

DRAGON BOAT RACES KICK OFF
Athletes from 139 local teams paddled the Nam Van Lake over the weekend at the inaugural 2015 Dragon Boat Races



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BECKHAM IN TOWN FOR H&M OPENING



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ENTRY PERMIT REQUIREMENT FOR TAIWANESE LIFTED
Taiwanese must apply for a visa-like entry permit in order to visit the mainland. That may soon be over



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WORLD BRIEFS



GERMANY The comet lander Philae has awakened from a seven-month hibernation and managed to communicate with Earth for more than a minute, the European Space Agency said yesterday. The probe became the first spacecraft to land on a comet when it touched down on the icy surface of 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko in November. After its historic landing Philae managed to conduct experiments and send data to Earth for about 60 hours before its batteries were depleted and it was forced to shut down its systems.

NORTH KOREA is accusing the U.S. of targeting it with anthrax and wants the U.N. Security Council to look into they called America's "biological warfare schemes." A letter from North Korea's U.N. ambassador to the council president and the U.N. chief, made public Friday, claims that the U.S. "possesses deadly weapons of mass destruction" that it is trying to use against them. U.S. defense officials disclosed in late May that low concentration samples of live anthrax were shipped to labs in 19 states and four countries, including a U.S. military facility in South Korea.

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Luxury goods face a global reckoning **F1**

Thousands rally in HK prior to election plan vote

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Growing Filipino community as hospitality industry expands

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Local teams compete at dragon boat regattas



DRAGON boat athletes from 139 local teams paddled the Nam Van Lake over the past two days during the first weekend of the Macau International Dragon Boat Races, striving to nab trophies in seven categories at the annual tournament.

One of the gaming operators teams, SJM Golden Jubilee, has notched

up both champion titles at the two most-anticipated races, the open 200M for small boats and open 500M for standard boats, while the city's fire service was awarded the first runner-up in the above categories, also clinching two first titles from two other categories exclusively for civil servants.

As the exhilarated win-

ners brandished their champion flags, Angela Leong, accompanied by the dragon boat team leaders, presented the wining squads with the trophy from the head of the local Sport Development Board.

"We have taken part in these races for years, yet we were only close to the championship these few years. We achieved the

best score this year," said Chan Weng Kit, leader of the SJM teams. "Therefore many of our colleagues are so excited. We are just too happy now!"

To the team's surprise, Ng Chi Kin, representative of the also delighted fire brigade team, described their winning as "out of expectations."

"We planned to nab medals in the two civil servant categories and aimed for the grand final of the 500M. It exceeded our expectations to take medals from the four races," he said.

Female dragon boat paddlers from the Macau Clube Desportivo Recreativo other teams in the Women's 500M and bagged the title while Wynn Macau's squad also demonstrated its strength to claim the championship prize in the Women's 200M.

The University of Macau's Team A and B won the first and second titles in the 200M race for university students. **Staff reporter**

Sonia Chan rebukes culprits for brutal killing of puppies



Sonia Chan

SONIA Chan, Secretary for Administration and Justice, denounced the brutal killing of newborn puppies at a function last Saturday while urging any witnesses to come forward to the authorities.

However, the top official failed to address whether the one-year prison term drafted in the animal protection act would be amended amid public demand for a longer imprisonment, only saying that the administration would listen to the Legislative Assembly's committees.

Last Saturday morning, the city saw another case of animal brutality, as an unleashed pet dog was fatally crushed by a van, leaving the female owner in tears.

The owner accused the van driver and the passenger of knowingly slaying the dog in whwn it ran out in front of the vehicle. The pair's irresponsible remarks have since stirred widespread outcry on social media.

Indebted PSP officer nabbed for extortion

AN indebted police officer is facing prosecution for his premeditated attempt to plant drugs on a mainlander in order to extort him afterwards. The scandal came to light after the victim turned to the Public Security Police Force for help. The male officer, aged 27, joined the security force in 2009. He reportedly committed the crime last Thursday during his annual leave, posing as a plainclothes police officer. Advised by his loan shark, he secretly inserted a pocket full of white powder into the male mainlander's pocket after approaching him for his identity with two other locals impersonating police officers. He then requested HKD30,000 from the victim in exchange for his immediate release. After being notified, the police arrested the trio after an investigation, which found the officer in debt for HKD120,000. The police have launched disciplinary proceedings and added that they would strengthen discipline among their officers in different units.

ONE SHOT NEWS



A Macau group took part in the traditional June celebrations that take place in Lisbon, Portugal, in honor of Saint Anthony. Two of the local group members are seen marching on Friday down the iconic Avenida da Liberdade in Portugal's capital.

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Catarina Pinto

INDEPENDENCE DAY

More Filipinos in town as hospitality industry expands

MACAU'S growing Filipino community celebrated their Independence Day on Friday. Philippines Consul General Lilybeth R. Deapera stressed that while more Filipino nationals are setting up their own businesses in Macau, more citizens will be recruited from the Philippines as the MSAR awaits a new wave of casino resorts.

"Many Filipinos now have their own businesses, mostly in the Senado area: grocery stores selling Filipino products, a beauty salon, several restaurants cooking Filipino cuisine and even a bakery shop selling 'pandesal,' one of the main ingredients of our cuisine that we also eat in the morning for breakfast. To eat it feels a bit like home," she told reporters on the sidelines of a cocktail reception at the Military Club on Friday.

Ms Deapera confirmed there has been a steady increase in the number of Filipino nationals living and working here. According to the consul general, there are about 22,000 Filipino citizens now working in the region.

"We expect more to be recruited from the Philippines, with the opening of new hotels and other establishments," she added.

Most Filipino citizens in Macau work within the hospitality and domestic sectors, although there are also those working in the education and health sectors, the consul general said. When asked whether Filipino nationals' living conditions have improved, Ms Deapera stated, "in conversations we had with the government, they said they



Consul Lilybeth Deapera



Traditional dance performances from the Philippines

are looking into Filipinos' living conditions here because the [residential] allowance was good, but not at this point in time, as both inflation and the cost of living have risen."

She recalled that the Macau government has always acknowledged the contributions of the Filipino community: "The business side and the government... they were one in saying that the development of the Macau economy is partly attributable to the support and work of the Filipinos."

The Secretary for Administra-

tion and Justice, Sonia Chan, said she's confident that, although Macau's economy is in an adjustment phase, the city and the Philippines "will continue to strengthen existing partnerships and expand areas of cooperation for mutual benefits."

Ms Chan recalled that, "the opening of the Philippines consulate general in Macau contributes to the advancement of social, economic and cultural cooperation between the two territories."

According to the Philippine consul general, cooperation between Macau and the Philippi-

nes continued to grow in 2013, as trade volume reached USD28 million.

With several Filipino associations established in Macau, the consul general concluded that both territories will forge further opportunities for cultural cooperation.

The event to celebrate Independence Day featured a series of cultural performances, namely a showcase of two traditional dances.

The Philippines celebrated its 117th Independence Day on June 12, the day President Emilio Agui-

“The development of the Macau economy is partly attributable to the support and work of the Filipinos

CONSUL LILYBETH DEAPERERA

naldo proclaimed the country independent from Spain in 1898. Despite facing major challenges, namely corruption and poverty, the Philippines economy has experienced significant changes according to Ms Deapera. She concluded by saying that the economy expanded by 6.1 percent in 2013.

In a speech to mark the 117th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippines Independence, President Aquino reiterated that the country is still battling corruption and poverty. He urged Filipinos to unite in order to overcome the current challenges, the Manila Bulletin reported.

CRIME

Two men arrested for ATM money laundering

The police have apprehended two men in connection with alleged money laundering through local automatic teller machines (ATMs) since February. The sum of money involved in the transactions reached HKD103 million.

During their crackdown last Wednesday in the northern district of Fai Chi Kei, the authorities discovered a man standing suspiciously in front of an ATM machine, withdrawing money using multiple cards. Upon being intercepted for enquiries, the man was found in possession of 34 Union Pay cards issued by the main-



land banks and HKD 408,000 in cash.

The 24-year-old local surnamed Wong confessed that since February, a whopping sum of up to 103.3 million had been transferred to a local VIP

junket operator's account. Four other perpetrators were also disclosed to have been committing similar crimes at other ATM machines across the city.

Apart from Wong, around one hour later inspectors also found another man surnamed Ng, aged 37, withdrawing money at the same machine also using different debit cards. He was carrying a total of HKD 84,000 in cash and 41 cards. The man, said to be from the Guangdong province, failed to adequately explain where the cards came from.

According to the police, both were unemployed.

DICJ warns of illegal gambling websites

THE Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has warned citizens about illegal gambling websites accepting bets under the public department's name. Responding to a rising number of public enquiries relating to the illegal gambling websites, DICJ clarified that its only official website is <http://www.dicj.gov.mo>.

"The Macau government has never issued any online interactive gaming license to any company. Hence, all online interactive gambling websites in Macau

are considered illegal operations," it added.

The bureau stressed that its purpose is to monitor and supervise Macau's various gambling activities, and "will not encourage, promote, or operate any form of gambling activities."

DICJ stated that any unauthorized use of its official website information or photos for promotional purposes without prior consent is considered an offense, and declared that they have the right to pursue legal action.

HEALTH

Hospital malpractice claim under probe

THE Health Bureau is currently investigating an alleged medical malpractice case where a local citizen accused personnel from the city's public hospital of failing to identify his father's acute renal failure. Besides the suspected problematic diagnosis, Souza, the victim's son, slammed the hospital's "disrespectful manner" in handling his family's complaints during a recent press conference.

According to Souza, his father, unable to eat, was diagnosed as being in a critical condition at the Kiang Wu Hospital only hours after being discharged from the public hospital where the doctors, as he claimed, did not conduct thorough examinations on the 62-year-old. A week after the incident and the public hospital has still not responded to the accusation. **Staff reporter**

INTERVIEW | DAVID BECKHAM

'I've visited many places in Asia in the last twenty years, I keep coming back'

FORMER British football player David Beckham last Saturday returned to town to thrill shoppers and fans for the debut of fashion retailer H&M in Macau. In a meeting with local and Hong Kong media, the style icon talked about his current life and career.

- Can you talk more about your film with Guy Ritchie?

David Beckham – Obviously Guy is a very good friend of mine. When we started talking about doing the campaign, and doing something that would be special for H&M, Guy was one of the first people I spoke to. Guy is an advisor, he had an idea. I think what we did was pretty incredible; he's a great, amazing film director, so to do a campaign like this was interesting for him, and I think he did an amazing job. I think people saw the humor throughout the spot and that was something he really wanted to get across. Running around the streets in my underwear was definitely something that I've never done before! [laughter] So it was interesting, it was fun.

- Have you considered becoming an actor in the future?

DB – I've been asked that questions a number of times throughout my career

Running around the streets in my underwear was definitely something that I've never done before!

DAVID BECKHAM



David Beckham opens the new H&M Macau store

and my life. It's not something that I've ever thought I would go into, but obviously doing things like I did with Guy [Ritchie] and a couple of other things that I've been involved in. I've done campaigns for a number of years, with different sponsors. So this required a little bit of acting; whether I did it well or not, I don't know, but people seemed to enjoy it. But going forward, who knows? Any opportunities that come up in the future, if they interest me, we'll see.

- What do you enjoy the most during your time with your family?

DB – Of course I love my

family a lot. So obviously the time I get to spend with them is also very special, because in my career, I've spent a lot of time travelling. So now that I'm finished, I'm still busy, I'm still travelling, but I get to spend quite a lot of time with them. We just do normal things, go to the park, ride bikes, play football, going to Bali now, there's a lot of things we do, normal things.

- What's the Father's Day gift you want the most?

DB – Love, and hopes, and kisses, you know, just time. You always want to spend time with your parents, your mother, your father, so I hope that continues with my children.

- Would you consider moving to an Asian city, like Hong Kong or Macau, if there is an opportunity?

DB – There's many cities that I've lived around the world, and many countries that I've visited and also lived in, so nothing is off the table. If any opportunities come up and if they are great opportunities, then of course, we'd always consider living in different places, to do different projects and work. But you know my children are settled in London, they go to school in London, so I think it's important that they continue to have a stable upbringing and a stable life, at a very young age. But I've visited many places in

Asia in the last twenty years, I keep coming back, so I must love something about it. So yeah, who knows, if there're different opportunities that come up.

- How do you feel about sharing the same birthday with the newly born Princess Charlotte?

DB – Obviously I feel very special to have the birthday that I have, and to share that with the princess is obviously very special. Because I'm a huge royalist, and the royal family has been a very special part in my life for many, many years, from my grandmother. So to share my birthday with the princess is special. **BY**

Hundreds flock to new H&M shop anticipating Beckham

HUNDREDS of eager shoppers and football fans congregated on Saturday outside Macau's first H&M store to catch a glimpse of their idol, David Beckham. The British sporting and style icon inaugurated the two-story retail space and signed autographs for a group of local fans.

"I'm very happy to be able to spend time with my fans at H&M's grand opening at Shoppes at Venetian. It is fantastic to be a part of this celebration, and I am happy to see that my extended collaboration with H&M, the Modern Essentials collection, is being sold in Macau. Each piece from the collection is a take on a

new wardrobe classic that we envision updating every man's spring wardrobe; it is exciting to see the positive response from my fans towards this collection so far," said Beckham.

H&M's country manager for Greater China, Magnus Olsson, stressed that the brand's cooperation with Beckham star-

ted in 2012, through the Modern Essentials collection recently selected by the star. "It's one of the biggest fashion retailers in the world. H&M is committed to providing fashion and quality at the best price in a sustainable way, and we are very happy today to give that to our customers in Macau," he stated at the popular brand's Macau debut.

"Seeing the enthusiasm from our customers today, we just know that our store at Shoppes at Venetian will be the glittering new shopping destination for locals and visitors of Macau," added the country manager. **BY**

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

A story everyone relates to

Catarina Pinto

FAMED Disney musical Beauty and the Beast debuted on Saturday at the Venetian theatre and will run until July 26. As the show celebrates its 20th anniversary, musical director Michael Borth acknowledged that the musical has thrived for so long thanks to “a good story and the way people relate and empathize with the characters.”

Beauty and the Beast is based on an 18th-century French fairy tale by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont. Disney’s animated version of the tale in 1991 helped the story gain global fame. The show premiered on Broadway in 1994.

“One of the things I think that’s great about musicals is that there’s a story that’s being told and if you can get involved with the characters and empathize with them and feel what they’re feeling, you fall in love with the show, I think that’s one of the things that makes a musical last,” said Mr Borth at a media preview on Friday.

He believes Beauty and the Beast has a lot of these ingredients that make the audience fall in love with the story.

“There’s a great story, many people have seen the movie; they sort of know how it’s going to end. The musical, if anything, adds more emotion, more danger, more excitement, than even the animated movie. It’s a really exciting and emotional journey we go on every night,” he added.

Mr Borth recalled that one of Disney’s best features is its ability to tell stories that do not only appeal to children. “It’s a simple story but it’s not



A scene from Disney’s musical Beauty and the Beast

It’s definitely something children enjoy but it’s something we can all relate to

MICHAEL BORTH

geared toward children. It’s definitely something children enjoy but it’s something we can all relate to.”

Company manager Kristin Steward also highlighted the show’s ability to capture the attention of all audiences: “It’s funny, there’s beautiful dancing, there’s comedic moments, there’s fight scenes, friendships (...) so many things represented in this particular show that makes it really unique and very relatable, which I think is why it’s played all over the world for 20 years.”

Beauty and the Beast ran on Broadway for over 5,000 per-

formances between 1994 and 2007.

It tells the story of Belle, a young woman living in a provincial town, and the Beast, a young prince trapped by a spell that transformed him into a hideous beast, as a punishment for his cruelty. He imprisons Belle in his castle. In order to return to his old self, the beast must earn Belle’s true love, so that the curse will be broken.

Hilary Maiberger, who plays Belle in the musical, told reporters on Friday that she does not see Belle as “a Disney princess.”

“She’s not a princess until the very last two minutes. She’s just an average 16-year-old girl, which is what I love about her. I can relate to her, I’ve been through what she’s going through (...) There were moments when I was unsure of who I was; I didn’t know if I was going to fit in the world, where I belonged in the world, I think everyone goes through that,” she said.

The actress added that, “it’s a dream to play such a heroine,

such a role model. It’s truly a dream come true.”

Darick Pead, who plays the Beast, recalled that, “there’s something more” to his character than what people might see at first. “It does help me as an actor to act through it. Masks are crazy but they are also really awesome story tellers,” he stressed.

“I’ve always liked the costume. The only thing is it’s really hot, so I am sweating constantly in the Macau weather. But I love wearing a Tony Award-winning costume,” he added.

Since licensing of the title began in 2004, there have been 28,000 productions of the Beauty and the Beast in eight languages across 22 countries.

The show will run at the Venetian Theatre between Tuesday and Friday at 8 p.m., as well as Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Ticket prices range from MOP280 (C Reserve), to MOP480 (B Reserve) and MOP680 (A Reserve). The show will conclude its Macau run on July 26.

Health declaration required for Korean tourists

As of last Saturday, the Health Bureau has ordered all inbound Korean visitors to fill out declaration forms on health conditions upon arriving at the city’s immigration checkpoints. The authority has also deployed staff to hand out flyers on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) symptoms to Korean travelers as part of its preventive campaign against the highly infectious flu, which has already become rampant in South Korea with 12 more infection cases confirmed over the weekend. The government continues to urge local citizens to observe proper hygiene and stay away from the affected country where MERS-related casualties are still on the rise.

Hac Sa Youth Hostel temporarily closed

The Hac Sa Youth Hostel will be temporarily closed to the public until further notice, following the Health Bureau’s requisition of the hostel, located in Coloane, to build a quarantine camp. The Health Bureau had previously said it would be using the youth hostel as a quarantine venue in the event of an epidemic, including MERS. Meanwhile, an isolation center on Coloane’s mountaintop is being rebuilt and is expected to commence operations in the third quarter of this year.

Residential mortgage loans decrease

The number of new residential mortgage loans (RMLs) approved by Macau banks in April reached MOP4.4 billion, representing a month-to-month decrease of 11.7 percent, revealed figures released by the Monetary Authority of Macau. 94.6 percent of RMLs were granted to Macau residents. In terms of value, new RMLs granted to residents and to non-residents decreased by 10.7 percent and 25.1 percent respectively. The number of commercial real estate loans (CRELs) dropped by 5.3 percent month-to-month to reach MOP9.2 billion, 84.9 percent of which was granted to residents. In terms of value, new CRELs granted to residents decreased 17.7 percent, while those granted to non-residents increased 517.1 percent.

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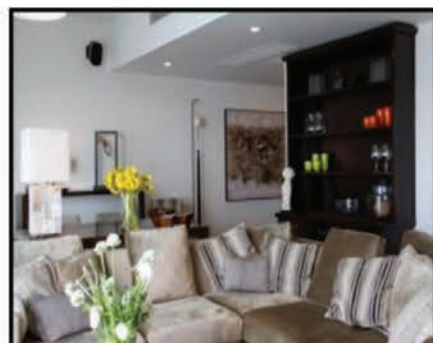
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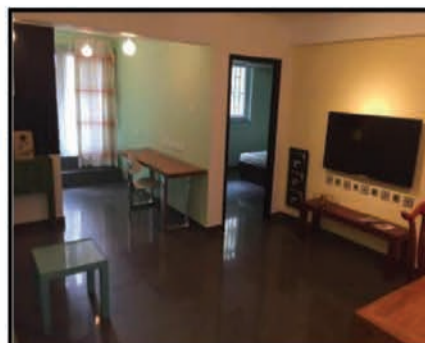
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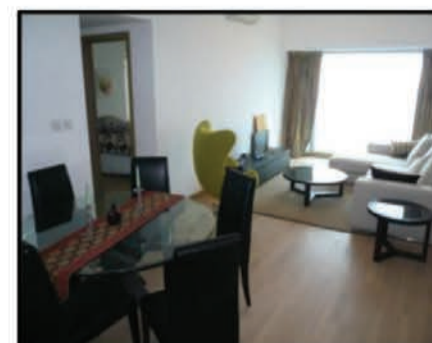
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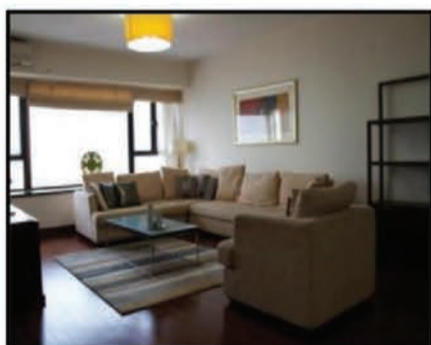
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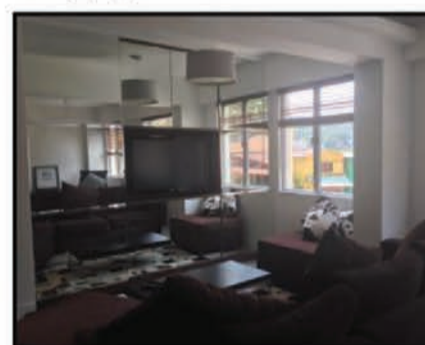


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Prada profit tumbles as luxury company struggles in China

Andrew Roberts

PRADA SpA reported first-quarter profit that trailed analysts' estimates as the maker of USD695 clogs and \$860 wallets struggled to reverse slumping sales in China.

Net income in the three months through April fell to 58.7 million euros (\$65.7 million) from 105.3 million euros, Milan-based Prada said Friday in a statement. Analysts predicted 85.2 million euros, based on the average of eight estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

Prada is opening fewer stores, shuttering some wholesale accounts and introducing more bags priced between 1,000 euros and 1,200 euros as it attempts to reignite demand amid a clampdown on corruption and extravagance in China. First-quarter revenue rose 6.5 percent to 828.2 million euros as the weakness of the euro compensated for anemic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, Prada's most important market.

The results are a "poor set of numbers," Luca Solca, an analyst at Exane BNP Paribas, said by e-mail. While the weakness of the euro boosted revenue, it's also leading to "a major increase in retail-related costs."

Asia-Pacific markets, especially Hong Kong and Macau, haven't shown any clear signs



Asia-Pacific markets, especially Hong Kong and Macau, haven't shown any clear signs of recovery

of recovery compared with the final months of 2014, Prada said Friday.

"This ongoing situation continues to severely affect the group's operating results," the company said.

Prada said it's taking action that will involve "an extensive plan to overhaul the

entire value chain" and that the first-quarter performance shouldn't be extrapolated over the full year. Underlying business improved in May and June, led by double-digit growth in Europe and Japan, Prada said.

The company's plan, which includes opening less than 30 stores net of closures in 2015 and curbing discretionary expenses, "aims to start again a growth trend as well as to rationalize operational processes to increase efficiency, so as to achieve a return at the levels of profitability enjoyed until the recent past," Prada said.

The shares closed up 1.2 percent at \$39.75 in Hong Kong Friday. They've declined 27 percent in the past year. **Bloomberg**

Alibaba plans to create China's version of Netflix, HBO

ALIBABA Group Holding Ltd. is planning to build China's version of Netflix and HBO via a new service called Tmall Box Office, as it tries to service 600 million families craving more entertainment content.

Tmall Box Office will be offered in about two months through Alibaba's set-top box and smart televisions that carry its operating system, including those manufactured by Haier Group Corp., Liu Chunming, president of Alibaba's digital entertainment business, said at a press briefing in Shanghai yesterday. Some of the content will be produced by the company and some purchased overseas, said Liu.

Alibaba is on a buying spree as it tries to compete with Tencent Holdings Ltd. for China's USD5.9 billion online video market. Alibaba Pictures Group

Ltd. completed a HK\$12.2 billion (\$1.57 billion) stake sale in Hong Kong to help finance potential acquisitions in June. Billionaire Chairman Jack Ma visited Hollywood in October to acquire more content.

"We want to create a whole new family entertainment experience," Liu said. "Our goal is to become like Netflix in the U.S., HBO in the U.S."

The value of China's online video market is estimated to almost triple to 90 billion yuan (\$14.5 billion) by 2018, according to Shanghai-based Internet consultant IResearch.

Wasu Media Holding Co., the Chinese media company backed by Ma, has also held talks with Netflix Inc. as the broadcaster of "House of Cards" hopes to expand in China, the company said in May. **Bloomberg**

Malaysia Airlines jet makes emergency landing in Australia

AMalaysia Airlines passenger jet made an emergency landing at Melbourne airport on Friday after instruments indicated an engine fire, officials said. Flight 148 from Melbourne to Kuala Lumpur landed without incident or injury, airport spokeswoman Anna Gillett said. "The pilot called an emergency landing and as standard procedure when a pilot calls any sort of emergency landing, emergency personnel are currently on site, Gillett said shortly after the landing. The airline said in a statement that a preliminary

inspection of the aircraft revealed no external physical evidence of a fire. Airservices Australia was told that an engine fire warning light had activated in the cockpit soon after takeoff, but could not confirm whether that was a malfunction or whether there had been a fire, a spokesman said on condition of anonymity, citing agency policy. The plane had dumped fuel south of Melbourne as a safety precaution before landing, he said. The troubled state-owned airline lost two airliners in disasters last year. **AP**

corporate bits

FESTIVITIES AND FLAVORS OF PORTUGAL AT MGM MACAU



The Portuguese celebrate their National Day known as Dia de Portugal every June. This year, MGM is presenting a series of Portuguese dining, entertainment and art experiences in association with the installation, Valkyrie Octopus, by renowned Portuguese contemporary artist Joana Vasconcelos at the Grande Praça. Valkyrie Octopus will hang from

the skylight dome of MGM's central atrium until October 31. Soaring over the Grande Praça, this extraordinary piece symbolizes the cultural exchange between Macau and Portugal.

Facing Valkyrie Octopus is the terrace of Rossio, where guests can savor the Portuguese Dinner Buffet during the entire month of June for authentic Portuguese dishes such as Salted Cod Salad, Portuguese Stewed Clams with Garlic and White wine, Portuguese Seafood Rice, Cod Fish Gratin, and Portuguese Chorizo Flambé.

Also inspired by Valkyrie Octopus, the pastry team has designed two Portuguese afternoon tea sets at the Pastry Bar. Miniature sweet items include

Portuguese Custard Tarts and Port Wine Pear Tarts, while for savory lovers there's Roasted Duck and Sweet Onion Tartlets plus a contemporary twist on the classic Portuguese dish Bacalhau Gratinado - a Bacalhau Tart with Coriander. Traditional favorites also include Angel Hair Pasta Pudding and Orange Rolls. Both Portuguese Afternoon Tea Sets are available until July 14 at Lion's Bar.

As part of the Portugal Day celebrations, Portuguese band 80 & TAL will entertain audiences until July 14 at Lion's Bar. With its energetic on-stage presence, critically acclaimed 80 & TAL's vast repertoire includes material from Sting & The Police, The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, The Beach Boys and many others.

GALAXY SUPPORTS THE UNDERPRIVILEGED THROUGH HAMPER DISTRIBUTION AND DONATION



Showing its support for the charitable work of the Macau Holy House of Mercy ("SCMM"), Galaxy Entertainment Group ("GEG") recently donated MOP300,000 to SCMM's Welfare Shop Program and mobilized a team

of GEG volunteers to assist SCMM in distributing food hampers to 340 underprivileged families.

On the event day, Mr. Philip Cheng, GEG's Director, and Mr. Buddy Lam, Vice President of Public Relations, re-

presented the group in visiting SCMM's Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind. There, they met with Mr. António José de Freitas, President of SCMM and presented him with GEG's MOP300,000 donation, witnessed by Mr. Leong Heng Kao, President of the General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macau and Ms. Wong Kuai Leng, Vice-President of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions.

Around 20 GEG volunteers helped distributed the food hampers to 340 underprivileged families that day. Each hamper contained basic food and household items such as rice, cooking oil, canned foods and cleaning products.



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Guinea-Bissau in partnership to launch airline

THE government of Guinea-Bissau is partnering Romanian group Tender to launch its own airline called Air Guinea-Bissau, said the Secretary of State for Transport and Communications last week in Bissau.

João Bernardo Vieira said that for now the government holds a 40 percent stake in the airline with the remaining 60 percent in the hands of the Romanian group.

Air Guinea-Bissau will start operating with two aircraft and, according to the secretary of state, the routes identified by the Civil Aviation Agency are Bissau to Dakar, Bissau to Lisbon and Bissau to Praia.

“We have an ambition to link the sub-region, specifically Conakry and Banjul and we think that within a year we will be able to make the connection between Bissau and Fortaleza (Brazil),” said Vieira.

The Secretary of State said that, pending the approval of the new airline by the International Civil Aviation Organization, “we will continue to develop the necessary steps so that the Air Guinea-Bissau is able to start operating.”

The Tender group controls several companies operating in areas such as energy, oil and gas industry services, geological prospecting, road infrastructure, real estate, agriculture, tourism and aviation, and is present in African countries such as Senegal and Ivory Coast. **MDT/Macauhub**

Angola requests moratorium on debt repayment to China

THE President of Angola asked last week in Beijing for a moratorium of at least two years on debt repayment to China and for the granting of new credit facilities or the expansion of existing one, according to a report from Angolan public television, TPA.

TPA, which did not disclose the total amount of Angola's debt to China, also said that President José Eduardo dos Santos made this request when speaking at the opening of official talks with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, as part of five-day his official visit to China that began last Monday.

The president said that Angola intends to continue joint activities with China in the fields of basic and economic infrastructure as well as education, science, energy and water, agriculture, manufacturing industry, geology and mining, and training of technicians and specialists.

Santos said that Angola fa-



Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos (2nd right) presents a wreath to the Monument to the People's Heroes at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing, June 12

ces a serious problem resulting from the fact that the country's economy is mainly dependent on the export of a single commodity – oil – accounting for about 90 percent of Angolan exports.

“The significant decline in oil prices and the consequent sharp reduction in state revenues has forced us to revise our general state

budget downwards and to implement cost containment, reducing our ability to recover economic and social infrastructure and to promote public and private investment,” he said.

José Eduardo dos Santos said that Angola intends to establish bilateral agreements with China to accelerate the implementation


of the country's economic diversification program, “given our technological capacity and the necessary means that the country has.”

He noted that the Angolan State intended to renegotiate the current terms of its debt, requesting a moratorium of at least two years on repayment, negotiations for new funding agreements, as Chinese credit lines have been a major source funding over the last few years for both the public and private sector.


The Angolan Head of State was accompanied on his fourth official visit to China by the Minister of State and Presidential Chief of Staff, Edeltrudes Costa and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georges Rebelo Chikoti.

The president's entourage also included the Minister of Finance, Armando Manuel, Minister of Trade, Rosa Pacavira, Minister of Agriculture, Afonso Pedro Canga, Minister of Transport, António da Silva Tomás, Minister for Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges, Minister for Higher Education, Adão do Nascimento and Minister of Education, Mpinda Simão. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Mainland to lift entry-permit requirement for Taiwan residents

THE Chinese mainland will remove entry permit requirements for Taiwan residents, as top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng vowed to boost exchanges across the Taiwan Strait yesterday.

Yu, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, announced the plan during a speech at the seventh Straits Forum, the largest annual event for cross-strait exchanges, in Xiamen in the southeastern province of Fujian.

Currently, Taiwan residents must apply for a visa-like entry permit in order to visit the mainland.

A passport-like document known as a 'Taibaozheng', which is used for carrying the entry permits for Taiwan residents, will also be made into a card, Yu said. The document also serves as identification during a stay on the mainland.

The plan to offer the permit-free policy was announced as Yu promised to create better conditions for cross-strait exchanges.

"We'll continue to expand people-to-people exchanges across the Strait and engage



A man holding an umbrella cycles past a tourism advertisement in Taipei, Taiwan

more Taiwan compatriots in the trend of cross-strait interaction," Yu said.

Cross-strait exchanges and travel only became widely possible after 2008, when the Kuomintang (KMT) adopted mainland-friendly policies and the

two sides opened direct mail, transport and trade links.

Official statistics show in 2014, Taiwan residents made 5.37 million visits to the mainland, up from 4.36 million in 2008. Mainlanders made 4.04 million visits to Taiwan last year, com-

pared with 280,000 in 2008.

As part of a breakthrough in cross-strait ties, residents in three mainland cities were allowed to visit Taiwan as individual tourists in 2011 in a friendly bid to boost Taiwan's tourism. So far, residents in 47 cities have

KMT CLOSER TO NAMING PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

TAIWAN'S RULING Kuomintang Party took a step closer to naming its nominee for next year's presidential elections after polling at the weekend showed the current vice president of the legislature is a viable candidate. The survey, conducted June 12 and 13 to gauge how favorably voters viewed Hung Hsiu-chu and how she might fare against the opposition party's nominee, determined her to be a viable candidate, Kuomintang Secretary-General Lee Shu-chuan said at a press briefing yesterday. The party's central committee will meet Wednesday to finalize a roster to be put before a party congress on July 19, where a formal nomination will take place. The election scheduled for Jan. 16 will end the reign of the KMT's Ma Ying-jeou, who was first elected in 2008 and served the two-term limit. One of the main issues will be Taiwan's relationship with China - with the KMT in favor of closer ties with the mainland than the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party.

been given such permits.

Taiwan and China have been ruled separately since 1949 when the Communist Party forced the KMT to flee the mainland after a civil war. **Xinhua**

Authorities revise boat sinking survivors to 12, down from 14

Chinese authorities slightly revised the number of people who survived when a river cruise ship capsized this month, saying that 12 of 454 people on board lived, down by two from the previously reported figure, a state broadcaster said Saturday. China Central Television did not explain why the number of survivors from China's deadliest boat disaster in decades had been revised. It said each of the 454 people aboard the Eastern Star has been accounted for. There were 403 tourists, five tourism agency workers and 46 crew members on board when the boat capsized June 1 during a cruise on the Yangtze River. Authorities have attributed the sinking to a freak storm that generated tornado-like winds, but also have launched an investigation and placed the surviving captain and his first engineer in police custody.

Former Party official Qiao Shi dies at 91

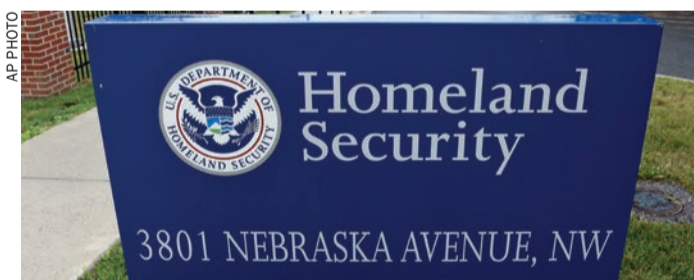
Qiao Shi, a senior Communist Party official and chairman of China's legislature in the 1990s, died yesterday at the age of 91, state media said. Qiao died yesterday morning in Beijing of an unspecified illness for which he was being treated, the official Xinhua News Agency said. For 10 years starting in 1987, Qiao was a member of China's top leadership panel, the Politburo Standing Committee, at a time when the Communist Party was led by Zhao Ziyang and then Jiang Zemin. Qiao also served as chairman of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress, from 1993 to 1998.

US Officials: Second hack exposed military and intel data

Ken Dilanian and Ted Bridis, Washington

HACKERS linked to China appear to have gained access to the sensitive background information submitted by intelligence and military personnel for security clearances, several U.S. officials said Friday, describing a second cyberbreach of federal records that could dramatically compound the potential damage.

The forms authorities believed to have been accessed, require applicants to fill out deeply personal information about mental illnesses, drug and alcohol use, past arrests and bankruptcies. They also require the listing of contacts and relatives, potentially exposing any foreign relatives of U.S. intelligence employees to coercion. Both the applicant's national identification number and that of his or her cohabitant



A gate leading to the Homeland Security Department headquarters in northwest Washington

is required.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the security clearance material is classified.

In a statement, the White House said that on June 8, investigators concluded there was "a high degree of confidence that ... systems containing information related to the background investigations of current, former and prospective federal government employees, and those for whom a federal background investigation was conducted, may have been exfiltrated."

"This tells the Chinese

the identities of almost everybody who has got a United States security clearance," said Joel Brenner, a former top U.S. counterintelligence official. "That makes it very hard for any of those people to function as an intelligence officer. The database also tells the Chinese an enormous amount of information about almost everyone with a security clearance. That's a gold mine. It helps you approach and recruit spies."

The Office of Personnel Management, a central personnel database, which

was the target of the hack, has not officially notified military or intelligence personnel whose security clearance data was breached, but news of the second hack was starting to circulate in both the Pentagon and the CIA.

The officials said they believe the hack into the security clearance database was separate from the breach of federal personnel data announced last week — a breach that is itself appearing far worse than first believed. It could not be learned whether the security database breach happened when an OPM contractor was hacked in 2013, an attack that was discovered last year. Members of Congress received classified briefings about that breach in September, but there was no mention of security clearance information being exposed.

The OPM had no immediate comment Friday. **AP**

Natasha Khan and Alfred Liu

HONG KONG

THOUSANDS of people joined a march in Hong Kong to demand that lawmakers reject a China-backed plan for the city's first direct chief executive election amid growing public opposition to the bill.

The protesters rallied at the city's Victoria Park at 3 p.m. yesterday before starting a march that drew increasing numbers as it made its way toward the government headquarters. Organizers of the demonstration, who want to remove proposed restrictions on election nominees, have called on people to congregate outside the Legislative Council building this week to pressure lawmakers.

Popular opposition to a bill that will be presented to the legislature Wednesday, which calls for 2017 election candidates to be picked by a nominating committee, has jumped to 43.4 percent of those surveyed by a coalition of universities. Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying needs four pro-democracy lawmakers to vote for the bill and provide a two-thirds majority for passage.

"We need to show the Chinese government that Hong Kong people's desire for genuine universal suffrage cannot be suppressed," Nathan Law, secretary-general of the Hong Kong Federation of Students, told the Victoria Park gathering. "Hong Kong people want the true right to choose our chief executive."

Pro-democracy activists have mocked the plan as "fake democracy" as they said the 1,200-member nominating committee is stacked with Beijing loyalists. Vetting is requi-

Thousands march against Beijing-backed election plan



People march in a downtown street yesterday to support a veto of the government's electoral reform package in Hong Kong

red under the city's de facto constitution, Leung and the Chinese government have said.

The bill will be presented to the legislature on Wednesday for debate before voting. Carrie Lam - the city's No. 2 official - sees "zero" chance for legislation to get through because all pro-democracy lawmakers have pledged to vote against it, the Hong Kong Economic Times reported on Friday.

"We believe the proposal will

be rejected," Law said. "If the reform is passed, we believe there will be a chaos as people may escalate their action."

Scholarism - a student group taking part in the march - has vowed to escalate protest actions should the bill pass. Public anger over China's outline for the proposal last year led to 79 days of protests, dubbed the Umbrella Movement, and violent fights with the police.

The government is spending

HKD5 million (USD645,000) on public meetings, television ads, and posters blanketing trains and buses to win support for the plan. Opposition has been rising since hitting a low of 34.5 percent on May 31, the same day top Beijing officials told a group of pro-democracy lawmakers there was no chance of modifying the proposed framework, which, if passed, would apply to all future elections in Hong Kong.

The share of those who support the proposal has declined to 41.6 percent, according to a tracking poll conducted by three local universities.

"No matter what I say now, it's probably not going to change anything. But I still believe in pursuing democracy and when facing differences, we can't just compare who's got more support and strength," Financial Secretary John Tsang wrote in his Blog yesterday. "We need a balance and compromise in order to reach a consensus that the majority can accept."

More than 7,000 police will be deployed during the electoral bill vote to prevent any new occupation, and they will be prepared to use teargas and pepper spray if any demonstrations turn violent, the South China Morning Post reported June 2, citing unidentified police officers.

If the China-backed plan fails, the city's top leader will continue to be selected by a committee of 1,200 business, political and social elite, which has hewed to Beijing's interests.

One of yesterday's protesters, Tung Lam, a 28-year-old civil servant, said the marchers came out to support lawmakers voting against the proposal.

"China doesn't listen to what Hong Kong people want," Tung said. "We are here for Hong Kong's future." **Bloomberg**

Gov't punishes local officials over deaths of 4 siblings

SEVERAL local Chinese officials were fired or suspended following the deaths of four siblings, aged 5 to 13, who were abandoned by their parents and neglected by government workers in one of China's poorest regions, the district government said.

Two village heads were fired and three other officials - including the district education chief - were suspended from their work and were being investigated, according to a statement by the Qixinguan district government in the southwestern city of Bijie.

The district government promised to take proper disciplinary action after the investigation.

Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang also demanded that



The room where four kids lived at Cizhu Village of Tiankan Township in Bijie, southwest China's Guizhou Province

local governments be more careful in providing aid services. He asked that such tragedies not occur again.

The deaths have renewed concerns over the wellbeing of tens of millions of rural Chinese children who are left behind in their villages while their parents seek

work in factories in faraway industrial cities.

In the latest incident, the siblings - a 13-year-old boy and his three younger sisters - died Wednesday after drinking liquid pesticide at home in their village of Tiankan.

State broadcaster CCTV said the boy left behind a

suicidal note in which he wrote, "This matter has been planned for a long time, and today is the day to go."

The children's father left the village for work in March, and their mother has been away for a while, state media reported.

The father had sent the children money, and police recovered a bank card with a balance of nearly USD600, state media reported. Yet, the children could not properly look after themselves and may have had psychological problems because of the long absence of their parents, fellow villagers told state media.

Authorities have described the deaths as a group suicide, but local media accounts also describe the boy as influential over his

sisters.

After the children left school, one of the girls told teachers their older brother did not want them to return. State media said the children did not open the door when village cadres and teachers visited, and local residents said the children

kept to themselves.

Bijie, in impoverished Guizhou province, was the location of another childhood tragedy about three years ago when five runaway boys became asphyxiated after lighting a fire in a garbage bin where they were sheltering from the cold. **AP**

12-YEAR-OLD SUSPECTED OF FATALLY POISONING 2 GIRLS

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy was identified as the prime suspect in the fatal poisoning of two sisters in rural southern China, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday. It was the second tragedy of the week to raise concerns over the wellbeing of rural Chinese chil-

dren. The boy told police in Hunan province that the girls, aged 8 and 14, drank cola that he had laced with poison, Xinhua said. The girls died on Wednesday. Xinhua said the suspect was familiar with the victims, but the news agency did not identify him.

PAKISTAN

Ministry halts ordered closure of Save the Children office

A senior Pakistani official says the country's Interior Ministry has halted an order it made closing the office of Save the Children in Islamabad. The official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity yesterday as he wasn't authorized to discuss the decision, did not elaborate. The organization could not be immediately reached for comment. On Thursday, Pakistan shuttered shut the group's main office in Islamabad for allegedly "violating its charter." By Friday, the organization had shut all its offices across the country. At the time, Pakistan said it would not allow any non-government organization to work against its interests, without elaborating. The group has said it received no prior warning before its office was closed. The U.S. State Department has expressed concern over the closure.

PALAU

Authorities burn Vietnamese boats caught fishing illegally

The tiny Pacific nation of Palau, fighting a rising tide of illegal fishing in its waters, has set fire to four boats belonging to Vietnamese caught poaching sea cucumbers and other marine life in its waters. Palau's president, Tommy Remengesau Jr., said the boats were burned Friday morning. He hopes to turn most of the island nation's territorial waters into a national marine sanctuary, banning commercial fishing and exports apart from limited areas to be used by domestic fishermen and tourists. "We wanted to send a very strong message. We will not tolerate any more these pirates who come and steal our resources," Remengesau said in a phone interview with The Associated Press from Washington, D.C., where he was visiting. The country created the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009, but until recently had only one patrol boat to help protect its great hammerheads, leopard sharks and more than 130 other species of shark and rays fighting extinction. The four boats destroyed Friday were among 15 Palau authorities have caught fishing illegally in their waters since last year with loads of sharks and shark fins, lobsters, sea cucumbers and reef fish.

SOUTH KOREA

Gov't confirms seven more MERS cases as economy suffers

Sam Kim

SOUTH Korea reported seven additional cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome as President Park Geun Hye sought to rally an economy shaken by fears of contagion.

South Korea has confirmed 145 infections and at least 14 deaths since the outbreak of MERS last month. A 61-year-old patient died in a Busan hospital yesterday, raising the death toll to 15, Yonhap News reported. Health ministry officials did not answer calls seeking confirmation.

"We should make it more widely known that quarantine is thorough and reassuring, so people will freely carry on with their lives without feeling intimidated and not worry about visiting hospitals," Park said yesterday during a visit to Seoul National University Hospital, her office website reported. She later visited a nearby shopping district, which has seen a drastic drop in consumers, it said.

The outbreak led Park to postpone a U.S. trip to focus on battling the virus. More than 4,000 people have been quarantined as officials stepped up efforts to reassure the public that the outbreak was under control and to limit economic damage.

Still, more than 100,000 people have canceled trips to the country, according to a statement from the presidential office. Many South Koreans are



Metropolitan Government workers wear protective suits and spray antiseptic solution, in Seoul

avoiding malls and restaurants for fear of the virus, a threat to consumer spending and demand.

On June 11 the Bank of Korea lowered its key rate to a record 1.5 percent, calling MERS "an imminent risk to consumption." Goldman Sachs on June 9 cut its 2015 growth forecast for South Korea to 2.8 percent from 3.3 percent, partly because of the potential impact of the virus. Morgan Stanley said June 8 that MERS could slow economic growth by as much as 0.8 of a percentage point this year.

The spread of the virus was slowing thanks to effective con-

trol measures, with nearly all infections having occurred within hospitals, the World Health Organization said Saturday.

The government has faced criticism for failing to contain the virus. Park's approval rating slid to 33 percent from 40 percent in the past two weeks, according to Gallup Korea.

The MERS outbreak hit just weeks after the first anniversary of the Sewol tragedy, which revived public grief over the government's handling of a disaster in which more than 300 people, mostly high-school students, died when a ferry capsized.

A coronavirus from the Arabian peninsula, MERS has in-

WHO: MERS NOT SPREADING OUTSIDE HOSPITALS

THE MERS virus in South Korea hasn't spread outside hospitals among the wider community or become easier to transmit between humans, the World Health Organization said. After a weeklong review of the outbreak of Middle East respiratory syndrome, experts from WHO and South Korea told reporters Saturday there was no evidence to suggest the virus, currently confined around health facilities, is spreading. It has been occurring among hospital patients, visiting family members and medical staff. Overcrowded emergency rooms and hospital wards might have contributed to a wider-than-expected transmission of the virus, which usually spreads poorly between people, said WHO Assistant Director Keiji Fukuda. South Korea's habits of "doctor shopping" — visiting multiple facilities to treat the same infection — and having many friends and family members visiting hospitalized patients also might have contributed, he said.

ected more than 1,100 people and killed more than 400 worldwide, mostly in the Middle East. The virus can lead to severe illness including respiratory failure or septic shock. There is no vaccine or cure. **Bloomberg**

MALAYSIA

4 Westerners jailed 3 days for posing naked on peak

FOUR Westerners who posed naked on Malaysia's highest peak were sentenced Friday to three days in jail and fined for obscene behavior in a public place, their lawyer said.

The four were among 10 foreigners who stripped naked and took photos on Mount Kinabalu on May 30. A local official has said their behavior was disrespectful to the mountain, which is believed to be sacred, and caused an earthquake on June 5 that killed 18 climbers.

Dutch citizen Dylan Snel, British student Eleanor Hawkins and Canadian siblings Lindsey Petersen and Danielle Peterson pleaded guilty in a court in Sabah state on Borneo island to a charge of public indecency, said their lawyer, Ronny Cham.



Lindsey Petersen, center, is escorted by police as he arrives at court in Kota Kinabalu, in eastern Sabah state on Borneo island, Malaysia

"They were remorseful and regretted their act, and offered to make a public apology," Cham said.

The court was told the women were topless while the two men were totally nude, he said.

The court sentenced them to three days in jail, which they have already served since their arrests, and a fine of 5,000 ringgit (USD1,330) each, to be followed by their deportation, Cham said.

They have paid their fines and were expected to be released, he said. Hawkins was scheduled to fly home Saturday, but the lawyer couldn't say when the others would leave.

The Malay Mail online news portal said the court was told the group of 10 had challenged each other to see who could remain naked the longest in the cold.

They ignored a plea by their mountain guide not to strip, it said.

Cham said the four had suffered enough trauma from their arrests and that extensive international news coverage would deter others.

Prosecutor Jamil Aripin agreed that there was no link between the earthquake and their act but said it had outraged the local community, the news portal said. **AP**

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USA

Clinton kicks off 2016 bid calling for new era of economic prosperity

Lisa Lerer, New York

Hillary Rodham Clinton formally opened her presidential bid with a deeply personal address that promised thousands of supporters gathered at a rally in New York City that she would champion “an economy for everyday Americans.”

The former first lady, secretary of state and favored candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination offered a full-throated embrace of the populist rhetoric backed by the party’s progressive wing, citing the liberal legacy of former president Franklin D. Roosevelt and her husband, Bill Clinton. And she made clear that her potential to make history as the country’s first female president would be a major part of that liberal message.

“I’ve been called many things



Hillary Rodham Clinton

by many people,” Clinton told the 5,550 cheering voters. “Quitter is not one of them.”

Her focus marked a sharp departure from her previous presidential bid, when Clinton was reluctant to dwell on her gender during until nearly the final moments of her campaign. After a months-long primary contest against President Barack Obama, she conceded defeat with an address that acknowledged the “18 million cracks” her bid put in the “that highest, hardest glass ceiling.” The path, she said then, “will be a little easier next time.”

“I may not be the youngest candidate in this race but I will be the youngest woman president in the history of the United States and the first grandmother,” she said on Saturday.

Speaking on Roosevelt Island on Saturday, Clinton described

her broad vision for her second presidential campaign — with a platform designed to appeal to the coalition of young and minority voters that twice boosted Obama to victory.

“Prosperity can’t be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers,” she said. “You brought our country back now it’s time your time to secure the gains and move ahead.”

While she shied away from specific policy proposals, she laid out a wish list of Democratic policies to the cheering crowd. Over the course of her roughly 45 minute remarks, Clinton backed universal pre-K education, Wall Street regulation, paid sick leave, a path to citizenship for immigrants, equal pay, campaign finance reform, and banning discrimination against gay workers and their families. **AP**

SOUTH AFRICA

Court issues order preventing Sudan’s al-Bashir from leaving

Lynsey Chutel, Johannesburg

A South African judge has ordered authorities to prevent Sudanese president, Omar al-Bashir, from leaving the country because of an international order for his arrest, human rights activists said yesterday.

It was unclear whether authorities would heed efforts to have al-Bashir detained on behalf of the International Criminal Court, if he is indeed in South Africa. South African media said he was attending a summit of the African Union, which has asked the International Criminal Court to stop proceedings against sitting presidents and will not compel any member states to arrest a leader on behalf of the court.

Al-Bashir’s exact whereabouts were unknown yesterday. He has not been seen in public at the Johannesburg meeting. He has traveled abroad before and local authorities had not detained him at the behest of the ICC, which is based in The Hague, Netherlands.

The Southern Africa Litigation Centre, a rights group, said it secured a judge’s ruling that the government must stop al-Bashir from leaving South Africa while the court hears arguments for his arrest for alleged genocide and other crimes.

International Criminal Court prosecutor Fatou Bensouda has said South Africa is under a legal obligation to arrest al-Bashir and surrender him to the court. Her office has been in touch with South African au-



Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir

thorities on the Sudanese president’s reported visit.

If al-Bashir is not arrested, the matter will be reported to the court’s assembly of states and the United Nations Security Council, which first referred the case of Sudan’s Darfur region to the International Criminal Court in 2005, she said.

The charges against al-Bashir, who took power in a 1989 coup, stem from reported atrocities in the conflict in Darfur, in which 300,000 people were killed and 2 million displaced in the government’s campaign, according to United Nations figures.

He has visited Malawi, Kenya, Chad and Congo in the last few years, all of which are ICC member states. The ICC doesn’t have any powers to compel countries to arrest him and can only tell them they have a legal obligation to do it. **AP**

UK

Gov’t pulls spies as Russia and China crack Snowden files

CHINA and Russia have decoded intelligence secrets contained in the cache of documents held by the whistleblower Edward Snowden, leading to British spies being recalled from dangerous postings, according to the Financial Times.

In an article that appeared yesterday, the newspaper details how Whitehall aides said operatives have had to be moved after Moscow gained access to more than 1m intelligence documents held by Mr Snowden, who fled to Russia after leaking some of those documents to the Guardian newspaper. They added that Beijing had also cracked the encrypted documents.

According to the FT, officials said moving agents had prevented the UK obtaining important information, although they added that nobody had been harmed by the security breach.

The article further added that one Home Office official told the UK-based Sunday Times newspaper that Mr Snowden had “blood on his hands” as a result of the leak. Downing



A protester holds a placard during a rally in support of Edward Snowden, the former National Security Agency contractor

Street and the Home Office official told the Sunday Times: “His documents were encrypted but they weren’t completely secure and we have now seen our agents and assets being targeted.”

Mr Snowden, who worked for the US National Security Agency, triggered a manhunt by the American security services after leaking information about the mass collection of online data by agencies in both the US and the UK.

The ramifications of those revelations continue to be felt. This month, the US Senate voted to

bar the government from collecting phone records from millions of its citizens, while still awarding security agencies tools to collect other online information for terrorism-related investigations.

The news about the Russian and Chinese decryption comes days after a report by David Anderson QC into the government’s terrorism legislation, which recommended that British intelligence agencies should be allowed to continue to collect bulk internet data as long as warrants were approved by judges rather than ministers.

Nomaan Merchant, Dallas

USA

Suspect killed in brazen attack on Dallas police HQ

A man planted pipe bombs outside Dallas police headquarters and sprayed the building with bullets from his parked van during a wild street battle early Saturday that authorities said miraculously left no one dead or injured except the suspect, who was later shot and killed in his van by a police sniper.

Chief David Brown said the suspect told authorities he was James Boulware and blamed police for having lost custody of his son and for "accusing him of being a terrorist." But authorities declined to officially identify the man until a medical examiner verified it.

A police sniper shot and killed the man in his van early Saturday after, according to Brown, the department felt he still posed enough of a threat. The suspect had told police negotiators that he had explosives in the van.

"When the negotiation was on, he became increasingly angry and threatening, such that we were not only concerned with our officers there trying to contain the scene being shot by him at a moment's notice," but also people nearby, Brown said at a news conference.



Dallas police officers walk down Bellevue Street one block away from police headquarters searching the area Saturday

Officers also found the man had planted pipe bombs outside police headquarters.

Police questioned Boulware's father, also named James, later in the day Saturday, arriving while an Associated Press reporter was at the home.

Authorities said the shooting miraculously left no one else dead or injured. Among the areas damaged inside: the front

desk where the worker on duty had just gone to get a soft drink.

The suspect also fired on officers who drove up to confront him, riddling at least one squad car with bullets but not actually hitting anyone. Cellphone video shot from a nearby balcony or roof showed the suspect's dark-colored van ram a squad car as gunshots rang out. At one point the man got out of his van and

walked toward the entrance to the building firing his gun but turned around, according to Dallas Police Maj. Jeff Cotner.

Police wouldn't say why he retreated.

The van then fled, eventually stopping in a restaurant parking lot in the suburb of Hutchins, where the standoff ensued until the police sniper shot and killed the man.

Investigators found a package of pipe bombs in the parking lot at police headquarters and at least two more pipe bombs in the van, police said.

Wary that the van may have been rigged with explosives, police used a camera-equipped robot to inspect it rather than have officers approach it immediately, which was why it took several hours to confirm the suspect was dead.

After he was confirmed dead, the van erupted in flames while the authorities were detonating the suspected ordnance inside.

Boulware's father said that his son had strong feelings against law enforcement after he lost custody of his son, now 12 or 13 years old. Boulware spent several hours Friday at his father's home in Carrollton, a Dallas suburb.

His father said he talked about how well his recently purchased van drove. But he also discussed a widely publicized video of a police officer in McKinney, Texas, pushing a black teenage girl to the ground and brandishing his gun at other teens.

Boulware's father last spoke with Boulware by phone about three hours before Dallas police said the shooting began.

"Not being able to get a job and the legal system letting him down, (he) finally snapped," the elder James Boulware told the AP in a phone interview before police arrived to question him about his son. "But I can't say shooting at a police station is right in any way." AP

AD

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Offbeat

COUNT THE ZEROES: ZIMBABWE
ALLOWS OLD BANKNOTE EXCHANGE

A man holds a handful of 5 Billion Zimbabwean dollar notes, in Harare

Zimbabwe's central bank says banknotes from its old currency, which collapsed and was discarded years ago because of runaway inflation, can be exchanged for American dollars. But 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollars will fetch only 40 U.S. cents.

That's a fraction of what collectors have been paying for the notes with numerous zeroes for years.

Zimbabwe in 2009 abandoned its currency for a system dominated by the U.S dollar and the South African rand after inflation hit 230 million percent. Back then, even street hawkers refused to accept a \$100 trillion dollar note that was issued.

Starting Monday, stacks of Zimbabwean bills that might still be kept by Zimbabweans can be exchanged for U.S dollars. The offer is part of what the central bank says is an overdue plan to phase out the currency entirely.

Some people in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, said they disposed of their Zimbabwean dollars long ago.

"I used it as garden manure," said Isaac Mutezowepasi, a street vendor. "Why would I have kept that dirt?"

Others said they still have heaps of old dollar notes at home, but won't respond to the government offer.

"I am keeping them for my grandchildren to see. Plus I know I will get more for them in future because these Zim-dollars are going to be in demand," said Tendai Nyaundi, a graphic designer.

On e-Bay on Friday, five banknotes of 100 trillion Zimbabwean dollars were being sold for \$159. Another e-Bay post put five banknotes of \$100 trillion at \$173.99.

There have been calls to re-introduce the Zimbabwean dollar by some members of President Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF party. They argued that the use of foreign currencies is responsible for the country's current liquidity problems.

Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa has repeatedly said the U.S dollar "is here to stay." AP

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14:30	RTPi Live
17:50	The Illusionist (Repeated)
18:40	Non Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
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CINETEATRO

11 JUN - 17 JUN



JURASSIC WORLD

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Colin Trevorrow

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

SAN ANDREAS

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Brad Peyton

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino,

Alexandra Daddario

Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 114min



FORCE MAJEURE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Ruben Ostlund

Starring: Johannes Kuhnke, Lisa Loven Kongsli

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 120min

MACAU TOWER

04 JUN - 01 JUL

JURASSIC WORLD

(3D) 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Colin Trevorrow

Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

this day in history

1996 HUGE EXPLOSION ROCKS
CENTRAL MANCHESTER

A massive bomb has devastated a busy shopping area in central Manchester. Two hundred people were injured in the attack, mostly by flying glass, and seven are said to be in a serious condition. Police believe the IRA planted the device.

The bomb exploded at about 1120 BST on Corporation Street outside the Arndale shopping center. It is the seventh attack by the Irish Republican group since it broke its ceasefire in February and is the second largest on the British mainland.

A local television station received a telephone warning at 1000 BST - just as the city centre was filling up with Saturday shoppers. The caller used a recognized IRA code word.

One hour and 20 minutes after the warning, police were still clearing hundreds of people from a huge area of central Manchester. Army bomb disposal experts were using a remote-controlled device to examine a suspect van parked outside Marks & Spencer when it blew up in an uncontrolled explosion.

Many of those injured were outside the police cordon. Seventy bystanders were ferried to three hospitals in ambulances. Others walked or were taken by friends.

A consultant at Hope Hospital said most of the seriously injured - including a pregnant woman thrown 4.6 m into the air - had suffered deep glass wounds which would require surgery.

Prime Minister John Major insisted the multi-party Northern Ireland peace talks begun last week would continue, but called on Sinn Fein - the political wing of the IRA - to condemn the attack and demand a ceasefire.

"This act by a handful of fanatics will be regarded with contempt and disgust around the world," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In the early aftermath of the explosion a £1m reward was offered for information leading to the perpetrators but now Greater Manchester Police say it is unlikely anyone will be brought to justice for the attack.

In 2006 police released a video clip, taken from a police helicopter hovering above the crime scene, showing the full impact of the explosion.

The immense damage done to buildings in the city centre led to a total regeneration - it could be argued that without the bomb, Manchester may not have had such a dramatic opportunity for rebirth, funded by private investors and the government.

The IRA's 1996 post-ceasefire campaign focused entirely on UK mainland attacks.

The group broke its truce on 9 February 1996 with a huge bomb in London's Docklands which killed two people.

Within 10 weeks, the Irish Republicans had planted five other devices - all of them in London.

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

Mali, Senegal lead African charge

Steve McMorran, Wellington

AFRICAN countries captured two semifinal places at the Under-20 World Cup yesterday as Mali and Senegal kept up their surprising run in the tournament.

Mali pulled off its biggest upset yet by beating European champion Germany 4-3 on penalties while Senegal beat Uzbekistan 1-0 for the only regulation-time win in yesterday's quarterfinals, three of which were decided in shootouts.

Serbia and the United States traded 18 penalties before Serbia emerged 6-5 winner of a match which had been locked 0-0 after extra time.

And five-time champion Brazil was taken to penalties for the second match in a row before beating Portugal 3-1 following another 0-0 draw. Serbia will play Mali and Brazil will play Senegal in Wednesday's semifinals.

Brazil is the last of football's superpowers remaining in the tournament. South American champion Argentina failed to progress from group play along



Zabikhillon Urinboev of Uzbekistan, center, looks to run between Senegal's Papa Diene Faye

with Central America's champion Mexico. Former champion Ghana and front-runner Nigeria both fell in the round of 16, which also claimed 2013 finalist Uruguay.

While Brazil and Serbia qualified for the last 16 at the top of their groups, Mali and Senegal needed tiebreakers after both won one and drew one of their three group matches.

Brazil has found goal-scoring

increasingly difficult as the tournament has progressed but has been efficient in shootouts. Brazil looked tired after being taken to penalties by Uruguay three days ago, and Portugal dominated much of the game but wasted a number of chances. In the shootout, Lucao missed the second penalty for Brazil but Raphael Guzzo, Andre Silva and Nuno Santos all missed for Portugal, allowing captain Danilo

and Gabriel Jesus to send the Brazilians through.

"Everyone saw what happened but in the end we were able to celebrate in the penalty shootout," Brazil coach Rogerio Micalle said. "Portugal created more in front of goal than we did and deserved to win today."

Portugal coach Helio Sousa was left to regret his team's failure to "finish off everything we created."

"We stamped our authority on the game, we were better in every area but we just couldn't score," he said.

Germany led 1-0 after the first half and also missed a penalty in regulation time before coming up short in the shootout. The penalty shootout was level at 3-3 when Mali baulked first with a miss. With the game there for the taking, two German players missed their shots and Mali progressed.

"We didn't lose the match because of the opponent, we lost it because of penalties," Germany coach Frank Wormuth said. "At the end it's luck to win."

Mamadou Thiam scored in

the 76th minute to send first-time qualifiers Senegal to the last four. Uzbekistan had been kept in the match by goalkeeper Dilshod Khamraev, who pulled off a series of remarkable saves before Thiam's combination with Remi Nassalan created the winning goal.

"We have prayed a lot since the beginning of the competition and particularly in the last few days," Senegal coach Joseph Koto said. "Most importantly I want to congratulate my players because they truly played a heroic match today."

Serbia advanced to their maiden World Cup semifinal after a marathon shootout against the U.S. The match needed 18 penalties to decide a victor.

Serbia held the Americans to just two shots on target in the game.

"Today we won an important game and defeated a very good team in the United States. I think it was a very even game for both teams," Serbia coach Veljko Paunovic's said. "In the end, I think we were lucky with the penalties." **AP**

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Porsche wins the 24 Hours Le Mans race for record 17th time

WITH German Formula One driver Nico Hulkenberg behind the wheel, Porsche won the 24 Hours Le Mans yesterday to end Audi's five-race winning run and clinch a record 17th victory at the famous endurance race.

Hulkenberg was one of the three drivers in the No. 19 car, which finished ahead of No. 17 Porsche, featuring former F1 driver Mark Webber, and Audi's No. 7 car.

Audi had won seven of the past eight races, with Porsche's last win coming in 1998.

"Thank you so much everybody, great effort over the last few months," Hulkenberg said over race radio as he headed back into the garage waving to the flag-waving Porsche fans.

The 27-year-old Hulkenberg, driving in the race for the first time, will be back in action in a Force India car at the Austrian Grand Prix next weekend — his 85th F1 race.

British driver Nick Tandy and Earl Bamber of New Zealand were the other drivers in the No. 19 car. "These are tears of happiness. I'm lost for words," Tandy said. "I hope it's the first of many. I grew up watching the race."

Webber was partnered in the No. 17 by German driver Timo Bernhard and New Zealander Brendon Hartley.

"It's been an incredible race, an incredible sports car race," Webber said.

Porsche returned to Le Mans last year after a 16-year absence in the top category, but struggled because of a mechanical problem as Marcel Fassler, Andre Lotterer, and Benoit Treluyer helped Audi to victory. This time, the Porsche 919



The Porsche 919 Hybrid No.19 of the Porsche Team, with drivers Nico Hulkenberg of Germany, Earl Bamber of New Zealand and Nick Tandy of Great Britain, leads the race

264,000 fans watched the race over the weekend

hybrids proved too dominant after overcoming an early scare. "There's only victory that counts in this race ... Porsche deserved to win. Hats off to them," Lotterer said. "We'll do everything to come back stronger and we've learned a lot from this race."

Audi's No. 8 finished fourth ahead of Porsche's No. 18. Audi's bad luck was summed up when, with two hours to go, the No. 7 car, driven by Treluyer, went to the garage for an oil change and then had to come back straight away to fix some loose bodywork.

"We were very competitive yesterday, it went well for us on Saturday but things changed overnight," Audi director Wolfgang Ullrich said. "We had a problem with our bonnets, which never happened to us before. It's something we'll have to stu-

dy and rectify back home."

Shortly before the end of the race, Ullrich went into the Porsche garage to congratulate his rivals.

"It's the end of a winning run for Audi, but we'll be back next year," he said.

In the jubilant Porsche garage, team members held up white T-shirts with the No. 17 written on them.

The 83rd edition of the race was held up again in the morning shortly before 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) when a safety car came out for the fourth time

after Roald Goethe's No. 96 Aston Martin crashed heavily and became the 10th car to retire from the race.

The 55-year-old Goethe was conscious after the accident and then taken away in an ambulance.

Shortly before 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) the No. 7 Audi rolled into pit lane missing a large piece of its right-side bodywork. The Audi team quickly took the car into the garage, but still lost seven minutes making repairs.

With Hulkenberg behind the wheel, Porsche started to build a comfortable lead over the No. 9 Audi driven by Rene Rast.

Porsche's scare came with less than one hour of the race gone when Frenchman Patrick Pilet was caught in a crash. The race was held up briefly as a safety car came out in what proved to be an action-packed opening few hours.

The crash happened when Swiss driver Alexandre Imperatori lost control of his Rebellion Racing car at the Forza Motorsport chicane, because of oil on the track. His car hit Jonny Kane's Strakka Racing car and impacted on Pilet.

After about five hours of racing, another Porsche — driven by Christian Ried — had to pull over with some flames coming out of the back.

A total of 264,000 fans watched the race over the weekend. **AP**

MOTO GP

Lorenzo claims fourth victory in a row

JORGE Lorenzo won his fourth straight race in a Yamaha one-two finish with Valentino Rossi at the Catalonia Moto Grand Prix yesterday, tightening the championship fight between the teammates. The two-time former champion's 37th career MotoGP victory left him one point behind Rossi at 138-137 in the championship standings. "After seven races we have one point of difference and the same speed, so it will be interesting," said seven-time former champion Rossi.

Marc Marquez saw his bid to defend his title take another blow when he crashed out for a second straight race while



Moto GP rider Jorge Lorenzo steers his motorcycle followed by Marc Marquez during the Catalonia GP

trying to overtake Lorenzo.

Lorenzo had a great start from third on the grid and never gave Rossi an opening after going past pole sitter Aleix Espargaro and Suzuki partner Maverick Vinales. He then negotiated the 25 laps of the 4.7-kilometer Barcelona-Catalunya Circuit to win in 42 minutes, 53.208 seconds.

Rossi crossed less than a second later, followed by Honda's Dani Pedrosa in third, almost 20 seconds off the pace. "Valentino pushed me so hard, but at the end the effort was worth it," said Lorenzo, whose winning run includes the Spain, France and Italy Moto-

GPs.

After starting from fourth on the grid, Marquez had moved up into second by the third lap when he lost control of his Honda trying to overtake Lorenzo on the outside and ended on his side in the gravel. He also failed to finish the last race in Italy and in Argentina.

With 69 points, Marquez's hopes for a third straight title are fading with 11 races left. "When you are at home and want to win no matter what, these things happen," said Marquez. "I made a mistake and couldn't break."

Marquez wasn't alone. Aleix Espargaro and brother Pol Espargaro,

Andrea Dovizioso, Cal Crutchlow, Nicky Hayden, Yonny Hernandez and Marco Melandri all failed to finish.

Earlier, Moto2 leader Johann Zarco of France overtook two riders in the last two laps to get his second win of the season.

Defending champion Tito Rabat entered the last lap in first place, but finished third behind Alex Rins. Zarco leads Rabat 134-94 in the standings.

Danny Kent of Britain won an exciting Moto3 race that saw six riders reach the last lap in a leading pack.

Kent edged Enea Bastianini by 0.035 seconds, with Efrén Vazquez crossing third. Kent leads Bastianini 149-98 in the standings.

The next race is in the Netherlands on June 27. **AP**

opinion

Insight
Paulo Barbosa



LUSOPHONY IS NOT CONSENSUAL IN MACAU

The idea of Macau serving as a platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries is politically correct, apparently blessed by Beijing, but faces resistance from unnamed local forces that use their pawns to stall projects linked to the promotion of the multilateral relationship.

There are those who oppose the lusophone project in Macau because they see in it remnants of "colonialism" (although many historians question if there ever was colonialism in Macau, stating that the concession to Portugal was in fact a mutual agreement), or even because they remain prejudiced against the "gwai lo" (Cantonese slang for foreigners, which means "ghost person") in an attitude that arguably represents the opposite of the fair multicultural tradition of Macau. But that doesn't matter for them, because they don't cherish that local facet or simply ignore it. Like Raul Brandão wrote, referring to the grandeur of the Egyptian temples, "ignorance is pyramidal."

There are also those in the administration who, when in doubt, not knowing exactly what Beijing thinks about certain projects focused on the multicultural side of the city (and perhaps not daring to ask) opt to use their bureaucratic powers to stall those projects, often contributing to the loss of the region's identity.

Finally, there are those in the government that favor the lusophone project, because they understand that it is important for Macau to maintain a distinct identity. The word of the day for this government is cooperation, with more and more daily meetings about it. Cooperation with neighboring regions is positive if it doesn't mean the obliteration of Macau in those larger regions... and that's where we are headed.

Others, unconcerned with cultural aspects, see the "lusophone platform" as a way to do business with Africa and Brazil, or to train human resources capable of serving as intermediaries in those deals.

One example of a plan that could be included in a list of the abovementioned stalled projects is the Macanese House-Museum that the Macau Holy House of Mercy (SCMM) intends to build in two typically Macanese houses that they own in the St Lazarus district, close to Tap Seac. SCMM has been trying to develop it since 2011. The museum would showcase how old Macanese families lived, displaying furniture, pictures and objects that belong to the community. If well developed, this project could attract many tourists eager to have a taste of the old Macau. SCMM applied for funding from the Cultural Affairs Bureau and, according to its president, António José de Freitas, MOP20 million was promised one year ago but the support never materialized. After many contacts, Mr Freitas lost patience. "We have the will to do this, because it's a good project for Macau, but we won't make any more contact [with the government]. We are waiting," he told newspaper Tribuna de Macau (JTM). He added that "there's a lack of political will" to open the house museum. But why should there be a lack of political will to open a Macanese museum?

The same logic applies to another cultural project promoted by Casa de Portugal, although there are complex technical details involved. Built in Macau using Western and Chinese techniques, the ship "Lorcha" represented the region at Lisbon's Expo 98. The ship is currently dry-docked in the Algarve province and a recent study commissioned by the Orient Foundation indicates that it could be irrecoverable given the poor condition of the wood used to build it. However, Casa de Portugal proposes bringing back the ship to Macau and turning it into a tourist attraction, organizing historical cruises. Once again, there's only silence on this and other Casa de Portugal projects.

In an interview also published by JTM, the association's president Maria Amélia António criticizes the government's inertia and points out "there are people who don't understand that the value of Macau resides in its difference." And she left a message for those with business-oriented minds: If that difference is not respected, it's probable that in the next few years "Macau will lose any touristic interest and thus the goose that lays the golden egg will be killed."

THE BUZZ JEB BUSH UNVEILS 'JEB! 2016' GRAPHIC ON TWITTER

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush is putting the finishing touches on his expected presidential campaign rollout, and took to Twitter yesterday to release a "Jeb! 2016" graphic in patriotic red and blue. Bush is expected to formally announce his bid for the White House in a speech today in Miami.

Political observers noted that Bush's last

name—a potential liability in light of his brother's unpopular presidency—is absent from the graphic. The exclamation point also evoked references to the bygone campaign tagline of Senator Lamar Alexander, a Tennessee Republican. Bush spokesman Tim Miller, on Twitter, noted that Bush used a similar logo in his gubernatorial campaigns.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	15-35 Good

SOURCE: D5M6G

Zoo animals roam free in Georgia's capital after flooding



People help a hippopotamus escape from a flooded zoo in Tbilisi, Georgia

Misha Dzhindzhikhashvili, Tbilisi

TIGERS, lions, a hippopotamus and other animals escaped from the zoo in Georgia's capital after heavy flooding destroyed their enclosures, prompting authorities to warn residents in Tbilisi to say inside yesterday. At least 12 people have been killed in the disaster, including three zoo workers.

An escaped hippo was cornered in one of the city's main squares and subdued with a tranquilizer gun, the zoo said. Some other animals also have been seized, but it remained unclear how many are on the loose. Bears and wolves are also among the animals who fled from their enclosures amid the flooding from heavy rains and high winds.

There were no immediate reports that any of the fatalities were due to animal attacks. The zoo said one of the dead was Guliko Chitadze, a zookeeper who lost an arm in an attack by a tiger last month; the Interfax news agency said her husband also died in the flooding.

As of mid-afternoon Sunday, it was unclear how many animals remained on the loose or what species they are.

"Not all the animals who ran away from the zoo have been captured. Therefore, I want to ask the populace to refrain from moving about the city without" an urgent need to, mayor David Narmania said.

A full accounting of what animals were missing wasn't immediately possible because a large part of the zoo remained underwater, zoo

spokeswoman Khaati Batsilaishvili told The Associated Press.

Heavy rains and wind hit Tbilisi during the night, turning a normally small stream that runs through the hilly city into a surging river. The flooding also damaged dozens of houses.

Narmania told journalists that 12 people were known to have died.

Helicopters circled the city and volunteers and rescue workers labored to help those whose residences were damaged or destroyed, despite the potential danger from the escaped animals. About 1.1 million people live in the former Soviet republic's capital.

The head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Ilia II, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as telling a Sunday Mass that Georgia's former Communist rulers could be seen as involved in the disaster.

"When Communists came to us in this country, they ordered that all crosses and bells of the churches be melted down and the money used to build the zoo," he said. "The sin will not go without punishment. I am very sorry that Georgians fell so that a zoo was built at the expense of destroyed churches." AP

WORLD BRIEFS

INDONESIA An Indonesian official on Friday criticized Australia's prime minister as "unethical" for sidestepping allegations the Australian navy paid the crew of a boat carrying 65 migrants to return to Indonesian waters. Indonesia's foreign ministry has said it is "very concerned" by a report that the boat's captain and five crew members detained on remote Rote island had about USD30,000 in cash. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott did not deny the payment claim in a radio interview Friday.



INDONESIA A volcano in western Indonesia unleashed a new powerful burst high into the sky on Saturday, sending hot ash far down the mountain's slopes, an official said. Authorities have been closely monitoring 2,460-meter-high Mount Sinabung on Sumatra, one of Indonesia's main islands, since June 2, when its status was raised to the highest alert level due to the growing size of its lava dome.



FRANCE Dominique Strauss-Kahn had a caustic reaction as four years of legal battles involving sex charges on two continents ended without a single conviction: "All that for this?" In a packed courtroom Friday, a panel of judges acquitted all but one of the 13 defendants of accusations of involvement in a prostitution ring. Strauss-Kahn faced charges of "aggravated pimping," but the judges said he was not involved in hiring the prostitutes involved or paying them.

ISRAEL A 22-year-old Palestinian man was killed yesterday after being hit by an Israeli army jeep amid clashes in the West Bank, authorities said. Palestinian officials said the clash involved local residents hurling stones at the Israeli troops in the village of Kafr Malik, just outside of Ramallah. The Israeli military said the Palestinian man threw a firebomb at the Israeli jeep, causing it to swerve and hit him. The military said soldiers later tried to provide medical assistance to the man, but the Palestinian had already died from his wounds.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Mao Siqian



Contestants competing in the Shenzhen division of Miss Bikini Universe 2015 take part in a water splashing activity in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, June 11.