



EU SAYS MACAU SHOULD CHANGE ELECTORAL SYSTEM
The European Union annual report on Macau provides a glimpse into the latest economic and political developments

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HENGQIN FIRE STATION INAUGURATED

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WORSE AIR QUALITY AND MORE WASTE IN 2014
The 2014 statistics, released yesterday indicate the worsening of the environmental situation

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

TIBET-NEPAL All mountaineering on the Chinese side of Mount Everest was cancelled after Saturday's earthquake. China's official Xinhua News Agency says more than 400 climbers from 20-plus countries were on the northern side of the world's highest mountain and were reported safe after they descended to lower elevations. Xinhua quoted an official with the Tibetan bureau of sports as saying that an avalanche at 7,000 meters and the possibility of further aftershocks was considered to have made climbing too dangerous. There was no word on when the ban would be lifted.

Tourist arrivals hit two-and-a-half-year low

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SOUTH KOREA's president has accepted the resignation of her prime minister because of a bribery scandal. Prime Minister Lee Wan Koo (pictured) offered to quit last week, two months after taking the country's No. 2 post. He was at the heart of a corruption scandal involving a dead businessman and other high-profile figures.

INDONESIA Australia wants corruption allegations against Indonesian judges investigated before their death sentences against two Australian drug traffickers are carried out, the foreign minister said yesterday. [More on p13](#)

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived in the U.S. on Sunday for a weeklong visit to showcase the success of the alliance built from Tokyo's defeat in World War II, while promoting a political agenda based on still stronger military and economic ties.

[More on backpage](#)



Nepalese migrants hunger for quake news, relief effort underway

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EU REPORT ON MACAU

Gov't should promote 'higher degree of public involvement' in CE election

Catarina Pinto

MACAU authorities should think about promoting a higher degree of public involvement in the Chief Executive election, a report recently issued by the European Commission and the European External Action Service suggests.

The annual report, which was submitted to the European Parliament and Council of Ministers on Friday, provides a glimpse into Macau's latest economic and political developments, reflecting upon local policies.

"The authorities should still consider how to promote a higher degree of public involvement in the election of the Chief Executive, thereby enhancing legitimacy of and public support for the post and strengthening good governance," the report read.

The report recalls that Chief Executive Chui Sai On was re-elected for a second five-year term last year, and that political activists held an unofficial poll on universal suffrage for the CE election – a poll that was deemed illegal by local authorities.

The EU acknowledged that although Macau's Basic Law does not foresee the introduction of universal suffrage, "there is a growing public debate about the issue and whether authorities should consider arrangements to promote a higher degree of public involvement in the election," thus ensuring competition



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

for the post. Chief Executive Chui Sai On won last year's elections unopposed.

Looking into fundamental rights in Macau, the European Commission and the European

External Action Service noted that rights and freedoms have been respected, and that positive steps have been taken to improve migrant workers' conditions, and in combating domestic violence and human trafficking.

However, the European Commission stressed that press freedom "is at risk," with instances of self-censorship and hindrances having been reported.

The EU stressed that Macau's media "continued to give voice to a variety of views and opinions," but it also recorded an increase in reports of self-censorship. It added that Hong Kong journalists have reported that they have been denied access to press conferences and events with high-profile government officials from Macau and mainland China.

"Recruitment in media organizations also appeared to be influenced by political considerations," the report added.

The report also noted that academic freedom has been brought into question following the non-renewal of contracts for two politically outspoken university professors.

"It was reported that some other scholars had been asked by the university management to refrain from critical political statements. The EU holds academic freedom to be a cornerstone of a

A key priority is improving the lives of ordinary citizens, who face mounting living and housing costs

EU REPORT

vibrant academic sector able to meet the needs of the economy and of society as a whole," it stressed.

The EU report also looked into corruption cases in Macau, noting that the number of reports received by the city's anti-graft agency (Commission Against Corruption) did not see a great increase, but that the cases were more complex.

Reflecting upon Macau's latest economic developments, with gaming revenue having decreased for ten consecutive months in March, the report stressed that, "while Macau is one of the world's richest economies in income per capita, income distribution is very unequal."

In addition, the EU acknowledged that the city's economy, which relies largely on the gaming industry, is "vulnerable to money-laundering" activities "because it provides a conduit for illegal money flows out of the mainland."

"A key priority is improving the lives of ordinary citizens, who face mounting living and housing costs," it concluded.

In the report, the EU reiterates its commitment to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms and rights in Macau.

EU-Macau bilateral trade drops by 11 pct

BILATERAL trade between the European Union (EU) member states and Macau has dropped by 11 percent, decreasing to EUR613 million in 2014, according to a joint report issued by the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

EU exports to Macau have fallen by 5.9 percent to EUR540 million since the city's import demand weakened with the econo-

mic slowdown, the reported added.

Luxury goods, food and beverages and vehicles accounted for a greater part of EU exports to Macau.

EU imports from the MSAR decreased significantly by 37 percent (EUR72 million). The EU recorded a trade surplus with Macau, reaching EUR468 million.

In spite of this the EU remains the territory's second-largest supplier after main-

land China, accounting for 24 percent of the SAR's imports in 2014.

"Bilateral relations between the EU and Macau continued to develop positively," the report said. The EU pledged to cooperate with diversifying Macau's economy, and to explore regulatory convergence in areas such as competition policy, government procurement and intellectual property rights.

THE Macao Arts Festival (MAF) has invited artist Leong Ieng Wai to create souvenirs that combine the region's characteristic landscapes and travel features, in the process showcasing the talent and potential of disabled people and revealing a form of art without borders.

The MAF will launch two souvenirs: a luggage belt and a multi-purpose travel bag, both designed by Leong Ieng Wai, who is a disabled and autistic member of the FuHong Society of Macau. The luggage belt's themes include some of the festival venues, such as the Dom

MAF invites handicapped artist to create travel souvenirs

Pedro V Theatre, the Macau Cultural Centre, St. Dominic's Church and the Tap Seac Gallery, among others. Meanwhile, the multi-purpose travel bag is inspired by the landscapes of Macau's old neighborhoods. Leong Ieng Wai figuratively recreated, with masterful brushstrokes, the buildings surrounding Macau's old streets, thereby presenting them in a vivid and three-dimensional manner. Both souvenirs include the logos of the MAF and FuHong Society of Macau. Throu-



Leong Ieng Wai

gh the promotion of these travel items, MAF (which is to be run by the Cultural Affairs Bureau in May) hopes, on the one hand, to take the festival and the works

of local artists abroad, promoting and showcasing the territory's cultural characteristics beyond Macau's borders; and, on the other, to show the potential and talent of disabled residents through this cooperation with the FuHong Society.

Leong Ieng Wai is also known as o.38, which refers to the thickness of the pen he likes to use in his meticulous strokes and clear compositions. According to the information released by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, he has a strong

descriptive ability and sense of spatial planning, skillfully outlining patterns and being particularly fond of drawing small people, buildings and vehicles. Leong dedicates himself to each of his works, using art to find himself and to become more energetic and confident, making an effort to communicate with others and mustering the courage to express what lies in his soul. In August last year, Leong Ieng Wai held an exhibition at the passenger terminal of Macau

International Airport titled "Enter the Happy Kingdom of 0.38". The exhibition was very well received, giving rise to another exhibition, which was held at the UNESCO Centre of Macau in November and showcased more than 40 of his works.

The souvenirs described above are available for sale at MAF venues, namely at the Macau Cultural Centre, Dom Pedro V Theatre and the Old Court Building. Discounts will be offered for the purchase of both items.

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Brook Yang

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE DISASTER

Nepalese migrants hunger for quake news

SINCE the 7.9-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal at 2.11 pm on Saturday, Sudarshan Thapa Magar's mobile phone has barely stopped ringing or buzzing. The Nepalese community leader in Macau also owns media services in Nepal, and has been receiving news from his home country and feeding this information to his fellow migrants.

"Many Nepalese here are calling me to ask about updates. I get the information from Nepali news reports and the phone calls from Nepal, and I update our website and Facebook page every 30 minutes," Mr Magar, the president of the Non-Resident Nepali Association Macau (NRNA), told the Times.

More than 48 hours after the devastating quake, fear and uncertainty still hover over the disaster area. At any time, a strong aftershock could arrive, or an avalanche, or a heavy rainstorm, or a house might collapse; hundreds of thousands of people are sheltering out in the open, worried.

"No one knows what may happen the next day. We are very worried. When I was talking on the phone with a friend in Nepal, the phone call suddenly dropped. Later I was told by



Sudarshan Thapa Magar

others that he was sent to hospital, as a house had suddenly collapsed and injured his leg," said Mr Magar.

As the scale of the disaster reveals itself, the death toll also climbs. Nepal's National Emergency Operation Center reported yesterday that over 3,000 people are known to have died in the disaster, while more than 6,500 have been injured.

"I lost several cousins," said the NRNA president, whose hometown is one of the worst-struck areas outside the capital

Katmandu. "My mother also injured her leg when her house collapsed. Now she's in the street," he added.

Besides Mr Magar, there are over 4,000 Nepalese migrants in Macau. Despite the concern and grief, they are holding their emotions in check for their work, which is mostly as security guards and domestic helpers. Mr Magar said that the Macau government has instructed the big employers to approve leave for their Nepalese employees so they can visit home.

However, many have suggested that going home wouldn't be particularly helpful. Some have turned to Mr Magar and gathered at the association after work, where they seek support from each other and discuss how they could be of help.

"When we heard that news [of the earthquake], we were totally shocked. And when we saw the disaster photos, we were too scared and worried. (...) My reac-

“We are very worried. When I was talking on the phone with a friend in Nepal, the phone call suddenly dropped as a house had suddenly collapsed”

SUDARSHAN THAPA MAGAR

tion was that I froze," said Roney Gurung, a worker whose hometown is in west Nepal's Pokhara.

Gurung told the Times that his hometown was not badly affected, but his family, along with all the other citizens, were forced to sleep outdoors due to the constant aftershocks. "Everyone is worried. I can't stop worrying, I am away from them anyways," he said, adding that earthquake predictors in the country have flagged a red alert, warning of another devastating hit.

"We cried in our meetings. What can you do now? I told them, it's already happened. Now we pray together and leave it to God's hands," said Mr Magar. "Thereby, we want to request everyone in Macau to also pray for Nepal."

Faith is not the only pillar needed to support the victims, as relief supplies and basic necessities are short on the ground. "The affected areas are now in a worse condition. What's most needed now are water, medicine and blankets," stressed the president.

Hoping to support their compatriots with more relief supplies, the Nepalese community in Macau has tried to raise funds among themselves and have called for more donations from the city.

"We are knocking on the doors of companies one by one. So far, two casinos have agreed to donate medicines and blankets through us, or to write us a check tomorrow. But practical help hasn't been put into place," Ms Chan, a volunteer for the NRNA, told the Times.

NEPALI ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR DONATIONS

THE NRNA has called out to citizens, companies and organizations in Macau to make donations of either money or relief supplies to support the people affected by the disaster in Nepal. The association's president, Sudarshan Thapa Magar, issued a letter stressing the victims' urgent need for basic necessities such as food, water and shelter, in the process hoping to draw "immediate attention in this sorrowful moment." For any inquiry or to make a donation, the NRNA can be reached by calling 28346631 or 66335811.

Local charities launch campaigns to help victims

LOCAL branches of charity organizations are calling for donations to aid the disaster relief in Nepal. In addition, the Macau Red Cross has launched an emergency tracing service hotline, in order to help citizens seeking contact with families or family members who are lost in Nepal. The hotline number is +853 2831 3003, and the service will be provided by the In-

ternational Committee of the Red Cross. By publishing time yesterday, the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) had received one request from a citizen seeking help to return to Macau. The affected person reportedly asked for a seat on a flight to be arranged. The office has sent out emergency contact numbers to 17 Macau-registered mobile numbers

roaming in Nepal. Following Macau Red Cross and the World Vision of Macau Association, Caritas Macau also launched a campaign yesterday to raise funds to help victims affected by the earthquake. Donations can be made via bank transaction and online via <https://www.caritas.org.mo/zh-hant/donation/node>.

Hengqin Fire Station inaugurated on Fire Services Bureau anniversary

THE Hengqin Fire Station located on the University of Macau (UM)'s new campus was inaugurated yesterday after its temporary stationing on the premises since August 2013.

The inauguration marked the 132nd anniversary of the MSAR's Fire Service Bureau (CB), along with a ceremony awarding firefighters for their rescue



operation during the recent large-scale blackout in Macau. A seminar was also held with experts from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore to share experience and advanced knowledge in major fire disaster handling.

The CB Commissioner, Ma Io Weng, pledged at the ceremony that the bureau will speedily lau-

nch rescue operations through "studying major accidents that occurred in other regions and formulating a contingency plan suitable for the territory, carrying out systematic training of personnel and purchasing advanced fire-fighting equipment."

The Hengqin station, mainly catering to the UM campus and covering

casino resorts in Cotai, is staffed with 40 firefighters and 12 vehicles, and may increase manpower depending on future need.

According to Ma, firefighters are able to depart within one minute and arrive at a fire scene within 6 minutes over 95 percent of the time. Drawing on the increase in large premises and construction sites in the city, he stressed that the key to preventing alarm and ensuring quick evacuation and rescue is a building's fire safety facilities and design, as well as holding regular fire drills. **BY**

Police refute rumor of PLA killing CIA agents

The Office of the Secretary for Security released a statement yesterday refuting a rumor spread on social networks alleging that "the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison's special force killed several CIA [the United States' Central Intelligence Agency] agents and thus received first class merit." The Office clarified that "there was absolutely no such thing, according to [its] verification and confirmation with the PLA Macau Garrison." The Secretary, Wong Sio Chak, also responded to media on the sidelines of the CB event stating, "In Macau, even if a kitten or a puppy has an accident, our police would know, not to mention such a huge thing," he said, finding the rumor "very funny."

Number of non-resident workers rises 20 pct

The number of non-resident workers increased by 20 percent year-on-year in March, reaching 174,924, according to data released by the Human Resources Office. In April last year, the number of non-resident workers was recorded as 145,692. A total of 113,465 non-resident workers come from mainland China, whereas the second largest community is from the Philippines (22,422).

HEALTH

Famous physician highlights the benefits of daily exercise

THE key way for casino workers to stay healthy is through a combination of daily exercise and balanced diet, advised Dr. Jonathan Yarom, M.D., a prominent expert in sports medicine from Israel. The physician, who attended a session of the "Herbalife Asian Tour Seminar" in Macau last week, also proposed that the SAR government introduce more free sporting facilities for the general public in a bid to encourage exercise.

The former member of the Israel National Olympic committee advised gaming employees working on different shifts to stay away from consuming a carbohydrate-heavy diet, which if eaten in excess, will lead to the accumulation of fat. Instead, undertaking physical exercise every day and focusing on a diet of vegetables and proteins will provide them with sufficient strength to cope with fatigue and strenuous shifts at work.

"It's more important for them



Jonathan Yarom

than for anyone else to regulate their health through physical activity. So they should exercise almost everyday," said the sports physician. "The exercise will rebuild the classical rhythm of their bodies, which they then have to supplement by eating at regular intervals."

He continued: "If you eat protein, you won't feel hungry. For a longer period, your body can use it for exercise to build better muscles and better resistance to fatigue."

The medical pundit gave se-

veral pieces of advice on how to further encourage exercise in the city. He noted that making public sports facilities financially accessible to citizens was the easiest way to realize this goal. "If the government puts up bicycle lanes, bicycle training areas, running paths or outdoor or indoor gyms [throughout the city] and facilitates the use of them, then people will use them," said Dr. Yarom. "If you have to go and pay an extraordinary sum of money to belong to a health club, you

would think twice about it."

He also proposed educating children at schools as early as possible on the importance of exercising which could pave the way for continuous engagement in sports activities when they grow up.

Asked about possible measures to prevent injuries while doing exercise, the sports physician suggested that people undertake a moderate training regime, so that sports enthusiasts avoid exercising "too much" or "too fast" in pursuit of their goals. "We say the safest way is to increase no more than 10 percent in each training session. 10 percent in time, 10 percent in length," he explained. "The principle of training is always loading and recovering. Loading is putting a little bit more effort in that the previous day. Recovering is letting your body adjust, repair muscles and build flexibility, which will allow you to perform a little bit better." **Staff reporter**

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STATISTICS

Tourist arrivals hit two-and-a-half-year low

TOURIST arrivals decreased by 13.5 per cent year-on-year to 2,270,585 in March 2015, the lowest number since October 2012, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). Same-day visitors totaled 1,242,058 (54.7 pct of the total), down by 10.9 pct. The average length of stay of visitors decreased by 0.1 days year-on-year to 0.9 days; overnight and same-day visitors had an average stay of 1.9 days and 0.2 days respectively.

Analyzed by place of residence, tourists from mainland China decreased notably by 17.6 pct year-on-year to 1,457,641. These visitors came primarily from Guangdong Province (639,835), Fujian Province (65,433) and Hunan Province (53,592). The number of mainland visitors traveling under the Individual Visit Scheme dropped by 9.7 pct to 666,319.

Similarly to the trend in China, visitors from most countries and regions recorded year-on-year decreases. Tourists from



Hong Kong (509,699), Taiwan (73,649) and Japan (28,459) decreased in number by 2.4 pct, 4.7 pct and 6 pct respectively year-on-year, while visitors from the Republic of Korea (43,613) represented the only increase of 7.4 pct. Long-haul travellers from the United States (15,230), Australia (7,405), Canada (6,446) and the United Kingdom (5,300) registered year-on-year declines.

Regarding modes of transport, visitor arrivals by land totaled 1,245,657, down by 12.4 pct year-on-year. Visitors entering through the Border Gate accounted for 88.9 pct of the total, amounting to 1,106,957, a figure which was down by 13.4 pct. Meanwhile, those arriving via the Cotai border dropped by 2.4 pct to 136,683. Tourist arrivals

by sea decreased by 17.2 pct year-on-year to 859,501, of which visitors entering via the Outer Harbour (532,130) and the Pro-

visional Ferry Terminal in Taipa (306,340) dropped by 15.5 pct and 17.1 pct respectively. Visitor arrivals by air decreased slightly by 0.3 pct year-on-year to 165,427, with 164,606 entering via the airport, up by 0.6 pct year-on-year.

In the first quarter of 2015, tourist arrivals totaled 7,412,221, down by 3.6 pct year-on-year, with same-day visitors increasing by 1.7 pct to 4,193,274 (56.6

pct of the total). Visitors from mainland China (5,025,943), Hong Kong (1,505,695) and Taiwan (224,808) dropped by 2.9 pct, 4.0 pct and 1.5 pct respectively year-on-year, while those from the Republic of Korea (168,644) increased by 10.8 pct. Moreover, long-haul visitor numbers from the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom recorded year-on-year decreases.

Fewer bookings for Labor Day weekend

THIS year has seen fewer hotel rooms than usual booked for the upcoming three-day Labor Day weekend in Macau, according to a Hong Kong Economic Journal report.

The neighboring region's newspaper said that it had conducted its own survey and concluded that, so far, "only five of the 18 resorts and hotels managed by Macau's top six casino groups have been fully booked for May 1-3, compared with 13 during the same period last year."

Andy Wu Keng-kuong, president of the Travel Industry Council of Macau, is cited as saying that the council expects a 7-percent fall in room rates for the Labor Day weekend. Hotel operators are not likely to raise prices during the holiday period.



The report also brings up views expressed by securities analysts from UBS AG and CIMB Group, who said that demand for hotel rooms in Macau has been decreasing as the purchasing power of mainland tourists reportedly declines.

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ENVIRONMENT

Higher density, worse air quality and more waste in 2014

THE Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) released its 2014 environmental statistics yesterday, revealing higher population density, less rainfall, fewer "good" air quality days, and greater water consumption and waste.

The city's total land area measured 30.3 square kilometers in 2014, while the population density rose to 20,500 people per square kilometer; compared with 2013, this represents 1,000 more people per square kilometer.

As for the climate, the annual mean air temperature was 22.7 degrees Celsius, up by 0.3°C year-on-year. Total precipitation decreased by 981 millimeters (mm) year-on-year to 1,584 mm, while total duration of sunshine or insolation time increased by 147 hours to 1,871 hours.

The city also recorded fewer days of "poor" air quality last year, but also fewer "good" days than in 2013.

The number of "poor" air quality days recorded at the monitoring stations at Roadside (Rua do Campo) (52 days), the Big Taipa Hill (29 days) and the high density residential area in the Northern District (30



days) decreased by 13 days, 11 days and 10 days respectively.

The monitoring stations at the high-density residential area in the Northern District and the Big Taipa Hill also both recorded a decline in their percentage share of days that boasted "good" air quality, with these shares decreasing by 8.5 and 2.4 percentage points respectively. These two stations recorded an increase in the portion of days where air quality was "moderate."

Meanwhile, the four monitoring stations that measure fine suspended particulates (PM2.5) recorded

the highest PM2.5 index of the year in January, with the monitoring station at Roadside (Rua do Campo) leading at 158.8 micrograms per cubic meter. Acid rain was recorded on 77 days in 2014, down by 7 days year-on-year.

Last year's total water consumption increased by 6.4 percent year-on-year to 83,486,000 cubic meters. Water consumption by the business sector (42,697,000 cubic meters) and households (35,266,000 cubic meters) increased by 7.2 percent and 5.2 percent respectively. Meanwhile, the wastewater treatment plants treated an average of 216,917 cubic meters of waste water per day, up by 0.9 percent year-on-year.

In addition, a total of 218,987 tonnes of domestic waste was collected, representing a 5.4-percent increase year-on-year. The volume of waste from the business sector surged by 14.8 percent to 122,906 tonnes, while the volume of solid waste incinerated also increased significantly by 15.3 percent to 457,370 tonnes. The landfill treated 11.5 percent more renovation and construction waste to a total of 4,376,000 cubic meters.

CRIME

Mainland Chinese student falls victim to phone hoax

A female mainland Chinese studying at a local university lost RMB120,000 in a phone scam where the male caller's voice resembled her professor's, a representative from the Judiciary Police said at a press briefing yesterday afternoon.

The 32-year-old student reported the crime to the police authorities after she learnt that she had fallen for the hoax over the weekend. Last Saturday morning, the victim received a call from a Mandarin-speaking man who claimed to be her professor at school and asked her for money to cope with an emergency. Deeply convinced by the man's voice, the student then immediately remitted the amount requested through her friends' bank accounts on the mainland to the man's account given in the phone conversation.

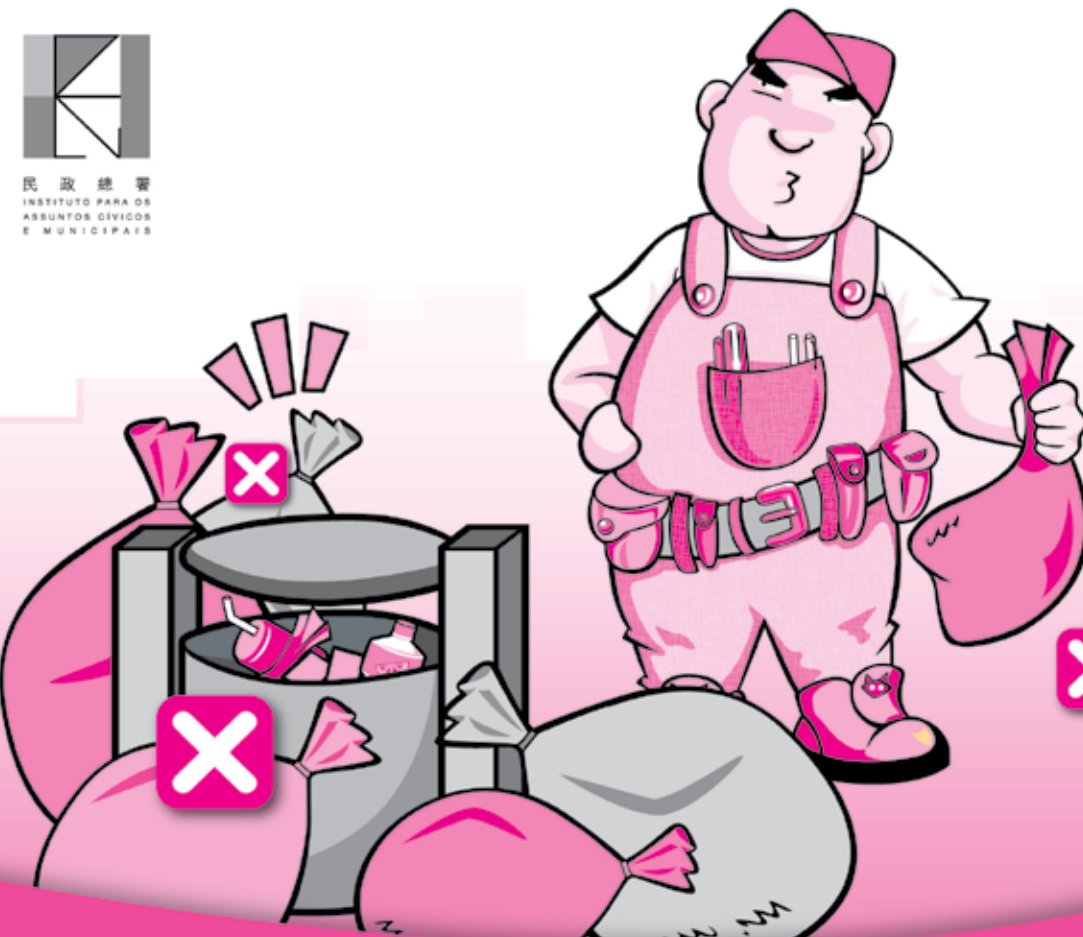
Failing to reach her professor for confirmation of the transfer afterwards, the student approached the head of her department on the afternoon of the same day to see if he could find him. However, a phone call with the "genuine professor" revealed that the entire episode had been a scam.

Separately, a local driver was arrested last Saturday by the Judiciary Police (PJ) for illegally gambling away his company's client deposit worth HKD400,000, the police authorities revealed at a media briefing.

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HSBC jumps most in a year after retail spinoff report, HQ relocation

Stephen Morris and Alfred Liu

HSBC Holdings Plc's shares jumped the most in more than a year in London after a newspaper report saying the lender may spin off its U.K. consumer bank as the company pledged to review its domicile.

Europe's largest lender surged as much as 4.6 percent, the most since January 2014, and traded 2.7 percent up at 646.80 pence at 10:45 a.m. in London yesterday, compared with a 0.3 percent drop in the FTSE 100 Index. In Hong Kong the stock posted the biggest intraday gain since December 2011.

HSBC is considering spinning off the consumer

Hong Kong is viewed by analysts as the bank's most likely destination should it relocate

bank worth about 20 billion pounds (USD30 billion), the Sunday Times newspaper reported, without saying where it got the information. Chairman Douglas Flint said Friday the lender would consider moving from the U.K., where a bank levy cost the firm 750

million pounds last year, more than any other lender.

"Today's gains are mainly being driven by the possible spinoff of HSBC's U.K. retail bank, on top of the relocation potential," said Linus Yip, chief strategist at First Shanghai Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong.

Heidi Ashley, a spokeswoman for HSBC, declined to comment on the plan for the U.K. consumer business. The bank, which will release first-quarter earnings on May 5, is scheduled to update investors on its strategy on June 9.

A spinoff would recreate Midland Bank, which HSBC bought in 1992, although a deal isn't imminent, the Sunday Times said.

"Spinning off U.K. retail

would give up a significant source of earnings," with the consumer division "the most profitable U.K. business," said Carla Antunes-Silva, an analyst at Credit Suisse Group AG with an underperform rating on HSBC shares. "A full U.K. separation would dilute returns."

Hong Kong is viewed by analysts as the bank's most likely destination should it relocate. A transfer should cost the lender no more than USD1.5 billion because HSBC still has a base in the former British colony, according to Chirantan Barua, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein in London.

Europe accounts for less than a quarter of profit at the bank, which operates in more than 70 nations. On Friday, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority noted what it called HSBC's "deep historical links" with the territory and said it would take a "positive attitude" should the lender decide to move. HSBC was founded in Hong Kong and Shanghai in 1865.

"Given HSBC's historical Hong Kong connection and the size of its group balance sheet, we believe a China-backed banking system in Hong Kong is probably the only realistic option for its headquarters," said Ronit Ghose, an analyst at Citigroup Inc. "The recent increase in the tax burden on U.K. banks, especially via the bank levy, may have been a tipping point."

In the U.K., Prime Minister David Cameron said last week that HSBC's decision to consider moving headquarters underscored the need to keep the country business-friendly.

Standard Chartered Plc, which has also come under pressure from investors to redomicile to Asia amid higher British taxes, climbed 2.5 percent to 1,097 pence in London. Barclays Plc and other major U.K. banks fell. **Bloomberg**

Hutchison Port to raise HK tariffs to handle mega-ships

Kyunghee Park

HUTCHISON Port Holdings Trust, the port operator controlled by billionaire Li Ka-shing, is in talks with shipping lines to impose a "moderate" tariff increase at its Hong Kong terminal as it focuses on handling supersized container ships.

Hutchison Port is talking with customers about higher tariffs that would increase the company's net revenue by 2 percent to 3 percent, Gerry Yim, chief executive officer of the trust, said Monday in Singapore. The raise would probably take effect in the first half of the year, he said.

"We're asking for a moderate tariff increase to make sure we can handle the mega-vessels for the longer term," Yim said. "The tariff we want to raise will definitely be able to offset our cost increase, plus a positive contribution to our bottom line."

Other terminal operators could follow Hutchison Port's lead on tariffs, Ivor Chow, the company's chief financial officer, said without elaborating.

Last year, Hutchison Port handled 6 percent more 20-foot containers at its Hong Kong and Shenzhen terminals than it did in 2013. While exports to the U.S. have been growing steadily, demand from Europe remains slow, Yim said.

The trust is adding three more berths at its Shenzhen terminal to better handle the largest vessels, Yim said. That would increase capacity by 2 million to 2.5 million boxes from the current 11.7 million, he said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CROWN SPA MOTHER'S DAY PACKAGE

This Mother's Day, Crown Spa is offering an experience that covers facial and body treatments to refreshments, limousine service and a rose as a giveaway gift.

Starting the Crown Spa journey with an Aromatic Foot Ritual, the treatment continues with a 60-minute signature Crown Shell Aromatherapy Body Massage incorporating heated lava shell massage to Swedish and Lomi Lomi

techniques.

Another 60-minute facial treatment with Molecular Dispersion Technology follows, a unique protein and highly engineered vitamins A, B3, B5, C and E delivery system which transforms skin and improves its tone, texture and clarity.

The journey completes with tea and refreshments, and complimentary usage of the steam and sauna, vitality Jacuzzi and Tepidarium.



MELCO SHARES OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS

Melco Crown Entertainment Limited accepted the invitation from the Macau Labour Affairs Bureau to share its achievements on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and effective measures with the local hotel, food and beverage industry as part of the World Occupational Safety and Health Day activities series.

The Hotel, Food and Beverage OSH Seminar was part of today's World Occupational Safety and Health Day series declared by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It was organized by the Macau Labour Affairs Bureau in cooperation with local OSH associations and labor unions. At the seminar, the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Manager of Melco Crown Entertainment, Mr. Steve Yeung, presented the company's safety management system and safety training programs to over 100 practitioners from the Macau hotel, food and beverage industry.

THE VENETIAN HOSTS SUSTAINABILITY FIELD TRIP FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

The Venetian Macao hosted a group of 70 fourth-grade students from The International School of Macao (TIS) at the integrated resort yesterday, as part of the community engagement efforts of the Sands ECO360° sustainability initiative. It was the second year in a row that the company has hosted the event. The activity aims to educate local students about Sands China's environmental initiatives and facilitate an exchange of ideas, suggestions and experiences on how to shape Macau into a more eco-conscious city.

The field trip kicked off with a presentation by the TIS students about their school's project of waste classification and reduction, which included a video pro-



duced by the students. An open discussion between the students and Sands China team members was also arranged to enable both parties to share their ideas on recycling and sustainability. Yesterday's program also included a question and answer session, and a group activity that challenged the students to create an art object from recyclable materials.

TOURISM in Portugal, one of the sectors that has most supported the economy during the recent years of crisis, continues to grow at a high pace, with an expected contribution from 100,000 Chinese tourists this year.

Figures released last week by the Global Blue consultancy show that Chinese tourists, amongst those whose numbers have grown most, are the ones that spend most on shopping in the Portuguese market.

On average, Chinese tourists spent 935 euros per purchase in 2014, or 3.2 times more than Angolan tourists and 4.2 times more than the Russian tourists.

In Portugal, Chinese shopping tourists are already at the top of the list of customers who spend most per purchase

GLOBAL BLUE

PORTUGAL

100,000 Chinese tourists contribute to success



Ilha do Pico, Azores, Portugal

“In Portugal, Chinese shopping tourists are already at the top of the list of customers who spend most per purchase,” said the consultancy in a recently published study.

In 2014, the number of Chinese tourists in Portugal grew

by 70 percent and this year is expected to exceed 100,000, according to recent estimates from the Portuguese government.

As part of the 1st Sino-Portuguese Joint Committee on tourism, held in Shanghai in 2014

and this year, for the first time China participated in the Lisbon Tourism Fair, with Chinese operators showing greater interest in the Portuguese market.

The Chinese are more informed about tourism in Portugal due to the Portuguese “golden

visa” scheme, which offers residence permits in return for investments in property of over 500,000 euros.

The Chinese have been by far the largest participants of the scheme, with nearly 2,000 residence permits issued since 2012, mainly for the acquisition of real estate, which already exceeds 1 billion euros, far ahead of Brazilian or Russian investors.

Tour operators and trade have adapted quickly to the influx of Chinese tourists, and there are already several shopping centers, especially in Lisbon, which have their own services for these consumers and, in some cases, have hung the Chinese flag next to those of Portugal and the European Union.

On arrival at Lisbon airport travellers are greeted by many posters in Chinese – some announcing what is on offer at shopping centers, other investment opportunities in real estate, with images showing river and sea views and slogans like “this apartment could be yours.”

The contribution that Chinese investors made to the Portuguese economy during the 2011-2013 crisis, particularly with about 10 billion euros invested in privatizations, has been publicly praised by the Portuguese authorities. **MDT/Macauhub**

Cape Verde posts economic growth of 2.7 pct in 2014

THE economy of Cape Verde grew at rate of 2.7 percent in 2014, according to provisional quarterly accounts presented in Praia by the president of the National Statistics Institute (INE), António Duarte.

The President of INE, an organization that for the first time since the country's independence presents Quarterly Accounts, said the figure recorded in 2014 exceeded all forecasts.



Gross domestic product grew 1.1 percent in the archipelago in 2012, followed by a marginal drop to 1 percent in 2013 and a significant rise to

2.7 percent in 2014.

“This development means that there was a strong recovery in economic growth in 2014. Let's see how it will evolve in

2015, because next June we will present the 1st quarter accounts,” said António Duarte, cited by weekly newspaper A Semana.

The sectors of the economy that most contributed to this growth were fishing, construction, telecommunications and business services but the previous year had been fishing, electricity and water, accommodation and catering, and telecommunications.

This development means that there was a strong recovery in economic growth in 2014

ANTÓNIO DUARTE

The Quarterly National Accounts provide complete and relatively detailed macroeconomic data, which is coherent and mainly integrated with the System of National Annual Accounts published previously.

The quarterly information, at current value and at the previous year's prices (by volume) allows better observation of the economic cycles, their follow-up, their understanding and therefore a plausible forecast of the dynamics of the economy.

MDT/Macauhub

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Young leave state ranks to chase riches at tech startups

Lulu Yilun Chen

FOR decades, the most coveted jobs in China have been in government, with their steady income, job security and power. Now people like Nymar Li are changing that perception by leaving the state to seek their fortunes at startups.

Li became the pride of his family when he landed a job in the customs bureau right out of college a decade ago. Then last year, he gave up the security of employment for life to join an e-commerce startup working in Hangzhou, following the path of Jack Ma who helped found Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. in the same city and then pulled off the largest initial public offering ever.

It's a sign of a broader shift in China as the economy slows and state-backed companies falter. People like Ma are inspiring a generation to become entrepreneurs and seek their fortune in the private sector, just as a crackdown on corruption makes it less prestigious and lucrative to be a civil servant.

"The brightest of our generation no longer yearn to be in the system," said the 34-year-old Li. "As long as you have the caliber, there's a real possibility you can make it in the market."

There's clear evidence fewer people want to join the government amid President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign. The number of people taking the civil entrance exam fell to a record low, down 7.5 percent to 1.4 million, according to the state-run People's Daily.

Liu Yuan, an investment manager at ZhenFund, sees the shift through the startups he backs. Last year, the Beijing-

BLOOMBERG



Employees work inside the Xianlife.com office in Beijing, China

based angel investor pumped USD70 million into 100 startups, with about half of his most recent investments founded by college graduates born after 1985.

"Kids these days no longer find going into government on top of their list," said the 26-year-old Liu. "Setting up their own startups is what they have their eyes on."

Kids these days no longer find going into government on top of their list

LIU YUAN, 26
INVESTMENT MANAGER

New businesses are sprouting up at a record pace, with China's version of Silicon Valley birthing 49 startups a day last year. More than 1,000 organizations are investing in startups with capital exceeding 350 billion yuan (\$56 billion), according to the ministry of science and technology.

"There's a ton of money looking for places to go," said Michael Pettis, a finance professor at the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University. "It's not surprising that a lot of startup companies want to take advantage of this."

Nymar Li decided on a path into civil service in part because of his parents, who both worked at state-owned enterprises. After graduating from university in Zhejiang province in 2003 he sat for the go-

vernment entrance exam and joined the customs bureau.

"As someone who was just normal, went to school normally and actually became a civil servant without needing my parents to call in any favor, it made my entire family very happy," said Li. "They felt I was on a right track."

That sentiment faded over the years as stagnant pay made it increasingly difficult to care for his young family and elderly parents. Nymar struggled to maintain a middle-class lifestyle on his 9,000 yuan monthly government salary, as annual inflation averaged almost 3 percent.

The shrinking benefits and influence for civil servants also helped make up his mind. He ultimately decided to a business importing overseas goods to China.

"There has been a real initiative to limit the power and interference government officials have on corporations, which leads to a drastic decrease in feelings of achievement," said Li.

He left government about the same time five colleagues departed for the private sector. Kong Xuan, 35, is another former civil servant in Jiangxi province now setting up his own Internet finance startup in Hangzhou.

"The biggest difference is now I'm a lot happier," said Kong. "The Internet industry is much more vital."

As a new generation emerges who aren't as tied to the government, the ruling Communist Party has to wrestle with how to retain control, said Isaac Mao, an angel investor and founder of smart device maker Aivvy Inc.

"There's an inherent conflict in all of this," said Mao. "To think that you can have true innovation and a thriving technology sector but not give up power to some extent is delusional."

Already change is under the way as young people who have gained success overseas return to China.

Hou Yu, a 26-year-old former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. banker, returned to the mainland from Hong Kong last year to set up her own online finance firm. She's focused on working with small and medium enterprises.

"China's current technology boom is intertwined with reform in finance and politics and energy, environment and health care," said Hou, who graduated from New York University with a master's degree in math. "This is a very powerful process and it's all very exciting."

For Nymar Li, the trend away from the civil service can only have positive benefits on his generation. They have the opportunity to create and help improve the country.

"These people are the best and brightest," said Li, "and bright people are restless." **Bloomberg**

Mainland adding nuclear plants at record pace in fight against smog

CHINA is set to add nuclear reactors at a record pace this year as the nation seeks to cut pollution by reducing its dependence on coal.

China may start operating 8 reactors this year, according to Zhao Chengkun, the vice chairman of the China Nuclear Energy Association, citing an estimate by the National Energy Administration. This puts the

world's biggest energy consumer on track to install 58 gigawatts of atomic power capacity by 2020, said Zhao. That would exceed Japan's nuclear resources before the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

"This is quite a spree," Zhao said in an April 24 interview in Beijing. "I don't remember such a pace in history."

China is betting that

nuclear energy will provide a source of power that's less polluting and cheaper than coal-fired generation, according to Zhao. President Xi Jinping has pledged an "iron hand" to protect the environment as the world's worst polluter aims to cap carbon emissions by 2030. Atomic energy now accounts for just 2 percent of the country's total

power generation, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency.

China installed a total of 20.3 gigawatts of atomic capacity at the end of 2014, and has 28.5 gigawatts in construction, the most in the world, according to the nation's nuclear association. The country started building commercial reactors in 1994. **Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG



The new Daya Bay Nuclear power Plant in Guangdong. There are 27 new nuclear power stations under construction in China, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency

Natalie Obiko Pearson
and Sandrine Rastello

AFTER the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that flattened parts of the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu on Saturday and unleashed avalanches on Mount Everest, China and India barely missed a beat.

Within hours of the disaster, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dispatched military aircraft carrying workers, medicines and blankets. A day later, President Xi Jinping's government sent a search-and-rescue team to the Himalayan kingdom, together with medical equipment and sniffer dogs.

Yet even before the disaster that has left at least 3,500 dead, Nepal has been looked after by both Asian powers in recent years. The country is strategically located in a region that encompasses the Tibetan Plateau in southwestern China and some of the highest and most water-rich mountain ranges in the world. Chinese policies in Tibet have created serious tensions between India, as have border disputes.

In the middle stands Nepal, a desperately poor nation that has been home to a violent Maoist insurgency, a bloody royal family succession and a fitful transformation toward democracy. It is ranked a "least developed country" by the United Nations and its annual economic output is smaller in dollar terms than any of the 50 states in the U.S.

Yet on the rooftop of the world, a country that's roughly the size of the American state of Tennessee is a player in a different sense. It holds some leverage to sway its far more powerful neighbors, according to Jayant Prasad, who served as India's ambassador to Nepal from 2011 to 2013.

"Nepal balances India and China for its own purposes, obviously," said Prasad. At the same time, he says he doesn't see an Indian-Chinese cage match over influence in Kathmandu. "The Chinese are not in competition with us over there because they have good relations with Nepal and so do we."

The peaks in and around the Tibetan Plateau are home to tens of thousands of glaciers. This water resource feeds Asia's major river systems - from the Mekong to



Residents rescue items from debris of a house that was damaged in Saturday's earthquake in Kathmandu

Nepal has powerful friends in high places: Beijing and Delhi

In 2014, China overtook India as Nepal's biggest foreign investor

the Ganges and Yangtze to the Yellow River - that supplies water to more than a dozen countries. That includes China and India, representing nearly a third of the world's population.

Nepal is endowed with rivers and mountainous topography and big potential, so far not realized, to generate hydroelectricity to supply power for both domestic and regional use. The government led by President Ram Baran Yadav has courted bids for hydropower deals.

In one of the biggest foreign investments ever in the country, Nepal's Investment Board approved plans in mid-April for

China's Three Gorges International Corp. to build a USD1.6 billion hydropower project.

Historically, India has had far closer political and economic ties, thanks to the Himalayas that served as a natural barrier to Chinese merchants. India still accounts for roughly half of Nepal's trade.

However, in 2014, China overtook India as Nepal's biggest foreign investor, funding power plants, noodle factories and meat-processing units. Late last year, in Kathmandu, Chinese engineers were working on construction of Nepal's first eight-lane highway, a \$45 million upgrade of an existing road that circles the capital.

"China is growing in importance," Nepal's Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat said in an interview with Bloomberg last December. "Because of new trade horizons and the cheap pricing of Chinese goods, Chinese trade vis-a-vis Nepal is growing."

China's embrace of Nepal dates back to March of 2008, when there was a spate of anti-China protests by Tibetans on the eve of the Beijing Olympics, according to Pramod Jaiswal, a political and security risk analyst in New Delhi who got his doctorate at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"They wanted to curb the underground activities of the approximately 20,000 Tibetan refugees settled in Nepal," he wrote in a paper last year.

Having an ally in Nepal would also serve as a land buffer between two countries that went to war briefly in 1962 over a border dispute, according to Li Li, a researcher at the China Institutes

FIVE PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR IN NEPAL

FIVE PEOPLE from Hong Kong in Nepal are still out of contact from their families after Saturday's devastating earthquake in the country, said Hong Kong's Immigration Department yesterday. Three immigration officers were flying to Nepal yesterday afternoon to assist in finding these people. They will approach the Chinese embassy there to seek help in locating them, according to the department. As of yesterday, a total of 3,726 people have been killed and 6,944 others injured in the 7.9-magnitude quake, the Home Ministry of Nepal said.

of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing. "From the perspective of geopolitics, Nepal is a vital passage in China's quest for direct access to the South Asian countries."

Chinese influence could grow further if a proposal reported late last year in the China Daily to extend the Qinghai-Tibet Railway to the China-Nepal border becomes a reality.

India, meanwhile, has announced plans to set up a special purpose facility to fund roads, bridges and power plants in Asia. Government officials familiar with the discussions say it'll be less than a quarter the size of China's \$40 billion Silk Road fund, which will bankroll infrastructure deals in central and south Asia to replicate the old Silk Road trading route that once carried treasures between China and the Mediterranean.

The two Asian powers are expected to take a leadership role in rebuilding Nepal. "Both India and China will look to compete with each other for reconstruction opportunities in terms of highways and hospitals," said political analyst Jaiswal. "Short term it's important for image, or

soft power. Long term it's about their security interests."

The quake destroyed roads and topped power lines. Even before the disaster, the Asian Development Bank estimated that it needs to spend about four times more than it currently does annually on infrastructure through 2020 to attract investment.

China's Ministry of Commerce announced plans to send about \$3.2 million worth of generators, tents and other supplies via charter flights. The People's Liberation Army will send four Il-76 transport aircraft with relief personal and rescue equipment, the Defense Ministry said on its website.

Aid from its powerful neighbors countries means Nepal will recover faster than it would've in previous years "but they will need hand-holding," said Rajrishi Singhal, a senior geo-economics fellow at Mumbai-based Gateway House.

"The problem of bad infrastructure and poor logistics is now coming home to roost," he said. "You're looking at lower incomes, lower revenue, high inflation, loss of imports. It's going to be a terrible year for them." **Bloomberg**

AIRLINES DENY PRICE HIKE FOR NEPAL FLIGHTS

CHINA'S MAJOR airlines dismissed rumors that they raised ticket prices for evacuation flights from quake-hit Nepal yesterday. Air China, China Eastern and China Southern told Xinhua it is impossible for them to hike ticket prices, which are under tight control of the National Development and Reform Commission. However, Air China said it cannot be ruled out that some air ticket agents raised prices without approval. Rumors went viral online that Chinese visitors

stranded in Nepal had to pay extra money for flights home. About 4,000 Chinese tourists now remain in Nepal, where an 8.1-magnitude earthquake has killed at least 3,218 people, including four Chinese. Currently, Chinese carriers have the capacity to bring around 1,200 people home every day. The Civil Aviation Administration of China asked airlines to prepare more flights and prioritize the transport of passengers and humanitarian aid.

NEPAL

Quake-aid need acute in Kathmandu, more so in villages

Katy Daigle and
Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

SHELTER, fuel, food, medicine, power, news, workers — Nepal's earthquake-hit capital was short on everything yesterday as its people searched for lost loved ones, sorted through rubble for their belongings and struggled to provide for their families' needs. In much of the countryside, it was worse, though how much worse was only beginning to become apparent.

The death toll soared past 3,700, even without a full accounting from vulnerable mountain villages that rescue workers were still struggling to reach two days after the disaster.

Udav Prasad Timalina, the top official for the Gorkha district, where Saturday's magnitude 7.8 quake was centered, said he was in desperate need of help.

"There are people who are not getting food and shelter. I've had reports of villages where 70 percent of the houses have been destroyed," he said.

Aid group World Vision said its staff members were able to reach Gorkha, but gathering information from the villages remained a challenge. Even when roads are clear, the group said, some remote areas can be three days' walk from Gorkha's main disaster center.

Some roads and trails have been blocked by landslides, the group said in an email to The Associated Press. "In those villages that have been reached, the immediate needs are great including the need for search and rescue, food items, blankets and tarps, and medical treatment."

Timalina said 223 people had been confirmed dead in Gorkha district but he presumed "the



Nepalese security personnel engage themselves in a rescue operation at the site of a budget hotel that collapsed in Saturday's earthquake, in the Kalanki neighborhood of Kathmandu

number would go up because there are thousands who are injured." He said his district had not received enough help from the central government, but Jagdish Pokhrel, the clearly exhausted army spokesman, said nearly the entire 100,000-soldier army was involved in rescue operations.

"We have 90 percent of the army out there working on search and rescue," he said. "We are focusing our efforts on that, on saving lives."

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.

Aid is coming from more than a dozen countries and many charities, but Lila Mani Poudyal, the government's chief secretary and the rescue coordi-

nator, said Nepal needed more.

He said the recovery was also being slowed because many workers — water tanker drivers, electricity company employees and laborers needed to clear debris — "are all gone to their families and staying with them, refusing to work."

"We are appealing for tents, dry goods, blankets, mattresses, and 80 different medicines that the health department is seeking that we desperately need now," Poudyal told reporters. "We don't have the helicopters that we need or the expertise to rescue the people trapped."

As people are pulled from the wreckage, he noted, even more help is needed.

"Now we especially need orthopedic (doctors), nerve specialists, anesthetists, surgeons and paramedics," he said. "We are appealing to foreign governments to send these specialized and smart teams."

More than 6,300 people were injured in the quake, he said, estimating that tens of thousands of people had been left homeless. "We have been under severe stress and pressure, and have not been able to reach the people who need help on time," he said.

Nepal police said in a statement that the country's death toll had risen to 3,617 people. That does not include the 18

We don't feel safe at all. There have been so many aftershocks. It doesn't stop

RAJENDRA DHUNGANA, 34

people killed in the avalanche, which were counted by the mountaineering association. Another 61 people were killed in neighboring India, and China reported 20 people dead in Tibet.

Well over 1,000 of the victims were in Kathmandu, the capital, where an eerie calm prevailed yesterday.

Tens of thousands of families slept outdoors for a second night, fearful of aftershocks that have not ceased. Camped in parks, open squares and a golf course, they cuddled children or pets against chilly Himalayan nighttime temperatures.

They woke to the sound of dogs yelping and jackhammers. As the dawn light crawled across toppled building sites, volunteers and rescue workers carefully shifted broken concrete slabs and crumbled bricks mixed together with humble household items: pots and pans; a purple notebook decorated with butterflies; a framed poster of a bodybuilder; so many shoes.

"It's overwhelming. It's too much to think about," said 55-year-old Bijay Nakarmi, mourning his parents, whose bodies recovered from the rubble of what once was a three-story building.

Kathmandu district chief administrator Ek Narayan Aryal said tents and water were being handed out yesterday at 10 locations in Kathmandu, but that aftershocks were leaving everyone jittery. The largest, on Sunday, was magnitude 6.7.

"There have been nearly 100 earthquakes and aftershocks, which is making rescue work difficult. Even the rescuers are scared and running because of them," he said.

"We don't feel safe at all. There have been so many aftershocks. It doesn't stop," said Rajendra Dhungana, 34, who spent Sunday with his niece's family for her cremation at the Pashuputi Nath Temple.

Acrid, white smoke rose above the Hindu temple, Nepal's most revered. "I've watched hundreds of bodies burn," Dhungana said. **AP**

Modern tragedy: Quake-ravaged tower a site for selfies

Social media is a chronicle of life, and sometimes death. So it should be no surprise that a site of great human and cultural loss in Nepal's devastating earthquake is now barraged with the clicking of smartphones.

Near Kathmandu's famed Dharahara Tower, a historic nine-story struc-

ture reduced to an enormous pile of red brick dust, dozens of people clambered around the debris clicking selfies and photos of their friends posing in front of the wreckage. The tower built by Nepal's royal rulers in the 1800s was one of the country's most treasured monuments, and was photographed far more

than other buildings destroyed by Saturday's quake.

It is unclear how many people were killed in the tower, but it was believed to have been filled with tourists.

Pawan Thapa, a 21-year-old business student who arrived from the suburbs to try to help with the recovery effort, was dis-

mayed by the scene. Some of those taking pictures were smiling for the camera.

"This is earthquake tourism. This is not right," he said. "They are more interested in clicking their selfies than understanding that it is a tragedy."

Most of those taking pictures, however, did not appear to be tourists but locals capturing the devastation of their community, and the loss of a landmark that had helped define it. **AP**



A man takes a selfie at the historic Dharahara Tower, a city landmark that was damaged in the quake

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA'S leader said yesterday that Southeast Asian countries will avoid direct confrontation with China but push for a quick conclusion to a binding code of conduct to govern behavior in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

Prime Minister Najib Razak said the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations' non-confrontational approach to the dispute has been effective in keeping tensions with Beijing in bay.

"We will continue to engage China in a constructive way," Najib said at a news conference after chairing an ASEAN leaders' meeting. "We hope to be able to influence China. It is also in their interest not to be seen as confronting ASEAN and that any attempt to destabilize this region will not benefit China either."

ASEAN will seek "expeditious resolution" of a code of conduct with China, Najib said.

He indirectly rejected calls by the Philippines

ASEAN to avoid confronting China in S. China Sea



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak, fourth right, and Laos's Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, fifth right, attend the opening ceremony for the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur

for ASEAN to stand up to China. Manila has warned that Beijing is poised to take "de facto control"

with its construction of artificial islands on reefs claimed by other countries in the area.

"The massive reclamation activities undertaken by China pose a threat to the security and stability

of the region, cause irreparable damage to the marine environment and threaten the livelihood

of many of our peoples," Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said earlier in a speech at the meeting.

Aquino said ASEAN must have political will and unite against "activities that exacerbate tensions" in the region. Manila has warned that China will likely wait to complete its reclamation work before it agrees to conclude the code of conduct.

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. **AP**

THAILAND

Authorities seize 3 tons of elephant tusks smuggled from Kenya

THAILAND seized 3 tons of ivory hidden in tea leaf sacks from Kenya in the second-biggest bust in the country's history, one week after the biggest seizure, customs officials said yesterday.

The 511 elephant tusks worth USD6 million, bound for Laos, were seized upon arrival Saturday at a major port in Chonburi province in eastern Thailand. The bust came after customs officials received a tip-off in Laos and Thailand and tracked the containers from Kenya, Customs Department Director-General Somchai Sujjapongse told reporters.

The ivory, hidden among tea leaves, was shipped out of Kenya on March 24 and went through ports in Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore before coming to Thailand, he said.

The bust came one week after Thai customs officials seized 4 tons of tusks that were smuggled from Congo and also destined for Laos in what they said was the nation's biggest seizure.

Somchai said that the tusks seized Saturday were "more

beautiful and complete than the previous lot," and that they would likely have been distributed to buyers in China, Vietnam and Thailand had the shipment reached Laos.

Thailand is one of the top destinations for African ivory smuggling in Asia and could face international sanctions soon if it doesn't show progress in combatting the problem.

"After these two consecutive big busts ... the transnational crime networks must realize it is getting increasingly difficult to send their shipment past Thailand, but I think they will try to come up with the more complicated means, so we will have already prepared the measures to (tackle the issue)," Somchai said.

Poachers have killed tens of thousands of African elephants for their tusks in recent years to meet demand for ivory in Asia. China has imposed a one-year ban on ivory imports amid criticism that its citizens' huge appetite for ivory threatens the existence of Africa's elephants. **AP**

INDONESIA

Australia wants judges probed before death penalty

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA wants corruption allegations against Indonesian judges investigated before their death sentences against two Australian drug traffickers are carried out, the foreign minister said Monday.

The Australians, Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31, are among 10 drug traffickers who were given 72-hour notices over the weekend that they will be executed by a firing squad.

Indonesian authorities say that the Australians have exhausted all avenues of appeal.

But Foreign Minister Julie Bishop argued the men should not be executed while they have an unresolved case before Indonesia's Constitutional Court and while Indonesia's Judicial Commission was investigating claims of corruption in the pair's original trial.

According to Australia's Fairfax Media, Sukumaran and Chan's original Indonesian lawyer Muhammad Rifan says that the trial judges had originally asked for a 1 million rupiah (USD77,000) bribe to pass



Demonstrators gather at the Indonesian consulate in Sydney yesterday

sentences of less than 20 years.

Rifan alleged that the deal fell through after the judges later said that they had been ordered by senior legal and government figures to impose the death penalty.

The judges then "started asking for a lot more money" to provide a lesser sentence, Rifan said, but the pair did not have any more money, Fairfax Media reported yesterday.

Rifan could not be immediately contacted for comment yesterday.

The pair were sentenced to death in February 2006 for their leading roles in an Australian smuggling group dubbed

"the Bali Nine." They were arrested in 2005 after a tip-off from Australian police while trying to smuggle more than 8 kilograms of heroin from Bali to Sydney. The rest were sentenced to prison terms.

Sukumaran and Chan have provided sworn statements to the Judicial Commission, which safeguards the probity of judges, Fairfax Media reported.

Bishop said she contacted her Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi on Sunday night in a bid to prevent the executions. She said the Australians should not be killed while two legal cases were outstanding. **AP**

Nataliya Vasilyeva, Moscow

RUSSIA

Putin accuses US of supporting separatists

IN a new documentary, Russian President Vladimir Putin says intercepted calls showed that the U.S. helped separatists in Russia's North Caucasus in the 2000s, underscoring his suspicions of the West.

The two-hour documentary, which aired Sunday on the state-owned Rossiya-1 TV channel, is dedicated to Putin's 15 years in office. It focused on Putin's achievements as well as challenges to his rule — which the producers and Putin blame on Western interference.

Putin was elected Russian president on March 26, 2000, after spending three months as acting president, and was sworn in on May 7, 2000.

The documentary showed Putin interviewed at the Kremlin in the dimly-lit St. Alexander's Hall. Putin said in the interview that Russian intelligence agencies had "intercepted direct contacts" between the separatists and U.S. intelligence officials in Azerbaijan during the early 2000s, proving that Washington was helping the insurgents.

He didn't specify when the calls took place.

Following a disastrous war in the 1990s, Russia fought Islamic insurgents in Chechnya and neighboring regions in the

AP PHOTO



Russian President Vladimir Putin walks during a memorial service at the Tsitsernakaberd Genocide memorial complex in Yerevan, Armenia, Friday

volatile North Caucasus.

"They were actually helping them, even with transporta-

tion," Putin said.

Putin said he raised the issue with then-U.S. President

George W. Bush, who promised Putin to "kick the ass" of the intelligence officers in question.

But in the end, Putin said the Russian intelligence agency FSB received a letter from their "American counterparts" who asserted their right to "support all opposition forces in Russia," including the Islamic separatists in the Caucasus.

Putin also expressed his fears that the West wishes Russia harm as he recalled how some world leaders told him they would not mind Russia's possible disintegration.

"My counterparts, a lot of presidents and prime ministers told me later on that they had decided for themselves by then that Russia would cease to exist in its current form," he said, referring to the time period around the second conflict in the Caucasus. "The only question was when it happens and what consequences would be."

The latest poll by the independent Levada agency showed that the approval rating for Putin, whose third term in office ends in 2018, was a whopping 86 percent in April. **AP**

USA

Supporters of Senate Iran bill swatting away amendments

THE U.S. Senate begins debate this week on a bill empowering Congress to review and potentially reject any Iran nuclear deal.

President Barack Obama grudgingly backed the bill when Democrats joined Republicans in demanding a say on any final agreement, but even with widespread support in the Senate, proponents must first win a battle with some colleagues determined to change the legislation in ways that could cost them the Democratic support needed for passage.

The high-profile debate comes as negotiators from the U.S. and five other nations are rushing to finalize an agreement by the end of June requiring Iran to curb its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart planned to meet yesterday for the first time since they laid out the framework for a nuclear deal earlier this month. The State Department said Kerry and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif would meet in New York where the two are attending a conference on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The bill before the Senate would block Obama from waiving congressio-

nal sanctions for at least 30 days while lawmakers weigh in. If 60 senators vote to disapprove of the deal, Obama would lose his waiver power altogether.

The president is betting that won't happen. Even if Congress disapproves, Obama will almost certainly respond with a veto, which could prove hard to override.

The bill's backers are trying to keep lawmakers focused on how it would give Congress a say on a critical national security issue. They say the measure is not meant to be about how Iran increasingly is wielding influence in the Middle East, its support of terrorist groups or human rights violations.

Some senators are proposing amendments to pressure Iran to end its support of extremist groups, stop threatening to destroy Israel and recognize its right to exist, and release U.S. citizens held in Iran.

Such amendments could scuttle an eventual deal and be difficult for Democrats to support.

If there is a final deal with Iran, Obama can use his executive authority to ease some sanctions on his own and work with the European Union and the United Nations to lift others. **AP**

SYRIA

Insurgents capture military base in northwest

ISLAMIC insurgents overran a military base at a former factory in northwestern Syria yesterday, carting off tanks and other weapons in the latest blow to President Bashar Assad's forces in the region, activists said.

The opposition offensive in Idlib province has captured the provincial capital, a strategic town as well as villages and military bases since it began last month. An array of anti-Assad armed factions from across the ideological spectrum has demonstrated a degree of sustained coordination previously unseen in northern Syria, contributing to the campaign's success.

After hours of heavy fighting yesterday, the opposition fighters seized control of the base at the former factory,

known as Qarheed, northwest of the town of Ariha, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Jisr al-Shughour activist coordinating committee's Facebook page said.

The Observatory said the insurgents captured seven tanks, armored vehicles, heavy machine guns and ammunition. The Local Coordination Committees activist collective said the fighters now had turned their gun on the nearby Mas-toumeah military base.

Both groups said government aircraft carried out more than a dozen airstrikes on the Qarheed base after its fall.

Photographs posted on the Twitter feed of one of the groups involved in the battle, the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front, showed fighters carting off green crates of what appeared

to be ammunition. The account also carried photos of a tank and heavy artillery that it said were the "spoils" of the battle.

The photographs could not be immediately verified, but they appeared genuine and corresponded to other Associated Press reporting.

The fall of the base is the latest in a string of defeats for Assad's forces in Idlib. Government troops already have been pushed out of the city of Idlib, the provincial capital, as well as the town of Jisr al-Shughour.

Syria's SANA state news agency said Monday the military is waging "fierce battles" around the brick factory, and has killed and wounded a "large number of terrorists." The government refers to those trying to topple Assad as "terrorists." **AP**



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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

FLORES DA PRIMAVERA~INK, OIL AND PASTEL

PAINTINGS BY MARCO SZETO

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

UNTIL: April 30, 2015

VENUE: Dare to Dream flagship store and art gallery, Calçada da Barra No.16 A, Edifício San Chak, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2830 2012

THIS IS WHERE I WILL ALWAYS BE - WORKS BY

NUNO SANTIAGO

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery/ Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, 95

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat

POLISH BORDER GUARDS REFUSE ENTRY FOR 10 RUSSIAN BIKERS



Polish border guards yesterday blocked entry into Poland for 10 Russian bikers who said they were following a path commemorating the Red Army victory's over Nazi Germany 70 years ago.

Border guard spokesman Dariusz Sienicki announced the decision after members of the Night Wolves, a nationalistic Russian group loyal to President Vladimir Putin, approached the border and tried to enter Poland.

Polish authorities said last week they would ban entry for the group, with leaders calling their plans to ride through Poland as part of World War II commemorations a provocation. The Night Wolves vowed to enter anyway and 15 were seen yesterday morning at the border crossing between Brest, Belarus, and Terespol, Poland.

Belarusian guards let them pass but they were then held in a hangar by Polish officials. "These people will not cross into Poland. Each of them will individually receive a decision denying them entry into Poland's territory," Sienicki said.

Some Russian bikers had been seen entering Poland earlier but they appeared to belong to another organization whose members are allowed entry.

Many Poles view the Night Wolves with suspicion because the pro-Putin bikers have rallied against the Ukrainian government and celebrated Russia's annexation of Crimea. The German government has also expressed unease at the bikers and said they would not be welcome. **AP**

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	TDM Sports
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

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

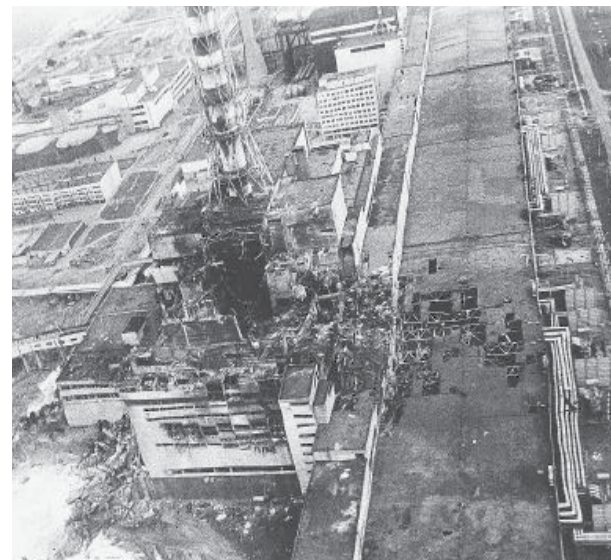
Director: Joss Whedon

Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history



1986 SOVIETS ADMIT NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

The Soviet Union has acknowledged there has been an accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine. The report, from the official news agency, Tass, said there had been casualties but gave no details of numbers. It said aid was being sent to the injured.

The report said that one of the reactors had been damaged in the accident, but gave no further details beyond saying that measures were being taken to "eliminate the consequences of the accident". It also claimed the accident was the first at a Soviet power station.

The report was the first confirmation of a major nuclear catastrophe since monitoring stations in Sweden, Finland and Norway began reporting sudden high discharges of radioactivity in the atmosphere two days ago.

The accident is believed to be the most serious in the history of nuclear power, worse even than that at the Three-Mile Island power station in the United States in 1979, when there was some release of radioactivity but nobody was injured.

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant, just north of Kiev, consists of four nuclear reactors, known as light-water cooled, graphite-moderated reactors - a type hardly used outside the Soviet Union.

Nuclear experts say the levels of radioactivity recorded indicate that the nuclear core of the damaged reactor may have melted down.

The number of casualties, both immediately and in the future, from radiation sickness, is expected to be high, although the exact number may never be known. It is not believed, however, that there is any risk to the health of anyone outside the Soviet Union.

The discharge of radioactivity was so great that by the time the fallout reached Sweden, 1,000 miles away, it was still powerful enough to register twice the natural level of radioactivity in the atmosphere.

The sudden jump in radioactivity levels was enough to prompt a full-scale alert in Sweden, which initially believed the accident had happened at its own nuclear power station, on the Baltic coast. The evacuation of 600 workers had been ordered before experts realized that the source of the radioactivity must have been within the Soviet Union.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Chernobyl remains the world's worst civil nuclear disaster.

It emerged that design flaws had led to a power surge, causing massive explosions which blew the top off the reactor.

Estimates of the numbers affected vary tremendously. A report in 2005 by the Chernobyl Forum, set up by a number of bodies including the World Health Organisation, the UN and governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, concluded that fewer than 50 people, most of them workers at the plant, died as a result of exposure to radiation. Most of them died immediately after the disaster, but some survived until as late as 2004.

The forum estimates up to 9,000 people could eventually die from radiation exposure - although Greenpeace claims the figure could be much higher, up to 93,000.

The contamination spread across neighboring Belarus, and into Europe. In north Wales, sheep on some 350 farms still have to be tested for radiation before their meat can be eaten. A concrete sarcophagus was hastily built to cover the damaged reactor, but it is weakening over time. It is due to be replaced in 2007.

Chernobyl continued to produce electricity for another 14 years, until international pressure forced its closure in 2000. An official exclusion zone around the plant remains in place, extending for 30 kilometres. It is one of the most radioactive spots on Earth.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

This is a good time to focus on simple basics like cleaning house. This kind of thing is more important than you may realize, but it's too easy to forget about it as other business piles up around you.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Grab lunch or dinner with someone important to you — it's the best way to tell them what they need to hear. People are more receptive to certain messages while their guard is down.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You may find that you're spending less freely today — though there could be all sorts of reasons for that. Just relax and try to get through this phase, as your mind should shake itself free soon.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to be more assertive today — and you've got the right kind of personal energy to break through social obstacles. It's a good time to go for something you had once thought unattainable.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your intuitive side is hyperactive right now, sending you more signals than you can follow easily. Just focus on the stuff that seems to matter most and then follow up on the rest later.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

This is not a good day to spend on your own — introspection needs to wait for another day. Your people need you, and that goes both ways as you find yourself asking big questions that demand big answers.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You are more attractive than usual — which is really saying something! Make sure that you're speaking to the right people and letting the universe know what — and whom — you want.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Your emotional energy is making your brain work harder than usual, so you should find it easier to work through big problems. Make sure that you're in the right place at the right time.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your philosophical bent is well known — and on days like today a real asset! Things don't really make sense on the surface, but you can put them into a framework that helps you to understand them.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

A tiny change that you notice this morning is almost certainly the harbinger of something big — and likely positive. Try not to trip yourself up in the details this time, though! The big picture is what matters.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

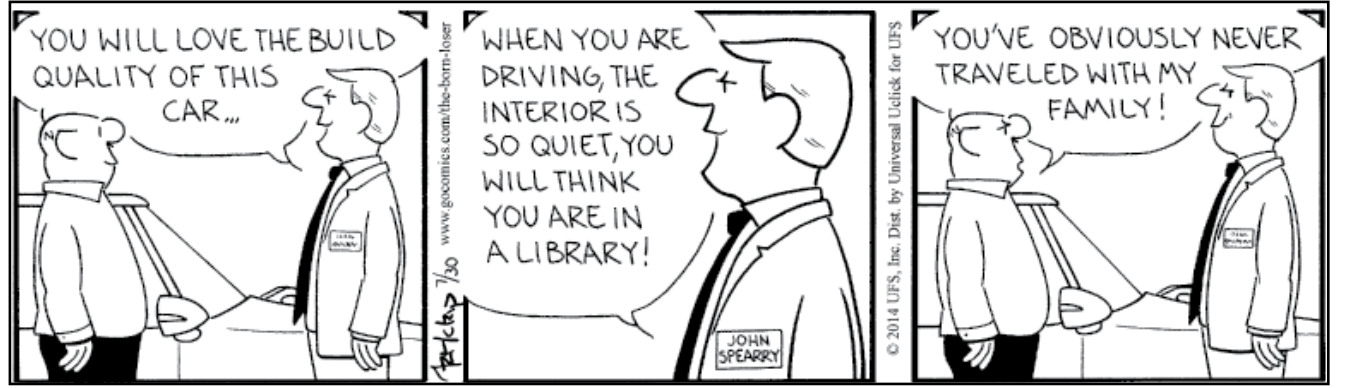
Your big brain is a real asset — most of the time. Right now, though, you need to just let go of stray thoughts and try to push yourself in a bold new direction. Stop thinking and start moving!

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Your great energy is helping you to create something totally new — and you need to run with it! Someone close is ready for a big change, and you are the one who can deliver on that promise.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	11	25	cloudy/clear
Harbin	4	22	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	13	25	clear
Urumqi	12	23	clear
Xi'an	12	23	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	5	15	shower
Chengdu	14	25	cloudy
Chongqing	16	23	shower/cloudy
Kunming	13	23	shower
Nanjing	13	20	overcast/cloudy
Shanghai	15	20	drizzle/cloudy
Wuhan	12	25	clear
Hangzhou	14	23	cloudy
Taipei	22	25	drizzle
Guangzhou	21	28	shower/cloudy
Hong Kong	22	26	cloudy

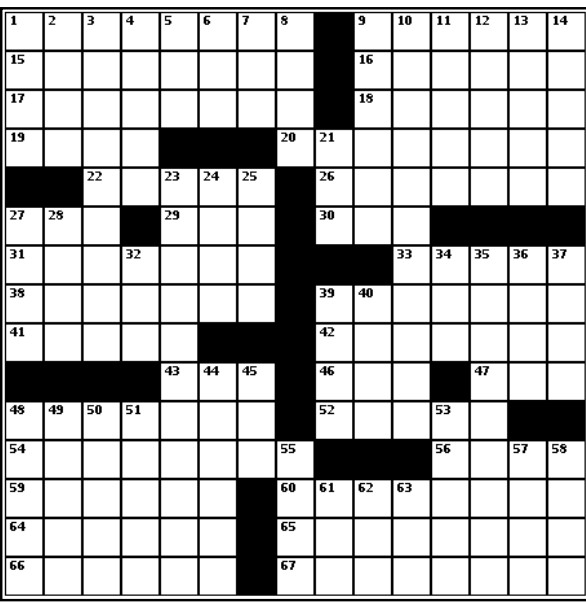
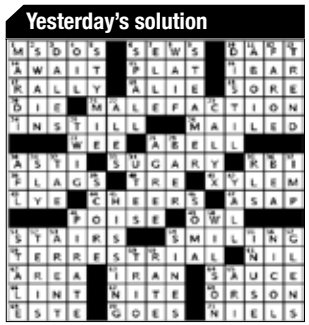
WORLD

Moscow	9	21	drizzle
Frankfurt	5	17	moderate rain
Paris	3	16	cloudy/drizzle
London	0	11	cloudy/drizzle
New York	6	13	drizzle/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Actor; 9- Spreads out; 15- Seaport near Barcelona; 16- Concerning Mohawks, e.g.; 17- Simple cell division; 18- Delight; 19- Queue after Q; 20- Sweet liqueur; 22- October birthstones; 26- Stuff oneself; 27- Type of mouse; 29- Eastern ideal; 30- One hundred of these equals one Japanese yen; 31- Something nutritious; 33- English royal house; 38- Rubella; 39- Height; 41- Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil"; 42- Waxlike, fatty substance in bark; 43- Tax pro; 46- Cowboys' org.; 47- "... and seven years ____"; 48- Michigan State athlete; 52- Water vapor; 54- Crested; 56- Ciao!; 59- Treat badly; 60- Upward air current; 64- Dried grape; 65- Dire warning; 66- Writer Hemingway; 67- Rice dish;

DOWN: 1- Skier's transport; 2- Scenery chewers; 3- Opinion piece; 4- Showed interest; 5- Mideast gp.; 6- Colorful moths; 7- Singer DiFranco; 8- Rocket launcher; 9- Try hard; 10- Fit to be seen; 11- Hybrid beast; 12- Ease up; 13- Seaport in the Crimea; 14- Winter woe; 21- Discouraging words; 23- Collapse of the lungs; 24- Highway division; 25- Barflies; 27- Ruin; 28- Yellow spread; 32- Colo. clock setting; 34- Versatile vehicle, for short; 35- Fibrous membrane of the brain; 36- Not a dup.; 37- Gambling mecca; 39- IRS IDs; 40- Clump of hair; 44- Evident; 45- Chemical suffix; 48- Church topper; 49- Covered with hair; 50- Exhausted; 51- Get more out of; 53- Start of a Dickens title; 55- Like some chocolate; 57- Makeshift swing; 58- Entr ____; 61- Maiden name indicator; 62- Put two and two together; 63- Purse;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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

FOOTBALL | ANALYSIS

Bayern could face long-term challenge from Wolfsburg

WHEN their 25th Bundesliga title came, Bayern Munich's players and coaches were most likely on their sofas, watching television. The team's director, Matthias Sammer, was at a basketball game.

There was no celebration of the club's record German championship on Sunday, no car parades through the Bavarian capital, no euphoria on the city's main square. The low-key acknowledgement of the title reflected the suspense-lacking season in which Bayern had opened a massive lead early on and the title was just a matter of time despite a series of injuries to key players.

It came with four matches to spare when third-place Borussia Moenchengladbach beat Wolfsburg 1-0 on a last-minute goal, which meant that second-place Wolfsburg remained 15 points behind and lost the mathematical chance of catching Bayern. Moenchengladbach is 19 points behind but the gap may be narrower than it looks.

That match pitted Bayern's most likely challengers for the future.

Although Bayern's dominance of the Bundesliga is unlikely to end in the short term, Wolfsburg has the money and Moenchengladbach has the ta-



Frankfurt's goalkeeper Kevin Trapp and Bayern's Juan Bernat challenge for the ball during a Bundesliga match

lent to become Bayern's long-term rivals.

They are the only two Bundesliga teams to beat Bayern this season and Bayern was badly outplayed in both losses. Wolfsburg thrashed Bayern 4-1 at home and Moenchengladbach won 2-0 in Munich.

Backed by the financial clout of sponsor Volkswagen, Wolfsburg already surprisingly won

the Bundesliga title in 2009 and is all but sure to play in the Champions League next season. It has a competent, low-key coach in Dieter Hecking and an experienced director in Klaus Allofs, who has a good record of signing talented players.

Moenchengladbach lacks the financial means of Wolfsburg, but fosters talents into stars

and has a clever tactician in coach Lucien Favre, a Swiss who knows how to get the best out of his squad despite losing a top player nearly every season to richer clubs. The club was close to relegation when he took over in 2011 but now looks headed for the Champions League, which will boost the budget.

Bayern, on the other hand, will have to rebuild the team in the not too distant future. Philipp Lahm, Xabi Alonso, Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben are 30 or older; Bastian Schweinsteiger will be 30 in August. All are Bayern stalwarts.

Bayern coach Pep Guardiola has another season on his contract and has not indicated whether he intends to extend.

Borussia Dortmund, which won the last two championships before Bayern's three consecutive titles, has had a difficult season but could still spoil Bayern's hopes for a repeat of the 2013 treble.

Coach Juergen Klopp is lea-

ving at the end of the season, to be replaced by the little tested Thomas Tuchel, who will likely need time to adjust.

Klopp would like nothing better but to leave on a winning note. Dortmund visits Munich in the German Cup semifinals and if Dortmund can repeat the performance of 2012, when it routed Bayern 5-2 in the final, Klopp could say goodbye with a title.

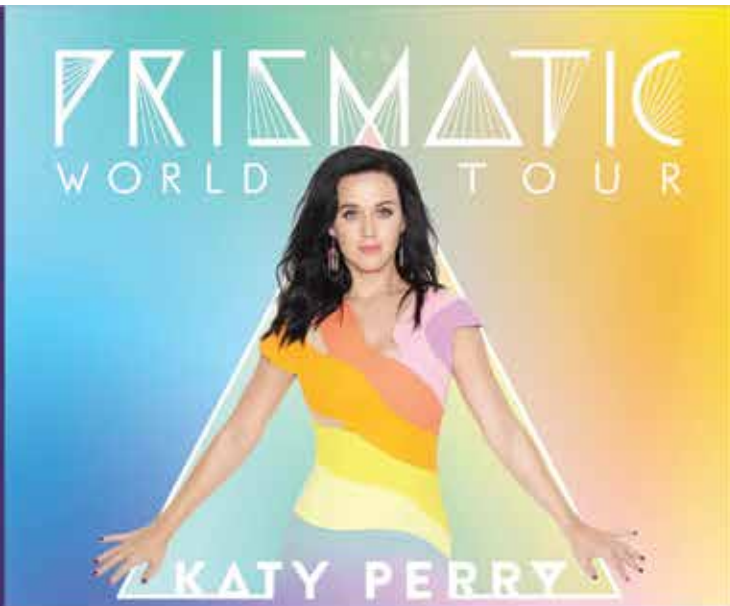
Guardiola insists that the Bundesliga title is the most important because it reflects the overall season. But ultimately he will be judged on his Champions League record — and he faces his old team Barcelona in the semifinals.

Guardiola led Bayern to a league and cup double in his first season after taking over from Jupp Heynckes, who had steered the side to the treble in 2013.

"It's not enough to be champion here. It's not enough to win the cup here," Guardiola said last week. "Only the treble is enough." AP

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



at The Venetian Macao

Question for readers:

Which continents will the Prismatic World Tour head to in 2015?

Please email the answers to: katyperryconcert@macaudailytimes.com Along with your name and contact details.

Tickets-Giveaway

Five sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the five readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 3 days (Tuesday to Thursday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP680 for a total prize value of MOP6,800.



Katy is currently touring the world on the Prismatic World Tour, which continues to be a hugely successful global spectacle, with 17 sold out arenas in the UK, 66 sold out arenas in North America and 25 sold out arenas in Australia/New Zealand during 2014. The tour continues in 2015 throughout Europe, Asia and South America where Katy will headline Rock In Rio in Brazil on September 25. The state-

of-the-art stage, specifically designed by Katy for THE PRISMATIC WORLD TOUR at The Venetian Macao, allows her to get closer to her fans than ever before. The one-of-a-kind set design will provide concertgoers with a truly magical experience from every angle in the arena. PRISM has already equalled the sales success of its predecessor, and generated five hit singles, two of which, "Roar" and "Dark Horse,"

hit #1 for multiple weeks, which helped Katy set a new record at Top 40 for most total weeks (46) at No. 1 in the Billboard airplay chart's archives, and makes her the only artist in 2014 with top spins at three different radio station formats (Top 40, Hot AC and AC radio). She is the first artist to surpass the 75 million digital award threshold, counting digital downloads and on-demand streams — 20 million ahead of any other artist.

opinion

World Views

The Editors, Bloomberg

END THE AMERICAN EXPAT TAX

Only two nations in the world tax their citizens who live abroad. One of them is a small and vicious African dictatorship. The other is the world's most powerful democracy.

Does the U.S. really want to share this distinction with Eritrea?

It's true that most expatriate Americans end up with no U.S. taxes to pay on their worldwide income, because they can exclude some income and offset host country taxes against what remains. Yet all must file and many do pay, because anomalies are rife. Apart from this, the principle is simply wrong.

It's also outdated. The taxation of Americans abroad was designed to deter draft dodgers who fled the country to avoid fighting the Civil War more than 150 years ago. From the beginning, in other words, bad intentions were assumed. Yet hardly any of the estimated 7.6 million U.S. expatriates today are trying to evade taxes — indeed, most pay more than they would at home.

It's for the sake of fairness that other countries base the taxation of their citizens on residence. After all, why demand taxes of people who don't benefit from the proceeds — who cannot use their countries' roads or schools or health care while living abroad?

What's more, because national tax structures tend to evolve into their own eccentrically balanced ecosystems, expatriates can easily be entangled in a complex web of taxation.

Take the differences in the way countries handle the taxation of primary homes. The U.S. demands payment of capital gains tax on the sale of a home; it also gives a USD250,000-500,000 deduction and a break on mortgage interest payments while the taxpayer owns the home. In the U.K., there's no capital gains tax when selling, but there's a large purchase tax on the price of a new home — and no break on mortgage interest. As London Mayor Boris Johnson discovered, a U.S. citizen who moves within London's property bubble will pay both taxes and get none of the breaks.

Among other unfair anomalies is the treatment of foreign pension contributions, which the IRS doesn't recognize in most countries. As a result, many Americans abroad pay tax on their pension contributions — something they wouldn't do at home.

The tax issue has come to a head since Congress, in 2010, introduced new reporting rules for all foreign financial institutions that hold the assets of U.S. citizens. The goal is to catch wealthy Americans in the U.S. who offshore their investments to evade tax, but expatriates get caught in the crosshairs. They have to report on their local bank accounts or face penalties. And because foreign banks don't want the U.S. reporting liabilities, some expatriates have trouble opening accounts at all.

Expatriate taxation raises as little as 0.2 percent of federal tax revenue yet greatly complicates tax filing for Americans abroad. Congress should change the law — perhaps as part of its nascent effort toward broader tax reform. In the meantime, the existing laws and regulations should be adjusted to end some of the most egregious injustices.

THE BUZZ BURGER KING SALES JUMP, BOOSTED BY A SPICY WHOPPER

The home of the Whopper enjoyed its biggest sales jump in nearly a decade during the first quarter, boosted by a new flavor of its signature burger and a popular 2 for USD5 promotion.

Burger King's sales rose 6.9 percent at established locations in the U.S. and Canada, parent company Restaurant Brands International said yesterday. The company, which also owns Tim Hortons doughnut chain, declined to say whether the increase at Burger King was driven by higher average spending or an uptick in customer traffic, which is a key indicator of health.

Restaurant Brands International CEO Daniel Schwartz said in an interview there was no single factor that drove the improved sales in the

U.S. Instead, he cited a variety of factors including a spicy BLT Whopper, marketing during the NCAA championships and healthy sales at breakfast.

The showing comes as rival McDonald's has been fighting to hold onto customers, with sales at established locations falling 2.6 percent during the first three months of the year. Taco Bell, which is benefiting from the launch of a national breakfast menu, saw sales rise 6 percent during the period, according to parent company Yum Brands Inc.

On a global basis, same-store sales rose 4.6 percent at Burger King and 5.3 percent at Tim Hortons.

Opera in Kids Tent at New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival



Rumba Buena performs at the Congo Square Stage during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans

Janet McConnaughey, New Orleans

OPERA is as much a part of New Orleans' African-American heritage as jazz, said Givonna Joseph, whose troupe is bringing opera to the Kids Tent at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival for the fourth year in a row.

The troupe was among more than 60 acts on 10 stages yesterday (Macau time) at the infield of the Fair Grounds Race Track. Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band were closing the first weekend at one end of the infield while crooner Tony Bennett, 88, and Lady Gaga, 29, closed at the other.

The festival, which drew 435,000 fans last year, continues Thursday through Sunday.

Joseph and her daughter, Aria Mason, formed Opera-Creole in 2011, after the New Orleans Opera's 2010 production of "Porgy and Bess" brought together many of the city's African-American opera singers.

"We're such an oddity that you have to come to the big house to find out we're there," she said. "I wanted to highlight work that isn't done on the big stage — work that's lost, or not well-known."

In the 1800s, she said, "Opera in New Orleans was just like pop music. It was

everywhere. You could walk down the street and hear the vendors doing operatic arias."

This year's Kids Tent show featured William Grant Still, who was born in Mississippi in 1895, grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas, and lived until 1978. Joseph created a story about him, featuring songs from several of his operas "about being a child or being inspired or about things you shouldn't do."

Jazz itself has some operatic roots, Joseph noted.

She said Jelly Roll Morton, one of the fathers of jazz, learned classical piano and notation, and "liked to create jazz using classical music, like Chopin."

She said Louis Armstrong was "a big opera fan" and loved coloratura singing, known for elaborate runs and trills. She said his scat — vocal improvisation with nonsense syllables — came from his love of coloratura as well as from his trumpet playing.

"When I found he was a fan of coloratura singing, I could hear the similarities," she said. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Jay Maidment/Disney/Marvel via AP



This photo provided by Disney/Marvel shows Scarlett Johansson as Black Widow/Natasha Romanoff, in the film, "Avengers: Age Of Ultron." The movie is scheduled for release in the US on May 1.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

THAILAND seized 3 tons of ivory hidden in tea leaf sacks from Kenya in the second-biggest bust in the country's history, one week after the biggest seizure. *More on p13*

SRI LANKA's Parliament debates constitutional amendments to clip the extensive powers given to the country's president, a promise President Maithripala Sirisena made in the run up to his January election win.

KAZAKHSTAN Preliminary results of weekend nationwide polls in Kazakhstan show the long-ruling president confirming his incumbency with 97.7 percent of the vote amid a record turnout, election officials said yesterday.

CHILE Soldiers are sent to clear ash from towns and roads near Chile's Calbuco volcano, which is quieter but continued to release columns of ash days after emitting twin spectacular eruptions.



AP PHOTO

BURUNDI Streets protests hit Burundi yesterday as anger swelled over the ruling party's decision to nominate President Pierre Nkurunziza for a third term, which many say is unconstitutional.

SUDAN's Election Commission says President Omar al-Bashir has won re-election with 94 percent of the vote, extending his 25-year rule despite war crimes charges and multiple insurgencies.



AP PHOTO

USA The acting chief executive of the Clinton Foundation is acknowledging the global philanthropy made mistakes in how it disclosed its donors amid growing scrutiny as Hillary Rodham Clinton opens her presidential campaign as the presume Democratic frontrunner.