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PUSH FOR PAID PATERNITY LEAVE

The Women's General Association is urging the gov't to implement a 5-day paid paternity leave scheme

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EXPANDING E-COMMERCE SERVICES

The Monetary Authority of Macau pledged to support a more e-commerce-friendly environment

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WORLD BRIEFS

NEPAL Police in southern Nepal opened fire on ethnic protesters blocking the nation's main highway, killing two in fresh violence that threatened to escalate political tensions.



RUSSIA-SYRIA The Russian military has destroyed numerous oil facilities and tankers controlled by the Islamic State group in Syria, sharply cutting its income, Russia's defense minister said Friday. Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to President Vladimir Putin on Friday that Russian warplanes destroyed 15 oil refining and storage facilities in Syria and 525 trucks carrying oil during this week's bombing blitz. He said this deprived IS of USD1.5 million in daily income from oil sales.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

China's wealthy no longer putting on the Ritz

F1



Rosenqvist grabs 2nd straight Macau win



China breaks up USD64 billion underground banking network P9



From left to right, Govinda Singh, Tim Shepherd, Rui Pinto Proença, David Rittvo and Martin Williams

Gaming boom partly due to flexible oversight

Aries Un

GAMING authorities' flexible supervision of the industry over the past decade has contributed to the region's meteoric boom, according to two guest speakers at a panel discussion at last week's Macau Gaming Show.

Since the MSAR's first chief executive Edmund Ho opened the market to foreign operators in 2002, the gambling industry was riding high until early last year. Martin Williams, Asia Editor for the gaming intelligence provider, Gambling Compliance, reckoned that part of the credit went to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ).

The Taipei-based journalist commented that the bureau "manages to do its work without excessive or obvious interference," unlike its Singaporean counterpart Casino Regulatory Authority, known as CRA, which metes out heavy-

handed punishment for industry irregularities. Local regulators adopt a comparatively soft approach in supervising the industry.

The session revolved around what other gaming jurisdictions could learn from Macau as a global gambling mecca, home to over 30 casinos of different scales. The gaming watchdog's oversight was also deemed as a source of inspiration for other burgeoning gaming

The territory would not have achieved what it did if the industry had been over-regulated.

RUI PINTO PROENÇA

jurisdictions.

10 senior officials from the Vietnamese treasury visited the region last week, seeking advice from local authorities and gaming operators for the expansion of their fledgling gaming industry.

"What they should be doing is setting up a regulator that is sufficiently autonomous and independent so that they can also defend themselves from criticism," said Williams. In his opinion, DICJ has been "free of open criticism within the territory."

"The only real pressure that's publically placed on Macau is occasionally by legislators like Mr Coutinho who will stand up for an aggrieved slot machine player who thinks he's been ripped off by a machine for not being granted a jackpot."

However, the watchdog's supervision was immediately thrown under spotlight in September when the junket operator Dore fell victim to internal

fraud by a former employee. During yesterday's discussion, it was noted that gaming operations are often accompanied by shabby business arrangements such as collective financing from individuals. It was hinted that authorities have long swept underground deals under the rug.

"If the regulator decides to enforce the law entirely and actively, and it hasn't really done that before, that would hurt the market," Williams commented.

Rui Pinto Proença, who heads the Corporate and Gaming department at local legal firm MdME, echoed this view: "Whatever you do, you touch on the regulation. You will definitely affect the business. This has been working, so let's not touch it because it'll hurt it," he said, in reference to the authorities' approach towards the unauthorized operation.

The lawyer linked the decade-long economic prosperity to the DICJ's lax supervision, proclaiming that "the territory would not have achieved what it did if the industry had been over-regulated."

"It's the ability to give certainty to investors, but at the same time allowing overseas regulators to be comfortable

with the gaming jurisdiction," he remarked, lauding the local watchdog for its flexible governance, which many third parties find reassuring.

Despite acknowledging that loopholes in obsolete laws should have been closed several years ago, Proença noted that there was sufficient justification: "The gaming industry runs at a fast pace, and it's not easy for regulators and operators to keep up with all the developments at all times."

With the law preventing them from conducting business on a proper corporate structure, junket operators have to resort to unauthorized financing despite the fact that they play an essential role in the local gaming sector, the lawyer pointed out.

"But you can do that by allowing them to access markets that are already provided," he said. "I don't think you should just make their life more difficult without allowing them to be run as proper corporate groups."

Paulo Martins Chan, a former Assistant Prosecutor General at the MP, was recently appointed to the office of gaming regulator, with the aim of "optimizing and executing the regulations."

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Renato Marques

Fire forces partial closure of Macau Science Center

A large fire broke out in the Macau Science Center on Friday afternoon. According to a source at the Macau Fire Department who spoke to the journalists at the scene, the cause of the blaze is related to the welding activities on the top levels of the building. The welding was occurring as part of the maintenance work on the structure, which has been happening over the past few weeks. The flames were put out within two hours following the building's evacuation. No injuries have been reported.

This incident has resulted in a temporary closure of one of the center's pavilions, which will last for a few days or even weeks. "For now what we can say it is that the center will be closed for some time and will only be reopened to the public after an impact assessment of the fire has been made," a center spokesperson said.

Two hundred and sixty people, including visitors, staff and maintenance workers, were evacuated



from the building when the flames began. According to reports of the incident, the evacuation procedure was completed in an orderly manner.

Firefighters were called to the scene around 2.15 p.m. and established, in cooperation with the police, a security perimeter around the venue. The fire department

mobilized a total of 54 firemen and 13 vehicles to battle the blaze.

260 people were evacuated from the building

According to the person responsible for the Macau Science Center, at present it is still not possible to assess the damage, but it will likely be "substantial."

On the scene, it was clear that the top of the building had been severely affected by the flames, and also that multiple smaller fires had broken out in the interior as a result of the initial blaze.

ILCM Charity Bazaar

The annual International Ladies' Club of Macau (ILCM) Charity Bazaar and Family Fun Day are being held at the Grand Coloane Resort on Sunday, November 29. According to organizers, the Charity Bazaar will offer visitors the chance to secure early Christmas present bargains from a number of local sellers. A raffle will be a main event with over 60 prizes to be won, including hotel and spa vouchers, gourmet products, artwork, jewelry, and more. There will also be international food and beverage booths, and entertainment activities for children, including three local kids' groups who will perform in the afternoon. All of the proceeds from the table rental fees, raffle ticket takings and all donated items will go to the ILCM Charity Fund, which helps support over twenty charities in Macau.

SCMP to print Int'l New York Times

The South China Morning Post (SCMP) Group has announced that it has entered into an agreement to print the International New York Times (INYT) for mainland China and Hong Kong markets. Robin Hu, CEO of SCMP Group, said that they are delighted to be awarded the contract, and added, "Given its [INYT's] loyal base of on-the-go high-achieving subscribers, there can be no compromise when it comes to quality and reliability." The deal follows the SCMP's first contract printing agreement in 2013 to print "am730", a free Chinese-language newspaper in Hong Kong. The printing of INYT by the SCMP will commence in February 2016.

Thousands join airline running event



Nearly ten thousand people participated in an athletics event on Saturday held by TigerairTaiwan in the hope of winning free tickets from the airline. TigerairTaiwan, a joint-venture between Taiwan's China Airlines and Singapore's Tiger Airways, offered race-finishers the chance to win one of 100 tickets to fly to Macau, Osaka or Tokyo from Kaohsiung, Taiwan. In addition to the ticket draw, all event participants received a discount coupon that can be used when purchasing any flight through the airline. The athletics event, called the "Tiger Run", attracted more than 6,000 applicants from the moment online registration opened on September 9, according to the airline. TigerairTaiwan is the first Taiwanese low-cost carrier to operate a cross-strait route to China, having recently opened its latest route connecting Taoyuan and Zhangjiajie.

Tender for LRT depot in Q2 2016

to launch a new tender to continue the much delayed construction of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) depot as early as the second quarter of next year.

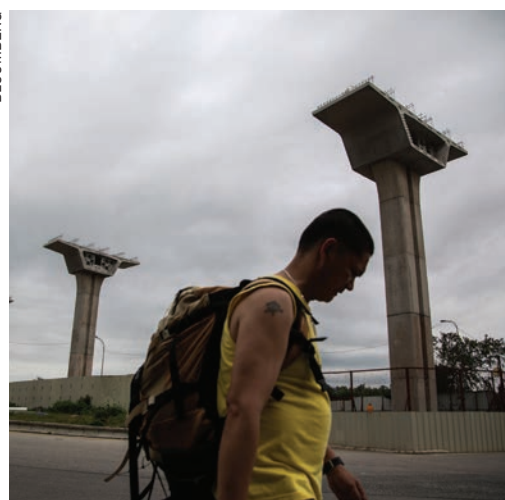
Long locked in a stalemate with the company leading the project's construction over the specifics of the contract, the authorities have finally reached a consensus after two years of negotiations, and have decided to call for a new contractor to undertake the construction. The delays in the construction of the depot resulted in a stagnation of the first phase of the citywide transit system for over one year.

However, as both sides move forward following the termination, certain details in regard to compensation and accountability must be addressed in order to finalize the

whole process. The senior official said that he would elaborate on the project in the upcoming Policy Address debate at the city's Legislative Assembly, which is slated for December 9 and 10.

In addition, according to Raimundo do Rosário, two out of seven blocks within the Islands District Medical Complex are in the foundation-laying stages of construction, with similar construction for another two slated for either next month or early next year.

Information about the prospective fourth bridge connecting the Macau peninsula's additional land swathe, labeled as Zone A, with Taipa's Zone B will be provided soon, the policymaker also hinted. The decision to build a bridge was announced earlier during chief executive Chui Sai On's Policy Address.



A man walks past an elevated track for the LRT mass transit system under construction in Macau

THE Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, told the media last Thursday that authorities expect

Environmentally friendly utensils favored by food festival exhibitors

Aries Un

UTENSILS made out of environmentally friendly materials have been widely embraced by exhibitors at the 15th Macau Food Festival, according to the annual event's organizer, the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macau.

The association's vice chairman, Lo Kam Kuan, told journalists yesterday afternoon that since the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPB) had pushed for decomposable tableware to be used and had begun providing financial support last year, local eateries have been willing to switch to utensils that are better for the environment.

"As they had already used environmentally friendly tableware last year, the practice has already



been recognized among [eateries] this year," he said. "I hope they'll continue to provide them after the festival for the sake of carbon reduction."

It is said that this tableware, which costs double that of ordinary utensils, takes only 18 days to decompose naturally in soil. Furthermore, if burnt it emits much

less carbon than other utensils.

Only 10 percent of the 122 booths at the food exhibition failed to provide the decomposable cutlery. This was due to their offerings, namely dessert and certain types of Japanese food, which are incompatible with the environmentally friendly utensils that were approved by the organizer

after reviews.

The organizer also assembled a task force to patrol the event to see if any restaurant was in violation of their regulations. Violators will be dropped from future events as punishment.

Lo added that the limited amount of options presents challenges for the restaurants in extending the use of these utensils to their individual business operations.

"Large-scale restaurants seldom use them, but it's easier for the smaller ones, given their amount of consumption, to provide the utensils that fit their food and operation," he said.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Bureau organized a visit to the food festival for around 40 students with their teachers and parents, armed with their own tableware, to encourage the message of protecting the environment and avoiding food waste.

The Macau Food Festival ends on November 29.

ARTS

'This is My City' festival returns with 'a more mature approach'

THE cultural event "This is My City" will return this year from tomorrow to December 12 for its ninth edition in Macau, showcasing a number of creative activities such as workshops, conferences, performances and creative installations. The multicultural event has been organized by the cultural association +853 since 2007 and focuses on four key aspects: creativity, innovation, urban culture and technology.

Last year the event assumed the format of a festival, under the new branding title of "This is My City – The Creative Festival", providing a platform for creative works made both locally and around the world.

According to the organizers, the festival format assumes "a more mature approach" to discussing and presenting the creative industries, aiming to help implement such industries in Macau.

Pecha Kucha Night, an event for young designers to network and showcase their work, will return to the cultural festival this year. The event is famous for its format, which mandates that presentations should have 20 slides, each of which must



be shown for 20 seconds. Organizers say that the format "keeps things moving at a rapid pace."

The short movie screening session is also returning this year, on November 24. Intending to replicate the nostalgic atmosphere of an open

air "Cinema Paradiso", "This is My City" will be screening a selection of short movies curated by António Vale Conceição.

Other events across the festival will include the "Hackathon 2015" – a one-day event in which programmers and designers collaborate on prototype solutions to urban problems. Each team is required to propose a possible alternative or change to the cities in which we live.

A feature of this year's event will be the "Instameet," which seeks to bring together and celebrate 'instagrammers' from Macau, Hong Kong and China, in order to "explore Macau's urban landscape" through the use of the social network. The event will take place on November 28 at the Macau Design Centre.

Other events covered at "This is My City" will include a "Luso Design Show", a creative economies conference, many musical performances, and a workshop and public lecture by Angola-born composer Victor Gama. The workshop and public lecture will be held on December 11 and 12 respectively. **Staff reporter**

CCM to present Children's Choir in December



THE Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) will present the 11th edition of its Children's Choir Annual Concert next month, to be staged at CCM's Small Auditorium.

The organizers explained that children's voices will celebrate the coming festive season with a concert that embraces a variety of tunes from around the world. Among the selection will be jazz and world music renditions, as well as popular Disney medleys and Christmas songs, appealing to adults and children alike.

The choir will feature Ernest Hui as the music director and conductor alongside pianist Wong Hoi Ian, who will accompany the children. They have been performing and rehearsing with the choir throughout the year, challenging the children with songs of various styles and origins.

The concert, which will be held on Sunday, December 13 at 3 p.m., will run for about 60 minutes without an intermission. Admission to the performance is free, and tickets will be available from November 23 at the Cultural Centre's box office and Macao Ticketing Network outlets.

The CCM Children's Choir seeks to develop the interests and talents of children, and to build on their interpersonal skills and artistic sensitivity.

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Women's Association pushes for paid paternity leave

THE Women's General Association is mounting pressure on the MSAR government to ensure that the proposed 14 extra days of maternity leave are fully paid. They are also urging authorities to implement a five-day paid paternity leave scheme.

In May, the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) introduced a series of drafts aimed at amending the SAR's current Labor Relations Law. One of



Shoppers browse cans of baby formula

these contained a proposal to extend paid maternity leave by 14 days. Another proposal considered the establishment of paternity leave.

Meanwhile, this year's Policy Address saw the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, promise to amend the Labor Relations Law to include paid paternity leave.

According to broadcaster TDM, Wong Kit Cheng, a lawmaker and also a mem-

ber of the Women's General Association, welcomed the move: "Civil servants [in Macau] have five days fully-paid paternity leave. Under the principle of social equality, we hope there will be five days paternity leave for all workers," Wong said.

"This year's Policy Address changes wordings from "research" to "law amendment", and "paid leave" is also mentioned. We believe [that] so-

ciety has reached a consensus to make it [paternity leave] paid leave; thus we hope the leave will be fully paid," she explained.

At the moment mothers in Macau receive only 56 days of maternity leave, compared with 70 days in Hong Kong and 98 days in mainland China. Civil servants are the exception in Macau, being entitled to up to 90 days of maternity leave.

Millionaires pick Singapore over Hong Kong

THE recent social unrest that has rocked Hong Kong may be prompting more millionaires to choose Singapore over the SAR, according to a report by research company WealthInsight that found that the city-state's population of millionaires is growing quickly.

"Though Hong Kong has a much higher population of millionaires than Singapore [193,000 against Singapore's 154,000], recent events such as the Umbrella Revolution may have

turned migratory high-net-worth individuals [HNWIs] away from the city," Oliver Williams, head of WealthInsight, said in the wealth-tracking report.

Most HNWIs in both cities are local residents. However, expatriates are likely to drive growth in the number of HNWIs over the next five years, according to WealthInsight.

Hong Kong and Singapore remain locked into a struggle for supremacy as both vie to establish themselves

as the Asia-Pacific's leading business hub, drawing financial professionals and investors away from London and New York.

"Singapore's burgeoning financial markets, renowned private banking and superior quality of life are continuing to attract HNWIs from neighboring countries. We're currently seeing a large influx of Indian and Chinese millionaires into the country," Williams said.

About 1 in 35 Singapo-

reans are millionaires, but the number is projected to grow 18.3 percent to reach 188,000 by 2020 (or 1 in 30). Conversely, the number of millionaires in Hong Kong is expected to grow by 15.6 percent over the next five years.

In recent months, emerging U.K. market-focused banks have reportedly considered relocating to Asia, with HSBC and Standard Chartered eyeing Hong Kong and Singapore, respectively.

Separately, Business Insider has compiled a list of the world's 50 most powerful people – heads of state, billionaires, CEOs, and entertainers – by evaluating their influence in four areas: economic power, command, newsworthiness, and impact in their respective spheres. A number of magnates made the list, including Sheldon Adelson, the 82-year-old CEO of Las Vegas Sands, dubbed the "King of Las Vegas." Jack Ma, Founder and CEO of Alibaba, and Robin Li, Baidu CEO also made the list, in 23rd and

43rd place respectively. In addition Wang Jianlin (29th), Chairman of the Dalian Wanda Group, and Jiang Jianqing (13th), Director of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, were featured on the Business Insider list. U.S. President Barack Obama topped the list, with Chinese President Xi Jinping as runner-up – the latter is often described as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong. A combination of money and influence was used as the measure of power for the ranking. **Staff reporter**

AD



澳門特別行政區政府
 Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau
 澳門格蘭披治大賽車委員會
 Comissão do Grande Prémio de Macau

Barrier Gates Removal Schedule for the 62nd Macau Grand Prix

The Macau Grand Prix Committee will begin removal of the barrier gates immediately after the end of the event. The first stage of deconstruction has been completed early the next morning. We hope to minimize any inconvenience caused to the public. It is expected the entire circuit will re-open on 3rd December.

Date	Hour	Area
23-26/11/2015	08:00 to 20:00	To remove all barrier gates To remove all barriers along the barrier gates
23-28/11/2015	08:00 to 20:00	To remove all barrier gates from Avenida da Amizade to Reservoir Bend
26/11 – 3/12/2015	08:00 to 20:00	To remove all barrier gates from Rua dos Pescadores to Reservoir Bend
28/11 – 3/12/2015	08:00 to 20:00	To remove all barrier gates at the upper part of the Guia Hill

The Committee seeks the understanding of motorists for the inconvenience caused by the construction, as well as to respect the temporary signage and instructions from the Traffic Authorities. For further information, please call 2872 8482.



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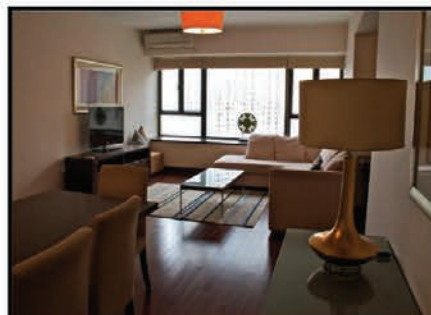
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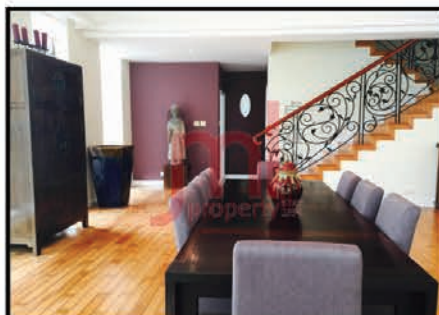
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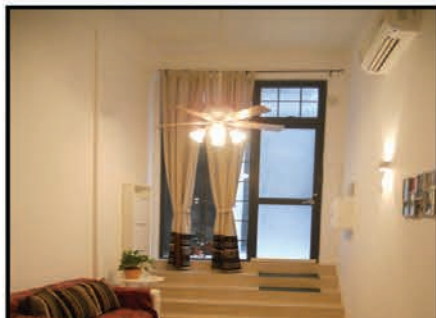
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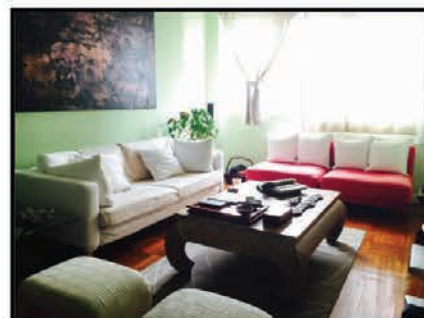
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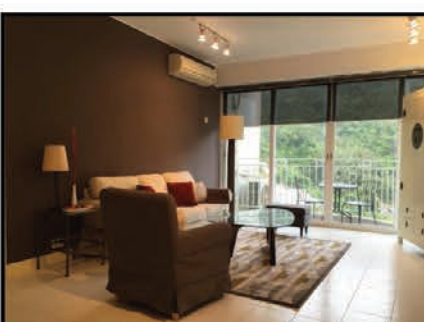


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Canidrome seeks contract renewal with social initiatives

SOCIEDADE de Jogos de Macau (SJM) director Angela Leong is seeking to secure the operations of Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co by introducing initiatives benefiting the cultural and creative industries and the sports sector.

Before the government announces the fate of the Canidrome, Leong expressed her desire on the sidelines of the Macau Grand Prix yesterday that the group would hope to extend their short-term agreement. The Canidrome is controlled by the Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau SA (STDM).

“While there isn’t an official announcement of the short-term contract extension, I wish it would be about two or three years,” said the 54-year-old. “We have staff members aged from 50 to 60; what jobs can they take up [after departure]?”

The operator has appealed for the retention of the greyhound race venue in its ongoing dialogue with the authorities. It has promised to introduce schemes that the region’s youth could take advantage of, especially initiatives concerning cultural and creative pursuits as well as the sporting domain.

The possible initiatives are intended to echo society’s demands for the release of land resources from the dog-racing track in order to build facilities for social wellbeing.

In addition, Leong said that a dormitory benefiting the younger generation would be provided by the Canidrome if its business were approved to continue. “It is to let the youngsters rent places at a cheaper price,” she said.

Earlier last month, a joint poll conducted by three neighborhood associations suggested that half of the 900 respondents aged over 14 are in favor of preserving the only dog-racing track in Asia.

Authorities look to expand e-commerce services

MONETARY authorities are pushing for the implementation of third-party online payment platforms in Macau following the emerging e-commerce boom across the border, which is associated with consumers’ growing reliance on virtual payment options.

The demand for companies to accommodate this transition of payment methods in the region has grown rapidly according to the authorities, who held an introductory session last Friday. The session aimed to explain the existing regulation supporting such services, as well as the current licensing procedures and qualifications.

Wan Sin Long, an administrative committee member from the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM), told journalists that service providers whose clients’ money had already been deposited and paid to them were required to seek authorization to run their business.

That means that payment services provided by companies that are not officially approved by local authorities are not subject to local regulation and there may be risks involved in using them.

Wan said that the regulator has approached the mainland servi-



Billionaire Jack Ma, chairman of Alibaba Group (center)

ce operators to learn more about their intentions for business development in the region. The aim of such talks is to connect local service providers with their mainland counterparts for a more e-commerce-friendly environment.

In the meantime, AMCM has issued a statement saying that Alipay, which was launched in 2004 by the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Limited and is now managed by its affiliated company, is suitable for a local e-commerce platform.

The authorities reassured the

public that its operation in Macau was legal through the company’s collaboration with a locally authorized institution.

The provision of third-party payment services in Macau has been a hot topic since last year’s policy address debate. However, it remains arguable that the application thresholds for such operations are usually deemed to be too high for small and medium-sized firms, while the size of the local market fails to pique the interest of large service providers from abroad. **Staff reporter**

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horário/schedule:
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Saturdays
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início/starts: 28/11/2015
fim/finishes: 19/12/2015

total: 12 horas/hours
4 sessões/sessions

propina/fee:
800 MOP *

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English
patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau

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China cracks USD64b 'underground bank' moving money abroad

CHINA said it cracked the nation's biggest "underground bank," which handled 410 billion yuan (USD64 billion) of illegal foreign-exchange transactions, as the authorities try to combat corruption and rein in capital outflows that have hit records this year.

More than 370 people have been arrested or face lawsuits or other punishment in the case centered in eastern Zhejiang province, the official People's Daily reported on Friday, citing police officials. The case brought the total for underground banking and money-laundering activities to 800 billion yuan since April, the newspaper said.

The probe began in September last year and the police took almost a year to sort through more than 1.3 million suspicious transactions, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported separately. The authorities froze more than 3,000 bank accounts, Xinhua said.

The case highlights the nation's struggle to control capital outflows that have helped to send real-estate prices soaring from Vancouver to Sydney - even when Chinese citizens are officially limited to converting \$50,000 of yuan per year. Some people may be moving the proceeds of corruption, while others may be concerned about the outlook for the economy and the potential for the yuan to weaken.

"The government wants to stem outflows and stabilize the yuan's exchange rate, but the outflows cannot be stopped unless people change their expectation on yuan depreciation," said Xi Junyang, a finance professor at



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics. Besides illegal banking operations, "a lot of money is leaving the country by legal means," Xi said.

China's capital outflows may have climbed to a record \$194 billion in September before cooling to \$62 billion in October, according to a Bloomberg gauge which also takes into account decisions by exporters and direct investment recipients to hold funds in dollars.

The tactics used by Chinese citizens to defeat the controls include so-called smurfing, where large sums are moved by breaking them down into a series of smaller transfers using the bank accounts and foreign-exchange quotas of a range of individuals.

In the Zhejiang case, a sus-

pect identified as Zhao Mouyi used a different method, setting up more than 10 companies in Hong Kong from 2013 and transferring more than 100 billion yuan through so-called non-resident accounts, which are used by offshore companies in China when they are transferring money abroad, according to the newspaper's report.

Taking advantage of a "loophole" relating to non-resident accounts - which has since been filled by banks - Zhao circumvented the capital controls by directly transferring yuan overseas and then exchanged the money into foreign currencies at banks including HSBC Holdings Plc in Hong Kong, the People's Daily said. Zhao then allegedly transferred it to his clients' accounts,

the report said, citing the local police.

HSBC declined to comment on the report. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority also declined to comment on the specifics of the case, while saying that banks in the city have "stepped up their internal controls to report suspicious transactions."

Methods of bypassing China's currency controls include: making transfers using Hong Kong money changers, carrying checks from underground banks across the border to Hong Kong, smuggling cash through customs, making payments abroad using credit or debit cards and then returning merchandise for cash, and getting an overseas mortgage based on savings held within China.

Police took almost a year to sort through more than 1.3 million suspicious transactions

The underground banking crackdown is "an attempt to reduce the capital outflow pressure," said Hou Wei, a banking analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. in Hong Kong. The government is "determined and very serious" about defending its currency reserves and the exchange rate, the analyst said.

In another case highlighted by the People's Daily on Friday, an investigation of an underground bank in Fujian this year uncovered a network spanning Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia and Saudi Arabia - and a senior executive at a state-owned enterprise who allegedly tried to move 18 million yuan abroad, the newspaper said.

The authorities have made a series of moves to control legal and illegal capital flows, including capping withdrawals at overseas automated teller machines.

The People's Bank of China has given verbal guidance to onshore lenders to stop offering cross-border financing to offshore banks, people familiar with the matter said this week. The monetary authority has also told overseas banks to halt onshore bond repurchases, two of the people said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MELCO SECURES FOUR LIMITED EDITION COGNACS



Melco Crown Entertainment has secured the only four bottles in Macau of limited edition Chapters of Ampersand Et No 1 Cognac, a Swedish Cognac.

Two of the bottles will be on display at the two Michelin-starred restaurants Jade Dragon and The Tasting Room at City of Dreams, and the remaining two bottles will be at the Pearl Dragon restaurant and the Premiere Bar at Studio City.

A launch event was held yesterday at the Premiere Bar at Studio City to celebrate the unveiling of the Et No 1 Cognac and its entry into the company's wine collection. The event was attended by Mr. Sven-Erik Bucht, Minister of Agriculture of Sweden; Ms. Helena Storm, Sweden's Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau; Mr. Folke Andersson, Chapters of Ampersand Mas-

ter Blender and creator of Et No 1; Mr. Johan Belin and Mr. Bertil Davidsson, co-founders of Chapters of Ampersand; and Mr. Kristoffer Luczak, Senior Vice President of Food and Beverage, Melco Crown Entertainment Limited. A tasting session of the Cognac was also featured at the event.

With only 300 bottles released worldwide, and each individually numbered and signed with a Certificate of Origin, Et No 1 Cognac is created by Chapters of Ampersand Master Blender Folke Andersson in collaboration with Cognac Tiffon Maitre de Chais, Richard Braastad. It is a limited blend of two 1943 and 1974 Cognacs interacting with a pre-Phylloxera Cognac dating back to 1870.

NICK MOLONEY SETS NEW ST. REGIS MACAO CUP SAILING SPEED RECORD



Nick Moloney, professional sailor and ocean adventurer, set a new sailing speed record on Friday on his voyage across the Pearl River Delta winning The St. Regis Macao Cup - an award that recognizes the fastest passage between Hong Kong and Macau using a wind-powered vessel.

Moloney sailed from a point south of Lamma Island in Hong Kong to a waypoint off Macau's Hac Sa Beach in Coloane. The record-breaking journey took five hours, 29 minutes and 43 seconds to complete.

Moloney set the record in partnership with The St. Re-

gis Macao, Cotai Central, the hospitality brand that is part of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc., which is set to open its doors next month.

Paul Cunningham, General Manager of The St. Regis Macao, says: "With 15 world sailing speed records under Nick's belt, the aficionado spirit of St. Regis came alive in Macau today. Our passion for delivering experiences beyond expectations, of taking people's dreams and making them a reality, was embodied in today's record attempt. There are moments in life that will forever remain embedded in our hearts. It has been thrilling for us to work together to create that experience with Nick here today, and we endeavor to create those moments for all our guests at The St. Regis Macao."

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Singapore woman, son reunited after 'McRefugee' story

AFTER being tricked into selling her Singapore home and traveling to China to invest the proceeds, Mary Seow eventually found herself homeless in Hong Kong, having lost touch with her family.

Nearly five years after she was reported missing, and after her story was told this month in an Associated Press article about people who sleep at 24-hour McDonald's outlets in Hong Kong, she has been reunited with her son and was on her way back to Singapore on Saturday.

Seow, 60, said she did not expect to be heading back to Singapore so soon after the story broke on Nov. 12.

"Until now, I'm still like dreaming," she said at Hong Kong's airport as she prepared to board a flight to Singapore with her 28-year-old son, Edward Goh.

Seow's family members had reported her missing, but her whereabouts were a mystery until she was quoted in the AP story about people known as "McRefugees."

Until then, Seow had been just one of an untold number of homeless and working poor spending their nights at the fast-food chain's 120 restaurants that are open round the clock in Hong Kong.

Her tale caught the attention

AP PHOTO



In this Friday, Nov. 20 photo, Mary Seow drinks coffee at a 24-hour McDonald's branch where she began sleeping about four weeks ago after she noticed others doing it in Hong Kong

of family members, Singapore's government and concerned citizens. They worked swiftly to reunite the widow with her son and only child, whom she had raised on her own after her husband died of a heart attack two decades ago.

Seow had a surprise reunion on Friday with her son, who had flown to Hong Kong to find her and bring her back home.

She said her ordeal began when she was swindled by people from China whom she met at a church in Singapore.

They had persuaded her to sell her house and go with them to mainland China to invest the money in their transport business, but when she arrived she realized it was all a scam.

She decided to stay in China and try to earn back some

of her lost money, including by working as a street sweeper. She eventually ended up in Hong Kong, where she has spent the past three months living on the streets and finding some work doing what is known as "parallel trading," carrying diapers, baby formula, chocolate and other branded goods across the border to resellers in mainland China.

Seow said she hadn't wanted to return to Singapore because she was mortified that she had lost the family home and didn't want to face her son.

That's why she said she had "mixed feelings" even after reuniting with her son.

"I feel happy and I feel a bit of guilty conscience," she said.

Goh said he had "very strong and mixed" emotions, but added that there would be "no drama" and that they would "definitely not talk about the past."

"I just want to bring her home," he said. **AP**

Hong Kong heads to the polls in District Council elections

MARKING the first test of city's political sentiment after the Occupy protests, yesterday's District Council elections saw nearly 900 candidates vie for over 350 seats in 18 councils.

According to the South China Morning Post, as of 9.30pm yesterday, the turnout rate hit 43.65 per cent, higher than the rate of 38.54 per cent at the same time in the 2011 district council elections.

The elections were also the first since pan-democrats voted down the controversial Beijing-backed political reforms that could have allowed Hongkongers to choose the chief executive election in 2017, the newspaper noted.

It added that a total of 495 ordinary polling stations and 24 dedicated polling stations were open across the territory for about 3.12 million registered electors to cast their votes up until 10.30pm.

There were 867 candidates competing for 363 seats this year. The results are expected to outline if the pro-democracy occupy movement last year has any impact on the political landscape.

Former 'Umbrella Soldiers' in last year's 79-day Occupy protests were among a host of new candidates

AP PHOTO



who had been lobbying across the SAR.

The results, expected to be announced late yesterday, will provide

insight into how a Legislative Council election due next year and a controversial leadership poll in 2017 could pan out.

WINTER WEATHER

Snowstorms sweep across north

SNOWSTORMS swept across a vast area of north China yesterday, disrupting traffic, grounding flights and slowing down bullet trains in Beijing, Tianjin and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Six highways passing through Beijing were closed. The Beijing Railway Bureau said some trains along the Beijing-Guangzhou, Beijing-Shanghai and Beijing-Tianjin high-speed lines are running at a lower speed because of the snow.

In Beijing, thousands of people and hundreds of vehicles were sent out to clear the snow on roads. About 23,000 workers and 2,300 vehicles were set to be mobilized, authorities said.

At Beijing Capital International Airport, 150 flights have been canceled.

Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region issued an alert for snowstorms, calling for the maintenance of roads, railways and telecommunication facilities.

In Tianjin, all highways have been shut down and more than 20 flights have been delayed at Tianjin Binhai International Airport. Bus companies in Tianjin said they added more vehicles to cope with the city's transportation needs.

China's meteorological authority yesterday renewed a blue alert, the lowest level in a four-tier warning system, for snowstorms in the north of the country.

Snowstorms were set to hit Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the northern provinces of Shanxi and Hebei as well as Beijing and Tianjin municipalities yesterday and today, with some areas expected to see snowfall of up to 12 millimeters, the National Meteorological Center said.

In China's four-tier color-coded weather warning system, red represents the most severe weather, followed by orange, yellow and blue. **Xinhua**



China's Premier Li Keqiang, front left, waves as he walks next to Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak, second from right, and Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, third from right, during the 10th China-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur

Li pledges USD14.5 million for search of MH370

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged an additional USD14.5 million to fund the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that disappeared more than a year ago with 239 people aboard. Li made the announcement Saturday during a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in Malaysia, where Asia-Pacific leaders are holding a regional summit. The MH370 disappeared on March 8, 2014, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. French investigators have identified a washed-up piece of airplane debris found in July on a remote island in the Indian Ocean as part of the Boeing 777. A multinational search has so far covered millions of square kilometers in the southern Indian Ocean at a cost of more than \$120 million. Most of the passengers were Chinese, and the Chinese government has vowed to spare no effort to locate and recover the plane.

TAIWAN

Helicopter crash kills 2 on board

A service helicopter crashed yesterday outside of Taiwan's capital, killing both people on board, the government-run Central News Agency reported. Pilot Chen Hsiu-ming and electrical worker Yu Huihsien died when the chopper crashed in New Taipei, a city that surrounds the Taiwanese capital of Taipei, CNA said. The crash did not cause a fire or other collateral damage, but the agency provided no further details on the incident. It identified the chopper as a Bell 206 jet ranger. Emerald Pacific Airlines, which owns the chopper, said on its Facebook page that the helicopter was cleaning up an electric pylon for the Taiwan Power Company when it crashed. The aviation company provides helicopter services for large-scale construction projects.

Coalmine fire kills 21 workers, Xinhua says

A state-owned coal mine caught fire on Friday in northeast China's Heilongjiang province, leaving 21 workers dead and one missing, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing the local government. The incident is under control and 16 workers managed to escape, Xinhua said, without further elaborating. A total of 38 miners were working in the mine, operated by the provincial government's Heilongjiang Longmay Mining Holding Group Co., when the fire broke out, according to the report.

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing tells others don't 'stir up trouble'

CHINA yesterday told other countries not to "deliberately stir up trouble" in the disputed South China Sea, while insisting it has no intention of militarizing the strategically vital area even though it has increased construction activities there.

Deputy Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin reiterated China's position that its construction of artificial islands in the sea was designed to "provide public service" to the region by helping ships and fishermen and disaster relief efforts. This also includes military facilities to protect the islands and reefs, which are located far from mainland China, he said.

Since 2013, China has accelerated the creation of new outposts by piling sand atop reefs and atolls, and then adding buildings, ports and airstrips big enough to handle bombers and fighter jets — activities seen as an attempt to change the territorial status quo by changing the geography.

"One should never link the military facilities with efforts to militarize the South China Sea," Liu said. "This is a false argument. It is a consistent Chinese position to firmly oppose the militarization of the South China Sea."

Other countries "should not deliberately stir up trouble but contribute to the peace and stability of the region," he said.

Although Liu's statement broke no new ground — China has said this in various ways

before — the setting for his remarks was significant: an Asian summit also attended by President Barack Obama, whose administration has backed the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries who have long-standing disputes with China in the South China Sea.

Liu's comments also serve

China's position that its construction of artificial islands in the sea was designed to 'provide public service'

to send a notice to China's rivals in the region that it will not back down from its position on the resource-rich sea, irrespective of pressure from the United States. While it opposes any U.S. military incursion, China sees its own military presence there as justifiable.

Liu is at the summit accom-

panying Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

At a separate news conference, Obama said the issue was a "key topic" at the summit of 18 countries that included China, as well as at a separate summit he had with leaders of 10 Southeast Asian countries. "Many leaders spoke about the need to uphold international principles, including the freedom of navigation, and overflight and the peaceful resolution of disputes," Obama said.

"My fellow leaders from Japan, Australia and the Philippines have reaffirmed that our treaty alliances remained the foundation of regional security. The United States is boosting our support for the Philippines maritime capabilities and those of our regional partners," Obama said. The other claimants in Southeast Asia are Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei.

The U.S. and others have called on Beijing to halt the construction, saying they are destabilizing an increasingly militarized region. Washington angered China by sending a warship inside a 22-kilometer territorial limit around Subi Reef in the Spratly Islands archipelago, where Chi-

na and the Philippines have competing claims.

Liu called the USS Larsen's voyage last month a "political provocation."

"Is this a trend of militarization that calls for our alert?" Liu asked. "We hope regional countries and those outside the region will make positive and constructive contribution to our efforts to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea. Don't look for trouble."

He said out of the scores of islands, reefs and atolls in the vast sea, China has occupied only seven small islands and reefs in waters under its jurisdiction. Without naming any country, he accused three of them of occupying 42 "illegally." One of them, he said, controls 29, another one eight and the third country five.

With the waterway a crucial trade passage, he said freedom of navigation and peace and security of the area are crucial to China's economic expansion.

Liu denied allegations that China is waiting to complete its construction activities in the sea before agreeing to a binding code of conduct, in a move to tie the hands of its rival claimants. AP

ASEAN

SE Asia creates economic community, but challenges remain

Vijay Joshi and Eileen Ng,
Kuala Lumpur

THIRTEEN years after mooting the idea, Southeast Asian leaders yesterday formally created a unified economic community in a region more populous and diverse than both the European Union and North America, and one that hopes to compete with China and India.

The 10 leaders in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations signed a declaration during their summit establishing the ASEAN Economic Community, as part of a larger ASEAN Community that aims for political, security, cultural and social integration.

The summit's host, Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia, hailed the ASEAN Community as a "landmark achievement," and urged members to accelerate integration. "The region is primed to expand exponentially," he said.

The community, known by its acronym AEC, is already a reality and many of its fundamentals have been applied in the region, including the removal of tariff barriers and visa restrictions. It has also led to greater political and cultural cooperation.

AEC will bolster income and employment, and provide the region with stronger economic muscle in facing the other giants, said Michael G. Plummer, a professor of international economics at the Europe Center of Johns Hopkins University,



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, center left, passes a signed document to ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh, center right, of Vietnam after the signing ceremony of the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN Community

based in Bologna, Italy.

"ASEAN integration will help balance the economic power of China and India," Plummer said. "Individually, ASEAN countries are, perhaps, too small to be important players in the economic and security game, but as an integrated group of more than half a billion people, they would be in the major league."

But there is a long way to go before the AEC becomes fully functional after becoming a legal entity on Dec. 31. The region's diversity can sometimes be a hindrance. ASEAN has 630 million people, speaking different languages, following various faiths and governed by various systems, including rambunctious democracies, a military dictatorship, quasi-civilian, authoritarian, monarchy and communism.

"The AEC is arguably the

most ambitious economic integration program in the developing world," Plummer said. "But implementation of the AEC is increasingly uphill. Much remains to be done and the region faces many challenges in finishing. The AEC is a process."

It falls short in more politically sensitive areas such as opening up agriculture, steel, auto production and other protected sectors. ASEAN citizens will be allowed to work in other countries in the region, but will be limited to jobs in eight sectors, including engineering, accountancy and tourism. This accounts for only 1.5 percent of the total jobs in the region, and host countries still can put up constitutional and regulatory hurdles restricting the inflow of talent.

Intra-regional trade has remained at around 24 percent

of ASEAN's total global trade for the last decade, far lower than 60 percent in the European Union.

ASEAN members also struggle to resolve diplomatic flare-ups among each other such as

The AEC is arguably the most ambitious economic integration program in the developing world.

MICHAEL G. PLUMMER
PROFESSOR, EUROPE CENTER,
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

border disputes between Cambodia and Vietnam, or Indonesia's inability to fight annual forest fires that spew noxious haze for months over Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Plummer said progress has been slow in services liberalization. Cross-border flow of investment is also restricted by large exclusion lists and caps on foreign ownership. Government procurement and curbing monopolies by state-owned enterprises are highly sensitive and untouched, he said.

Although the four poorer economies — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam — have until 2018 to bring down tariffs, economic integration could further reinforce income equalities in the region, he said.

AEC "is not the finished article. Neither is it officially claimed to be. There is much work to be done," said Mohamad Munir Abdul Majid, chairman of a council that advises ASEAN on business matters. "There is a disparity between what is officially recorded as having been achieved ... and what the private sector reports as their experience."

There are also other hurdles, such as corruption, uneven infrastructure and unequal costs of transportation and shipping. A wide economic gulf divides Southeast Asia's rich and middle income economies — Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand and the Philippines — and its four less developed members, Communist Vietnam and Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. **AP**

MYANMAR

Landslide in jade mine kills about 100; over 100 missing

Esther Htusan, Yangon

A landslide near a jade mine in northern Myanmar killed about 100 people and left more than 100 missing, most of them villagers sifting through a huge mountain of tailings and waste, a community leader and a businessman said yesterday.

The collapse occurred Saturday afternoon in the community of Hpakant in Kachin state, said Brang Seng, a jade businessman, describing



In this photo taken on Saturday and released by the Eleven Media Group, mine workers carrying their belongings walk after their houses were destroyed by a landslide in Phakant jade mine, Kachin State

rows of bodies pulled from the debris. "This is awfully bad," he said, adding that he saw more than 70 bodies pulled.

More than 100 other people were missing, said Lamai Gum Ja, a community leader who also has interests in the mining business. He said an official at the scene reported that 60-70 bodies had been pulled from the rubble.

Myanmar only recently started moving from a half-century of dictatorship to democracy. Hpakant, the epicenter of the country's jade boom, remains desperately poor, with bumpy dirt roads and constant

electricity blackouts.

Hpakant is around 965 kilometers north of Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.

The region, which borders China, is home to some of the world's highest-quality jade, bringing in billions of dollars a year, though researchers say most of that money goes to individuals and companies tied to Myanmar's former military rulers.

Informal miners risk and often lose their lives digging through scraps

of the giant mines.

"Large companies, many of them owned by families of former generals, army companies, cronies and drug lords, are making tens or hundreds of millions of dollars a year through their plunder of Hpakant," said Mike Davis of Global Witness, a group that investigates the misuse of revenue from natural resources.

He said that "scores of people at a time are buried alive in landslides." **AP**

BANGLADESH

Gov't executes 2 opposition leaders despite concerns

BANGLADESH executed two influential opposition leaders on charges of war crimes during the country's 1971 independence war, a senior jail official said yesterday, despite concerns that the legal proceedings against them were flawed and threats of violence by their supporters.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, secretary general of the main Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami, were "hanged together, at the same time" at 12:55 a.m. at Dhaka Central Jail in the nation's capital, Senior Jail Superintendent Mohammad Jahangir Kabir told The Associated Press.

Security was strengthened near the jail and elsewhere to avoid any violence. A few hours after the execution, a security detail escorted ambulances carrying the men's bodies to their ancestral homes where their families were to



Ambulances carrying the bodies Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid leave the Central Jail after they were executed in Dhaka

perform burial rituals.

The Jamaat-e-Islami party, whose two other senior leaders already have been executed on war crimes charges, issued a statement calling for a nationwide general strike today.

Chowdhury was convicted on charges of torture, rape and genocide during the country's independence war against Pakistan, while Mujahid was found guilty on charges of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction.

On Wednesday, Bangladesh's Supreme Court upheld their death sentences, and on Saturday, President Mohammad Abdul Hamid rejected a clemency appeal, clearing the way for the executions. The families of Chowdhury and Mujahid met them for the last time inside Dhaka Central Jail on Saturday evening, authorities said.

Jamaat-e-Islami and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party say the trials were politically motivated. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

has denied the allegations. She has acknowledged that she faced international pressure for trying opposition figures for war crimes, but vowed to continue the trials "to ensure justice for the families of the slain people" from the 1971 war.

More than 15 people, mostly leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, have been convicted of war crimes.

The party had campaigned openly against independence for Bangladesh, which was part of Pakistan until the 1971 war. The Bangladesh government says that Pakistani soldiers, aided by local collaborators, killed 3 million people and raped 200,000 women during the war.

Mujahid, 67, was the head of Islami Chhatra Sangha, then the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Chowdhury, 66, whose father was the speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly and at times, the acting president of Pakistan, also actively opposed Bangla-

deshi independence.

U.S. lawmakers overseeing foreign policy described the war crimes tribunal, set up in 2013, as "very flawed" and a means of political retribution. The State Department said Friday that executions should not take place until it's clear the trial process meets international standards.

Stephen Rapp, who until August served as President Barack Obama's ambassador for war crimes, said it was "disturbing" that Chowdhury was denied the right to call alibi witnesses,

including a former U.S. ambassador, to provide testimony that he was not present in Bangladesh at the time the alleged crimes were committed.

Human Rights Watch said the tribunal allowed the prosecution to call 41 witnesses, while Chowdhury's defense was limited to four witnesses. The New York-based group said Mujahid was sentenced to death for instigating his subordinates to commit abuses, although no subordinates testified or were identified. **AP**

REPORTER SHOT AT FUNERAL

BANGLADESH'S MOHONA TV station says one of its reporters was shot and wounded while covering the funeral of one of two opposition leaders executed earlier yesterday. Rajib Sen was covering the funeral of Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Sala-

huddin Quader Chowdhury in Chittagong district. Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, secretary general of the main Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami, were executed together at Dhaka Central Jail. Sen was rushed to a hospital in Chittagong.

AD

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MALI

Authorities tighten security after Islamist-militant attack on hotel

Francois Rihouay and Colin Baker

MALI tightened security in the capital as investigators searched for al-Qaeda-linked militants suspected of carrying out an attack on a luxury hotel that killed 22 people, many of them foreigners.

Police and soldiers stood guard outside hotels, diplomatic missions and other key buildings in the capital, Bamako, Fode Sissoko, head of security for strategic locations at the Internal Security Ministry, said in a phone interview Saturday. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita declared a 10-day state of emergency and three days of national mourning after an extraordinary cabinet meeting late Friday.

The raid came a week after Islamic State militants killed 130 people in a series of shootings and explosions in Paris, the worst atrocity in Europe in almost a decade. Mali is a former French colony.

As many as 170 people were in the Radisson hotel when gunmen burst into the lobby Friday morning spraying gunfire. Hours later, troops stormed the hotel and moved room to room evacuating guests. French and U.S. security forces aided the operation.



Mali troopers assist a hostage, center, to leave the scene, from the Radisson Blu hotel to safety after gunmen attacked the hotel in Bamako on Friday

The attack was carried out by two men armed with AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades, Sissoko said. Among those killed were 18 civilians, a policeman and the attackers, he said.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said six of its citizens died in the raid, while China's government said three Chinese were killed. An American citizen was also among the dead, the U.S. State Department said.

U.S. President Barack Obama, in a speech in Kuala Lumpur, extended his "deepest condolences" to the families of those killed in Mali.

"We're still working to account

for Americans" who were at the hotel, Obama said.

The United Nations Security Council condemned the attack, saying the world must use all means to combat the threats that terrorist acts pose to global stability. The council earlier unanimously endorsed a resolution urging nations to fight Islamic State.

Al-Qaeda in Maghreb and the militant Mourabitoune group claimed joint responsibility for Friday's attack. The Mali authorities are hunting for at least three people suspected of having links to the raid, Agence France-Presse reported.

"It's too early to say if there were accomplices and how many there were," Sissoko said. "But it seems like an operation that could not have been done without help."

Mourabitoune and its leader, the one-eyed former Algerian soldier Mokhtar Belmokhtar, are best known for an attack on an Algerian gas plant in 2013 that killed more than a dozen hostages. Belmokhtar's death has been reported more than once, though never confirmed. He's probably behind the Mali attack, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Friday. **Bloomberg**

CHINESE BUSINESS EXECUTIVES KILLED IN MALI RAID

THREE SENIOR executives of a powerful state-owned Chinese company were killed in the Friday attack on a Radisson hotel in the Mali capital of Bamako, officials said Saturday. China Railway Construction Corp. identified the victims as Zhou Tianxiang, general manager for the corporation's international group; Wang Xuan-shang, a deputy general manager of the international group; and Chang Xuehui, general manager of the group's West Africa division. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also confirmed Saturday that three Chinese nationals were among the dead, and that four other Chinese citizens had been rescued. Chinese President Xi Jinping condemned the killings of the Chinese citizens, and pledged that Beijing will strengthen cooperation with the international community in fighting terrorism. The Chinese Embassy in Mali said all seven Chinese were traveling to Mali on business. China has been sending engineers and construction workers to Africa to help build infrastructure and public facilities such as hospitals and stadiums, as part of Beijing's outreach to forge closer ties with African nations.

Maria Cheng and Frank Jordans, Brussels

BELGIUM

Brussels hunkers down amid warning of Paris-style threat

BELGIAN authorities closed down Brussels' subway system and flooded the streets with armed police and soldiers Saturday in response to what they said was a threat of Paris-style attacks.

The decision to raise the threat alert to the highest level in the Belgian capital came as the manhunt continued for a suspect missing since the carnage in neighboring France. It was taken "based on quite precise information about the risk of an attack like the one that happened in Paris," said Belgium's Prime Minister Charles Michel.

The tip authorities received suggested that an attack would involve "several individuals with arms and explosives launch actions, perhaps



Belgian Army soldiers and police patrol an otherwise busy shopping street in Brussels on Saturday

even in several places at the same time," he said.

The U.S. Embassy in Belgium urged Americans in the country "to shelter

in place and remain at home" while the U.S. European Command issued a 72-hour travel restriction for U.S. military per-

sonnel on travel to Brussels — a city of more than 1 million that is home to the headquarters of the European Union, the NATO alliance and offices of many multinational corporations.

On Saturday night, a relative calm descended on the city center, where restaurants and beer bars would usually be teeming with business. On Brussels' central square, the Grand Place, tourists snapped selfies as a green army truck full of soldiers pulled up next to a lit Christmas tree. Some restaurants and bars shuttered their doors, while others re-

mained open, defying advice from the mayor to close for the night.

Several of the Paris attackers had lived in Brussels, including suspected mastermind Abdelhamid Abaaoud, who was killed in a standoff with French police on Wednesday.

Salah Abdeslam, another suspected attacker, is at large and is known to have crossed into Belgium the morning after the Nov. 13 attacks. A Paris police official and the Paris prosecutor's office said Saturday they had no firm information on Abdeslam's whereabouts, including whether he was in the Brussels area.

In the Turkish coastal city of Antalya, authorities detained a 26-year-old Belgian citizen, suspected of being connected to Islamic extremist and possibly to the Paris attacks — raising hopes of a possible new break in the investigation.

The private Dogan news agency identified him as Ahmet Dahmani and said he is suspected of having explored areas in Paris that were targeted in the attacks. A senior Turkish government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to Turkish government rules, said he was believed to have been in contact with the Paris attackers. Dahmani had arrived in Turkey Nov. 14 from Amsterdam, and was preparing to cross into Syria together with two other suspected Islamic State militants, the official said. **AP**



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do Coronel Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante
Lacerda, Macau
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Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50
Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65
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TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)
VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement
(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

Offbeat

4 BRITS, 2 AUSTRALIANS DIE IN
NEW ZEALAND CHOPPER CRASH

Four tourists from Britain and two from Australia are among seven people who died when a helicopter crashed on a scenic New Zealand glacier, police said.

Rescuers yesterday were working to recover the bodies from Fox Glacier, where the wreckage remained wedged in a crevasse. Police said in a statement the rugged terrain was making the operation "extremely challenging."

Police named the victims as Britons Nigel Charlton, 66, and Cynthia Charlton, 70, of Hampshire, and Katharine Walker, 51, and Andrew Virco, 50, of Cambridge. Australians Leang Sovannmony, 27, and Josephine Gibson, 29, of South Australia, also died. The New Zealand pilot was identified as Mitchell Gameron, 28, of Queenstown.

Fox Glacier is a popular tourist destination on New Zealand's South Island.

Grey District Mayor Tony Kokshoorn said the weather was "not ideal for helicopter flying," with intermittent rain showers and low clouds.

Kokshoorn said that the region had been experiencing a bumper start to the Southern Hemisphere tourist season, but that bad weather had been putting pressure on some tourist operators.

"It can be a fine line," he said. "Operators are doing their best to get people up there, but obviously something went badly wrong."

He said that the glaciers in recent years have been retreating and that the only way to view them up close is by helicopter. He said operators offer different packages, and a basic trip typically involves a 10-minute flight to the top of the glacier, where tourists can walk around for about a half-hour before returning.

Peter Northcote, a spokesman for the Transport Accident Investigation Commission, said the helicopter was ferrying tourists at the time of the crash. He said a team of investigators was planning to survey the scene over the coming days.

Nine people died in 2010 when a skydiving plane crashed near the same glacier.

New Zealand relies on tourism as a major source of revenue, but has been criticized by some people as having safety standards that are too lax. The parents of four tourists who died in the 2010 crash near Fox Glacier later wrote to New Zealand Prime Minister John Key to urge him to improve safety measures in the industry.

Kokshoorn, the mayor, said he hopes authorities complete a thorough investigation into the latest crash to ensure that the industry is safe and that tourists can have confidence that operators will make the right call in bad conditions. AP

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Publicity
14:55	Debate on Administration and Justice Policy Report for 2016 (Live)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

19 Nov - 25 Nov



THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.15, 4.45, 9.45 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Francis Lawrence
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 137min

RETURN OF THE CUCKOO

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Patrick Kong
Starring: Chi Lam Cheung, Chairmaine Sheh
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 86min



LOST IN HONG KONG

ROOM 3
7.30 pm
Director: Zheng Xu
Starring: Zheng Xu, Wei Zhao, Bei-Er Bao, Juan Du
Language: Mandarin/Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 114min

OUR TIMES

ROOM 3
7.00 pm
Director: Ding Sheng
Starring: Andy Lau, Liu Ye, Wu Ruofu, Wang Qianyuan
Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)
Duration: 134min

MACAU TOWER

05 Nov - 25 Nov

007 - SPECTRE
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Sam Mendes
Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 148min

this day in history

1945 US FLAG RAISED OVER
IWO JIMA

US troops have raised the Stars and Stripes over Iwo Jima four days after landing on the Japanese-held volcanic island. The 28th Regiment of the 5th Marine Division took Mount Suribachi at 1030 local time. The extinct volcano offers a strategic vantage point for the ongoing battle for control of the island.

Lying in the north-west Pacific Ocean 1,045 kms from Tokyo, Iwo Jima would serve as a useful base for long-range fighters to cover B-29 Superfortresses in a bombing campaign against the Japan's capital.

Although the Stars and Stripes are flying over the island the battle is far from over and the Japanese are reported to be defending every inch of the island using elaborate underground defenses.

The battle for Iwo Jima has been described as the toughest fight in US Marine history by the commander of the Marines in the Pacific, Lt-General M "Howling Mad" Smith.

On 19 February, after four days of naval and air bombardment had pounded the beaches and weakened Japanese defenses, the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed on the south side of the island under the overall command of Vice-Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner.

After a day of little resistance, the enemy fought back in earnest. Hidden in fortified caves and pill-boxes linked by a series of tunnels they relentlessly attacked the Americans with artillery fire, grenades and other explosives as well as from the air.

The last 24 hours have seen the fiercest fighting yet with every step of the way up the mountain defended by the Japanese. But by 1035 local time the Marines had reached the summit of Mt Suribachi.

Reporting from the US base in Guam, Admiral Chester W Nimitz said so far the battle had cost 5,372 casualties, including 644 dead, and that US carrier-based aircraft flying over the Bonin Islands north of Iwo Jima had destroyed three enemy planes.

Reuters news agency also reports Marines have finally reached the Japanese fighter-plane base in the center of the island, which lies just 640m from the bomber airfield taken by the Americans two days ago.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Japanese army and naval troops under Lt-General Kuribayashi Tadamichi fought to the death but the US Marines finally secured the whole island on 26 March in one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Out of the 74,000 Marines that landed more than a third were killed or wounded.

The US then used the island to launch bombing raids on Japan.

The photograph of the US Marines raising the flag over Mount Suribachi was taken by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal and is one of the most famous images of the war. It won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945.

A memorial based on the photo stands at Arlington Cemetery, Virginia.

Iwo Jima was returned to Japan in 1968.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You may wonder what you did to deserve the mess you're in, but it has nothing to do with karma. In fact, the real problem has nothing whatsoever to do with you. That's both comforting and a bit too humbling to swallow.

Taurus April 20-May 20 If investment strategies geared toward the masses really worked, then the masses would be rich. That's obviously not the case. Use some common sense when you're on the receiving end of a sales pitch.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You may feel like you're swimming through murky water, shapes are too blurry to make out. Watch out for the crocodiles and sharks, Gemini. On the other hand, once you get creative, things will come into focus.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Daydreaming is a perfectly good way to spend the day. In fact, you may just conjure up your next big investment strategy. Once you see it in your mind's eye, you'll wonder what took you so long.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're the one who's calm, cool and collected for a change, even though your reputation is the opposite. When those around you react emotionally, they'll expect you to fly off the handle, too. You'll have to disappoint them.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Everything is ultimately about relationships. That's more than another way of saying it's not what you know, it's who you know. Work on charming your way back into the universe's good graces.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Don't get upset. It really doesn't matter if things progress or stay at a stand still, because your new moneymaker has yet to appear. In the meantime, stick with current projects, just to keep up appearances.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Just like any romance, your relationship with money has its ups and downs. You're in for a long rough patch, but that doesn't mean you should give up altogether. Make finding things to love into an art form.

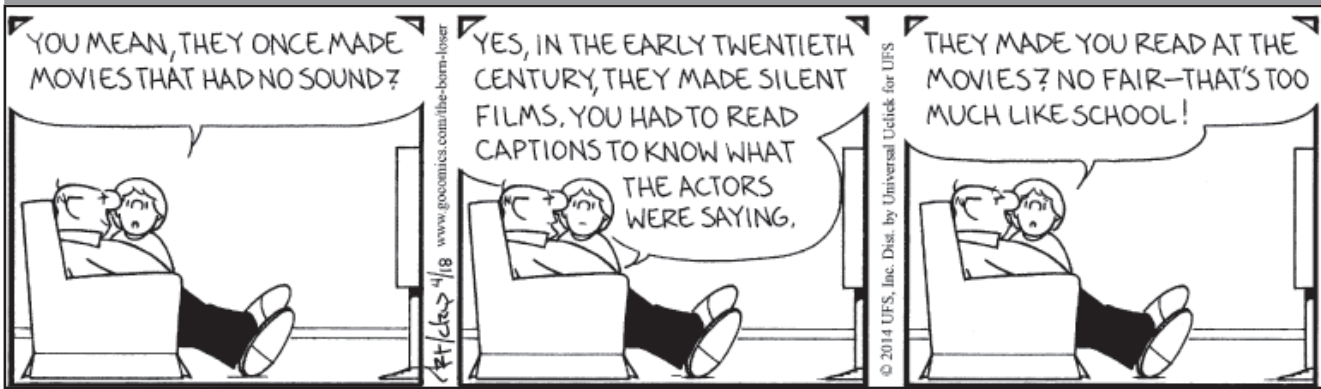
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You may have trouble getting your feet off the ground, but how much money you raise has nothing to do with how high you can jump. In fact, the more grounded you are, the better off you and your funds will be.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Making headway is starting to seem impossible. What's lacking is a bit of creativity on your part, especially if the project in question is convincing someone else to open their wallet. Look at things in a fresh way.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You've pushed your credit card beyond the limit. Or to be more accurate about it, the bank has. Read the fine print before you assume you can afford to spend today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 All of your high energy is being directed outward. Even making money is ultimately not about you at the end of the day. Make sure you do something of real value for yourself.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Costless prescription?; 8- Maintains; 15- Paper used to absorb ink; 16- Strategic withdrawal; 17- Ancestry; 18- Extraordinary occurrence; 19- Opposite of NNW; 20- Contented sighs; 22- Eastern; 23- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 25- Watched intently; 26- Escapade; 29- Fenced areas; 31- AOL, e.g.; 34- Learn about; 36- Droop; 37- Converse competitor; 38- Books of maps; 40- Triple; 42- Foul mood; 43- Ball girl; 45- Parlor piece; 46- Adult male; 47- Gold coin; 49- Goodnight girl of song; 50- Abstruse; 52- Machine for lifting heavy loads; 54- Gillette razors; 56- Related by blood; 57- CIO's partner; 60- Garment worn by dancers; 62- Metal marble; 65- Out-of-date; 66- Resembling a bull; 67- Unity; 68- Most strange;

DOWN: 1- OPEC units; 2- New Haven students; 3- Completed; 4- Hwy.; 5- Greek letter; 6- George of "Just Shoot Me"; 7- Agreement; 8- Weapons; 9- Cinque follower; 10- Wanders away; 11- Wipe out; 12- Relapse; 13- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 14- Type of gun; 21- Lukas of "Witness"; 23- Clear of vermin; 24- Cupid's counterpart; 25- Peripheries; 26- Abyss; 27- MetLife competitor; 28- Same backward as forward; 30- Deserter; 32- Seductively beautiful woman; 33- Check recipient; 35- Out of patience; 37- Cave; 39- Brief instant; 41- Harness part; 44- Returned; 47- Marquis ___; 48- Sibellus's "Valse ___"; 51- Stationary brand; 53- Architectural piers; 54- Tough-guy actor Ray; 55- Adolescent; 56- Tacks on; 57- That's ___; 58- Fish appendages; 59- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 61- Hi-___ monitor; 63- Where it's at; 64- "___ tu" (Verdi aria)

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters: BETS, SERTA, OLEO, OAHU, AMAIN, VOID, WRONG, DOING, ERNO, ELUDE, TERRIER, ALE, TERIS, TWEE, TOAD, METAL, ARR, AULD, EMERGE, CONFIDE, OVEREAT, OTIOSE, NEED, APO, SHEOL, EARN, STEN, KNESS, EY, ORLON, NARC, YEENY, WEENY, ANNA, NEMEA, LIES, RASP, AMIGO, YARE.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68 and a vertical credit line: Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

BARCELONA HUMILIATE REAL MADRID IN SPANISH LEAGUE

In Barca's big win, Iniesta wins over Madrid smarting fans

ANDRES Iniesta has won it all with Barcelona, even the applause of its fiercest rival's fans. When Iniesta was substituted following his masterful performance yesterday [Macau time], many of Real Madrid's stung fans set aside team allegiance by standing up and clapping as he strolled to the dugout.

Guiding Barcelona to a 4-0 win at Madrid's ground is a feat in itself, but Iniesta entered the annals of one of football's most heated rivalries thanks to the respectful ovation at the Santiago Bernabeu.

It was the rarest of honors reserved for very few, and Iniesta stayed true to his reserved demeanor when showing his thanks for the gesture.

"I appreciate what the fans did, nothing more," Iniesta said.

Iniesta remembers the last time Madrid's supporters were forced to give up hope of victory and admit defeat by paying homage to a superior rival.

Ten years ago, a young Iniesta came on as a substitute before Madrid's fans took to their feet to applaud Barcelona's Ronaldinho after the Brazilian star scored the second of two stunning goals in a 3-0 win.

AP PHOTO



Barcelona's Luis Suarez celebrates

"The spectators liked what they saw despite the fact that their team was suffering," Iniesta said when asked about Ronaldinho's performance last week.

On Saturday, it was Iniesta's turn to win over Madrid's smarting supporters when he strolled toward the bench in the 77th minute.

Iniesta had long since secured his place as one of Barcelona's most popular players after hel-

ping the Catalan club win four Champions League titles and seven Spanish league crowns since his debut at age 18.

He is also one of the most beloved players in the football-crazed country for his leading role with the national team. He received applause from opposing fans across Spain for his winning goal in 2010 World Cup final against the Netherlands.

Now he has left his mark on

the match that matters most to Barcelona's most fervent fans: the "clasico."

"Iniesta forms part of humanity's heritage, not just for Barcelona's fans," said Barcelona coach Luis Enrique. "I understand the applause. He is a one-of-a-kind player. He has magic, he has eyes in the back of his head."

Iniesta started the match by putting on the captain's armband for the first time against

Madrid, and the 31-year-old midfielder saved his best showing for his 32nd "clasico."

Always in control, always at ease, Iniesta orchestrated Barcelona's win by setting up Neymar to add to Luis Suarez's opening goal for a 2-0 lead in the 39th that left Madrid rattled.

He then ended a scoring drought in the league that stretched back to March 2014, when Barcelona won 4-3 at Madrid, by adding the third goal by blasting a powerful strike beyond goalkeeper Kelyor Navas after he was deftly assisted by Neymar in the 53rd.

The applause that rained down when he came off four minutes after Suarez had completed the demolition were a prelude for the abuse the angry home fans displayed for coach Rafa Benitez and club president Florentino Perez after the final whistle.

Perez surely also recalls when Madrid praised Ronaldinho in 2005. Three months later he resigned with his team in free-fall. He returned to the presidency in 2009.

With Iniesta as the team's veteran leader in place of the departed Xavi Hernandez, Barcelona has taken a big step to retaining its Spanish league title by building a six-point advantage over Madrid.

"There is a long way to go, but we are leaving Madrid very satisfied," Iniesta said. **AP**

There is a long way to go, but we are leaving Madrid very satisfied.

INIESTA

BASEBALL

Park leads South Korea to 8-0 win over US in Premier12 final

Jim Armstrong, Tokyo

BYUNG Ho Park bolstered his MLB credentials with a three-run homer in the fifth inning as South Korea routed the United States 8-0 Saturday to win the inaugural Premier12 baseball tournament.

Hyun Soo Kim added to a 2-0 lead with a bases-loaded double to make it 4-0 and Park's towering blast to the left field stands off U.S. reliever Brooks Pounders capped a five-run fifth.

"You can tell (Park) is a dangerous hitter," Team

USA manager Willie Randolph said. "We tried to execute a pitch and we couldn't and he hurt us with a three-run homer. He's a fine player."

The Minnesota Twins have won the bidding for negotiating rights to Park. The 29-year-old first baseman hit a total of 105 home runs over the past two seasons in the Korea Baseball Organization.

The Twins have until Dec. 8 to sign Park, who had a .343 batting average and 146 RBIs this season for Nexen Heroes.

Team USA consisted of players not on 40-man

MLB rosters but three of them — Brett Eibner, Jake Barret and J.B. Wendelken — were called up prior to the final, making them unavailable.

"You never want to lose your third hitter, a closer and a set-up guy," Randolph said. "But no excuses. Today's game was just indicative that they played a better game."

South Korean starter Kwang Hyun Kim earned the win after striking out five and holding the U.S. team to four hits over five innings.

"We knew this would be a difficult game because

they have a good team," South Korea manager Kim In Sik said. "But our players really stepped up today and got the job done."

In the third-place game, Sho Nakata and Nobuhiro Matsuda hit two-run homers in the second inning as Japan beat Mexico 11-1 to win the bronze medal.

The two homers were part of a seven-run outburst that gave Japan an early 8-0 lead. Shogo Akiyama hit another two-run homer in the seventh inning and the game ended under the 10-run mercy rule.

AP PHOTO



South Korea's Park Byung-ho celebrates at the bench after hitting a three-run home run against Team USA

Juan Perez accounted for Mexico's only run with a solo homer in the sixth inning off Japan pitcher Tomoyuki Sugano.

The quadrennial tournament, which features the top 12-ranked nations, is organized by the World Baseball Softball Confe-

deration. The WBSC was using the tournament to showcase baseball's popularity in the region as the sport bids to be re-instated at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The announced attendance at Tokyo Dome was 40,311. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Mark Gilbert

MANDATORY PARENTAL LEAVE CAN PARE GENDER GAP

The World Economic Forum (best known for organizing the annual Davos shindig) just published its annual Gender Gap report. It makes for thoroughly depressing reading. On current trends, it will take 118 years before women's salaries equal those of men; women currently earn what men took home a decade ago.

So here's a modest proposal to accelerate progress. Talk to any executive at any large organization about gender equality and at some point they'll give the same reason/make the same excuse (take your pick) for the disparities between how men and women are treated in the workplace: Pregnancy. So maybe it's time to impose mandatory male parental leave to de-stigmatize pregnancy breaks to help crack the glass ceiling.

The WEF study measures national gender gaps on economic criteria (workforce participation, remuneration and opportunity), political empowerment (ratio of men to women in senior government positions), education (literacy rates and schooling levels), and health and survival (life expectancy and sex ratios at birth). It's designed to be independent of how developed a country is.

The top five countries by ranking are Iceland (No. 1 for a seventh consecutive year), Norway, Finland, Sweden and Ireland. The U.S. dropped 8 places to 28th, as the percentage of women holding government ministerial positions declined to 26 percent from 32 percent; Yemen is the least equal country of the 145 nations in the report. As this chart shows, even the most progressive regions still have a lot of work to do to close the gap between women and men:

Greater equality isn't just about fairness; as the report says, enlightened self-interest suggests countries should want their women to be participating more fully in society:

"The most important determinant of a country's competitiveness is its human talent - the skills and productivity of its workforce. Similarly, an organization's performance is determined by the human capital that it possesses and its ability to use this resource efficiently. Ensuring the healthy development and appropriate use of half of the world's available talent pool thus has a vast bearing on how competitive a country may become or how efficient a company may be. There is clearly also a values-based case for gender equality: women are one-half of the world's population and deserve equal access to health, education, economic participation and earning potential, and political decision-making power. Gender equality is thus fundamental to whether and how societies thrive."

Inequality hurts growth. Take Japan, for example, where Prime Minister Shinzo Abe professes to have adopted the "womenomics" doctrine coined by Goldman Sachs economist Kathy Matsui as long ago as 1999. In April 2014, Japan's labor ministry offered an inducement worth 300,000 yen (USD2,400) to small and medium sized companies that promoted women. As of Sept. 30, not a single payment had been applied for.

THE BUZZ RECORD NUMBER OF STRANDED SEAL PUPS

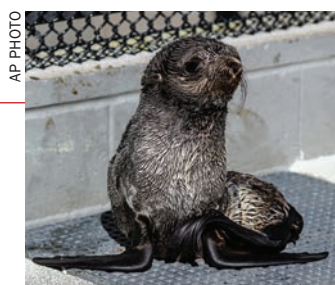
Marine mammal experts say another species of marine wildlife has begun turning up, emaciated and weak, in record numbers on the California coast in what has been a series of alarming signs of oceanic distress.

Unhealthy northern fur seal pups have been found stranded on beaches in record numbers, newly weaned and weighing li-

ttle more than the typical birth weight for the species, experts at the Marine Mammal Center near Sausalito said.

"They're adorable, but on the other hand they're these little bags of skin and bones," said Jeff Boehm, the center's executive director.

As of Friday, the Marine Mammal Center near Sausalito had taken in 85 northern fur



seals, which live out in the Pacific Ocean's waters and islands and would only rarely be found on shore, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat reported Saturday.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE Russia's Energy Ministry says nearly 2 million people on the Crimean Peninsula are without electricity after two transmission towers in Ukraine were damaged by explosions. Crimea was annexed by Russia last year but depends on Ukraine for most of its electricity supplies. The two transmission towers in Kherson, Ukraine, were first damaged on Friday. Ukrainian activists, including Crimean Tatars, tried to block repair works on Saturday, but retreated after clashes with police.

ARGENTINA From rising crime to soaring prices, Argentines had a lot on their minds during yesterday's runoff election that is seen as a referendum on the left-leaning policies of polarizing President Cristina Fernandez. Opposition leader Mauricio Macri, who campaigned on promises to big large changes to Argentina's economy, went in as the front-runner after his unexpectedly strong showing in the Oct. 25 first round that forced a runoff against Daniel Scioli, the president's chosen successor.



FRANCE Regional authorities say some 10,000 people have marched in the southwestern French city of Toulouse in a rally "for civil rights and peace." The largely silent event Saturday was held to commemorate the victims of last week's attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. Participants held banners condemning the "barbarism" of the attacks and warning against holding all Muslims responsible for the actions of a handful of extremists.

VATICAN CITY This week, Pope Francis visits a region whose growing numbers of Catholics are seen as a bulwark for a church seeking to broaden its appeal in the face of challenges from secularism, competing Christian faiths and violent extremism. The latter threat, which struck Paris on Nov. 13 with attacks claimed by the Islamic State group and then Mali on Friday, will be a key theme of the pope's Nov. 25-30 trip to Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic — and a potential security risk for the pope himself.

'The Assassin' wins 5 Golden Horse awards in Taiwan



Taiwanese actress Karena Lam holds her award for Best Leading Actress

THE film "The Assassin" by the veteran Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-hsien has grabbed five awards, including the best director and best feature film, at the Golden Horse Awards.

The Golden Horse awards

are considered the equivalents of the Oscars for Chinese-language movies.

The awards ceremony Saturday evening crowned the mainland Chinese film director, Feng Xiaogang, as the best actor for his performance as an old

gangster who rallied his old-time friends to rescue his son in the film "Mr. Six."

The best actress title went to a lesser-known Karena Lam from "Zinnia Flower." Lam edged out Shu Qi, a veteran actress and two-time Golden Horse winner who starred in "The Assassin."

"The Assassin" is a martial art film, featuring a trained female killer who is faced with an impossible choice between love and duty. It also won the best cinematography, best makeup and costume design and best sound effects.

The best new director went to Bi Gan, a 26-year-old independent filmmaker, for his movie "Kaili Blues," a dreamlike story of a doctor in a rural town in China and his journey along the Kaili River where he finds his present, past and future all woven together.

Jiang Zhengke, a well-known mainland Chinese director, won the best original screenplay for his film "Mountains May Depart." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Liu Dawei



Guangzhou Evergrande players celebrate during the awards ceremony of the AFC Champions League final match between Guangzhou Evergrande and Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates in Guangzhou, Nov. 21. Guangzhou Evergrande won the second leg of the final by 1-0 and claimed the title.