



'HOT CHANNEL' TO AIR ON PUBLIC BUSES

A new media channel called "Hot Channel" will broadcast TDM programs about Macau on public buses

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MACAU FOUNDATION HANDS OVER MILLIONS

The Macau Foundation granted subsidies to individuals and private entities worth over MOP266m in Q1

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GENTING EXPANDS IN VEGAS

P20 GAMING

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WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA Prime Minister has brushed off controversy over his office's treatment of the gay partner of the Australian ambassador to France. Ambassador Stephen Brady offered to resign after a disagreement involving Prime Minister Tony Abbott's reception at Le Bourget Airport in Paris last month, Fairfax Media reported. Abbott's traveling party sent an instruction that Brady's partner of 32 years, Peter Stephens, should not take part in greeting Abbott on the tarmac and should wait in a car, Fairfax reported.

PHILIPPINES A Filipino bomb-maker and one of the country's top terror suspects has been killed by a rival faction of Muslim rebels, the Philippine military said yesterday. The guerrillas who signed a peace agreement with the government on ending a decades-long insurgency in the southern Philippines killed Usman after he strayed into their territory in southern Maguindanao province, said military spokesman Brig. Gen. Joselito Kakilala.



ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was racing against the clock yesterday to put together a governing coalition or else face an almost unimaginable scenario by which he would be forced out of office. Netanyahu was holding furious consultations with the hawkish Jewish Home Party in order to secure a narrow 61-seat majority in the 120-seat parliament. If he fails by the end of the day, President Reuven Rivlin must appoint someone else the task of forming a coalition.

GERMANY A tornado has caused widespread damage in a small town in northeastern Germany, ripping off most of a church roof and covering streets in debris. Elsewhere, a man was killed by flying debris.

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CCAC

No law violation by sacked cultural fund member . P3

ARTISTIC RENDERING



Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel looks for gaming tables . P5

AP PHOTO



Sheldon Adelson, right, testifies in a Las Vegas court

Macau death plot raised during casino mogul testimony

Ken Ritter, Las Vegas

CASINO mogul Sheldon Adelson found himself answering questions in a Las Vegas courtroom on Tuesday [US time] about what he knew about a plot to behead employees in Macau and if Chinese government promises were broken as Las Vegas Sands Corp. developed properties on the lucrative Cotai Strip.

The billionaire chairman of Sands and Venetian resorts in

Las Vegas, Macau and Singapore testified at proceedings that mostly focused on jurisdiction for the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by ousted Sands China Ltd. chief Steven Jacobs.

With reporters and Nevada gambling regulators taking notes, Adelson, the top Republican party donor in the U.S., found himself characterizing a dispute with China about obtaining permits for an apartment high-rise in Macau.

"I want to rephrase. It was a

misunderstanding," Adelson responded when Jacobs' attorney, James Pisanelli, asked him to describe an earlier comment about broken commitments by government officials about strata-title.

"We thought it was condos. They thought, I'm not sure, that it was apartments rented out like hotels," Adelson said.

Minutes later, Adelson asked Clark County District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez to block as inappropriate a Pisanelli question

about dealings with Hong Kong businessman Cheung Chi-tai.

Cheung, an investor in a publicly traded company that handled so-called junket gambling tours to Macau, was identified in a U.S. Senate report in 1992 as a high-ranking gang figure. He was also named in 2011 by a Hong Kong appeals court as an organized crime leader who ordered the death of a Sands Macau casino dealer.

Cheung wasn't charged in the case. A subordinate was con-

victed of a murder conspiracy charge.

"Your honor, Mr. Pisanelli is making erroneous — intentional but erroneous — statements that we were doing business with Cheung Chi-tai," Adelson said. "We were not doing business with Cheung Chi-tai, therefore the question is completely inappropriate."

No, the judge said, the question was whether Adelson, as chairman of Las Vegas Sands and Sands China Ltd., would be aware of death threats against his employees.

Adelson said he and his company were always looking for "appropriate and inappropriate activity" at their properties and continued to protest.

"He asked me about somebody with whom we are doing business," he said. "OK. We are not doing business with him, and therefore I can't answer."

Adelson paused.

"If somebody is going to chop my employees' heads off, of course I would be interested," he said. "But he wasn't. And we weren't doing business with him. It feeds their narrative of, 'only Adelson is involved in wrongdoing, not Jacobs.'"

Gonzalez is being asked to decide if she has jurisdiction to hear Jacobs' civil lawsuit, which contains allegations of misdeeds at Macau properties that Jacobs ran.

Adelson maintained on his fourth day on the witness stand that Las Vegas Sands and Sands China Ltd. officials are "extremely meticulous" about avoiding conflicts with regulatory agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

Jacobs alleges that his firing in Macau was orchestrated from Las Vegas. **AP**

MOODY'S REPORT

Gaming revenue decline is credit negative for rated operators

MOOODY'S Investors Service says that the continued decline in Macau gaming revenue - a result of China's economic slowdown and the government's anti-corruption campaign - is credit negative for rated gaming companies.

Moody's analysis is included in its just-published report "Gaming - Macau: Weak Gaming Revenue Is Credit Negative for Rated Companies," by

Kaven Tsang, a Moody's Vice President - Senior Analyst and Billy Wong, a Moody's Associate Analyst.

On 4 May, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau of Macau reported a 38.8 pct year-on-year decline in gross gaming revenue to MOP19.2 billion in April, the eleventh consecutive month of decline.

"The decline is credit negative for our rated

gaming companies. We expect overall gross gaming revenue to remain weak for the rest of the year, and decline 25 pct to 30 pct year on year," says Tsang.

Lower gaming revenue will weaken the companies' - MCE Finance Limited (Ba3 positive), Melco Crown (Macau) Limited (Ba3 positive) and Studio City Finance Limited (B2 stable) - overall revenue and EBITDA ge-

neration, and so diminish their debt-servicing capacity, says Moody's.

The decline is largely due to the material decline in VIP gaming revenue, which plummeted by 42 pct year on year in the first quarter of 2015, as the Chinese government continues its efforts to combat corruption. The slowing Chinese economy and the high base of comparison for the same period last year

also contributed to the decline, says the rating agency.

Moody's notes that the gaming companies differ in their resilience to the weaker operating environment.

MCE Finance's strong financial profile and established operations buffer the company from the slowing Macau gaming market, but Studio City will face challenges in realizing its planned revenue

growth and deleveraging, says Moody's. In addition, the scheduled opening of another integrated resort by Galaxy Entertainment Group Limited (unrated) will further increase competition.

Still, Studio City's emphasis on non-gaming activities and mass-market gaming will partly mitigate the challenges, says Moody's.

Moody's Investors Service Press Release

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CCAC

No evidence against fund member sacked by Alexis Tam

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) revealed yesterday that it has found no evidence to prove that Chao Son U, a former member of the Cultural Industries Fund administrative committee, had committed any illegal actions. A probe was launched into the granting of a subsidy to a company owned by Mr Chao's relatives. CCAC has decided to shelve the case.

"The CCAC agreed on concluding the inquiry, as there is no sign or evidence showing that the then member of the administrative board committed any illegal or irregular acts in the handling and approval process of a subsidy application relating to his relatives' [company]," Macau's anti-graft agency said in a statement released yesterday.

The corruption watchdog also



found no evidence to support reports that "someone exerted influence with his colleagues during the inquiry procedure." "According to the findings of this investigation, there is no evidence supporting that allegation," CCAC stressed.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, sacked Mr Chao last week following his alleged involvement in the granting of a subsidy to a company owned by his relatives.

Mr Tam said in a statement that he hoped the sacking would help improve the fund's credibility. "The immediate termination of duties is intended to maintain the public's trust in the fund. The future appointment of a civil servant to the post is a way to show trust in the civil servants' team," he said.

Mr Tam deemed it "a serious case" and said that his cabinet could not handle an investigation and therefore called upon CCAC to handle the case.

Radio Macau reported yesterday that it had contacted Mr Tam's cabinet but he is yet to comment on CCAC's findings. **CP**

Paid paternity leave updated to int'l standards before year-end

THE long-debated draft bill regarding paid paternity leave will face legislative procedures this year, revealed the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, yesterday morning during a TDM radio program.

Currently, the city's Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs is discussing the revision of the "Labor Relations Law" to include a leave stipulation for fathers-to-be. However, discussion of this revision, which was supposedly on the committee's agenda in the third quarter of last year, had been postponed.

According to Leong, the authorities would use current international standards of leave as a reference in their discussion. So far, only male civil servants are legally entitled to five days off work at the birth of a child. Earlier this year, several policymakers jointly urged the go-



vernment to establish this amount of paid leave for all fathers.

"Speaking of the paternity leave, actually our related labor department is highly concerned about it," said the secretary on the program. "I hope they can stick to their schedule and paternity leave can enter the legislation this year."

The Hong Kong government has passed a law to grant three days of paid leave to new fathers, effective this year. However, the leave comes with a deduction of 20 percent from their salary.

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New media channel launched on public transport

TDM programs about Macau will be broadcast on public transport, after the public broadcaster yesterday signed off on a partnership with media company Long Han Television Broadcast Co.

A new media channel called "Hot Channel" was launched yesterday by the media company, with China Travel Service (Macau) and TDM showing as supporting entities.

Currently, up to 120 buses have been equipped with televisions to air the new TV channel. Forty of those buses



are from TCM, while the remaining 80 buses are from the Macau New Era Public Bus Company, disclosed May Cheong, assistant director of the media company.

The company is aiming for full coverage of the bus network with its newly launched channel, where programs on travel and food, as well as local history and information, are among the first batch to air. The plan will likely be realized, since another 120

buses will be equipped with TVs in an upgrade process that is expected to be completed before the middle of next year. The channel also features text alerts about local news in three languages: Chinese, English and Portuguese.

A company representative told the media that an increasing number of firms are becoming interested in this media platform for their advertising campaigns. Accord-

ing to her, the bus operator Transmac, which reportedly has 120 buses equipped with TVs, also plans to introduce 120 more televisions to its bus fleet. Transmac has a partnership with a company called "MOME Media and Marketing," which runs its own TV channel.

The president of the TDM Executive Committee, Manuel Pires, told reporters that the media company was in talks with the ferry service provider TurboJET to explore business opportunities. He stated that in the near future commuters might enjoy TDM programs on the ferries between Hong Kong and Macau.

"TDM needs to be closely aware of the media transformation; new media is a fact. Nowadays many use cellphones to watch TV," he said. "Let me tell you that we have started to negotiate not only with buses, but also with other public transport operators." **Staff reporter**

STATISTICS

1,455 new companies recorded in Q1

A total of 1,455 new companies were created during the first quarter of 2015, an increase of 329 year-on-year, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Analyzed by industry, the majority of new incorporations were operating in wholesale and retail (563) and business services (324). Companies in dissolution totaled 158, up by three year-on-year.

In the first quarter of 2015, the new companies' capital came mainly from Macau (MOP86 million) and mainland China (MOP40 million), including MOP35 million from the nine provinces of the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region.

DSEC further indicated that 980 new companies had been established solely by Macau shareholders, along with 145 joint ventures between shareholders from Macau and other countries or regions.

At the end of the first quarter of 2015, the number of registered companies totaled 49,926, an increase of 5,202 from the previous year.

TDM needs to be closely aware of the media transformation

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Brook Yang

THE Macau Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel is expected to open in the first quarter of next year, and the operator is considering applying for gambling tables, according to a hotel representative, Mr Aaron Iu.

“[Whether we will open a casino], we’ll reveal that later; we are now studying it. We also hope to develop in the direction towards a world center of tourism and leisure,” he said, responding to local media’s questions about the company. He is confident in gaining the authorities’ approval in setting up a gaming area within the hotel resort.

The hotel, aiming to resemble the iconic Roosevelt’s Hollywood heritage, is designed to contain hints of modern Hollywood flavor in its 12-storey tower. In a construction area of over 28,000 square meters, the hotel will offer 373 guest rooms with balconies, and four villas. It has also reserved a gaming area of over 5,000 square meters on the ground floor.

According to the design, above the ground floor there will be a spacious terrace, meeting rooms, the “Madhouse Theater,” a Chinese restaurant and coffee break areas with an open kitchen. The public areas also extend to the third floor, which is planned to contain a movie screening room, fitness center, kids club, as well as other recreational facilities.

“In addition, [the third floor] will have a private club and also an outdoor swimming pool, with a bar and poolside cabanas in a leisurely cozy environment providing an elegant and charming experience,” introduced Mr Iu.

Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel eyeing gambling area



Built on the Hollywood Boulevard in Spanish colonial style, the Roosevelt is known as the icon of Hollywood’s Golden Era. It famously hosted the first Academy Awards in 1929, and counted Marilyn Monroe among its famous guests.

Overlooking the sea and the neighboring Macau Jockey Club’s racing court, the new project, the Roosevelt Macau, is said to look up to its Hollywood namesake. The CEO, Christophe Vielle of GCP Hospitality (which will manage the hotel), said during the topping out ceremony, in February, that the hotel would have “a modern take on Hollywood glam with a 1950s retro twist.”

With the construction expected to be complete within the year,

the Roosevelt Macau launched a conceptual exterior design competition yesterday to invite local talent to participate.

The competition calls for local artists, professionals and students in the design sector to create solutions that define certain exterior areas in ways that complement the hotel’s original overall exterior design. Apart from participants with a Macau residence identity card, non-students studying in the territory are also eligible to compete in the student category.

The joint organizers, including the Macau Designers Association, stated that, “The competition intends to recognize and honor local creative design talent; to encourage active public participation in urban

development to make Macau Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel a distinctive resort; and to consolidate Macau as the hub of world tourism and leisure.”

“We believe Macau has many talented and competent people; it’s just that in the past there were few opportunities for them to play. This competition is a platform and opportunity for their artistic development,”

said Mr Iu during the press conference. “Winners will not only have the opportunity to have their design realized but also [the opportunity for] future cooperation with us. This is only our first step,” he added.

The Macau Designers Association director, Mr Chao Sio Leong, also acknowledged that the government has actively pushed for Macau to develop its cultural and creative industries over recent years, but it has seen very little participation from corporations. “This competition will transform creativity into business opportunities, setting an example for Macau’s enterprises,” he said.

Macau’s Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has been reaffirming the government’s intention to review gaming operators’ efforts in introducing non-gaming elements and driving the development of local small and medium-sized enterprises. These aspects will be taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to approve new gambling tables.

HOTEL EQUIPPED WITH OPTICAL NETWORK

WITH THE purpose of building the Macau Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel into the city’s first hotel that is fully covered by a fiber optic network, a hotel representative signed a contract with telecom service

provider the China Comservice Macao Limited yesterday. Mr Aaron Iu stressed that they would provide a “five-star hotel, five-star experience,” without revealing the amount that is being invested in the facility.

Airport records movement growth in April

IN April this year, the Macau International Airport (MIA) recorded steady growth in passenger traffic volume and aircraft movements. Passenger volume surpassed 480,000 and aircraft movements totaled over 4,500, representing 6 pct and 6.5 pct increases respectively when compared to the same period last year.

Among the three key regional market shares, the Taiwan market performed stably in April, while the South-East and North Asian market presented significant growth with a nearly 20-pct increase; the growth of these two regions offset the traffic decline in mainland China routes. As a result, the overall market performance remains satisfactory.

In a press release issued yesterday, MIA highlighted China Southern



Airlines’ launch of their Wuhan service starting on April 3, providing three flights per week. Taiwan V Air also launched a new route from Taipei to Macau on April 10. There are a total of 24 airlines operating routes to 39 destinations from MIA currently, and these new routes are expected to bring more

passengers to Macau in the second quarter. MIA stated that it will continue to work closely and to strengthen cooperation with airlines and the tourism sector, to expand more routes to meet market demands, and to attract more Macau and Pearl River Delta region citizens to use the local airport.

Multiple blasts set warehouse ablaze

A warehouse complex at Areia Preta was engulfed in flames early yesterday morning after multiple blasts broke out. Yet no deaths or injuries were reported by the authorities. The initial inquiry has suggested that an electricity leakage coming out from old batteries, that had been placed outdoors for long time, triggered an explosion at around 6.30 a.m., which subsequently caused another blast when a liquefied petroleum gas tank nearby went off, the fire service told the media after extinguishing the flames. Heavy smoke was seen billowing above the complex, which stands close to a Shell Gas Station. Two trucks parked at the site were severely damaged by the explosions. The owner of the company said two of his workers managed to escape when the accident happened. The flames resulted in a nearby road being cordoned off for three hours.

Airport dumpsite engulfed in flames

A fire, which occurred at a dumpsite near the airport in Taipa at around 8.30 a.m. yesterday, engulfed a large area in flames, although there were no reports of any fatalities or injuries. It was initially reported that the cause of the blast was due to negligence. As a result of someone’s carelessness, a number of old tires on the site were set ablaze. The fire brigade spent an hour and a half trying to control the fire, which spanned a 50-meter-by-20-meter area of the site. The blaze caused no delays to any flights at the airport. The fire service later even deployed excavators to inspect if there was any possibility of flames returning after they had been extinguished.

Chiang Ngoc Vai to head DSAT

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, revealed yesterday that Chiang Ngoc Vai, currently serving as the Transport Bureau's deputy director, will be heading the department after Wong Wan leaves. Mr Chiang will take office as DSAT head next Wednesday, temporarily taking over outgoing chief Wong Wan's duties. Last March, the secretary confirmed that Mr Wan would be leaving his post, stating that he had "resigned for personal reasons." In recent years, Mr Wong and DSAT have been under fire for failing to solve the city's major transportation woes. Among other issues, residents complain of packed buses, traffic jams and of an insufficient number of taxis.

Beijing-Macau cooperation association established

The Beijing-Macau Economic and Cultural Exchange Promotion Association, initiated by a number of Macau personages, was founded on Tuesday. The founding president, Ms Pansy Ho, said that the association will actively cooperate in pursuing the country's "One Belt, One Road" initiatives. It will also aim to further strengthen the economic and cultural exchanges among the four territories across the strait. The MGM China co-chair also commented on the continuous gaming revenue plunge, saying that now is the time for the transformation and repositioning of casino corporations. She indicated that casino operators cannot always play a leading role in the transformation, as a deep review is needed to introduce new elements into the local economy.

Department merge at Public Works Secretariat

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, revealed yesterday that he intends to downsize the number of his departments from the current 15 to around 11 within the year, given that as many as half of his secretariat's departments are staffed by less than 100 employees each. The government official's announcement was made yesterday after he finished officiating at the opening ceremony of a new Housing Bureau office, located in the Edifício do Lago public housing complex, together with the bureau's head Jeong Kam Wa. Raimundo do Rosário told the media that some of the departments would soon be merged. Currently, the Civil Aviation Authority, Infrastructure Development Office, Transportation Infrastructure Office, Science and Technology Council, Combustibles Security Committee, the Office for the Development of the Energy Sector and the Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation are among those departments with less than 100 staff members.

EDUCATION

IPOR launches phrasebook to mark 25th anniversary

Catarina Pinto

THE Portuguese Institute of the Orient (IPOR) launched a Portuguese-Chinese phrasebook to mark its 25th anniversary this week. The new phrasebook is mainly targeted at Chinese speakers who are looking to visit Portuguese-speaking countries.

IPOR's director, João Laurentino Neves, told reporters that the institute's role in the production of language learning materials should be reinforced in the future.

The phrasebook is an initial tool to "facilitate mutual understanding between Portuguese and Chinese speakers."

Speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony to inaugurate IPOR's 25th anniversary exhibition, Mr Neves stated that the Portuguese language is not only important for the business world but also in the fields of science and technology. IPOR was therefore looking to create a tool to help Chinese citizens in Portuguese-speaking countries by providing them with ready-made phrases focusing mainly on accommodation and transport.

IPOR is looking to launch two other language-learning tools by September, Mr Neves added.



Laurentino das Neves (left) and Alexis Tam

"We want to be one of the institutions at the forefront of language learning materials production. It could highlight Macau's role as a regional production center of essential Portuguese language tools in the Asia-Pacific region," he stressed.

The phrasebook, which costs MOP70, will be available in local bookshops. IPOR is also hoping to make it available in mainland China through associations with whom they've previously signed protocols.

Organizations like Forum Macau or the Association for Macanese Education will

also make IPOR's phrasebook available.

Mr Neves revealed that, in the second half of this year, IPOR would host a meeting with representatives of different regions where the Portuguese language is currently being taught, namely the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and South Korea.

The institute inaugurated an exhibition at its Café IPOR on Tuesday. The exhibition aims to explore the institute's memories and reflect upon its performance over the past 25 years, Mr Neves said.

Reviewing his work as IPOR's director over the past few years, Mr Neves said that they've been able to achieve most of the goals they initially set for themselves. Ending his term in September, Mr Neves recalled that, "There were things we were not able to do but [reviewing] our initial strategic plan, we have been able to achieve most of the goals; we have reviewed our language teaching program offerings; we have diversified our offer, with our [training programs] even being recognized by universities in Portugal."

Mr Neves did not disclose whether he would continue serving as IPOR's director after September.

IPOR commemorated its 25th anniversary last year.

LABOR RIGHTS

Court rejects appeal filed by company over employment certificate

THE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has rejected an appeal filed by a local company over the issuing of work certificates to two former employees who had previously been summarily dismissed. The firm was seeking to include the reasons behind the summary dismissal of the two employees in their employment certificates, but the court found that employers do not hold the right to include "whichever information they feel like in a work certificate."

The case dates back to October 2009, the month of the two employees' dismissal. Their employer had caught them "deducting cargo items without the company's consent." In addition, the company had raised suspicions that the two employees were also improperly handling invoice procedures.

As these actions may amount to felonies, the company filed a complaint with the Judiciary Police.

The employees notified the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) that they would neither sign nor accept the work certificates, given that the employer included information about their summary dismissal.

In 2010, DSAL requested that the company re-draft the two work certificates or issue an appeal. The company presented DSAL with a new version of the employment certificates, although they still stated that, "the employees

were summarily dismissed for violating employees' general rules."

The employees notified DSAL, yet again stating that they would not sign the work certificates. DSAL then issued the company a MOP10,000 fine for violating the Labor Relations Law. According to Macau's law, upon dismissal, the employee is entitled to request his/her former employer to issue an employment certificate, which should include the company and employee's names, the job position held and the duration of the employment contract, as well as a detailed job description.

Following the issuing of a MOP10,000 fine, the company filed an appeal first with DSAL and later in court. Both appeals were rejected.

The company further appealed to TSI. In a recent ruling, the court rejected the appeal, stating that an employment certificate should only provide details on the company and employee's names, as well as duration of employment contract and job description. "This means that, in an employment certificate, the employer cannot include details – as it wishes – if they were not required by the employee," the court said.

Furthermore, the court stated that the employee is seen as "the weaker party" and therefore an employment certificate is issued in his/her interest to help him/her find another job. **CP**

Macau Foundation grants reach MOP266m in Q1

THE Macau Foundation granted subsidies to individuals and private entities worth over MOP266 million throughout this year's first quarter, according to yesterday's Official Gazette (BO). This represents an increase of more than MOP112 million compared to the same period last year.

Over MOP22 million – the largest subsidy – went to the Macao Federation of Trade Unions for its annual plan (including its 26 affiliates and eight service centers). The second-largest grant (over MOP17 million) was given to the Women's General Association of Macau. Over MOP17 million was also granted to the General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macau (Kai Fong).

Over MOP15 million was conferred to the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education as a financial aid to support the University of Saint Joseph's activity plan for the 2014/2015 school year.

About MOP14.5 million was granted to Caritas Macau, mainly to cover elderly community care. In addition, about MOP11.7 million went to the Macau Institution of People's Alliance.

Over MOP14 million was granted in special merit scholarships.

During last year's first quarter, the largest subsidy (over MOP27 million) was accorded to the Macau University of Science and Technology Foundation.

The Macau Basic Law Promotion Association was granted MOP3.3 million, and the House of Portugal (Casa de Portugal) was granted MOP5 million. The Macanese Association received MOP1.1 million.

Asians grab Van Gogh, Monet at Sotheby's USD368m sale

Katya Kazakina

ASIAN collectors snapped up paintings by Vincent Van Gogh, Pablo Picasso and Claude Monet at a Sotheby's auction in New York that totaled USD368.3 million.

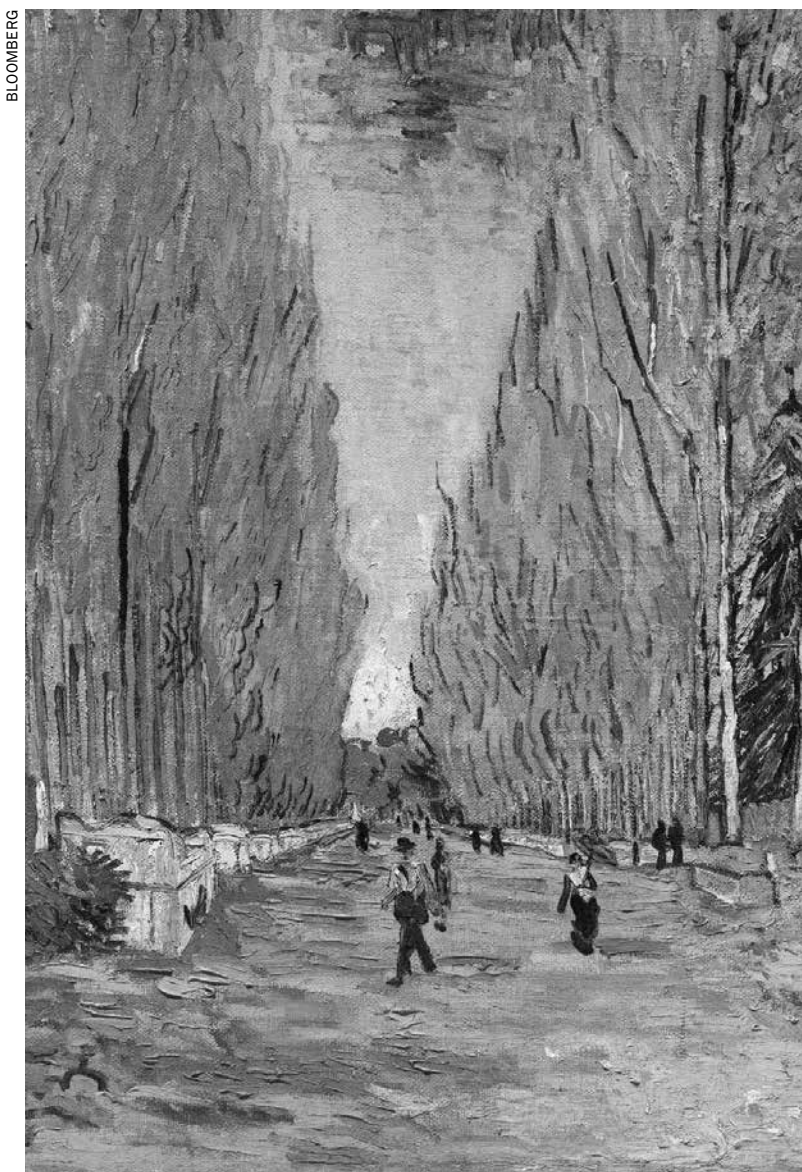
The tally on Tuesday (yesterday in Macau) was the second highest for an Impressionist and modern art auction at Sotheby's and a 67 percent increase from a similar sale last May. The auctioneer also surpassed its high presale target of USD351 million despite failing to sell 14 of the 64 lots.

The auction was the first test of the art market during two weeks of bellwether sales of Impressionist, modern, postwar and contemporary art in New York that are expected to total as much as \$2.3 billion. For the moment, the market is showing no sign of slowing down, dealers said.

"The fundamentals haven't changed," said Guy Jennings, managing director of the Fine Art Fund Group in London that sold works at the evening auction. "Interest rates are incredibly low. The stock market is incredibly high. Everyone is making money."

Champagne flowed as guests entered the brightly lit salesroom at the company's Upper East Side headquarters. Tad Smith, Sotheby's new chief executive officer, observed the auction standing alone, for the most part, at the front of the room.

The top lot, Van Gogh's



L'Allée des Alyscamps by Vincent van Gogh, painted on Nov. 1, 1888, sold for \$66.3 million

1888 painting "L'Allee Des Alyscamps," went to a private Asian client for \$66.3 million. Prices include commissions; estimates don't. The consigner bought the work for \$11.8 million at Christie's in 2003.

The buyer was a bespectacled man in the room, who spoke on the phone while bidding. He was one of five people, including at least two other Asian bidders, who chased after the vibrant autumn

view of a tree-lined lovers' lane in Arles, painted shortly after Van Gogh moved to the south of France.

Van Gogh's auction record of \$82.5 million has been unchallenged since "Portrait du Dr. Gachet" sold 25 years ago at Christie's in New York.

In November, Sotheby's sold an 1890 still life by Van Gogh for \$61.8 million. The buyer of "Still Life, Vase With Daisies and Poppies" was Wang Zhongjun, chairman of Beijing-based Huayi Brothers Media Corp., which produces and distributes movies in China, according to Sotheby's.

Tuesday's auction included six paintings by Monet, of which all but one found buyers and four landed among the top 10 lots of the evening.

A painting of one of Monet's most recognizable images, the water lily pond, sold for \$54 million to a U.S. private collector bidding through George Wachter, Sotheby's co-chairman of Old Masters Worldwide, who outbid Sotheby's Asia Chairman Patti Wong.

Painted in 1905, "Nymphs" depicts a lily pond in Monet's garden at Giverny, France. The work was estimated at \$30 million to \$45 million by the auction house.

An Asian buyer purchased Monet's 1913 "Bassin aux Nymphes, les Rosiers," another lily pond depiction, for \$20.4 million, within the estimated presale range.

Wong was more successful

winning for an Asian client Picasso's 1948 portrait of his lover Françoise Gilot from the collection of Hollywood's film producing dynasty, the Goldwyns.

The patchwork painting, depicting Gilot in a Polish coat, fetched \$29.9 million, surpassing its presale high estimate of \$18 million.

Asian buyers accounted for more than one-third of the overall sales total, Sotheby's said.

"Monet along with Picasso and Van Gogh are those magic names that cut across the globe," said Simon Shaw, Sotheby's senior vice president and co-head of Impressionist and modern art worldwide.

While more than one-third of the offered artworks had remained in the same collections for 50 years, according to Sotheby's, more than 30 lots have previously appeared at auction, some as recently as in 2013.

"The resale cycle has become much shorter," said Ezra Chowaiki, a New York-based art dealer. "People are getting more used to it. All that matters now is the quality."

Casualties in the overall sale included paintings by Wassily Kandinsky, Henri Matisse and René Magritte. Pierre-Auguste Renoir's 1888 painting of a female nude, which was estimated at \$6 million to \$8 million, found no takers. **Bloomberg**

\$66.3m

The amount paid by a private Asian client for Van Gogh's 'L'Allee Des Alyscamps'

corporate bits

CONRAD MACAO'S BODHI SPA WINS TWO AWARDS



Conrad Macao, Cotai Central's Bodhi Spa has been awarded Best Luxury Emerging Spa in Asia and Best Luxury Day Spa in Asia at the prestigious 2015 World Luxury Spa Awards for the third year in a row.

The World Luxury Spa Awards are held annually and give recognition and thanks to luxury spas around the world for their innovation, quality and service. Voting is based on service excellence and spa guests are encouraged to vote

for their favorite spas around the world.

The organizers' goal is to identify the best spas on the global front, commending and recognizing outstanding achievements in service excellence. Its program rewards those spas that have raised the bar within the highly competitive spa industry over the past year.

"We are honored to receive such accolades for Bodhi Spa for the third year, since we opened we have been committed to providing luxury spa experiences to both sophisticated travellers and day-spa visitors to Macau. While our spa treatments offer a contemporary spa experience we are also mindful that they reflect ancient traditions at the same time," said Conrad Macao, General Manager, Bede Barry.

H & M, Hennes & Mauritz AB (H&M), the international fashion retailer, is finally opening its store in Macau on 13 June. The first official Macau presence is to debut in Shoppes at the Venetian, embracing a retail area of over 19,000 square feet.

"We have been looking for a perfect location for our first store in Macau and we are thrilled with the debut in Shoppes at Venetian. At our inaugural store, customers and visitors around the world will finally get to shop in a unique and friendly fashion environment which offers a wide assortment of trendy apparels at accessible prices. We believe H&M will be the fashion spark of Macau," says Magnus Olsson, Country Manager of Greater China at H&M.

H&M TO OPEN ITS FIRST MACAU FLAGSHIP STORE



Encompassing two floors, the retail space will offer seasonal fashion and latest trends for both men and ladies. Popular for its affordable fashion

collections created by over 230 in-house designers, coinciding with the first store opening is the launch of H&M's Summer 2015 collection.



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Business Luncheon

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Executive Director
AEDAS

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on

Innovation, Metaphor and Synthesis
A brief introduction to AEDAS design in Hengqin

Wednesday, 13th May



Hengqin Financial International Centre, Zhuhai, to be completed in 2017

The Venetian Resort, Junior Ball Room

12.30: Drinks

1 pm: Lunch

1.45 pm: Presentation by Wai Tang

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THE sale of gasoline in Angola is now based on a free pricing system, putting an end to state subsidies, under the terms of a decree in which the Ministry of Finance announced increases of up to 29 percent in fuel prices, Angolan news agency Angop reported.

As a result Angola's state oil company Sonangol set the price per liter of gasoline at 115 kwanzas as of 11 pm last Thursday against the 90 kwanzas previously charged.

This increase in fuel prices, the third since last September as part of a set of economic measures put in place by the government to offset the drop in oil prices on the international market, increased the price of diesel per liter by 25 percent from 60 to 75 kwanzas, with the state subsidizing 21.06 percent of the price.

The price of domestic gas increased from 45 to 55 kwanzas, or 22 percent, with the State continuing to subsidize 67.15 percent of the cost and a liter of kerosene increased by 29 percent (from 35 to 45 kwanzas), and the state continues to subsidize 44.41 percent of the price.

Gasoline no longer subsidized in Angola



Oil tankers pass along the road towards the capital Luanda, Angola

In a statement, the Ministry of Finance explained the adjustments to fuel prices based on its strategy to improve the quality of public

expenditure and noted that this adjustment would allow the government to secure enough of a margin to ensure the sustainability of fiscal

■ The fuel price adjustment measures generated savings of 110b kwanzas since October 2014

policy and funding for the objectives set out in the National Development Plan for 2013-2017.

The announcement said that, since October 2014, the fuel price adjustment measures had already produced savings of 110 billion kwanzas, allowing the government better to cover public expenditure in a climate of reduced oil revenues. **MDT/Macauhub**

Portuguese company builds dam in Mozambique

THE dam on the river Nhan-dare, in Mozambique, a facility designed initially to supply water to the town of Gorongosa, in Sofala province, is due to start operating in October, said the Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources.

Minister Carlos Bonete, who recently visited the project, said the finished project would benefit local populations as it will have a reservoir with a capacity to store 80 million cubic metres of water.

Located about six kilometres from the centre of Gorongosa municipality, the dam is likely to be used to produce electricity in the future, although this is not currently provided for, and the water retained in the reservoir may also be used for irrigation of agricultural fields.

Construction of this dam was awarded by the government of Mozambique to Portuguese construction company Tovisi, according to local daily newspaper Notícias. **MDT/Macauhub**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Kate's postnatal appearance triggers netizens' health reflections

PHOTOGRAPHS of Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, leaving hospital just hours after giving birth to a girl on Saturday, sparked debate online in China about "yuezi", the 30 day postpartum rest period.

According to tradition, following labor, many women are house bound, deprived of cold food and drinks, and even forgo hot showers for a whole month in a bid to regain physical and mental equilibrium.

Chinese women are told if they do not undergo yuezi they will suffer from health problems in later life.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that Chinese netizens were taken aback by Kate's public appearance for the cameras, posing babe-in-arms - and in high-heels nonetheless - just ten hours after her delivery.

This very public display of such a high-profile woman, just mere hours after labor, resulted in people reflecting on the place yuezi has in modern society.

One user on China's twit-

AP PHOTO



ter-like microblog weibo.com, "maoyanzhu", said that Kate's doctor must have approved her public appearance, which showed it was perfectly ok not to practice "yuezi".

Another user, "rongxian-gxiang", said: "I hated [yuezi], because I was confined to bed, denied TV, my cellphone and couldn't even brush my teeth."

Others argued that the tradition was not only an important part of Chinese culture but highlighted the physical differences between Chinese and Caucasians.

Another weibo user, "Mengmengda", said as the tradition was passed on from generation to generation, it must make sense, adding that the eastern mindset of respecting traditions and the older generation had meant that the tradition had not been forgotten.

Regardless of the arguments, it is hard not to agree, on some level, with the obvious benefit of a period of postpartum rest to new mothers. **Xinhua**

2nd Uber office under investigation



CHINESE police have visited Uber offices in a second city in a widening investigation into the company's operations in China.

An official at Chengdu's city transportation commission said the visit yesterday was part of an investigation into Uber allowing private drivers to offer their services via the taxi-hailing app, which has established a

presence in about 10 Chinese cities.

The Chinese government in January banned drivers of private cars from offering such services through apps.

Police last week raided Uber offices in the southern city of Guangzhou, seizing thousands of iPhones and other equipment used to run the business.

The city's transport commission said it

suspected Uber was operating an illegal taxi service without a proper business registration and threatened fines of 30,000 yuan, or about USD4,860, to those operating such services.

Uber faces multiple legal and regulatory challenges as it expands in the United States and abroad. In India, it has been banned in New Delhi, the southern technology

hub of Hyderabad and the entire southern state of Karnataka.

The Chengdu official, who like many Chinese bureaucrats identified herself only by her surname, Ren, said she had no further information about the investigation there.

There was no listed telephone number for Uber's offices in Chengdu and a spokeswoman did not immediately return an email asking for comment.

The company, which is valued at \$40 billion, allows passengers to summon taxi drivers in more than 250 cities around the world.

Such services have become hugely popular in China's congested cities, particularly those such as the capital Beijing and the financial hub of Shanghai where hailing a taxi on the street during rush hour can be all-but-impossible.

A late arrival to the China market, Uber faces heavy competition from more established local apps backed by major investors. Most estimates put its share of the Chinese market at about 1 percent. **AP**

Carnival raises mainland cruise bet with plan to add 5th ship

Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

CARNIVAL Corp., the world's No. 1 cruise company, said yesterday it's planning to base a fifth passenger liner in Shanghai in 2017, adding to a foothold in China's fast-growing leisure cruise market.

The Miami-based company said that the new Princess Cruises ship will be the first under the Princess brand to be based in China year round. It will also be the first full-time luxury international liner designed and built with Chinese travelers in mind.

Princess based its first ship in China last year when it deployed its Sapphire Princess to Shanghai from June to October.

The 3,600 passenger-vessel, under construction by Italy's Fincantieri shipyard, will have features aimed at Chinese tastes such as "ocean-view hot pot" dining, the company said.

Carnival also has three Costa-brand ships stationed in China, including the Costa Serena, which made its maiden voyage last month from



Shanghai, its new year-round home port. Another ship, the Costa Atlantica, which was deployed to China in 2006, is in the middle of an 86-day round-the-world voyage carrying only Chinese passengers.

Rival Royal Caribbean will have three China-based ships when its Quantum of the Seas relocates there this summer.

Cruise companies are racing to expand in China, where growth is expected to outpace developed markets even as the country's economic expansion slows.

The number of Chinese cruise passengers jumped 79 percent to 697,000 from 2012 to 2014, making it nearly as big as all other Asian markets combined, the industry group Cruise Lines International Association said in a report in March. **AP**

A man has appeared in court in Hong Kong in connection with the kidnapping for ransom of a wealthy heiress, the BBC reported yesterday.

According to the British broadcaster, Queenie Law, the granddaughter of the owner of the Bossini clothing chain, was taken from her home in the Sai Kung area of Hong Kong in late April.

The gang, who also seized valuables, held Ms Law until her family paid HKD28m (US-D3.6m).

The South China Morning Post reported that five other suspects had also been detained.

The men were arrested in Guangdong province in mainland China on Monday, the paper reported late on Tuesday, but this has not been confirmed by Hong Kong police.

The BBC recounted that the man in court yesterday, surnamed Zheng, was arrested at the Lo Wu border crossing on Sunday night as he was trying to leave Hong Kong.

He did not enter a plea and the case has been adjourned until Monday, said broadcaster RTHK.

On Tuesday, he was led hooded around parts of Kowloon by police trying to reconstruct the events around the kidnapping.



A suspected member of a gang of kidnapers, center, is taken through a crime scene reconstruction by Hong Kong police at a local market



HONG KONG

Bossini heiress Queenie Law kidnap suspect in court

The case has gripped Hong Kong, which has very low levels of violent crime. Police had set up road blocks across the territory and combed rural

areas looking for Ms Law.

She was released unharmed by the gang after four days, but the ransom money has not been recovered.

According to the BBC's Juliana Liu in Hong Kong, when the territory was still a British colony, a number of high-profile kidnappings targeting the

city's richest families shocked the public.

Since reverting to Chinese rule, such cases have become much rarer, she said.

HK chief executive visits Boston, exchanges views on IT sector

HONG Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying began his official visit to Boston with tours to top-notch research institutions to see the latest innovation and technology developments in the United States, the Hong Kong government news website said yesterday.

Leading a delegation comprising government officials, industry leaders and academics from the innovation and technology sector, Leung visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab which is devoted to projects at the convergence of technology, multimedia, sciences, art and design.

Leung also met the Provost of MIT, Martin Schmidt, and senior faculty members with Hong Kong connections to exchange views on how to enhance the co-operation between Hong Kong and Boston in the innovation and technology sector.

Leung visited the Harvard Stem Cell Institute (HSCI), and toured the labs at HSCI to learn more about their field of research including regenerative medicine.

He also met Marshal of Harvard University Jackie O'Neill, and ex-



Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying

changed views on promoting cooperation among industry, academic and research sectors to boost innovation and technology.

Leung addressed a luncheon organized by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, New York, where he met with representatives of Boston business chambers and local leaders.

He said Hong Kong's information and communications technology infrastructure and

the liberalized telecommunications market open up a wealth of opportunity for e-commerce, wireless/mobile, digital-content creation and service, cloud computing, and much more.

"I invite you to build your businesses, and start your start-ups in Hong Kong, where the future is already up and running," Leung said.

He will depart Boston and return to Hong Kong on today. **Xinhua**

Police fatally shoot man seeking aid for family

POLICE fatally shot a man in northern China who was on his way to Beijing to ask the central government to help house and take care of his children and elderly mother, police and a lawyer said yesterday.

The man's relatives received approval for the aid three days after the Saturday killing, the newspaper Southern Metropolis Daily said.

Lawyer Xie Yanyi, who is working with Xu Chunhe's family on the case, said Xu, his mother and three children were on their way to the capital when train station security officers in Harbin recognized them and barred them from buying tickets.

The family had visited Beijing several times seeking aid, and local media had reported their case. Local officials often try to block such trips to avoid drawing scrutiny from central authorities.

Southern Metropolis said Xu blocked other travelers at the security checkpoint but was subdued by police.

Once released, he clashed with a police officer, who hit back with a baton, the newspaper said.

It said Xu then grabbed the baton and used it to beat the policeman before the officer drew a gun and shot him in his chest.

Xie said witness videos contradict that account but did not provide details.

Chinese with unsolved grievances often travel to the capital to attempt to petition national authorities about land seizures, labor disputes and other issues after making little progress with local officials. Southern Metropolis said Xu, who had medical conditions and had difficulty taking care of himself, had been trying for years to place his aging mother in a public nursing home and board his daughter and two sons at a state-run juvenile facility. China National Radio said his wife has psychological problems.

The children — all under age 10 — will be placed in a public orphanage, the newspaper reported. **AP**

Lynne O'Donnell
and Amir Shah, Kabul

AFGHANISTAN

Judge sentences 4 to death in mob killing of woman

AN Afghan court yesterday convicted and sentenced four men to death for their role in the brutal mob killing of a woman in Kabul in March — a slaying that shocked the nation and spurred calls for authorities to ensure women's rights to equality and protection from violence.

The sentences were part of a trial of 49 suspects, including 19 police officers, over the March 19 killing of the 27-year-old woman named Farkhunda who was beaten to death in a frenzied attack sparked by a bogus accusation that she had burned a copy of the Quran.

The trial, which began Saturday, only involved two full days of court proceedings — an unusual swiftness in the slow-moving Afghan judicial system. It was broadcast live on national television, reflecting huge public interest in the case.

Judge Safiullah Mojadedi handed down the four death sentences at Afghanistan's Primary Court in Kabul yesterday. He also sentenced eight of the defendants to 16 years in prison and dropped charges against 18. The remaining suspects are to be sentenced on Sunday.

The defendants have the right to appeal their sentences. The charges included assault, murder and encouraging others to participate in the assault. The police officers were charged with neglecting their duties and failing to prevent the attack.

Farkhunda's brother, Mujibullah, told The Associated Press that her family was angered by the leniency of the court

■ The sentences were part of a trial of 49 suspects over the killing of 27-year-old Farkhunda

toward the majority of the defendants.

"The outcome of the trial is not fair and we do not accept it — you saw just four people sentenced to death but everybody knows that more than 40 people were involved in martyring and burning and beating my sister," said Mujibullah, who like many Afghans, including his sister, uses only one name.

"Eighteen people have been freed. The court should punish them and that should be a lesson for anyone who would commit this sort of crime, anywhere in our country, in the future," he added.

Farkhunda's brutal killing shocked many Afghans, though some public and religious figures said it would have been justified if she had in fact damaged a Quran. A presidential investigation later found that she had not



Afghan men hold posters with the photo of Farkhunda and Persian that reads, "martyr Farkhunda," during a protest demanding justice for her after she was beaten to death March 24, 2015

damaged a copy of the Muslim holy book.

The last agonizing and brutal moments of her life were captured on mobile phone cameras by witnesses and those in the mob that attacked her. The videos of the assault circulated widely on social media. They showed her being punched, kicked, beaten with planks of wood, pushed by police onto a roof and dropped from it, thrown in the street and run over by a car. She then had a lump of concrete dropped on her and her body was dragged along the road outside the mos-

que were the assault took place and tossed onto the bank of the Kabul River. A crowd watched as her body was set on fire.

The incident sparked nationwide outrage and soul-searching, as well as a civil society movement seeking to limit the power of clerics, strengthen the rule of law and improve women's rights.

Farkhunda's parents addressed the court before the sentences were handed down, asking that the accused be dealt with according to the law.

"Everybody saw what happened and I insist on justice," her

mother, Bibi Hajira told the court yesterday. "That's all I want."

Afghanistan's judicial system has long faced criticism for its inability to offer the majority of Afghans access to justice. Women especially are sidelined, despite constitutional guarantees of equality and protection from violence, a recent report by the United Nations concluded.

The attack on Farkhunda was widely seen as symptomatic of the general low regard for women in Afghan society, where violence against women often goes unpunished. **AP**

INDIA

Bollywood star Salman Khan sentenced to 5 years for hit-and-run

Rajanish Kakade, Mumbai

ONE of India's biggest and most popular movie stars, Salman Khan, was sentenced to five years in jail yesterday on charges of running over five men sleeping on a sidewalk and killing one in a hit-and-run case that has dragged for more than 12 years.

Judge D. W. Deshpande of the Mumbai Sessions court earlier yesterday convicted Khan of culpable homicide.

The 49-year-old actor was also given separate terms for negligent driving and causing grievous harm to the victims, but all the sentences will run concurrently, defense



Bollywood actor Salman Khan, center, arrives at the Jodhpur civil airport to appear before a court in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

lawyers said.

Khan plans to file an appeal for bail, said his lawyer, Srikant Shivade.

He was scheduled to start starting serving the sentence in a Mumbai

prison later yesterday, Shivade said. The lawyers argued for a more lenient sentence, citing Khan's "medical condition." No details were immediately available on the nature

of Khan's medical complaint.

Most Indian prisons are overcrowded and have poor sanitation and health care. However, a high-profile prisoner such as Khan was unlikely to be kept with hardened criminals and would probably be accommodated with white-collar offenders.

The prosecution told the court that Khan was drunk when he rammed his SUV into a group of homeless people, sleeping on a sidewalk in September 2002.

Khan has all along denied that he was behind the wheel. In April, his driver Ashok Singh told the court that he was dri-

ving and lost control of the SUV when one of its tires burst.

But Judge Deshpande dismissed the actor's claim and accused him of driving the car under the influence of alcohol then fleeing.

Khan also faces trial in a separate case for allegedly killing two rare deer in a western India wildlife preserve 16 years ago.

He is one of Bollywood's most popular stars, appearing in more than 90 Hindi-language films in his 27-year career.

Huge crowds had gathered outside Khan's house in south Mumbai for a glimpse of the star as he emerged from his apart-

ment block surrounded by security guards.

Scores of television crews and reporters followed the actor's car and thronged the building as the court gave its verdict in a case that has been closely watched by millions of Khan's fans in India and abroad.

Television channels reported that Khan looked downcast during the court proceedings and teared up when the judge pronounced the verdict.

Khan's brothers, Arbaaz and Sohail, were present in the courtroom that was jam-packed with other relatives and Khan's friends from the film industry.

Another popular Bollywood actor, Sanjay Dutt, is currently serving time for illegal possession of weapons linked to a 1993 terror attack in Mumbai. However, since he was sentenced in April 2013, Dutt has spent long periods at his Mumbai home on medical grounds. **AP**

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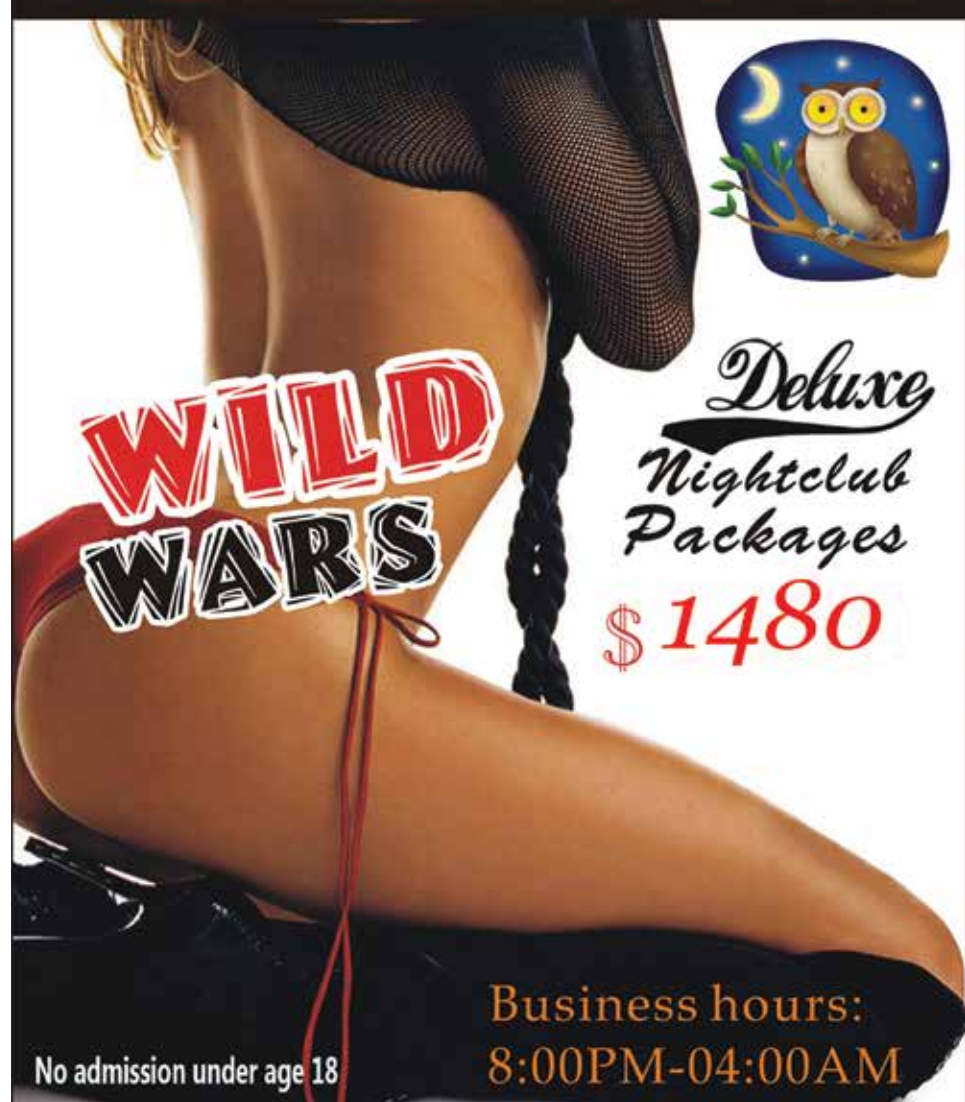
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Migrants on a sinking rubber boat desperately clamber up ropes and a ladder from the cargo ship Zeran that came to their aid on May 3, 2015, in the sea between Libya and Sicily

ITALY

Moments from safety, migrants die trying to reach Europe

Trisha Thomas, Andrea Rosa and Frank Jordans, Catania

YOUNG men piled over each other, some shimmying up ropes dangling from the towering rescue ship and others falling into the churning sea. Women and children were the last off the stricken dinghy during a chaotic Mediterranean rescue in which at least five migrants were crushed to death and more were feared drowned.

Dramatic footage shot by a seaman aboard the Maltese freighter showed the weekend rescue of more than 100 West Africans aboard the flimsy boat off the coast of Libya. Survivors were brought Tuesday to the Sicilian port of Catania.

The video, obtained by The Associated Press, highlights the danger of marine rescue, where safety and tragedy too often lie just moments apart. With tens of thousands trying to cross the sea on small boats launched by human traffickers from Libya — and hundreds dying in the attempt — the question of how best to save migrants from drowning has taken center stage in Europe.

Crew members interviewed by the AP said everyone aboard the cargo ship Zeran had undergone rescue training. But

while a previous rescue several weeks ago happened calmly without any loss of life, on Sunday elation at the prospect of being saved quickly turned to panic.

Unaware that they would be thrown a ladder, frantic migrants trampled over one another to reach the ropes that were meant to hold it in place, with some dangling precariously as they clambered along the lines to reach the tall freighter.

■ Frantic migrants trampled over one another to reach the ropes

Some jumped or fell overboard to catch lifesavers tossed into the water by crew members. Others emptied jerry cans of gasoline to use as floats, as the dinghy — already deflated at the front — began taking in water.

“Easy! Easy!” implored a crew member from Zeran’s deck.

“There was the big ship there and they threw down ropes,” Astou Fall Dia, a 24 year-old migrant from Senegal, told the AP after disembarking from the

cargo ship.

“Someone grabbed onto the rope. All the other people started pushing to try to save themselves but the people started falling in the water.”

Dia said she survived because she stayed close to the dinghy, and because she knew how to swim — unlike most of the migrants who come from poor African countries.

Five bodies were recovered from inside the dinghy, floating amid garbage and water that had seeped in. A crew member said they died in the final rush to be rescued and the Catania prosecutor’s office said late Tuesday (early yesterday, Macau time) that a preliminary investigation showed they were crushed to death.

At least another five to nine people fell into the water and drowned, said the seaman who shot the video, though one man floating away with the current and clinging to a lifesaver was rescued by crew on a Zeran lifeboat.

The seaman and other crew members spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Save the Children, which interviewed the survivors upon their arrival, said the migran-

ts reported “dozens” of people died in the rescue 25 miles off the Libyan coast.

The weekend saw a dramatic increase in rescues as smugglers in Libya took advantage of calm seas and warm weather to send thousands of would-be refugees out into the Mediterranean in overloaded rubber boats and fishing vessels. The coast guard reported that nearly 7,000 people were rescued in the three days ending Sunday.

On Tuesday, the Italian Mission to the United Nations tweeted that coast guard just rescued 300 migrants in the Mediterranean, 130 kilometers off the Italian coast.

The latest deaths come on top of the estimated 800 migrants who are believed to have drowned last month when their boat capsized off Libya with hundreds of passengers locked in the hold by smugglers. A few days earlier, some 400 people were feared drowned in another capsizing.

After those deaths, the European Union held an emergency summit and agreed to contribute more boats and patrol aircraft to Mediterranean rescue efforts.

Even with the increased EU response, commercial cargo ships are increasingly being cal-

led on by Italy’s coast guard to respond to migrants in need, as required by the law of the sea.

Catania prosecutor Giovanni Salvi complained last month that the commercial crews sometimes aren’t trained or equipped to conduct rescues and that lives can be lost when migrants suddenly rush to one side of their unseaworthy boats as they try to get off.

Salvi later backtracked and praised the work and commitment of the commercial vessels.

But when the coast guard rescues migrant boats, it usually sends out inflatable speedboats and crews use loudspeakers to implore the passengers in various languages to stay calm and in their place.

It was clear from the footage obtained by the AP that either there was a language barrier, or the migrants couldn’t hear the crew’s instructions from high up on the deck — or both — in Sunday’s rescue.

A second dinghy, picked up by the Italian navy the same day, suffered no casualties. Those migrants were later transferred to the Zeran.

Alpha Sisse, a 17-year-old from Ivory Coast who was among those rescued from the second boat, said he had talked to survivors from the stricken vessel.

“At least five people drowned, more are missing,” he said. “They say maybe 20 people died.”

Sisse said he left Libya because of the growing danger from fighting there.

Asked where he hoped to go from here, Sisse said: “Anywhere there is work.” AP

Jamey Keaten, Paris

GERMANWINGS CRASH

Co-pilot Lubitz practiced descent on previous flight

THE co-pilot of Germanwings Flight 4525 appeared to practice a controlled descent on his previous flight, two hours before he crashed the A320 jet into a mountainside in March, French air accident investigators said yesterday.

Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz set the plane into descent mode five times in a four and a half-minute period during a flight from Duesseldorf to Barcelona, then brought it back up again on a flight, the BEA investigation agency said in an interim report on the crash.

Prosecutors have previously said Lubitz intentionally locked the pilot out of the cockpit and crashed the plane on its return flight from Barcelona to Dueseldorf in the French Alps on March 24, killing all 150 people on board.

Yesterday's 30-page report said the pilot appeared to have left the cockpit during the earlier flight as well.

The report showed that the pilot left the cockpit on the Dueseldorf-Barcelona flight for about 4 1/2 minutes. Shortly after the pilot left, the "selected altitude" of the flight changed repeatedly, including several ti-



In this March 26, 2015 file photo, rescue workers work on debris of the Germanwings jet at the crash site near Seyne-les-Alpes, France

mes as low as 30 meters.

A chart released by the BEA showed the plane didn't descend sharply during this period, suggesting that passengers and

crew might not have noticed any change.

It would be highly unusual for a pilot to repeatedly set a plane for such a low altitude for no

apparent reason.

The BEA report didn't analyze why Lubitz repeatedly tried to descend the plane. It said it is continuing to look at the "sys-

temic failings that may have led to this accident or similar events."

The investigators said their main focus is on "the current balance between medical confidentiality and flight safety" and the "compromises" made on security after the Sept. 11 attacks in the U.S., notably on cockpit door locking systems.

French prosecutors are conducting a separate criminal investigation into the crash.

Lufthansa spokesman Helmut Tolksdorf said by phone from Frankfurt that the airline had not yet had time to analyze the new details released by French authorities and planned no immediate comment. Lufthansa is the parent company of Germanwings.

It remains unclear why Lubitz would have wanted to crash the plane. He had suffered severe depression and been on medication in the past. **AP**

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Charlie Hebdo receives PEN award at literary gala in NYC

Hillel Italie, National Writer, New York

UNDER armed security and a cloud of conflicted opinions and emotions, the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo was presented a freedom of expression award on Tuesday night (yesterday, Macau time) from the PEN American Center.

Editor-in-chief Gerard Biard and critic-essayist Jean-Baptiste Thore accepted the Freedom of Expression Courage Award to a standing ovation following a weeklong debate — alternately thoughtful and divisive — over whether the honor was deserved.

Salman Rushdie and Neil Gaiman were among hundreds of writers, editors and others from the publishing world cheering for Hebdo at the literary and human rights organization's gala at the American Museum of

Natural History, where awards also were given to playwright Tom Stoppard, Azerbaijani investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova and Penguin Random House CEO Markus Dohle.

Just as notable were those who would not, and could not, be there.

Michael Ondaatje, Peter Carey and four other writers scheduled to be table hosts withdrew because of objections to what they considered the magazine's offensive cartoons of Muslims. More than 200 writers, among them Joyce Carol Oates and Michael Cunningham, signed an open letter criticizing PEN. The gathering Tuesday night was overwhelmingly supportive of Hebdo and the award if only because so many opponents stayed home, some by choice, some citing scheduling conflicts.

Those who spoke recalled absent friends. Whi-

le introducing Stoppard, actress Glenn Close paid tribute to the late Mike Nichols, who directed her in a Broadway adaptation of Stoppard's "The Real Thing." Ismayilova, given the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award, has been imprisoned since December and was represented by fellow journalist Emin Milli. Biard and Thore came on behalf of colleagues killed in the January shooting at the magazine's Paris offices that left 12 dead.

In accepting the award, Biard noted the magazine's history of shocking readers with its irreverent drawings of religious figures.

"Growing up to be a citizen is to learn that some ideas, some words, some images, can be shocking," he said. "Being shocked is a part of democratic debate. Being shot is not." **AP**

UK ELECTION

Britain's UKIP drops candidate for saying he'd shoot rival

Jill Lawless, London

AS Britain's political leaders spent a final day campaigning Wednesday, the election race drew to a bumpy close for the U.K. Independence Party, which suspended a candidate for saying he would shoot his Conservative opponent.

Robert Blay, who was running in the southern English seat of North East Hampshire, was recorded by an undercover reporter saying of Conservative candidate Ranil Jayawardena that he would "put a bullet between his eyes" if Jayawardena became prime minister.

The Daily Mirror ran footage of Blay making the comments and saying Jayawardena, who has Sri Lankan heritage, was "not British enough to be in our Parliament."

"We've suspended him immediately, which is the right thing to do, and we do have a history of getting rid of people when they do something wrong very quickly indeed," said UKIP deputy chief Paul Nuttall.

It is the latest in a string of embarrassing comments by members of UKIP, which has seen support grow for its anti-European Union stance and hopes to win a handful of seats today.

Small parties could play a major role in determining who governs Britain after an election that polls suggest is too

close to call. Neither the Conservatives nor Labour look likely to win a majority of House of Commons seats, and their poll ratings have barely shifted during the monthlong campaign.

Both big parties, however, insisted they were aiming for outright victory. Prime Minister David Cameron said he hadn't spent time planning for post-election talks with prospective coalition partners.

"I'm out there trying to convince people that the Conservative Party has the right answers to keep the economy growing, to keep creating those jobs, cutting those taxes, investing in our NHS (health service)," he said.

Labour leader Ed Miliband told BBC radio: "I'm not countenancing defeat. I'm focusing on winning the election."

Miliband faced a torrent of last-minute criticism from right-leaning British newspapers, which have depicted the prospect of a Labour government supported by the separatist Scottish National Party — one possible election outcome — as a threat to Britain's future.

British newspapers do not confine their attempts at political influence to editorial-page endorsements. The Rupert Murdoch-owned Sun ran a front-page photo of Miliband awkwardly eating a bacon sandwich, with the headline "Save Our Bacon." **AP**

what's ON



MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM
TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)
VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL PAINTINGS – MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

INSTALLATION 'VALKYRIE OCTOPUS'
BY JOANA VASCONCELOS
TIME: 24 hours
UNTIL: October 31, 2015
VENUE: MGM MACAU, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

POST POMBALINO IT, DRAWING EXHIBITION
BY JOÃO SANTA-RITA
TIME: 3pm-8pm (Monday)
12pm-8pm (Tuesday-Sunday)
UNTIL: May 20, 2015
VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No.8, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

HUMAN ROOTS
TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: July 2, 2015
Admission Free
VENUE: IAOHIN Gallery, Rua da Tercena No.39A
ENQUIRES: (853) 2892 1908

Offbeat

KOALA PAYS LATE NIGHT VISIT TO AUSTRALIAN HOSPITAL



Staffers at an Australian hospital's emergency department received a rather unusual late night visitor — a koala.

The marsupial casually strolled through the automatic doors of Hamilton Base Hospi-

tal in Victoria state at 3:30 a.m. on April 20, said Brigid Kelly, spokeswoman for the Western District Health Service.

Surprised staff, not wanting to put any pressure on the animal, watched from a distance as it wandered around the emergency department's waiting room for about three minutes before showing itself back out.

The koala's visit was captured by security cameras, and the footage released by the Western District Health Service on Tuesday.

"He was quite relaxed, just sort of checking everything out, and then he sort of came back past the doors and they opened and he went on out again," Kelly said. "He wasn't stressed at all. It was nice to just watch him poke around there for a little while."

The Health Service's CEO nicknamed the creature "Blinky Bill," after a fictional koala first popularized in a series of children's books.

Although Australia's famously unique fauna occasionally ends up in odd places — a crocodile wandered into a Northern Territory bar a few years ago, for example — Brigid says the hospital has never had a koala visitor before.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Muscellaneous
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Miscellaneous

cinema



CINETEATRO

07 MAY - 13 MAY

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



HELIOS
ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk
Starring: Jacky Cheung, Nick Cheung, Shawn Yue, Ji Jin-hee
Language: Chinese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 118min



MURMUR OF THE HEARTS
ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Sylvia Chang
Starring: Isabella Leong, Joseph Chang, Lawrence Ko, Lee Sinje
Language: Mandarin (Chinese/English)
Duration: 119min

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



1965 HUGE RHODESIA ELECTION WIN FOR SMITH

White voters in the African colony of Rhodesia have overwhelmingly backed Prime Minister Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front which is demanding independence from the UK.

Mr Smith's party took all 50 parliamentary seats reserved for whites and now has more than the two thirds majority necessary to change Rhodesia's constitution.

The main casualty was the Opposition Rhodesian party with both the leader, David Butler, and his deputy losing their seats.

Last month Britain's Prime Minister Harold Wilson warned Mr Smith of the consequences of unilaterally declaring independence and of "defying Britain, the whole of the Commonwealth and nearly the whole of Africa and the United Nations".

But it is now expected Ian Smith will push ahead with independence, with or without Britain's permission.

He is also expected to increase the number of seats reserved for MPs serving the country's 217,000 Europeans.

The Rhodesian Front did not put up candidates against Africans running for the 15 seats set aside for representatives of the country's four million black residents.

Only about 11,000 black Rhodesians are entitled to vote and black MPs are elected on a separate, subordinate 'B' election list.

After the overwhelming reversal of the white opposition's fortunes the next leader of the Opposition is certain to be black.

The man tipped to assume the post is Josiah Gondo who was shadow internal affairs minister in the last parliament.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In November 1965 Ian Smith made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) for Rhodesia.

The move attracted international condemnation. Eventually Joshua Nkomo's Zapu and Robert Mugabe's Zanu parties overcame their differences to form the Patriotic Front (PF) to confront Ian Smith.

Armed resistance from their guerrilla movements continued until white rule formally ended in June 1979.

In January 1980 Robert Mugabe returned from exile. After an overwhelming win in the March general election he became the first black prime minister of the renamed Zimbabwe.

In 1987 when the post of prime minister was abolished, Mr Mugabe became president. He was elected for a fifth consecutive term amid much speculation about ballot-rigging in 2002.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Avoid the temptation to dive too deeply into the details of today's big mess — you can handle it by looking at the big picture instead. If someone throws data at you, just toss it aside.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You are at the center of the whirlwind today — what's not to love? Your energy is just right for multitasking and delegating, so you ought to be able to fix up everyone in need of attention.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You impress someone with your wit, charm or some other refined quality — and it could get you far on a day like today! It's a good time for you to check in with those who matter most to see if you can help out.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You know perfectly well that there's more than one of you tucked away in there — but on a day like today, it's a mixed blessing! While your varied perspectives are great, it's hard to make up your mind.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You can't just stand still while everyone around you blathers on without taking action. It's time to step up and demand an answer — otherwise, you may find that you're still here an hour later.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You need to step up your romantic game — things are just getting interesting! Make sure that you're paying close attention to the people around you, especially the ones who are possible mates.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Try to talk things over with your sweetie or family today — you are more in touch with your emotions, and it's easier than usual to initiate such difficult discussions. It should work out great!



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You can't cope with all the distractions that surround you — it may be time for you to get out and just work on your own for a while. Your mood is sure to improve, and things should get back to normal soon.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your mental energy is incredibly powerful right now — so much so that you might actually find a quick answer to a really difficult question posed by a boss or teacher. Impress them!



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You need to take a little extra care today — things may not go your way if you're not paying attention! That is doubly true at work or if you're searching for a new job, so keep those eyes open!



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You've got to settle down and decide on what has to go — there's too much stuff, too many people or maybe even too many thoughts crowding your mental space. Trim the fat and move on.



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Don't let anyone pin you down on any specific plans today — you need more time to make up your mind and get all the info. Sweetly let them know that it will just be another day or two.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

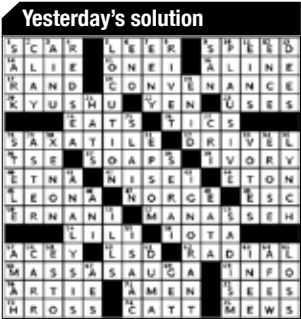
Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Indian chief; 5- Conflict; 10- Hindu music; 14- Ran, as colors; 15- Main artery; 16- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 17- Res ___ loquitor; 18- Snooped; 19- Common hop; 20- Hypothetical; 23- Ribbons; 24- Surrealist Max; 25- Just; 28- Exhausted; 30- River which empties into the Baltic Sea; 31- Baton; 36- Golf position; 37- Steadfast; 39- Bolted down; 40- Erasures; 42- Land east of the Urals; 43- Pigsty; 44- Result; 46- Sarge's superior; 49- Author Horatio; 51- Eschewal of the concrete; 56- Milk source; 57- Rice-___; 58- Slather plaster on the upper surface of a room; 60- Codlike fish; 61- Arranges; 62- No. 2; 63- Roe source; 64- Toss, as one's cookies?; 65- Scottish loch, home to a monster;

DOWN: 1- Baseball stat; 2- Heidi's home; 3- Bach's "___, Joy of Man's Desiring"; 4- Power plug transformer; 5- Awning; 6- Unfettered; 7- Upbeat, in music; 8- Let it stand; 9- ___ but known...; 10- Revival; 11- Negatively charged particle; 12- Class; 13- Give it ___; 21- Close friend; 22- Instruct; 25- Shape; 26- Falco of "The Sopranos"; 27- Spool; 28- Bread rolls; 29- SASE, e.g.; 31- Southwestern art colony; 32- Flee; 33- Life of Riley; 34- Of the ear; 35- Trim; 37- Beef on the hoof; 38- ___ the season...; 41- Sent out; 42- Kenyan, Nigerian, or Congolese; 44- Self-centered person; 45- Wetland; 46- Wood strips; 47- Belief involving sorcery; 48- Honshu port; 49- Make up for wrongdoing; 50- Rings of a chain; 52- Bern's river; 53- Rugged rock; 54- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 55- Fail to hit; 59- USMA grads;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

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Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

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Taipa

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Ref: 15015429

Tai Nin

Macau

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Ref: 15040496

Va Nam unit M

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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Juve beats champions Real 2-1, Ronaldo scores 54th goal of season

FORMER Real Madrid forward Alvaro Morata came back to haunt his old club as he sent Juventus on its way to a 2-1 victory over the holders in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal yesterday.

Morata, who moved to Juventus in the offseason shortly after helping Madrid to a record 10th European Cup title, didn't celebrate after scoring the opening goal in the ninth minute.

Cristiano Ronaldo became the competition's all-time top scorer with Madrid's equalizer in the 27th minute but his former Manchester United teammate Carlos Tevez also continued his fantastic season as he restored Juventus' lead from the spot shortly before the hour after being brought down by Dani Carvajal.

"We played well at times, we had good opportunities, we have to do the same in the return leg," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti, who had a two-year spell in charge of Juventus from 1999-2001. "We made more mistakes than normal, that was because of Juve's pressing. Their line was higher in the second half."

"We have confidence because we are playing at home and the fans there will help us. We have to be patient. The result is a negative one, but not such a bad one."

Juventus, which last won the competition 19 years ago, will continue its bid to reach its first final since 2003 in the return leg in Madrid on May 13.

"I am very happy with the lads' performance," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "They proved how strong they were, even though I think we can still do better."

"We'll have to put on a master show at Madrid. We'll now start preparing for Wednesday, knowing that we have to play even better than tonight."

Backed by a passionate home crowd,

AP PHOTO



Juventus' Carlos Tevez celebrates after scoring during the Champions League, semifinal soccer match between Juventus and Real Madrid at the Juventus Stadium in Turin, Italy

the newly-crowned Italian champions had the better of a frantic opening period and Morata gave his side the perfect start.

Claudio Marchisio slotted the ball through to Tevez and, although Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas got a hand to the Argentine's shot, he only succeeded in deflecting the ball to Morata, who tapped in from close range.

That was Juve's fourth shot on target in the opening nine minutes but it was to prove its last on goal of the first half as Madrid slowly got into the game.

Ronaldo had been kept fairly quiet apart from an early free kick which came off a Juventus defender in the wall. But he also went close to the equalizer when he sprung the offside trap to run onto a through-ball from Francisco "Isco" Alarcon but could only send his effort wide of the right upright.

However, Ronaldo did level minutes later, heading into an empty net from close range after James Rodriguez hooked in a cross from the right of the penalty area.

It was the Portugal star's 76th goal in the competition — one more than Lio-

nel Messi, whose Barcelona side hosts Bayern Munich in the other semifinal on Wednesday.

Rodriguez almost got on the scoresheet himself four minutes from halftime but he headed Alarcon's cross off the bar from five yards out and Marcelo volleyed the rebound narrowly over the bar.

Juventus had earlier had a chance to restore its lead but Marchisio's long-range effort flashed just wide of the left upright.

The Italian side was under pressure from Madrid at the start of the second period and it was camped inside its own half in the build-up to its second goal.

A corner was cleared to Tevez, who went on a blistering run down almost the entire length of the field before being brought down by Carvajal.

The tension was palpable and the normally ice-cool Buffon couldn't even bear to look, standing in his goal with his back to the action. However, Tevez blasted his spot-kick straight down the middle for his 29th goal of the season.

FOOTBALL

FIFA candidate Van Praag seeks support in South Korea



FIFA presidential candidate Michael van Praag has visited South Korea's soccer leaders seeking support for his challenge to Sepp Blatter. Van Praag's visit to Seoul comes days after tension was exposed at an Asian Football Confederation election meeting between its leaders, who support Blatter, and the South Korean delegation. Van Praag says "I feel that the Korean FA has a very clear vision on the future of FIFA and that many of our ideas truly match." The Dutch official was joined by Guus Hiddink, who coached South Korea to the 2002 World Cup semifinals. Blatter is expected to extend his 17-year presidential reign in the May 29 election. He currently has three opponents: Van Praag, Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan and Luis Figo.

Benni McCarthy robbed at gunpoint in SAfrica

Former South Africa international and Champions League winner Benni McCarthy was robbed at gunpoint at a barber shop in South Africa. McCarthy's agent told local radio that the 2004 Champions League-winning forward with Porto was targeted in the Johannesburg shop, where armed men stole jewelry from him. Agent Percy Adams said other customers were ignored in the incident Tuesday. He said one man pointed a gun at McCarthy's face and demanded his watch, earrings and wedding ring. Adams told Eyewitness News that McCarthy was not hurt. McCarthy is South Africa's record goal-scorer and played in Spain, Portugal and England.

ATHLETICS

Zhang gets gold medal back after doping ban overturned

The Olympic Council of Asia has returned an Asian Games gold medal to Chinese hammer thrower Zhang Wenxiu after overturning a doping ban. Zhang won the women's hammer throw at the Asian Games at Incheon, South Korea, last September, but was later disqualified and stripped of the medal after a pre-competition test showed traces of the prohibited substance zeronol in her sample. The three-time Asian Games champion lodged an appeal in the Court of Arbitration for Sport in October, saying her positive case resulted from contaminated food. The OCA issued a statement yesterday saying that based on further tests, it recognized that Zhang did not commit a doping violation and planned to return the medal.

CRICKET

NZ selection manager Bruce Edgar steps down

New Zealand's national selection manager Bruce Edgar, who was one of the men behind the team's recent strong performances, is stepping down because his role is being restructured. The former test opening batsman, along with New Zealand coach Mike Hesson and captain Brendon McCullum, were credited as the keys to New Zealand's recent rise in one-day and test cricket. New Zealand's runner-up finish at the World Cup lifted it to third in the one-day rankings. New Zealand Cricket is changing Edgar's position from a part-time to a full-time talent identification role to capitalize on the World Cup success. Head of Cricket Lindsay Crocker said "Bruce felt he was unable to accept the revised role and terms and while it's a decision we regret, it's also one we respect."

FOOTBALL

Jeonbuk beats Luneng to advance in Asian Champions League

KOREAN club Jeonbuk Motors advanced to the knockout stage of the Asian Champions League yesterday with a 4-1 win over Shandong Luneng.

Lee Jae-sung was on target in the first half and Kim Hyung-il, Eninho and Edu scored after the break as Jeonbuk improved to 11 points and joined Japanese club Kashiwa Reysol in the last 16 from Group H.

Kim scored the winning goal five minutes into the second half at Jeonju World Cup Stadium with a header from a free kick by Eninho.

Eninho made it 3-1 when he scored from the penalty spot after Dai Lin pulled Edu down in the area 10 minutes from time and Edu sealed the win eight minutes later.

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Kashiwa finished first in Group E ahead of Jeonbuk despite losing 1-0 at Binh Duong.

In Japan, Gamba Osaka advanced with a 2-1 win over Seongnam FC. Takashi Usami and Lins scored for the hosts, who improved to 10 points in Group F.

Buriram United trounced Chinese club Guangzhou R&F 5-0 in the other group game and also improved to 10 points but Gamba advanced based on its head-to-head advantage with the Thai club. Seongnam had previously advanced. **AP**

opinion

Vox Parva

Benedict Keith Ip



LIFE EDUCATION IN MACAU HAS A LONG WAY TO GO

Topics related to 'life education' in Macau have been under discussion since the very beginning of the curriculum reform process in non-tertiary education. Universities, institutions and various associations have also been involved from time to time. Recently, high-school principals, mainly those of Catholic institutions, have also set up an association to promote life education concepts and methods to teenagers. The question remains: how should we value the current situation? And how should we implement and develop the content of this area of education in the future?

Universities have organized various seminars and conferences to exchange ideas and try to explore and conceptualize the subjects and aspects of life education. There are also workshops and lectures offered by DSEJ to train existing teachers in the area. For instance, early in September 2004 there was a conference run by the University of Macau. The topic was on life education, mainly related to suicide issues. Two years ago, in December 2013, the University of Saint Joseph also gathered scholars and teachers from the Asian region to hold a life education forum focusing on youths' life-planning, career development and many other subjects.

With an opportunity granted by the recent establishment of The Life Education Research and Promotion Association, which was inaugurated in St. Joseph Secondary School 5 (CDSJ 5), I had a chance to discuss this topic with some of the principals and teachers there. I also invited some high-school teachers to share their points of view. Dr Jasmine Chan, one of the high-school teachers, pointed out to me that Macau must find its own unique subjects in order to suit our local society. She said that the definition of life education differs very much across countries. For example, Australia focuses on health issues such as drugs, violence, AIDS etc.; while Taiwan focuses on the meaning of life, respect and treasuring our own lives. Topics therefore focus on the concepts of life and death, and even different religious concepts about an afterlife.

The curriculum reform, led by DSEJ, is the result of a decade-long effort on their part to propose laws and ordinances that will regulate the hours and classification of subjects. Although life education includes disciplines like psychology, depression, picture-books, death counseling and grief-coping mechanisms, religion, sex education, cardinal virtues, elderly issues, dementia, etc., the new curriculum only allows schools to plan for the inclusion of this content in lessons roughly twice a week. This is because life education, together with religious studies, has been classified as "others" rather than as a designated subject.

"Other" subjects that are not listed in the DSEJ are entitled to only two lessons according to the laws and ordinances. In addition, civil education has taken one of those teaching sessions, which means there is only one session left to assign either religious studies or life education.

Therefore, I would like to raise two points on this issue: first, there is very little room to teach human values in the existing curriculum. All of us know that scientific subjects are important and essential to advance technology and economic development. But this education will be shallow if the students do not also inherit our human values, and use these values to guide their development, resolve ethical issues, and become a real "person", so to speak. Of course, it could be argued that these life education concepts could be incorporated into civil education and religious studies, but one must notice that both of those subjects have their own established syllabus. And bear in mind that I do not include the controversial national education into the curriculum at the moment.

Second, in short, Macau should not simply copy the life education teachings from Taiwan and Hong Kong to form the content of our course. This is a very good opportunity to raise awareness of ethical debates about our casino industry. I would be interested to see how our educators define the lines between gambling, responsible gambling, corporate social responsibility, and so forth.

THE BUZZ UK: PRINCE WILLIAM, WIFE KATE OFF TO COUNTRY HOME WITH CHILDREN

Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge have packed up their newborn princess and their 21-month-old son Prince George for a stay at their country home.

Kensington Palace officials said yesterday the family is headed to Anmer Hall, their restored country mansion on Queen Elizabeth II's Sandringham estate.

They are expected to stay there for several weeks as they get used to taking care of a toddler and an infant. Princess Charlotte was born four days ago. She has already met close family members including her great-grandmother, the queen.

William is on paternity leave from his new job as an air ambulance pilot.

GAMING ALERT

New Vegas resort-casino to rise at Stardust site



Andrea and Steve Wynn speak a few moments with Malaysia-based Genting Group CEO K.T. Lim, center, and his sons Hui Lim and Lim Keong Loui

Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas

THE developer of a sprawling Chinese-themed resort on the Las Vegas Strip said yesterday that the long-awaited hotel-casino on the former site of the Stardust Hotel is expected to open by mid-2018.

K.T. Lim, chairman and CEO of Malaysia-based Genting Group, said the USD4 billion Resorts World Las Vegas would showcase China's people and regions, both past and present.

After performances by traditional Chinese lion dancers and speeches in front of a large gathering of notable Nevada leaders and industry officials, Lim, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and other of-

ficials placed golden shovels into hard dirt at the 88-acre site next to Circus Circus, signaling the start of construction.

Genting Group, which has casino resorts on several continents, first promised a 2016 opening when it bought the site from Boyd Gaming in 2013 for \$350 million.

The concrete bones of Boyd's partially built Echelon casino-hotel were the backdrop for the glittering confetti and golden shovels at Tuesday's groundbreaking. Construction of Echelon stopped in 2008 amid the economic downturn.

Plans for Resorts World Las Vegas include 3,500 rooms, an outdoor amphi-

We love picking up a neighbor. Especially a well-capitalized, experienced neighbor like the Genting Group

STEVE WYNN

theater and a possible panda habitat.

Casino mogul Steve Wynn, who attended the groundbreaking, called Lim a friend and regular at Wynn's casino-hotels.

"We love picking up a neighbor," he told The Associated Press as he left the event. Especially a well-capitalized and experienced neighbor like the Genting Group, Wynn said. Resorts World won't be far from his Wynn and Encore resorts on the Las Vegas Strip.

Wynn described Lim's goal of opening by mid-2018 as ambitious.

"He's got a lot of work to do," Wynn said. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	
Ambient	20-40 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

UKRAINE says five government troops battling separatist forces in the east have been killed in one of the worst single days of bloodshed since a cease-fire was declared in February.

YEMEN U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said yesterday he'll discuss with Saudi Arabian officials how to implement a "humanitarian pause" in Yemen's civil war, citing increased shortages of food, fuel and medicine that are adding to a crisis that has already caused thousands of people to flee to neighboring countries.

YEMEN's rebels fired rockets and mortars into Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, killing at least three people and purportedly capturing five soldiers in an attack showing the insurgents' ability to launch assaults despite weeks of Saudi-led airstrikes targeting them.



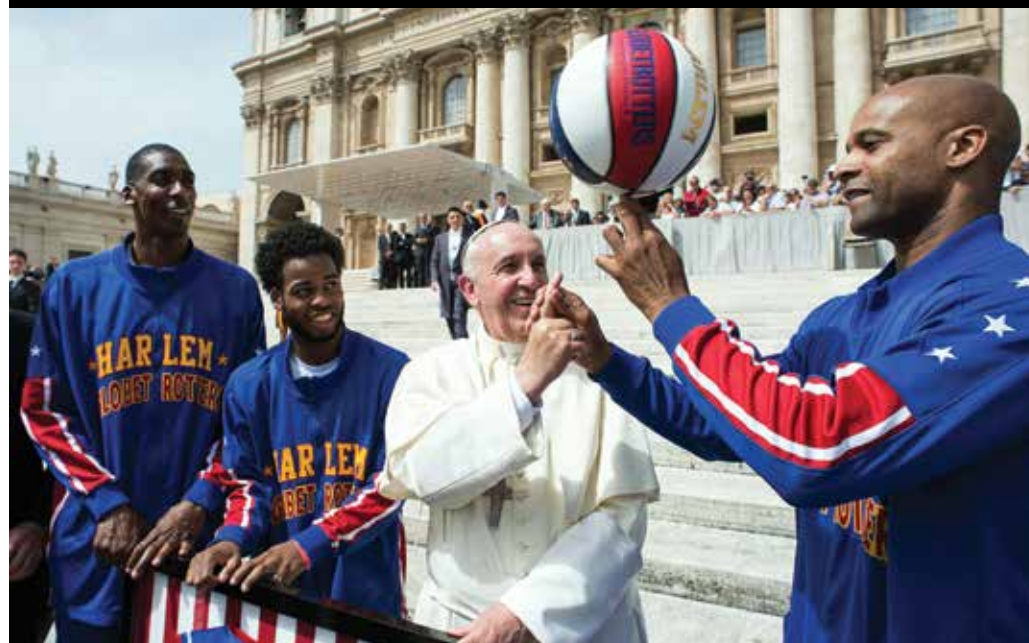
FRANCE's lower house of Parliament has approved a bill aimed at legalizing broad surveillance of terrorism suspects that has drawn an outcry from advocates of civil liberties. The new law would entitle intelligence agents to place cameras and recording devices in suspects' homes and beacons on their cars without prior authorization from a judge, as well as forcing communication and Internet firms to allow intelligence services to install electronic "lock-boxes" to record metadata from all Internet users in France.

NIGERIA Troops rescued 25 more children and women from Boko Haram early yesterday as the soldiers destroyed seven more of the extremists' camps in a northeastern forest stronghold, the army spokesman said.

RUSSIAN space agency Roscosmos says the cargo ship that failed in its mission to deliver supplies to the International Space Station will fall from orbit on Friday. The Progress was launched on April 28, but entered the wrong orbit and went into an uncontrollable spin. Roscosmos said yesterday that some fragments from the spacecraft may hit Earth on Friday. Most of it will burn up harmlessly in the atmosphere.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

L'Osservatore Romano/Pool Photo via AP



Popeball. Harlem Globetrotters' Hi-Lite Bruton, second from left, Ant Atitkson, third from left, look at teammate Flight Time Lang, right, helping Pope Francis spin the ball on his finger as they meet during the general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, yesterday.