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WORKERS ASKED TO ACCEPT 'LAWFUL COMPENSATION'



P4

SURVEY ABOUT SMOKING ROOMS COMES UNDER FIRE



The Forefront of Macau Gaming questions the integrity of a survey that claims 99 pct of respondents are in favor of smoking rooms

P4

GAMING TABLES 'SUFFICIENT' FOR CURRENT MARKET



On the eve of Galaxy's 2nd phase opening, executives say that the 150 new tables granted to the company are sufficient

P5

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AD

Nossa Senhora do Carmo - Lago Health Centre



## Taipei lays plan to ease South China Sea tensions

P9



### WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** The International Monetary Fund no longer believes China's tightly controlled currency is undervalued, an IMF official says, a stance that might help Beijing in its wrangling with Washington over exchange rate controls.

**CHINA's** navy lavishes praise on a flight instructor and his student who were killed in a crash after steering their stricken aircraft clear of populated areas.

AP PHOTO



**AUSTRALIA** plans to pass a law within weeks to give the government power to strip citizenship from dual nationals who are suspected terrorists even if they are not convicted of a crime, the prime minister says. More than 100 Australians are suspected to be fighting with the Islamic State movement and other terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq. Up to 50 percent of those fighters were estimated to be dual citizens, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said.

More on backpage

## New hospital construction might be delayed

P6

## Committee still studying how to nurture local talent

P7

# DSAL calls for sacked mainland workmen to accept 'lawful compensation'



**A**BOUT a hundred construction workers who were dismissed from the Parisian Hotel's construction site marched for two hours yesterday from the site to the Chinese Liaison Office, demanding higher compensation than the contractor had initially offered.

Trying to solve the dispute that broke out last Friday, the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has called for workers to abide by local law and accept the "lawful solution." The bureau director Wong Chi Hong told media yesterday that about a quarter of the protesters had accepted the contractor's compensation solution, after the bureau and other related parties explained the statutory dismissal compensation scheme.

These workmen, recruited from the mainland, complain that they were exploited by contractors through wage deductions, being made to pay security deposits, and extra expenses that were beyond recovery. Recruited under the general contractor – Hong Kong-based Hsin Chong Construction Group Ltd., the workers signed a one-year contract but were sacked seven months before

## Trying to solve the dispute that broke out last Friday, DSAL has called for workers to abide by local law

their work permits were due to expire.

According to DSAL, Macau's labor law entitles these workers a dismissal fee equivalent to 15 days' work for immediate contract termination, as well as monthly compensation worth 3 days' salary until the contracted finishing date. However, the protesters demanded compensation of up to MOP20,000 per month, an amount they believed was the maximum permitted under the city's labor law.

With the workmen rallying in front of the Central Govern-

ment's representative organ in the MSAR, DSAL held an impromptu press conference jointly with the Human Resources Office yesterday afternoon. The director told the media that, "as of the moment, a total of 22 workers have accepted the compensation plan and signed the check issued by the contractor. Another 5 or 6 workers also implied acceptance."

Sands China Ltd., which owns the Parisian Macao project, issued a statement yesterday: "As the investor, Sands China Ltd. has appointed Hsin Chong Engineering (Macau) Limited as construction manager together with various trade contractors for the project, and understands there is a discrepancy on a consensus reached between one of the project's trade contractors and a group of imported workers, regarding the workers' exit scheme."

"Sands China understands that its construction manager and the concerned trade contractor are committed to keeping all arrangements in line with the labor laws of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the company will ensure those commitments are implemented," it added. **BY**

# Casino smoking room survey comes under fire

**T**HE casino workers' union, the Forefront of Macau Gaming (FMG), has questioned the integrity of a recent survey conducted by a junket association that claims 99 percent of gaming employees and citizens are in favor of smoking rooms in casinos.

According to the union's president Ieong Man Teng, some workers hired in VIP gambling rooms had complained that they were forced by their employers to take a stance in the survey and to choose the option of "supporting setting smoking rooms." Furthermore, they were allegedly requested to have their family members fill in more questionnaires with the same answers. Failure to comply with these measures would have resulted in punishment with disciplinary actions at any stage said Ieong.

The survey promoter, listed in the Official Gazette with the Portuguese name "Associação de Mediadores de Jogos e Entretenimento de Macau" and led by Kwok Chi Chung, reported on Saturday that it collected a total of over 12,500 responses throughout last week within the junket sector and its related employees and citizens, which shows that 99 percent of respondents believe that a full smoking ban will affect casinos' business and agreed to have smoking rooms inside VIP gambling areas.

Ieong suggested the survey was a move on the part of the VIP room operators to stall the government's decision to implement a full smoking ban. "As for the VIP room employees, they are also facing a dangerous situation where migrant worker [gambling room] hosts are overflowing. They must consider their own competitiveness: If [I] don't cooperate in this

survey, will [I] bear the brunt in the future?"

Nevertheless, the activist showed no concerns over the effect of the survey results. He stated the international auditor KPMG is also conducting widespread polling on smoking control amongst gaming employees.

## Some VIP room workers complained that they were reportedly forced by their employers to take a stance in the survey

"Workers at all the six casino operators are asked to join and it's being conducted in an anonymous manner, and so employees are quite willing to participate in this survey," he stressed.

According to Ieong, the KPMG survey asks similar questions. "It has considerable credibility over the world, it's likely the Macau government will adopt KPMG's report as the mainstream opinion. A full smoking ban is also likely to become the final result of the mainstream opinion," he stated.

In addition, the union leader suggested the allocation of space inside the Galaxy phase 2 project, which will be inaugurated today, could hint at casino operators' attitude towards a full smoking ban, such as considering setting outdoor smoking areas. **BY**



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# Gaming tables 'sufficient' for current market, says Galaxy senior executive

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE 150 new-to-market gaming tables granted to Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) are sufficient in meeting current market needs, said Galaxy Macau's Director of Operations, Richard Longhurst, at a Q&A session held yesterday.

Macau welcomes the first of a new wave of casino-resorts emerging in the Cotai Strip, as Galaxy Macau phase 2 and Broadway Macau open today.

"I can certainly say that our additional tables will be sufficient for the current market. We are quite comfortable with what we have been receiving," he stressed.

The group stated in January that it has the capacity to add as many as 500 new gambling tables to its second phase. GEG has been granted 150 new-to-market tables for its property expansion, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, recently confirmed.

Mr Longhurst recalled that the industry has seen a shift from the VIP to the mass-market—a trend which is expected to grow in the near future.

"The market has certainly changed from a VIP focus to a mass market focus, and the vast majority of new gaming tables will be focused on our mass market, which is really where



the future of Macau lies," he reiterated.

Galaxy's senior executive added that, "the long term projection for this particular property and for Macau really is now tourism for the mass market."

The group has invested HKD43 billion of a planned HKD100 billion commitment to Macau in its 1.1-million-square-resort.

Galaxy Macau now features six hotels providing 4,000 rooms, suites, and villas, as well as two spas.

Luxury hotels the Ritz-Carlton (comprising of over 254

suites), JW Marriott (comprising of over 1,015 rooms) and Broadway Hotel (comprising of 320 rooms) have now been added to the existing Banyan Tree Macau, Hotel Okura Macau and Galaxy Macau.

Mr Longhurst assured the public that Galaxy is very confident of its new developments. He acknowledged that the market has changed over the past year, and it is for this reason that the group has improved its efforts to provide additional non-gaming amenities.

"We think the market has changed over the past 12 months. The majority of our development has gone into the non-gaming parts of our business (...) the diversity of our offering is quite significant," he recalled.

Asked about how many gaming tables currently allocated to the group's properties will be transferred to the new casino, Mr Longhurst only revealed that, "we will allocate tables based on where we think the growth opportunities are."

He stressed that over 75 percent of new gaming products will be allocated to mass-ga-

ming facilities as Galaxy expands into phase 2.

"You will see a migration from phase 1 to phase 2 but we take a look at the total of our property. With respect to all the tables allocated to GEG we distribute those tables where we think the best opportunity will be for us within the company," he reiterated.

Galaxy's director of International Premium & Mass Market Development, Raymond Yap, revealed that the group is initially hoping to attract 70,000 visitors as it expands into phase 2. "We are very optimistic about our business," he added.

Galaxy's Chief Marketing Officer, Kevin Clayton, acknowledged that the typical customer has evolved over the years and therefore the market needs to expand beyond gaming within properties. "We now get far more discerning customers coming from South East Asia, North Asia and China. They're looking for a wider selection of experiences, broader forms of entertainment, not just gaming," he recalled.

Broadway Macau, he said,

has been designed and developed taking into account this particular type of customer. "Whether you're a billionaire or whether you've got a thousand bucks, we now accommodate everybody within this integrated resort," he added.

Macau's gaming revenue continued to decline for the 11th straight month in April. Mr Clayton acknowledged that the Las Vegas of the East has had to confront the headwinds, but "it's still the largest gaming and entertainment market anywhere in the world."

"We have sufficient assets that will give us a good return to our shareholders. That's the key point here. We will deliver a good return for our shareholders and we will continue to do that going into the future. We have a very strong position, financially, as a company," he reiterated.

Galaxy Macau phase 2 and Broadway Macau officially open this afternoon. The Cotai Strip will see several expansion plans from other casino operators unfolding over the next two years too.

## A CALL FOR FAMILIES AND MICE BUSINESS

**GALAXY MACAU** is hoping to attract more families as the group expands into its second phase of development. As part of this, it will provide additional non-gaming amenities, namely a 200-store shopping complex, a 3,000 seat theatre, and a variety of new restaurants and bars, which will join the Ritz-Carlton, JW Marriott and Broadway hotels. According to the

vice-president of operations for JW Marriott and the Ritz-Carlton hotels Rauf Malik, Galaxy is now trying "to attract more families to spend their holidays here, shopping and enjoying the cuisine and retail experience." Furthermore, he recalled that Galaxy now offers different brands complementing each other, which he believes will also attract the MICE business.

## STATISTICS

# Retail sales drop by 11 pct in Q1

**T**HE value of retail sales dropped by 11 pct year-on-year in the first quarter of 2015, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The most significant declines were recorded in the sales of watches, clocks & jewelry (down by 31 pct), leather goods (down by 28 pct), goods in department stores (down by 13 pct) and motor vehicles (down by 13 pct). On

the other hand, sales of communication equipment soared by 56 pct, and sales of cosmetics & sanitary items rose by 18 pct.

Retail sales for this year's first quarter reached MOP16.41 billion, down by five pct quarter-to-quarter.

Retail sales of watches, clocks & jewelry (MOP3.73 billion) accounted for 23 pct of the total, followed by retail sales of goods in department stores

(15 pct), adult clothing (11 pct), leather goods (10 pct), goods in supermarkets (7 pct) and in motor vehicles (5 pct).

The volume of retail sales for the first quarter declined by three pct quarter-to-quarter. Leather goods (down by 14 pct), Chinese food products (down by 14 pct), watches, clocks & jewelry (down by 13 pct) and motor vehicles (down by 12 pct) recorded significant declines. The volume of retail sales of

communication equipment increased by 25 pct quarter-to-quarter.

Fifty-nine pct of surveyed retailers reported a quarter-to-quarter decrease in sales volume in this year's first quarter, while 41 pct of respondents stated that sales volume had either increased or remained steady.

Regarding the retail business outlook for the second quarter, 49 pct of retailers predicted that the sales volume would remain stable, while 33 pct forecast a decrease and 18 pct anticipate that sales volume will increase. About 77 pct of retailers forecast stable prices, while 15 pct predict a decrease and eight expect an increase. **CP**

HEALTH

# New public hospital construction may be delayed

**T**HE construction of Macau's second public hospital might be delayed as the initial design project has been expanded, the Health Bureau (SSM) confirmed in a statement yesterday. A concrete schedule for the hospital's construction works will only be disclosed after the design project has been completed.



pose new technical challenges to the construction works. This adds complexity to the

project design and planned infrastructures, leading, for instance, to readjustments to the location of different health departments within the hospital. Therefore, the construction deadline will most likely be extended.

The growth in the number of Macau residents and a greater influx of tourists has led the government to adjust its initial plan for the new hospital complex.

SSM director Lei Chin Ion

told Radio Macau last week that the government would try to complete the hospital's construction works by 2017, but they "might need some time to make adjustments." "We need to wait for the completion of the project's plan in August and then we will have an accurate date," he added.

The hospital complex will be located east of Estrada do Istmo in Cotai, between the Seac Pai Van Reservoir and the Macau Dome. **CP**

# Chui Sai Peng argues for underground urban planning

**T**HE urban planning in Shenzhen's Qianhai, which forms part of the Guangdong free trade zone, could serve as a model to Macau as the cooperation zone utilizes underground space. This use of space would enable Macau to improve its future population capacity to 650,000 from the current 150,000. Chui Sai Peng, as one of the members of the city's delegation to the National People Congress, on a visit to the mainland area on Monday, urged the local government to use it as a point of reference in developing its new reclamation areas. According to the official, the cooperation zone's underground space spans a total area of 800 square meters. The spacious environment could be used to construct subways, shopping malls and parking lots. In addition to this, underground pipeline networks installed beneath Qianhai have met citizens' basic needs, including those relating to water, power and natural gas, added Chui. To overcome local land restrictions, he voiced his belief that the city had to be further developed underground.

# Two doctors convicted of medical malpractice

**T**WO physicians were convicted of negligence in a case that occurred at the Kiang Wu hospital in 2002. The Second Instance Court ruled that the doctors made a serious diagnostic error when attending to a two-year-old infant who was brought to the hospital by its parents after reports of feeling unwell. The parents opted to seek treatment in Hong Kong after the child's medical situation failed to improve.

The two doctors had been partially acquitted by the Court of First Instance, but the appeal court ruled that, in not undertaking the correct diagnosis, the doctors failed to provide the appropriate treatment.

The doctors were sentenced to pay a compensation of over MOP67,000 to the family and MOP150,000 for personal injuries inflicted on the child.

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# Committee continues studies into how to nurture local talent

**F**OUR local tertiary education institutions are currently undertaking a joint research project into five dominant industries in the city, with the resulting data serving to assist the Talents Development Committee in formulating its policies about nurturing local talent, revealed the committee's secretary-general Sou Chio Fai following the year's first plenary conference held yesterday afternoon.

Sou Chio Fai says that authorities are considering the possible refinement of a continuing education fund to enable the grant to cover the cost of professional training and its certification from abroad.

Sou, also the head of the Tertiary Education Services Office, told the media that the five industries, which the commission members were inclined to first address rather than targeting other minor industries in the city, included hotel management, event coordination, retail, gaming and catering, to which a majority of local manpower has been devoted.

"The committee chose to select the city's bigger industries. For example, in the gaming industry, according to



Chui Sai On (center) presided over the first ordinary session of the Talents Development Committee in 2015

the data at hand, the employee number reaches more than 50,000, which is surely a big number out of the close to 400,000 laborers in Macau," said the official, who then added that the data would be most influential in areas of policymaking that facilitate local citizens' upward mobility.

Furthermore, as another committee member, Van Iat Kio said, ongoing research by other groups or organizations in tandem with the efforts of local universities could also be of value to the database. The preliminary results of this database will hopefully be released next

month after the committee's approval.

Despite the existing MOP6,000 education subsidy which was put in place in 2014, the committee admits that this amount might not be helpful when it comes to certain internationally-accredited training programs and courses, which usually require much more financial support. Yet the authorities believe that the SAR government was not solely responsible in that regard, and was also linked to personal achievement and the wellbeing at local enterprises.

"But is it all the government's responsibility? The answer was a 'no' during our discussion. Enterprises are also responsible for it. The certification obtained is also beneficial to them, and also to one himself," said Sou. "How to share the benefits among the related stakeholders who also need to afford the resource, to a point where communication and integration will be achieved among various organizations offering different subventions for the sake of local professional development has always been our work."

Even so, the official conceded afterwards that the details of such an idea were yet to be elaborated on. **Staff reporter**

## Parents queue for summer activity application

Local parents have scrambled to enroll their kids into the government's summer activities yesterday at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion as the application deadline approached. The final day of registration was for participants who had not been selected yet were still eligible for the courses that were still available. Those parents who braved the torrential rain needed to spend almost two hours in queues, yet most of them were told that the courses taught in the Macau peninsula were already full. This forced them to change their minds and opt for courses in Taipa. The selected participants already made their applications over the past three days at the same venue.

## Flights to Xi'an could be resumed

The tourism bureau of Shaanxi province is aiming to re-launch direct flights between Xi'an and Macau. Last year, Xi'an received more than 200,000 visitors from Macau and Hong Kong, while some 40,000 Xi'an citizens visited the SARs. Dong Hanqing, a bureau official in charge of SAR-related tourism affairs said that the two cities once established a direct airline route around the time of Macau's handover and that now is the ideal time to reinstate the route so as to improve exchanges in personnel as well as in trade, culture and tourism between Shaanxi and Macau.

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# Milk-peddling brothers turn airline millionaires with China IPO



A Juneyao Airlines Co. aircraft taxis on the tarmac at Shanghai Pudong International Airport in Shanghai, China

**T**WO decades ago, the Wang brothers sold flavored milk and yogurt to children in China. Last week, they sold shares in their airline in an IPO to become millionaires.

Their journey from a poor fishing village to the largest shareholders of budget carrier Juneyao Airlines Co., which begins trading in Shanghai this week, is a success story that mirrors China's growth. The company is benefiting from a government plan to encourage entrepreneurship in an air-travel market that's set to become the world's largest over the next two decades and is currently

dominated by state-owned airlines.

At its offer price, Juneyao Air will be valued at 6.35 billion yuan (USD1 billion). That's about a tenth of the market value of Spring Airlines Co., whose stock has surged over 600 percent since a January listing. Every one of the 147 mainland initial public offerings that began trading over the past year has jumped the maximum 44 percent on its first day of trading.

"Certainly, Spring Air's crazy surge, which outperformed even the broader bull market, would be on the minds of many

people," said Zhang Qi, a Shanghai-based analyst with Haitong Securities Co. "With oil prices at low levels, airlines that are more efficiently run would make an attractive investment proposition."

Juneyao Air, whose Chinese name means lucky, is selling 68 million shares at 11.18 yuan apiece, raising 760 million yuan from the offering. The stock begins trading today.

The share sale, coming on the back of a doubling of the Shanghai Composite Index in the past 12 months, is part of an IPO boom in China. Share subscriptions for 20 IPO of-

ferings in Shanghai will lock up an estimated 2.79 trillion yuan of liquidity, according to a Bloomberg survey published May 12.

"It's a bull market right now, which is why so many IPOs are coming to the market," said Cao Xuefeng, an analyst with Huaxi Securities in Chengdu. "These also tend to be companies that represent the type of industries that will form the bulk of the Chinese economy in the future."

## Juneyao Air will use the share sale proceeds to buy more aircraft, adding to the 42 it currently uses to connect Shanghai to Beijing, HK and Macau

Still, seven of the 11 IPOs by airlines in Asia during the past five years are trading below their sale prices, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Bangkok Airways Co. has fallen 16 percent since its \$622 million IPO in October, while AirAsia X Bhd., the long-haul budget carrier backed by Tony Fernandes, has lost nearly three-quarters of its value since it debuted in July 2013, according to the data.

Spring Air, which listed in January after a \$291 million IPO, is the best performer, the data show.

While the global airline industry is forecast to post \$25 billion in profit this year, profitability hasn't been great

in the recent past. Airlines earned \$2.50 per passenger journey in 2012, which rose to \$4 in 2013 - enough to buy a sandwich, International Air Transport Association CEO Tony Tyler said.

Juneyao Air will use the share sale proceeds to buy more aircraft, adding to the 42 Airbus Group NV narrow-body jets it currently uses to connect Shanghai to Beijing, Hong Kong and Macau, among other destinations.

The carrier was profitable in each of the past four years, with net income gaining 26 percent to 428 million yuan last year. Guotai Junan Securities Co Ltd. has underwritten the share sale offer, according to the prospectus.

Juneyao Air gets its name from its parent company, Juneyao Group. Both were named after the oldest of the three Wang brothers, who were born in a village on the outskirts of the eastern Chinese coastal city of Wenzhou.

Wang Junyao made the family's first fortune selling flavored milk and yogurt to children in the 1990s.

"Back then, we went with dairy because our oldest brother decided then we needed a more stable business," Wang Junjin, the second of the three brothers and the chairman of Juneyao Group, said in a 2012 television interview.

The Juneyao Group now is a conglomerate with assets worth 20 billion yuan spanning food, department stores, schools and banking.

The Wangs caught the aviation bug in 1991 - when flying was still a novelty in China - when they leased a plane and offered charter flights to Wenzhou from Changsha in Hunan province.

Juneyao Air declined requests for comment and an interview with the family ahead of the company's listing debut. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MELCO DRAGON BOAT TEAM HOLDS BLESSING CEREMONY



For nine consecutive years, Melco Crown Entertainment has participated in the Macau International Dragon Boat Races. A group of 40 staff athletes joined a blessing ceremony last Friday at the Nam Van Lake Nautical Center for this year's races.

The Ceremony was officiated by Mr. Lawrence Ho, Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Crown Entertainment; Mr. Ted Chan, Chief Operating Officer; Ms.

Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President, Chief Human Resources and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer, and Ms. Constance Hsu, General Manager of Altira Macau and other company executives. As part of the traditional ritual, Mr. Lawrence Ho dotted the dragon's eyes and the athletes got into the dragon boats and paddled. A long string of firecrackers was set off for good luck, followed by cutting of a suckling pig. The ceremony

adjourned with Mr. Lawrence Ho presenting red packets to each of the athletes as a form of encouragement and blessing for their upcoming success in the races.

Last year, Melco's Dragon Boat Team achieved the first runner-up in the Macau Small Dragon Boat Open Race -200m and second runner-up in the Macau Standard Dragon Boat Open Race-500m. This year, the team will hit the water again with 44 staff athletes on three boating teams, two to compete in the Macau Small Dragon Boat Open Race and one in the Macau Standard Dragon Boat Open Race. Of the 44 staff athletes on the Melco Crown Entertainment Dragon Boat Team, 95% are local Macau staff.

### MACAO GAMING SHOW ANNOUNCES PROGRESSIVE PRICING POLICY

The Macao Gaming Show (MGS), which is taking place November 17th-19th at The Venetian, is offering this year's exhibitors the opportunity to double their stand size for no additional cost.

MGS's progressive pricing structure allows companies to secure 100 booth areas for the price of 50, an offer which equates to HKD1 million (circa USD128,200). The initiative, which was trialed at last year's event, forms part of a schedule of sales and marketing initiatives to be introduced for the 2015 show.

MGS's newly launched pricing proposition was expanded upon by the show's General Manager and Event Director Marina Wong: "We are committed to building on



Marina Wong

the success of the first two editions of MGS and providing a professional forum in which exhibitors from throughout the world are able to meet and do business with the industry in Asia. Delivering exceptional value and exceeding our customers' expectations are cen-

tral elements of our business development strategy moving forward".

Ms Wong emphasized: "Our progressive pricing strategy will enable us to engage with more potential exhibitors which in turn provides visitors with more reasons to attend."



Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN

# Ma proposes plan to ease South China Sea tensions

**T**AIWAN'S President Ma Ying-jeou laid out a plan yesterday to ease tensions in a vast, resource-rich Asian ocean where China has chafed against its neighbors by expanding islets with landfill to solidify its claims in the region.

Ma's plan calls for setting aside sovereignty disputes over the South China Sea and jointly exploring for resources.

Taiwan has not been a high-profile player in the disputes in the South China Sea, although it uses roughly the same historical basis for its claim as China, and Ma's initiative appeared aimed at shoring up foreign policy credentials at home.

"We emphasize that whereas sovereignty can't be divided, resources can be shared," Ma said in his speech yesterday at an Asia-Pacific research forum in Taipei.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Beijing has noted Ma's proposal, but offered no opinion as to its feasibility.

"We believe that Chinese people across the strait are obliged to together maintain China's territorial integrity and maritime rights, and the peace and stability in the South China Sea," Hua



Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou speaks as he announces his South China Sea Peace Initiative during the 2015 ILA-ASIL Asia Pacific Research Forum in Taipei

told a regular briefing.

Taiwan, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines claim all or parts of the 3.5 million-square-kilometer South China Sea. The ocean ranges from Taiwan's southern tip southwest to Singapore.

In recent months China has made other claimants and their common ally the United States

bristle by landfilling tiny islets, a way to extend its reach. The tropical sea is rich in oil, natural gas and fisheries as well as major international marine shipping routes.

In a sign of recent tensions, Beijing filed a formal complaint with the United States this week after an American military plane flew over one islet, and Japan has

pledged to help Vietnam and the Philippines with defense as China's presence grows.

Taiwan's initiative calls on "all parties concerned" to uphold the "freedom and safety of navigation and overflight" and avoid unilateral action that would escalate tension, according to a statement from the foreign ministry. It also suggests regional cooperation in developing the region's resources.

Other South China Sea claimants are unlikely to react openly to Taiwan's initiative as they lack diplomatic relations with Ma's government. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan itself and uses economic clout to bar other nations from exchanges that cast Taiwan as a nation.

Ma did not discuss yesterday the basis for Taiwan's maritime claim or that of other governments.

The United States wants the sea to stay open to shipping and flights, while Beijing has said Washin-

gton wants to keep a presence there to contain Chinese maritime expansion. Taiwan is keen to get along with the United States as its staunchest informal ally.

Ma's initiative "is not enough for China and it's not enough for the United States, so you just end up not meeting everyone's expectations," said Lai I-chung, vice president of Taiwan Think Tank.

The peace plan may also be calculated to bolster Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party ahead of the January 2016 presidential election as their chief opposition candidate develops a competing plan for the South China Sea, said Joanna Lei, chief executive officer of the Chunghua 21st Century Think Tank in Taiwan.

Ma has been criticized at home for lack of foreign policy achievements.

In 2012, he proposed a peace initiative for settling disputes in the East China Sea, parts of which are claimed by his government as well as China and Japan. **AP**

AD

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In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, Wu Zhongfeng, an man injured in a fire, receives treatment at a hospital in Pingdingshan



The fire-gutted rest home in Pingdingshan, central China's Henan Province

A fire that swept through a privately run home for the elderly in central China killed 38 people and left much of it a charred ruin, raising concerns over the safety of facilities housing the country's rapidly aging population.

The fire broke out Monday night in the Kangle Yuan Rest Home, which housed 51 residents in the city of Pingdingshan in Henan province, the province's work safety administration said in a statement. In addition to the dozens who died, six people were injured, including two in serious condition, the statement said.

A photo of the fire scene released by China's official Xinhua News Agency showed that

## Fire at elderly home kills 38

many sections of the facility appeared to have completely burned down. Xinhua said a rescue operation was still underway yesterday morning and that the cause of the fire was unclear.

"I was in my bed at the time. Suddenly, I saw a worker run out of a room on fire and he shouted 'Run! Run!' to me, so I dashed out," Guo Xin, 78, was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

Another survivor, 82-year-old Zhao Yulan, said only two of the 11 people living in her room made it out alive, Xinhua reported. Some of the remains

of people killed in the fire were burned beyond recognition, the news agency said.

The fire destroyed a part of the home housing people who are completely dependent on others for care. Xinhua quoted 80-year-old resident Chen Runsheng as saying not enough caregivers were working at the facility.

Police took the facility's legal representative into custody pending an investigation into the blaze, and were questioning the staff, Xinhua said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged rescue personnel to ur-

gently aid the injured and victims' families, and to determine the cause of the fire and who was responsible, Xinhua reported.

Premier Li Keqiang called on officials across the country to "draw lessons from the accident, checking all potential safety hazards to avoid similar incidents," Xinhua said.

With a rapidly aging population and under-resourced social security net, China faces increasing pressure to provide safe and affordable care for the elderly. Xinhua cited figures showing a severe shortage of

caregivers in the country, with 220,000 working in homes for the elderly, while 10 million are needed.

"The tragedy is a sore reminder" that facilities for the elderly are still far behind where they should be, Xinhua said in a commentary on the blaze. The shortage means some people "have no other choice but to live in poorly equipped nursing facilities," it said.

In 2013, a disgruntled resident set fire to a home for the elderly in Heilongjiang province in northeastern China, killing himself and 10 others. **AP**

## Army plays down offshore island building

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA'S military yesterday compared its controversial island-building in the South China Sea to ordinary construction such as road-building going on elsewhere in the country, trying to deflect criticism over an issue seen as inflaming tensions in the region.

Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun's comments followed a formal Chinese protest over an incident last week in which a Chinese navy dispatcher warned off a U.S. Navy P8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft as it flew over Fiery Cross Reef, where China has conducted extensive reclamation work.

The incident, documented by a CNN news crew on board the U.S. plane, prompted a testy edito-



A Dolphin Z-9 helicopter from China's CNS Yulin Navy missile frigate flies off the deck of Singapore's RSS Intrepid Navy missile frigate during exercises in the South China Sea

rial Monday in the official Communist Party newspaper Global Times that warned that Washington should not test Beijing's restraint or China would have "no choice but to engage."

China has bristled at what it sees as U.S. interference in the region and says it is within its sove-

reign rights in developing islands made from sand piled on top of reefs and atolls. The U.S. and many of China's neighbors see the island-building as an upending of the status quo by China to bolster its claims to the region and possibly pave the way for military installations far from its shores.

In one disputed area, the Spratly Islands, U.S. officials say China has created about 800 hectares of dry land since 2014 that could be used as airstrips. The U.S. argues that man-made constructions cannot be used to claim sovereignty and is closely watching for signs that China will

seek to back up its claims by basing missile systems and fighter aircraft on the newly formed islands.

However, Yang sought to minimize the military significance of the island developments and said the issue has been exaggerated by those seeking an excuse to take unspecified actions in response, a clear reference to the United States.

"Every day all around China, there are all kinds of construction projects being started (such as) building homes, paving roads, building bridges, opening new farm land, etc.," Yang told reporters at a news conference to release a new report on China's military strategy.

"Looking from the angle of sovereignty, China's development of cons-

truction on its islands is no different at all from all the other types of construction going on around the country that I just mentioned," he said.

Such construction is designed to satisfy both military and civilian purposes such as disaster mitigation, fisheries protection and weather monitoring, Yang said.

Without directly mentioning the U.S., he said the issue had been brought to the fore by an increase in surveillance activities and an effort to "deliberately play up the issue in order to smear China's military and raise tensions in the region.

"I don't rule out that certain countries are looking for excuses to take certain actions," Yang said.

He declined to say what additional measures China might take to enforce its claims and said overall relations between the U.S. and Chinese militaries are positive. **AP**

## MALAYSIA

# Forensics teams dig up graves at trafficking camp

Eileen Ng, Bukit Wang Burma

**M**ALAYSIAN forensics teams exhumed a body from a shallow grave yesterday at an abandoned jungle camp used by human traffickers, the first of what police predicted would be more grim findings as they search through a cluster of illicit hideouts near the border with Thailand.

Authorities say there are 139 suspected graves in the mountainous jungle where northern Malaysia meets southern Thailand, a remote area that trafficking syndicates used as a transit point to hold migrants and refugees. Most were believed to be members of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority and impoverished migrants from Bangladesh.

"Forensics teams have found one human body so far," said Mohammad Bahar Alias, a senior police official from northern Perlis state. Digging continued at other graves, which police said were marked by sticks or stones. "There are graves all over this area."

Malaysian police took journalists to one of 28 abandoned camps found after a regional crackdown was launched on human trafficking earlier this month.

The camp, reached after a 2-hour hike up a steep jungle path, appeared to have been abandoned a while ago, police said. A jungle prison remained that included at least two large wooden pens wrapped with barbed wire.

"These structures were believed to be used as human cages,"



Malaysian police forensic team members inspect a freshly exhumed human body from an unmarked grave in Wang Burma at the Malaysia-Thailand border outside Wang Kelian, Malaysia

## Police predicted more grim findings as they search through a cluster of illicit hideouts near the border with Thailand

said Mohammad Bahar. He said the camp may have held up to 300 people. It also contained a watch tower and a cooking area littered with dishes and pots. During the tour, autho-

rities pointed out what looked like the skeletal remains of a jaw on the ground.

"We think it belongs to a human," said Mohammad Bahar.

The body that was found yesterday was wrapped from head to toe in a white cloth. He said it would be taken to a state hospital for an autopsy.

The discoveries in the northern Malaysian state of Perlis follow similar revelations earlier this month in Thailand, where police unearthed dozens of bodies from shallow graves on the Thai side of the border. Thai police Maj. Gen. Puthichart Ekkachan said 36 bodies were found there in seven abandoned camps.

The discoveries have exposed hidden networks of jungle

camps run by human smugglers, who have for years held countless desperate people captive while extorting ransoms from their families. Most of the victims were part of a wave of people who fled their homelands to reach countries like Malaysia, where they hoped to find work or live freely.

As Southeast Asian governments have launched crackdowns in recent weeks amid intensified international pressure and media scrutiny, traffickers have abandoned the camps and boats at sea to avoid arrest.

This month, more than 3,500 people — about half of them from Bangladesh and half Rohingya from Myanmar — have landed in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Thousands

more are believed to be trapped at sea in boats abandoned by their captains.

Human rights groups and activists say the area along the Thai-Malaysia border has been used for years to smuggle migrants and refugees, including Rohingya Muslims, a long-persecuted minority in predominantly Buddhist 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 their families back home. Rights groups say some have been beaten to death, and The Associated Press has documented other cases in which people have been enslaved on fishing boats.

Malaysia and Indonesia announced last week that they would provide shelter for up to one year for migrants recently found or still stranded at sea. The U.S. has said it will settle some of them permanently.

Thailand yesterday joined Malaysia and Indonesia in launching naval patrols of its territorial waters, saying it will open a "floating base" near its maritime border with Myanmar where migrants in need of medical assistance can receive treatment at sea. The operation, which includes seven naval ships and eight aircraft for aerial searches, will run initially for two weeks, said Supreme Commander Gen. Worapong Sa-nganetr.

The Rohingya, numbering around 1.3 million in Myanmar, have been called one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. Long denied basic rights, they have been driven from their homes in mob attacks in Myanmar's Rakhine state several times since 2012.

More than 140,000 were displaced and are now living under apartheid-like conditions in crowded camps. More than 100,000 others have fled by sea. **AP**

## Hong Kong student leader accuses Malaysia of denying him entry

Pooi Koon Chong and Niluksi Koswanage

**A** student leader of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong said Malaysia denied him entry, preventing him from speaking at a forum about China's Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989.

Joshua Wong - co-founder of the student activist group Scholarism - said in a Facebook posting yesterday that the immigration officials wouldn't let him through an airport checkpoint after he arrived in the northwest-

tern state of Penang. He returned to Hong Kong and wouldn't participate in the forum or several similar events planned throughout Malaysia.

"Why can't I get through the border?" Wong wrote. "The Malaysian immigration officer says: government order."

Malaysian Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Wong helped lead demonstrations that blocked key Hong Kong business districts for more than two months

last autumn to protest China's proposal to vet candidates for the city's first leadership election. The Occupy Central movement, which ended in December, represented the biggest challenge to China's rule since the British returned control of the former colony in 1997.

While Zahid told the local news portal Malaysiakini he has no knowledge of Wong's case, he said national security concerns were the most common reason for denying foreign citizens from entering the country.



Hong Kong Pro-Democracy Group Scholarism Leader Joshua Wong

Wong was due to speak on the role of young people in civil movements at several events starting

with the one in Penang. Yesterday's forum would proceed as scheduled, said Ch'ng Hui Yang,

a spokesman for SUARAM, the human rights group that organized the event. **Bloomberg**

Robin McDowell, Yangon

MYANMAR

# Suu Kyi is missing from global meeting on Rohingya

An international gathering about the plight of Myanmar's persecuted Rohingya Muslims boasts a star-studded cast, with three Nobel Peace laureates among those calling on the world to wake up to the unfolding tragedy.

But fellow winner and pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi will not be among them. She wasn't invited.

During her 15 years under house arrest, Suu Kyi won admiration across the globe for her fiery speeches and scathing criticism of the military regime that ruled Myanmar, or Burma, at the time.

After her release in 2010, when ruling generals handed over power to a nominally civilian government, she won a seat in parliament.

The 69-year-old says she is a politician and that she never sought to be a human rights champion. Critics note she is carefully choosing her battles, in part because she has presidential ambitions.

In a predominantly Buddhist country of 50 million people, where there is much animosity for the 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims, Suu Kyi has opted to remain silent, even as the world watched in horror while more than 3,500 hungry, dehydrated Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants washed ashore in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand this month.

The international gathering yesterday at the Nobel Institute in Oslo, Norway, will feature video statements from Nobel Peace Prize winners Desmond Tutu, José Ramos-Horta and Mairead Maguire. Others, like philanthropist George Soros, who escaped Nazi-occupied Hungary, and former prime minister of Norway Kjell Magne Bondevik, will also speak.

They will focus on concrete ways to end the decades-long persecution of Rohingya — and the need to speak out.

"If you are neutral in situa-

AP PHOTO



Aung San Suu Kyi stands at the podium to deliver a speech in Yangon

**In a predominantly Buddhist country where there is much animosity for the Rohingya Muslims, Suu Kyi has opted to remain silent**

tions of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor," Tutu, who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his opposition to South Africa's brutal apartheid regime, says in his video statement. "If an elephant has its foot on the tail of

a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

Myanmar's transition from dictatorship to democracy has been a bumpy one.

Despite early euphoria about much-touted political reforms, the accompanying freedoms of expression had a dark side, lifting the lid off deep-seated resentment toward the dark-skinned Rohingya minority.

With hardline Buddhist monks fanning the anger, machete-wielding mobs started taking to the streets in 2012, killing up to 280 people and forcing another 140,000 into crowded, dusty internment camps. They have little access to school and adequate health care, nor can they move around freely, paying hefty bribes if they want to pass police barricades, even for emergencies.

The government insists they

are illegal migrants from neighboring Bangladesh and has denied them citizenship, adding to the desperation that sparked an exodus of an estimated 100,000 Rohingya in the last three years. Authorities refuse to identify them as "Rohingya" and use "Bengalis" instead. Suu Kyi also avoids the term and generally refers to them as "Muslims."

The website for the three-day Oslo conference says the popular daughter of Myanmar's late independence hero, Aung San, shares the «anti-Rohingya» sentiment of much of the population, something she had denied, but with little vigor. Aase Sand, of the Norwegian Burma Committee, one of the event's organizers, said there was never a plan to invite her or to ask for a videotaped statement.

Suu Kyi has in the last two

years actively campaigned to change the constitution that bars her from the presidency because she was married to a foreigner. With elections slated for the end of the year, the Oxford-educated opposition leader realizes she herself won't be contesting the upcoming vote. Still, her National League for Democracy Party will be, and it's expected to perform strongly.

Suu Kyi has been playing a delicate balancing act. She has been careful not to rile the military, which still wields tremendous political power, with a quarter of the seats in parliament and veto power over changes to constitutional amendments. She also realizes she — and her party — risk public backlash if she speaks out in defense of Rohingya.

Suu Kyi, a member of the Burman Buddhist elite, bristles when foreign media or rights activists ask her why she has so far failed to denounce religious bigotry in Myanmar.

She did not respond to questions from The Associated Press, but reiterated her position in an interview with Canada's The Globe and Mail last month that the problems in Rakhine state — where almost all the country's Rohingya live — are based on fear and perceptions of being a minority.

"Those who criticize me for not condemning one side or the other — they've never said exactly what they hope will come out of such condemnation," she told the paper. "You're just taking the moral high ground for the sake of sounding good — it sounds a little irresponsible." AP

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## IRAQ

# Gov't launches operation to drive IS from Anbar

Sinan Salaheddin, Baghdad

**I**RAQ yesterday announced the launch of a military operation to drive the Islamic State group out of the western Anbar province, where the extremists captured the provincial capital, Ramadi, earlier this month.

Iraqi state TV declared the start of the operation, in which troops will be backed by Shiite and Sunni paramilitary forces, but did not provide further details.

A spokesman for Iraq's Shiite militias said the operation will "not last for a long time" and that Iraqi forces have surrounded the provincial capital, Ramadi, from three sides.

Ahmed al-Assadi, who is also a member of parliament, told reporters that new weapons are being used in the



In this Saturday, May 23, 2015 photo, Shiite militiamen arrive to Khalidiya to support Sunni tribal fighters and local policemen as they defend their city against Islamic State group militants

battle "that will surprise the enemy."

The Islamic State group sei-

zed large parts of Anbar starting in early 2014 and captured Ramadi earlier this mon-

th. The fall of the city marked a major defeat for Iraqi forces, which had been making

steady progress against the extremists over the past year with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes.

Security forces and Sunni militiamen who had been battling the extremists in Ramadi for months collapsed as IS fighters overran the city. The militants gained not only new territory 115 kilometers west of Baghdad, but also large stocks of weapons abandoned by government forces as they fled.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Sunday that Iraqi forces had "vastly outnumbered" the IS militants in Ramadi but "showed no will to fight."

Saad al-Hadithi, a spokesman for Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, said the government was surprised by Carter's remarks, and that the defense secretary "was likely given incorrect information."

Al-Abadi has called on Shiite militias to help Iraqi troops retake the Sunni province. The militiamen have played a key role in clawing back territory from the IS group elsewhere in Iraq, but rights groups accuse them of looting, destroying property and carrying out revenge attacks. Militia leaders deny the allegations. **AP**

## USA

# 12 missing after flooding in Texas sweeps away vacation home

Seth Robbins and Paul J. Weber, Wimberley

**R**ECOVERY teams are set to resume looking for the 12 members of two families who authorities say are missing after a rain-swollen river in Central Texas carried a vacation home off its foundation, slamming it into a bridge downstream.

Trey Hatt, a spokesman for the Hays County Emergency Operations Center, said Monday night that the "search component" of the mission was over, meaning no more survivors were expected to be found in the flood debris along the Blanco River. But recovery efforts were to resume yesterday morning, following a long holiday weekend of severe weather that led to four confirmed fatalities across Texas.

Authorities were also searching for victims and assessing damage just across the Texas-Mexico border in Ciudad Acuna, where a tornado Monday killed 13 people and left at least five unaccounted for.

In the U.S., a line of storms that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes dumped record rainfall on parts of the Plains and Midwest, spawning tornadoes and causing major flooding



Rescue personnel grab the hand of a man stranded in rushing water in Austin, Texas

that in Texas destroyed or damaged more than 1,000 homes and forced at least 2,000 residents to leave their homes.

"You cannot candy coat it. It's absolutely massive," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said after touring the destruction.

The governor has declared disaster areas in 37 counties so far, allowing for further mobilization of state resources to assist.

The worst flooding damage was in Wimberley, where the vacation home was swept away, a popular tourist town along the Blanco in the corridor between Austin and San Antonio.

Witnesses reported seeing the swollen river push the home off its foundation and smash it into a bridge. Only pieces of the home have been found, Hays County Judge Bert Cobb said.

One person who was rescued from the home told workers that the other 12 inside were all connected to two families, Cobb said. Young children were among those believed to be missing.

The Blanco crested above 12 meters — more than triple its flood stage of 3.9 meters. The river swamped Interstate 35 and forced parts of the busy north-south highway to close. **AP**

## IRAN

# Trial of detained Washington Post reporter begins

Nasser Karimi, Tehran

**A**N Iranian security court yesterday held the first hearing in the closed trial of an American-Iranian reporter for The Washington Post who has been detained for more than 10 months, the official IRNA news agency reported.

It said Jason Rezaian is being tried in a Revolutionary Court on allegations of "espionage for the hostile government of the United States" and propaganda against the Islamic republic, charges that could send him to jail for up to six years.

The report did not provide further details, but initial hearings in Iran usually see the prosecutor spell out charges.

Rezaian, his wife Yeganeh Salehi and two photojournalists were detained on July 22 in Tehran. All were later released except Rezaian, who was born and spent most of his life in the United States, and who holds both American and Iranian citizenship. Iran

does not recognize other nationalities of its citizens.

U.S. officials have repeatedly pressed Iran to release Rezaian and other jailed Americans, including during talks on the sidelines of negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program. Iran and world powers hope to reach a comprehensive agreement on the program by the end of June.

The Washington Post has criticized Rezaian's detention and the handling of the case. It said his mother and wife have been barred from attending the trial, and that requests for a visa for a senior editor to travel to Iran went unanswered.

"There is no justice in this system, not an ounce of it, and yet the fate of a good, innocent man hangs in the balance," Washington Post Executive Editor Martin Baron said in a statement. "Iran is making a statement about its values in its disgraceful treatment of our colleague, and it can only horrify the world community." **AP**

## what's ON



## PATH AND ADVENTURE – WORKS BY MIO PANG FEI

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: November 22, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## SHIWAN CERAMICS EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: July 19, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## KID'S FUN LAND ON TEA-THINGS

TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: May 31, 2015

VENUE: 2/FI., Macau Tea Culture House

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## TEA CULTURE HOUSE

TIME: 9am-7pm daily (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House, Lou Lim Ioc Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

## 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL PAINTINGS – MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## 'HEROES' WELCOME FOR SWEDEN'S EUROVISION WINNER



Hundreds of elated fans welcomed Eurovision Song Contest winner Mans Zelmerlow upon his return Sunday to Sweden, a mini-superpower in the world of pop music and six-time champion of the glitzy song fest.

Sleep-deprived and smiling, the 28-year-old singer-TV host arrived at Stockholm's Arlanda Airport draped in a Swedish flag and waving the Eurovision trophy.

"I've longed for this moment for 10 years, and now here it is," said Zelmerlow, who won the contest Saturday in Vienna with the thumping club anthem "Heroes."

With two victories and two third places in the last five years, Sweden seems to have cracked the code of the competition, where voters across Europe pick the winner among entries representing various musical styles and traditions.

Five other entries in this year's contest had Swedish songwriters or choreographers, including runner-up Russia. In 2011, Azerbaijan won the competition with a song written by Swedes.

"Among Swedes (Eurovision) is the biggest thing next to the World Cup," Swedish radio host Tara Moshizi told national broadcaster SVT.

The only country with more Eurovision wins is Ireland, with seven.

## TV canal macau

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

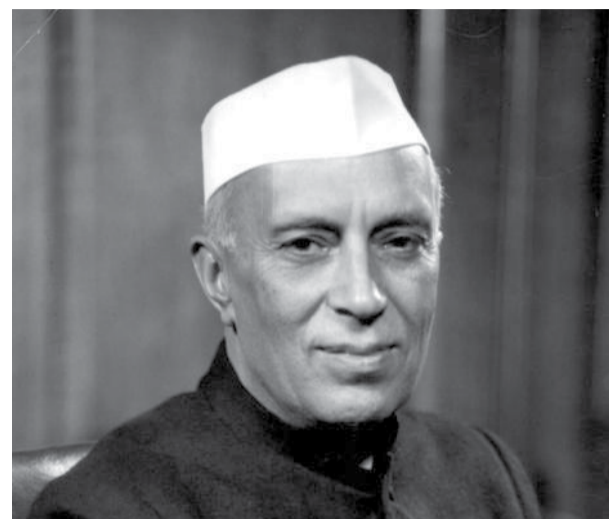
Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min

## this day in history



## 1964 LIGHT GOES OUT IN INDIA AS NEHRU DIES

Jawaharlal Nehru, founder of modern India and its current prime minister, has died suddenly at the age of 74.

He was taken ill in the early hours of this morning at his house in New Delhi. He had returned from holiday at a hill station near the capital the previous evening, apparently in reasonable health.

It is believed he suffered a heart attack, and although specialists fought to save him for much of the day, he passed away early this afternoon with his daughter, Indira Gandhi, by his side.

News of his death was broken to the lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, at 1400 local time (0830 GMT), by cabinet minister C Subramaniam.

In a broken voice, he told colleagues, "The prime minister is no more. The light is out."

Politicians openly wept as party leaders paid tribute to the man who has led India since independence from Britain 17 years ago.

The news spread quickly through the streets, and thousands of ordinary Indians began to converge on Mr Nehru's mansion in New Delhi.

Within two hours of the announcement, tens of thousands of people had gathered, and truckloads of police took up positions outside the grounds to control the rapidly growing crowd.

Mr Nehru's body was moved from his first-floor bedroom down to a makeshift bier in front of the house.

Then began a long procession which lasted through the rest of the evening and into the night, as nearly 250,000 men, women and children filed past to pay their respects.

The Home Minister, Gulzarilal Nanda, was sworn in as interim prime minister at midnight, although it is being emphasised that the appointment is temporary.

Pandit Nehru had not indicated who he would prefer to succeed him.

When the subject was raised just five days ago at a news conference, he said that although he had given some thought to the suggestion that he should retire, "my lifetime is not ending so very soon."

The man thought most likely to succeed him is Lal Bahadur Shastri, a Minister without Portfolio in Mr Nehru's cabinet with a reputation for moderation. He was a close political confidant of Mr Nehru.

Other possible candidates are Mr Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, and the former finance minister, Morarji Desai.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Lal Shastri emerged as the compromise candidate to succeed Nehru after none of the other contenders could find enough support within the Congress Party.

He took office on 9 June 1964, but served for less than two years until he also died of a heart attack in office in January 1966.

Lal Shastri was succeeded by Pandit Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi. This began the long Nehru-Gandhi dynasty which has dominated the top echelons of Indian politics to this day.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the son of a lawyer, was a key figure in the struggle for independence from Britain.

He was a confidant of Mahatma Gandhi, and was imprisoned several times.

Independence was finally granted to India in 1947, and Nehru became India's first prime minister.

Over the next 17 years he took India along a socialist path, although he refused to align the country to either the Soviet Union or the United States in the Cold War.

Although some of his policies have been discredited in recent years, he remains a legendary and much-loved figure in his country's early history, and is justifiably known as the architect of modern India.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
You need to take stock today — it's time for your karmic inventory! If you're running low on good deeds, you ought to get out there and perform a few miracles. If your shelves are overflowing, share the wealth!

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Your ideas are pretty out-there today — which surprises all the right people! Of course, that's only true if you bother to let them know what's going on in that big brain of yours.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You need to work on your resume or profile — anything that can help those recruiters know what you're good for! Career work may feel a little boring, but it pays off on a day like today.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Your intuition is tugging you frantically — it needs your attention in the worst way! Make sure you pay attention to all the little clues that filter in, as they are sure to add up to something really great!

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Before you get angry today, you need to take a step back, breathe deeply and think things through. Is anger likely to solve any problems? If so, go for it — but if not, find a healthy outlet.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Try to avoid tackling anything new. You should be able to get your people to help you clear the decks and get ready for more, but anything started today is likely to expand beyond what it's worth.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Your people need more harmony in their lives — and that's what you're here for! Help them find ways to make life sweeter and more pleasant, but try not to worry about the big picture yet.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Your dreaming life may be more invigorating than your waking life today — but all of it is good! Your energy is great, and you should be able to come up with creative ideas quite easily.

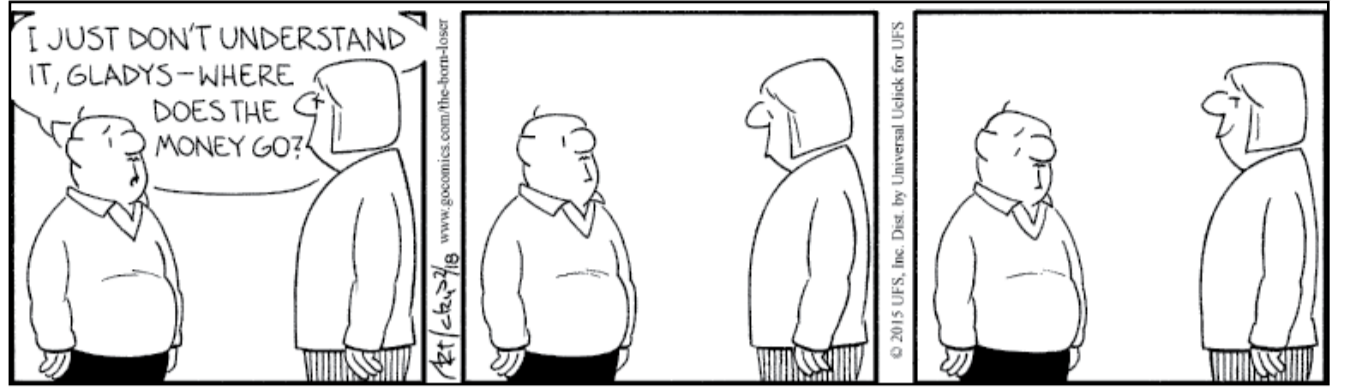
**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You need time to think — so find a way to cloister yourself off from the rest of the world and just ponder what to do next. Your energy isn't quite right for decisive action, but you can dream.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You need to deal with today's big news compassionately — though that may be hard at first. Try to hear it with an open mind, then open your heart. You can make it better for everyone!

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
What's real and what's imaginary? That may be hard to call today, thanks to some weird energy that's flowing through your mind. The good news is that your spiritual side gets a real boost!

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Get in touch with your inner self today — the one that only comes out when you're alone and meditative. Your amazing personal energy should make it much easier for you to gain new insights.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

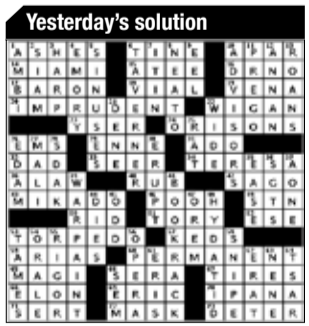
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	21	32	clear/cloudy
Harbin	13	29	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	24	32	clear/cloudy
Urumqi	12	20	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	20	30	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	8	21	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	19	30	overcast/cloudy
Chongqing	19	27	overcast
Kunming	17	29	clear
Nanjing	20	25	drizzle
Shanghai	20	24	overcast/shower
Wuhan	21	26	heavy rain
Hangzhou	20	28	overcast/shower
Taipei	25	32	moderate rain
Guangzhou	24	32	thundershower
Hong Kong	26	31	thundershower
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	16	27	clear/drizzle
Frankfurt	6	16	cloudy/clear
Paris	7	20	cloudy/clear
London	8	16	clear/cloudy
New York	16	18	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- \_\_\_ impasse; 5- Head of England?; 8- Capital city of Western Samoa; 12- Canceled; 13- Short crowbar; 15- Waist band; 16- Joint with a cap; 17- Range maker; 18- ... saw Elba; 19- Theatricals; 22- Put an upper limit on; 23- Give \_\_\_ rest; 24- Abhor; 26- Pleasantly; 29- Within reach; 31- Managed; 32- Swedish imports; 34- Sic on; 36- Foolish; 38- Actress Massey; 40- Wash; 41- Young haddock; 43- \_\_\_ is human...; 45- Martini liquor; 46- Canal site; 48- Came down; 50- "Unforgettable" singer; 51- Service charge; 52- Ballpark fig.; 54- Unintentional; 61- Speaker's spot; 63- Lute of India; 64- The Supremes, e.g.; 65- Old Pontiacs; 66- Soul; 67- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 68- Itches; 69- Old spy org.; 70- Distribute, with "out";

**DOWN:** 1- Cross with a loop; 2- Singer Braxton; 3- Matures, as wine; 4- Originating in the mind; 5- Big wheel's wheels; 6- Saudi Arabia neighbor; 7- Present opener?; 8- Face on a five; 9- Rate per hundred; 10- Intestinal sections; 11- Take \_\_\_ from me...; 13- Game resembling handball; 14- Cruising vessel; 20- Numbered rds.; 21- Comedian Mort; 25- Chinese weight; 26- Civil rights org.; 27- Violation; 28- Seaport in the Crimea; 29- Ecl of "Lou Grant"; 30- Second king of Israel; 31- Map lines: Abbr.; 33- Halloween greeting; 35- 1980's movie starring Bo Derek and Dudley Moore; 37- Up \_\_\_ good; 39- Sea north of Australia; 42- Painter of limp watches; 44- Nothing, in Nice; 47- Bright bunch; 49- Took home; 52- On pins and needles; 53- Stuff; 55- Chianti, e.g.; 56- Singer Redding; 57- Hightails it; 58- Cartoonist Peter; 59- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 60- Yesteryear; 62- Leaky tire sound



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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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**N**EW York's Brett Gardner, Brian McCann and Chase Headley homered during an eight-run first inning that set up the Yankees' 14-1 romp over Kansas City yesterday (Macau time).

The one-sided victory moved the Yankees back within half a game of the American League East division lead, while the Royals' lead in the Central was trimmed to two games.

In the key National League encounters, there were wins for the three divisional leaders: East leader Washington edged the Chicago Cubs, St. Louis beat Arizona in extra innings to extend its Central lead to 4-1/2 games, while the West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers came from behind to defeat Atlanta.

New York's Stephen Drew added a three-run homer at the start of the second inning, meaning Royals starter Jeremy Guthrie had given up 11 runs before the team made an out in the second.

The Yankees, coming off a sweep by Texas, snapped a six-game losing skid. The Yankees won for just the second time in 12 games, beating the team that began the day with the best record in the majors.

Washington's Wilson Ramos hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning and the Nationals hung to edge the Cubs 2-1.

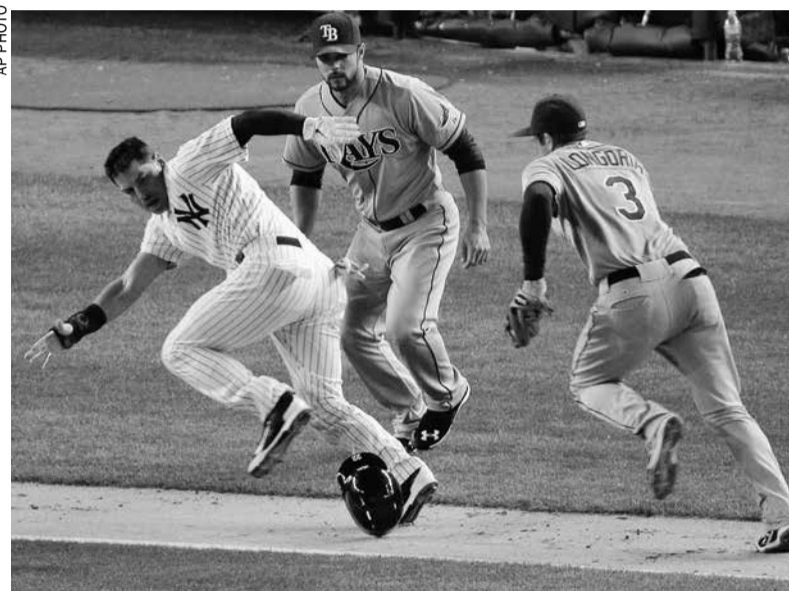
Washington pitcher Tanner Roark (1-2) — making his first start of the season in place of the injured Doug Fister — allowed one run in five innings.

The Nationals have won eight of their past nine.

St. Louis' Jhonny Peralta hit a game-ending homer in the 10th inning, lifting the Cardinals to a 3-2 victory against Arizona.

## BASEBALL

# Yankees score early and often to rout Royals



New York Yankees center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury, left

Peralta's leadoff drive over left field on a 1-2 pitch from J.C. Ramirez (1-1) was his fourth career game-winning homer. The Cardinals improved played five extra-inning games at home this month, winning four of them.

The Diamondbacks stranded five runners on base over the last two innings.

Los Angeles' Andre Ethier, Alex Guerrero and Jimmy Rollins each homered in the eighth inning, rallying the Dodgers past Atlanta 6-3.

Ethier got things started, homering to snap a 2-2. Earlier, in the first inning, he drew a bases-loaded walk for the team's first run.

Pinch-hitter Guerrero sent a 3-1

pitch into the left-field pavilion, scoring A.J. Ellis, who walked, to make it 5-2. With two outs, Rollins homered for a 6-2 lead.

The Dodgers lead the majors in homers this season, with 60 in 44 games.

Baltimore edged Houston 4-3, handing Astros pitcher Dallas Keuchel his first loss of the season.

Caleb Joseph and Steve Pearce both hit two-run homers off Keuchel to account for all the Orioles' runs.

Keuchel (6-1) came in with a 1.67 ERA and had allowed just one home run in nine appearances this season before Joseph connected in the second inning

and Pearce went deep in the seventh.

Keuchel did go eight innings to notch his first complete game of 2015.

Minnesota's Ricky Nolasco struck out five in 7-plus innings to guide the surging Twins to a 7-2 win against Boston.

Nolasco (5-1) gave up two runs to win his fifth straight start since coming off the disabled list.

Trevor Plouffe hit a three-run homer for Minnesota, which had 16 hits and won its majors-leading 16th game this month. After starting the season 2-8, the Wins are now just two games off the AL Central lead.

Seattle's Robinson Cano shook off a batting slump and drove in two runs to help the Mariners win 4-1 at Tampa Bay.

Seattle took a 2-0 lead in the first on RBI singles by Cano and Nelson Cruz. Cano entered the game hitless in his previous 12 at-bats. He made it 3-1 on a run-scoring single in the eighth.

Mariners starter Roenis Elias (2-1) gave up one run in six innings.

The Rays have lost three in a row and saw their lead in the AL East trimmed to half a game.

Los Angeles' Albert Pujols hit a two-out, broken-bat single with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, giving the Angels a 4-3 walk-off win over San Diego.

Padres closer Craig Kimbrel

struck out one and intentionally walked reigning AL MVP Mike Trout, but Pujols followed with a hit through the left side of the infield to win it.

New York's Wilmer Flores hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the sixth inning to give the Mets a 6-3 win against Philadelphia.

Oakland won a third straight game for the first time this season, beating Detroit 4-0, with Jesse Hahn pitching a shutout in his first career complete game.

San Francisco's Hunter Pence hit a two-run double that capped a seven-run rally in the sixth inning which lifted the Giants to an 8-4 win at Milwaukee.

Texas extended its winning streak to six by defeating Cleveland 10-8 despite Josh Hamilton going hitless in his return to the majors.

Pittsburgh notched its fourth successive win as Charlie Morton pitched seven strong innings in his return from hip surgery and led the Pirates to a 4-2 victory over Miami.

Toronto's Drew Hutchison pitched his second career shutout to steer the Blue Jays to a 5-0 win against the Chicago White Sox.

Colorado sent Cincinnati to its ninth straight loss, with Nolan Arenado having three hits including a homer and then driving in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning for a 5-4 victory. **AP**

## BASKETBALL

# Harden helps Rockets stay alive, beat Warriors 128-115

**H**OUSTON'S James Harden scored a playoff career-high 45 points while Golden State's Stephen Curry suffered a scary fall as the Rockets led from start to finish and beat the Warriors 128-115 yesterday to stave off elimination from the NBA playoffs.

The Rockets scored 45 points in the first quarter — equaling a playoff record — to quickly get on top. They were up by 22 in the second quarter when league MVP Curry landed on his head in a nasty spill and missed about 12 minutes before returning.

Curry's first field goal after returning was a 3-point

shot that got Golden State within six points with less than 8-1/2 minutes remaining. But Harden, who had 17 points in the fourth quarter, scored the next seven points as part of 10 straight by Houston to push the lead to 114-98 and effectively end it, cutting the series deficit to 3-1.

Harden's match-winning performance made up for a disappointing output in Game 3.

"I always want to take it out on my opponent in a good way," Harden said. "Just being aggressive, taking shots, getting to the basket, not really forcing anything and allowing the game to come to me."

Klay Thompson had 24 points and Curry added 23 for Golden State, which had been looking to secure its first trip to the NBA Finals since 1975 after routing Houston 115-80 on Saturday night to take a 3-0 lead in the series.

The Warriors will try again at home in Game 5 today.

Houston bounced back from a 3-1 deficit to the Los Angeles Clippers in the conference semifinals. But they face a much bigger challenge in this series, as no team in NBA history has won a playoff series after trailing 3-0.

Houston's Dwight Howard had 14 points and

12 rebounds, and received a flagrant 1 foul early in the third quarter after throwing an elbow at Andrew Bogut's head. He would be suspended by accumulation of flagrant foul points if the NBA upgrades it to a flagrant 2 after review.

"I hope not," Howard said when asked about that possibility. "But there's nothing I can do about it at this point. It's never my intention to hurt anybody on the floor. My reaction was to try to get him off me, but I can't react that way."

The Warriors made 20 3-pointers and Houston had 17 to set an NBA record for most 3-pointers combined in a playoff



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) and Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) grapple for the ball as guard Klay Thompson (11) reaches in during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals

game.

Curry was injured after he jumped in the air as Trevor Ariza was about to go up for a shot. Ariza saw him and stopped abruptly, causing Curry to be upended in midair when he crashed into Ariza's shoulder. His head hit the court and it propelled him up and back onto the floor where he remained for several minutes.

Curry looked dazed as he was attended to before slowly getting up and walking off the court.

"It was all minor stuff compared to how it looked," Curry said. "But I'll get some good rest and be ready to go. Since it happened to now, nothing has gotten worse."

Ariza didn't realize who it was that sailed over him until the play was over. **AP**

opinion

**Artifacts**  
 Vanessa Moore



**MIGRATION INVASION**

The plot smacks more of a grisly Hollywood horror film than a real life news story: stormy seas, boats adrift, traffickers brandishing weapons, starvation... disaster. But that's the real life storyline sadly facing thousands of impoverished refugees trapped in the midst of a growing worldwide migration crisis. And the sheer scale of the problem means the chaos now spans a number of countries, continents and even oceans. But this time round war isn't the only cause. Economics is also playing a part.

For weeks we've watched the tragic stories of those fleeing for a better life unfold as they brave death to cross the seas in shoddy, over packed dinghies that are more comparable to floating sarcophaguses than seaworthy vessels. Instability in the Middle East and North Africa have propelled a vast number of refugees to try their luck and escape to Europe traversing the Mediterranean; while in Asia and Australia, migrants from both the Middle East and Myanmar are braving the perilous journey across the Indian Ocean.

But instead of assuming a human-interest script, this unhappy movie storyline is increasingly being assimilated under a "war on traffickers" subplot, where armies already have their fingers on the trigger. Europe is now embracing this narrative in its efforts to tackle the deluge of smuggler vessels in the Mediterranean secretly shipping migrants from Libya. And already 1,800 of them have perished this year. Last week EU authorities approved a military sea and air mission to destroy the traffickers' boats before they can take on more refugees. While the continent has succeeded in persecuting the criminals, there seem to be no plans so far to tackle the profounder causes of the mass exodus: the chaos in Libya and other post-Arab spring countries. Presuming that everything can be sorted out pretty sharpish just by destroying a few dinghies is hardly a clever solution.

Similarly, moving across the globe to Asia, over the past two weeks thousands of migrants have been rescued off the coasts of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand after the Thai authorities clamped down on trafficking following the macabre discovery of mass migrant graves replete with grisly human remains. According to the Associated Press, since May 10 alone, more than 3,600 people — about half of them from Bangladesh and half Rohingya from Myanmar — have landed ashore.

International pressure is now growing for ASEAN to do something about it, but the organization's lack of teeth and consensus-based modus operandi hardly bodes well for solutions. The decision last week by Indonesia and Malaysia to give temporary shelter to the thousands marooned at sea appears to have neutralized a potential humanitarian tragedy; but the origins of the crisis remain. Myanmar's military government insists the Rohingya are illegal migrants from neighboring Bangladesh and has denied them citizenship, the root cause for thousands of them bolting.

So how should these lamentable Rohingya exiles escape their sorry plight seek asylum?

Crossing the ocean only a short distance from Indonesia, Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's answer has been to point-blank deny possibility of citizenship for anyone who enters the country illegally by sea. And worryingly back in Europe, Australia's tough stance on asylum-seeker vessels is now being peddled as the panacea for the hundreds of North African exiles crossing the Mediterranean.

Despite the outrage at the deaths at sea, fears of irregular migration have worryingly turned the debate from questioning why people are fleeing to one of how to stop the boats. But this type of argument is fallacious. It shouldn't be about stopping the dinghies, Australian-style. Instead there needs to be a wider dialogue about why people are risking the treacherous journey in the first place.

You'd think the massive numbers would go some way to prompting a public outcry and coordinated worldwide response. But instead it's perversely back-firing. The millions of nameless corpses washing up in multitudes only increases their invisibility. The higher the numbers and the larger the mass graves, the less we can imagine the individual lives.

Sadly the only thing for certain at the moment is that as the boats continue to deposit their wretched loads, the death toll of anonymous faces is all but guaranteed to rise.

**THE BUZZ** **MURDER TRIAL OPENS FOR FRENCH FARMER WHO SHOT TRUFFLE THIEF**

A French farmer is on trial for killing a suspected truffle thief with two blasts from a pump-action shotgun.

Laurent Rambaud, 37, told police he was guarding his truffle patch around nightfall Dec. 20, 2010 when he was surprised by a man and a dog. Saying he feared for his life, he opened fire.

The victim, Ernest Pardo, 42, was a hospital

employee from a nearby town who police say was known to sell truffles at local markets. Pardo was found with a small pick in his hand. Rambaud told police he didn't mean to kill Pardo.

The killing took place in Grignan, a small town in the Rhone valley near one of France's largest truffle markets. The prized delicacy sells for up to USD1,000 per kilogram.

**Tuk-tuk taxi maker aims to make inroads in US**

Thomas Peipert, Denver

**THEY'RE** ubiquitous in Asia, swarming the bustling streets of Bangkok, New Delhi and Beijing. Now, a company that manufactures tuk-tuks — the three-wheeled motorized rickshaws that have moved the masses for more than a century and go by many other names in Asia, Africa and Latin America — aims to make inroads in the United States.

The Tuk Tuk Factory, based in Amsterdam, has signed a licensing agreement with Denver-based eTuk USA to allow the company to manufacture and sell an electric version of the vehicle.

The company's founders hope the eco-friendly vehicles, a far cry from the loud, pollution-spewing versions common in Asia and South America, will become the next hip mode of transportation for urban dwellers and tourists across the country.

It's too soon to know if Americans will embrace tuk-tuks, but Michael Fox, director of sales and marketing for eTuk USA, says the company has been selling the vehicles to individuals, marketing companies and food vendors for USD16,950 to \$25,000, depending on how they are customized.

The three partners' other company, eTuk Denver, lau-



A worker checks the roof on an electric Tuk-Tuk being prepared for export at the Denver eTuk factory

nched a call-and-demand shuttle service in downtown Denver after receiving approval from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, which regulates for-hire transportation services.

The service is the latest to enter an increasingly crowded field of transportation options that includes pedicabs, ride-hailing services such as Uber and Lyft, and golf-cart taxis.

Fox is banking on the tuk-tuk's open-air design to help it stand out.

"When you look at a golf cart and you look at a tuk-tuk, which has more curb appeal?" he asked.

But like ride-hailing services, the tuk-tuk has faced some pushback from a handful of cab companies and other shuttle operators and raised concerns about the vehicles' safety.

The tuk-tuks operate mostly in a restricted downtown area and are banned from providing scheduled service to the nearby Denver Broncos foot-

ball stadium, a lucrative destination for the competition.

But even with the restrictions, Fox said his service can complement Denver's bus and light rail systems. He noted the "last-mile concept," a term that has been used by urban planners to describe the difficulty of getting people from places like a railway station or a bus depot to their final destination.

The concept originally applied to suburban areas, but also is relevant when studying how people complete their trips in downtown areas, said Carolyn McAndrews, an assistant professor of design and planning at the University of Colorado Denver. "Everybody has the last-mile problem, and they solve that problem by walking or we drive our cars," she said. But McAndrews also said the market is ripe for new modes of transportation like tuk-tuks to close that gap.

She points to a 2012 study in New Jersey that says "last-mile" shuttles are playing an increasingly important role in connecting people and jobs to rail transit, especially because of the decentralization of jobs and homes in most cities over the past few decades.

"To be competitive with cars, you have to make the point-to-point as convenient as possible," she said. AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino



A third century B.C. terracotta head, left, and a second century Roman bronze figure representing Mars, are shown during a press conference in Rome, yesterday. The United States has returned 25 artifacts that were looted from Italy, including Etruscan vases, 1st century frescoes and precious books that had made their way into top-notch U.S. museums, universities and private collections.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**CAMBODIA-UKRAINE** A Cambodian court acquits a senior Ukrainian lawmaker of rape in a case he says was cooked up by political opponents.

**IRAQ** announces the launch of a military operation to drive the Islamic State group out of the western Anbar province, where the extremists captured the provincial capital, Ramadi, earlier this month. *More on p15*

**IRAN** begins the trial of a detained Washington Post reporter in a closed security court. *More on p15*



**KENYA** Al-Shabab gunmen attack Kenyan police vehicles near Somalia's border, injuring at least five officers and burning five cars, police say.



**USA** Two B.B. King heirs who've been most outspoken about the blues legend's care in his final days have accused King's two closest aides of poisoning him, but the attorney for King's estate called the claims ridiculous and police said there was no active homicide investigation.

**USA** Apple innovator Jonathan Ive says he's been promoted to the company's chief design officer, making him one of the most powerful people in the world's most valuable company. As a lead designer with the company, Ive helped conceive the looks of products like the iPod, iPad and Apple Watch.

**AUSTRIAN** police have detained three suspects for allegedly smuggling people onto flights bound for the United States or Britain.