



SUSANA CHOU LAMBASTS TOP OFFICIALS

In a blog post, Chou describes the region's rulers as "nouveau riche" and lavish spenders of public revenue

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52 DEAD IN CHINA FLOODS



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ROSBERG WINS F1 MONACO GP

Nico Rosberg won the Monaco GP for the 3rd straight year after a late crash undid Hamilton's bid for a 4th win of the season

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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA is contributing 600 personnel, including 49 from the military, to multinational disaster relief exercises in Malaysia, the first time it has taken part in such an effort, the Defense Ministry said Saturday. China's contribution will include experts from the foreign and civil affairs ministry, along with local government bodies and troops from the army and paramilitary forces, the ministry said.



NEPAL Thousands of people fled villages and towns along a mountain river in northwest Nepal yesterday after it was blocked by a landslide that could burst and cause flash floods, officials said. The landslide created a dam and a lake 2 kilometers long on the Kaligandaki River, said government administrator Yam Bahadur Chokhal.

IRAN has agreed to grant United Nations inspectors "managed access" to military sites as part of a future deal over its contested nuclear program, a negotiator said yesterday, apparently contradicting earlier comments by the nation's supreme leader.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Patients struggle to get new Hepatitis C treatment

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BLOOMBERG

Lionel Leong says construction workers' visas to be shortened

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Inquiry dismisses structural issues

The investigation conducted by the Infrastructure Development Office into the public housing complex Edificio Koi Nga, situated in the Seac Pai Van area, found only "quality flaws" instead of possible structural issues, which had been speculated by the general public. Previously, it had been found that there was cardboard stuffed inside some walls in the social housing units, which raised the public's concerns of the buildings' structural reliability. However, in response to lawmaker Si Ka Lon's written inquiry over the issue, the authority has inspected forty-four housing units and has identified no structural problems after the examination. The so-called "quality flaws," which chiefly involved cracks in the walls and plaster falling off the surface, were reported to be due to workers' "insufficient understanding" and supervisors' "negligence" during the construction process. Despite growing public suspicion, the authority has obtained no "formal complaint" so far. In March, the government also denied the public allegation of a lack of official oversight in the project.

GAMING | G2E ASIA

Social casino games can help land-based operators' branding

Catarina Pinto

SOCIAL casino games are helping land-based gaming operators spread their brand name and Macau operators might consider going into social gaming, said Kevin Li, CEO of Inteplay, a software company providing gaming platforms for the iGaming industry.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Global Gaming Expo (G2E Asia) on Thursday, Mr Li stated: "I believe some operators in Macau are already thinking of going into social casinos."

Mr Li spoke at a discussion panel on "Strategizing Social Gaming," alongside Jiten Melwani, CEO of Bitgame Labs, looking into how social casinos offer traditional operators a wide range of opportunities to promote and further spread their brand name, including a market-entry strategy in unregulated jurisdictions.

"Everyone knows physical casinos. Social casinos are about using the Internet to also grow



Jiten Melwani (left), Kevin Li (center) and Nelson Rose

your brand. It's mostly on mobile devices now meaning that people can play casinos' games on their own mobile phone," Mr Li stated, but added, "it's not [real] gambling. It's about finding another way of entertainment."

According to scholar Nelson Rose, who teaches at Whittier Law School in California and is a visiting professor at the University of Macau, licensed land-based and Internet casino companies are investing to get into the social casino games business.

Caesars Entertainment Corp., for instance, has bought several social gaming companies over the past years, he discussed in a paper titled "Should Social Casi-

no Games Be Regulated?"

He also acknowledged that casino companies are looking into social games as a way to help them spread their brand name, thus building a larger customer base.

But would casino operators in Macau consider expanding into this business, since their brands are already quite established in the Asian market? Mr Li told The Times that he believes casino operators here would still have an advantage when investing in social games as it would help them reach a broader audience, perhaps expanding their client base within the mass market.

Kevin Li stressed that the social casino games market "is huge" in

Asia. However, it's hard to estimate the exact size. He told The Times that global figures show that the social games industry generates USD60 billion in revenue each year.

Some jurisdictions are now considering regulating social casino games, as real money land-based casino companies are acquiring social gaming businesses.

One of the issues discussed during Thursday's panel session was whether there is any age limit for social games. Kevin Li acknowledged there's no standard regarding age but recalled that in the U.S. they are now trying to regulate it.

Professor Nelson Rose also wrote in his paper that the lack of regulation on social casino games makes them available to children and even potential compulsive gamblers.

G2E Asia concluded last Thursday at the Venetian Macao. The three-day event gathered 9,000 attendees and 180 exhibitors this year.

Customs authority rebuffs claim over book confiscation

THE customs authority that oversees the Gongbei border denied the accusation made by the president of the New Macau Association, Sulu Sou, that the authorities have confiscated all his copies of politically sensitive publications, which were slated for their first public presentation today.

On Friday, the author held a press conference where he claimed that up to 1,000 copies of his new book were forfeited at the Hengqin border at the time of last year's massive demonstration against a bill granting lavish pensions and compensation packages to the chief executive and outgoing major officials as they contained "sensitive content." The confiscation has purportedly resulted in the



Sulu Sou

loss of tens of thousands of patacas for a local manufacturer, which sent the whole volume to mainland China for some manufacturing procedures due to insufficient manpower and technology.

"Regarding the mainland authority's behaviour, we feel regretful and disappointed. (...) The seizure itself also

destroyed freedom of publication and speech," said the political activist, adding it has sabotaged the "affection" between the mainland and local citizens. The 23-year-old demanded a forfeit and clarification on the officials' part.

The Gongbei Customs District's official denial of the alleged seizure came the following day. According to TDM, the authority did not discover any confiscation alleged by the association head, also one of the organizers for last year's rally at the four checkpoints under their supervision.

Despite the speculated mainland interference, the author told media he would move forward to publish his books in electronic versions instead. **Staff reporter**

EDUCATION

DSEJ intends to penalize parents of school dropouts

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) intends to introduce penalties into the compulsory education regime for parents who are considered responsible for their children dropping out of school.

The bureau's Department of Education head Ms Leong Vai Kei explained on Saturday on the sidelines of a community promotional activity that the authorities regularly track down students who have dropped out of school by posting letters and visiting homes. However, there are dozens of cases where the bureau cannot contact the students' guardians.

Ms Leong stressed that parents are obliged to ensure their children's right to schooling; therefore, the bureau intends to penalize guardians who don't fulfill their responsibilities, as a possible measure to handle the issue of school dropouts when revising the law on the compulsory education system.

The official also responded to the recent complaint against the Macao Sam Yuk Middle School, in which expelled students were encouraged to make donations and participate in a charity trip to Sichuan, in return for a second chance to stay in school. Leong said a misunderstanding was caused by the school's administrative documents and that the school has decided to refund the involuntary donations.

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LABOR ISSUES

Gov't to tighten construction workers' visa permits

THE government will tighten its control over migrant construction workers' visas and cut their visa period to a maximum one-month stay after their assigned public work is complete.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, revealed on Saturday that the authorities will shorten the workers' permitted period of stay, three months prior to the construction's projected completion; the workers will then be requested to leave Macau within one month upon the completion of their duties.

Leong said the authorities previously approved one-year visas for construction workers, as they did not know when projects would be finished.

"For instance, turns out [the project] might be finished in only three months, then wouldn't they be able to stay another nine months in Macau? It's possible that [the workers] won't leave on time and thus generate some negative effect to society," he explained.

"Therefore, now we won't allow that anymore. If you [contractors] really know it will take three months to finish the work, I won't renew your visa automatically for one year; at maximum I'll give you one month [grace period] to solve all the procedures required in the exit mechanism, such as salary payment," said the secretary.

In regards to this matter, the Labor Affairs Bureau's Human Resource Office and departmen-



ts of Transport and Public Works have recently established a regular information exchange to ensure construction workers – often from the mainland – won't linger in the city longer than needed.

Leong further stated the exit mechanism for migrant workers needs to be improved and implemented, so that it can also sort out labor disputes and handle compensation affairs effectively. **BY**

Mainland workmen rally over compensation dispute

ABOUT a hundred construction workers from the mainland have rallied over a compensation dispute after being sacked from the Parisian Hotel's construction site. Fearing the contractors would send them back home without refunding their deposits or paying their salaries, dozens of workers protested Friday and Saturday afternoon petitioning to the Chinese Liaison Office in Macau.

The workers claimed more than two hundred of them, had been hired by a sub-contractor and subsequently dismissed from the site despite some of them still being owed wages. Moreover, the protesters said they hadn't been returned their deposits for MOP10,000 each, which were submitted before their employment with the Hong Kong-based general contractor Hsin Chong Construction Group Ltd..

While some focused on getting back their deposits and wages, some complained they were sacked for no reason, and thus demanded compensation of up to MOP20,000 per month, an amount they believed was disputed as the maximum permitted under the city's labor law.

On Friday afternoon, a group of 70 workers complained to the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL). However, they were unhappy with the bureau's "bureaucratic replies that seemed to [dismiss] the trouble." The workers then turned to the Liaison Office twice as their negotiation with the contractor Hsin Chong soon broke down.

Shoving and police chases took place along the Avenida Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, as the police barred dozens of workers attempting to head back to the Liaison Office.

On Saturday, about sixty workers once again rallied at the Liaison Office after breaking the police blockade. They eventually delivered a petition letter with signatures collected on site.

In reply to the Times' inquiry as to why the workers were dismissed, Sands China Ltd, which owns the Parisian Hotel project, issued the following statement: "Sands China's construction work includes the utilization of third party contracting companies. These contractors handle their own independent hiring of construction workers. As part of the normal construction process, when some elements of a job are complete, it can necessitate bringing in new workers and/or releasing other workers, in consideration of the particular skill sets needed for each phase of the construction process. Sands China Ltd. strives to ensure that its trade contractors treat their workers fairly and abide by all labor laws and regulations of the Macau SAR government." **BY**

Susana Chou lambasts top officials policymaking

MACAU'S former Legislative Assembly president Susana Chou lashed out at the city's major officials last Saturday on her blog, criticizing their "inaction" and "recklessness" for causing continuous administrative errors over the past fifteen years.

In the blog post, Chou describes the region's rulers as "nouveau riche" and lavish spenders of public revenue. Despite many public advisory bodies and administration departments' management, almost all public projects overseen by the government fell behind schedule, the former AL president claimed. To give an example of mismanagement, she cited the central park project in Taipa, which took over 350 days to finish, with its budget surging by 11.1 percent.

Furthermore, in an article titled "Gaming Revenue," the CPPCC committee member also blasted the city's top officials for being self-righteous in power administration even without any experience in governance. According to Ms Chou, those officials enjoy



Susana Chou

flattery from their subordinates, who only know how to please their bosses. She also added that their policies over the years were not concerned with citizens' actual needs.

Chou expressed hopes in another paragraph that the SAR government would establish an accountability regime for the top officials to keep them responsible for their policymaking.

Chou's blog post describes region's rulers as 'nouveau riche' and lavish spenders of public revenue

Finally, Susana Chou attributed the overstaffing of government units to the leaders' ineptitude when it came to making use of talented workers. She thought that some ambitious youth working in the public service might end up losing their aspirations as the government failed to nourish the capable and talented.

To conclude the post on her controversial blog, Chou reckoned that the plummeting gaming earnings have served as a wake-up call to the city's leaders. **Staff reporter**

STATISTICS | TOURISM

Fewer visitors in April

TOURIST arrivals declined by 3.4 percent year-on-year to 2,547,435 in April, according to figures released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The number of visitors from mainland China dropped by 6.4 pct year-on-year to 1,632,673, although those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme rose slightly by 0.5 pct.

DSEC said in a statement that mainland tourists came primarily from Guangdong (663,007), Fujian (69,954), and Hunan provinces (67,004).

Visitors from Hong Kong (603,136), Taiwan (83,967), and South Korea (41,215) increased by 3 pct, 11 pct and 21.3 pct respectively year-on-year, while those from Malaysia (17,137) and Japan (16,095) decreased by 6.7 pct and 16.5 pct.

Long-haul tourists from the United States (16,891), Canada (6,360) and the United Kingdom (5,710) recorded a year-on-year increase, while those from Australia (8,501) saw a decline.

In the first four months of 2015, visitor arrivals totaled 9,959,656, down by 3.6 percent year-on-year.



RENATO MARQUES

Catarina Pinto

LEARNING that a silent killer has slowly taken control of your body is one shocking revelation. But Hepatitis C patients have recently received life-changing news: a new effective – yet costly – drug can cure most cases of Hepatitis C in 12 weeks with few side effects. However, patients are struggling to get the new treatment in Macau, although the Health Bureau (SSM) has assured sufferers that the new drug has been listed and will be administered in accordance with a medical assessment process.

A Macau resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, told the Times that she has been waiting for treatment with Sovaldi (Sofosbuvir) for over a year. Radio Macau in March reported a similar case of another patient who's been waiting and hoping for a treatment while suffering from other illnesses at the same time.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), treatment with Sofosbuvir, which was made available in 2013, is recommended in genotypes 1,2,3 and 4 HCV

infection, given in a combination with other drugs. It is particularly recommended to those who cannot access other treatments in the market after developing cirrhosis, one of Hepatitis C's most commonly related diseases.

Last year, having sought treatment for other health problems and after running multiple blood tests, the Macau resident was informed that she had a number of other diseases, including diabetes, cirrhosis, portal hypertension, esophageal varices and Hepatitis C.

Although acknowledging that the local public hospital doctors were very helpful in dealing with her case, she said that when it comes to portal hypertension and esophageal varices related risks, she was not given comprehensive information.

While spending some time back in her home country, she was forced to seek urgent medical treatment there, which involved several blood transfusion procedures.

Having later learned that the new Hepatitis C drug was already available in Macau, she returned to the city, where she has been living and

Patients struggle to get new



GILEAD PATENTS CHALLENGED

A U.S. group is seeking to void patents in five countries for Gilead Sciences Inc's expensive Hepatitis C drug Sovaldi (Sofosbuvir), in an attempt to provide nearly 60 million Hepatitis C patients with access to a cheaper generic version, Reuters reported last week. Strongly recommended by the World Health Organiza-

tion (WHO), the new drug can cost up to USD84,000 for a single course of treatment in the United States, according to a New York Times report last week. The Initiative for Medicines, Access and Knowledge, a New York-based legal group, has filed challenges in Argentina, Brazil, China, Russia and Ukraine.

working for the past 30 years, resorting once again to Macau's public hospital.

"The only thing I want is to be treated (...) Doctors said the new drug was already here. So I decided to come back and seek treatment here. So when I booked an appointment I really thought I would be getting treated soon. However, I was told that I would have to wait due to bureaucracy. I am still waiting. Bureaucracy has been their only excuse," the resident re-

vealed.

The Times contacted the Health Bureau seeking comments on Sofosbuvir's availability in Macau, its price, how many patients are or will be subjected to treatment with the new drug, and the criteria outlined to prescribe Sofosbuvir to Macau patients.

Despite confirming that the medication is available in the territory, SSM acknowledged that Sofosbuvir has not yet been used to treat any patient in Macau.

"The Conde de São

Januário Hospital offers treatment for Hepatitis C in accordance with in-

ternationally recognized and effective course of treatments and drugs. The new drug against Hepatitis C – 'Sofosbuvir' – has already been listed in Macau and we're planning its use in patients for whom the traditional course of treatment is inefficient or patients whose bodies cannot tolerate the usual drugs," SSM said, adding that patients will be subject to "observations on the efficiency of this treatment."

The bureau further stressed that, "the hos-

I was told that I would have to wait due to bureaucracy. I am still waiting

PATIENT

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Hepatitis C treatment in Macau

RENATO MARQUES



one of my liver-related diseases but, in reality, it's because I was not treated for Hepatitis C. And they will never admit it," the resident said. "There have to be exceptions to bureaucracy. Otherwise people die. They do not see this as something serious, because it does not have the same dimension of a flu that can be easily spread. But you know...

■ A course of a 12-week treatment with Sofosbuvir in some European countries can cost MOP360,000

bureaucracy kills too." The Macau resident added that she has always been treated well at the public hospital, and this is the first time she has had reason to raise criticism. The Times attempted to interview an infectious disease specialist working for the public hospital, but the doctor was not authorized to share any insights on Hepatitis C.

pital will plan a course of treatment addressing each patient in accordance with their actual condition."

Furthermore, it said that Sofosbuvir will be administered to sufferers in need of this particular drug, following an assessment by a medical team.

"So far the new drug has not been used to treat any patient [here]," it reiterated.

The Health Bureau did not reply to some of The Times' questions, namely on how much the course of treatment will cost; and what criteria will be considered when deciding whether to prescribe Sofosbuvir or not.

A 12-week treatment course with Sofosbuvir in some European countries can cost up to EUR41,000 (MOP360,000).

The Macau resident told the Times that the former treatment does

not apply to her, because she has developed cirrhosis. Moreover, the traditional course of treatment is believed to be far more invasive, as also acknowledged by the WHO and doctors worldwide.

"The former treatment involved taking pills and injections. It took longer for patients to be treated and the treatment was very invasive. The new drug is believed to be much less invasive," the

Macau resident told The Times.

Although SSM reiterated that the new drug has been listed in Macau, the patient interviewed by the Times was told that bureaucracy issues were actually hampering its immediate use.

"The problem here is bureaucracy, because there must be a public tender to produce and distribute this drug. [The new drug] is very costly. I fear that I could die from

HEPATITIS IN MACAU

HEPATITIS C is an illness that must be reported to Macau health authorities. According to figures released by the Health Bureau, 100 Hepatitis C patients last year were followed by infectious disease specialists at the public hospital.

In a statement issued last March, the Health Bureau revealed that the number of acute Hepatitis C cases recorded a decrease over the past 12 years.

2002 saw the highest surge in the number of cases, with 135 people infected. The Health Bureau added that in 2013, three cases were confirmed. In 2011, 2012 and 2014, no cases

were recorded.

The issue with Hepatitis C though is that many cases are believed to remain undiagnosed, as stated in a report published by The Guardian in February.

Dr Chloe Orkin, a British consultant and honorary reader in HIV medicine at Barts Health NHS Trust, told the Guardian that about half of the 200,000 people in the UK believed to have chronic hepatitis C are undiagnosed.

She recalled one of the major problems being that the authorities do not know where these people are and in what populations.

Battling the silent killer

HEPATITIS C has been dubbed the silent killer as "it can cause chronic liver disease that progresses insidiously, unnoticed for decades," wrote Patrick Strudwick from the Guardian, in a report published this February.

According to a World Health Organization factsheet, Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis C virus, which

can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis infection, ranging from a mild infection to a serious, lifelong disease.

A significant number of those infected chronically will develop liver cirrhosis or liver cancer. The WHO estimates that 130 to 150 million people worldwide have chronic hepatitis C infection.

Some patients and physi-

cians have raised concerns over the misconception that Hepatitis C is mostly spread among people taking drugs and sharing needles.

The Macau resident interviewed by the Times recalled that Hepatitis C, unfortunately, can be spread via a different number of ways and further awareness about the illness is needed.

According to WHO, the most common modes of infection of this bloodborne virus are through unsafe injection prac-

tices, inadequate sterilization of medical equipment, and unscreened blood and blood products. There are also cases, although less common, in which the virus was transmitted sexually.

Hepatitis C is not spread through food or water, or by casual contact, such as kissing, hugging, or sharing food and drinks with an infected person. The virus, however, can survive outside the body for some days and for weeks within syringes.

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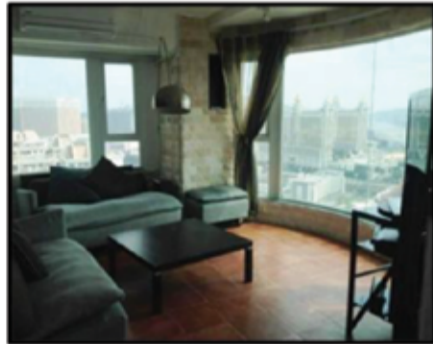
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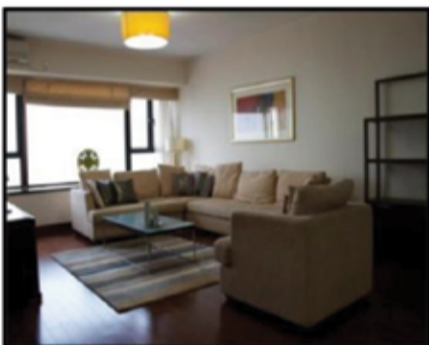


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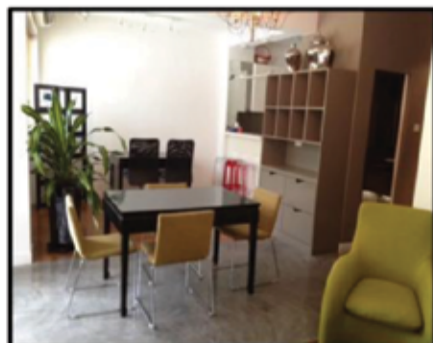


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Former CEO's lawsuit against Sands China stays in Nevada

Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas

A Nevada judge has decided a wrongful termination case against Macau-based Sands China Ltd. and Sands Chairman Sheldon Adelson can stay in Nevada largely because of the influence Adelson wielded over the company, often from several thousand miles away.

Clark County District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez issued her ruling Friday afternoon [U.S. time] after hearing several days of testimony in April and May to determine if Nevada has jurisdiction over the lawsuit filed by the former CEO of Sands China, Steven Jacobs.

"Adelson and (Las Vegas Sands) control over (Sands China) goes far beyond the ordinary relationship of parent and subsidiary," Gonzalez wrote. Ultimately, Adelson made all the decisions, big and little, when it came to Sands China, she said.

Adelson, the current chairman and CEO of Sands China, attempted during testimony to



District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez

distance himself from the company at the time in question, 2009 and 2010, saying he was several thousand miles away and couldn't possibly control day-to-day operations.

Other testimony from executives and company emails presented as evidence often disputed that characterization.

Adelson's own testimony also indicated his influence on company matters. During multi-

ple days on the witness stand, punctuating his responses with insults and asides levied at Jacobs and executives who disagreed with him, Adelson uttered "not for long," when referring to one Sands China director's eventual tenure on the board, when lawyers mentioned the man enthusiastically supported Jacobs' work.

It was that type of control Adelson levied over Sands China that contributed to Gonzalez's decision, according to one footnote.

Adelson and his right-hand man, former President and Chief Operating Officer Michael Leven, kept managing Sands China from Las Vegas before and after the company was spun off, she said.

Jacobs first filed the lawsuit nearly five years ago, accusing Sands China, Las Vegas Sands Corp., Adelson and other executives of a host of misdeeds.

Jacobs' lawyers argued Sands China business, including hiring and firing Jacobs, was con-

ducted from Nevada by Las Vegas Sands executives, including Adelson. Defense attorneys argued Sands China was separate and distinct, and the center of its universe was the lucrative Asian gambling enclave of Macau where its casino-hotels include Sands Macau, the Venetian Macau and Four Seasons Macau.

"We will pursue all appellate options," said Las Vegas Sands spokesman Ron Reese on Friday, speaking on behalf of Sands China.

The company has pursued options before. It was Nevada's Supreme Court that required Gonzalez to decide jurisdiction first before the case could proceed.

The company had argued the case against Sands China should take place in China where its operations are based, if anywhere.

Gonzalez had earlier denied motions to dismiss the case against Sands China, Las Vegas Sands and Adelson. **AP**

GAMING

150 new tables granted to operator


Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. led gains in casino shares after the government of Macau said in a statement it approved 150 new gaming tables for a gambling resort operator that's set to open a new project. While the statement did not identify the operator, Galaxy had said it was applying for new gaming tables for its new properties, Galaxy Macau Phase 2 and Broadway Macau, which are scheduled to start running on May 27. "The new hotel project set to open allows participation by Macau small and medium businesses, and helps enrich the city's tourism elements - the government is very supportive of this," Lionel Leong, Macau's Secretary for Economy and Finance, said in the statement late on Thursday. Galaxy won't comment further on the government's statement on Thursday about gaming table approval, the casino operator's spokeswoman Joyce Fung said by phone. Galaxy shares ended up 1.5 percent at HKD39.50 by Friday's close of trading in Hong Kong, extending a 4.6 percent rise a day earlier. Sands China Ltd. and Wynn Macau Ltd. both gained 0.9 percent. Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., which is hoping the government will allow it more gambling tables for its new Studio City project, increased 0.4 percent. **Bloomberg**

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South Korean court frees Korean Air 'nut rage' executive



Former Korean Air executive Cho Hyun-ah, center, leaves the Seoul High Court in Seoul, South Korea

Youkyung Lee
Business Writer, Seoul

A South Korean court on Friday suspended the prison term of a former Korean Air executive whose onboard "nut rage" tantrum delayed a flight last year, immediately ending her incarceration.

The Seoul High Court said Cho Hyun-ah, who is the daughter of the airline's chairman, did not violate the aviation security law when she ordered the chief flight attendant off a Dec. 5 flight,

forcing it to return to the gate at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

The upper court sentenced Cho to 10 months in prison for assault and then suspended the sentence for two years. A lower court had earlier sentenced Cho to a year in prison. She has been locked up since her December arrest.

Cho achieved worldwide notoriety after an onboard tantrum triggered when a first class flight attendant served her macadamia nuts in a bag instead of on

a dish. Cho, head of the airline's cabin service at the time, had a heated, physical confrontation with members of the crew.

Swarmed by reporters at the court, she made no comment in front of TV cameras, bowing her head and burying her face in her hands as the media pressed in and yelled for her to say something.

The nut rage incident was a lightning rod for anger in a country where the economy is dominated by family-run conglomerates known as chaebol that often act above the law.

"If she was released because she showed repentance, other criminals should be equally released," said 19-year-old college student Kim Ryeong-hui. "I think the court went easy on her. I feel angry when people mistreat other people in lower ranks."

The lower court had convicted Cho of forcing a flight to change its route, obstructing the flight's captain in the performance of his duties, forcing a crew member off a plane and assaulting a crew member. It found her not guilty of interfering with a transport ministry investigation into the incident. Cho pleaded not guilty and prosecutors had called for three years in prison.

The aviation security law is meant to regulate highly dangerous acts such as hijacking. But the upper court said Friday that there wasn't a big safety threat posed by Cho's actions, and returning a plane that was taxiing did not constitute forcing a change in the plane's route. **AP**

Expedia sells stake in Chinese travel service



EXPEDIA sold its entire stake in eLong, a Chinese travel service, to a group of businesses based in China for roughly USD671 million.

The news sent shares of the online travel company up more than 5 percent in midday trading Friday.

Before the market opened, Bellevue, Washington-based Expedia said that it had sold its 62.4 percent share in eLong to a group that includes Ctrip.com International Ltd., Keystone Lodgings Holdings Ltd., Plateno Group Ltd. and Luxuriant Holdings Ltd. The company said the transaction closed Friday.

Separately, Shanghai-based Ctrip, said it had acquired a 37.6 percent stake in eLong for roughly \$400 million.

Expedia's ties to eLong date back to 2004, when its parent company, IAC/InteractiveCorp, bought 30 percent of the company. IAC spun off Expedia with eLong the next year, and Expedia later acquired a larger share of eLong in an attempt to profit from a growing appetite for tra-

vel in China.

But eLong eventually became a drag on Expedia's profits. In a note to clients, Scott Devitt, an analyst at Stifel Nicolaus & Co., said eLong took a \$33.3 million cut out of Expedia's first-quarter adjusted earnings before expenses. He estimates the sale of eLong should boost Expedia's adjusted earnings before expenses by \$85 million this year.

Devitt called the move "a positive step for Expedia, as the eLong subsidiary was facing intensifying competitive pressure and increasing investments to maintain bookings growth."

Until the announcement on Friday, Expedia had been more of a buyer than a seller. In February, it announced plans to buy Orbitz, a rival travel site, for approximately \$1.33 billion. In January, it announced an agreement to buy Travelocity for \$280 million, months after saying that it would spend \$658 million on Australia's Wotif.com Holdings Ltd. Wotif gives Expedia a broader entry into the Asia-Pacific region. **AP**

corporate bits

L'ARC MACAU VOLUNTEERS VISIT EVANGELIZE CHINA FELLOWSHIP CHILDREN'S HOME



L'Arc Macau's Volunteer Team visited the Evangelize China Fellowship Children's Home before International

Children's Day. Following their previous visit to the Caritas Penha Children's home, the Volunteer Team members

once again expressed their care to children in celebration of International Children's Day.

After a briefing on the home's facilities and children's daily life by the staff, the volunteer team got involved in a series of interactive games with the kids until the end of the visit. "We felt very excited to make use of our spare time to participate in this kind of social responsible event, and will continue to take part in various volunteer team activities and share the love to the people in need," a Volunteer Team member said.

L'Arc Macau's Volunteer Team has periodically held and participated in various volunteer activities since its establishment, and has been working with different social welfare institutions, to continue sharing positive energy with the local community.

MERCEDES BENZ INTRODUCES NEW S 320

Since its launch, the Mercedes-Benz S-Class has become "the best-selling luxury saloon worldwide as well as in Hong Kong", according to a company press release. On

Friday, Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Limited announced the arrival of a new engine variant of the S-Class: S 320 in Hong Kong and Macau.

The new Mercedes-Benz S

320 is equipped with a 3.0 L V6 engine, generating a maximum 272 hp and 400 Nm, while the combined fuel consumption per 100 km is 8 L. The S 320 accelerates from zero to 100 km/h in 7.1 seconds.



Latin American airlines compete to buy TAP



TWO of the three proposals to buy 66 percent of Portuguese state airline TAP have been selected for the negotiation phase and are considered to be of "equivalent merit," reported Portuguese daily online newspaper Observador.

The newspaper said approval had been given to proposals from the business groups of US businessman David Neeleman, who controls Brazilian airline Azul in partnership with Portuguese businessman Humberto Pedrosa, of road transport group Barraqueiro and German Efromovich owner of Brazilian and Colombian airline Avianca. The third proposal from Portuguese businessman Miguel Pais do Amaral, of Quifel Holdings, is now out of the running.

The decision was based on a report from state holding company Parpública, which was delivered to the gover-

ment this week, and considered that this proposal did not meet the specifications as it was non-binding.

The Parpública report evaluated the proposals from a financial point of view and also reflects TAP's views on their standard of technical and strategic quality.

In this report, on which the government based its decision, Parpública considered that the two proposals from entrepreneurs David Neeleman and Germán Efromovich were of "equivalent merit" from a financial and strategic point of view.

According to the specifications of the tender document that means conditions are in place to start a negotiation process with the two businessmen, who propose capital investments of between 250 million and 350 million euros in TAP and plan to renew the Portuguese airline's fleet of 50 aircraft. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Market capitalization triples in five years

MARKET capitalization in Mozambique rose from 16.998 billion meticaïs in 2011 to 51.453 billion in 2015, an increase of 302 percent or 8.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), the President of the Mozambique Stock Exchange he said last week in Maputo.

Anabela Chambuca, who was speaking at a conference on alternative sources of financing for small and medium enterprises, also said that during this period 86 securities were listed and the value of transactions increased by 950 percent.

"The value of transactions in 2015 has reached 3.928 billion meticaïs and the number of traded securities increased 913 percent to 42 million," Chambuca said, cited by Mozambican news agency AIM.

Chambuca recalled that the stock market offers more flexible rules for access by small and medium-sized enterprises to the capital market, without loss of quality of information provided to the market to ensure investor protection.

He said that the secondary market is a prime platform for SMEs to raise funding by issuing financial instruments such as equities, bonds and commercial paper. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Supports Local NGOs with Volunteer Time and Donations

Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped one of several beneficiary organisations

Corporate social responsibility remains a key area of focus for Sands China Ltd. One of the ways the company exercises that responsibility is by engaging with local NGOs, such as the Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped. This engagement can come in many forms, including time spent volunteering; planning, sponsoring, or attending community events; and financial contributions, among others.

A MOTHER'S DAY FROM THE HEART

Earlier this month, Sands China celebrated Mother's Day by giving out beautiful handmade flowers purchased from the Association. Over Mother's Day weekend, around 740 of the special gifts were given to female diners at participating restaurants across Sands China's properties.

It is the fourth consecutive year that Sands China has purchased and distributed handmade flowers from the Association, as a way to honour motherhood while raising public awareness of the mentally handicapped.

The company has been supporting the Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped for 11 years since 2005, including through volunteer work and financial contributions. Sands China's most recent donation this month of MOP 150,000 will go toward helping the Association's work in early treatment, gardening therapy, and service support to older and financially strained parents and their children.



Sands China celebrated Mother's Day 2015 by handing out handmade flowers purchased from the Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped. The flowers were given to female guests at various restaurants at Sands Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Venetian Macao during Mother's Day weekend

INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES

Previous activities with the Association are numerous, and include some notable highlights. In August, Sands China Community Academy hosted an interactive portrait painting workshop for the Association with American portrait painter Stephen Bennett. Renowned for his unique, colourful style of portraits, Bennett spent a delightful afternoon with 15 Association members in an interactive, friendly environment. Demonstrating how to use colourful pigments to capture the beautiful faces around them, he explained some useful painting skills and guided the excited participants to complete paintings of their own.



Renowned American portrait painter Stephen Bennett works with members of the Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped at a painting workshop in August organised by Sands China

In March, volunteers from the Sands China Care Ambassador programme hosted 50 members of the Association for an afternoon of fun at Venetian Carnevale. Together they enjoyed the lively entertainment and festivities of the signature Italian-themed annual event at The Venetian® Macao's outdoor lagoon area. Before the excitement of the carnival though, the attendees first savoured a buffet lunch together at The Venetian's popular restaurant Bambu. Afterward, they took part in a fun-filled afternoon experiencing the festivities on offer at Venetian Carnevale, including face painting, games like "Feed the Clown" and "Scooter Shooter," and a range of talented performers from around the world.



Sands China Care Ambassadors enjoy an afternoon of fun with members of the Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped at Venetian Carnevale in March

In addition, for the duration of Carnevale, which ran March 12-29, all proceeds generated from face painting and all contributions collected from an on-site donation box were donated to the Association.

The Macau Association of Parents of the Mentally Handicapped is a non-profit organisation founded in 1992 by a group of parents whose children have intellectual disabilities. The association provides support and care to its members through a variety of activities, family visits and counselling services.

Jack Chang, Beijing

At first, the numbers and company names flashing on a big board in Beijing's financial district suggest a booming market.

A closer look indicates otherwise: The scrolling list rotates the same dozen or so trades, all from last year.

The lights from the Beijing Environment Exchange — one of seven pilot markets in China for trading carbon — raises questions for the country as it prepares for next year's rollout of a nationwide system that could help the world's biggest emitter of heat-trapping carbon dioxide rein in its emissions.

A successful carbon offset, or "cap-and-trade," market could play a big part in cutting China's emissions — and help the world tackle global warming.

Already launched in Europe, California and a few other spots, such carbon offset markets limit how much carbon can be emitted per year by factories and businesses. They then let those businesses that release less carbon than the cap sell to other companies permissions to emit whatever's left.

So far, the pilots have failed to make a noticeable dent in carbon emissions, with about 978 million yuan, or USD158 million, traded since their launch in 2013, compared to the 7.2 billion euros, or about \$8 billion, of carbon offsets that were traded in the European market in its first year of operation, 2006. Many companies required to buy carbon credits have waited until the last minute of compliance periods to make their trades, which has raised concerns about low liquidity in the market. Some observers question the reliability of data recording how much companies are emitting.

Chinese officials, however, say the pilot markets aren't meant to significantly cut the country's carbon profile yet. Instead, they say they are learning important lessons from their experiments and will use them in what will soon become the world's biggest carbon offset market.

"China is taking this step to accept its responsibility in stopping climate change," said Zhou Cheng, the Beijing exchange's vice president. "This affects industry in a legal, scientific way, and it lets them form their business plans while looking at carbon emissions too."

If anything, the national plan heralds a strategy change for a country that's so far used its one-party system to order everything from factory closures to barbecue bans by giving companies a money-making incentive to cut their carbon emissions, said Jeff Swartz, international policy director



A worker pulls a chair past electronic boards displaying the carbon trading index on the left, at the Beijing Environmental Exchange office in Beijing

Gov't readies national carbon market to fight climate change

at the Geneva-based nonprofit group the International Emissions Trading Association.

For some Chinese companies, selling excess carbon offset credits could bring in millions of dollars a year.

"China is using a number of different policies, both command-and-control but also market policies," Swartz said. "(Emissions trading) will provide a fundamental solution to allow China to peak its emissions."

The past decade, however, has been a spotty one for carbon credit experiments in China.

Five years ago, European Union officials ended a carbon offset plan that paid Chinese companies to destroy the greenhouse gas HFC-23 after learning that the companies were producing the gas only to be paid to destroy it.

Kathy Kong, CEO of Beijing-based trading firm Timing Carbon, said the pilot markets still have a lot of room to grow. For example, the markets still offer only spot trading with no futures markets, which greatly limits the potential market size. Regulators must also step in to prop up falling carbon offset prices and keep prices at other times from reaching unsustainable highs.

"This is still a market created

by policy," Kong said. "The policy needs to follow the market at some time."

Starting in 2013, China set up the seven pilot markets in the country's largest cities — Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Chongqing and Shenzhen — as well as the industrial provinces of Guangdong and Hubei. Since mid-April, the seven markets have traded a total of 31.2 million tons of carbon. The European market in its first year traded more than 10 times that amount of carbon.

■ A successful carbon offset, or 'cap-and-trade,' market could play a big part in cutting China's emissions

By design, each market has set up its own rules, with an eye for testing approaches for a national market.

In Beijing, any company that emits more than 10,000 tons of carbon a year — equal to the household and vehicle emissions of more than 400 American households — must join the offset market, which means it receives a yearly cap on its emissions and must buy carbon credits if it wants to emit more

carbon. Credit prices have generally run from \$55 to \$75 per ton, and the penalty for exceeding the limit can cost three-to-five times the usual credit price. Around 550 companies in Beijing now take part in the exchange.

Other markets use different methods to set emission targets and determine who has to participate. Five of the seven markets give away carbon credits every year and then let companies auction off their excess credits. Hubei is the coun-

try's biggest market by volume of carbon traded.

For state-owned firms such as the Chinese capital's largest power utility, Beijing's pilot market has forced business plans to factor in carbon emissions, said Jeremy Guo, executive vice president of the utility's energy investment arm. One result is a higher investment in renewable energy such as solar and the capture and reuse of heat emitted during some industrial pro-

cesses, he said.

"We want to make our role of carbon asset management a new standard for the group company, not just to buy and sell to get some profit," Guo said.

What comes next year will depend on how the seven pilot markets shape up. They could link up so that a company in Beijing in the north could trade with another in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. Chen said another idea would be to create separate offset markets around specific industries such as steel, cement energy or construction rather than connect the separate pilots operating according to different rules.

Antung Anthony Liu, an economics professor at the Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business in Beijing, said that if done right, the markets could turn China's epic climate change fight into an international investment opportunity.

"China goes through a process where it tries to experiment with a policy before rolling it out," Liu said. "To my mind, the markets haven't the intended hopeful effect yet but capacity has been built. These markets clearly exist. And hopefully one of them will be chosen as the best one and the nation will go forward from that." AP

Beijing-Taiwan talks seek to maintain momentum for closer ties

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

NEGOTIATORS from Taiwan and China met Saturday for two days of talks in an attempt to maintain momentum for the forging of closer ties in the face of a skeptical Taiwanese public.

The talks resulted in no firm agreements but underscored Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's determination to prove that engagement with China can help the local economy.

Ministerial-level officials from the sides met on the tiny Taiwan-controlled island of Kinmen, just off the Chinese coast, where the rivals fought bloody military battles in the 1950s and 1960s.

Topics discussed included controlling the illegal excavation of sand from the ocean floor, opening outlying

Taiwanese islets to more China-based tourism and letting Chinese tourists make transit stops in Taiwan, Taiwan's Cabinet-level negotiating body, the Mainland Affairs Council, said in a statement.

"The development of relations between Taiwan and mainland China has been self-evident, and despite bumps in the recent past I want to emphasize this is a development trend backed by public opinion," council Chairman Andrew Hsia said in opening remarks.

Beijing's representative Zhang Zhijun, director of the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, said China was determined to keep ties moving forward.

"We absolutely cannot let mainland China-Taiwan relations go backward again, even less so into the past," he was quoted as saying by Chi-

na's official Xinhua News Agency in his opening remarks. "I believe this is also the joint desire of compatriots from both sides who have weathered storms of the past."

Many among the Taiwanese public fear closer ties could undermine their economic advantages while furthering Beijing's eventual goal of ending the island's self-rule of nearly seven decades. China relations are expected to feature prominently in next year's Taiwanese presidential election, from which Ma is excluded by term limits.

About 300 opponents and supporters of the talks demonstrated outside the meeting venue Saturday, with one opponent injured in a scuffle.

The mostly private two-hour talks also covered Taiwan's potential membership in the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. **AP**



China's Taiwan Affairs Office director Zhang Zhijun, left, and his counterpart Minister Andrew Hsia of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council shake hands as they arrive for the start of a two-day cross-strait meeting

52 dead in floods, including 2 kids on overloaded bus



Residents move a motorcycle on a flooded street in Jiahui town, Gongcheng Yao Autonomous County, southwest Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

THE death toll in China's latest round of flooding has risen to at least 52, including two schoolchildren aboard a bus carrying more than twice its authorized passenger load that plunged into a pond, authorities said.

At least six other people are missing in floods that have ravaged mountain districts of six provinces and autonomous regions in central and southeastern China. More than a quarter-million people have been moved to temporary shelters, and major damage has been inflicted on buildings and crops.

Apart from the two schoolchildren, 42 others have died due to floods and heavy rains, including 16 in the collapse of a nine-story building in the city of Guiyang following a landslide.

Eight other people were killed in the central province of Hunan when a bus skidded into a guardrail and overturned.

The Guangxi regional government said 21 other kindergarten students were sent to the hospital in the school bus accident on Friday, with three listed in serious condition. The bus was licensed to carry 11 people, but had a total of 26 on board.

The driver, teachers and school administrators have been taken into custody, the government said. Overloaded buses have been involved in accidents killing scores of children in recent years as local schools are closed and consolidated into larger campuses farther away from the children's village homes.

Seasonal rains cause major flooding around China almost every year. The worst in recent history was in 1998, when 4,150 people died, most of them along the Yangtze River.

The massive Three Gorges Dam has largely contained Yangtze flooding, but the problem persists in other parts of the country. **AP**

Video purports to show kidnapped mainland tourist in Pakistan

Ishtiaq Mahsud, Dera Ismail Khan

A militant video released yesterday purported to show a Chinese tourist kidnapped by Taliban-allied fighters in Pakistan a year ago asking for his government to help him be released.

A militant known to belong to a Taliban splinter group called Jaish al-Hadeed, or the "Contingent of Steel," gave the video to The Associated Press. While it could not be independently verified by the AP, the man in the video resembled other known photographs of Hong Xudong, kidnapped in May 2014.

In the video, the man identified as Hong asks for the Chinese government to honor his kidnappers' ransom demands, without ever

stating them. Chinese officials and state media did not immediately comment on the video. Officials at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad could not be reached for comment.

Hong went missing after entering Pakistan from neighboring India in April 2014. He was abducted May 19 in the town of Daraban on the outskirts of the Dera Ismail Khan district, which borders Pakistan's lawless tribal regions, a haven for militants. Police only found his passport, bicycle and belongings.

Following Hong's abduction, the commander of a Taliban splinter group called Shehryar Mehsud, Abdullah Bahar, claimed responsibility for the abduction. Bahar later was killed by a suspected U.S. drone strike.

It's unclear what relationship Shehryar Mehsud has with Jaish al-Hadeed, though Taliban splinter groups frequently cooperate with each other.

The Pakistani Taliban have been waging war to install their own harsh brand of Shariah law, killing thousands of Pakistanis. Militant groups have abducted foreigners and locals to generate money for arms and equipment.

The Pakistani army launched a massive operation in the tribal regions in June last year to eliminate militant groups. The operation was intensified in December after a Taliban attack on an army-run school in the northwestern city of Peshawar killed 150 people, most of them children. **AP**

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Eileen Ng and Todd Pitman,
Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Authorities find graves of suspected trafficking victims

MALAYSIAN authorities said yesterday that they have discovered a series of graves in at least 17 abandoned camps used by human traffickers on the border with Thailand where Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar have been held.

The finding follows a similar discovery earlier this month by police in Thailand who unearthed at least 33 bodies from shallow graves on the Thai side of the border. The grim discoveries are shedding new light on the hidden network of jungle camps run by traffickers, who have for years held countless desperate people captive while extorting ransoms from their families.

Most of those who have fallen victim to the trafficking networks are refugees and impoverished migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh, part of a wave of people who have fled their homelands to reach countries like Malaysia, where they hope to find work or live free from persecution.

As Southeast Asian governments have launched crack-downs amid intensified international pressure and media scrutiny, traffickers have abandoned camps on land and even boats at sea to avoid arrest.

Malaysian Home Minister Zahid Hamidi told reporters that police were trying to identify and verify “mass graves that were found” in the region near the Thai border.

“These graves are believed to

be a part of human trafficking activities involving migrants,” he said, adding that police have discovered 17 abandoned camps that they suspect were used by traffickers.

There was no immediate word on how many bodies had been recovered. Zahid said that each grave probably contained anywhere from one to four bodies, and that authorities were in the process of counting.

He said he was shocked at the discoveries, because “just last week, we went there ... to see for ourselves.” He said he expected more camps and graves to be found “because they have been there for quite some time actually. We are still investigating, but I suspect they have been operating for at least five years.”

Human rights groups and activists say the area on the Thai-Malaysia border has been used for years to smuggle migrants and refugees, including Rohingya Muslims, a persecuted minority in Myanmar.

In many cases, they pay human smugglers thousands of dollars for passage, but are instead held for weeks or months, while traffickers extort more money from families back home. Rights groups say



A Rohingya migrant man carries a bucket to take a shower at a temporary shelter in Kuala Langsa, Aceh province, Indonesia

some have been beaten to death, and The Associated Press has documented other cases in which people have been enslaved on fishing boats.

Since May 10 alone, more than 3,600 people — about half of them from Bangladesh and

half Rohingya from Myanmar — have landed ashore in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Thousands more are believed to be trapped at sea in boats abandoned by their captains.

The graves discovered in Thailand earlier this month

were mostly in southern Songkla province.

Last June, the U.S. downgraded Thailand and Malaysia to Tier 3 — its lowest category — in an annual assessment of how governments handle human trafficking. **AP**

KOREAS

Women’s walk across DMZ denied; they cross by bus

Eric Talmadge,
Dorasan Station

FEMALE activists including Gloria Steinem and two Nobel Peace laureates were denied an attempt to walk across the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea yesterday, but were allowed to cross by bus and complete what one of them called a landmark event.

The group of 30 women from 15 countries made a final appeal to authorities on both sides to allow them to walk across the demarcation line, but were turned down. The North allowed a South Korean bus to cross the demarcation line to pick them up on the North side of the DMZ and transport them over the border to



U.S. activist Gloria Steinem, center, speaks during a press conference upon her arrival from North Korea at the office of the customs, immigration and quarantine in Paju, South Korea, near the border village of Panmunjom

South Korea.

United Nations Command officials met the group inside the DMZ after they crossed the demarcation line, and allowed them to march again after the final checkpoint on the southern side.

“We were able to be citizen diplomats,” said Steinem, the 81-year-old feminism pioneer and author.

“We are feeling very, very positive. We have received an enormous amount of support,” she said after passing through

South Korean immigration.

The group included Nobel Peace laureates Mairead Maguire, from Northern Ireland, and Leymah Gbowee, from Liberia.

The women walked, carried banners and sang on

the North Korean side of the first checkpoint leading into the DMZ. They were then met by a large contingent of media on the South side.

The Koreans have remained divided since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. The DMZ that divides them is one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world. Authorities on both sides said they could not guarantee the safety of the women had they walked across.

Organizer Christine Ahn, a Korean-American peace activist, said the group initially wanted to walk through the symbolic truce village of Panmunjom, where the armistice was signed.

Still, she said the crossing itself was a success

and a “historic event” despite “governments setting boundaries.”

Some members of the group expressed disappointment that the walk inside the DMZ was denied. But Ahn said she was satisfied that they were able to meet with North Korean women during their several-day stay in Pyongyang, the North’s capital, and to cross through the DMZ, which is rarely allowed in any form to civilians.

The women will also meet with South Korean counterparts.

Ahn said the group went to the two Koreas to call for an end to hostilities on the Korean Peninsula, push for a reunification of families divided by the war and promote dialogue between the two enemies. **AP**

Ken Dilanian, Intelligence Writer, Washington

THE National Security Agency has begun winding down its collection and storage of American phone records after the Senate failed to agree on a path forward to change or extend the once-secret program ahead of its expiration at the end of the month.

Barring an 11th hour compromise when the Senate returns to session on May 31, a much-debated provision of the counter-terrorism Patriot Act — and some other lesser known surveillance tools — will sunset at midnight that day. The change also would have a major impact on the FBI, which uses the Patriot Act and the other provisions to gather records in investigations of suspected spies and terrorists.

In a chaotic scene during the early morning hours on Saturday, Senate Republicans blocked a House bill known as the USA Freedom Act, which would have ended the NSA's bulk collection but preserved its ability to search the records held by the phone companies on a case-by-case basis. The bill was backed by President Barack Obama, House Republicans and the nation's top law enforcement and intelligence officials.

It fell just three votes short of the 60 needed for passage. All the "no" votes but one were cast by Republicans, some of whom said they thought the USA Freedom Act didn't go far enough to help the NSA maintain its capabilities.

If Senate Republican leaders were counting on extending the current law and continuing the negotiations, they miscal-



A sign stands outside the NSA campus in Fort Meade, Md.



Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. holds up his cell phone

GOV'T SURVEILLANCE

NSA winds down once-secret phone-records collection program

culated. Democrats and libertarian-minded Republicans refused to go along. A bill to grant a two-month extension of the law failed, and senators objected to each attempt by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky to offer up a short term extension.

The failure to act means the NSA will immediately begin curtailing its searches of domestic phone records for connections to international terrorists. The Justice Department said in a statement that it will take time to taper off the collection process from the phone companies. That process began Friday, said an administration official who would not be identified because

he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

While the phone records program has never been credited with thwarting a terrorist plot, the Senate failure also imperils other tools that the FBI has been using to hunt for suspected spies and terrorists.

The FBI uses Section 215 of the Patriot Act to gather financial and other types of records in national security cases. Another expiring provision makes it easier for the bureau to track "lone wolf" terrorism suspects who have no connection to a foreign power, and another allows the government to eavesdrop on suspects who continuously discard their cellphones in an effort to

avoid surveillance.

Sen. Rand Paul, Kentucky's junior senator and a Republican presidential candidate, called the Senate's failure to allow an extension of the surveillance programs a victory for privacy rights.

"We should never give up our rights for a false sense of security," Paul said in a statement.

Some civil liberties groups joined Paul in praising the result, saying they would rather see the Patriot Act provision authorizing NSA phone collection expire altogether.

"For the first time, a majority of senators took a stand against simply rubber-stamping provisions of the Patriot

Act that have been used to spy on Americans," said Michael Macleod-Ball, acting director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington Legislative Office.

Section 215 of the Patriot Act is used by the government to justify collecting the "to and from" information about nearly every American landline telephone call.

When former NSA contractor Edward Snowden revealed the program in 2013, many Americans were outraged that NSA had their calling records.

An appeals court has ruled that the phone collection does not comply with the law, but stayed the ruling while Congress debated. **AP**

USA

Protests after Ohio patrolman found not guilty in 2 black deaths

Mark Gillispie, Cleveland

POLICE in riot gear made more than a dozen arrests as crowds protested the acquittal of a white Ohio patrolman who fired through the windshield of a suspect's car at the end of a 137-shot barrage that killed the two unarmed black occupants.

A judge said Saturday that he could not determine the officer alone fired the fatal shots.

Michael Brelo, 31, put his head in his hands as the judge issued the ver-

dict. Angry, but mostly orderly, protests followed. Some held a mock funeral, carrying signs asking, "Will I be next?"

The acquittal came at a time of nationwide tension over the deaths of black suspects at the hands of white officers, and following a determination by the U.S. Department of Justice that Cleveland police had a history of using excessive force and violating civil rights.

"In many American places people are angry with, mistrusting and fearful

of the police," Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge John P. O'Donnell said before issuing his verdict.

But O'Donnell said he would not "sacrifice" Brelo to an angry public if the evidence did not merit a conviction.

Brelo — who fired a total of 49 shots, including 15 through the windshield while standing on the hood of the suspects' vehicle — faced as many as 22 years in prison had the judge convicted him on two counts of voluntary manslaughter.

The deaths occurred after Timothy Russell's beat-up car backfired outside police headquarters on Nov. 29, 2012. Thirteen officers fired at the car with Russell and Malissa Williams inside after a 35-kilometer chase that involved 62 marked and unmarked cars and reached 160 kilometers.

Russell, 43, and Williams, 30, were each shot more than 20 times. Brelo was the only officer charged because prosecutors said he waited until the pair was no longer a threat to fire his final 15



Demonstrators pause to stand in solidarity during a protest against the acquittal of Michael Brelo, a patrolman charged in the shooting deaths of two unarmed suspects

rounds.

Authorities never learned why Russell didn't stop the car. He had a criminal record including convictions for receiving stolen property and robbery. Williams had convictions for drug-related charges and attempted abduction. Both were described as homeless. A

crack pipe was found in the car.

The U.S. Justice Department, U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI will review the testimony and evidence and examine all available legal options, said Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. **AP**

IRELAND

Citizens legalize gay marriage in landslide vote

Shawn Pogatchnik, Dublin

THEY hugged, they cheered, they cried at the news.

Celebrations rocked Dublin, the Irish capital, into the wee hours yesterday after citizens voted in a landslide to legalize gay marriage — a stunningly lopsided result that political observers called “a social revolution.”

Friday’s referendum saw 62.1 percent of Irish voters say “yes” to changing the nation’s constitution to define marriage as a union between two people regardless of their sex. With the move, Ireland became the first country in the world to approve gay marriage in a popular national vote. Nineteen other countries, including most U.S. states, have legalized the practice through their legislatures and courts.

“With today’s vote, we have disclosed who we are: a generous, compassionate, bold and joyful people,” Prime Minister Enda Kenny proclaimed. Beside him,



AP PHOTO
Yes supporters celebrate as the first results start to filter through in the Irish referendum in Dublin

Deputy Prime Minister Joan Burton declared the victory “a magical moving moment, when the world’s beating heart is in Ireland.”

The unexpectedly strong percentage of approval surprised both sides. More than 1.2 million Irish voters backed the “yes” side to less than 750,000 voting “no.”

Only one of Ireland’s 43 constituencies recorded a narrow “no” majority, Roscommon-South Leitrim in the boggy midlands.

Analysts credited the “yes” side with adeptly employing social media to mobilize young, first-time voters, tens of thousands of whom voted for the first time Friday. The “yes” campaign also featured mo-

ving personal stories from prominent Irish people — either coming out as gays or describing their hopes for gay children — that helped convince wavering voters to back equal marriage rights.

Both Catholic Church leaders and gay rights advocates said the result signaled a social revolution in Ireland, where only a few decades ago the authority of Catholic teaching was reinforced by voters who massively backed bans on abortion and divorce in the 1980s.

Voters legalized divorce only by a razor-thin margin in 1995 but now, by a firm majority, dismissed the Catholic Church’s repeated calls to reject gay marriage. Abortion, still outlawed, looms as the country’s next great social policy fight.

Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said the “overwhelming vote” against church teaching on gay marriage meant that Catholic leaders in Ireland needed urgently to find a new message and voice for reaching Ireland’s

young.

“It’s a social revolution. ... The church needs to do a reality check right across the board,” said Martin, who suggested that some church figures who argued for gay marriage’s rejection came across as harsh, damning and unloving.

“Have we drifted completely away from young people?” he asked. “Most of those people who voted ‘yes’ are products of our Catholic schools for 12 years.”

Fianna Fail leader Michael Martin, a Cork politician whose opposition party is traditionally closest to the Catholic Church, said he couldn’t in good conscience back the anti-gay marriage side.

“It’s simply wrong in the 21st century to oppress people because of their sexuality,” he said.

After the result was announced Saturday, thousands of celebrants flooded into the Irish capital’s pubs and clubs. At the George, Ireland’s oldest gay pub, drag queens danced and lip-synced to Queen and the founding father of Ireland’s gay rights campaign, Sen. David Norris, basked in the greatest accomplishment of the movement’s 40-year history.

“The people in this small island off the western coast of Europe have said to the rest of the world: This is what it is to be decent, to be civilized, and to be tolerant! And let the rest of the world catch up!” AP

AD



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what's ON



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TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: May 20, 2015

VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

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TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MASTERFUL STROKES

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: May 31, 2015

VENUE: UNESCO Centre of Macau, Alameda Dr.

Carlos d'Assumpção

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

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

Offbeat

POLISH BROWN BEAR CROSSES BORDERS, HIGHWAY, SEEKING MATE

A Polish brown bear went a wooing, little knowing that scientists were following all the way.

Starting from the Tatra Mountains, the bear crossed borders and a highway as it covered some 380 kilometers.

Nuria Selva, a researcher with the Polish Academy of Sciences, said Friday she found it fascinating that the 5-year-old bear, collared last year and named Iwo, cleverly avoided danger.

Walking through Slovakia to Hungary, he avoided villages and apparently crossed fields at night to avoid people. He crossed a highway in Slovakia and swam across the Ondava River.

He turned back in Hungary, where no bears live, and returned to Poland's Bieszczady region, a bear habitat. To a happy ending?

Selva says it will be difficult to confirm whether Iwo found his mate.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Gabriel o Pensador - The Script Road - Macau Literary Festival
15:25	Non-Daily Portuguese News
15:50	Documentary Series
16:15	Non-Daily Port. News
16:55	Documentaries
17:35	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:30	Non Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

21 MAY - 27 MAY



TOMORROWLAND

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min



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

DRAGON BALL Z: RESURRECTION "F"

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Tadayoshi Yamamuro

Starring: Ji-tae Yu, Yūsuke Iseya, Ye-ryeon Cha

Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 93min

PITCH PERFECT 2

ROOM 3

(23-25 MAY) 7.30 pm

Director: Elizabeth Banks

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

MACAU TOWER

21 MAY - 10 JUN

TOMORROWLAND

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min

this day in history



1961 KENNEDY PLEDGES MAN ON MOON

President John F. Kennedy has called for millions of dollars to fund a space program to get the first man on the Moon by 1970. In a speech to a joint session of Congress broadcast on TV and radio around the United States, he asked for an extra \$1,700m (£600m) on the federal budget.

The largest proportion of this would be spent on researching and developing ways of getting an American on the Moon by the end of the decade. "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth," he said.

He said USD9,000m (£3,214m) would be needed over the next five years to fund space rockets and other projects need to get a man on the Moon. But the president added "this very urgent request" would not need to be funded by extra taxes provided the economy continued to grow and companies exercised wage and price restraint.

This was his last address to the country before his meeting with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. He is still basking in the glory of Russia's latest achievements in space exploration - last month Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space.

Three weeks ago, when Alan Shepard became America's first astronaut, President Kennedy said the country had to "work with the utmost speed and vigor" to develop its space program.

Today, he demonstrated his total commitment to the project. "If we were to go only half way or reduce our sights in the face of difficulty," he said, "it would be better not to go at all."

The administrator of Nasa, James Webb, was encouraged by the president's speech and said the US and the USSR were on a level playing field in their ambitions to land a man on the Moon because as yet no Russian rockets were capable of such a mission.

Other Nasa officials told the Times newspaper that most of the funding would be used to research ways of reaching the Moon, surviving on it and returning safely to Earth.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 21 July 1969, right on schedule, Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon, stepping onto the Moon's surface in the Sea of Tranquility at 0256 GMT. He was joined by Buzz Aldrin 20 minutes later. The entire event was watched avidly by millions live on television across the world.

The Apollo 11 crew returned safely on 24 July and spent the next 21 days in quarantine at an American military base - a procedure dropped in subsequent missions since no alien organisms were found.

The Moon landing marked the pinnacle of the space race and American investment in the space programme declined from then on.

The last three of the original 20 Apollo missions were cancelled, and the last lunar module, Apollo 17, landed in December 1972.

In January 2004 however, interest in missions to the Moon was rekindled when US President George Bush announced American astronauts would return to the Moon by 2020 as the launching point for journeys further into space.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your drive and motivation are everything right now...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Try not to worry all that much about your emotional state...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Watch out for new rules - especially those that come from people you know and trust!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Things are looking up, most likely - but if this seems wrong to you, then that means it's time for a quick adjustment...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your confidence and righteousness may rub others the wrong way today...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your romantic energy is heightened today, so if you're single, get out there!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your past is not as distant as you would like - someone or something comes back to haunt you today.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your plans are great - but you need to take action on them! Start today, even if it's just something small.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are always true to your values - even when you can feel them start to change...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can work all night if you must - but the odds are that you don't really need to.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You feel the walls start to close in on you - and no, you're not going insane.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Life is easy right now - maybe too much so! You need to make sure that you're asking the right questions...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard, each with a 9x9 grid and some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- High-five, for one; 5- Writer Dinesen; 9- Parts; 14- Parting word; 15- Fr. miss; 16- "I Hated, Hated, Hated This Movie" author; 17- Designer Christian; 18- Sulk; 19- Burn a bit; 20- Caution; 23- The Plastic ___ Band; 24- Greek letters; 25- Immature insects; 29- Distribute; 31- Anthem contraction; 34- Red as ___; 35- Seedy joint; 36- "Rule Britannia" composer; 37- Frankie Carle's theme song; 40- AzCAmo ___ usted?; 41- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 42- Invalidate; 43- ___ judicata; 44- Lewd look; 45- Speaks publicly; 46- Cartoon cry; 47- Blasting stuff; 48- County in central England; 56- Permit; 57- Together, musically; 58- Precisely; 60- Nabisco's ___ Wafers; 61- River sediment; 62- To be, in Toulouse; 63- "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" author; 64- Lock openers; 65- Glove compartment items;

DOWN: 1- Avg.; 2- Not of the cloth; 3- Yours, in Tours; 4- Henry VIII's sixth; 5- Not susceptible; 6- Replay feature; 7- Mountain range in central Europe; 8- Retain; 9- Free from danger; 10- Final notices; 11- Filmmaker Riefenstahl; 12- As a result; 13- British submachine gun; 21- Raccoon relative; 22- Computer key; 25- Coherent light beam; 26- Mistreat; 27- Leases; 28- Aloe ___; 29- Skinflint; 30- Did you ___?; 31- Praying figure; 32- Clothe; 33- Lively dances; 35- Sandy tract; 36- Oscar winner Paquin; 38- Looks for; 39- 71% is under water; 44- Extra

Friday's solution crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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JML property logo and contact information for卓雅物業.

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Jerome Pugmire, Monaco

Rosberg wins Monaco GP after crash hampers Hamilton

NICO Rosberg won the Monaco Grand Prix for the third straight year after a late crash involving teenager Max Verstappen undid Lewis Hamilton's bid for a fourth win of the season.

Hamilton looked set to take his 37th career win after leading from the start, until the 17-year-old Verstappen rammed his Toro Rosso into the back of Romain Grosjean as he tried to overtake the Lotus driver.

That meant a safety car had to come out at the start of the 64th lap, and when Hamilton was then called in for a pit stop by Mercedes, he suddenly found himself behind both Rosberg and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

"I can't really express the way I feel at the moment, so I won't even attempt to," a despondent Hamilton said. "I thought Nico had pitted, so I thought the guys behind were pitting. I came in with full confidence that the others had done the same."

When the safety car finally went off track, Hamilton had only a few laps to try and get past Vettel and Rosberg on the most difficult track to overtake on F1.

"It wasn't the easiest of races, but the team has been amazing all year long and we win and lose together," Hamilton said. "I'm



Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg

sure we'll sit down after this." Asked how he will respond, a dejected-looking Hamilton said: "Come back to win the next one."

Hamilton's lead has been cut in the past two races and he is now just 10 points ahead of Rosberg, who launched his title bid at a similar stage last season, while Vettel is 28 points behind in third place heading to the Canadian GP in two weeks.

Rosberg was modest in victory. "I know that I got lucky today, so

I'll just enjoy the moment now," the German said. "But I need to work hard because Lewis was a bit stronger today."

Hamilton's Mercedes team has some explaining to do, with head of motorsport Toto Wolff telling broadcaster Sky that it was a mistake to call him into the pits.

"It was a complete misjudgment. I'm just so sorry," Wolff said. "There's nothing to do but apologize."

Russian driver Daniil Kvyat fi-

nished fourth for Red Bull's best result this season, while former champion Jenson Button finally earned McLaren its first points of the campaign by coming eighth. But teammate Fernando Alonso retired for the second straight race.

It was Rosberg's second win of the season following his victory two weeks ago at the Spanish GP, and he became the first driver since Ayrton Senna to win the Monaco race three straight times. The others to do it were Frenchman Alain Prost and Briton Graham Hill.

But Rosberg, who won back-to-back races for the first time, expressed sympathy for his teammate Hamilton. "He deserved it for sure, I was lucky in the end. I don't even know what happened there," he said. "For sure it is an awful feeling."

He is now right back in championship contention, but the circumstances of his win will likely infuriate Hamilton, who was leading Rosberg by 15 seconds

when Verstappen — who had never driven on Monaco's sinewy street circuit before — tried to pass Grosjean but found no room and went spinning off. He was unharmed.

The team's decision to call Hamilton in for a pit stop clearly backfired, and the Briton angrily snapped over the radio: "Please stop talking to me, please."

Rosberg was 4.4 seconds ahead of four-time F1 champion Vettel, and 6 clear of Hamilton.

As Rosberg and Vettel celebrated warmly with each other, Hamilton took a long while to get out of his car, taking his helmet off slowly and walking to join the other two on the podium with his head down.

Asked if he would respect his team's decisions from now on, Hamilton replied bluntly: "Yes." He added that it was "a great feeling to lead the race" and that he felt even quicker than usual. "On the one hand it's good to have that pace, and you live to fight another day," he said. **AP**

AD

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opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



SWINGING TRAINS

Legislator, entrepreneur and prominent local Fujianese leader, Chan Meng Kam, had a very good week...in spite of an alleged electoral corruption court case running against alleged members of the civic organization that supported his victorious 2013 Legislative Assembly ticket.

Chan Meng Kam punched a hole-in-one, while playing a round at the Chung Shan Spring Golf Club, Zhongshan. Golfing experts usually put the odds of such a clean shot at 250,000 to one.

This earthly achievement happened to resonate much more than his cold assessment of the performance of the new team of CE Policy Secretaries in general, but in particular the Secretary for Transport and Public Works. As a disclaimer we would like to admit that we do not know if a hole-in-one is of such singularity as to deserve dedicated sports-page space, but we are pretty sure that as a generous tipper to caddies Chan Meng Kam qualifies. According to the Southern Metropolis Daily, the Macau golfer spent at least one million HK dollars, showering half of that amount on five caddies.

As a lawmaker and political heavy-weight, Chan, taking the bogged-down in the mud Light Train Rail as the ultimate example of unaccountability, decided to break some china. Chan Meng Kan is not happy with the interminable system in which a discharged official is the person to blame; this way, any current official is not politically answerable. That is why Chan is skeptical of any promises made by any new official, and challenges them on how they intend to address the old and the new problems...in a system of unaccountability; like a spinning-wheel.

However, CMK does not restrict himself to formal generalizations, he goes into specifics. First, he points his finger to a status quo in which local companies without technical expertise are granted the role of the main contractor, opening a cascade of hard-to-monitor subcontractors. Secondly, who is going to challenge the local companies in court? It is exactly on this point that we have difficulty understanding why Chan Meng Kam does not seem happy with the frankness of Secretary Rosário! Perhaps it is precisely the openness with which Secretary for Transport and Public Works faces this technical, financial, legal, and politically nightmarish imbroglio that is the key to a new beginning in the life of the MSAR's Light Train. Otherwise, all parties involved would be contributing to a culture of suspicion and uncertainty. As we have anticipated in our previous column, the New Macau Democrats' strategy to move away from hard-core politics to a general-issues agenda is going to pay dividends: Ng Kwok Cheong only asked candidly if the government had already given up on the LTR as the solution to Macau's growing traffic gridlock! Do not bother to answer it.

Closing note: The Legislative Assembly passed a revision on its Rules of Procedure, halving the maximum period of time (10 to 5 minutes) each bencher can address a plenary session before the formal agenda.

Albeit we disagree with the shortening of the time legislators have to freely speak their minds, we have to regret this happens together with a 20-minute ceiling to introduce a bill. But perhaps worse than cutting the speaker's time was the very rationale to support the decrease: a) on grounds of the increase in the number of legislators to 33; and b) a quantitative survey on the standard length of speech in the house (4-5 minutes). Pure spin, dressed as "science" as distributive and quantitative measures are want to be, indeed.

THE BUZZ SUSAN SARANDON URGES TOURISTS TO VISIT NEPAL

Oscar-winning Hollywood actress Susan Sarandon is urging tourists to come to Nepal, where two powerful earthquakes in the last month killed thousands of people and raised concerns that the nation's vital tourism industry could be seriously hurt. Sarandon is in Nepal for five days, staying with the famed Kung-fu nuns in a Buddhist monastery and later in an orphanage that was damaged in one of the quakes. "It is

important to emphasize that by the fall, when monsoon ends, people should make their reservations now if they want to help and they want to come and visit because it is very, very important to keep all these jobs alive," Sarandon said yesterday while inaugurating a campaign to build 201 huts for villagers outside of the capital, Kathmandu, who lost their homes in one of the earthquakes.

Sands China tops All Asia Dealers Championship



TWO Sands China teams competed in the All Asia Dealers Championship May 19-21 during Global Gaming Expo Asia (G2E Asia) at The Venetian Macao. Sands China won the award for Best Dealers Team - Macau and its dealers won four individual awards for their outstanding performance in the competition.

The Sands China teams, made up of three members each, participated in all three tournament categories of baccarat, blackjack and roulette, competing against teams from Macau, Singapore, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Sands China was crowned the Best Dealers Team - Macau. In addition, Wang Zhen Han won the champion trophy for Best Blackjack Dealer - Macau and the runner-up medal for Best

Blackjack Dealer - All Asia; Un Wai Kin was awarded the runner-up medal for Best Roulette Dealer - Macau and Man Weng Ip received the runner-up medal for Best Baccarat Dealer - Macau.

"Sands China is proud to have sponsored the All Asia Dealers Championship and we are especially proud of our dealers for their participation and their stellar performance," said Cetin Tanisman, senior vice president of casino operations for Sands China Ltd. "We want our dealers to enjoy bright career paths, and this tournament provided them with a great opportunity to hone their skills in friendly competition with their peers in the region."

According to a press release issued by Sands China, the regional tournament

was billed as an international platform for croupiers to showcase their talents and skills, and as a way to honor the front line of the industry by recognizing dealers' achievements and fostering their career development.

The tournament schedule included a half-day career path seminar for the participants. It provided an opportunity for croupiers to learn from each other by exchanging experiences with their peers operating in different jurisdictions. Industry executives and managers shared motivational stories of rising from their beginnings in the gaming industry to their current leadership positions. Speakers from industry associations also participated, highlighting key developmental guidelines, including in the area of responsible gaming.

MGM DEALER AWARDED

A MGM Macau dealer won the Best Macau Roulette prize and was awarded All Asia Runner Up Roulette in the All Asia Dealers Championship 2015. Mr. Jimmy Lim, Table Games Pit Supervisor, has worked at MGM Macau for 4 years.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Billy H.C. Kwok/Bloomberg



A ferry sails under the Macau-Taipa Bridge near the Macau Fisherman's Wharf.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



AFGHANISTAN Taliban insurgents attacked police checkpoints yesterday in volatile southern Afghanistan, killing at least 10 officers in the ongoing assault, authorities said. Mohammad Ismail Hotaki, the director of Helmand province's Joint Coordination Office, said that Taliban fighters attacked 10 police checkpoints in the province's Sangin district. Hotaki said Taliban fighters captured three checkpoints and continued to surge forward in their assault.

BURUNDI The leader of a Burundi opposition party was killed Saturday by unknown assailants in the nation's capital, Bujumbura, local media reported. Zedi Feruzi of the UPD-Zigamibanga party was slain late Saturday in a drive-by shooting in which at least one of his bodyguards was also killed, Iwacu, a prominent news organization in Burundi, reported on its website.

SYRIA Islamic State fighters break into the museum of Palmyra, though a Syrian official says its artifacts have been removed and are safe while the U.S.-led coalition conducts airstrikes on the group's installations near the captured ancient town.

MEXICO The latest in a series of clashes between Mexican authorities and a powerful, fast-growing drug cartel turned into the deadliest confrontation in recent memory, with 42 suspected gang gunmen and one Federal Police officer killed during a three-hour firefight at a remote western ranch.

USA Two people have chained themselves to a support ship that is part of Royal Dutch Shell's exploratory oil drilling plans and currently moored in Washington state. Eric Ross of the Backbone Campaign said on Saturday morning that Matt Fuller joined student activist Chiara Rose in suspending themselves from the anchor chain of the Arctic Challenger, which is in Bellingham Bay. Rose suspended herself from the ship with a climbing harness on Friday night.