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MACAU'S GOT TALENT
Local film graduate Lei Cheok Wai won several awards in the US, where he is learning his craft

P4



GOV'T REITERATES FULL SMOKING BAN POLICY
Alexis Tam said yesterday that the gov't "stands firm" on its intention to implement a full smoking ban in casinos

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WALL COLLAPSES IN BUSY TOURIST AREA

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

AD

Under the new Regime of Tobacco Prevention and Control, Smoking is prohibited in open lobby bars inside hotels

Cumulative total number of individuals prosecuted

26901

澳門特別行政區衛生局
Service de Santé de l'Administration Régionale de Macao

Monthly pass holders fight parking rule change

P5 MDT REPORT



AP PHOTO

WORLD BRIEFS

HONG KONG Support for China-backed legislation to overhaul Hong Kong's next chief executive election has slipped 4 percentage points as officials head into a third week of campaigning for public approval. According to a University of Hong Kong Public Opinion Program survey, some 42.5% of respondents in the city supported the government's election proposal compared with 46.7% approval in late April.

AUSTRALIA El Nino is back. Australia has declared the event for the first time since 2010 and says it will probably be "substantial." Japan also said El Nino had emerged. The tropical Pacific is in the early stages of the pattern that can bring drought to parts of Asia and rains to South America, and ocean temperatures will probably stay above thresholds through the southern hemisphere winter and at least into spring, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology said yesterday.

AUSTRALIA's chief finance minister said Tuesday that his budget blueprint for the next fiscal year will maintain a credible path to an eventual surplus despite China's slowing economy and weak commodity prices.

More on backpage

Singapore teen guilty of insulting Christians, ex-leader Lee

P12

MACAU may be facing a problematic shortage of local talent, but Lei Cheok Wai is surely not the one to blame for that. His directorial commercial entitled "Anti-Smoking PSA" has won him many awards in the US, namely, third place in the Commercial category at the 36th College Television Awards (Emmy Awards), the Bronze Award (Student Category) at the 2015 American Advertising Awards – Los Angeles, and also the Silver Award (Student Category) at the 2015 American Advertising Awards – California.

Defying his parents' expectations that he become an accountant, the 24-year-old persevered with pursuing his dream of being a film director in the United States thanks to a financial grant from the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

Lei's decision to study at the Art Center College of Design in California is definitely understandable, as the college is consistently ranked among the top design schools in the world. Over the past year, the government has beefed up its efforts to devote more resources to the burgeoning local film industry, which Lei welcomed and praised. However, the problems the industry is currently facing are not only financial.

"I think Macau has enough talented people, and the government has also done its utmost in providing resources, which is fine. What the city lacks is a complete education system in video production. What we need is to nurture talent," said Lei, adding that there were currently not many people technically talented enough to bolster the cinematographic industry in the city.

Macau's abundance of both western and eastern culture,

FILM GRADUATE WINS ADVERTISING AWARDS

Macau's got talent



Lei Cheok Wai

along with its unique gaming landscape, is probably the reason that the city has piqued the curiosity of many production teams from abroad. Opportunities for local production teams to work with international teams have been on the rise over the past few years. Lei reckoned that local talents must get themselves technically well-prepared for these rising opportunities.

"There are more foreign production teams coming to Macau for video production, which creates more opportunities for local production teams to get

involved in their production. On top of that, more interaction can be facilitated between the two sides. It can further enhance the level of local production," said Lei.

The fresh graduate told the Times that he is eager to return to Macau to foster the local filmmaking scene after he gains more professional experience in America. "Of course I would like to come back to Macau. I wish to produce short films to be released on the Internet as viral videos, which could effectively and swiftly lift the city's fame."

The continuous outflow of lo-

cal talent has become a growing concern for the SAR government, which set up a Talents Development Committee last year in a bid to retain and nourish potential talent. To Lei, all of these problems could be easily addressed from a marketing perspective – the city needs to be completely repackaged.

"As long as Macau refurbishes its image as a leading destination in the creative realm, both domestic firms and foreign companies will come to Macau to look for local firms or talents to participate in their production. This will automatically attract talents back. It's like a food chain, where there is demand, there is always supply."

As the Cantonese saying goes, "Dreams aren't as edible as rice." Many local youngsters

surrender to mainstream voices, either for quick money or having realized that dreams are hard to realize. Fortunately enough, Lei, currently working as a commercial director and MTV producer in California, was glad that his job paved the way to his dream. "Commercial design provided me with working opportunities. This not only turned my dream into my occupation, but also lets me showcase my talent at work."

He continued: "Youngsters must yearn for a dream come true. It's also a good thing to keep persevering for it. I am no exception," said Lei. "But firstly you need to figure out if you have the required amount of perseverance to turn your dream into an occupation. Dreams aren't as edible as rice. You've got to be mentally prepared for the fact that it takes time to hone your skills in order to reach your dream."

But it takes more than just effort for an Asian director to stand out amongst the global filmmaking industry. Lei told the Times that stereotypically westerners tend to be less interested in products made by Asians. However, as long as your works are brilliant enough to represent your full capability, that should be enough to arouse their interest and opportunities will eventually come.

Earlier, the fresh graduate also obtained first prize in the 2013 "BomBom" Music Video Contest, which was organized by the song owners of American hip-hop singers Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. In addition, Lei's MTV production for another American singer, Phil Beaudreau, called "Won't Get Away," has also been shortlisted for the National Film Festival for Talented Youth. **Staff reporter**

There are more foreign production teams coming to Macau for video production. This creates more opportunities for local teams

LEI CHEOK WAI

Ladies' Club of Macau host 'A Night at the Music Awards'

THE International Ladies' Club of Macau (ILCM) raised over MOP1.153 million during its spectacular annual Charity Ball, which was themed "A Night at the Music Awards." The event was held recently at Galaxy Macau. According to a press release issued by ILCM, over 270 guests attended

the ball, dressed up as their favorite artists. After a cocktail reception, the guests were served a three-course dinner and treated to non-stop music, dancing and band performances.

In her speech during the evening, Yuba Reichard, president of ILCM, said, "Approximately 80% percent

of our annual charity budget is raised tonight. Words cannot express our gratitude to the generous sponsors, contributors, volunteers and all of you who are here tonight for making this happen."

The after party was held at China Rouge, where guests danced to their favorite songs.



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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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Catarina Pinto

A group of more than 200 residents who hold monthly passes for public parking lots have joined forces to establish an association. This follows the government's expressed intention of canceling the monthly passes scheme. Unhappy with the new policy, they're hoping to further their discussions with the government, said Victor Lei, who is one of the monthly pass holders and president of the International Logistics and Forwarding Association of Macau.

Mr Lei told the Times that over 200 monthly pass holders gathered on Monday to discuss launching a committee or association in order to help them deal with the government's new policy.

Last month, the government announced that it would be putting forward a proposal to cancel monthly passes, while also increasing parking lot fees within eleven local public car parks.

The Traffic Affairs Consultative Committee stressed that nearly 2,500 parking spaces could be released once the new measure is implemented.

The Committee went even further to suggest that the cancellation of monthly passes should be implemented in all public parking lots.

The government announced its plan while presenting this year's Policy Address with the hope that it would help to reduce the number of vehicles on Macau's roads.

Mr Lei told the Times, "We would like to establish an association in order to obtain updated information from the Macau government and then to share it with all monthly pass holders."

He recalled that a great many of the residents who hold monthly passes have been making use of this system to gain access to public car parking spaces for the past 10 to 20 years.

Monthly car park passholders to create association



Furthermore, he stressed, "In the past, no matter what type of building it was, commercial or private, there were no car park spaces. So once the government offered public parking lots to society, most of us were happy to relocate to areas around the public parking, in order to improve our quality of living."

Mr Lei said the group of residents understand that the go-

They did not assess the true situation and society's needs

VICTOR LEI

vernment now has a new policy, but recalled that they have not "invited people to discuss it further." "They did not assess the true situation and society's needs," he added.

A great many of the residents who joined the meeting on Monday hold monthly passes for the public parking lot located near the New Yaohan mall, known as the Pak Wu parking lot. However, Mr Lei said that monthly pass holders of the 11 public parking lots had also been invited.

He also revealed that, "According to unofficial figures, there are about 2,000 monthly pass holders, including people from a wide range of areas, namely businessmen and lawyers."

Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho also took part in Monday's

meeting to provide his support. "They have discussed the matter further and they're trying to set up an organizing committee and later an association to advocate for their rights. They've reached a consensus and they're outlining their strategies now," he stated.

Local artist and curator António Conceição Junior also recently raised concerns over the new measure in a column published in newspaper Hoje Macau.

Mr Conceição recalled that such a measure could play a role in actually increasing traffic on Macau's roads. More importantly, however, the cancellation of monthly passes for public parking lots means "revoking one [of citizens'] basic rights, given that in Macau not

all residents living in building complexes have the right to a garage."

Mr Conceição pointed out that residents wanting access to a garage to park their cars may have to either buy or rent one, as their apartments do not necessarily include a garage.

"They've taken away my quality of life, they've polluted the environment to an extent that I lost my right to an enjoyable walk, and now they even want to take away the small space where I still have the right to quietly park my car," he added.

Recent figures released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) show that the total number of licensed motor vehicles in Macau reached 241,955 at the end of March, up by 5.2 percent year-on-year.

STATISTICS

Population continues to grow

THE local population numbered 640,700 at the end of March, an increase of 4,500 quarter-to-quarter. According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the female population (324,200) accounted for 50.6 percent of the total.

The demographic statistics indicate that there were 1,711 live births delivered in the first quarter of 2015, a decrease of 375 or 18 pct quarter-to-quarter. Mortalities



totalled 536, an increase of 49 quarter-to-quarter; the top three underlying causes of death were neoplasms (184), diseases of the circulatory system (139) and diseases of the respiratory system.

In the first quarter of 2015, individuals who had been granted right of abode totaled 600, a slight increase of 3. Non-resident workers totaled 174,924 at the end of the first quarter, up by 4,578.

A total of 952 marriage registrations were recorded in the first quarter, 64 fewer than in the previous period.

Nepalese Sands workers donate MOP81,000 to Red Cross

Nepalese team members of Sands China Ltd have raised MOP81,000 to help with the relief effort following the Nepal earthquake. Yesterday, Mr Mukesh K. Barruwal and representatives of the Nepalese team from Sands China presented the cheque to the Macau Red Cross. In a press release, Sands China stated that it greatly appreciates the team members' donation to the disaster relief efforts in Nepal. "We call on our team members to continue to donate, especially by Friday, May 15 – when the company will match dollar-for-dollar the total donations received for Macau Red Cross," the statement read. As of yesterday, the Macau Red Cross had collected MOP2,847,144.57 for the Nepal earthquake.

AL PLENARY

Gov't 'stands firm' on implementing full casino smoking ban

Catarina Pinto

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has said that the government "stands firm" on its intention to implement a full smoking ban in casinos. During yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, some lawmakers raised concerns over the potential impact of a full smoking ban on the region's gaming revenue, which dropped again for the 11th consecutive month in April.

A spoken enquiry by Leong Veng Chai triggered further discussion on the implementation of a full smoking ban, which had been first announced back in January.

"The Macau government has already expressed its point of view. We stand firm [on our intention to implement a full smoking ban] and we will revise the law. We're in the final stage of reviewing it, and we are aiming to complete it within the first half of this year," Mr Tam reiterated.

Last January, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced that it was aiming to implement a full smoking ban. This would mean that smoking would be prohibited not only on mass gaming floors, but also within VIP rooms. Current smoking lounges would also be forced to close if the bill is approved.

It is clear, however, that the new policy still divides lawmakers. Some are calling for further measures to ensure that smoking is prohibited in a



larger number of outdoor locations, while others highlighted that a full smoking ban in casinos might have a negative impact on gaming revenue.

Indirectly elected lawmaker Chan Chak Mo is among those

who have raised concerns over a possible impact on Macau's economy: "Will it contribute to a sharper drop in gaming revenue? Did the government take this into consideration? Once a full smoking ban is in place in

casinos, will gamblers refrain from coming here? This could have a great impact on Macau's economy."

Cheang Chi Keong pointed out that Macau is a tourist hotspot, and "some tourists and casino employees also smoke." "Why are we implementing a full smoking ban?" he questioned. He stressed that casinos could still have smoking rooms with an advanced ventilation system.

Victor Kwan believes that the government could find other ways to prevent citizens from smoking, and said that this might not be the right time to implement a full smoking ban, given the current downward momentum in revenue.

On the other hand, Ng Kuok Cheong recalled that smoking is prohibited in indoor areas, and reasoned that this should include casinos. Lawmaker Lei Cheng I also stressed that casinos are still facing challenges when it comes to smoking, and that the government needs to improve supervision measures to ensure that citizens and tou-

rists are complying with the law.

The Secretary pointed out that gaming revenue dropped more significantly within VIP rooms, where gamblers are still allowed to smoke. Furthermore, he quoted the findings of a report on the tobacco prevention and control scheme, which shows that 85 percent of surveyed tourists agree with a full smoking ban. Moreover, among those only 30 percent are smokers, and only 10 percent of the tourists said that they're considering not coming to Macau again if a full smoking ban is implemented in the city's casinos.

"What dangers lie behind smoking? You can simply go onto your iPads and search the Internet. Smoking presents severe risks to our health, and that of tourists and residents," the Secretary warned.

In addition to a full smoking ban inside casinos, the government is also proposing a significant increase on tobacco tax; an increase in the severity of fines applied to illegal smoking; and restrictions on tobacco imports.

Sonia Chan pledges further support to civil servants

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, told lawmakers yesterday that a series of financial measures to support civil servants, particularly those with lower salaries, will be implemented in the next two months.

Following a spoken enquiry by Pereira Coutinho, Ms Chan revealed that the government plans to put forward more

measures addressing rank-and-file civil servants.

"For instance, we will provide subsidies for their children, a subsidy for training and a subsidy for those who have elderly family members staying in elderly homes," she described.

The secretary also said that the measures will take into consideration the opi-

nions of lawmakers, particularly that of Mr Coutinho, who raised concerns over the unequal granting of benefits to civil servants.

"I have heard your suggestions. And when we revise [laws relating to civil servants], we will take into consideration the principles of justice and equality," Ms Chan concluded.

GAMING

Wynn Resorts biggest shareholder T. Rowe cuts stake 40 pct

Christopher Palmeri

T. Rowe Price Group Inc., the largest stockholder in Wynn Resorts Ltd., cut its stake in the casino company by almost 40 percent, according to a filing Monday.

The mutual fund company now holds 10.4 million shares of Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts, down from 17.1 million as of Dec. 31, according to filings and data compiled by

Bloomberg.

T. Rowe is reducing its investment in Wynn Resorts amid a downturn in Macau, the world's largest gambling market. The company is building a second resort there, the USD4.1 billion Wynn Palace scheduled to open in the first half of next year. It's one of more than \$20 billion of projects that casino operators plan to open in the Chinese betting enclave by 2017.

"We continue to have

a positive, ongoing relationship" with T. Rowe Price, Michael Weaver, a Wynn Resorts spokesman, said in an e-mail.

Wynn Resorts fell 3.2 percent to \$114.08 at the close in New York. The shares have declined 23 percent this year. The company reduced its dividend by two-thirds to 50 cents a share last month.

Betting in Macau, the only place in China where casino gambling is legal, has fallen as a

government-led crackdown on corruption prompts wealthy Chinese to avoid conspicuous consumption. Total gambling revenue in the region, which accounted for 70 percent of Wynn Resorts' sales in 2014, fell 39 percent in April, the 11th month of decline, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

Katrina Clay, a spokeswoman for Baltimore-based T. Rowe Price, declined to comment. **Bloomberg**

BUDGET

Gov't expenses more than double

LOCAL administration revenues dropped 33.6 percent year-on-year during the first four months of this year, according to data made available yesterday by the Financial Service Bureau (DSF).

The local administration totaled revenues of MOP37.9 billion. Most of that value originated from gaming taxes (MOP31.6 billion), showing the weight that the sector carries for the local economy. A total of 83.3 percent of the administration's total revenue derives from the gaming sector.

Concerning expenses, during the first four months of the year, the administration spent MOP17 billion, 56.3 percent more than in the same period of 2014. The investments included in the public investment plan (PIDA) continue to have a low execution rate. Only 3 percent of the MOP14.7-billion investment plan was executed.

The data made available reflects the budget that was approved in November 2014, and not the amended budget that was voted and passed at the Legislative Assembly on April 1.

RENATO MARQUES



Wall collapses in busy tourist area

A sizable part of the upper exterior of an aging building, located in an alley near the usually bustling area of Largo do São Domingos, fell to the ground yesterday morning, luckily causing no injuries or deaths.

The three-storey building has been standing idle for more than 40 years, and only recently part of its veranda also collapsed. At around 9.30 a.m., the fire service arrived at the scene and discovered that about a five-meter-by-three-meter portion of the exterior wall at the top of the building had collapsed. According to the owner of a nearby store, two bystanders were at the scene when the collapse took place.

"I heard a bang at that moment – that is, a sound caused by something falling on a metal canopy. The entire wall of the upper building had already

fallen off when we looked out," the male witness recalled. "It occurred when two passers-by had walked past, beneath another canopy, but no any injuries were caused."

A statement issued last night by the Cultural Affairs Bureau stated that government officials have been closely monitoring the collapse after an immediate visit to the site. It said that back in August 2013, government officials had notified the proprietor of the need to conduct maintenance and renovation on the

property, as an investigation suggested that the building lacked such a regular check-up.

The bureau also said in its statement that the authorities had the legal right to force maintenance work on buildings that hold potential safety risks. Furthermore, in this circumstance, authorities can claim any costs incurred in the process from the property owners, who could also face criminal charges for failing to protect historic buildings.

Staff reporter

ALEXIS TAM

Cultural fund member not sacked over law breach

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has said that the former Cultural Industries Fund member Chao Son U was not sacked for breaching the law, Radio Macau reported.

Mr Tam told reporters that after launching an enquiry into a case involving Mr Chao, his cabinet found that he had not committed any illegal actions. However, the secretary acknowledged that he had lost confidence in the former member of the Cultural Industries Fund, as suspicions were raised that Mr Chao may have been involved in a subsidy-granting process that in turn involved a company owned by his family members.

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) also launched a probe to investigate whether Mr Chao had committed any crime after a subsidy was granted to a company owned by his direct relatives. CCAC later shelved the case, announcing that it had found no evidence to prove that Mr Chao had engaged in any illegal practices relating to that subsidy-granting process.

Former Macau Grand Prix official Davina Chu will be replacing Mr Chao on the Cultural Industries Fund administrative committee. The Secretary said that she has extensive experience in public administration.

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BNU CO-ORGANIZES LUNCH WITH PORTUGUESE SECRETARY OF STATE



During Portuguese Secretary of State Assistant to the Minister of Economy of Portugal Leonardo Mathias' trip to Macau, BNU together with the General Consulate of Portugal in Hong Kong and Macau and AICEP, organized a lunch with participation of individuals, entrepreneurs and potential investors in Portugal.

About 70 guests attended to listen to Mr Mathias' presentation. Regarding investment opportunities, the Secretary indicated three pillars of the development strategy, based on the European structural funds, industry and trade, transport and infrastructure.

Pedro Cardoso, BNU's CEO, highlighted the role of BNU as part of the Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) Group, with a leadership position in five of the seven Portuguese-speaking countries, in affirming Macau as a platform for trade and investment between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Google acknowledges 11 accidents with its self-driving cars

Justin Pritchard, Los Angeles

GOOGLE Inc. revealed Monday (yesterday, Macau time) that its self-driving cars have been in 11 minor traffic accidents since it began experimenting with the technology six years ago.

The company released the number after The Associated Press reported that Google had notified California of three collisions involving its self-driving cars since September, when reporting all accidents became a legal requirement as part of the permits for the tests on public roads.

The director of Google's self-driving car project wrote in a web post that all 11 accidents were minor — "light damage, no injuries" — and happened over 2.8 million kilometers of testing, including nearly 1 million miles in self-driving mode.

"Not once was the self-driving car the cause of the accident," wrote Google's Chris Urmson.



A row of Google self-driving Lexus cars

"Cause" is a key word: Like Delphi Automotive, a parts supplier which suffered an accident in October with one of its two test cars, Google says it was not at fault.

Delphi sent AP an accident report showing its car was hit, but Google has not made public any records, so both enthusiasts and critics of the emerging technology have only the company's word on what happened. The California Department of Motor

Vehicles said it could not release details from accident reports.

This lack of transparency troubles critics who want the public to be able to monitor the rollout of a technology that its own developers acknowledge remains imperfect.

John Simpson, privacy project director of the nonprofit Consumer Watchdog, notes that Google's ultimate goal is a car without a steering

wheel or pedals. This could prevent a person from taking over if a car loses control, making it "even more important that the details of any accidents be made public — so people know what the heck's going on."

Delphi's accident report shows that the front of its 2014 Audi SQ5 was moderately damaged when it was broadsided by another car while waiting to make a left turn. Delphi's car was not in self-driving mode at the time, company spokeswoman Kristen Kinley said.

Five other companies with testing permits told the AP they had no accidents. In all, 48 cars are licensed to test on state roads.

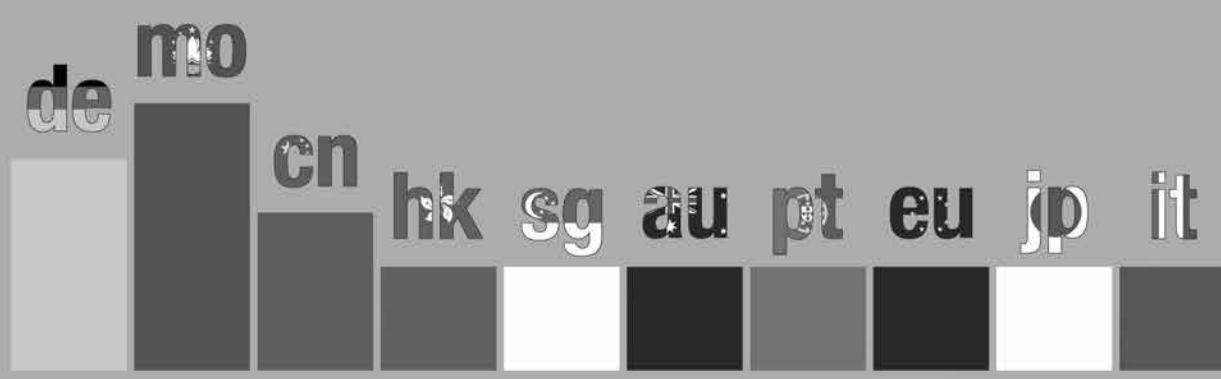
That left Google, which has outfitted 23 Lexus SUVs with driverless technology. Asked last week whether its cars suffered the other three accidents, it acknowledged "a handful of minor fender-benders, light damage, no injuries, so far caused by human error and inattention." AP

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China and Brazil discuss cooperation

THE Prime Minister of China Li Keqiang will present a list of nearly 60 investment projects involving construction of infrastructure and industrial facilities in Brazil, reported Brazilian newspaper Valor Econômico.

The energy sector appears to be the main recipient of investment, with projects valued at almost USD33 billion, which include the second phase of construction of the transmission lines of Belo Monte and two power plants; one hydroelectric and one thermoelectric.

The Brazilians, in turn, are interested in the development of railways, and the nine projects under review amounted to investments of US\$16 billion and include a line between Vitória (Espírito Santo state) and Rio de Janeiro and sections of railway in the state of Mato Grosso to link the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, via Peru.

On this visit, Li Keqiang will visit Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Chile between 18 and 26 May, according to information released in Beijing by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **MDT/Macauhub**

Drop in oil production reduces East Timor's revenue

A drop in oil and natural gas production has been the main factor behind a reduction of oil revenues to East Timor, which account for almost all of the state's budget revenues, the La'o Hamutuk NGO said.

The organization, whose concerns were shared by some members of the East Timor parliament when discussing the 2015 State Budget, recently said that the drop in production had a greater influence than the fall in international oil prices.

This is due in part to the approaching end of exploration of the Kitan oil field, which was recently shown when Japan's Inpex Corporation reduced the value of the field by about 7.5 billion yen (USD62.6 million), one of the first steps in what will be the predictable end of the oil well in the next few years.

Situated in the area of the Timor Sea that is jointly administered by Timor-Leste



Oil pump jacks work in unison

and Australia, the Kitan field is located about 170 kilometers from Timor.

Total production at oil fields in operation fell 24 percent in 2014 and the oil companies expect it will continue to fall until 2020, when it will no longer be profitable to explore these fields.

This scenario would only

change if production begins at the Sunrise field, but this project is still affected by the lack of a resolution of the issue of maritime boundaries and differences of opinion on the operating model – with a floating platform at sea or on land, and in this case, in Darwin or in Timor-Leste.


The importance of oil reve-

nues is evident in the state budget, and between 2003 and 2014, the government of Timor-Leste converted to cash US\$20.1 billion of its oil and natural gas wealth, spent around US\$6 billion and put the rest on the Oil Fund, which is used to make investments around the world.


These investments have generated revenues of US\$2.5 billion over the last 12 years, which re-deposited into the Oil Fund, whose value at the end of 2014 was US\$16.5 billion (US\$95 million less than six months before).

For the Oil Fund to continue to be a "financial cushion" Timor-Leste should have withdrawn just US\$502 million to fund the 2014 state budget but ended up using over US\$932 million, and this year this figure will rise to around US\$1.33 billion, or more than double than what the Oil Fund earned through its investments in 2014. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Liu Yaming uses a selfie stick to take souvenir photo of himself at the ruined Old Summer Palace on the outskirts of Beijing

Replica of razed Summer Palace opens, but some prefer ruins

Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINA already has its own copies of London's Tower Bridge and the Eiffel Tower. Now a life-sized model by a film studio of one of the country's own historical attractions — the Old Summer Palace — has ruffled the bosses of the original garden of emperors.

Hengdian Studios in Zhejiang province is building a 30 billion yuan (USD5 billion) film set of the 3.5-square-kilometer palace grounds in Beijing before they were razed and left in ruins by foreign forces more than 150 years ago.

While the overseers of the original site have belittled the new one as a sell-out to tourism, it has won praise from some historians for preserving China's heritage.

Part theme park, part film set, the still-under-construction attraction opened to the public on Sunday with an entrance fee of 280 yuan (\$46). It is slated to be finished next year by Hengdian, one of the world's largest film studios, which already has replicas of the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Gate.

Performers in dynastic costumes carrying a gong marched underneath a traditional Chinese gate that opened on to a

walkway with red buildings as visitors looked on. One employee was dressed as an emperor. Elsewhere, people rested and chatted in pavilions by the water. From a higher vantage point, they took photos in front of a view of buildings standing

■ Hengdian Studios in Zhejiang province is building a 30 billion yuan (USD5b) film set of the 3.5 km² palace grounds in Beijing

in rows with gray roofs with flying eaves, white walls and red pillars.

The attraction joins the ranks of other famous landmarks that have appeared in China. The eastern city of Suzhou has built bridges to look like the Tower Bridge and Sydney Harbour

Bridge, among others. In nearby Hangzhou city, there are replicas of Paris's Eiffel Tower and the Champs Elysees. Last year, a copy of the Great Sphinx of Giza in Hebei province built by a film company raised the ire of the Egyptian government.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported last month that the Old Summer Palace's administrative office said the cultural heritage site was unique and could not be replicated, and that the site was prepared to take legal action if its intellectual property rights were violated. It wasn't clear what rights it was referring to, and the office declined to comment.

Xu Xinming, chief lawyer at the China Intellectual Property Lawyers association, which offers legal advice, said China's intellectual property law only covers 50 years from when a work has been completed, but in any case "the original Old Summer Palace has been destroyed and the replica has nothing to do with intellectual property rights."

The palace replica has raised a debate within China about the merits of the project, with Xinhua saying that many have accused it of "bastardizing a site associated with patriotism."

French and British troops burned down the Old Summer Pala-

ce in 1860. China's Communist Party-led government considers its ruins a remembrance of historical humiliation at the hands of foreign forces, and a sign of how the country has moved on under the party's rule.

The man running the replica project, Xu Wenrong, the retired chairman of Hengdian Group, dismissed the criticisms at a news conference Saturday.

The Chinese government has never agreed to rebuild the site because its destruction is a "national shame," said Xu. "But generations of people have all heard about the garden, they haven't been there and they expect it to be rebuilt."

He said it was natural to charge an entrance fee to an attraction but they had built the replica "for the benefit of the people and future generations" rather than to make money.

He said the construction was based on the original design plans for the Old Summer Palace, which was built beginning in the 18th century and given as a gift by Emperor Kangxi to his son. Subsequent emperors also used and expanded the imperial gardens and the site became China's second political center after the Forbidden City.

A press officer from Beijing's cultural relics bureau said the

new site had been built for the purposes of filmmaking and tourism. "It's fully commercial and can hardly be regarded as a decent replica because it's not situated within the Old Summer Palace, either," said the press officer, who would only give his surname, Yin.

Wang Daocheng, a former professor at Renmin University's Qing History Institute, said he had no problem with Hengdian building a replica, and that the two sites could be complementary.

"The Old Summer Palace represents the essence of Chinese traditional culture. Why can't we rebuild it?" he said. "There is nothing left in the Old Summer Palace apart from ruins, and if people can't see anything about the glorious architecture and gardens, then how can you educate the public?"

On a warm day last week, tourists thronged the paths in the original site in north Beijing, filled with lakes framed by thick rows of bright flowers and overhanging trees. In the eastern part of the park, they paid 15 yuan (\$2.50) extra to visit the most visible ruins, consisting of big pieces of light gray rubble and a handful of Roman columns.

Businessman Liu Yaming, 37, using a selfie stick to take a photo of himself among the ruins, said rebuilding the site showed "a kind of ignorance of our national humiliation."

"Some things just can't be rebuilt once they are gone," he said. "As a historical site, we'd better give it the respect it deserves." AP

Didi Tang, Beijing

CHINA'S Public Security Ministry is investigating a shooting in which a police officer killed an unarmed traveler in front of his elderly mother and three small children at a train station, the ministry said yesterday.

Rising calls for a full, independent investigation have followed the shooting as the public has become uneasy about the newly granted power for normal Chinese police officers to carry a firearm and has questioned if the police can strictly follow gun laws.

Already, several shootings have occurred where the police use of guns was questioned but was never fully accounted for.

"When authorities fail to provide rational explanations for pulling the trigger and to handle such cases in a fair and just way, police officers will continue to use their guns blindly, raising the risks that social tensions would only one day erupt uncontrollably," said Zhao Chu, a Shanghai-based independent commentator, who says police violence against people can become habitual if it's not adequately checked by law.

In the latest case, local railway police in the northeastern town of Qing'an said the officer pulled the trigger after Xu Chunhe, 45, attacked the policeman and tried to seize his gun.

But a clip of private video circulating online shows the policeman using a long stick to beat Xu, who tried to dodge the blows and then tried to pull the stick away from the policeman. A small child was heard asking the father not to fight but to go home.

Local authorities have refused to release the full surveillance footage of the May 2 shooting.

The ministry confirmed a state media report that it had dispatched a work team to the northeastern town of Qing'an to gather evidence and witness accounts, and said it would release results later.

Following a deadly attack by members of the ethnic minority Uighurs at the train station in the southwestern city of Kunming last year, Beijing began to allow first-line patrol officers to carry firearms in a country where violent crimes also are on the rise accompanying tighter social tensions.

However, the move also has raised concerns over whether the newly trained patrol officers are responsible enough in the use of the deadly weapon. Experts worry that the gun training would focus too much on technical aspects, such as firing accuracy, and not enough on legal aspects, such as when to draw the gun.

Within months of the new decree, at least four people were killed by police guns.

Authorities investigating police shooting of man at train station



Policemen guard outside a railway station after an attack by knife wielding men left some 27 people dead in Kunming, in southwestern China's Yunnan province, Saturday March 1, 2014

In one case last year, a villager upset with compensations for land seizures was shot 12 times after he showed up in front of the town government in a truck decorated with wreaths and banners. Police said the man posed an imminent threat when he waved a knife and tried to ram the vehicle into the crowd, although more than 100 witnesses also signed a petition testifying that the man posed no threat and the gunshots were unnecessary. The official ruling has stood since then.

Now, the death of Xu has roused the public once again, as members of the Chinese public are demanding a proper explanation for policeman Li Lebin to shoot Xu in his heart.

Xie Yanyi, a lawyer for Xu's family, said he believes the policeman had no need to open fire at Xu and that the officer should be investigated on charges of murder.

The police statement said the policeman came to the scene when Xu barred other travelers from checking into the station and that Xu was rude to the police officer.

"He boxed at the police officer, knocking off his cap," police supervisor Zhao Dongbin told local media. "He said he would try to grab the gun ... and it would have been unimaginable if he had seized the gun."

But Xu's cousin, Xu Chunli,

told local media that the officer hit Xu so hard with the baton that Xu had blood on his head and face. Once Xu grabbed the baton, the officer pulled the gun, the cousin said.

Media reports and witness accounts add other details absent from the police account. One is that the police officer initially

Local railway police in Qing'an said the officer pulled the trigger after Xu Chunhe, 45, attacked the policeman and tried to seize his gun

restrained Xu by handcuffing his hands behind his back to a rail and only released him after travelers passed the checkpoint.

"Xu then refused to leave, so the policeman dragged him and slapped him in his face," the cousin said of the scene before the police flashed the gun and retrieved the baton from the

guard's room to beat Xu.

The police account also doesn't say what prompted Xu to make a scene at the station. The cousin said Xu grew upset when he and his family were barred from boarding the train.

Impoverished and ill, Xu was trying to travel to Beijing to seek government assistance for his elderly mother and three children, which would have drawn unwelcome scrutiny on the local government. It's a common practice for local officials to intercept petitioners such as Xu.

"Why did the policeman feel he needed to kill? What gave him the guts to pull the trigger?" asked Xie, the lawyer.

But lawyers, journalists and civil activists have found them stonewalled when they tried to seek the truth.

A television reporter who managed to interview Xu's cousin said his crew tried to interview workers at businesses inside the train station only to get a uniform answer — that none of them was working the day of the shooting and they knew nothing about it.

Authorities also have isolated the key witnesses — Xu's mother and his three children — from reporters and lawyers. When Xie managed to speak to Xu's mother, he learned that she had refused to take a compensation offer but insisted on justice for her son, contrary to

reports that the family had accepted the monetary offer.

Seven days after Xu's death, the official Xinhua News Agency joined the public calls for accountability.

"Limited information and narration by police cannot answer the questions from the public, or ease the fear by the public over the police use of gun," the Xinhua editorial said. "Since it happened in the broad daylight with surveillance footage, why not release the full tape and invite an authoritative, independent agency to conduct an investigation to win the public trust?"

Then announcement by the ministry of public security followed. A local official who had visited the police officer as a sign of approval also was suspended from his work on corruption suspicions, Xinhua reported yesterday.

Xie is hoping the swelling public opinion would eventually lead to better accountability on the police act.

"If this matter should be left unaddressed, it amounts to indulgence of violence, and indulgence of crime. It would only deepen social confrontations that would add to social violence," Xie said. "If it's properly addressed, we would learn a valuable lesson so as not to pay such a heavy price in the future." AP

SINGAPORE

Teen found guilty of insulting Christians, ex-leader Lee

Jeanette Tan, Singapore

SINGAPORE teen blogger Amos Yee was yesterday found guilty of insulting Christians in a video monologue, and of distributing an obscene image of the country's founding father Lee Kuan Yew with former British leader Margaret Thatcher.

The 16-year-old Yee faced three years in jail but instead will be put on probation. He was released on a bail of 10,000 Singapore dollars (USD7,400) and probation officers will now interview him and his parents to determine what kind of probation he would receive. The result would be announced June 2.

In her verdict, District Judge Jasvinder Kaur rejected Yee's defense that he did not intend to insult Christians. She also noted she was concerned by the effect on teenagers that the image of the faces of the two leaders superimposed on the drawing of two figures engaged in sexual activity would have.

"The question I had to ask myself was: would any right-thinking parent or teacher approve of their children or students seeing it at home or in the school library? The answer is no... (They would register their) strongest disapproval," she said.

Yee was thrust into the spotlight after posting the video blog laced with expletives as the country was mourning the passing away of Lee on March 23. In the eight-minute clip that he posted on YouTube, Yee said

AP PHOTO



Singapore teen blogger Amos Yee, speaks to reporters while leaving the Subordinate Courts after being released on bail in Singapore

Lee and Jesus Christ were "both power-hungry and malicious," among other derogatory comments mostly targeting Lee.

Such open criticism is rarely tolerated in Singapore, where deference is a cultural norm and self-censorship is endorsed.

Kaur also said prosecutors had proved beyond reasonable doubt that Yee had intended to denigrate both Lee and Jesus Christ. She added that the lack of reactions to his comments stemmed

from the fact that they were "not made by someone who is learned or who exerts special influence," but instead by a person who "plainly has a lot of growing up to do."

As part of the guilty verdict, Yee will have to take down the two posts.

Yee's parents said they will discuss with lawyers whether to appeal.

According to court documents shown to The Associated Press, Yee told police that he was raised Catholic but turned atheist by mid-2013.

Arrested and charged in March, he was bailed out by a stranger, then defied one of his bail conditions — refraining from posting any public material online — and jailed again.

When he re-entered custody on April 30, Yee was slapped in the face by a stranger outside court. The 49-year-old man, who was charged with assault, pleaded guilty yesterday, and will spend three weeks in prison. He faced up to two years in jail. **AP**

BANGLADESH

Latest blogger killed in the country

MASKED men wielding machetes stabbed a blogger and author to death yesterday near his home in northeastern Bangladesh, police said, the third fatal attack this year against a blogger in the South Asian country.

Ananta Bijoy Das died instantly after being attacked in Sylhet city while he was on his way to his job at a bank, said Rahmat Ullah, additional police commissioner in Sylhet.

Ullah said Das was attacked by at least four masked men. "We don't have details, we are looking into it," he said.

It was not immediately clear why Das was targeted, but local media reported that he was close to Avijit Roy, a Bangladeshi-American blogger and writer who was killed in February, allegedly by Islamist extremists.

Das's friend Shahiduzzamn Paplu told reporters that Das wrote for Roy's popular blog Mukto-mona, or Free Mind, in which articles on scientific reasoning and religious extremism featured prominently. Das also edited a science magazine in Sylhet and wrote several books, Paplu said.

Roy was known for his writings against religious fundamentalism. He was attacked along with his wife on the streets of Dhaka, the capital, when he returned to Bangladesh from the United States. His wife survived.

Another blogger, Oyasiqur Rahman Babu, was killed in March, also by alleged Islamist radicals.

On Facebook on Monday, Das criticized police for their handling of the investigations into the attacks on Roy and Babu.

Das worked as a journalist for a local newspaper in Sylhet before joining a bank, Paplu said.

Sylhet is 192 kilometers northeast of Dhaka. **AP**

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Binaj Gurubacharya
and Kay Daigle, Kathmandu

NEPAL

Second major earthquake strikes, killing at least 42

A major earthquake hit a remote mountain region of Nepal yesterday, killing at least 42 people, triggering landslides and toppling buildings less than three weeks after the Himalayan nation was ravaged by its worst quake in decades.

The magnitude-7.3 quake hit hardest in districts northeast of the capital and terrified a nation already shell-shocked and struggling after a more powerful quake on April 25 killed more than 8,150 and flattened entire villages, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

Information was slow to reach Kathmandu after yesterday's quake, but officials and aid workers said they expected the death toll to rise. Within a few hours, the Home Ministry confirmed that at least 42 people had been killed and at least 1,117 injured.

Meanwhile, it said rescuers had managed to pull three people to safety in the capital, while another nine were rescued in the district of Dolkha.

Rescue helicopters were sent to mountain districts where landslides and collapsed buildings may have buried people, the government said. Home Ministry official Laxmi Dhakal said the Sindhupalchowk and Dolkha districts were the hardest hit.

Search parties fanned out to look for survivors in the wreckage of collapsed buildings in Sindhupalchowk's town of Chautara, which has become a hub for humanitarian aid since the magnitude-7.8 quake on April 25 — Nepal's worst recorded earthquake since 1934.

Yesterday's quake was deeper, however, coming from a depth of 18.5 kilometers versus the earlier one at 15 kilometers. Shallow earthquakes tend to cause more damage.

Yesterday's quake was followed closely by at least eight strong aftershocks, according to the U.S. Geologi-



A rescue worker from USAID inspects the site of a building that collapsed in an earthquake in Kathmandu

cal Survey.

The international airport in Kathmandu, which has become a transport hub for international aid, was closed briefly after yesterday's quake, while traffic snarled in the streets of the capital.

Early reports indicated at least two buildings had collapsed in Kathmandu, though at least one had been unoccupied due to damage it sustained during the April 25 quake. Experts say the April 25 quake caused extensive structural damage even in buildings that did not topple, and that many could be in danger of future collapse.

Frightened residents who had

returned to their homes only a few days ago were once again planning to sleep outdoors in empty fields, parking lots and on sidewalks last night.

"The shaking seemed to go on and on," Rose Foley, a UNICEF official based in Ka-

“Things were just getting back to normal, and we get this one”

SULAV SINGH

thmandu, said after the latest quake. "It felt like being on a boat in rough seas."

Aid agencies were struggling to get reports from outside of the capital.

Meanwhile, new landslides blocked mountain roads in the district of Gorkha, one of the most damaged regions after the April 25 quake.

"People are terribly scared. Everyone ran out in the streets because they are afraid of being inside the houses," Norwegian Red Cross Secretary-General Asne Havnelid told Norwegian broadcaster NRK.

At Kathmandu's Norvic Hospital, patients and doc-

tors rushed to the parking lot.

"I thought I was going to die this time," said Sulav Singh, who rushed with his daughter into a street in the suburban neighborhood of Thapathali. "Things were just getting back to normal, and we get this one."

Nepalese have been terrified by dozens of aftershocks that followed the April 25 quake. The impoverished country has appealed for billions of dollars in aid from foreign nations, as well as medical experts to treat the wounded and helicopters to ferry food and temporary shelters to hundreds of thousands left homeless amid unseasonal rains.

Paul Dillon, a spokesman with the International Organization for Migration, said he saw a man in Kathmandu who had apparently run from the shower with shampoo covering his head. "He was sitting on the ground, crying," Dillon said.

Strong shaking was also felt across northern India, with at least three people killed when rooftops or walls collapsed on them in the state of Bihar. The state's disaster management secretary said the deaths occurred in the districts of Patna, Vaishali and Darbhanga, just across from Nepal's southern border.

The earth also rattled across the Nepalese border in Tibet's Jilong and Zhangmu regions, and slight tremors were felt in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa.

"Rocks fell from the mountains," Jilong county government vice chief Wang Wenxiang was quoted as saying by China News Service. "There might be some houses collapsed or damaged." Authorities were assessing the damage further. AP

MIGRATION

Malaysia to turn away Rohingya unless boats are sinking

MALAYSIA'S navy says it will turn away any more boats carrying Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants to its shores unless they are sinking.

Marine northern commander Tan Kok Kwee said yesterday that waters around Langkawi island where several wooden vessels have landed in the past three



Maritime police officers near a boat which carried migrants in Langkawi

days will be patrolled 24 hours a day by a total of eight ships.

Tan said, "We won't let any foreign boats come in." If the boats are seaworthy, he said the navy would "give them provisions and send them away."

He said they would carry out a rescue only if the boat was sinking.

Since the weekend, more than 1,000 migrants in boats have landed on Langkawi, and another 600 have come ashore in Indonesia.

After four boats carrying nearly 600 people successfully landed in the westernmost province of Aceh, with some migrants jumping into the water and swim-

ming, a fifth carrying hundreds more was turned away early Monday.

Indonesia's Navy spokesman, First Adm. Manahan Simorangkir, said they were trying to go to Malaysia but got thrown off course.

"We didn't intend to prevent them from entering our territory, but because their destination country was not Indonesia, we asked them to continue to the country where they actually want to go," he said. AP

ENVIRONMENT

Shell clears major US government hurdle for Arctic drilling

Marc Thiessen, Anchorage

ROYAL Dutch Shell's Arctic drilling program has cleared a major bureaucratic hurdle to begin drilling for oil and gas off Alaska's northwestern coast this summer.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Monday (yesterday in Macau) approved the multi-year exploration plan in the Chukchi Sea for Shell after reviewing thousands of comments from the public, Alaska Native organizations and state and federal agencies.

The approval came just days before a planned protest of the drilling program in Seattle.

Shell must still obtain other permits from state and federal agencies, including one to drill from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Both BOEM and BSEE are agencies of the U.S. Department of Interior. The company must also



With the Olympic Mountains in the background, a small boat crosses in front of an oil drilling rig as it arrives in Port Angeles, Wash.

obtain government opinions that find Shell can comply with terms and conditions of the Endangered Species Act.

Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said the approval "is an important milestone and signals the confidence regulators have in our plan. However, before operations can begin this summer, it's imperative that the remainder of our permits be practical, and delivered in a timely manner.

"In the meantime, we will continue to test and prepare our contractors, assets and

contingency plans against the high bar stakeholders and regulators expect of an Arctic operator," Smith said in an email to The Associated Press.

The Port of Seattle would need to get another permit to base the Arctic drilling fleet in Seattle for about six months of the year.

Meanwhile, Smith said that a giant floating oil rig currently anchored off Port Angeles, Washington state, will be towed to Seattle this week despite the Seattle mayor's assertion that the

Port of Seattle can't host the rig until it gets a new land-use permit.

Activists plan to protest. A so-called "festival of resistance" starts Saturday and will include protesters on land and in kayaks, trying to block the ship's movements.

Environmental groups on Monday blasted the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for providing the permit to Shell.

"This decision places big oil before people, putting the Arctic's iconic wildlife and the health of our planet on the line," Erik Grafe, an attorney for Earthjustice, said in a statement. "The agency should not be approving such threatening plans based on a rushed and incomplete environmental and safety review. Ultimately, Arctic Ocean drilling is far too risky and undermines the administration's efforts to address climate change and transition to a clean energy future." AP

ART

Picasso painting sells for USD179.4m setting auction record



Pablo Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger (Version "O")"

PABLO Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger (Version "O")" sold for USD179.4 million, setting a record for any artwork sold at auction. The price for the painting, sold Monday at Christie's in New York, breaks the record held by Francis Bacon's \$142.4 million triptych since November 2013. The auction house had valued the Picasso at \$140 million, the highest presale target of any work. The sale price includes commission. Depicting a group of courtesans, the Picasso painting is based on Eugene Delacroix's work of a similar title. Picasso explored the theme through a group of 15 paintings, designating the versions from A to O. The auction house's special evening sale of 20th century art called "Looking Forward to the Past" is continuing.

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Matthew Lee,
Diplomatic Writer, Sochi

RUSSIA

Kerry to meet Putin amid Ukraine, Syria tensions

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is in Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin with an eye on easing badly strained relations over conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.

Kerry laid a wreath at a World War II memorial in the Black Sea resort city yesterday before holding talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Later, he was to meet Putin on the brief visit, his first to Russia since May 2013 and the advent of the Ukraine crisis.

The top U.S. diplomat plans to test Putin's willingness to push pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine to comply with an increasingly fragile ceasefire agreement, according to U.S. officials traveling with him.

Kerry will also seek to gauge the status of Russia's support for embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose forces have been losing ground to

rebels, and press Moscow to support a political transition that could end that war, the officials said.

In addition, Kerry will make the case to Putin that Russia should not proceed with its planned transfer of an advanced air defense system to Iran.

Kerry's trip comes at a time when relations between Washington and Moscow have plummeted to post-Cold War lows amid the disagreements over Ukraine and Syria.

In a sign of the considerable strains, the Kremlin said Monday that the Putin meeting was not confirmed, although U.S. officials insisted it was. A senior State Department of-

AP PHOTO



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left

icial brushed aside the non-confirmation of the meeting from the Russian side, saying tersely, "We usually don't go to Sochi to see Foreign Minister Lavrov."

Yesterday morning, the Kremlin finally confirmed that Putin would meet with Kerry.

Putin's spokesman welcomed Kerry's decision to travel to Russia. "We have repeatedly stated at various levels and the president has said that Russia never initiated the freeze in relations and we are always open for displays of political will for a broader

dialogue," Dmitry Peskov told journalists in Sochi.

Russia's Foreign Ministry had previewed the talks by blaming Washington for the breakdown in relations.

Much hinges on violence decreasing in Ukraine, however. **AP**

NEMTSOV REPORT: 220 RUSSIAN SOLDIERS DIED IN UKRAINE BATTLES

A REPORT released yesterday containing material compiled by slain Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov said at least 220 Russian soldiers died in two battles in eastern Ukraine within the past year.

The Russian Defense Ministry has denied that any of its soldiers have fought in Ukraine, saying that the Russians who have joined the armed separatists were volunteers. The report claimed the soldiers were released from their duties in the army and listed as volunteers. The Defense Ministry promised to pay compensation if the soldiers were killed or wounded, but failed

to live up to its commitments, the report said.

The 64-page report was compiled from witness reports in media accounts and information gathered by Nemtsov, including from relatives and other representatives of the dead soldiers. It was presented to the public by other opposition figures from the political party that Nemtsov co-chaired.

Nemtsov was shot dead on Feb. 27 in central Moscow. Five suspects, including a Chechen police officer, were arrested in the killing, but investigators haven't named a suspected mastermind and the motive remains unclear.

UK

Osborne spells out mandate on EU referendum

Pan Pylas, Brussels

EMBOLDENED by this party's election triumph, Britain's finance minister said yesterday his government has a "very clear mandate" to change the terms of the country's membership in the European Union before it holds a referendum on whether to leave the bloc altogether.

The Conservatives' promise to hold an in/out referendum by 2017 was a key plank of their manifesto in the general election last week. The party's top brass, including Prime Minister David Cameron,



Britain's Chancellor George Osborne smiles as he arrives in Downing Street in London

have suggested they would only support continued EU membership if the country can change terms related to its

membership.

"We go into these negotiations aiming to be constructive and engaged but also resolute

and firm, and no one should underestimate our determination to succeed for the working people of Britain and indeed for the working people of the European Union," finance chief George Osborne said yesterday ahead of a meeting of his peers from the 28-country EU in Brussels.

Osborne, who is set to be one of the lead negotiators, refused to address speculation that the referendum on the so-called "Brexit" may be brought forward to 2016. Many in his party and in the business community think the referendum should take place

earlier than planned because it would reduce uncertainty and won't clash with elections in Germany and France.

Though details of what the Conservatives want are sketchy, the party noted in its manifesto that it's looking to control migration from the EU by reforming welfare rules.

Many top officials across the EU, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, have insisted that the principle of the free movement of labor across the bloc is non-negotiable. However, some have been more forthcoming on the idea of changing the way

welfare payments are made to migrants.

Though the referendum pledge was not discussed at yesterday's meeting, early indications are that Osborne isn't going to find it easy to push through reforms, especially if they are so big that they require changes to the EU's treaty.

French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said there was no discussion with Osborne of "the so-called re-negotiation."

"This will be for tomorrow. After the 'Greek weeks' we will have the 'British weeks,' even if they are not of the same nature," he said. **AP**

what's ON



KID'S FUN LAND ON TEA-THINGS
 TIME: 9am-7pm
 UNTIL: May 31, 2015
 VENUE: 2/FI., Macau Tea Culture House
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

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

LI CHENG HSUN X HUANG PO HSUN GROUP EXHIBITION
 TIME: 10am-7pm
 UNTIL: June 30 (Closed on May 25)
 VENUE: Flugent ART Gallery, Rua S. Paulo 54-58B
 ADMISSION: free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 3429

GALLERY COLLECTION
 TIME: 9am-6pm (Mondays to Fridays)
 UNTIL: June 30, 2015 (Closed on May 25)
 VENUE: Macpro Gallery, Avenida da Praia Grande, no.417-425, Centro Comercial Praia Grande, 2° andar, Macau (nearby the Old Court)
 ADMISSION: free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7828

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

EXHIBITION OF TONG HONGQI
 TIME: 11am-7pm
 UNTIL: May 15, 2015
 VENUE: Macau Military Club, Avenida da Praia Grande, 975
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

Offbeat

700 CANNABIS PLANTS FOUND NEXT TO BERLIN SUBWAY STATION

It wasn't the world's best-hidden marijuana plantation.

Berlin police say they were called to a subway station this week by a street cleaner who reported finding "numerous small plants that seemed suspicious to him."

Officers found 700 small cannabis plants growing among weeds on a traffic island outside the Kottbusser Tor station in the capital's Kreuzberg district. They pulled up the plants.

It wasn't immediately clear who planted the cannabis but police are investigating.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Documentary Serie
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

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



1981 THOUSANDS SEE POPE SHOT IN ROME

The Pope has been shot four times as he blessed the crowds in St Peter's Square in Rome.

Surgeons have performed a five-hour operation and say they hope he will make a full recovery.

At about 1715 local time, the Pope was being driven in his Popemobile through a crowd of about 20,000 worshippers when he was hit by four bullets fired from a 9mm pistol some 15 feet away.

Two struck him in the stomach, one in his right arm and the fourth hit his little finger.

Police arrested a 23-year-old man who said he was a Turkish citizen and gave his name as Mehmet Ali Hagca.

He kept repeating: "I couldn't care less about life."

The Turkish press has reported Hagca was jailed for the killing of Turkish newspaper editor Abdi Ipecki in February 1979. But he escaped from prison and left behind a letter vowing to kill the pontiff just before the Pope visited Turkey in 1979.

Many of those who witnessed the shooting in the crowded square burst into tears, or screamed and fell to their knees in disbelief.

The Pope collapsed and was driven at speed into the Vatican complex and from there by ambulance to hospital.

Vatican Radio has appealed to the world to pray for his survival.

The Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury have expressed their shock and deep sympathy for the Pope and his followers.

Pope John Paul II, formerly Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland, became Pope in 1978. He is the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

He is also the most widely travelled pontiff in the Vatican's history. Vatican officials have often said in private that they feared for his safety during his frequent contacts with enthusiastic crowds wherever he goes.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Pope came out of hospital two weeks later but was re-admitted on 21 June with a lung infection.

He did eventually make a full recovery and went on to visit 50 countries in the first decade of his pontificate.

Mehmet Ali Hagca was sentenced to life imprisonment in July 1981 for the shooting.

The Pope later publicly forgave Agca and even visited him in prison. In June 2000, with the agreement of the Pope himself, Agca was pardoned by the Italian president after serving 19 years.

On his return to Turkey he was re-arrested and forced to serve the rest of his sentence for the killing of a Turkish journalist in 1979. He was released in January 2006.

The Pope died at 2137 (1937 GMT) on Saturday 2 April 2005 after he failed to recover from a throat operation due to breathing problems.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Now is the best time for you get started in a new direction...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You have healthy desires - but maybe they're a little too healthy today!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It's go time! Your energy demands action, and you should find that most barriers have been removed...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Watch out for domestic disturbances - even the tiniest tiff can turn into a full-scale war...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are having a good time, and that should be enough. Still, you feel the need to drag others into it...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You need to show the world that you're not exactly what it thinks you are - but you may not be able to do so without making a scene...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Aesthetic concerns are more important today - so make sure that someone else is handling anything practical that has to get done!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You should take greater care to slow down and show others that you understand their concerns. Patience is key...

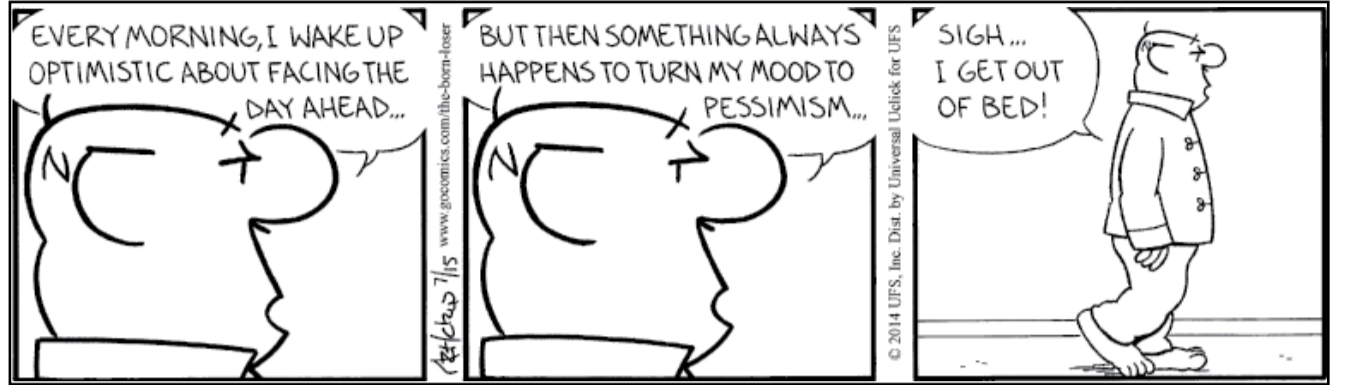
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Something raises your ire early today - it's just not fair! It might not directly involve you...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Try to set out on a new path today. Your initiative is essential for your success and happiness...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You should do what you can to try a new cultural activity as soon as possible. Your capacity for boredom is vast...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your mate or business partner is nothing but trouble today - though that doesn't mean it's time to split up!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

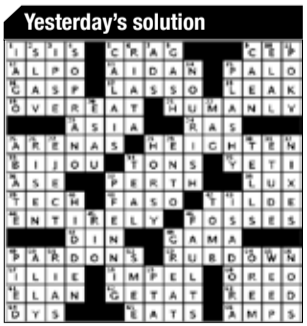
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Twangy-sounding; 6- Gutter location; 10- Hammer part; 14- Opinion piece; 15- Husky burden; 16- Hindu hero; 17- Gogol's '___ Bulba'; 18- Wise; 19- Harrow rival; 20- Easily decided; 23- Tiny; 27- Consumers; 28- Disaster ___; 29- Blowhard; 34- Orange Bowl site; 36- Singer Bryson; 37- HBO alternative; 40- Failure to understand; 43- Satisfied sound; 44- Michelangelo masterpiece; 45- Class; 46- Pardon; 48- ___-majestA@; 49- Attorney-___; 53- Counterbalance; 55- Having protrusive jaws; 60- Old Italian money; 61- Repast; 62- Fang, e.g.; 67- Tombstone name; 68- Lacking color; 69- Studio sign; 70- Nautical direction; 71- Trudge; 72- Tea type;

DOWN: 1- Snapper trapper; 2- Simile center; 3- Lith., once; 4- Motorists' org.; 5- Popular disinfectant; 6- To be, to Brutus; 7- Economist Greenspan; 8- Lyra's brightest star; 9- Paradise; 10- Salad green; 11- Shaping tool; 12- Love affair; 13- Desires; 21- Fastener; 22- Plant-eating aquatic mammal; 23- Female vampire; 24- Skater Slutskaya; 25- Show how; 26- ___-shanter (Scottish cap); 30- ___-ski; 31- Look after; 32- Religion founded in Iran; 33- Face on a fiver; 35- Pledge; 37- Trig functions; 38- Residence; 39- Assault; 41- Greek letters; 42- Ego; 47- Bud's bud; 49- Cop ___; 50- Experiment; 51- "Casablanca" actor; 52- Wide open; 54- Camera setting; 56- Fuse units; 57- Greenish blue; 58- Circle of light often seen around the head of saints; 59- Cassini of fashion; 63- Small bill; 64- Mighty tree; 65- Juan's uncle; 66- Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL suspends Brady 4 games for deflated footballs

Jimmy Golen
Sports Writer, Foxborough, Mass.

TOM Brady and the New England Patriots are preparing for a fight.

The reigning Super Bowl MVP will appeal his four-game suspension, his agent said, and the team threw its “unconditional” support behind its quarterback after the NFL came down hard on its biggest star in the “Deflategate” scandal.

“Tom Brady has our unconditional support,” Patriots owner Bob Kraft said in a statement issued on Monday night. “Our belief in him has not wavered.”

Five days after an NFL investigator reported that it was “more probable than not” that the Patriots broke the rules, the league handed down its punishment: Brady was banished for four games, and the Patriots were penalized \$1 million — matching the largest fine in league history — and docked two draft picks for using improperly inflated footballs in the AFC Championship game.

NFL executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent also indefinitely suspended the two equipment staffers who carried out the plan, including the one who referred to himself in text messages obtained by the league as “The Deflator.”

In letters to the team and Brady, Vincent wrote that the league’s investigation found “substantial and credible evidence” that the quarterback knew the employees were deflating foot-

AP PHOTO



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady

balls. It also said he failed to cooperate with investigators.

The investigation by attorney Ted Wells found that Brady “was at least generally aware” of plans by two Patriots employees to prepare the balls to his liking, below the league-mandated minimum of 12.5 pounds per square inch.

“Each player, no matter how accomplished and otherwise respected, has an obligation to comply with the rules,” Vincent wrote, “and must be held accountable for his actions when those rules are violated and the

public’s confidence in the game is called into question.”

Unless the suspension is overturned on appeal, Brady would miss the first four games of the season — including the league’s marquee Sept. 10 opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers at which the Super Bowl championship banner would be traditionally raised. He would also miss games against Buffalo in Week 2, a home game against Jacksonville and a game at Dallas.

Brady would return the week of a Patriots-Colts AFC cham-

pionship rematch in Indianapolis. Backup Jimmy Garoppolo, a 2014 second-round selection from Eastern Illinois who won the Walter Payton award as the best player in the FCS, has thrown 27 NFL passes, including one touchdown.

Brady has three days to appeal the suspension to Commissioner Roger Goodell or his designee.

“The discipline is ridiculous and has no legitimate basis,” Brady’s agent, Don Yee, said in a statement that questioned the NFL’s integrity and opened the

still-raw wound of the league’s botched investigation of the Ray Rice domestic abuse case.

“The NFL has a well-documented history of making poor disciplinary decisions that often are overturned when truly independent and neutral judges or arbitrators preside,” Yee said. “Sadly, today’s decision diminishes the NFL as it tells its fans, players and coaches that the games on the field don’t count as much as the games played on Park Avenue.”

The Patriots would lose next year’s first-round pick and a fourth-round choice in 2017. Kraft, who said after the Wells Report was released that he would abide by the league’s decision, reversed himself on Monday, saying in his statement that said the punishment “far exceeded any reasonable expectation.”

It’s the second time in eight years the Patriots have been punished for violating league rules. In 2007, the team was fined \$500,000 and docked a first-round draft pick, and coach Bill Belichick was fined \$250,000 for videotaping opposing coaches as a way to decipher their play signals.

In his 243-page report released by the league last week, Wells found that the team broke the rules again, this time by deflating the game footballs after they had been checked by officials.

Although the report did not conclusively link Brady to the illegal activity, text messages between the equipment staffers indicated that the quarterback “was at least generally aware” of it. Investigators said Brady’s explanation for the messages was implausible.

“It is unlikely that an equipment assistant and a locker room attendant would deflate game balls without Brady’s knowledge and approval,” the report said. **AP**

WIKIPEDIA



BOXING

Russian fighter in coma after incident in Berlin subway

RUSSIAN heavyweight boxer Denis Boytsov has been placed in an artificial coma after being found with serious head injuries in a Berlin subway tunnel.

Boytsov, who has a 36-1 record, was found lying in the tunnel between two subway stations in the upmarket Charlottenburg district of western Berlin on May 3.

The 29-year-old fighter was placed in a medically induced coma because of swelling on the

brain, a statement on Boytsov’s website said yesterday.

It was not until late Monday that Boytsov was publicly identified as the man injured in the incident. Although born in Russia, he has been based in Germany for more than a decade.

Berlin police said that the case was still under investigation but that, based on witness interviews and video footage, the incident appears to have been an accident.

Police, who did not refer to Boytsov by name due to German privacy laws, said the man remains hospitalized but they had no details on his condition.

The statement on Boytsov’s website suggested he had been the victim of an attack linked to his boxing career.

“It is possible that this attack was linked to the boxer’s sporting activity,” the statement said. “Around two years ago, Boytsov was receiving

threats constantly.”

There was no word on who had issued the alleged threats or why.

Boytsov last fought in March, when he beat Brazilian fighter Irineu Beato Costa Jr.

In 2013, he was the WBO’s mandatory challenger to world champion Wladimir Klitschko, but lost that status after a defeat to Australia’s Alex Leapai. Before turning professional, Boytsov was a world junior champion as an amateur. **AP**

opinion

Artifacts
Vanessa Moore



GAME OF VOTES

It was like a real life episode of Game of Thrones. Five contenders but only one title. The winner stood to take all – the title of Prime Minister and the power to rule over the United Kingdom. Following the shock result of Britain's hotly contested national election, the aftermath of the battle to rule the House of Commons appeared ominously like a spin-off episode of the smash hit medieval-inspired series.

And like all good TV, nationalism, speeches and betrayal fanned the outcome of the contest. David Cameron, the victor, triumphantly announcing the win of his Conservative army; his adversaries, Labour's David Milliband, Liberal Democrat Nick Clegg and UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage left bleeding by the wayside in a political bloodbath, the latter losing his seat and the two former both resigning in defeat. Yet north of the Wall, Nicola Sturgeon, queen of a victorious SNP rallied the roar of Scottish nationalism to sweep the board.

Safe in his Iron Throne of Westminster, has King Cameron sacrificed two unions for another five years in power?

The victory may prove to be a shallow one. Now Scotland is bellicose and Europe is fretful. Conflicting varieties of nationalism threaten to pull the nation apart, and the Kingdom may not be much of a "United" one any more. The flames of nationalism are being well and truly stoked on all sides with the Welsh likewise calling for greater independence, and although defeated, Farage will stay on to lead the UKIP following galvanising support for its call to leave the European Union. To attract away its voters and quiet his party's own Euroskeptic backbenchers, Cameron is promising a referendum on EU membership by 2017. The political pragmatist he is, the Tory leader wants to remain in the EU, but he must first extract exemptions from Brussels.

The Tories only have a tiny majority in Parliament and Cameron's two major dilemmas are linked: A 'Brexit' from the EU would antagonise the Scottish nationalists and accelerate their independence bid. According to The Independent, the election "leaves the prospect of the U.K. still being in one piece at the next general election in 2020 in some doubt."

The BBC likewise reported that in the European parliament, leaders of the German and Belgian Greens, Rebecca Harms and Philippe Lamberts, described the prospect of the UK quitting the EU as "hara-kiri". "The UK is sleepwalking its way out of the EU", they said last Friday. "This would have dramatic and negative consequences for the UK and its component nations, as well as for the rest of Europe. We can only hope David Cameron finally wakes up to this risk".

And it is a risk. A risk exacerbated all the more by the UK's current electoral system.

The Conservatives' surprise win highlighted how much things have changed in British politics. When all the polls predicted that another coalition was the order of the day and everyone thought that perhaps our antiquated winner takes all system had evolved, there's now a new unpredictability afoot. What has changed though is the idea of only two big parties fighting over the prize.

Although 'first past the post' still dictates the form, new players and smaller parties now make up the content. The SNP won 56 of Scotland's 59 seats although it got just under 5 percent of the geographical vote, while the UKIP - with 4 million votes - came in third nationally in terms of rankings but only won one seat since its support is spread geographically across the country rather than in any single constituency. That inconsistency has left many frustrated; yet on this occasion the system skewing the balance to preserve the status quo may be a blessing in disguise for the sake of tolerance and multiculturalism.

What's for certain though is the TV-worthy drama of the struggle of the two unions will continue well into next season. And it's all still up for grabs. Can King Cameron unite the warring kingdoms or will it be a game of rival thrones? Winter might not be coming for a while yet, but I will say this: Whether it's Europe or Scotland, Pandora's independence ballot box has been well and truly opened.

THE BUZZ TICKETS FOR EURO 2016 IN FRANCE STARTING AT 25 EUROS

In tough economic times across Europe, the cheapest tickets for the 2016 European Championship will be sold for 25 euros (USD28).

About 250,000 tickets for 43 of the 51 matches will be sold at that price, with the most expensive seat for the final costing 895 euros (\$1,000).

Euro 2016 organizing committee president Jacques Lambert says, "With this starting pri-

ce we want to see all of society's groups in the stadiums."

One million tickets for the general public will go on sale online for one month starting on June 10. An extra 800,000 tickets will be sold for supporters of specific teams after the tournament draw in December.

The 24-team tournament will be held from June 10-July 10.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	15-35 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPAN Regulatory obstacles to paralyzed Japanese using a smart exoskeleton called ReWalk highlight problems with the government's drive to expand the robotics industry beyond manufacturing uses.

MYANMAR's human rights body says two soldiers tried for the shooting death of a freelance journalist have been acquitted by a military court.

YEMEN Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition pummel arms and ammunition depots on a mountainside on the edge of Yemen's capital just one day before a humanitarian cease-fire is due to start and a U.N. envoy arrives on his first visit to try to end the war.

USA Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's lawyers rest their case in their bid to save him from execution after death penalty opponent Sister Helen Prejean testifies Tsarnaev expressed genuine sorrow for the victims.



AP PHOTO

BELGIUM The European Union is seeking a U.N. Security Council resolution within days to let its members hunt down human traffickers in the Mediterranean and destroy their boats, a senior EU official said yesterday. The EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, says the aim is to "destroy the business model" of the traffickers by wrecking the boats they use to smuggle migrants.

USA Royal Dutch Shell's Arctic drilling program clears a major bureaucratic hurdle to begin drilling for oil and gas off Alaska's northwestern coast this summer. More on p14



AP PHOTO

FRANCE-CUBA French President Francois Hollande called for ending of the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba, saying France "will be a faithful ally" as Cuba reforms its centrally planned economy and tries to re-enter the global economic system. Hollande's one-day trip made him the first French president to visit Cuba since it became an independent country.

AMERICAN CRIME STORY

John Travolta helps recreate the O.J. Simpson trial for FX

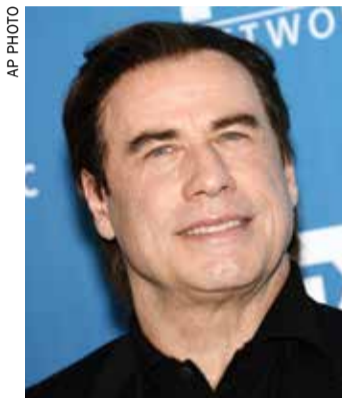
Alicia Rancilio, New York

LIKE many people, John Travolta remembers where he was when O.J. Simpson was riding in a white Ford Bronco in that infamous slow-speed pursuit in 1994 before he surrendered to police and later faced murder charges in the deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ronald Goldman.

"I had just gotten back from the Cannes Film Festival where we won the Palme d'Or for 'Pulp Fiction.' I was on this kind of high with a new (revived) career and then this American tragedy was happening," the actor said yesterday at a red carpet for Fox's Upfront, where networks debut their new TV shows for advertisers.

Travolta, along with Cuba Gooding Jr., David Schwimmer and Sarah Paulson have signed on to star in a new true crime anthology series coming to FX called "American Crime Story." Season one will focus on the O.J. Simpson trial and is based on a book by Jeffrey Toobin who covered the trial extensively for The New Yorker.

Travolta plays Simpson's attorney Robert Shapiro. Ryan Murphy is directing the series, now about one week



AP PHOTO

John Travolta

into filming.

"That trial sort of gave birth to a new kind of media coverage," Murphy said. "It felt like an origin story of something that was the first and now we're still dealing with the reverberations of that so it feels very modern to me."

Gooding plays O.J. Simpson.

"People keep asking me whether I think he did it or not, and I don't think that's the goal here, to prove his innocence or his guilt," Gooding said. "I think it's more us putting the judicial system under the spotlight. ... We try to find a truth in the moment so that we can find answers. I think this 10 hours of television is gonna be very powerful, and I think a lot of people are going to learn a lot."

David Schwimmer portrays

the late Robert Kardashian, an attorney on Simpson's defense team and a loyal defender of the former pro football player. He says he spoke to Kardashian's ex-wife Kris Jenner for insight into the role.

"I was lucky enough to speak to (Jenner) for a few hours who was very generous with her time," he said. "I thought, 'Who better to tell me who Robert was as a husband and a father than her?' and it's been a very exciting process so far."

Jenner will be portrayed by Selma Blair.

Sarah Paulson, who has worked with Murphy in "American Horror Story," said she's been analyzing footage to prepare for her role as prosecutor Marcia Clark.

"I'm just trying to take in her mannerisms, and then at the same time let some of it go. At first I thought, 'Well I have to do her voice.' And then I thought, 'Her voice isn't actually iconic. As long as I'm not doing something weird, you're not gonna know it's not her voice.'"

Paulson decided to imitate how Clark "listened a lot with her head to the side" and other mannerisms.

"American Crime Story" will premiere on FX in 2016. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Chief Executive, Mr Chui Sai On, visited the Macao Post headquarters yesterday.