and take the Ottomans out of the war.

During the emotional ceremony, Britain's Prince Charles and the prime ministers of Australia and New Zealand spoke of the heroism of the soldiers from their countries and other Allied nations.

"For so many, the rising sun that day would be their last," Australia's Chief of Defense, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, told the crowd of thousands gathered at Anzac Cove near the landing site.

That was not the case for Bill Grayden's father Len. Five days after the landing, the elder Grayden was found wounded and nearly motionless on the field. During the heat of battle, someone noticed a slight hand movement and he was evacuated to a hospital ship and ultimately survived. The subtle moment that determined his fate demonstrates how small differences can substantially change the course of history.

Len Grayden would return to Australia to raise a family. His son Bill later served in multiple



AP PHOTO
People gather on the beach in Hamza Bay, at the Gallipoli peninsula, Turkey

campaigns in World War II and became a politician. He has raised 10 children of his own, and now has 44 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and so far one great-great grandchild.

The Gallipoli campaign also altered the course for the countries on both sides of the trenches. The landings marked the start of a fierce battle that lasted for eight months. Around 44,000 Allied troops and 86,000 Ottoman soldiers died. Australians and New Zealanders mark the anniversary of the landings every year as im-

portant national days of remembrance.

Many of the attendees at Saturday's service had slept at the commemoration site in sleeping bags. Most had won the coveted tickets in national lotteries.

The tragic fate of troops from Australia and New Zealand is said to have inspired an identity distinct from the British. The anniversary of the start of the land campaign on April 25, known as ANZAC Day, after the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, is marked as a co-

ming of age for both nations.

"In volunteering to serve, they became more than soldiers. They became the founding heroes of modern Australia," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said at the service.

The doomed offensive came to be seen as a folly of British war planning. The decision to launch the attack nearly ended the career of Winston Churchill, who as First Lord of the Admiralty came up with the plan he thought would help bring an early end to the war.

A century after the smoke clear-

ed from the beaches at Gallipoli, officials from the countries representing both sides of the battles spoke of their respect for their former enemies.

New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key noted that when the ANZAC forces landed, Ottoman Turks were defending their homeland.

"We have coastlines similar to this at home. If the situation were reversed we know that New Zealand soldiers would have been willing to lay down their lives to defend their country," he said. AP

JAPAN

Man arrested over drone at prime minister's office

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE police have arrested a man who admitted to landing a drone with low-level radioactive sand on the roof of the prime minister's office to protest the government's nuclear energy policy, officials said Saturday.

Tokyo metropolitan police said Yasuo Yamamoto, 40, turned himself in to authorities late Friday in Fukui in western Japan.

The small drone found Wednesday had traces of radiation and triggered fears of potential terrorist attacks using unmanned aerial devices, the prime ministers' office



AP PHOTO
Yasuo Yamamoto, center, who was arrested on suspicion of flying the drone, is transferred to the public prosecutor's office in Tokyo yesterday

has said. The infiltration at Japan's political headquarters has also raised questions over the level of security there.

No one was injured and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was traveling at the time of the incident.

Police said Yamamoto

was arrested on suspicion of flying the drone and obstructing duties at the prime minister's office. He has not been indicted and

faces further questioning.

Public broadcaster NHK said police quoted the unemployed man as saying he did it to protest the government's nuclear energy policy.

Fukui is home to about a quarter of Japan's 48 reactors, which are currently all offline following the 2011 tsunami-triggered Fukushima plant disaster. Abe's administration wants to restart as many of the idled plants as possible.

The drone was carrying a small camera and a plastic bottle containing what police suspect was the source of radioactive cesium, levels of which were too low to affect hu-

mans or the environment.

The suspect said he used the sand from an unspecified location in Fukushima, where radiation levels are still high due to fallouts from the Fukushima Dai-ichi meltdowns, NHK said.

The government has set up a task force to work on regulations for the use of small drones while ensuring the security of key government facilities. Drones have become increasingly popular in Japan for industrial, service and entertainment use. At a meeting Friday, task force members cautioned against excessive restrictions on the emerging market for drones. AP



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USA

Thousands march in Baltimore protest



Marchers block the Pratt Street after a march to City Hall for Freddie Gray

Skip Foreman, Meredith Somers and Juliet Linderman, Baltimore

THOUSANDS of protesters took to the streets to demand answers in the case of Freddie Gray, the largest rally since the 25-year-old black man died in police custody. After hours of peaceful demonstrations, pockets of protesters smashed police car windows and storefronts.

Gray died April 19 after suffering a fatal spinal injury while in custody. His death has intensified a national debate over police treatment of African-Americans.

Saturday's protests came a day after Deputy Commissioner Kevin Davis said Gray should have received medical attention at the spot where he was arrested, before he was put inside a police transport van handcuffed and without a seat belt, a violation of the department's policy.

Authorities have not explained how or when Gray's spine was injured. Video showed him being dragged into a police van, and police have said he rode in it for about 30 minutes before paramedics were called.

Gray's death has been compared to those of other unarmed black men who died at the hands of police in New York City and Ferguson, Missouri.

Residents voiced their anger Saturday at how the de-

partment and the city's officials are handling the investigation into Gray's death.

Protesters threw cans and plastic bottles in the direction of police officers. One protester broke the window of a police cruiser, grabbed a police hat inside and wore it while standing on top of the cruiser with several other protesters.

At least two people were hurt in the mayhem, and at least a dozen were arrested.

In her first public comments since Gray's death, his twin sister, Fredricka Gray, appealed for calm.

"My family wants to say, can you all please, please stop the violence?" she said at a news conference with the mayor. "Freddie Gray would not want this."

Earlier Saturday, the crowd paused for a moment of silence in front of Shock Trauma, the hospital where Gray died.

Signs in hand, with slogans such as "Jail Killer Police!" and "Unite Here!," demonstrators filled two city blocks and marched to City Hall, where the crowd overtook a grassy plaza.

Tanya Peacher, a 36-year-old Baltimore resident, said she'd never attended a protest in the city before, but watching a video of Gray's arrest motivated her.

"I looked at my son," she said, "and thought, 'That is my son.'"

At a downtown intersection, a dozen marchers laid

down in the street during an impromptu "die-in."

Both Commissioner Anthony Batts and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, who took office in 2010, are African-American. They came in making promises to the inner-city residents and police who spent decades staring each other down in neighborhoods ravaged by crack and heroin.

But with each death of a black man in custody, their efforts to overcome mistrust have hit hard walls of skepticism and outrage.

Batts says he's fired 50 police employees and reduced officer-involved shootings, and the use-of-force reports police must file dropped from 598 in 2012 to 435 in 2014.

But he acknowledged that some cases have "tarnished this badge and the reputation of the department."

Gray is at least the fifth black man to die after police encounters since Batts took charge.

A Baltimore Sun investigation revealed last year that the city has paid roughly USD5.7 million in brutality settlements since 2011, involving 102 instances of excessive force.

Batts then asked the U.S. Justice Department to review the department's policies and procedures. Now the Justice Department has opened a second probe, by its Civil Rights division, examining Gray's death. AP

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER

Obama turns 2016 hopefuls into comic fodder

A presidential election just getting into gear provided U.S. President Barack Obama plenty of new material to work with on the night he describes as Washington celebrating itself.

"It's amazing how time flies," Obama told those attending the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association on Saturday night. "Soon, the first presidential contest will take place, and I for one cannot wait to see who the Koch brothers pick. It's exciting."

Obama added: "Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Jeb Bush, Scott Walker ... who will finally get that red rose?"

On the Democratic side, Obama observed that Hillary Rodham Clinton kicked things off by going unrecognized to Chipotle. Meanwhile, he said, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley went completely unrecognized at an O'Malley campaign event.

Taking a playful poke at himself and at Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is considering a bid, Obama said: "Apparently, some folks want to see a pot-smoking socialist in the White House. We could get a third Obama term after all."

The dinner also gave the president an opportunity to rib some of his loudest critics.

"Just this week Michele Bachmann actually predicted that I would bring about the biblical end of days. Now, that's a legacy," he said. "That's big. I mean, Lincoln, Washington, they didn't do that."

The correspondents' dinner brings in some big names from Hollywood. Some of the cast members from the TV

series "Black-ish" attended, and Obama said he had to give ABC fair warning about the show. "Being black-ish only makes you popular for so long," he said. "Trust me, there's a shelf life to that thing."

Of course, he had to give a shout-out to his health care law.

"Today, thanks to Obamacare, you no longer have to worry about losing your insurance, if you lose your job," he said. "You're welcome, Senate Democrats."

The featured entertainer of the night, Cecily Strong from "Saturday Night Live," got some big laughs with some tough subjects. For example, she observed that the Secret Service is the one law enforcement agency that could get in trouble if a black man gets shot.

"Your hair is so white now," she told the president, "it can talk back to police."

And she had the journalists repeat after her and solemnly swear they will not talk about Hillary Rodham Clinton's appearance "because that is not journalism."

Few of the politicians who may want to succeed Obama showed up for the dinner. One on hand was Donald Trump, who again has been teasing Republicans about running for national office.

Most of the prospective and declared Republican candidates stayed away. Many chose to meet potential supporters and donors at conservative gatherings in Las Vegas and Des Moines, Iowa.

The dinner helps fund scholarships and awards that recognize journalists. AP



President Barack Obama gestures as he delivers remarks during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner at the Washington Hilton

what's ON



INSIDE OUT – CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: April 30, 2015

VENUE: Flugent Art Gallery, Rua S. Paulo 54-58B, Mei Tai Grand Garden, R/C A, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 3429

LUB DUB: AN EXHIBITION BY PAKEONG X 'EXPERIENCE – FORTES'

TIME: 10am to 7pm (Mondays to Fridays)

3pm to 7pm (Saturdays; Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: May 2, 2015

VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery, Avenida da Praia Grande, n° 749, r/c

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

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

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

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Thursdays)

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

ANGOLA OPPOSITION ALLEGE POLICE KILLED 700 SECT MEMBERS

Angolan authorities cordoned off an area where police and armed religious sect members clashed last week, leaving hundreds dead, according to the main opposition party.

Journalists, human-rights activists and family members were prohibited from entering or leaving the area near Caala in Huambo province, about 630 kilometers southeast of the capital, Luanda, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola said on its website.

Unita alleges that the security forces are burying the dead in the restricted area to cover up a massacre. National police spokesman Aristophane dos Santos didn't answer calls or respond to text messages on Friday seeking comment. Police said they killed 13 bodyguards of Jose Julino Kalupeteka, leader of the Light of the World, which the ruling party accused of murdering nine policemen on April 16, according to the state-run Jornal de Angola.

Unita said local residents told it that sect members disarmed and killed three policemen while six others died when their vehicle overturned as they fled the scene. Police then opened fire from helicopters killing about 700 people, Unita said local residents told its investigators.

Kalupeteka, who was arrested April 17, was driven out of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 2001, according to Unita. He urged members to sell their belongings and move from their villages to mountains and forests because of their belief the world will end this year, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said on April 20.

Eleven members of the sect were sentenced to as long as two years in jail for resisting arrest, Jornal de Angola reported on April 22. Dos Santos's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola defeated Unita in 2002 after a 27-year civil war. The first postwar national election in sub-Saharan Africa's third-largest economy was held in 2012. Dos Santos has ruled Angola since 1979, four years after it gained independence from Portugal. **Bloomberg**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:30	Non Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:30	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

23 APR - 29 APR



THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

ROOM 1

(3D) 2:15, 7.15 pm

(2D) 4:45, 9.45 pm

Director: Joss Whedon

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth,

Mark Ruffalo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



FAST AND FURIOUS 7

ROOM 2

(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 3

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Daniel Espinosa

Starring: Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 137min

MACAU TOWER

23 APR - 20 MAY

THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Joss Whedon

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth,

Mark Ruffalo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history



1971 PROTEST DISRUPTS WELSH LANGUAGE TRIAL

Police in Wales have had to remove demonstrators from the entrance of a courtroom after they disrupted proceedings inside. More than 40 people were dragged away from the Shire Hall in Carmarthen where preliminary proceedings were taking place in the Assizes court against eight members of the Welsh Language Society.

The case, in which the eight are accused of conspiring to damage, remove or destroy English language road signs in Wales during a rally last December, is regarded as a major event in the struggle for greater recognition of the Welsh Language.

But protesters, complaining that police had not allowed them access to the public gallery, did their best to disrupt proceedings by singing Welsh songs on the pavement outside. The protesters were removed by the police so the case could continue.

One passer-by said: "They were dragged along the road on their bottoms and on their knees." Meanwhile, inside the courtroom Mr Justice Howard was hearing applications by some of the accused to have the case heard in Carmarthen, saying it would be more just to have it heard in a strongly Welsh area.

The judge refused the application and said the trial would begin on Monday 3 May at Glamorgan Assizes in Swansea before a Welsh-speaking judge. One of the accused, Dafydd Iwan, who is also chairman of the Welsh Language Society, said: "We are here as Welshmen. What has brought us up against the law is that it is impossible today for a Welshman to live his life fully in his own language. "The basis of this case is the rights of a Welshman in Wales."

The eight accused are Dafydd Iwan, 27, from Caernarvon, Frederick Francis, 22, from Aberystwyth, Rhodri Llewelyn Morgan, 20, from Aberystwyth, Gwilym Tudur, 30, from Cardiganshire, Ieuan Bryn Jones, 23, from Anglesey, Ieuan Wyn Evans, 22, from Caerns, Gronwy Davies, 21, from Cardiff and Robert Paul Gruffydd, 27, from Cardiganshire.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

This was the first of several similar cases during the 1970s. One of the defendants, Rhodri Morgan, was acquitted of all charges. The remaining seven were all found guilty of conspiring to destroy road signs and given suspended sentences ranging from three to 12 months. The Welsh Language Society was founded on 4 August 1962. Throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s hundreds of its members were imprisoned for breaking the law with non-violent direct action. The practice of displaying bilingual road signs on Welsh roads was adopted following the troubles and remains today.

YOUR STARS

♈ Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Slow down a bit and try to enjoy what you've got - even if it feels like it isn't enough for some reason.

♉ April 20-May 20
You need to switch gears for a bit and see if you can find a new way of understanding your world - or your partner's world.

♊ Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You can't just think through today's problems - you need to experiment to learn anything.

♋ Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's very hard to make yourself understood today - in fact, people may misunderstand you in some very basic ways.

♌ Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You need to pay attention - there are people close to you who need to be heard before you can take action.

♍ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your ambitions are key to your success today - if you're not following up on your deepest desires, than you may find that your energy is diffuse and inefficient.

♎ Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You feel weirder than usual - and that feeling isn't going away anytime soon. Just take a deep breath and work through it.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You and your colleagues or neighbors are unusually friendly today - which could mean that it's a love-fest!

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
It's a good day for you to consider your retirement or savings. Even if you're in debt, you can find ways to get back into the black more quickly.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You've managed something big today - so make the most of it! A big accomplishment makes you wonder what comes next.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Things aren't looking good right now - but don't try to fight it! Your energy is ebbing a bit, but it should come flowing back in the near future.

♓ Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
You've got someone looking out for you - make the most of it! You may find a new opportunity coming your way or a set-up with a new cutie.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8x8 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

8x8 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

8x8 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

8x8 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Windows predecessor; 6- Uses a Singer; 10- Foolish; 14- Look forward to; 15- Land map; 16- Construction beam; 17- Inspire anew; 18- That's...; 19- Ticked off; 20- Become an ex-parrot?; 21- Evil deed; 24- Infuse; 26- Posted; 27- Lilliputian; 28- Clear as...; 30- Italian wine center; 33- Sweet; 35- Diamond stat; 38- National symbols; 40- Uno + due; 41- Plant tissue; 43- Soap-making ingredient; 44- Applauds; 47- PDQ; 48- Composure; 49- Barn bird; 51- Flight of steps; 54- Rident; 58- Living on land; 61- Goose egg; 62- Sphere; 63- Qom home; 64- Gravy, for one; 66- Navel buildup; 67- TV's "Nick at..."; 68- Director Welles; 69- Ferrara family; 70- Departs; 71- Nobelist Bohr;

DOWN: 1- ___ Gras; 2- Country lad; 3- Valleys; 4- Black gold!; 5- Hinder; 6- Stone splinter; 7- Vogue rival; 8- Street urchin; 9- Vegetable appliance; 10- Purify; 11- Seething; 12- N Atlantic archipelago; 13- Tendency; 22- Pub offerings; 23- Cuplike organ; 25- Thin offshoot; 28- Go along (with); 29- Boxer Max; 30- CIO's partner; 31- Foxy; 32- ___ kwon do; 34- Western Indians; 35- Literary monogram; 36- Actress Arthur; 37- Mischievous fairy; 39- Tally; 42- Dixie pronoun; 45- Sibillant; 46- Body of an organism; 48- Buccaneer; 50- 28th president of the U.S.; 51- Stagnant; 52- Garr and Hatcher; 53- ___ we all?; 54- Trig functions; 55- Busy; 56- Actor Williamson; 57- Secluded valleys; 59- Tom, Dick and Harry, e.g.; 60- Appraise; 65- "Exodus" hero;



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Justin Bergman, Shanghai

GOLF

Wu wins Volvo China Open for 1st European Tour title

WITH two Chinese golfers tied for the lead going into the final round of the Volvo China Open, there was a good chance one of them would become the first from the country to capture a European Tour title on home soil.

Most eyes were on Li Haotong at the start of the round, the talented 19-year-old touted as a future golf star in China. Instead, it was Wu Ashun, a player nearing 30 who had recently taken six months off to rebuild his swing and had never had a top-10 finish on the tour, who took home the trophy.

Wu proved to be the steadiest player during a final round filled with momentum swings, delighting the crowd in his hometown of Shanghai with a final-round 71 to secure a one-stroke victory over David Howell on Sunday. Wu finished at 9-under 279 overall.

"I tried my best to play every shot well," he said. "I played



Tournament winner Wu Ashun of China smiles while playing on the second hole during the final round of the Volvo China Open golf tournament in Shanghai

very good today — not down, not up. Just simple golf today."

It was not only the biggest title of Wu's career, but also the biggest paycheck. He takes home nearly 500,000 euros (\$543,000) — more than doubling how much he's earned in seven years on the European Tour.

"There's a long journey in a golf career, someone can hit a low score in their 30s, 40s, so I have to just be patient and keep practicing, keep playing the tournaments, and it will come," Wu said through a translator.

Wu is the third Chinese player to win on the tour and the first since Liang Wen-Chong took the title at the Singapore Masters in 2007. AP

Juventus beaten 2-1 by Torino in derby marred by violence

Andrew Dampf, Rome

JUVENTUS was prevented from clinching a fourth consecutive Serie A title with a 2-1 loss at Torino yesterday in a derby marred by fan violence.

After Andrea Pirlo put Juventus ahead with a free kick 35 minutes in, fellow Italy international Matteo Darmian equalized just before halftime and former Juve forward Fabio Quagliarella scored the winner in the 57th.

It was Juve's only third league loss this season and the first time Torino has won the league derby in 20 years. Since Torino's last win in April, 1995, it had lost 13 derbies and drawn four.

Before the match, Torino fans assaulted the bus carrying Juve's players as it approached the stadium, breaking a window. Juventus supporters retaliated by throwing fireworks at Torino counterparts inside the stadium, injuring several.

Juventus needed a win and a Lazio loss to clinch, and Lazio was held to a 1-1 draw at home by Chievo Verona.

Miroslav Klose gave Lazio the lead in the 45th after dribbling past two defenders and chipping



From left, Juventus' Leonardo Bonucci, Torino's Fabio Quagliarella, Juventus' Angelo Ogbonna and Torino's Maxi Lopez go for the ball

in from a sharp angle. Alberto Paloschi equalized in the 76th with an angled shot.

Juventus is 14 points ahead of Lazio with six matches remaining. Roma is one point further back in third after a 2-1 loss at Inter Milan on Saturday.

In other matches, Luca Toni scored twice as 10-man Hellas Verona beat Sassuolo 3-2; Antonio Nocerino converted a penalty as crisis-hit Parma defeated Palermo 1-0 to put off relegation for another week; Genoa beat Cesena 3-1; and Atalanta and Empoli drew 2-2 in the lunchtime fixture.

Later, Napoli was hosting Sampdoria and Fiorentina faced Cagliari. AP

Fresh off qualifying for the Champions League semifinals, Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri started with standout forward Carlos Tevez on the bench, opting for Alvaro Morata and Alessandro Matri in attack instead.

Those choices seemed to be of no consequence when Pirlo curved a free kick over a Torino wall and in off the underside of the crossbar midway through the first half.

But poor defending allowed Darmian to equalize after taking a pass from Quagliarella. Despite poor control, Darmian was permitted to chase the ball inside the box and shoot past Gianluigi Buffon uncontested.

Pirlo hit the post with another free kick in the 52nd and Quagliarella scored the winner five minutes later, using one touch to redirect a cross from Darmian.

Tevez replaced Morata in the 65th and Matri hit the post in the 81st with a cross that floated through the area untouched.

Juventus had another chance to equalize in the 83rd when Pirlo set up Stefano Sturaro but the midfielder's header was stopped by goalkeeper Daniele Padelli. AP

OCA secretary says Bach visit is boost for Indian sports

C.Rajshekhar Rao, New Delhi

INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach's visit to India will boost the profile of Olympic sports in the country regardless of whether it bids for the Games, according to a local official.

Olympic Council of Asia secretary-general Randhir Singh made the comments ahead of Bach's arrival later Sunday and planned meeting on Monday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid speculation that India may want to host the Olympics in 2024.

"We've been hearing about the government being keen to bid for the Games but I think we have to wait and see how things go," Randhir told The Associated Press on Sunday. "I think the IOC chief's visit will boost sports federations and bring them in the limelight, which too is good for sports."

India's chances of landing the hosting rights are considered slim because Rome, Boston and Hamburg are already declared candidates for 2024 and a host of other cities including Paris are expected to join the race.

"There is also the chance that India bids later. But the very fact that the IOC president and our prime minister are meeting, brings Olympic sports into focus," said Randhir, who is also an IOC member.

"There are likely to be some 'Memorandums of Understanding' signed and we could see the National Institute of Sports in Patiala made into a high-performance center, which again will be good for us," he added.

India has been trying to change



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach

its image as a one-sport country in recent years even though cricket remains a national obsession.

The world's second most populous country has only recently started winning medals at the Olympics with its greatest haul of six medals coming at London in 2012, but did not include a single gold.

Rifle shooter Abhinav Bindra remains the only individual gold medal winner, having won at Beijing in 2008. The last of India's eight Olympic gold medals in field hockey came 35 years ago at Moscow.

Randhir said it was too early to speculate on how India would benefit if it hosted the Olympics.

"There are obviously going to be a lot of gains but let's wait 'till something is announced before discussing how we will benefit," he said.

India hosted the Asian Games with some success in 1951 and 1982 but its organization of the Commonwealth Games in 2010 was criticized both in India and abroad over construction delays and corruption scandals.

All three were held in New Delhi but Indian media is rife with speculation that the western Indian city of Ahmedabad could be proposed as a host city for the Olympics. AP

opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



MAY POWER

Inspired by the slogan that proclaims “Only Macau is Macau”, we are ready to believe this presumed uniqueness and stubborn localism refers to everything going on the small territory. In other words, Macau seems to have a particular way of handling things. In general, to rise above challenges, to reach consensus, to diminish divergences, to adapt to new realities, to cut corners...in places where a stranger would spot shortcomings on transparency and legal certainty. Probably, this kind of viewpoint inspired in its turn the well-known boutade of the rule around the law.

Indeed, it does not matter. We took this sort of linguistic walkabout just to underline a feeling of bizarreness induced by Professor Zeng Zhonlu - the gaming business watcher from the Research Centre of the Polytechnic Institute - in his proposals on junket regulation. Professor Zeng thinks the most important thing behind the big casino revenue drop is not the anti-corruption drive in the mainland or the competition around Asia, but the “non-sustainability” of the so-called junket operations. We will dispense with dispute on his assessment as well as other aspects of Professor Zeng’s evaluation, but what we do not understand is that he calls for a top-to-bottom review of operations and tighter regulation, but not a hint on how to strengthen junket regulation. Besides...it is not scientific to examine in isolation the junket piece from the other pieces of the puzzle.

OK. Sorry, but we have to say it... not too different from ‘only Macau is Macau’. What do we say when we talk about the junket regulatory framework? Better an answer than a defensive interrogation: it says nothing and yet everything!

The point is May is coming and at least a trio of gaming unions are ready to take to the streets in First-of-May activities in different venues or routes (but not Senado Square - that fell out of use) to voice some grievances around the local employment safety net, universal smoking ban and to demand a trade union law. Apparently, the three associations are not prepared to let go of Labor Day without a public demonstration, in spite of the decisive action Secretary Lionel Leong has been pursuing alongside the casino operators. That is May power!

Leong met the representatives of Macau’s six concessions and sub concessions to discuss the “industry” and to recall that the casinos’ commitment in hiring, training and providing career opportunities should be taken into consideration in the mid-term, interim review of the concession contracts.

As to the ‘new normal’ of gambling revenues around 20 billion per month, it seems it is going to stay for a long period, adjusted or otherwise. Whether Macau adjusts easily or not to this policy, this is a given to which the MSAR must now adjust itself through diversification. In just a week, China opened two more doors to help Macau fulfill this purpose: Guangdong Free Trade Zone in Nansha, and the Macau/Fujian cooperation in the “Belt and Road Initiatives”.

Post Scriptum:

We’d like to close April with a pair of middle-of-the-road notes. The banking sector is hot: the Bank of China sets up a team in Macau to promote, at a professional level, business with Portuguese-speaking countries; Portuguese BNU made a smart move towards Hengqin; Citibank confirmed closure of its retail branch.

The consultation resource is being seized upon like never before: the much sui generis public consultation mechanism keeps on being used and abused as an alternate participatory mechanism for all kinds of issues inducing its visibility. After the divergent episodes of the public consultation on a Fisherman’s Wharf skyscraper, the government announced consultations on plastic bag fees and on a public abattoir.

THE BUZZ HUGE MAGMA CHAMBER SPIED UNDER YELLOWSTONE SUPERVOLCANO



Scientists have spied a vast reservoir of hot, partly molten rock beneath the supervolcano at Yellowstone National Park that’s big enough to fill the Grand Canyon

11 times over. The newly discovered magma chamber — located up to 45 kilometers underground — is four times bigger than the previously known chamber above it, according to imaging by researchers at the University of Utah.

The discovery fills a missing link in Yellowstone’s volcanic plumbing system. But scientists said it doesn’t increase the risk of an eruption, which is estimated to happen every 700,000 years.

Researchers now think hot and semi-molten rock is carried upward from 40 miles (60 kilometers) beneath the surface to the newly found reservoir and the chamber above it. Yellowstone, which spans parts of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, is among the world’s largest supervolcanoes, with frequent earthquakes. The park attracts millions of tourists with its geysers, hot springs and bubbling mud pots.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

REPUBLICAN MEETING-JEWISH COALITION

Presidential bets in Vegas

Julie Bykowicz, Las Vegas

INSIDE a conference room Friday night at the Venetian on the Las Vegas Strip, top boosters for Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker mingled with some of his biggest potential donors, including New York property attorney Phil Rosen and Todd Ricketts, part-owner of the Chicago Cubs.

About the same time, Jeb “Jebby” Bush Jr., son of another man considering a 2016 presidential bid, socialized with young fundraisers like Jay Zeidman, son of prominent Houston fundraiser Fred Zeidman, at the casino’s Public House bar and restaurant.

And throughout the weekend, behind closed doors in his office, billionaire casino owner Sheldon Adelson, held private meetings with Texas Senator Ted Cruz, former Texas Governor Rick Perry, South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, and a stream of other Republican politicians.

None of these gatherings was on the official agenda for the Republican Jewish Coalition’s leadership conference, a three-day affair that included a poker tournament, golf, speeches, and sessions on topics such as women



AP PHOTO
Presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, speaks at the Republican Jewish Coalition spring leadership meeting Saturday, April 24

and youth involvement in elections. The conference began Thursday night with a 75-person dinner on the tennis court of Adelson’s new home, carpeted for the occasion. Mitt Romney and Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus spoke at that. And it ended Saturday night with a dinnertime speech by former President George W. Bush. Almost everything was closed to the press, except four speeches Saturday, by Cruz, Perry, Indiana Governor Mike Pence and Ohio Senator Rob Portman.

But the sidebars tell the real story of why the RJC is a force in Republican politics: Its members include some of the party’s biggest donors.

That means, at least for

one weekend a year, Nevada ranks right up there with first-caucus Iowa in political importance. For Cruz and Perry, this was literally true. The two spoke at the RJC conference Saturday morning and hopped on planes for the 1,400-mile trek to Wauke, Iowa, to speak later in the day at an event organized by that state’s Faith and Freedom Coalition.

Many RJC donors—among them Paul Singer, Phil Rosen, Ken Abramowitz, and, of course, Adelson—have not made up their minds about which candidate to support in the GOP primary. That’s a big difference from this point in the last presidential campaign cycle. In 2011, Adelson, thanks to a long friendship, was already backing former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Many of the other coalition members had gravitated to eventual nominee Romney.

The uncertainty gave the weekend the feel of a candidate audition.

“They all came in prepared on the issues,” Andy Abboud, Adelson’s top political adviser, said of the presidential hopefuls visiting with his boss this weekend. “It’s still wide open as far as who he’ll support. There are no puffs of smoke coming from the Venetian just yet.” **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Alex Hofford/Epa



South African sisters Victoria (l) and Vanessa (r) Wiesenmaier are seen cycling through Tai Po Tsai village (HK) as they embark on a 6,000 km overland journey through South East Asia by bicycle. The rhino conservation activists started their bike journey in HK and will finish in Singapore, taking in Macau, China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia, to raise awareness about the plight of rhinos in their home country.



AP PHOTO
INDONESIA notified nine foreigners and a local man convicted of drug trafficking that their executions will be carried out within days, ignoring appeals by the U.N. chief and foreign leaders to spare them. The 72-hour notice indicates the executions by firing squad in Besi prison on Nusakambangan Island will be carried out at the earliest tomorrow or Wednesday. The pending executions have caused an international outcry, particularly in Australia, France and the Philippines, which are opposed to the death penalty.



AP PHOTO
SOUTH AFRICA Nigeria is recalling its top diplomats in South Africa because of “ongoing xenophobia targeting foreigners,” said a government statement. Seven people have been killed in the attacks in South Africa that began three weeks ago. Property has been destroyed and the violence “created fear and uncertainty in the minds of African migrants,” said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement.

CHILE Authorities downgrade the likelihood of a major eruption at the Calbuco volcano, although the mountain remains active and the ash clouds it already ejected causes cancellations of more airline flights.

VENEZUELA The jailed mayor of Venezuela’s capital has been taken from prison to a hospital where he will undergo emergency surgery for a groin hernia. Antonio Ledezma was transferred early Saturday after a court granted prosecutors’ request to permit his release on medical grounds, according to his lawyer Omar Estacio.

USA Thousands of protesters take to the streets to demand answers in the case of Freddie Gray, the largest rally since the 25-year-old black man died in police custody. After hours of peaceful demonstrations, pockets of protesters smash police car windows and storefronts. **More on p15**