



CHUI SAYS UM PROMOTES REGION ABROAD

The CE praised UM's growing international influence in his speech at this year's congregation ceremony

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WORLD BRIEFS



HONG KONG Malaysian authorities denied entry to a radical Hong Kong lawmaker at Kuala Lumpur's airport on Friday, the second time this week they have barred one of the city's outspoken pro-democracy activists. Leung Kwok-hung was stopped on arrival by authorities who questioned him about the reason for his visit and how long he planned to stay, according to posts on his Facebook page. The posts said authorities put him on a flight back to Hong Kong.

CHINA A former Chinese elementary school teacher has been executed for molesting or raping 26 students, some as young as 4, in a case underscoring the vulnerability of rural children left behind by parents seeking jobs in cities. The intermediate People's Court in Gansu said it carried out the sentence against Li Jishun on Thursday. Li committed his assaults in the classroom, dormitories and surrounding forest areas in 2011-2012.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Now China starts to make the rules

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Hundreds march in Hong Kong ahead of June 4 anniversary

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Brook Yang

HEALTH

MERS scare reaches Macau

MACAU has been on alert for the potentially deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus, since at least five of the passengers coming into close contact with a newly confirmed Korean patient were found to have stayed in Macau briefly last week.

In addition, a local woman who showed respiratory symptoms after travelling to South Korea was declared free from the MERS infection, but has instead been diagnosed with H3N2 influenza.

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced Saturday night that 18 of the 29 passengers identified as being in close contact with the initial patient – confirmed to be China's first MERS patient – have all been quarantined in Hong Kong, while the other 11 are believed to have left the neighboring city.

Amongst those in quarantine, one Korean passenger spent several hours in Macau last Thursday, whereas another four Korean passengers, now beyond reach, also visited the city briefly last Wednesday and left that night via the Pac On Ferry Terminal.

The SSM issued a series of releases informing the neighboring regions of the medical situation last Saturday, where it estimated that “even if those four Korean visitors were infected, they hadn't fallen ill and [thus] posed no risk of contagion” when entering Macau.

The initial patient, put into isolation in a Huizhou hospital in Guangdong, is a 44-year-old



The Health Bureau held a press conference on the suspected MERS case reported in Guangdong

Korean traveller who came to Huizhou via Hong Kong on business. He reportedly lied to the checkpoint health inspectors despite having already shown symptoms when flying into HK from Seoul on an Asian Airlines flight OZ723 last Tuesday.

Regarding the four visitors who entered Macau, the SSM explained that “the shortest incubation period of MERS is two days, whereas when the four Korean visitors came to Macau, it had only been one day since they came into contact with the index patient aboard the flight.” Nevertheless, it guaranteed to jointly trace those visitors' whe-

reabouts and health conditions together with neighboring health authorities.

In addition, four people have reported to the Macau Centre for Disease Control and Prevention that they took related flights, but all were ruled out from the passenger list sharing the same flight with the initial patient.

The Chief Executive Chui Sai On also assured the media on Friday that the government has both legal and medical mechanisms in place to prevent and control the disease, and won't hesitate to enforce mandatory quarantine measures.

“When an infectious disease

[case] occurs, whether tourists or local residents must comply with the local laws. Everyone knows that we clearly have a Communicable Disease Prevention Act and other regulations for the purposes of protecting the overall public hygiene, and the health of citizens and tourists in Macau. Thus, should mandatory quarantine be needed – drawing on the previous experience – we would definitely implement it in accordance with the law,” he said.

According to the Act, Macau's health authorities can order suspected MERS patients and those at risk to undergo medical tests,

even mandatory quarantine. “If not to comply, [one] may be held criminally liable,” stressed the SSM.

Since Friday, every passenger arriving at the Macau airport from South Korea has undergone an individual temperature screening by the health inspectors, apart from the existing monitoring of body temperatures. Local health authorities have also pledged to release daily updates.

“Drawing on Korea's MERS occurrences and its tendency to spread, the SSM has requested each border checkpoint to strengthen its temperature monitoring on people bound from there,” the bureau said in a press release.

Furthermore, it stated that the publicly run Hospital Conde S. Januário is ready to receive suspected patients at any time.

Besides 25 isolation beds ready for use, the hospital has prepared another 19 beds that can be prepared in a short time. Meanwhile, the SSM has prepared insulation materials that are adequate for three months' use.

The health authorities are still appealing to the passengers aboard the aforementioned flight to contact the Macau Centre for Disease Control and Prevention at 2870 0800, and returning travellers to seek early medical treatment if feeling any flu-like symptoms.

Consultation on medical staff certification to be launched

Catarina Pinto

THE government is launching a public consultation on the legal regime governing the healthcare professionals' certification and qualifications scheme this coming September, the head of the Health Bureau (SSM) told a press conference on Friday.

Lei Chin Ion was speaking following a Medical Affairs Committee meeting at which members voiced their opinions against the launch of a public consultation, as they believe that such a consultation will

delay the entire legislative process.

“Some do not agree with this public consultation, but we would like to have a piece of legislation passed that is based on general public consensus,” said Mr Lei.

Furthermore, he stressed that the healthcare sector has not yet reached a broad consensus on the regime.

He added that the public consultation will be conducted over one month, so as to accelerate the subsequent legislative process. Mr Lei said the government cannot currently provide a schedule

for completing and submitting the final draft, but they will try to accelerate the process.

The legal regime regulating healthcare professionals' certification and qualifications is also critical to ensuring that the medical malpractice bill is finally voted on in detail at the Legislative Assembly.

The bill, which passed its first reading back in 2013, contemplates an insurance scheme for healthcare professionals in case of malpractice. However, the insurance scheme can only be put forward when the legislation for healthcare

practitioners' certification gets the green light.

The members of the Medical Affairs Committee also discussed on Friday the findings of a report based on opinions on the medical practitioners' legal regime.

The report is based on a total of 1,977 questionnaires filled in by different healthcare professionals within the sector, namely doctors, nurses, and pharmacists, between March and April.

An average of 60 percent of those surveyed agree with the legal regime's content, namely that it will be

applied to 15 healthcare professional groups. The accreditation of healthcare professionals implies the launch of a qualification examination and an internship; a healthcare professional will be certified through a registration process, which will then have to be renewed.

Some committee members recalled the need to recruit specialized professionals abroad to train and share knowledge with local practitioners. They suggested that the recruitment of foreign specialists cannot be “too limited.”

Lei Chin Ion revealed

that the government may implement a special salary scheme for these professionals, similar to that applied at the University of Macau. They intend to attract more talent from overseas, given that local supply is not currently enough to meet demand.

“We are pondering applying a special salary to invite experts to work here,” said Mr Lei.

According to the head of the Health Bureau, the government will be hiring 24 specialist doctors this year, but the special salary scheme will not be applied to them yet, as the government is still discussing the measure.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU DAILY TIMES



New construction workers protest over 'payment inequality'

THE central government's liaison office in Macau was once again besieged last Saturday by mainland construction workers unsatisfied with their employers over unjust salaries and compensation arrangements. Roughly 200 workmen marched to the office from the construction sites of the Windsor Arch and the Parisian respectively in Taipa and the Cotai Strip demanding official intervention before proceeding to the government headquarters to submit their written appeals.

The workers claimed that they did years of overtime work without receiving any form of compensation or payment. During that time, part of their monthly salary was withheld and they were forced to work on public holidays.

The hours-long protest follows several similar demonstrations that occurred last week. According to some outraged laborers from the luxury residential building site, their contractor reneged on its promise to announce the already devised compensation scheme in the morning, which instantly triggered the protest in the afternoon for fear of failing to receive their deserved payment,



as their agreement would expire next month.

"We want to get back our benefits, such as MOP500 per month for housing subsidy. [The contractors] didn't give us anything all these years," said a representative.

The two groups of protesters, both hired by the Great Harvest Group, later made their way to the government headquarters to hand in their petition for intervention before returning to the liaison office for a brief sit-in.

Lei Lok I, deputy director of the Labor Affairs Bureau, told media that the officials were now verifying the authenticity of the payroll and attendance records provided by the demonstrators'

employer for further action.

Sands China has expressed its "utmost concern" about the labor dispute related to the construction of The Parisian Macao in a statement issued last Saturday. "Sands China understands that its construction manager and the concerned trade contractor have made clear that they are committed to keeping all arrangements in line with the labor laws of the MSAR, and that they will ensure that the statutory compensation, legitimate rights and interests of the workers are being covered. Sands China is calling on all workers to exercise restraint and act reasonably," the statement reads. **Staff reporter**

STATISTICS

Visitors on package tours down by 6.8 pct

THE number of visitors on package tours reached 806,000 in April, down by 6.8 percent year-on-year, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses reached 79.4 percent, representing a decrease of 5.9 percentage points year-on-year.

Package tour visitors from mainland China (648,000) and Taiwan (45,000) dropped by 6.6 percent and 19.6 percent year-on-year, while those from South Korea (35,000) and Hong Kong (29,000) rose by 11.9 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

A total of 827,000 guests checked into hotels and guesthouses in April, representing a decrease of 7.1 percent year-on-year. Tourists from mainland China (521,000) decreased by 12 percent, while those from Hong Kong (125,000) and Taiwan (29,000) increased by 10.9 percent and 8.6 percent respectively.

The average length of guests' stay held steady at 1.4 nights compared to April 2014.



The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses was 79.4 percent, a rebound from March (77.2 percent) yet still down by 5.9 percentage points year-on-year. The rate for 4-star hotels and 5-star hotels was 82.2 percent and 79.5 percent respectively.

In the first four months of 2015, the number of hotel guests reached 3,184,000, down by 10.4 percent year-on-year; the average occupancy rate stood at 79.0 percent, a decrease of 7.3 percentage points. Visitor-guests accounted for 68.1 percent of the total overnight visitors, down by 1.5 percentage points year-on-year.

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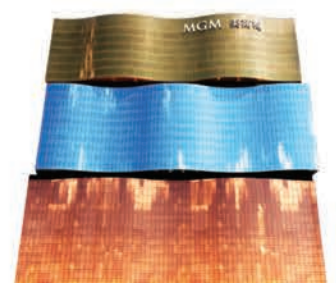
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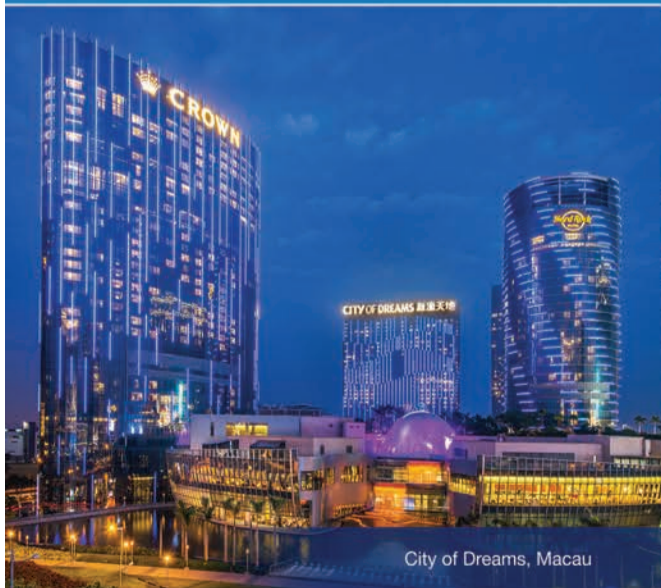


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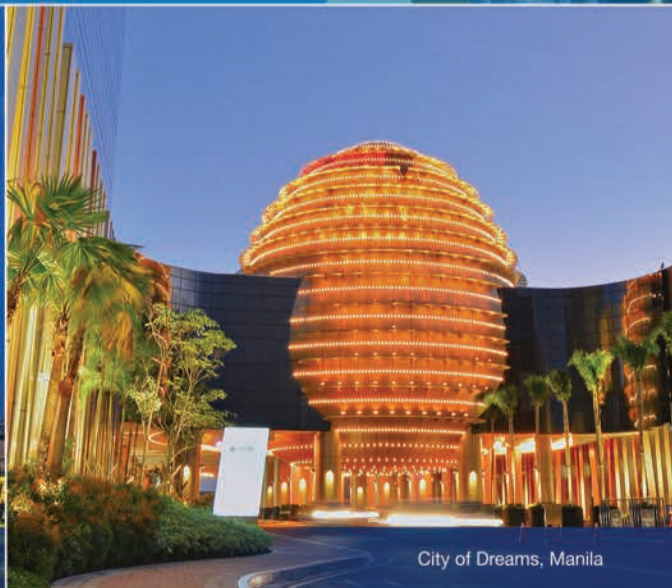
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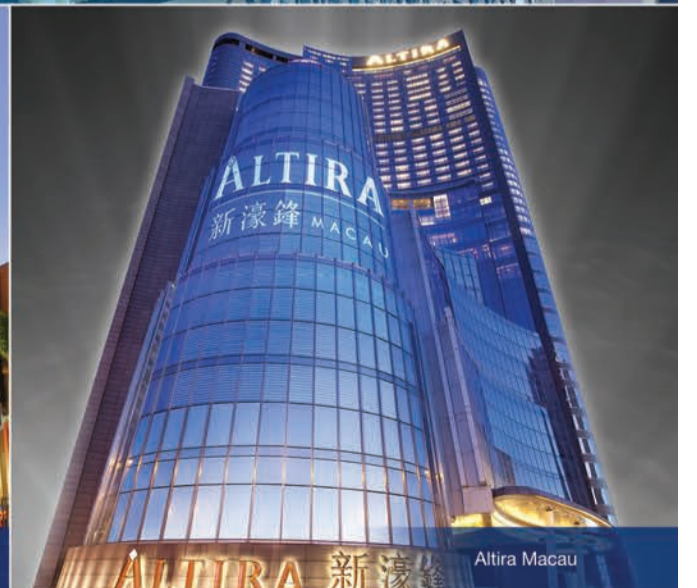
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Chui says UM promotes city's image abroad

MACAU'S chief executive Chui Sai On praised the University of Macau (UM)'s growing international influence, which helped enhance the city's profile abroad at the 2015 congregation ceremony last Saturday afternoon at the school's sports complex.

Officiating at the ceremony where over 1,000 graduating students received their certificates, Chui recognized the university, which has just entered the Times Higher Education's 100 under 50 Rankings 2015, for its years of effort to nurture academic talent. The city's leader was also convinced that the university would remain in "an important position on the higher education scene" in



Students celebrate after the graduation ceremony

the territory with continuous support from the local government. "The new campus is now up

and running, the educational and curriculum reforms are being carried out that witnessed the implementation of the 'four-in-one' education model, and a raft of academic and administrative optimizing measures have been put in place. Raising its academic status and influence aside, these reforms will enable the university to achieve sustainable development and increase its capabilities to nurture talent," he said, adding that the 34-year-old university has been progressing towards its aspiration of a world-class tertiary institute.

The school's rector Wei Zhao told the audience in his speech that with the central govern-

ment's extensive support, a former farmland area separated from the city, referred to as Hengqin Island, has successfully been transformed into the school's new campus, calling it "a mission accomplished."

The representative from UM's Alumni Association, Ao Peng Kong, hoped that the graduates

would always adhere to the university's motto – humanity, integrity, propriety, wisdom and sincerity, even after leaving the school. He urged students to seize the "excellent opportunities" arising from the city's "prosperous economy."

Over 4,000 attendees participated in Saturday's congregation ceremony.

GRADUATES PLANT TREE ON HENGQIN CAMPUS

MORE THAN a dozen UMAC graduates planted a flame tree at the Alumni Avenue of the Hengqin campus together with the school's rector, as a way to show their gratitude towards their alma mater for their graduation ceremony. Zhao described the event as "significant in the school's history" as it was the first time ever that the university received a student-donated tree as a gift.

Health Bureau condemns violent behavior against inspectors

THE Health Bureau expressed its strong condemnation in response to the two latest assault cases where its inspection officers were subjected to physical violence while executing their duties last week in the northern district.

On 28th and 29th of last week respectively, two smoking-control inspec-



tors and one trainee from the bureau were sent to the hospital after being assaul-

ted by people who were given fines for smoking within a prohibited area.

On the sidelines of an award ceremony marking World No Tobacco Day on the weekend, Tang Chi Ho, who heads the Tobacco Prevention and Control Office, told media that since the smoking-control law took effect in 2012, the

enforcers have encountered physical violence from those who violated the law. However, local police's support was usually swiftly responsive.

"We have demanded the PSP provide assistance through our cooperation scheme with them. If attacks really happened, we would contact them first.

They were also rather quick in offering support to us," said Tang.

Other than physical violence, a former tobacco-control inspector told the Times that enforcers often suffered verbal humiliation and refusal to cooperate while performing their duties according to normal procedures.

The authority urged the public to respect smoking-control enforcers and offer cooperation when needed. The government also criticized any violent behavior directed at the inspectors as "intolerable," reiterating that the assaulters might infringe on the existing laws stipulated in the criminal code.

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FLASH MOB

Breastfeeding increasingly popular

Brook Yang

A group of local breastfeeding moms and advocates are determined to keep up their annual flash mob campaign, with the purpose of continuously promoting society's acceptance of breastfeeding in public – a “natural act” that is still commonly regarded as offensive to the eye.

Having organized the yearly flash mob for the third time yesterday at the Iao Hon Market Garden, the association has noticed increasing popularity in breastfeeding among local nursing moms, but also an exacerbated shortage of nursing facilities in public and private premises, as well as in workplaces.

Ms Lam joined the flash mob with her two infants and husband. She recognized a massive response to the event this year, as the participants



grew from a dozen to 44 nursing moms, and totaled over 100 with their children and family members.

The increasing awareness of breastfeeding can be attributed to the Health Bureau's increased efforts in promotion, explained the association's vice-chairlady, Virginia Tam.

“The bureau now holds peer support sessions every weekend, a doubled frequency than in the past. When I gave lectures at the sessions as a program ambassador, I was surprised to see some-

times the seats are all packed. There're expectant moms telling me they came to the sessions because ‘breastfeeding is trending now,’” she said with a laugh.

However, many nursing moms still had no choice but to give up breastfeeding after retuning to work from the 56-day statutory maternity leave.

“According to the Health Bureau's latest data in 2013, the breastfeeding rate among mothers with new-born babies was over 85 percent, but after four months the rate

would drop to merely 22 percent,” said Ms Lam, adding that exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for infants up to six months of age and continued along with complementary food up to two years of age, according to the World Health Organization.

“Moms are forced to give up, because workplaces are often lacking a nursing room, and sometimes when nursing moms need to express breast milk during working hours, their colleagues might not be supportive or think they are loafing on the job,” she explained.

Ms Tam also pointed out that breastfeeding moms are often being driven away when trying to breastfeed their babies in public, such as in hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and other public spaces. “But having to breastfeed in the toilets is just very unhygienic,” she said.

Local scholar Ms Agnes Lam also echoed the concerns over local society's lack of acceptance and support towards breastfeeding.

“We need legislation to ensure moms' right to breastfeed their babies in public, so that no one will be allowed to drive them away when breastfeeding from any public places,” she said.

Taiwanese low cost V-Air cancels Macau operations

TAIWANESE low-cost airline V-Air has announced it will drop all flights between Macau and Taipei in the next month.

The company currently operates three weekly flights between Macau and Taipei, which it says have been canceled because the Macau Civil Aviation Authority refused to increase more flights, although the local aviation authority denies that claim.

The decision was justified by the fact that the three V-Air flights allegedly impede the company's flight planning and arrangements, making it less competitive than its counterparts.

The Civil Aviation Authority claims that it has granted them a permit to operate daily flights after V-Air submitted an application for additional flights earlier.

The Taiwanese airline's official website shows that currently only six flights in July are still available in the ticketing section. The airline official also added that their clients, who have been notified of the flights to be axed, would receive a total refund of their tickets starting this week.

The company's Taipei to Macau flight was first launched on April 10 and the airline expected to operate daily flights from Macau at the beginning of June.

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'A Useless Fiction' screened at 2015 Cannes Film Festival



Cheong Kin Man

LOCAL translator and interpreter Cheong Kin Man's award-winning film, "A Useless Fiction" has earned him the rare opportunity to present his work at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.

The movie made its debut

at the world-renowned film competition's Short Film Corner, which is an event where talented filmmakers come together to share mutual insights into each other's works. The filmmaker, who received the presentation confirma-

tion from the festival authorities on his birthday, was appreciative of how much the

It is incredible that we are at the same place as the celebrities

CHEONG KIN MAN

13-day experience has given him.

"I am very happy, not only because of the dynamic of the Palais des Festivals of which likeness I have never seen, but also because Cannes is a

very beautiful city, a magnificent one. And it is incredible that we are at the same place as the celebrities and use the same 'entrée des artistes', but of course we do not have red carpets and I do not even have a tuxedo. No doubt it is a very special moment for me and a great privilege," said Cheong adding that he met many "filmmaking rookies like him" during the first six days of the festival. Currently residing in Belgium, Cheong will soon fly to the southwestern Slovenian city of Izola for another screening at the 11th edition of Isola Cinema. As he quipped, the name of his short film will now comprise of a Slovene word, with words in Portuguese, Chinese or ancient Vietnamese and English all featured in the entire name.

In April, the experimental film won the "2015 Rising Star Award" at the Canada International Film Festival.

Staff reporter

Lusophone painters' artwork on display at Military Club



Military Club

MACAU'S Military Club is commemorating its 145th anniversary and the 20 years since its renovation with a painting exhibition by artists from several Portuguese-speaking countries; namely Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea, Mozambique and Portugal, among others.

The exhibition, which will be on display at the club's gallery between June 5 and 14, features artworks by Ana Silva (Angola), Marco Tulio Resende (Brazil), Kiki Lima (Cape Verde), Sidney Cerqueira (Guinea Bissau), Roberto Chichorro (Mozambique), Maria João Franco (Portugal), Malé (São Tomé and Príncipe) and Abel Jupiter (East Timor).

Artwork by Macau artists Carlos Marreiros, Ung Vai Meng and Konstantin Bessmertny will also be featured.

The exhibition was produced by the Association for the Promotion of Cultural Activities, and is sponsored by the Macau Foundation and gaming operator SJM.

'AN EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT'

ANABELA RITCHIE, who served the former president of the Legislative Assembly when the city was still under Portuguese administration, praised Cheong Kin Man's film, saying that "it is an extraordinary achievement, as it is the first Macau film, and the only one, to represent Macau at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival."

AD

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

Times

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Wynn MACAU

Larry Neumeister and
Jake Pearson, New York

Silk Road founder gets life for creating online drug site

A San Francisco man who created the underground drug-selling website Silk Road was sentenced Friday to life in prison by a judge who cited six deaths from drugs bought on his site and five people he tried to have killed.

U.S. District Judge Katherine Forrest told 31-year-old Ross Ulbricht he was a criminal even though he doesn't fit the typical profile — he has two collegiate degrees — and she brushed aside his efforts to characterize the business as merely a big mistake.

"It was a carefully planned life's work. It was your opus," she said. "You are no better a person than any other drug dealer."

Ulbricht's 2013 arrest shut down what prosecutors described as an unprecedented one-stop online shopping mall where the supply of drugs was virtually limitless, enabling nearly 4,000 drug dealers to expand their markets from the sidewalk to cyberspace, selling drugs on a never-before-seen scale to more than 100,000 buyers in markets stretching from Argentina to Australia, from the United States to Ukraine.

The government said in court papers that Ulbricht left a blueprint that others have followed by establishing new "dark markets" in sophisticated spaces of the Internet that are hard to trace, where an even broader range of illicit goods are sold than were available on Silk Road.

Forrest said the sentence could show copycats there are "very serious consequences." She also ordered USD183 million forfeiture. Prosecutors had not asked for a life sentence, saying only they wanted substantially more than the 20-year mandatory minimum.

Ulbricht was convicted in Fe-

AP PHOTO



In this courtroom sketch, Ross William Ulbricht is seated in court and awaits sentencing Friday, May 29 in New York

bruary of operating the site for nearly three years from 2011 until 2013.

Prosecutors say he collected \$18 million in bitcoins through commissions on a website containing thousands of listings under categories like "Cannabis," "Psychedelics" and "Stimulants." They said he brokered more than 1 million drug deals worth over \$183 million while he operated on the site under the alias Dread Pirate Roberts — a reference to the swashbuckling character in "The Princess Bride."

The judge said Ulbricht's efforts to arrange the murders of five people he deemed as threa-

ts to his business was proof that Silk Road had not become the "world without restrictions, of ultimate freedom" that he claimed he sought. Ulbricht also is charged in Baltimore federal court in an attempted murder-for-hire scheme.

"You were captain of the ship, Dread Pirate Roberts," Forrest said. "It was a world with laws you created. ... It was a place with a lot of rules. If you broke the rules, you'd have all kinds of things done to you."

Prosecutors cited at least five deaths traced to overdoses from drugs bought on Silk Road, and two parents who lost sons spoke in court.

Just weeks after Ulbricht's arrest, an almost identical online market called "Silk Road 2.0" was launched. Blake Benthall, the alleged operator, was arrested in November and, like Ulbricht, was charged with enabling users to buy and sell drugs and other illegal products.

Since then, other dark web marketplaces have popped up, including OpenBazaar, a decentralized market that lets people buy and sell goods directly to each other, without an operator like Ulbricht at the helm. That makes it tougher for law enforcement which has to go after the buyers and sellers instead of an administrator.

■ Ulbricht left a blueprint that others have followed by establishing new "dark markets" in sophisticated spaces of the Internet

Before the sentence was announced, a sniffling and apologetic Ulbricht told Forrest he's a changed man who is not greedy or vain by nature.

"I've essentially ruined my life and broken the hearts of every member of my family and my closest friends," he said. "I'm not a self-centered sociopathic person that was trying to express some inner badness. I do love freedom. It's been devastating to lose it."

His lawyer, Joshua Dratel, said he was "disappointed tremendously" by the sentence.

Outside court, Ulbricht's mother, Lyn, called the war on drugs a failure and said two of the victims in the case died during the four months that authorities investigated but did not shut down the website.

His hands folded before him, Ulbricht was stoic as the sentence was announced. As he left the courtroom, he carried with him photographs of those who died as a result of drugs purchased on Silk Road. AP/Bloomberg

corporate bits

PARADISE ENTERTAINMENT DEPLOYS ADDITIONAL TERMINALS AT GALAXY



Paradise Entertainment Limited, an electronic gaming solutions provider, announced Friday that it has successfully deployed 42 Live Multi-Game ("LMG") terminals at Galaxy Macao Phase 2, the latest property to open in Macau. The company has also deployed an additional 50 LMG terminals at Galaxy Macao Phase 1, bringing total new deployment at both casinos to 92 terminals.

"We are proud to have our LMG terminals be a part of

the gaming product offerings at Galaxy Macao Phase 2 on its launch day. Our LMG solution not only helps to serve a broader mass market audience, but also delivers high return on investment to the casino operator on the back of cost savings and higher productivity," said Jay Chun, Chairman and Managing Director of Paradise Entertainment. "As a long-term business partner, we are excited to work closely together again with Galaxy Entertain-

ment Group ("GEG") to bring them the solutions that help them to address the changing casino landscape and consumer preferences."

Richard Longhurst, Director of Operations of Galaxy Macao, further added, "At GEG, we are continually striving to identify business partners who develop products and services relevant and appealing to our customers. We are pleased to be able to work closely with Paradise. Paradise has proven to be a strong strategic partner for our company and we are working together to bring unique products to the market for Galaxy."

The new deployment adds on to the existing 150 terminals currently installed at Galaxy Macao Phase 1.

SANDS RESORTS COTAI STRIP LAUNCHES HOTEL ACCOMMODATION SPECIAL OFFER FOR MACAU RESIDENTS

Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao is offering residents savings of 35% off the Best Available Rate (BAR). From now until July 16, guests who are Macau Identity Card holders can book a summer getaway at a choice of four hotels: The Venetian Macao; Sands Macao; Conrad Macao; Cotai Central and Holiday Inn Macao Cotai Central at a special discounted rate of 35%.

Local residents who are looking to pamper themselves, or just relax with family and friends or celebrate a birthday or special occasion, can benefit from the Sands Resorts Loves Macao Special Offer for hotel accommodation.



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Lolita C. Baldor, Singapore

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Impasse over island building shows no sign of easing

CHINA vigorously defended its South China Sea land reclamation projects in the face of persistent criticism from U.S. leaders at an international security summit Saturday as the standoff in the Asia-Pacific region shows few signs of abating.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter and other officials sharply condemned the artificial island building, but provided no details on what steps the U.S. may take to press China into diplomatic talks.

Carter said China's land reclamation was out of step with international rules, and that turning underwater land into airfields would not expand its sovereignty.

He and others said the U.S. opposes "any further militarization" of the disputed lands. That was a reference to two large motorized artillery vehicles that officials said China had placed on one of the artificial islands.

Chinese officials, in public statements and a private meeting, defended the construction and slammed the U.S. for interfering.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the U.S. was "making absurd remarks about China's long-established sovereignty and rights, stirring up trouble and slinging accusations regarding China's appropriate and rational construction activities on its islands. China resolutely opposes this."

David Shear, the assistant U.S. defense secretary for Asian issues, told reporters that a private meeting with Chinese Rear Adm. Guan Youfei, the chief of foreign affairs at the defense ministry, was "spirited and candid."

"There aren't any silver bullets to resolving this," said

AP PHOTO



Turning an underwater rock into an airfield simply does not afford rights of sovereignty

ASH CARTER
U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY

Shear. "It's going to take time, and it's going to take some determined diplomacy by us and with our partners."

At the conference, U.S. senators and officials from other Pacific nations questioned whether the U.S. would take action.

Carter and other officials, including Adm. Harry Harris, who just took over U.S. Pacific Command, declined to talk about what diplomatic or military steps the U.S. would be willing to take.

U.S. Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the U.S. should not invite China to a major military exercise in the Pacific in 2016. But Harris said China has already been invited, and that the two countries must engage if they are to

build a better relationship and lessen the chances for misunderstandings.

But, he said, "We always have the option of changing our approach."

He also said he was concerned by the artillery weapons, which were discovered at least several weeks ago. Two U.S. officials who are familiar with intelligence about the vehicles say they have been removed. The officials weren't authorized to discuss the intelligence and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The Pentagon would not release any photos to support its contention that the vehicles were there.

China's assertive behavior in the South China Sea has become an increasingly sore point in relations with the United States, even as President Barack Obama and China's President Xi Jinping have tried to deepen cooperation in other areas, such as climate change.

"Turning an underwater rock into an airfield simply does not afford the rights of sovereignty or permit restrictions on international air or maritime transit," Carter told the audience at the International Institute for Strategic Studies summit. AP

SECURITY STEPPED UP AT SINGAPORE MEET AFTER POLICE SHOOTING

POLICE IN Singapore stepped up security around the venue of the Shangri-La Dialogue security conference yesterday after officers fatally shot one man and detained two others at a nearby roadblock. The event was uninterrupted but access to the venue was restricted. Police said in a statement yesterday that officers opened fire after a vehicle with three people aboard crashed through police barricades. Substances believed to be drugs were found on one of the two people detained. The third man was shot dead, police said. Security around the conference venue was increased and traffic rerouted. Police said they were in control of the situation.

HONG KONG

Hundreds march ahead of June 4 anniversary

HUNDREDS of people took to the streets and marched downtown yesterday to mark the 26th anniversary of China's bloody crackdown on Tiananmen Square on June 4, ahead of a much larger annual candlelight vigil.

Organizers said 3,000 people joined the rally, while police put the peak figure at 920, according to local TV station TVB Pearl.

Ralliers marched from Wan Chai to the Central Government Liaison Office calling for the overturn of the June 4th verdict, the release of mainland human rights activists and

genuine universal suffrage for Hong Kong.

The South China Morning Post reported that the march's organizer, the Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, said because Beijing was in control of local affairs, including political reform, and was responsible for suppression in China, the new destination was part of a broadening in scope of the annual gathering to commemorate the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989.

According to the newspaper, this year leaders of student unions at several

universities decided to skip the vigil in protest at one of the alliance's slogans: to "build a democratic China", which in their opinion, amounts to a fruitless fight for the reversal of mainland authorities' verdict on the incident.

Along the route, marchers were greeted by opposing groups with sporadic confrontations breaking out between the two sides, TVB stated.

Some held yellow umbrellas and tied yellow ribbons to railings, recalling the Umbrella Movement protests that rocked the city last autumn. VM

AP PHOTO



A protester shouts slogans during a march as hundreds of people protest on a downtown street in Hong Kong



Beijing about to roll out harshest smoking ban ever

Dexter Roberts

CHINA has long been one of the most smoker-friendly countries in the world, with few restrictions and virtually no taboos when it comes to lighting up. Go into most restaurants in China, and expect to be engulfed in a choking cloud of tobacco smoke. The bars, not surprisingly, are worse. Offering a cigarette to a new acquaintance is considered polite, while refusing it is often seen as rude. Sparking up next to children, pregnant mothers, or anyone else is pretty much considered normal. Now all that's supposed to change.

Starting today in Beijing a blanket ban will be imposed on smoking in public places, after the city's Municipal People's Congress passed the tough new law in November. Affected will be all workplaces, schools, hotels, public transport, airports (which will no longer have designated smoking rooms or lounges), and Beijing's many historic tourist spots, including the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. The harshest anti-smoking rules ever to be imposed in China (18 other cities already have lighter bans) is seen as a trial run for a national law, already drafted but still some distance from passage.

Thousands of inspectors from the Beijing Patriotic Health Campaign Com-

mittee, part of the municipal Health and Family Planning Commission, have been trained as enforcers and can levy fines of as much as 200 yuan (USD32) on smokers and 10,000 yuan (\$1,613) on businesses refusing to comply with the ban. It's the first time a law will target businesses that tolerate tobacco use, and authorities are also encouraging the public to report on scofflaws through a hotline (12320) and popular social media app WeChat. "Tipoffs can be conducted via phone or by uploading pictures," Liu Zejun, director of the Beijing Patriotic Health Campaign Committee, told the official Xinhua News Agency. Already tough restrictions on tobacco advertising will be even further tightened under the laws, which will ban the ads outright from television, radio, print, public transport, and the outdoors.

But enforcing the ban is bound to be a challenge, with two earlier efforts to curb smoking in China's capital—in the mid 1990s and in 2008, right before the Beijing Olympics—having had little impact. Beijing has 4.2 million smokers (the vast majority male), about a quarter of the adult population, who in total consume an average of 14.6 million cigarettes a day, according to a survey carried out last year by the patriotic health committee. **Bloomberg**

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MGM Macau MAPPERS with the leader of the MAP Program for MGM Resorts International

Our Approach to Learning and Development

At MGM China (MGM), we believe that personal development and growth of every employee is vital to the success of our Company. We therefore invest significantly in talent development programs to help our employees to excel and reach their full potential, and to nurture local candidates to become the leaders of our Company and community.

Our MGM Academy is the learning platform which includes a myriad of core training programs developed specifically to meet the needs of all team

members across different job functions and levels of responsibility. These programs are supplemented with other trainings such as language skills, as well as soft skills building with classes on how to manage.

Developing Local Leadership Capability - Our PRIDE and MAP Program

MGM is a proud member of the Macau community where 80% of our management team members are locals. To truly fulfill our aim of being a global company with local representation, developing local leadership capability is a core business priority and a cornerstone of our learning and development program.

In 2014, we launched two programs that aim to identify high-potential local individuals (both current employees and Macau graduates) and help them develop, excel and rise through the ranks. Both programs lead to further career prospects and personal advancements as the Company gears up for the Cotai property's opening.

Our PRIDE Program focuses on identifying high potential local MGM management employees to partake in an intensive 15-month program. Each participant is given up to two full days per month of management development and professional skills training, including trips to successful Hong Kong corporations to observe their operational procedures. They are also enrolled to work on presentation projects, and a 10-day cross-training in Las Vegas, under the 11 properties of MGM Resorts International.

The MAP Program offers local graduates the opportunity to have a hands-on cross-training experience by spending 11 months in Las Vegas with other management associates from the United States and Europe, rotating between various operations departments under one of MGM Resorts International's properties and attending classroom discussions. Upon their return to Macau, they will receive another five months of training within a chosen area of specialization before being offered a supervisory role. Beyond the core aim of learning and development, we also hope that these programs inspire and encourage the young generation to reach for the stars, broaden horizons and become the future leaders of Macau.

"As Macau continues to expand, we need to ensure we are nurturing and developing the next generation of Macau leaders and helping the Macau community develop the skills necessary to take advantage of the opportunities that are available. Ultimately, we would like to see a Macau born, educated and developed individual to lead MGM China. This person has to have the passion, aptitude and desire to be a good leader within the Company, as he or she will be responsible of a large number of employees," said Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China.

Our PRIDERS and MAPPERS Take on Las Vegas

Whilst our MAPPERS have been continuing their ongoing 11-month program in Las Vegas, our PRIDERS joined the group in April 2015 for a whirlwind adventure and learning experience including property tours, presentations and workshops on MGM company practices and strategies. They had the chance to receive first hand advice from our most senior leaders, including our Company Chairman, Jim Murren.



Our Pride Participants at their trip to Las Vegas in April with our Company Chairman, Jim Murren

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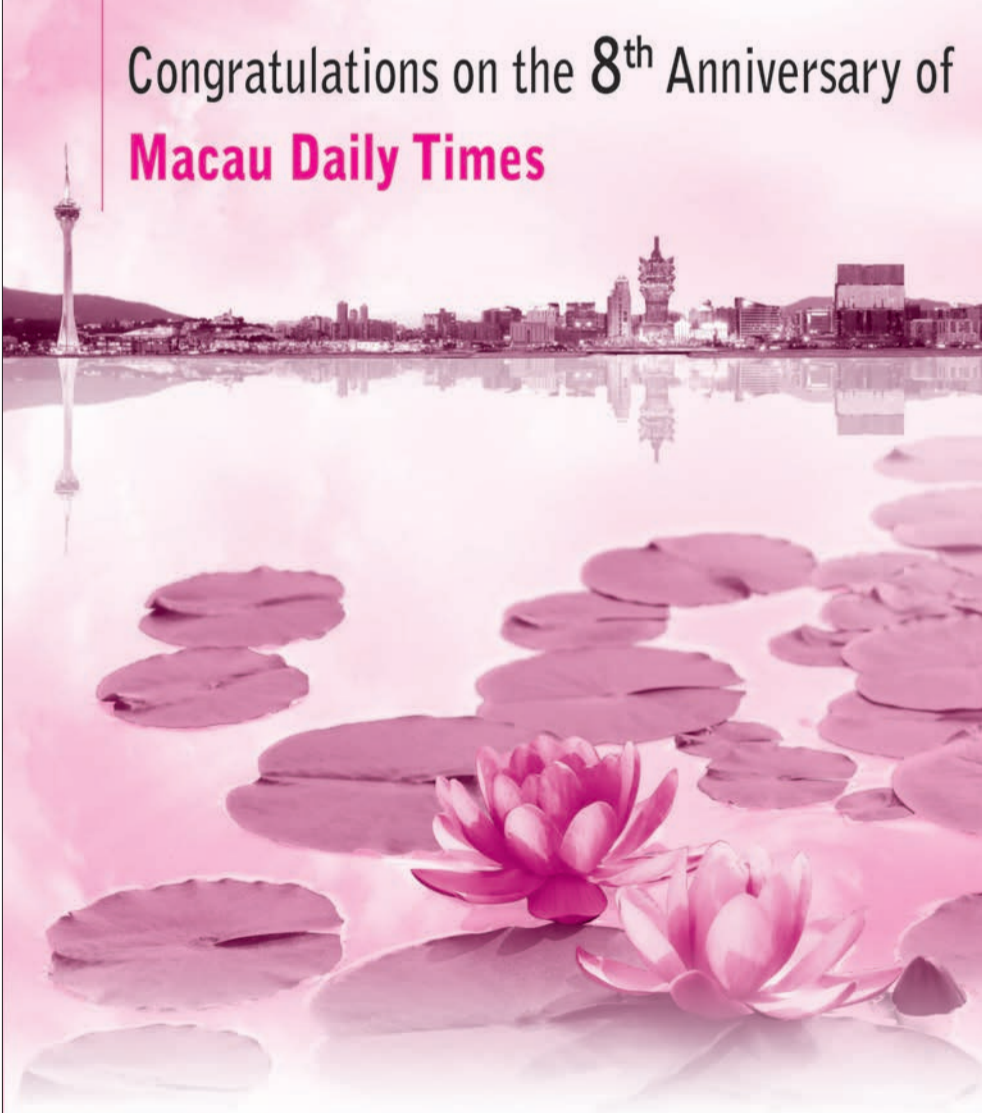
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NEPAL

Schools reopen in areas worst hit by quakes

THOUSANDS of schools across the districts worst hit by two major earthquakes in Nepal reopened yesterday.

With most school buildings damaged or unsafe, the Education Ministry ordered that classes be held in temporary classrooms.

The earthquakes on April 25 and May 12 killed 8,693 people and injured 22,221 others. It's estimated that more than 90 percent of schools were destroyed in the worst-hit districts of Gorkha, Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot.

According to a UNICEF statement, 32,000 classrooms were destroyed and 15,352 classrooms were damaged after the two major earthquakes in Nepal.

Nepal's high dropout rate was already a major concern, UNICEF said adding there were estimated 985,000 children who couldn't return to classes yesterday, thus facing a great risk of



A Nepalese boy walks past a collapsed building close to his school in Kathmandu

dropping out of school.

Niraj Kayansta, a teacher at Changuranayan school, east of Kathmandu, told state-run Radio Nepal that about half of the 400 students came to school yesterday. They were not studying but singing and dancing

and talking to teachers about their experience during the earthquakes.

Government inspectors who were sent to the schools gave green stickers for safe buildings or red stickers for damaged ones. AP

AVIATION

Solo flight in solar plane sets off on longest leg to Hawaii

A Swiss pilot of a solar plane yesterday embarked on the longest leg of the first attempt to fly around the world without a drop of fuel.

André Borschberg took off from Nanjing, China, at 2:39 a.m. yesterday in the Solar Impulse 2 for a flight across the Pacific Ocean expected to last six days and five nights, or at least 130 hours.

The journey started in March in Abu Dhabi, and the solar plane has stopped in Oman, India, Myanmar and China. The 8,175-kilometer flight from Nanjing to Hawaii is the seventh of 12 flights and the longest and most dangerous.

Borschberg and another

Swiss pilot, Bertrand Piccard, have been taking turns flying the single-seater Swiss plane during a five-month journey to promote renewable energy use.

"This is the moment of truth," Borschberg, 62, said before takeoff.

He said that if successful, the flight to Hawaii will demonstrate the credibility of the vision he and Piccard embraced 16 years ago "to change our mindset regarding the enormous potential of clean technologies and renewable energies."

After Hawaii, the plan is for Piccard to pilot the aircraft on to Phoenix, Arizona. AP



Solar Impulse takes off

澳門國際機場 MACAU International Airport

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INDIA

Rain of little relief as heat toll nears 2,200

Omer Farooq, Hyderabad

DESPITE hopes that weekend thunder-showers would help end a raging heat wave in southern India, the rain brought only limited relief as the death toll since mid-April approached 2,200.

Officials said yesterday that the intense heat was likely to continue for another day in worst-hit Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states.

Daytime temperatures hovered between 45 and 47 degrees Celsius in some parts of the two states over the weekend, 3 to 7 degrees Celsius above normal, said K.Y. Reddy, a director of the Meteorological Center in the Telangana state capital of Hyderabad. Thundershowers brought relief to people in other areas.



An Indian man bathes in water from a roadside tap in Kolkata

Andhra Pradesh has been hit the hardest, with 1,636 people dying in the state from the heat over the past month and a half, a government statement said. Another 561 people have died in neighboring Telangana, said Sada Bhargavi, a state disaster

management commissioner.

Meanwhile, 22 heat-related deaths have been reported in northern Uttar Pradesh state over the past two weeks, said Raj Shekhar, a state government official.

The Press Trust of In-

dia news agency said 21 people have died from the heat in eastern Orissa state, seven in western Gujarat state and two in New Delhi, India's capital.

"We can't bear this heat. The situation is worsened by frequent power outages," said Rekha Tiwari, a housewife in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh state capital.

Mohammed Waseem, a cart puller who was drenched in sweat, had no respite as he went about delivering goods in New Delhi, where temperatures hovered at around 41 C yesterday after a brief morning shower. "I have to work to feed myself," he said.

Cooling monsoon rains are expected this week in southern India before gradually advancing north. The monsoon season will last until the end of September.

Forecasting service AccuWeather warned last week of prolonged drought conditions in India, with the monsoon likely to be disrupted by a more active typhoon season over the Pacific. **AP**

JAPAN

12 hurt in quake as life returns to normal

TWELVE people suffered minor injuries and businesses returned to normal yesterday after a powerful earthquake near remote Japanese islands shook most of the country the previous night, but it was well beneath the earth's surface and did not trigger a tsunami. The magnitude-7.8 quake struck off the Ogasawara islands Saturday night at a depth of 678 kilometers, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It was followed by a magnitude-6.4 quake yesterday morning off Japan's Izu islands, which are north of the Ogasawaras. The latest quake struck at a depth of 13 kilometers with the epicenter 630 kilometers southeast of Tokyo. It was not strong enough to generate a tsunami warning or close enough to the islands to cause any significant damage or injuries, said John Bellini, a USGS geophysicist in Golden, Colorado. He said it is considered a separate seismic event and not an aftershock from Saturday's quake. Saturday night's temblor was powerful enough to rattle most of Japan, from the southern islands of Okinawa to Hokkaido in the north. It caused buildings to sway in Tokyo — about 1,000 kilometers north of the Ogasawara islands — and temporarily disrupted some train services in the city. About 400 houses in Saitama prefecture, just north of the capital, were without power, according to the Tokyo Electric Power Co. **AP**

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SWITZERLAND

Kerry breaks leg in bike crash; ends overseas trip early

Bradley Kalpper, Geneva

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry broke his leg in bike crash yesterday, apparently after hitting a curb, and scrapped the rest of a four-nation trip that included an international conference on combating the Islamic State group.

Kerry was in stable condition and in good spirits as he prepared to return to Boston for further treatment with the doctor who previously operated on his hip, U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby said. He said X-rays at a Swiss hospital confirmed that Kerry fractured his right femur.

"The secretary is stable and never lost consciousness, his injury is not life-threatening and he is expected to make a full recovery," Kirby said in a statement.

Kerry was taken by helicopter to Geneva's main medical center, HUG, after apparently hitting a curb with his bike near Scionzier, France, about 40 kilometers southeast of the Swiss border.

Paramedics and a physician were on the scene with his motorcade at the time and provided him immediate attention. They quickly decided to order the 10-minute-long helicopter transport.

Kerry's cycling rides have become a regular occurrence on his trips. He often takes



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry rides his bicycle along the shore of Lake Geneva

his bike with him on the plane and was riding that bicycle yesterday.

During discussions in late March and early April between world powers and Iran, he took several bike trips during breaks. Those talks were in Lausanne, Switzerland, and led to a framework agreement.

Kerry had been in Geneva for six hours of meetings with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Saturday as the sides now work to seal a comprehensive accord by June 30.

Kerry regrets not being able

to make the rest of his scheduled stops, Kirby said. The top U.S. diplomat had planned to travel later yesterday to Madrid for meetings with Spain's king and prime minister, before spending two days in Paris for an international gathering to combat IS.

He will participate in the Paris conference remotely, Kirby said.

Kerry's decision to seek treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital was made because the fracture is near the site of his prior hip surgery, Kirby said. **AP**

RUSSIA

EU says Putin bans 89 officials from entry

Jonathan Stearns

RUSSIA has disclosed the names of 89 people from the European Union who are prohibited from entering the country, according to the EU, which criticized the travel ban.

"We don't have any other information on the legal basis, criteria and process of this decision," the European External Action Service, the 28-nation EU's diplomatic arm, said in an e-mailed statement Saturday. "We consider this measure as totally arbitrary and unjustified."

Russian authorities shared the list after several EU politicians were denied entry to Russia in recent months, said the Brussels-based EEAS, which didn't identify the people targeted.

"The Russian authorities justified these refusals by referring to the inclusion of these individuals on a confidential 'stop list,'" the EEAS said. "After each of these refusals, the EU and the member states whose nationals were affected had repeatedly requested transparency about the content of this list."

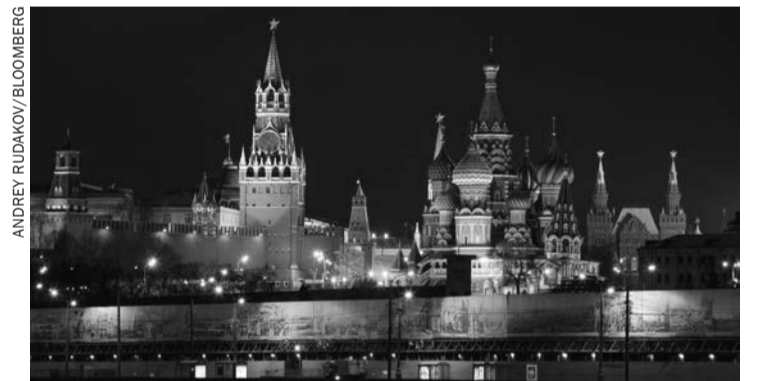
In September, Rebecca

Harms, a Green Party member of the European Parliament, said Russian authorities denied her entry when she arrived from Brussels to observe an espionage trial. Harms said she was kept waiting for three hours at the Moscow airport before being told she was an "undesirable" person and that her entry would be a "criminal act."

The holder of a German diplomatic passport, Harms said at the time she was probably targeted because she had been a frequent traveler to the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, and had supported the EU's sanctions against Russia over its encroachment in eastern Ukraine.

On Saturday in Brussels, European Parliament President Martin Schulz said the Russian travel curbs heighten Western wariness of Russia's foreign-policy goals.

"This further diminishes mutual trust and hampers any efforts for constructive dialogue to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the current geopolitical crisis," Schulz, who is German, said in an e-mailed statement. **Bloomberg**



Moscow has banned dozens of officials, according to the EU

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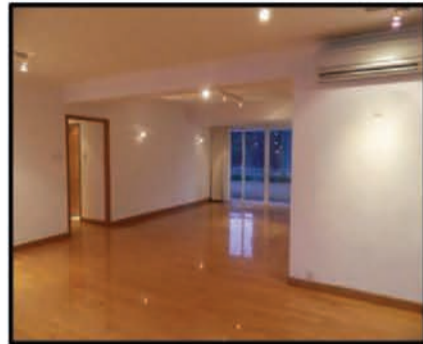
For Rent



One Central Tower 7 Penthouse Macau

(Ref: 15040492)
2,403sq. ft. HKD 50,000

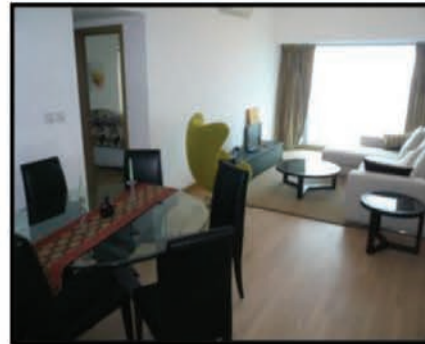
Unique opportunity to live in an exclusive penthouse. Located in the One Central complex, this property offers stunning views across the South China Sea towards Penha Hill. At 2,400 sq. ft. in the center of Macau, this will make a wonderful home for an executive, a modern family or designer couple.



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(Ref: 15030485)
3,053sq. ft. HKD 29,500

Bright and spacious unfurnished apartment with 4 double bedrooms/3 bathrooms with 2 being en suite. All bedrooms have built in wardrobes. Large kitchen with walk in larder cupboard, double oven and dishwasher. Two large balconies, with amazing views of Macau to the front of the apartment and green mountain views at the back. Private maid's quarters with separate access.



One Central Macau

(Ref: 15040491)
1,292sq. ft. HKD 25,000

Mid-floor apartment in luxury residence in Macau. This 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms apartment is bright and spacious with floor to ceiling windows in both the master bedroom and living room. Amazing views overlooking Taipa and the Macau Tower. One Central offers a magnificent 5-level indoor and outdoor leisure and recreational space. Great location with walking distance to MGM, Wynn, Mandarin Oriental etc. Directly linked to the shopping center..



Sheung Va Hin Macau

(Ref: 15030474)
880sq. ft. HKD 12,800

Fully furnished 2 bedroom walk up apartment. Open kitchen.

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The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa

(Ref: 15015429)
2,985sq. ft. HKD 29,800

Fully Furnished 4 bedroom, mid floor apartment, luxury residence in central Taipa. Concierge services, spacious living areas and bedrooms. High quality finishes. Full use of Clubhouse facilities. Viewings by appointment only



Manhattan Taipa

(Ref: 15030488)
1,626sq. ft. HKD 23,500

Luxury residence in Central Taipa. Spacious open plan living / dining room. 5 star facilities including gym, golf simulator, swimming pool, sauna, BBQ facilities and private cinema.

Close to supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance to Cotai Strip this is the perfect family or executive home.



Old Taipa Village, Vai Fat Taipa

(Ref: 15040499)
650sq. ft. HKD 13,000

Fantastic One Bedroom Furnished Apartment. Spacious open plan living / dining area. Simply furnished. Good size double bedroom with free standing storage. Modern shower room. Open plan kitchen. Recently upgraded (air con's gased, new curtains, painted throughout).



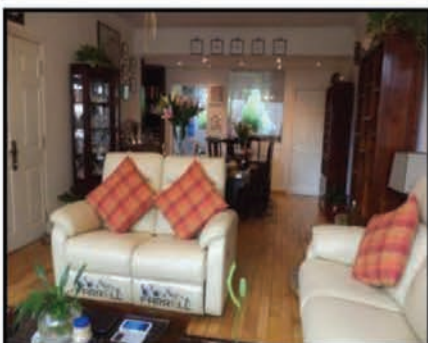
Macau Nape Area Macau

(Ref: 15030482)
1,545sq. ft. HKD 16,500

Fabulous apartment renovated 5 years ago. Originally 3 bedrooms converted to 2 double bedrooms.

Large living room with dining area which could be converted to a 3rd single bedroom. Great size balcony overlooking the Grand Lapa resort. Available from mid April

For Sale



Hellene Gardens 3 Bedroom Apartment

(Ref: 15055437)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 9.5M
Rate: HKD 5,712sq ft

Property Features & Benefits. Lovely renovated apartment for sale in Bauhinia Court. Completely renovated in 2011, this apartment needs no further work. Bright kitchen with views over the swimming pool and further onto Hac Sa Beach. Fitted white/stainless steel cabinets, grey speckled Corian worktop and black gloss tile splashback gives the kitchen a modern high tech feel.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



San Fai Kok Macau

(Ref: 15025433)
1,200 sq. ft. HKD 9.5M
Rate: HKD 7,917sq ft

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799sq. ft. HKD 5.35M
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(Ref: 15045436)
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CUBA

Washington removes Havana from US list of terrorism sponsors

Andrea Rodriguez and Matthew Lee, Havana

THE Obama administration formally removed Cuba from the U.S. terrorism blacklist Friday (Saturday, Macau time), a decision hailed in Cuba as the healing of a decades-old wound and an important step toward normalizing relations between the Cold War foes.

Secretary of State John Kerry signed off on rescinding Cuba's «state sponsor of terrorism» designation exactly 45 days after the Obama administration informed Congress of its intent to do so on April 14. Lawmakers had that amount of time to weigh in and try to block the move, but did not do so.

“The 45-day congressional pre-notification period has expired, and the secretary of state has made the final decision to rescind Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, effective today, May 29, 2015,”



Miniature flags representing Cuba and the US are displayed on the dash of a car in Havana, Cuba

the State Department said in a statement.

“While the United States has significant concerns and disagreements with a wide range of Cuba's policies and actions, these fall outside the criteria relevant to the rescission of a state sponsor of terrorism designation,” the statement said.

The step comes as officials from the two countries continue to hash out details for restoring full diplomatic relations, including opening embassies in Washington and Havana and returning ambassadors to the two countries for the first time since the U.S. severed diplomatic relations with the island

in January 1961. The removal of Cuba from the terrorism list had been a key Cuban demand.

The Cold War-era designation was levied mainly for Cuba's support of leftist guerrillas around the world and isolated the communist island from much of the world financial system because banks fear repercussions from doing business with designated countries.

Banks continue to take a cautious tone about doing business with Cuba since U.S. laws still make the island off limits for U.S. businesses. Leaders of the Republicans-controlled House have shown zero interest in repealing the laws from the 1990s that codified the U.S. embargo on trade with Cuba.

“Taking Cuba off the terrorism list is one step toward normalization, but for doing business down there, we have a long way to go,” said Rob Rowe, vice president and associate chief council at the American

Bankers Association.

In a blog post, the White House called the decision on the terrorism list another step toward improving relations with Cuba.

U.S. and Cuban officials have said the two sides are close to resolving the final issues needed for restoring diplomatic relations, but the most recent round of talks ended May 22 with no announcement of an agreement.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Friday that “there continue to be issues that need to be worked out.” He said important progress had been made, but would not give a time frame for an announcement. “That's obviously among the next milestones,” he said.

Washington and Havana are wrangling over U.S. demands that its diplomats be able to travel throughout Cuba and meet with dissidents without restrictions. The Cubans are wary of activity they see as destabilizing to their government.

Both the U.S. and Cuba say reopening embassies would be a first step in a larger process of normalizing relations. That effort would still have to tackle bigger questions such as the trade embargo as well as the future of the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay and Cuba's democracy record. **AP**

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Laurence Arnold and
Angela Greiling Keane

Beau Biden, Vice President's election-winning son, dies at 46

BEAU Biden, the son of Vice President Joseph Biden, whose election as Delaware attorney general at age 37 made him an ascending star in the Democratic Party, has died of brain cancer. He was 46.

Biden died Saturday night after being admitted earlier this month to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland for a recurrence of brain cancer. His health had been in question since August 2013, when he had a surgical procedure at a Texas cancer center after being diagnosed that month. He was treated with chemotherapy and radiation and given a clean bill of health that November, according to the vice president's office. He'd also had a mild stroke in 2010.

The cancer came back this spring and Beau Biden "immediately sought aggressive treatment," the vice president's office said. His parents, wife and children were among the family members with him when he died.

"The entire Biden family is saddened beyond words," Joe Biden said Saturday in an e-mailed statement annou-



In this Saturday, July 4, 2009, file photo, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, right, talks with his son, U.S. Army Capt. Beau Biden

ncing his son's death. "We know that Beau's spirit will live on in all of us."

President Barack Obama remembered Beau Biden as a public servant and father.

"Michelle and I are grieving tonight," Obama said in an e-mailed statement. "Beau Biden was a friend of ours."

Beau Biden most recently was of counsel at the law firm Grant & Eisenhofer where he worked in the firm's securities litigation and whistle blower practice groups.

The oldest of the vice president's four children, Biden played a significant supporting role in his father's campaign as Barack Obama's running mate in 2008.

Introducing his father at the Democratic nominating convention that August, Biden told the story of their shared family tragedy: the December 1972 automobile accident that killed his mother and one-year-old sister and injured him and his brother, both to-

ddlers at the time.

"As a single parent" after the death of his wife, Joseph Biden "decided to be there to put us to bed, to be there when we woke from a bad dream, to make us breakfast, so he'd travel to and from Washington, four hours a day," Biden recalled.

In October 2008, as the presidential campaign in which Joe Biden was Obama's running mate neared an end, Beau Biden was called to active duty in Iraq as a captain in the Delaware Army National Guard's Judge Advocate General's Corps. He spent a year with the 261st Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, flying to Washington to attend the presidential inauguration in January 2009. In 2011 he was promoted to the rank of major.

He announced last year that he would not seek a third term as attorney general and instead planned to run for governor in 2016. **Bloomberg**

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what's ON



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

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

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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(Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

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

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

MAN WITH 1ST NAME 'GOD' SETTLES
WITH CREDIT RATING AGENCY

A Russian-born man whose first name is God has settled a lawsuit with a credit reporting agency that had refused to recognize his name as legitimate.

Under the agreement reached in Brooklyn federal court this week, Equifax will enter God Gazarov's name into its database. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Gazarov now has a robust 820 credit score. He says he was shocked by Equifax's refusal to acknowledge his moniker.

The Russian native is a Brooklyn jewelry store owner who is named after his grandfather. He says it's a relatively common name in his native country.

He told the New York Post he's relieved the matter has been settled and plans to buy a new BMW. Lawyers for Equifax declined to comment.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:45	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:40	Non Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:45	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)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

28 MAY - 03 JUN

TOMORROWLAND

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min



PITCH PERFECT 2

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Elizabeth Banks

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

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



SAN ANDREAS

ROOM 3

(30 MAY - 03 JUN) 7.30 pm

Director: Brad Peyton

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino,

Alexandra Daddario

Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 114min

MACAU TOWER

21 MAY - 10 JUN

TOMORROWLAND

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Brad Bird

Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 130min

this day in history

2001 NEPAL ROYAL FAMILY
MASSACRED

The King and Queen of Nepal have been shot dead after the heir to the throne went on the rampage with a gun before turning it on himself. Eleven people died in the incident which started when Crown Prince Dipendra allegedly had a dispute with his mother over his choice of bride.

King Birendra, Queen Aishwarya and Prince Nirajan were among the victims of the tragedy at the royal palace in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu. The other victims included three of the King's children, his two sisters and one more member of the family by marriage.

The King's younger brother was also hurt in the attack, but his condition is not known. The only person left unharmed from the family was the King's middle brother Prince Gyanendra, who was out of the country at the time of the incident. Some reports say the Crown Prince is on a life support machine in hospital. If he lives, he is expected to be declared the successor.

Crown Prince Dipendra, who was educated at Eton College, is reported to have been in conflict with his family over his choice of bride, Devyani Rana, for some time.

Queen Aishwarya is said to have been the real power behind the throne and allegedly threatened to remove her oldest son from the line of succession, although this would not have been allowed under the constitution.

The murders are thought to be the worst mass killing of royalty since the Romanovs were put to death in 1918 during the Russian Revolution. "This is a most unfortunate and shocking event," said Deputy Prime Minister Ram Chandra Paudel.

"Shocking is an understatement, we have been orphaned by this loss," said a vegetable seller, Janardan Sharma, who like many in Kathmandu rushed to the royal palace to try to find out more news of the tragedy.

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, issued a statement saying that he was "profoundly shocked" by the killings of King Birendra and other members of his family.

He called for calm in the country and said that he was "deeply saddened by this tragedy". King Birendra, 55, ascended the throne in 1972. When nationwide unrest broke out in 1990 he was forced to legalize political parties and accept a parliamentary system. He was the last ruling Hindu monarch.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It was later confirmed Crown Prince Dipendra had turned the gun on himself but did not die immediately and lapsed into a coma. He died some 30 hours after the shootings when the king's middle brother, Prince Gyanendra was declared the new king. Devyani Rana fled Nepal and is reported to be in Europe. Riots followed the killings as conspiracy theories about coups flourished.

Prince Paras Shah, who had suddenly become second in line to the throne as son of the new king, was blamed for the tragedy as people refused to believe Dipendra could have killed his parents.

Two leading Maoists also tried to blame India for conspiring with the Nepali government to undermine the sovereignty.

There followed an upsurge in violence led by the Maoist rebels which led to a state of emergency in November 2001.

A seven-month truce failed in August 2003 and two years later the king imposed direct rule saying the government had failed to defeat the Maoists.

In April 2006 an alliance of seven opposition parties organised national strikes and protests which led to a violent crackdown by the police. The UN human rights commissioner in Nepal urged the king to restore democracy and prevent further bloodshed.

The following month, the Nepalese government approved a plan to curtail the king's powers, oblige the royal family to pay tax and hand over control of the army to parliament which will also name the king's heir.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Don't get upset with yourself if you don't see instant results.

Taurus April 20-May 20 If you feel as intense about money as you do about human relationships, then you need to get things in perspective.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 There are several upsides to the down market. Being slower and more calculating are just two ways to look at it.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Upheaval has made you and everyone around you that much more cautious about financial deals.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Being selfish feels like a way of taking care of your family. To some extent, that's true.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If your emotional nature is your driving force, ask yourself honest questions.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The acquisitive are few and far between these days. You need to find people still willing to invest.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your confidence in your finances might seem unfounded, but it's too intense to ignore.

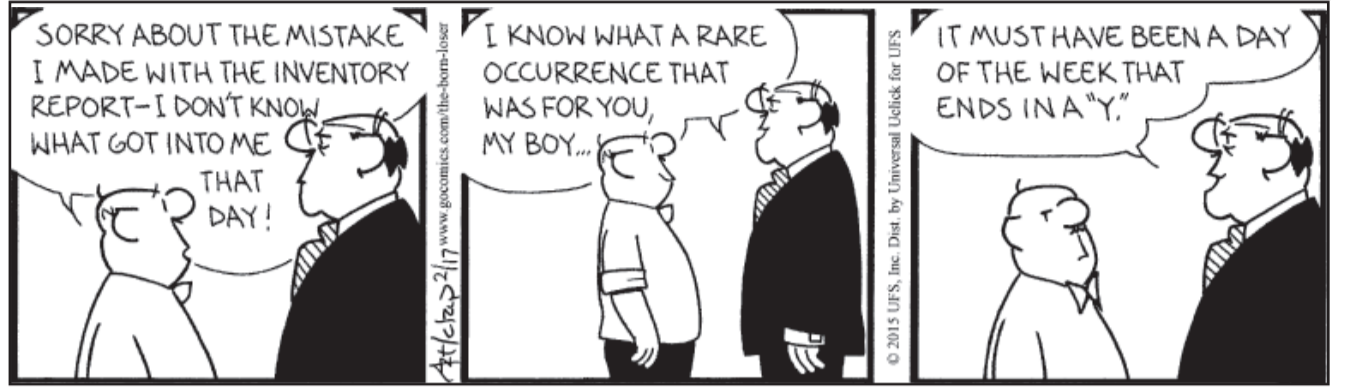
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If you can't figure out how to generate money with pencil and paper, then use your imagination.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 No matter how much money is coming in or going out, you'll never make a profit unless you stay organized.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The market has slowed down but that doesn't mean it's all over for you.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Are you swimming with sharks or just plain paranoid? When your financial situation is squeezing you, then it's hard to know.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 2, 8, 6, 3, 4, 9, 1, 5, 2, 8, 3, 4, 2, 1, 6, 5, 9.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1, 8, 3, 5, 7, 1, 2, 8, 9, 1, 4, 5, 3, 9, 8, 4, 2, 6, 9, 2, 4, 2, 6, 3, 7, 2, 9.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 2, 7, 5, 1, 9, 6, 1, 3, 8, 5, 8, 3, 8, 4, 6, 7, 6, 2, 5, 7, 8, 5, 4, 9, 7, 2, 9, 8.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 7, 9, 3, 8, 2, 1, 4, 3, 7, 1, 5, 8, 3, 6.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities: Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for various world cities: Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Clown Kelly; 7- Author LeShan; 10- Donations; 14- One concerned with the bottom line?; 15- Wine container; 16- Rubber overshoe; 17- Christian festival; 18- "tu" (Verdi aria); 19- Mitch Miller's instrument; 20- Incapable of being penetrated; 23- Chairs; 26- Timothy Leary stash; 27- Ancient Indo-European; 28- Frozen rain; 29- Tumult; 30- What happened next?; 31- Spirit; 33- Court call; 34- Japanese computer giant; 37- Canto; 38- Swiss river; 39- Mineral suffix; 40- Miracle; 41- Draft pick; 42- Letter addenda; 43- Makes beloved; 45- Favorite; 46- NATO member; 47- Uproar; 48- Is Born; 51- CD earnings; 52- Alley Oop's girlfriend; 53- Carousel; 56- Black cuckoos; 57- Verse starter?; 58- Large beer mug; 62- Region; 63- Little drink; 64- Degrees in a right angle; 65- Rocker Clapton; 66- Menlo Park monogram; 67- "The Ice Storm" director;

DOWN: 1- End for Siam; 2- Soccer standout Hamm; 3- Classic two-seaters; 4- Qualify; 5- Swarms; 6- Maryland athlete, for short; 7- Nevertheless; 8- Had the nerve; 9- Battling; 10- On deck, perhaps; 11- Foyer; 12- Bread; 13- Dutch painter Jan; 21- Flowering shrubs; 22- Raved; 23- Come Back, Little; 24- Stand for a portrait; 25- Lovers' lane?; 29- of thousands; 30- MetLife competitor; 32- Table linen; 33- Deceives; 34- Marsh of mystery; 35- Swashbuckler Flynn; 36- del Sol; 44- Wearing; 45- 3.26 light years; 46- Immature; 48- Blow away; 49- Mexican mister; 50- Singer Lopez; 51- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 52- a million; 54- Sudden blast of wind; 55- Annapolis sch.; 59- Tierra Fuego; 60- Riviera season; 61- Caustic chemical

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-67.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
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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
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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Blatter says FIFA corruption probe won't lead to him

Graham Dunbar, Zurich

HAVING come through another FIFA election largely unscathed, Sepp Blatter was in a typically defiant mood Saturday when addressing the challenges that still lie ahead.

The 79-year-old FIFA president dismissed suggestions that a United States government investigation of corruption in football could lead to his door. Several senior FIFA officials have been arrested already, but Blatter shrugged off the notion that he could be next.

"Arrested for what? Next question," Blatter said curtly when meeting international media for the first time since American and Swiss federal cases rocked FIFA's home city on Wednesday.

"I forgive but I don't forget," Blatter also said at



FIFA President Sepp Blatter speaks during a news conference following the FIFA Executive Committee meeting in Zurich

FIFA headquarters, referring to a European-led attempt to oust him after 17 years in office.

A busy first day of his new four-year presidential term saw the leader of the world's most popular sport scold critics and take acclaim from allies.

Blatter criticized U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and received a congratu-

latory telegram from Vladimir Putin, president of 2018 World Cup host Russia.

Gone was the tension which put a tremor in his voice after Swiss police raided FIFA's favorite luxury hotel in Zurich early Wednesday.

Blatter insisted he had nothing to fear from the U.S. federal case which alleged a USD150 million bribe scheme linked to broadcast righ-

ts for tournaments in North and South America. Two FIFA vice presidents were among seven men arrested.

"I do not see how FIFA could be directly affected by this," Blatter said.

He was equally adamant when responding to questions about whether the probe can't still directly affect him.

Was he the "high-ranking FIFA official" mentioned in the Department of Justice indictment who wired \$10 million to corrupt North American officials? The apparent bribes were paid from a FIFA account in exchange for voting for South Africa as the 2010 World Cup host.

"Definitely that is not me," Blatter said. "I have no \$10 million." It was clear that, after winning a closer vote than he would have liked Friday, Blatter wanted to come out fighting. **AP**

Portugal shows class at Under-20 World Cup

Portugal scored twice in the last two minutes on its way to a flattering 3-0 win over Senegal yesterday which lifted it atop Group C at the FIFA Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand. Late goals in Hamilton by Andre Silva and Nuno Santos gave Portugal the group lead on goal difference from Colombia which had earlier beaten Qatar 1-0 at the same Waikato Stadium. Portugal emphasized its strong claims to the Under-20 title, which it won in both 1989 and 1991, when it scored its opening goal through Gelson Martins after only 26 seconds — the fourth-fastest goal in the tournament's history. Goalkeeper Ibrahima Sy kept Senegal in the match until the final minutes when Silva and Santos made the match safe for the two-time champion.

Chelsea makes rare trip Down Under



the English side's first trip to Australia in 41 years. At a media conference yesterday, Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho promised to play a full-strength side against A-League runners-up Sydney FC. "Playing in front of 83,000 (people) is huge, it's fantastic really," Mourinho said. "We want to play well and we want to show off our best players and we will give our fans a good show."

Premier League champions Chelsea arrived in Sydney yesterday for tomorrow's 83,500 sellout match at the Olympic stadium,

AD



Congratulations on the 8th Anniversary of Macau Daily Times.



opinion

Insight
 Paulo Barbosa



IN OUR BACKYARD

Traditionally Macau doesn't pay much notice to deeds on the other side of the border. But the times when Zhuhai was little more than a fishermen's village are long gone and, in some aspects, the neighboring city is more developed than Macau. Even in urban planning aspects, Zhuhai benefits from having lots of space to grow, while the lack of space (and ideas) here obviously hinders development. Zhuhai is implementing modern solutions that leave Macau behind, like the introduction of a bike-sharing system in December 2012 and the revamp of its waterfront area.

In spite of its closeness to Macau, Hengqin was also little known here until recently. Even now, I bet that many local residents have never set foot on the island that they can see from their windows. After all, living an "aquarium lifestyle" is one of Macau's features.

Many also still ignore that Chimelong Ocean Kingdom, one of the world's largest aquariums, opened in 2014, as part of a huge tourist complex that includes three hotels. It's located a 5 minute drive away from Hengqin Port, the border with Macau that's now open round-the-clock.

I visited the theme park this weekend and was surprised by its size and also by the number of visitors there. A crowd of thousands was visiting the recreational facility, which offers an entertainment experience clearly different from Macau.

The family-friendly Ocean Kingdom includes several aquariums and pools featuring countless species of fish. One of those aquariums (see Decisive Moment) has been certified by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's biggest. Whales and manta rays swim in their enclosures. Some rare habitats (for this latitude) are replicated, such as the polar environment appropriate for penguins and polar bears. Two large auditoriums feature regular shows with belugas and dolphins interacting intelligently with humans.

But the park is much more than an aquarium. It includes a huge roller coaster and many carousels and games to delight the young. The 5D special effect cinema is an immersive film experience, offering a glimpse into the future of cinema. The day closes with a beautiful fireworks display, while images are projected through a giant whale that could become the iconic image of the park.

This resort attracts mainly families, many travelling in package tours and staying overnight in the three hotels with a view of surrounding Macau landmarks: Hengqin Bay Hotel, Circus Hotel and Penguin Hotel (opened in February), which collectively offer around 5,000 hotel rooms.

But how has Chimelong drawn so many people to a recently opened theme park? It does so because it's the leading tourist company in China, operating other huge facilities, like the Guangzhou Chimelong Water Park that, according to some estimates, is the most visited water park in the world.

Chimelong didn't even try to promote the new facility in Macau or outside China. They don't need to do so. Their network of mainland tour agencies provides the clientele. They target the country's internal market. I saw only a handful of foreign visitors during my visit (foreign staff, mainly performers and animal trainers, were present in higher numbers). Although some information is available in English, the theme park was made for a Chinese public. And it is already full.

So, it is arguable that the Chimelong resort doesn't need Macau, in spite of the geographical closeness. But is it competition to the MSAR's offerings or does it benefit both sides? Obviously the offer is different and both sides shouldn't turn their backs on each other.

Touristic partnerships should be explored, since Hengqin has the space that Macau lacks and Macau offers a product that Hengqin can't have (gambling). A good example of that could be a partnership between Hengqin Bay Hotel and The Venetian, so visitors enjoy both facilities via a promotional package. According to Ivan Leung, general manager of the Hengqin Bay Hotel, partnerships with other companies are being discussed.

THE BZZ **FARMER WHO KILLED ALLEGED TRUFFLE THIEF GETS 8 YEARS**

A court in southeast France has sentenced a farmer to eight years in prison for the shooting death of a suspected truffle thief. Laurent Rambaud was convicted Friday in the Valence court over the Dec. 20, 2010 killing of Ernest Pardo.

The 37-year-old Rambaud insisted he didn't mean to kill Pardo. He told police he was guar-

ding a truffle patch on his land around nightfall when he was surprised by a man and a dog, and opened fire out of fear for his life.

Police say Pardo was known to sell the prized delicacy at local markets. He was holding a small pick. The killing took place in Grignan, near one of France's largest truffle markets. Truffles sell for up to USD1,000 per kilogram.

Wealthy Chinese heading abroad to buy diamonds



Sonja Elmquist

WEALTHY Chinese who made their country into the world's second-biggest market for diamonds are now increasingly traveling abroad to buy the stones, at a time when ostentatious purchases are frowned upon at home.

That's the view of Tiffany & Co., one of the biggest jewelry outlets, and De Beers, the world's largest diamond producer, which said sales of the stones have slowed in China. Revenue from luxury jewelry worldwide is forecast to grow by 8 percent annually through 2018, according to Paul Gait, a London-based analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

China has been the main engine of demand growth for the diamond industry, with sales expected to double in the next decade, according to Bain & Co., a private equity firm. Now, jewelers

there are contending with an anti-graft campaign that's already dented sales of luxury goods, including premium cognac and high-end watches.

"Patterns of buying by Chinese consumers are changing very fast," said Bruce Cleaver, head of strategy and corporate affairs at De Beers, a unit of Anglo American Plc. "They travel more, and they buy a tremendous amount more than they used to outside of China."

Xi Jinping, who became China's president in 2013, is driving the toughest campaign against corruption since the days of Mao Zedong, targeting both high-level elites and people in less powerful positions. He's seeking to curb a culture of bribery that's seen as threatening growth. China's economy is expected to expand 7 percent this year, the slowest pace since 1990.

The crackdown doesn't

"stop husbands and wives giving gifts to each other," according to Cleaver. Instead it may have a chilling effect on those "who don't want to be seen to be too ostentatious," he said. The result: "a little less footfall in the Tier One cities in our stores."

Other factors may also be involved. The weak euro makes vacation shopping in places like Paris, where De Beers has two outlets, much more attractive, he said.

Meanwhile, Tiffany is seeing the same trend, according to Mark Aaron, vice-president of investor relations.

"We continued to experience softness in Hong Kong and Macau as we believe some Chinese tourists have been traveling to and shopping in other regions," Aaron said during a conference call with reporters last week.

De Beers's retail stores are a joint venture with the French luxury-goods company LVMH Moët Hennessey Louis Vuitton SE, and offer high-end jewelry that can fetch tens of thousands of dollars or more. There are six in China and 66 worldwide.

"Chinese consumers who can afford to travel do take advantage of currency weakness to go and buy in Europe, where it's much cheaper," Cleaver said Tuesday in an interview in New York.

The shift is coming in a challenging moment for the industry.

Prices for rough diamonds, the uncut stones bought by jewelry makers, have tumbled 13 percent in the past year. **Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	15-35 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

MYANMAR rejected as unbalanced comments made by several Nobel Peace Prize winners calling for an end to the persecution of Rohingya Muslims. The Nobel laureates including South Africa's Desmond Tutu, Iranian human rights activist Shirin Ebadi and former East Timor President Jose Ramos Horta made the appeal following two conferences in the Norwegian capital last week. They called the situation of Rohingya in Myanmar "nothing less than genocide."

RUSSIA Vladimir Putin won't be on the guest list when President Barack Obama and other world leaders gather in Germany next week — punishment for more than a year of alleged Kremlin-supported aggression in Ukraine.

NIGERIA A suicide bomber kills himself and 16 others outside a mosque in the Nigerian city Maiduguri, residents and officials say.

SYRIA Activists say Syrian army airstrikes kill at least 70 people in embattled Aleppo province.



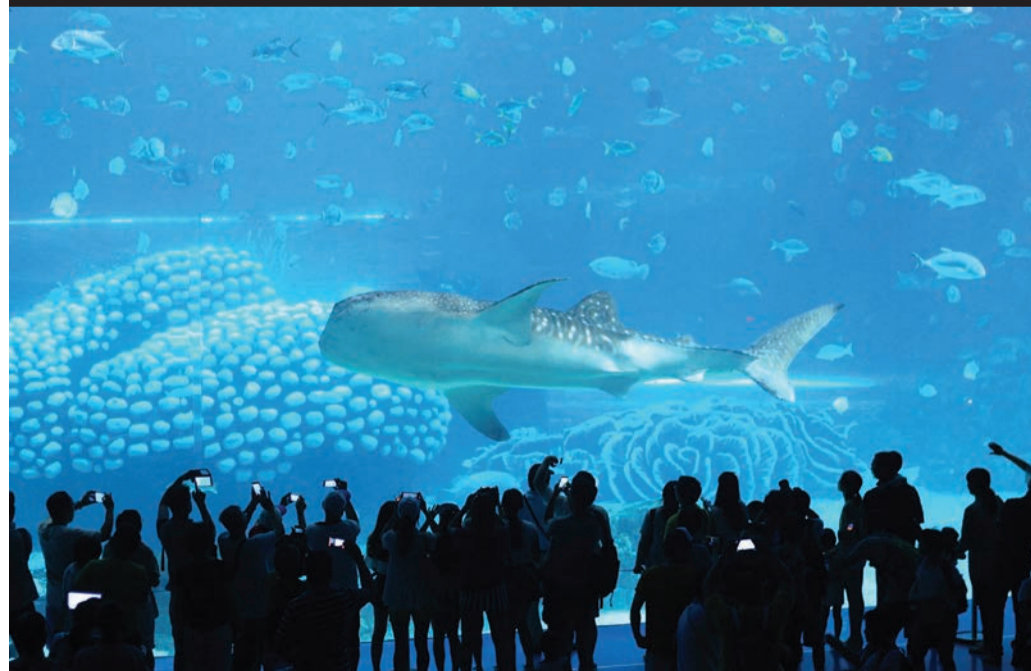
USA Hundreds of people fill a church in the Mississippi Delta for the funeral of B.B. King, who rose from sharecropper in the area's flat cotton fields to worldwide fame as a blues singer and guitarist who influenced generations of entertainers.

USA Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley entered the Democratic presidential race on Saturday in a longshot challenge to Hillary Rodham Clinton for the party's 2016 nomination, casting himself as a new generation leader who would rebuild the economy and reform Wall Street.

USA Key Patriot Act anti-terrorism provisions, including bulk collection of Americans' phone records, expire at midnight unless senators come up with an 11th hour deal in an extraordinary yesterday afternoon session. Chances for that look all but nonexistent. Republican Sen. Rand Paul vowed Saturday to force the bulk phone collection program to expire — and the Senate's complex rules allow him to do just that, at least temporarily.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Paulo Barbosa



A shark whale swims in the world's largest aquarium at the Chimelong Ocean Kingdom in Hengqin (see more about this in the column opposite).