



E-CIGARS TO BE INCLUDED IN REVISED BILL

E-cigarettes are now widely used across the globe, and are presented as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes

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CROWD SHOWS FATIMA DEVOTION



P4



NORTH KOREA DEFENSE CHIEF EXECUTED

Kim Jong Un ordered his defense chief executed for talking back to him and sleeping during a meeting

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Police in southwestern China arrested 10 people for killing a female wild giant panda, buying and selling its parts, state media said yesterday. China Central Television said forest police in Yunnan province recovered panda skin, panda meat, bones and an internal organ from the poachers and vendors. If convicted, the suspects could be jailed for years.

CHINA Apple CEO Tim Cook met with a top Chinese official in Beijing while touring a country that has become the tech giant's biggest driver of sales growth, state media reported. Cook met with Vice Premier Liu Yandong in the Zhongnanhai leadership compound Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. They reportedly discussed how to promote greater scientific and educational cooperation between China and the U.S.

PHILIPPINES The Philippines' top diplomat says he is seeking more U.S. help in stopping massive land reclamation by China that could give Beijing effective control of the South China Sea. Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario said Tuesday that China is attempting to enforce the rough boundaries it uses to define its domain. He described those boundary lines as "unlawful."

PHILIPPINES-PAKISTAN The body of the Philippine ambassador who was among those killed in a helicopter crash in Pakistan last week arrived in his home country with honor guards and his weeping family receiving his flag-draped casket at Manila's airport.

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CE dispatch stops Edmund Ho from testifying in court

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Rights group: China police use torture despite legal reforms

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Funeral expo shows latest industry trends

THE enhanced facilities for international exhibitions and conferences have brought the Asia Funeral and Cemetery Expo & Conference back to town, said Wilson Tong, Fairs Director for the event organizer Vertical Expo Services, during the opening of the eighth edition of the event at the Macau Tower.

First held in Macau in 2008, what is deemed "the largest annual event for the funeral and cemetery industry in the Asia-Pacific" was subsequently held in the neighboring SAR for the following five years.

"We hope to bring that kind of international exhibition to Macau, with the entertainment and leisure supporting facilities here that attract business travellers," said the event's organizer. "With the optimized facilities for business and leisure here in Macau, as well as support from the government for exhibitions



themed around business travel, this is conducive for us in terms of inviting higher-level speakers."

Exhibitors from up to 22 countries or regions have participated in the three-day event. Lee Jong-Lan, the president of the Korea Funeral Make-up Association, which is one of the participating com-

panies, told the Times that the Korean government would subsidize people interested in learning make-up techniques for the deceased, covering half or even all of the tuition costs. According to the make-up artist, who has 15 years' experience, one could practice in the industry as part of

an internship after having completed only 24 hours of tutorials over three days. The remuneration for a single funeral could reach as much as MOP3,643.

Cherry Leung, who is a representative of another exhibitor from Hong Kong, Kun Bao Wooden Limited, told the Times

that western-style coffins are expected to be the future trend among Chinese communities. This prediction comes from the fact that, over the past decade, desire for traditional Chinese coffins has plummeted by around two-thirds.

Mainland Chinese citizens have started to be

more picky about their choices of cinerary urns. For instance, a recent trend has been to choose those urns made of natural materials such as jade or marble, which allow light penetration, said Tu Ke Shan, the Manager of an urn producer from the Chinese city of Zhengzhou. **Staff reporter**

Wynn employees support Nepal quake relief efforts

Wynn Resorts (Macau) yesterday donated MOP1 million to the Macau Red Cross in support of the charity's emergency assistance and relief efforts in Nepal.

According to a press release, the donation "is a combination of individual contributions from employees, matched by the company."

Wynn Macau stressed that the amount donated is "very significant" and was achieved in a short period of time.

The MOP1 million cheque was presented to Ms Chiang Sao Meng, Vice President of the Central Council of the Macau Red Cross, by Ms Linda Chen, CEO of Wynn Resorts (Macau).

"We are deeply saddened by the disaster. Some of our Wynn family members have been personally affected by the earthquake and we wish to support them in



every way possible in their time of need. We offer our sincere condolences to all those affected and hope the donation can go far in helping people in Nepal rebuild their lives and communities," said Ms Chen.

Wynn Macau has also partnered with Clean the World, a non-profit soap-recycling organization, to donate 1,000 personal hygiene kits for the quake vic-

tims. The kits include necessities like shower gel, shampoo, body lotion, recycled soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels, razors and message cards carrying heartfelt wishes. Wynn Macau's volunteer team, WE Volunteer, joined the Clean the World team from Hong Kong to pack the personal hygiene kits, which will be shipped to Nepal by Clean the World.

Ex-Birmingham City chairman loses HK money laundering appeal

Douglas Wong

Ex-British soccer club Birmingham City Chairman Carson Yeung lost an appeal to overturn his HK\$721 million (USD93 million) money laundering conviction.

Hong Kong Court of Appeal Judge Michael Lunn, who handed down the ruling yesterday, said Yeung could seek an appeal at the city's top court on some of the issues.

Yeung's lawyers had argued a lower court judge failed to properly consider evidence in the case and that the funds were winnings from gambling or profits from investments. The former hairdresser was part of a money-laundering machine linked

to organized crime in Macau, prosecutors had said.

The lower court judge rejected Yeung's testimony, Lunn wrote for the three-judge appeal panel in a 74-page ruling. "He was entitled to do so."

Yeung, serving a six-year jail term, resigned as chairman of Hong Kong-listed Birmingham International Holdings Ltd. ahead of his conviction. Birmingham International, which took control of the soccer club in 2009, appointed receivers from Ernst & Young in February to preserve its assets and business. The shares have been suspended since Dec. 4.

Anthony Michael Bough, a lawyer for Yeung, declined to comment after yesterday's hearing.

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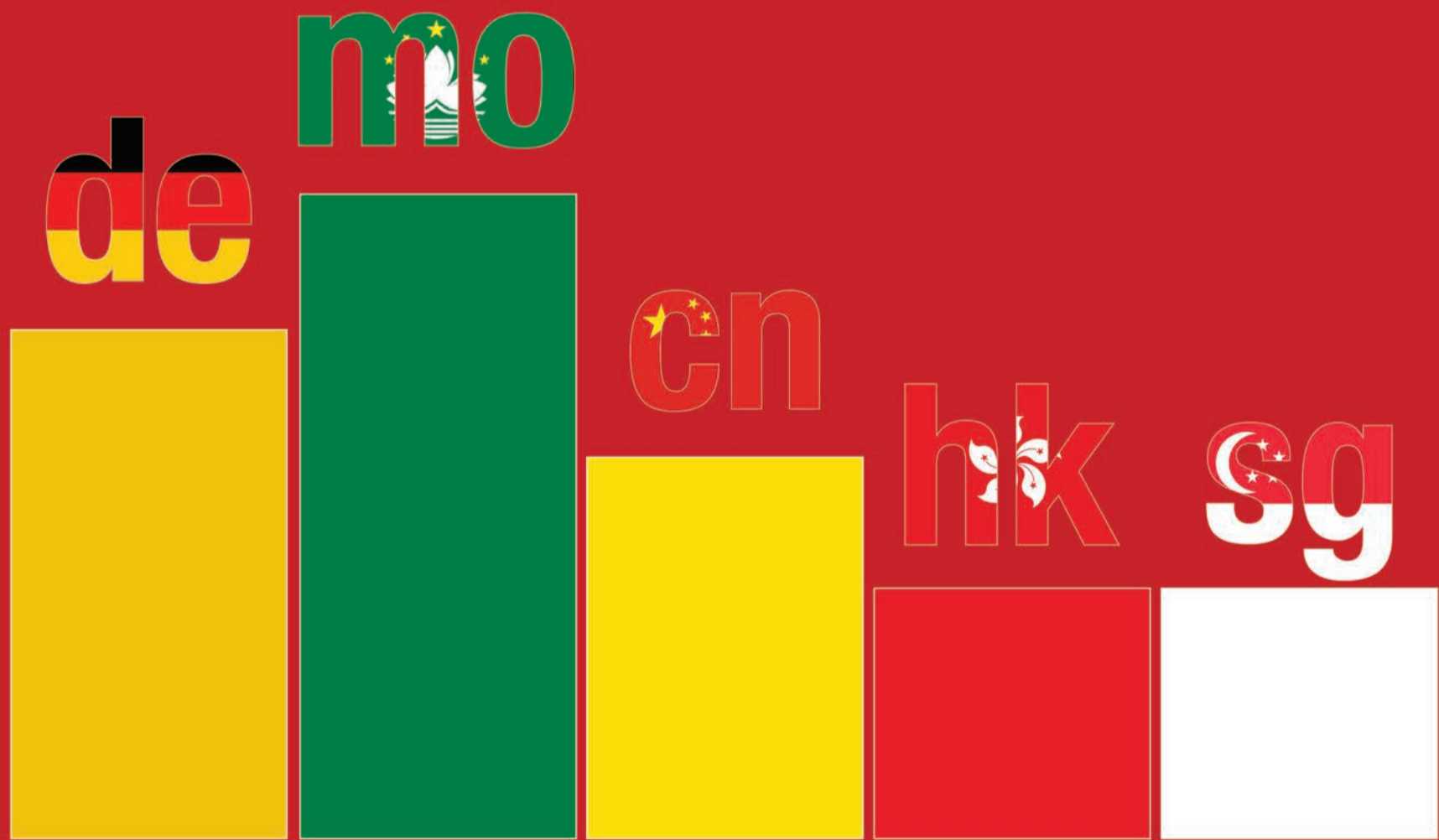
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Web Views Top Ranking Countries



COUNTRY RANKINGS

Visitors to the Macau Daily Times website originate from 175 countries, the top 15 being Macau, Germany, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Portugal, European Union, Japan, Italy, India, Brazil, France, Thailand and Taiwan.

Gov't pledges to include e-cigarettes in revised tobacco bill

THE coordinator of the Tobacco Control and Prevention Office has reassured lawmakers of the government's intention to include regulations on electronic cigarettes when reviewing the current Tobacco Control and Prevention Law.

Several legislators have called on the government to regulate e-cigarettes during Tuesday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting.

"It's a new trend and a lot of people use the e-cigarette. So we will be suggesting to include [regulations] on e-cigarettes while revising the law," the coordinator of the Tobacco Control and Prevention Office announced.

Generally speaking, the use of electronic cigarettes and their effects isn't looked upon favorably. In neighboring Hong Kong, the government is planning to ban the sale of these products. Meanwhile, a group of five major electronic cigarette companies in the



The current legislation does not regulate on e-cigarettes

city have established an association to prevent the government from moving forward with its plan, the South China Morning Post reported this

week.

Health officials in Hong Kong have said that e-cigarette manufacturers have been targeting young people while marketing e-cigarettes as a trendy product.

Electronic cigarettes are now widely used across the globe, and are presented as a safer alternative to traditional smoking.

Forbes also reported that researchers at the Hong Kong watchdog Council on Smoking and Health warned that e-cigarettes targeting

youngsters could lead to a "tobacco epidemic."

Currently, e-cigarettes can be sold legally in Hong Kong to anyone, irrespective of age, if the product does not contain nicotine. But any product with more than 0.1 percent nicotine must be registered as a pharmacy product with the Department of Health.

"The government should regulate the content of e-cigarettes and ban them for those under the age of 18," said one founder of the Asian Vape Association in Hong Kong, Nav Lalji, before adding, "but it is a free market and adults should be able to choose whether or not to use e-cigarettes."

Macau's current legislation does not include regulations on e-cigarettes, but it states that authorities can cease the sale of tobacco products in the case that they fail to comply with regulations relating to levels of tar, or when they are not appropriately labeled. However, while e-cigarettes do not contain tobacco, some do have nicotine.

The need to legislate on e-cigarettes has been highlighted on numerous occasions, particularly when amendments to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Law took effect in 2012, and now the government is reviewing the law in an attempt to implement a full smoking ban in casinos.

The United Nations health agency recommended last year that nations regulate electronic cigarettes and ban their use indoors until the exhaled vapor is proven to not harm bystanders. **CP**

Week-long LGBTI exhibition runs at Ox Warehouse



AN exhibition co-organized by the local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights organization, Rainbow of Macau, and its Hong Kong counterpart, Pink Alliance of Hong Kong, is currently open to the public at the Ox Warehouse to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Interphobia (IDAHO-TI) this coming Sunday.

Titled "Growing Pains," the five-day exhibition is intended to demonstrate a contrast between the life being part of a sexual minority in childhood, adolescence and early adulthood, and the lives of heterosexual people. The two groups sought to use an artistic platform to expose the Macau population to the discrimination faced by the LGBTI community.

According to Jason Chao, the spokesman for the local LGBTI rights concern group, the exhibits were already on display at the University of Macau and at numerous Hong Kong tertiary educational institutions two weeks ago. Guided tours are also available during some periods.

The IDAHOTI was formed in commemoration of the decision in 1990 to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization.

Last year, the group similarly organized an al fresco exhibition for two days, with the aim of drawing public attention to the suffering of the sexual minority. However, due to technical issues, the group opted for an indoor venue this year. **Staff reporter**

Over 2,000 fines applied over breaches of smoking ban

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has applied a total of 2,515 fines to people found breaching the smoking ban between January and April 30. SSM said in a statement that it had launched a total of 94,055 inspections on different indoor spaces where smoking is illegal.

The bureau also recorded 10 different types of tobacco products that failed to meet label requirements.

Most offenders are male (2,328), while female offenders accounted for 7.1 percent (177 cases). Most offenders are Macau residents (61.5 per-

cent), 34.2 percent are tourists and 4.3 percent are non-resident workers.

Most offenses were recorded in internet cafés (16.1 percent) and games arcades (14.8 percent), followed by malls (12.8 percent). A total of 33.2 percent of offenses were recorded in the Tap Seac area, SSM added.

Since the beginning of the year, 78.6 percent of offenders have paid fines.

SSM revealed that 136 people were caught smoking in prohibited areas in Macau's casinos between the start of January and April 30.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The Our Lady of Fatima procession was held yesterday to mark the May 13 1917 apparitions in Portugal

GAMING

Citi keeps May revenue forecast at MOP20.5b

BASED on a report on the industry's data, Citigroup has said that Macau's gaming revenue for the first ten days of May reached MOP7 billion, while the overall average daily gaming revenue reached MOP731 million during the period, 14% higher than that of April. This has been mainly driven by the long holiday of May 1. It is expected that the GGR will be normalized for the rest of the month. Macau's gross gambling revenue (GGR) forecast for May was kept at MOP20.5 billion, down 37% from a year ago.

Meanwhile, UBS says that the drop in GGR is expected to stabilize slightly in May. But there are still no clear signs of recovery, acknowledged analyst Anthony Wong.

Wong explained that the May GGR has so far been around MOP730 million (USD91.4 million), up from MOP690 million and MOP640 million in March and April respectively. However, the increase is mainly due to the Chinese holidays at the beginning of the month, with the pace likely to normalize over time.

USB expects the May total to show a drop of between 34 and 38 percent, proving slightly better than the 39-percent decline seen in April.

Mass revenue is likely to be down 20 to 25 percent year-on-year, with a VIP plunge of between 42 percent and 47 percent. However, on a sequential basis, Wong said that both mass and VIP revenue may have slowed from the first quarter. "We believe there have been no clear signs of sequential demand recovery, which is assumed in current consensus forecasts," he said.

Commenting on the table allocations for Galaxy Entertainment's new Macau Phase 2 and Broadway Macau, which are scheduled to open before the end of the month, he says that the market is expecting them to receive 150 allocations. Any allocation that falls below that level will be detrimental to the market, he says. **PC**

Local hotels top most expensive AP list

MACAU hotels have been ranked the most expensive in the Asia-Pacific region, with the most expensive average hotel room rate reaching MOP1,609, according to the HRS Hotel Price Radar.

Between January and March, the average price of Macau hotels increased by 64 percent year-on-year, recording one of the sharpest increases among the Asia-Pacific destinations, according to data quoted by Travel Daily News.

The HRS Hotel Price Radar links the increases in hospitality-related prices in Macau to the industry's focus on the MICE sector.

"Macau has been actively developing its MICE and business events industry in order to diversify and avoid an over-reliance on revenues from gaming and mainland Chinese tourists," it explained.

"The availability of high-end venues has also boosted its attractiveness as a business events destination, leading to the huge jump in average hotel room rates," it added.

Sydney and Hong Kong emerged as the other two cities with the most expensive average hotel room rates. These rates are set around MOP1,467 per night. Sydney's average hotel room rate recorded a 2.3 percent decrease, while Hong Kong recorded a 20 percent increase over the first quarter of last year.

The two cities are followed by Singapore, Seoul, Beijing and Shanghai.

In India, Bangalore and New Delhi ranked 11th and 12th respectively, with average hotel room rates reaching around MOP514 and MOP478 respectively. **MDT/Lusa**

CE dispatch stops Edmund Ho from testifying on confidentiality grounds

THE Chief Executive Chui Sai On issued a dispatch preventing his predecessor, Edmund Ho, from testifying in a lawsuit that pits Las Vegas Sands against Asian American Entertainment (see text below).

In a confidential dispatch addressed to the Court of First Instance judge presiding over the case, Chui Sai On states that "the facts [that underpin the request to have Edmund Ho as a witness] are of a confidential or reserved nature, and the knowledge of those facts, in case there was such a knowledge, was obtained [by Edmund Ho] whilst performing his duties, hence I don't authorize the former CE, Dr Ho Hau Wah, to testify." The dispatch was issued on January 5, 2015. According to the law, the chief executive has the power to prevent the former CE from testifying.

It is at least the second time that Chui Sai On has decided that Edmund Ho, who is now the Vice-Chairman of the National Com-



Edmund Ho

mittee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, should not be called to the witness stand.

In 2010, João Miguel Barros, the legal representative of businessman Pedro Chiang, named Edmund Ho as a witness.

Pedro Chiang fled Macau and his whereabouts remain unknown, although he gave an interview to a newspaper in Lisbon. He

was tried and convicted in absentia. Chiang was one of the businessmen charged with bribing former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long, and with assisting him in money laundering and other illegal activities related to the granting of land and public works to contractors through unlawful procedures.

The collective of judges

who were trying the case asked João Miguel Barros to address a list of questions to the former chief executive.

In a dispatch with similar consequences to the one issued on January 5, Chui Sai On argued that the issues that accompany the decision not to allow Edmund Ho to testify at stake were "confidential or reserved." **MDT**

Asian American lawsuit still pending

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has confirmed a ruling made by a lower court that recognizes and enforces a foreign decision made in a case between Las Vegas Sands (LVS) and the Asian American Entertainment Corp. (AAECL).

With TUI's decision, Macau's judicial authorities are recognizing a sentence dated April 10, 2009 from the Ninth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeal, based in Nevada, stating that AAECL's action should be partially dismissed.

AAECL claims that it is owed money for a breach of contract of a joint venture agreement relating to a casino license bid. The chairman of the insolvent company (which requested and was granted legal aid in Macau on the grounds of insufficient funds) is Taiwanese businessman Shi-Sheng Marshall Hao, who claims he negotiated an agreement with Sheldon Adelson, Sands' ma-

jority shareholder, in 2001 to win a Macau gaming concession for the following year 2002. Asian American Entertainment alleges that Sands terminated the joint venture and instead teamed up with Hong Kong group Galaxy Entertainment.

There are two court cases pending in Macau

JORGE MENEZES

However, the consequences of the recognition of Nevada's court decision on the lawsuit filed by AAECL on 19 January 2012 remain to be seen. In the lawsuit, AAECL is claiming damages correspondent

to roughly 70 percent of all Sands profits in Macau (provisionally set as MOP3 billion), from the start of operations until the end of the concession (2022). This court action is pending on the decision of the 2nd Chamber of the Court of First Instance.

Jorge Menezes, who represents Asian American Entertainment in the ongoing lawsuits in Macau, declined to comment on the content of the case and on TUI's ruling, which recognizes the US court decision.

"This court judgment was not issued in the AAECL lawsuit. It is absolutely not true that the lawsuit has been dismissed. I was quite surprised to have seen published by an English-language local newspaper [Business Daily] on Monday that the Asian American claim has been denied," he said.

"There are two court cases pending in Macau, and this [the one ruled by TUI last week] is not the lawsuit where AAECL claims damages, which is still pending and being prosecuted. The relevance of this judgment to the Macau lawsuit will be decided by the Court of First Instance," Mr Menezes added. **MDT**

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Public health services' manpower to be boosted

The public healthcare sector expects to recruit a total of 2,640 additional health professionals in the following five years, while some of the specialist outpatient services at the Hospital Conde S. Januário will be made available for more hours starting from next month.

According to the head of Health Bureau, Lei Chin Ion, the intended workforce expansion is timed to address the introduction of medical facilities, namely the city's second public hospital, which is slated for operation before 2020, along with several other upcoming health centers.

"The number of beds at the healthcare complex of the islands [the future hospital] exceeds that of the current public hospital. Our current plan is 900 beds. To date, there are 460 doctors at both local health centers and the public hospital. The city

will see another five health centers in the upcoming five years. The future hardware doubles the current one," said Lei at Tuesday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting.

Totals of 480 doctors, 1700 nurses, 120 pharmacists, 200 senior hygienic technicians, and 140 technicians for diagnosis and treatment were among those expected to join the current medical team, according to Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, who said that these numbers were formulated following an initial assessment.

The report also noted that it was possible to extend the current opening hours of some specialty outpatient services at the city's only public hospital on a three-month pilot mode. Such an attempt was made to shorten the waiting time for these services. If it proves efficient, the trial scheme would become a long-term policy.

Lawyers association raises concern over unpaid legal aid service

The president of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM), Jorge Neto Valente, has raised concerns over legal aid cases, in which legal aid lawyers have not been paid for their services, Radio Macau reported.

Mr Neto Valente was speaking at a press conference to announce the upcoming activity program for Lawyers' Day.

Macau's legal system includes a legal aid service, which entitles a defendant to be represented by a legal aid lawyer. The lawyers will then be paid professional fees accordingly. However, Mr Neto Valente said that different interpretations of the law by judges have resulted in losses for legal aid lawyers.

According to Mr Valente, the issue arose after an amendment to the law was introduced. The law now does not clearly state that the city's courts have to ensure the payment of professional fees to legal aid lawyers. Nevertheless, the law stipulates that lawyers who are required to provide legal aid service are always entitled to a payment for their services.

"Due to an interpretation of



Neto Valente

the law, with which we do not agree, there were courts that decided not to pay legal aid lawyers when people who they were represented were acquitted, and they did not have to pay court fees. Or when people disappeared without paying and legal aid lawyers would not be paid their professional fees," he recalled, as quoted by Radio Macau.

AAM's president stated that recently the Court of Second Instance ruled in favor of a legal aid lawyer who had not been paid. "The court ruled that in all cases in which there are professional fees to be paid and people

who are required to pay them do not do so, then it's the office of the Court of Final Appeal which has to pay [the lawyer's services]," he said.

Mr Neto Valente recalled that this is one of the major challenges with which the association has been dealing.

Lawyers' Day is commemorated here between tomorrow and Sunday. A series of activities will be held to provide further information to Macau citizens on the legal profession. Free legal advice sessions will also be provided at the Macau tourist office facilities in Senado Square. **CP**

AD



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Verizon buys AOL for USD4.4 billion in mobile video bet

Mae Anderson
Technology Writer, New York

AFTER selling millions of Americans their mobile phones, Verizon now wants to capture their eyeballs, too.

As its phone business slows down, the nation's largest wireless carrier is making a USD4.4 billion bet that it can find growth in mobile video and advertising by buying AOL, one of the Internet's oldest brands, which has been through its own share of transformations since introducing much of America to the online world nearly a generation ago.

The acquisition is the latest effort by a wireless company to tap into some of the money shifting to streaming video and mobile devices.

Ken Doctor, a media analyst for consulting company Outsell, said Verizon is becoming less of a utility that merely provides access to online services and more of a player in the digital arena as it sees growth in the likes of Apple, Google and Facebook.

"They're trying to move into that league of players getting money from digital, both from consumers and advertisers," Doctor said.

For consumers, the deal could mean more advertising — and ad targeting — from Verizon. That might mean more personalized ads in online videos and AOL content that appears on Verizon handsets and in marketing messages to customers.

AT&T has taken a different tack. Last year, the company said it would buy satellite TV

AP PHOTO



People walk out of the New York office building where AOL headquarters is located

The acquisition is the latest effort by a wireless company to tap into streaming video and mobile devices

provider DirecTV for \$48.5 billion so it could offer bundles of TV, Internet and phone services — just like cable companies. In many cases, the Internet component would be through wireless rather than fixed-wire

broadband.

With the AOL acquisition, Verizon will gain access to advanced advertising technology, including the "One by AOL" platform that lets customers buy ads across platforms, including video, online and TV.

AOL reported a 7 percent boost in revenue during its first quarter, mainly on strong global advertising sales.

"AOL's focus on unifying the advertising experience across display, video, mobile and TV makes it an attractive asset because advertisers are looking for better ways to reach their audience across screens," said Lauren Fisher, analyst at eMarketer. "Coupled with Verizon's existing mobile (and

streaming video) presence, the companies' combined ad offerings mean massive cross-screen reach with much richer audience data."

Verizon also gains control over significant AOL content, including The Huffington Post and TechCrunch. AOL is the nation's fourth-largest online property with about 200 million monthly consumers of its premium brands, according to its website. And AOL is the third-largest desktop video company in the U.S. by users, accounting for about 35.4 of total unique viewers of online video via desktop computer in February 2015, according to IBIS World.

AOL's own shows include a

reality series of half-hour episodes called "Connected" and a two-minute daily satirical sports analysis show called "2 Point Lead."

When it comes to providing Web services, Verizon has already come under fire for inserting unique tracking codes into some of its customers' traffic. Although the trackers did not contain personal information, they could be used to gauge a customer's interests and habits and used for ad targeting. Following complaints, Verizon began letting customers withdraw from the tracking program.

Still, analysts said, the move should not be overstated since it's a relatively small part of Verizon's overall value.

According to MoffettNathanson partner Craig Moffett, the investment in AOL is "tiny." He says AOL will account for little more than 1 percent of Verizon's total value.

"It's the tip of the tip of the tail, and it is clearly not going to wag the whole dog," he said in a research note. "Verizon is still, first and foremost, a wireless phone company."

The deal marks yet another transformation for AOL, which as a powerhouse dial-up provider in the 1990s acquired Time Warner Cable in 2000 for \$165 billion. The deal with Time Warner failed and came to be regarded as one of the most disastrous business combinations in history.

In 2009, AOL was spun off from Time Warner, becoming an independent, publicly traded company and since then has transformed itself into a media and ad tech company. **AP**

corporate bits

GEG DRAGON BOAT TEAM HOLDS RITUAL CEREMONY TO PREPARE FOR 2015 RACES



Galaxy Entertainment Group will once again have six teams participating in the "2015 Macau International Dragon Boat Races" this year to compete with athletes from Macau and around the world. As the annual race is set to kick off in

mid-June, over 100 GEG team members gathered at the Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre on Tuesday to attend the Dragon Boat Ritual Ceremony.

Among the attendees were also the GEG executives who officiated the ceremony, inclu-

ding Ms. Eileen Lui, GEG's Group Director of Human Resources & Administration, Mr. John Au, GEG's Senior Director of Business Development and Director of Operations of Broadway Macau & City Clubs, Mr. Richard Longhurst, Director of Operations of Galaxy Macau, Mr. Charles So, Director of Operations of StarWorld Hotel, Mr. Trevor Martin, GEG's Director of Human Resources and Administration, Ms. Joana Barnes, Chairperson of GEG's Staff Social Club and other GEG executive members.

Besides dotting the eyes of the dragon boats and cutting a suckling pig as part of the traditional rituals, the executives also gave the team members red packets as an auspicious gesture to wish them success in the upcoming races.

SANDS RETAIL ACADEMY HOLDS THIRD GRADUATION CEREMONY



Sands Retail Academy held its third graduation ceremony Tuesday at The Venetian Macao. Launched in 2013, the academy provides complimentary customer service training to retail professionals at Sands Shoppes Cotai Strip Macao — the three interconnected malls of Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Venetian and Shoppes at Cotai Central, comprising over 650 retailers.

A total of 350 retail front line team members were presented with certificates at Tuesday's ceremony, having successfully completed training programs aimed at enhancing the shopping experience for customers by improving the quality of service at Sands Shoppes.

Since the second graduation ceremony in September last year, there has been a 55 per

cent increase in participation, bringing the number of graduates on Tuesday to 350. To date, over 1,000 employees from 220 retailers have participated in courses from the Sands Retail Academy.

"We are confident that both retailers and their team members will find our training platforms beneficial and that more and more brands will sign up in the future," said Antonio Ramirez, senior vice president of human resources for Sands China Ltd. "We are glad the Sands Retail Academy gives us this opportunity to go beyond investing in our own team members — to investing more broadly in the development of Macau's local talent outside our company through our retail partners."

Guinea-Bissau to have dry port in 2017

GUINEA-BISSAU will have a dry port on the capital's outskirts by the end of 2017 with capacity for more than 100,000 containers, the state secretary for transport and communications announced on Tuesday.

João Bernardo Vieira visited the dry port site at Pime near Bissau. He said it would cover an area of 25,000 square meters and include warehouses to conserve perishable products.

The director-general of the National Shippers Council (CNC), Fernando Dias da Costa, specified in turn that ground clearing work was now under way. The dry port or inland customs station will have an overland link to the maritime port that does not pass through the city center, thereby preventing traffic congestion.

CNC is the public enterprise which owns the project. Da Costa said that creation of the new infrastructure would help ease the situation at Bissau's Pinjiguiti port, which has limited space for containers.

The dry port will also serve as a parking area for container trucks waiting their turn to load cargo at Pinjiguiti port, he added.

Besides its trans-shipment role, Bissau's future dry port may include facilities to store and consolidate goods, and for merchandise handling and road transport maintenance equipment as well as customs clearance services. **MDT/Macauhub**

Trade between China and Lusophone countries down 25 pct

TRADER between China and the Portuguese speaking countries fell 25.36 percent year-on-year to USD21.733 billion in the first quarter of the year, indicate figures from the Chinese Customs Administration released in Macau.

In the first three months of the year China sold goods worth US\$10.617 billion (+7.59 percent) to the eight Portuguese language countries and bought merchandise worth US\$11.115 billion (-42.25 percent).

With Brazil, China's main global commercial partner, trade amounted to US\$14.377 billion (-20.91 percent), with China selling goods worth US\$8.051 billion (+0.27 percent) and buying products worth US\$6.326 billion (-3.67 percent).

Regarding Angola, China's second biggest trading partner among the eight Portuguese language countries, trade during the period amounted to US\$5.683



billion (-40.34 percent), with chinese exports worth US\$1.402 billion (+54.16 percent) and imports worth US\$4.280 billion (-50.32 percent).

Portugal ranks third; its trade with China amounted to US\$1.048 billion (+10.63 percent), with Chinese ex-

ports worth US\$681 million (+11.69 percent) and Portuguese exports worth US\$367 million (+8.70 percent).

Bilateral trade with Mozambique stood at US\$587 million (+37.02 percent), with China selling products worth US\$447 million (+52.91 percent) and

buying goods worth US\$140 million (+3.04 percent).

The other Portuguese language countries (Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste and São Tomé and Príncipe) recorded trade with China amounting to US\$35.08 million in the first quarter. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Christopher Bodeen and
Nirmala George, Beijing

THEY are the strongest leaders to emerge in years from the world's two most populous nations — and appear to be trying to forge a strong working relationship.

In a rare personal touch, Chinese President Xi Jinping will host the Indian prime minister in his hometown of Xi'an for today's start of Narendra Modi's three-day visit, highlighting warming ties between the Asian giants despite their continued rivalry and contrasting political systems.

The move returns the favor after Modi hosted Xi in his own hometown of Ahmedabad last year. The two men will aim to move beyond the symbolism and take substantial steps to seal a new spirit of cooperation.

China is looking to India as a market for its increasingly high-tech goods, from high-speed trains to nuclear power plants, while India is keen to attract Chinese investment in manufacturing and infrastructure. With a slowing economy, excess production capacity and nearly USD4 trillion in foreign currency reserves, China is ready to satisfy India's estimated \$1 trillion in demand for infrastructure projects such as airports, roads, ports and railways.

"India is looking for investments, and China has the money. It could be a win-win for both countries," said Srikanth Kondapalli, Chinese studies professor at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The two countries also have deep, enduring differences over their disputed border and China's expanding naval presence in the Indian Ocean. With a combined population of 2.6 billion, the two nations also remain political polar opposites, with India lining up

Personal diplomacy marks Modi's trip amid warming ties



In this Sept. 18, 2014 file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, makes a statement watched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi after signing agreements in New Delhi, India

with fellow democracies such as Japan and the U.S. while authoritarian China regards both as its key rivals.

Both Xi and Modi have considerable personal authority to drive the relationship. Since taking the helm of the ruling Communist Party in 2012, Xi has consolidated control

over the military, economy and foreign policy to an extent unseen in two decades. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party swept national elections a year ago, largely based on his personal charisma.

In China, top priority for Modi will be exploring ways of reducing India's \$48 billion

trade deficit with its neighbor amid flagging demand for India's main export to China, iron ore.

That task could be eased by establishing a close, personal relationship with Xi and other Chinese leaders, helping Modi further his domestic agenda of strengthening the Indian

economy through trade ties and Chinese investment, said T.C.A. Rangachari, a former Indian ambassador to Beijing.

"I think the personal relationship does help," said Rangachari. The informal setting in Xi'an provides the conditions under which "greater understanding between the leaders can take place," he said.

The two are expected to build on agreements reached during Xi's visit to India to begin discussions on civil nuclear energy plus embark on a five-year economic and trade development plan. They also agreed to set up two Chinese industrial parks in India, while China promised to invest \$20 billion in Indian infrastructure over the next five years.

They are also expected to discuss efforts to end a long-festering border dispute that sparked a bloody month-long conflict in 1962.

China claims about 90,000 square kilometers in India's northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, referred to informally by some Chinese as "Southern Tibet." India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometers of territory on the Aksai Chin plateau.

While relatively low-key in recent years, the dispute flared as recently as February when China protested a visit by Modi to Arunachal Pradesh.

Modi already has strong personal ties to China, having visited twice while chief minister of Gujarat, and recently took to China's twitter-like Weibo microblogging service, where he received both welcomes from Chinese users and snarky references to the border dispute.

"Southern Tibet has been Chinese territory since ancient times," said one. "This is non-negotiable, but otherwise, have fun." AP

Beijing sets national holiday to mark 70th anniversary of Japan defeat

CHINA declared Sept. 3 a national holiday this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the allied victory over Japan, the latest move by the Communist Party to focus attention on Japan's wartime legacy.

The work holiday elevates the national "Victory Day" commemoration declared by China's legislature last year. World War II commemorations this year have fueled new calls by China and South Korea for Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe to publicly atone for Japan's aggression during the war.

President Xi Jinping plans to hold a military parade in September at the site Japan attacked in 1937 to trigger the Second Sino-Japanese War, people with direct knowledge of the plan said in March. Along with the World War II victory, the country last year set aside a day to remember the Nanking Massacre in 1937.

Hong Kong followed suit and proposed a one-

time holiday Sept. 3 for the anniversary of "the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression." The city, which was occupied

■ Hong Kong followed suit and proposed a one-time holiday Sept. 3 for the anniversary

by the Imperial Army during the war, celebrated Liberation Day on the last Monday of

August until the British returned sovereignty to China in 1997.

A government spokesman said that to facilitate community partici-

pation in remembrance activities, the HKSAR government will introduce the Special Holiday

Bill into the Legislative Council. The bill seeks to designate on a one-off basis September 3, 2015 as an additional general holiday and statutory holiday, he added.

The bill will be published in the Gazette on May 22 and introduced into the Legislative Council on May 27.

In July 2013, Xi became the first Chinese leader to attend an official commemoration of the start of the Second Sino-Japanese war, which later became part of the

global conflict. China also published an official list of 300 "Anti-Japanese Heroes" who died in the war.

The government in Beijing will invite world leaders to this year's commemorations of China's "War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression as well as the World Anti-Fascist War," the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Last week, Xi joined Russian President Vladimir Putin for a similar military parade in Moscow's Red Square marking the defeat of Nazi Germany. The event was boycotted by Western leaders including U.S. President Barack Obama. Bloomberg/Xinhua

Louise Watt, Beijing

Report: Police use torture despite legal reforms

POLICE abuse of criminal suspects to extract confessions in China is a serious problem despite measures to reform the legal system, such as moves to exclude evidence obtained through torture, Human Rights Watch said in a report yesterday.

The report says that police have found ways around the rules by torturing detainees outside of official detention facilities, using methods that leave no visible injuries and taping confessions later.

China's legal system still relies heavily on confessions to produce convictions in nearly every case, partly because of often inadequate manpower to properly investigate crimes.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters yesterday that Chinese law prohibits torture during interrogations and anyone found responsible would be punished. "China is now stepping up efforts to improve the guarantee of human rights in the legal system... so the public sees fairness and justice in each case," she told reporters.

President Xi Jinping has made a priority of reducing wrongful convictions and reforming the justice system to restore public confidence in the ruling Com-

BLOOMBERG



munist Party, but has declined to consider loosening the party's control over the judiciary.

Last year, a teenager from Inner Mongolia who was con-

victed of rape and murder and executed 18 years ago was exonerated posthumously. The police officer who oversaw the original case has been charged

with using torture to coerce a confession.

Measures put into place before Xi became president require interrogations to be videotaped

and ban the use of evidence directly obtained through torture. Those are positive steps, but not enough, Human Rights Watch said.

In China, suspects have no right to have a lawyer present during interrogations and judges rarely question police conduct and often ignore clear evidence of mistreatment, the report said.

"The confession is still highly valued, a confession is obtained in almost every case; there is nothing that really holds a police officer accountable for torture or coercion," said Maya Wang, Hong Kong-based Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch.

In the report, former detainees, mostly suspected of theft, selling drugs or robbery, described abuse during police interrogations, including sleep deprivation, being beaten with batons and being hung up by the wrists.

The Ministry of Public Security didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment. **AP**

Beijing concerned about possible US patrols around islands

CHINA yesterday expressed "serious concern" about reports that the U.S. is considering sending military ships and planes to challenge Chinese claims to islands it is building in the South China Sea, and said it would resolutely defend what it considered its sovereign territory.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the U.S. needs to clarify its stance on the matter and that countries should avoid "risky and provocative approaches to maintain the regional peace and stability."

The Wall Street Journal first reported the remarks out of Washington, citing an anonymous official as saying Defense Secretary Ash Carter had asked for ideas about how to address China's moves to reinforce



This aerial photo taken through a glass window of a military plane shows China's alleged on-going reclamation of Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea

islands it occupies in the strategically vital area. Plans under consideration included sending ships and aircraft to within 12 nautical miles of the built-up sites, the report said.

While the U.S. military already operates in the South China Sea, crossing the 22.2 kilometer territorial limit around the islands could raise tensions if China chose to respond.

"We express serious concern about

the U.S. remarks," Hua told reporters at a daily news briefing.

While China's upholds freedom of navigation in the area, that "doesn't mean foreign military ships and aircrafts can freely enter into another country's territorial airspace and seas. China will firmly maintain its territorial sovereignty," Hua said.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and its

island groups, and has alarmed Washington and its neighbors by embarking on an ambitious island-building program to expand its claims — potentially for military use or airstrips — that has added about 2,000 acres of dry land.

Chinese officials defend the reclamation, saying it is Beijing's territory and that the buildings and infrastructure are for public service use and to support fishermen, as well as to assert Chinese sovereignty.

It accuses the Philippines, Vietnam and others of carrying out their own building work on other islands.

The U.S. says it takes no position on sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, but has an interest in peace and stability in its busy shipping lanes. **AP**

Workers at machinery plant protest poor management

Didi Tang, Beijing

MORE than 10,000 workers at a state-owned machinery manufacturer in southern China are protesting low wages and company plans to lay off thousands of staff after posting losses for three years, employees said yesterday.

Large protests at China's state-owned enterprises have been rare in recent years because their workers are often better protected by labor laws compared with private businesses. But some experts say working conditions have eroded as many state industries suffer overcapacity and struggle to make money.

Three employees of China National Erzhong Group Co. in the southwestern city of Deyang said workers starting taking to the streets Monday with banners protesting against corrupt and incompetent managers. They blame management for Erzhong's losses and poor treatment of employees.

The employees said they were demanding fair compensation for workers slated to be laid off and that the company trim administrative costs.

A worker who gave only his family name of Liu said Erzhong planned to lay off 5,000 workers and that many workers are paid only USD60 a month after taxes and other payroll deductions.

The incident might reflect that China's state-owned companies are increasingly operating on a purely commercial basis, said one labor expert.

"One of the issues is the sharp contrast between very low pay for the workers and very generous packages for Erzhong executives," said Wang Jiagsong, a Beijing-based scholar on labor issues. "The state-owned enterprise has abandoned the tradition where the workers have a say in the operations of their company."

The official labor union is essentially part of the management that fails to speak up for workers, Wang said.

Calls to Erzhong rang unanswered yesterday. The company voluntarily delisted itself from the Shanghai Stock Exchange in April because of its poor financial performance.

Local police confirmed the protests and said they were handling them, without giving further details. **AP**

NEPAL

Relief effort faces renewed challenges; US helicopter missing

Beernat Armangue, Chautara

OFFICIALS with bullhorns walked through the quake-damaged streets of this small Nepal town yesterday, calling for people to leave buildings in danger of falling after a second major earthquake in less than three weeks.

The evacuation orders came a day after Nepal, just beginning to rebuild after the devastating April 25 temblor, was hit by a magnitude-7.3 quake. Tuesday's earthquake killed at least 65 people, injured nearly 2,000 and caused landslides that blocked roads and slowed the delivery of relief supplies.

Jamie McGoldrick, a U.N. official in Nepal, said the earthquake had aggravated problems in the areas hit by the earlier temblor.

"Damaged houses were further damaged or destroyed. Houses and schools building spared before were affected yesterday, roads were damaged," he said yesterday.

Among 14 quake-hit districts, some are very inaccessible. A large part of population could not be reached easily as roads



A Nepalese woman injured in Tuesday's earthquake is comforted by her relative after she is brought from Charikot, Dolakha District, at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu

have been damaged by the earthquake.

"Some are even difficult to reach by helicopter. We are facing monumental challenge here to support the govern-

ment in these districts to have credible response," he said.

Meanwhile, a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter carrying six Marines and two Nepalese soldiers was reported missing

while delivering disaster aid Tuesday in the country's northeast, U.S. officials said, although there have been no indications the aircraft crashed.

Home ministry official Lax-

mi Dhakal said yesterday that army helicopters were scouring the Sunkhani area, nearly 80 kilometers northeast of Kathmandu, for the missing helicopter.

The quake struck hardest in the foothills of the Himalayas. Most of the 65 people confirmed dead by yesterday afternoon were in Dolakha district, northeast of Kathmandu, said the district's chief administrator, Prem Lal Lamichane.

"People are terrorized. Everyone is scared here. They spent the night out in the open," Lamichane said, adding the administration was running out of relief material.

He asked the government to send more helicopters and supplies, and said there were many injured people stranded in villages.

Tuesday's quake also left nearly 2,000 injured, according to the Home Ministry's latest count. But that toll was expected to rise as reports trickled in from isolated Himalayan towns and villages. Tuesday's quake also killed 16 in northern India, and one person in Tibet. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Dozens feared dead in slipper factory fire

Oliver Teves, Manila

A fire gutted a rubber slipper factory in a suburb of the Philippine capital yesterday, possibly killing dozens of workers who ran to the second floor in hopes of escaping only to become trapped by inferno, officials said.

At least three bodies have been recovered and fire officials said there were no survivors found after the fire was put under control, said Mayor Rex Gatchalian of Valenzuela city, north of Manila.

Relatives reported 65 people missing, and Gatchalian said only seven people managed to escape the fire. There could be others who are listed as missing but were able to escape, he said.



A fireman throws a hose at colleagues at a still-smoldering Kentex rubber slipper factory in Valenzuela city

District Fire Marshal Wilberto Rico Neil Kwan Tiu said he was among the first to reach the second floor of the gutted building after the fire and saw "numerous bodies," many charred beyond recognition.

Radio reports quoted relatives as saying their kin were able to send text messages saying they were on the second floor, but contact was lost shortly after.

Gatchalian said the

fire apparently was ignited by sparks from welding works at the factory's main entrance door, triggering an explosion of the chemicals used to make the slippers.

Workers fled to the second floor where they were trapped, he said. It was unsure if there were any fire escapes there as an investigation was ongoing. He said some of those who escaped exited through back

doors.

"By the time they realized that they could pass through the main door, the flames were already engulfing the front area," he said, adding that they thought the second floor was the safer ground.

Tiu, the fire marshal, said the building had exits but apparently the workers were overwhelmed by the thick black smoke from the burning rubber and chemicals, which are highly flammable and caused the blaze to spread quickly.

"I was talking to the bureau of fire protection and they said no one in the building survived," Gatchalian said, speaking through a public address system. His statement was followed by howls of grief and weeping.

The fire was put under control more than five hours after it started, but there were still flames burning and the place was dangerous by yesterday evening, Gatchalian said. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Military says shooting spree leaves 2 dead

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

A South Korean reserve soldier went on a shooting spree during a mandatory training session in Seoul yesterday, killing a fellow reservist and injuring three others before killing himself, officials said.

The 24-year-old soldier, surnamed Choe, abruptly turned around after firing one round during shooting training and fired seven rounds with a K-2 rifle at his fellow reservists, army and defense officials said on condition of anonymity because of office rules. He then used the ninth of the 10 bullets he'd been given to commit suicide, they said.

In an odd twist, South Korean pop star PSY, who is also a reservist, received about an hour of training at the site before leaving about 20 minutes before the shooting occurred because of personal business, according to an official from the rapper's agency YG Entertainment. The official, who refused to be named, citing office rules, said the

singer was allowed to leave after moving his remaining training hours to another date.

It was not immediately known why Choe opened fire. But Yonhap news agency, citing the army, reported that Choe was put in a group of soldiers who needed special attention when he was on active service and that he received medical treatment for depression. The Defense Ministry and the army couldn't immediately confirm the report.

Shootings by soldiers at South Korean military barracks have happened with some frequency in recent years, raising concerns about bullying and mental health conditions in the country's armed forces. But a shooting spree involving a reservist is unusual.

Last year, a South Korean soldier threw a grenade and opened fire on colleagues, killing five and wounding seven others. He later told investigators that he shot fellow soldiers after seeing a drawing they made of him that he considered insulting. **AP**

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

NORTH KOREA

Kim executes defense chief with anti-aircraft gun for 'sleeping during meeting'

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his defense chief executed with an anti-aircraft gun for complaining about the young ruler, talking back to him and sleeping during a meeting presided over by Kim, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers yesterday, citing what it called credible information.

South Korean analysts are split on whether the alleged bloody purge signals strength or weakness from Kim Jong Un, who took power after his father's 2011 death. Some aren't even sure if it really happened. One expert described the reported development, part of a series of high-profile recent purges and executions by Kim, as an attempt to orchestrate a "reign of terror" that would solidify his leadership.

National Intelligence Service officials told a closed-door parliamentary committee meeting that People's Armed Forces Minister Hyon Yong Chol was killed in front of hundreds of spectators at a shooting range at Pyongyang's Kang Kon Military Academy in late April, according to lawmaker Shin Kyoung-min, who attended the briefing.

Kim Gwang-lim, chairman of the parliament's intelligence committee, quoted the spy service as saying Hyon had failed several times to comply with



A man watches a TV news program reporting that People's Armed Forces Minister Hyon Yong Chol was killed by anti-aircraft gunfire, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul

unspecified instructions by the North Korean leader. The office of another lawmaker, Lee Cheol Woo, released similar informa-

tion about the NIS briefing. The NIS didn't tell lawmakers how it got the information, only that it was from a variety of

channels and that it believed it to be true, Shin said. The agency refused to confirm the report when contacted by The Asso-

ciated Press.

South Korea's spy agency has a spotty record of tracking developments in North Korea. Information about the secretive, authoritarian state is often impossible to confirm.

North Korea's state media hasn't mentioned Hyon since an April 29 report of his attendance of a music performance the previous day.

Hyon was named armed forces minister, the equivalent of South Korea's defense minister, in June of last year. He was made a vice marshal of the Korean People's Army in July 2012 before being demoted to a four-star general later that year, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

Kim's purges over recent years are seen as efforts to bolster his grip on power. The most notable was in 2013, when Kim executed his uncle and chief deputy, Jang Song Thaek, for alleged treason. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Gunmen kill 45 in bus attack

Adil Jawad and Asif Shahzad, Karachi

GUNMEN killed at least 45 people yesterday aboard a bus in southern Pakistan bound for a Shiite community center, in the latest attack targeting the religious minority.

The attack in the port city of Karachi was the deadliest Pakistan has seen in months. Provincial police chief Ghulam Haider Jamali said 45 people were killed, including 16 women, and another 13 people were wounded.

The bus was in a relatively deserted area on the outskirts of the city en route to a community center for Ismaili Shiite Muslims when six gunmen boarded it and opened fire, Jamali said. The attackers then fled on three motorcycles.

"These are the people who are extremists, who are terrorists," Jamali said of the assailants. "These



A Pakistani security official displays cartridges he collected from the scene of an attack on a bus, in Karachi

are the same people who have been doing terrorism before."

Qadir Baluch, a security guard at a nearby building, said he heard the gunshots and saw the militants driving away. He said one of them was wearing a police uniform.

Local TV showed the bus riddled with bullets and panicked relatives crying at the scene or waiting at

the hospital.

A splinter faction of the Pakistani Taliban called Jundullah, or Army of God, claimed responsibility for the attack. A man purporting to be a spokesman for the group called The Associated Press from an undisclosed location and said "infidels were the target." The purported spokesman, Ahmad Marwat, has conveyed similar claims in the past.

The Taliban and other Sunni militant groups have long had a presence in Karachi. Sunni extremists view Shiites as apostates and have targeted them in the past, though attacks on the Ismaili branch have been rare. Qasim Shah, an Ismaili community member, said the bus service had been operating for the last 10 years.

"They were innocent people," said Qaim Ali Shah, the chief minister of Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital. "We feel very sorry for this ghastly act."

Yesterday's attack was the deadliest in Pakistan since December, when Taliban militants killed 150 people, mostly young students, at an army-run school in Peshawar. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Another refugee boat located off Penang

Eileen Ng, Langkawi

Aboat crammed with more than 500 refugees, likely Rohingya and Bangladeshi, was found yesterday off the coast of Penang island in northern Malaysia, a person involved in the situation said.

The overcrowded boat is full of desperate people and it's too dangerous to board it, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity and is not authorized to speak to the media. Authorities are contemplating what to do next, the person said.

Thousands of Bangladeshis and Rohingya, a long-persecuted minority in Myanmar, have become victims of human traffickers who promise them safe passage to Malaysia. But in recent weeks the smugglers have fled wooden trawlers for fear of being caught in a massive regional crackdown on human trafficking syndicates. In the process, they have abandoned their human cargo and set them adrift in the sea off Malaysia and Indonesia.

Some estimates put the number of refugees stuck in the Malac-

ca Strait and nearby waters at 6,000, some stranded for more than two months. Activists believe many more boats will try to reach land in the coming days and weeks.

Already, about 1,600 migrants have landed on shore in Langkawi and neighboring Indonesia, the two Muslim-majority countries that over the years have shown the most sympathy for Rohingya's plight.

Labeled by the U.N. one of the world's most persecuted minorities, the Rohingya have for decades suffered from state-sanctioned discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. Denied citizenship by national law, the Muslims are effectively stateless. Access to education and adequate health care is limited and freedom of movement severely restricted.

In the last three years, attacks on Rohingya have left 280 people dead and forced 140,000 others into crowded camps just outside Sittwe, the capital of Myanmar's Rakhine state, where they live under abysmal, apartheid-like conditions, with little or no opportunities for work. **AP**

MIGRATION

EU urges solidarity on refugee wave, plans to enforce rules



The European Union forged ahead yesterday with a controversial plan to introduce refugee quotas to ease pressure on countries battling the migrant influx, despite strong opposition to the scheme. The EU's executive Commission sees the quota plan as key to forcing the EU countries to show solidarity with frontline partners like Italy, Greece and Malta. Only five countries handled almost two-thirds of EU asylum applications last year. Under special agreements, Britain, Ireland and Denmark would not be obliged to take part in the scheme. Some countries, including Hungary, Slovakia and Estonia, have already rejected the quota plan, meaning the scheme is unlikely to pass. It would see maximum refugee levels set for each country based on population, GDP and employment levels. British interior minister Theresa May said her country would take no part as it would only encourage more people to make the dangerous sea crossing and risk their lives.

UK

Gov't to publish Prince Charles secret letters

Prince Charles' secret letters to government officials are set to be released to the public after a long court battle. The 27 contested letters have been called the "black spider" memos because of Charles' handwriting style. The memos set to be published yesterday have long been sought via a Freedom of Information Act request by Guardian newspaper journalist Rob Evans. Britain's Supreme Court in March supported a lower court ruling that the letters be published. The government has sought for years to keep the letters out of the public domain for fear that publishing them might damage public perceptions of Charles' neutrality. As heir to the throne, Charles is expected to stay out of political matters. He has in the past expressed views about architecture, genetically modified food and climate change.

USA

After train derails, killing 6, investigators seek why

Michael R. Sisak, Philadelphia

DAYLIGHT revealed mangled train cars yesterday after an Amtrak passenger train derailed and overturned in Philadelphia, killing at least six people and injuring dozens of others, some of whom had to scramble through the windows to escape.

Tuesday night's accident closed the busiest rail corridor in the U.S., between New York and Washington, as investigators looked for what went wrong. More than 140 people were hospitalized, some critically injured.

Yesterday morning, Temple University Hospital's Dr. Herbert Cushing announced the latest death, saying the sixth person died there overnight from a chest injury.

Mayor Michael Nutter overnight said not all of the people on the train had been accounted for. Amtrak said the train was carrying 238 passengers and five crew members.

"It is an absolute disastrous mess," Nutter said. "I've never seen anything like this in my life."

He said all seven train cars, including the engine, were in "various stages of disarray." He said there were cars that were "completely overturned, on their side, ripped apart." The



Emergency personnel walk near the scene of a deadly train wreck in Philadelphia

engine was completely separated from the rest of the train, and one of the cars was perpendicular to the rest of the cars, he said.

The train, traveling from Washington, D.C. to New York City, was going into a turn when it started to shake before coming to a sudden stop.

Paul Cheung, an Associated Press manager who was on the train, said it "started to decelerate, like someone had slammed the brake."

"Then suddenly you could see

everything starting to shake," he said. "You could see people's stuff flying over me."

Another passenger, Daniel Wetrin, was among more than a dozen people taken to a nearby school.

"I walked off as if, like, I was in a movie," Wetrin said. "There were people standing around, people with bloody faces ... power cables all buckled down as you stepped off the train."

The area where the derailment occurred is not far from the scene of one of the deadliest

U.S. train accidents: the 1943 derailment of The Congressional Limited, from Washington to New York, which killed 79 people.

Amtrak said rail service on the Northeast Corridor between New York and Philadelphia had been stopped.

Former U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy was on the train and tweeted photos of firefighters helping other people in the wreckage.

"Pray for those injured," he said. **AP**

BURUNDI

Army general says president is ousted

Andrew Njuguna and Melanie Gouby, Bujumbura

AN army general said on a private radio station in Burundi yesterday that President Pierre Nkurunziza's mandate is over, however whether he had the support of the military was unclear as gunfire echoed in the streets.

Nkurunziza was believed to be in the neighboring country of Tanzania for a conference to end the unrest.

Protesters were in the streets again yesterday, protesting the president's bid for a third term. In some neighborhoods, they battled past police in an effort to reach the downtown area. One policeman was seen opening fire on protesters.

Army troops surrounded state radio. Whom they were loyal to was not immediately clear.

Maj. Gen. Godefroid Niyombare read a statement on Bonesha FM radio, saying the president had violated the Constitution and the Arusha peace accords by seeking a third term in June elections.



A police officer with a bag depicted the image of US President Barack Obama, stands on patrol as protesters march through the Musaga district of Bujumbura

"Given the necessity to preserve the country's integrity ... The president Pierre Nkurunziza is dismissed from his functions," Niyombare said.

He announced the creation of a temporary ruling committee to re-establish stability of which he is the president.

Thousands of people were in the streets of Bujumbura in one of the largest turnouts in protests over Nkurunziza's bid for

a third term. Protesters say his bid for a third term is illegal.

Police also fired tear gas and water cannons to repulse protesters trying to enter the central business district of Bujumbura. A group of women protesters managed to infiltrate the police cordon and entered the central business district.

Nkurunziza has joined other East African Community leaders from Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in the Tanzanian city of Dar es Salaam for a special meeting to discuss the turmoil in Burundi. The top U.S. diplomat for Africa, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, has also traveled to Dar es Salaam to contribute to the emergency meeting, according to a statement from the U.S. State Department.

At least 15 people have been killed and more than 220 have been injured in the protests, according to Burundi's Red Cross. The protests started on April 25 after the ruling party nominated Nkurunziza to run for re-election in elections set for June. **AP**



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what's ON



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

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

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

FAM: MACAU ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2015 – CHINESE PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY CATEGORY
TIME: 10am-8pm
UNTIL: August 2, 2015
VENUE: Old Court Building
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

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

THE PAST – MASTERS OF MACAU:
 AN EXHIBITION OF POETRY, CALLIGRAPHY,
 PAINTING AND SEAL-CARVING 2015
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: July 19, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

STOCKHOLM TRANSIT BOSS FINED FOR SHOPLIFTING IN HONG KONG

The chief executive of Stockholm's public transit company has been caught shoplifting at Hong Kong's international airport.

Swedish public radio says Anders Lindstrom yesterday was fined the equivalent of 5,000 Swedish kronor (about USD600) by a Hong Kong court after leaving an airport shop last week with a credit card holder that he hadn't paid for.

Stockholm city transit spokeswoman Lovisa Abom confirmed that Lindstrom had been convicted but couldn't give details of the ruling.

She said Lindstrom, who was in Hong Kong to meet officials for Stockholm subway operator MTR, has been suspended from his job.

Lindstrom told Swedish Radio he was "sad and disappointed" over the incident, but "I'm accepting the consequences and paying my fines. It's not like I am urging people to steal."

TV canal macau

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

cinema

CINETEATRO

14 MAY - 18 MAY



WOMAN IN BLACK 2: ANGEL OF DEATH
 ROOM 1
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Tom Harper
Starring: Helen McCrory, Jeremy Irvine, Phoebe Fox
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 98min



MAD MAX: FURY ROAD
 ROOM 2
(3D) 7.15 pm
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
Director: George Miller
Starring: Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Nicholas Hoult
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 120min

THE TENOR-LIRICO SPINTO
 ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 7.15 pm
Director: Kim Sang-man
Starring: Ji-tae Yu, Yūsuke Iseya, Ye-ryeon Cha
Language: English (Chinese/English)
Duration: 121min

THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON
 ROOM 3
9.30 pm
Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 141min

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



1957 CHEERS AS PETROL RATIONING ENDED

Petrol rationing, which has been in force in Britain for five months following the Suez crisis, has finally been abolished.

There were loud cheers in the House of Commons when the Paymaster General Reginald Maudling made the announcement that restrictions had been lifted because stocks were "at a satisfactory level".

Rationing was brought in after Egypt's President Gamal Abdul Nasser took over the running of the Suez Canal from a Franco-British company in July last year. He had been refused funds to build the Aswan High Dam because of his links with the USSR and he nationalised the canal as a sign of Arab defiance against western powers.

Supplies from Iraq to the Mediterranean across Syria - a staunch Nasser ally - were also interrupted.

Now traffic is set to travel freely through the Suez Canal - but the whole British economy has been affected and the motor trade, tourism, farmers and travelling salesmen have all expressed their relief that rationing has been lifted.

A spokesman for the Commercial Travellers' Association told the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "Our members will be overjoyed. Now they can get down to making up the leeway of turnover they lost through this wretched business."

Surcharges on petrol prices imposed to compensate garages and oil companies for loss of revenues are to remain for the time being.

A 10% cut in fuel oil supplies to industry - which resulted in a four-day working week for many factories - will continue until new arrangements have been made with the oil companies.

A conservative estimate suggests oil firms have lost about £4m in revenue.

Rationing has cost the Ministry of Power about £20,000 a week to enforce. Up to 700 driving instructors will soon return to their usual jobs after spending the last five months administering the rationing.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Petrol rationing was just one of the side-effects of the Suez Crisis which involved Britain, France, Egypt, Israel, the USSR and the USA.

Britain and France, with the help of Israel, tried to overthrow President Nasser after he nationalised the Suez Canal. Israel invaded the Egyptian Sinai in October to put a stop to incursions by Palestinian militants. They were followed by French and British forces in the cities of the canal zone.

The USA, fearful that Egypt would call for more Soviet aid, forced Britain and France to withdraw and Israel to relinquish the Sinai.

The creation of Opec in 1960 ensured the Arab countries maintained a grip on oil supplies to the rest of the world until the 1980s when new oilfields discovered in the North Sea reduced Britain's dependence on Middle East supplies.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Things may have slowed down, but you can still achieve your financial goals. Whether you change tacks or simply plod on are your only options. Spend time trying to plan ahead.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Money is tight for everyone. No matter how pinched you may feel, weirdness is still out of place. Don't let others rub you the wrong way, and don't do the chafing, either.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Your checkbook balance is radically changed, and so should your understanding of it be. If you just can't wrap your head around the new numbers, then you'll never be able to adjust your spending.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
How can some people stay so aloof when you feel like exploding? They either have different investments than you do, or they're better actors. But whatever the reason, don't compare yourself to others.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're more adaptable than you realized. Suddenly your pride isn't as important as your bottom line. That's an invaluable thing to know about yourself, so use it to come up with good solutions.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your regular way of spending is different, and so is your way of investing. You're open minded enough to enjoy these changes to your routine. Think of it as grist for the mill.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You can't just sit back and watch your money slowly dwindle. It's time to find a new approach. If you can't come up with one on your own, then get some insight from someone else. Make an intellectual connection.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
One person spending and one trying to save is not an uncommon dynamic in many homes. But these days that see-saw is critical. If you're the big spender, be open to your partner's ideas.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Keep your lines of communication open. Your financial antennae have picked up many a clue over the years. The only thing that can shut them down now is stress, so stay calm.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Face it, you have to change everything, from your investment strategies to your spending routine. But it doesn't have to be so radically different as to make you uncomfortable, so don't waste time resisting.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Downturns are an opportunity. If nothing else, they're the groundwork for an upturn. If you can use that vision to generate some inner excitement, you'll have a great day.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Your intellect isn't much of a tool when your head is flooded with thoughts. Take a deep breath and give your inner roller coaster a break. You'll be that much better prepared for making profitable choices.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	28	overcast/cloudy
Harbin	6	16	cloudy/shower
Tianjin	20	27	overcast/cloudy
Urumqi	14	24	clear
Xi'an	19	29	cloudy
Lhasa	8	19	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	19	33	cloudy
Chongqing	21	31	overcast/cloudy
Kunming	16	29	clear
Nanjing	21	29	cloudy/thundershower
Shanghai	22	28	cloudy/thundershower
Wuhan	22	27	cloudy/drizzle
Hangzhou	22	28	shower/moderate rain
Taipei	23	30	overcast
Guangzhou	23	30	overcast/thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	23	drizzle
Frankfurt	7	18	clear
Paris	8	22	cloudy/drizzle
London	4	15	cloudy/moderate rain
New York	11	24	cloudy/clear

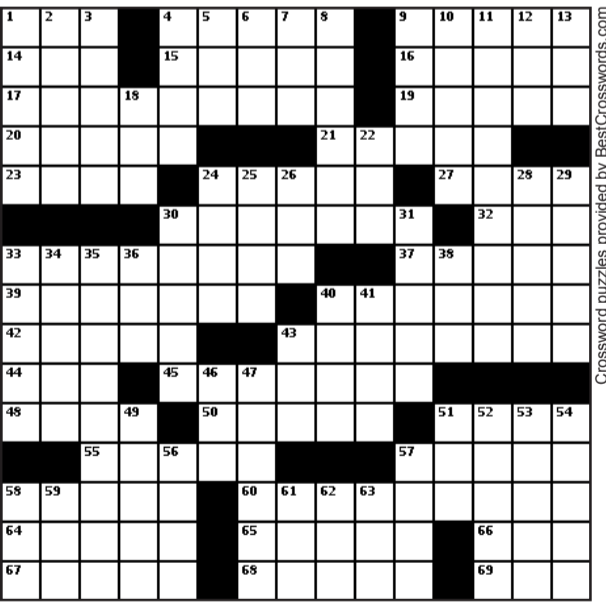
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Legal conclusion?; 4- Stun gun; 9- Seventh sign; 14- Vegas opening; 15- Foil maker; 16- Folding words; 17- Engrossing; 19- Away; 20- Approaches; 21- "Network" director; 23- Prohibitionists; 24- Song of praise; 27- Doctrines; 30- Steinbeck's birthplace; 32- Rainy, say; 33- Misers; 37- Fiber obtained from a banana plant; 39- Hyundai model; 40- Flightless bird; 42- Locale; 43- Fatherly; 44- Chang's twin; 45- Lacinate; 48- Depend (on); 50- Misbehave; 51- Recital piece; 55- Column style; 57- Shaft shot from a bow; 58- Club alternative; 60- Act of expelling; 64- French beans?; 65- Go by bike; 66- Never, to Nietzsche; 67- Nobelist Bohr; 68- Autocratic Russian rulers; 69- Neth. neighbor;

DOWN: 1- Oxlike antelope; 2- Fencing sword; 3- Short literary composition; 4- Salts; 5- Long-sleeved linen vestment; 6- Poli ___; 7- Great length of time; 8- Loose overcoat; 9- Actor Neeson; 10- Louvre pyramid architect; 11- Warrant officer on a warship; 12- Capek play; 13- Court fig; 18- Surgery sites, briefly; 22- Italian article; 24- Henry VIII's sixth; 25- Hawkeye Pierce portrayal; 26- Sue Grafton's "___ for Evidence"; 28- Birthplace of Muhammad; 29- Lesley of "60 Minutes"; 30- Fills to the gills; 31- Satisfied; 33- When pigs fly; 34- Actress Graff; 35- Having ganglia; 36- Bearded grazer; 38- I'm freezing!; 40- Hawaiian island; 41- Short distance; 43- S.F. setting; 46- China's Chou En-___; 47- Take; 49- Warble; 51- SAT takers; 52- Rubber gasket; 53- Sarge's superior; 54- Dog tag datum; 56- Promontory; 57- ___ well...; 58- RR stop; 59- Architect I.M.; 61- Crosses (out); 62- Palm Pilot, e.g.; 63- Nasser's org.

Yesterday's solution

N	A	S	A	L	E	A	V	E	C	L	A	W
E	S	S	A	Y	S	L	E	D	R	A	M	A
T	A	R	A	S	S	A	G	E	T	O	N	
L	I	T	T	L	E	A	N	A	N	D	S	H
A	R	E	A	C	A	S	B	A	G			
M	I	A	M	I	P	E	A	B	O	S	T	H
A	N	C	O	M	P	R	E	H	E	N	S	I
A	A	H	P	I	E	T	A	C	E	N	U	S
A	S	S	O	I	L	T	E	S	E			
P	R	O	G	N	A	T	H	O	U	S		
T	I	R	P	M	E	A	L	T	O	T	H	
E	A	R	P	A	L	E	O	N	A	I	R	
A	L	E	E	S	L	O	G	P	E	K	O	



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- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
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- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
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BOXING

Injured Pacquiao returns to Philippines

Oliver Teves, Manila

MANNY Pacquiao returned home to the Philippines yesterday nursing his right shoulder after surgery and weighing up whether to retire or push for a rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Pacquiao, wearing a black shoulder brace and arm sling, said his immediate priorities were recuperating from surgery and his duties as congressman and family man. He said he suffered the shoulder injury during training for the May 2 fight which Mayweather won on a unanimous decision.

Pacquiao and his family arrived early yesterday and rested briefly in his mansion in the Forbes Park residential enclave of Manila. He later joined fans, supporters and politicians for breakfast at a nearby hotel before a motorcade around the Philippine capital.

Thousands lined the streets as his motorcade passed, waving, applauding and taking pictures of the 36-year-old champion.

Sidewalk vendor Mary Jean Borgonia held up a white shirt with the words "Long Live, Manny" in the Filipino language printed in red letters.

"Even if he lost, for us he is still a winner," she said.

Motorcycle taxi driver Alejandro Flores said Pacquiao "is really my idol, despite his loss."

Pacquiao said when he recovers he'll make an "announcement for continuing my career or announcement for retirement."

The boxer is also going into the last year of his current term as congressman of southern Sa-



Filipino boxer and Congressman Manny Pacquiao waves to the crowd upon arrival with his family at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at suburban Pasay city south of Manila, Philippines

rangani province. He did not indicate his plans in next year's elections, which could include running for his last term as congressman, or provincial governor or senator.

"I know what you are thinking,

that hopefully there would be a rematch. I like that. I want that," he told the hotel crowd. "But for the moment, I am thinking of focusing on this shoulder, on my work and my family."

Pacquiao lost the 12-round "Fi-

ght of the Century" and is facing several legal suits in the United States seeking damages over the non-disclosure of his shoulder injury before the bout.

The fight broke the pay-per-view record with 4.4 million

buys that generated more than USD400 million in revenue. With a live gate of nearly \$72 million and other revenue, the bout grossed more than \$600 million.

Mayweather was guaranteed 60 percent of the net revenue to the promotion and Pacquiao the remaining 40 percent.

In an interview with Philippine broadcaster ABS-CBN, Pacquiao said he reviewed a video of the fight several times and believed he won, though narrowly, against Mayweather.

"I reviewed it repeatedly. I scored myself. I was ahead two points," he said.

He said, however, he respected the judges' decision.

"Enjoy your victory, you deserve it," he said in a message to Mayweather.

The Bible-quoting boxer said he was still a winner because "this is the first time that he (Mayweather) is thanking God before and after the fight."

Asked to comment on the pay-per-view record, Pacquiao said he was "not after the money."

"What I am looking for is how to give enjoyment or a good fight to the fans," he said. **AP**

Bob Arum: Nonito Donaire to fight in Macau on July 18

BOB Arum will focus on promoting other fighters while Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao is recuperating from his shoulder injury, the Top Rank Promotion chief told The Manila Times yesterday.

Arum was referring to World Boxing Organization light welterweight champion Terrence Crawford and former world champion Nonito Donaire Jr., who is

known as the "Filipino Flash."

"I'm (also) focusing on our other boxers. Nonito [Donaire] has a scheduled fight in Macau on July 18 this year but we're still negotiating with his opponent. Some of our boxers will also fight in Dubai this year, but no fight for Manny [Pacquiao] there so far."

As for Manny, Mr Arum said, "there'll be no boxing activity until next spring."

However, he remains optimistic that Pacquiao (57-6-2, 38 KO) will regain his old deadly form and become a world champion again.

Pacquiao had a successful right rotator cuff operation last week.

"I believe he can be a world champion again. Let's wait for the recovery of his shoulder first," Mr Arum said to the paper.

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barcelona reaches final despite 3-2 loss at Bayern

NEYMAR scored two goals and Barcelona did enough to advance to the Champions League final despite losing the second leg of its semifinal 3-2 to Bayern Munich yesterday.

Neymar's first-half goals made sure Barcelona went through 5-3 on aggregate following its 3-0 victory in the home leg last week.

Bayern managed a face-saving victory but has stumbled in the Champions League semifinals in both seasons under Pep Guardiola, the former, highly successful



Barcelona's Neymar

coached and we created chances. The team was good and had the lead at halftime. The second half was physical, Bayern players fought and wanted to turn the game."

Barcelona, a four-time winner of the title, with two of them coming under Guardiola, reached its eighth Champions League final.

"It's a wonderful goal we reached," Luis Enrique said. He and Guardiola embraced after the match.

Bayern needed to score while keeping Barcelona's high-powered attack in

check. Bayern scored early through Medhi Benatia to gain some hope, but Neymar replied quickly and Barcelona booked a place in the June 6 final in Berlin despite second-half goals by Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller for the home side.

The two matches against his former team were a bitter experience for Guardiola, whose Bayern side was also eliminated in last season's Champions League semifinals by eventual winner Real Madrid.

Over four semifinal legs

in his first two seasons in charge of Bayern, Guardiola's record is of three losses and only one win — the meaningless one yesterday.

Bayern secured its second Bundesliga championship under Guardiola last month but lost in the semifinals of the German Cup and will end the season with only one trophy, while it sought to repeat the treble it completed in 2013 under previous coach Jupp Heynckes.

"I am very proud of my players," Guardiola said. "And also big compliments to Barcelona, I hope

they win the fifth title."

"We did everything we could. It's a pity. I hope we can play better next season" — Guardiola's last on his current contract.

Guardiola pointed out the many injuries Bayern has had to deal the entire season — wingers Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben were both unavailable yesterday — and said he would now "celebrate the Bundesliga title."

Bayern beat Barcelona 3-2, with goals by Benatia, Lewandowski and Mueller. Neymar scored twice for Barca. **AP**

opinion

HK Observer
Robert Carroll



PUNISHING THE OLD AND POOR

When a 73-year-old Hong Kong man was locked up for using a fake identity card, which he did in order to work beyond the retirement age and avoid being a burden to the community, there was considerable public outrage. However, the magistrate who subsequently jailed him for four months said that he could not “understand” why but it was “understandable because they are not lawyers.”

It's clear that, apart from his limited ability to express himself, this judge lacks the empathy that should be part and parcel of his job. Why could the judge not understand why an old man, despite poor health, felt obliged to misrepresent himself for his self-respect so that he would not have to suffer the stigma of receiving government financial aid? According to the court medical report, Shih Chiao-jen, who suffered from diabetes and high blood pressure, supported his wife who also had multiple medical problems.

Now it is understandable from a legal perspective that obtaining false identification documents is a serious offense. The principal reasons for this are to detain illegal immigrants from working under false pretenses and to prevent fraud. Yet this man's situation was entirely different. That did not stop the magistrate from lecturing Shih about how he had been fraudulently employed by several property management companies. If harm is inherent in the concept of fraud, how did this man harm these property companies?

There's an irony here. While the magistrate justified his sentencing by mistaking harmless deception for fraud in relation to the man's employment at property companies, dishonest practices among property management companies are widespread at the cost of vast swathes of the population. An example of this is bid rigging for maintenance work, where transparency leaves much to be desired. Often these management firms are subsidiaries of the big developers who have been legally swindling property buyers by exaggerating flat sizes, photos and mockups of estates, adding features that are non-existent in the final result. There is also the ploy of releasing fake high sales figures to pressure buyers, along with using quotes from so-called contented buyers who have actually been photographed at random and presented as real buyers. Why has all this fraud been tolerated for decades despite much public complaint?

This is because the cartels who dominate the predatory economy here are firmly entrenched in the legislature in the functional constituencies, and could always count on their men to block legislation to prevent these kinds of deception. Even though legislation has finally been passed to deal with the situation, enforcement is far from ideal.

So who have been the fraudsters here: a poor man saving the government social security payments; or rapacious developers and the management company offshoots?

There are other issues here too. Firstly, why does a security guard have to retire at 65? The job requires some alertness to recognize intruders and the mobility to patrol, but most people nowadays are reasonably fit at that age. Australia, much to its credit, has just raised the retirement age to 70. A person's life expectancy increases with age, as the ones who have already died younger are no longer included in the calculation, thus bringing down the average. In developed societies, as actuarial figures show, a reasonably healthy 65-year-old can expect to live to their late eighties or early nineties.

The second issue here is the following: why is there still no state provision or, for the elderly, even a plan?

Self-sufficiency is the cry from on high. But for the many elderly people working their whole lives in low-paid jobs with inflation and almost non-existent interest rates on many years' worth of savings, it has been impossible. Those people made significant contributions to Hong Kong's economic success, and we should allow them more dignity in old age.

THE BUZZ DUTCH COURT CLEARS MAN WHO HELPED HIS 99-YEAR-OLD MOTHER DIE

Dutch appeals court has cleared a man of any criminal responsibility for helping his 99-year-old mother take her own life — a case that aimed to create precedents for assisting suicide in a country where euthanasia already is legal under certain circumstances.

Judges in Arnhem said Albert Heringa should not be prosecuted for helping his mother die in 2008. They said yesterday he had to make a

decision between obeying the law against assisting suicide and his “unwritten moral duty” to help his mother achieve her wish for “a painless, peaceful and dignified death.”

While euthanasia has been legal in the Netherlands for years if carried out under strict conditions by a physician, assisted suicide by a friend or relative of the person who wants to die remains illegal.



INTIMATE EXPENSES

Pentagon credit cards used at casinos, adult clubs

DEFENSE Department credit cards were used to charge personal expenses at casinos and “adult entertainment establishments” including a Larry Flynt's Hustler Club and the Sapphire Gentlemen's Club in Las Vegas, according to the Pentagon's inspector general.

An audit found that military and civilian personnel used the cards, intended for authorized government travel, to charge USD952,258 at casinos and \$96,576 at adult clubs in the year that ended on June 30, 2014.

Taxpayers didn't have to pay for excursions to strip clubs and casinos because the 1.6 million holders of Pentagon travel cards must pay monthly bills themselves while seeking reimbursement for authorized expenses such as hotels and meals, according to the Defense Department. But the inspector general said the charges underscored a failure to enforce a 2012 law requiring oversight of travel cards to prevent fraud and misuse.

The Pentagon's Defense Travel Management Office “did not have controls in place to detect these transactions,” such as at casinos that “in most cases were more than an hour away” from an official travel destination or an employee's home, the watchdog agency found in a draft report obtained in

advance of its publication this month.

Among 900 charges on the cards for adult entertainment were \$4,686 to the Sapphire Club, \$2,100 to the Vegas Showgirls club, \$1,614 to Flynt's Hustler Club and \$308 to the Dreams Cabaret, according to the audit. Maryland Live Casino in Hanover and the Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula, California, were among the locations for 4,437 transactions at gambling establishments.

Putting such charges on a government credit card could serve the purpose of keeping them off a personal card shared with a spouse.

Pentagon officials described the transactions, while improper, as minuscule, accounting for less than 0.03 percent of \$3.4 billion charged travel card transactions during the year examined.

Bridget Serchak, spokeswoman for the inspector general, declined to comment until the final report is released.

Unless the travel management office and service managers “improve oversight actions, improve internal controls” and “provide written prohibition” against charges to high-risk merchants, “DoD personnel will continue to improperly use their cards” at casinos and adult entertainment establish-

ments, the inspector general's report said.

Senator Charles Grassley, the Iowa Republican who sponsored the 2012 law, said through spokeswoman Jill Gerber that it requires periodic audits, “specifically to keep on top of charge card abuse and hold agencies accountable for implementing the required internal controls.”

Among the weaknesses cited in the report are the Pentagon's method for blocking the merchant category codes of casinos and strip clubs, which the inspector general found was ineffective, and the Travel Management Office's automatic tool, which didn't provide automated, real-time notification of “high-risk, declined transactions” that could have flagged improper use.

One incident cited involved a senior airman from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina who was visiting Nellis Air Force Base outside Las Vegas.

He used his card to make three purchases at the Sapphire Gentleman's Club totaling \$4,686 for VIP Room services for himself and several friends, according to the audit. The credit-card company declined an additional \$920 transaction.

Once the charges were flagged by a service administrator, the airman was demoted and issued an administrative punishment. **Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPAN A magnitude 6.8 quake earthquake hit Japan in the same region devastated by a major quake and tsunami in 2011. Authorities said there was no risk of tsunami.

BELGIUM The eurozone economy is growing faster than the U.S. and at its highest tick in nearly two years despite a disappointing slowdown in Germany and recession's return in Greece. The economy of the 19 countries that use the euro grew by a quarterly rate of 0.4 percent in the first three months ahead, Eurostat, the European Union's statistical agency, said yesterday. That was up from the 0.3 percent recorded in the previous three-month period and was in line with most expectations in the financial markets.

IRAQ The Iraqi Defense Ministry says a senior Islamic State commander has been killed in a U.S.-led airstrike in country's north. While the U.S.-led coalition says it carried out a strike there in the last 24 hours, American officials could not be immediately reached about the statement by Iraq, which has made incorrect claims before. The Defense Ministry statement said the strike killed Abu Alaa al-Afari and others in Tal Afar.

AUSTRALIA Search crews hunting for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in the desolate ocean waters off western Australia have discovered an old shipwreck, officials said yesterday. The unexpected finding came when sonar equipment on board a search vessel scouring the Indian Ocean for the missing jetliner detected a cluster of objects nearly 4km below the surface, according to a statement from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is heading up the hunt.

ROMANIA A teenager has died after she was electrocuted while taking selfies atop a parked, electric-powered train in northeast Romania.

VATICAN CITY The Vatican officially recognized the state of Palestine in a new treaty finalized yesterday, immediately sparking Israeli ire and accusations that the move hurt peace prospects. The Vatican had welcomed the decision by the U.N. General Assembly in 2012 to recognize a Palestinian state. But the treaty is the first legal document negotiated between the Holy See and the Palestinian state and constitutes official diplomatic recognition.