



FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEM TO LAUNCH IN 2016

Preparations for a border facial recognition system are underway to commence next year

P2 POLICY ADDRESS



PAULO CHAN NEW GAMING REGULATOR HEAD

P3



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GAMING

Revenue falls 32pct amid VIP market pressure

P3

AP PHOTO



WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA The addition of China's yuan to the select basket of currencies used as a yardstick by the International Monetary Fund is a sign that the yuan may one day become as recognizable as the dollar or euro. Adding the yuan alongside the dollar, euro, pound and yen reflects the rising importance of the world's second-largest economy and is an endorsement of gradual Chinese moves toward making the currency freely traded.



CHINA-ZIMBABWE

Thousands of people lined Harare's roads and welcomed Chinese president Xi Jinping, whose visit has raised hopes that China will help stabilize Zimbabwe's faltering economy. *More on p11*

AFGHANISTAN An Afghan police official says an explosion has struck a group of children who were playing on the outskirts of a provincial capital in the country's north, killing three boys and wounding 12 children, four of them critically.

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REPORT

Rudder problem, pilot actions led to 2014 Indonesia AirAsia crash

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2016 POLICY ADDRESS

Merging of juvenile detention center and Macau Prison raises questions

Renato Marques

THE second day of debate regarding the policy address for the Security sector continued yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) on the topic of the merger of the institute for the protection of minors (IM) and the Macau Prison (EPM), with several lawmakers voicing concerns and questions to the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak. Currently the EPM works under Wong's supervision while IM's juvenile detention center is part of the Secretary for Administration and Justice portfolio.

Although the topic had already been raised on the first day of the debate and answered by Mr Wong, many legislators thought it was an important matter needing further clarification. Among those was Leonel Alves, who not only expressed concerns, but also reaffirmed hopes that "in practical terms the borders of these two services will be kept."



The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak

Mr Alves pointed out that this is a serious matter for all society thus raising so many questions from lawmakers. He suggested not only that the institutions should remain separate in every possible way but also that the AL should find a way to guarantee that they will remain independent and separate for the future. "Today we have the guarantee that these two institutions will maintain their difference. I think that is not enough and we should introduce mechanisms that guarantee in the future these institutions will be kept with a wider border between them."

The lawmaker further added that he hopes these two neighboring facilities could also be kept apart, creating a bigger physical separation. "I hope that what nowadays are neighbors could have also a physical separation in order to avoid risks of promiscuity," he concluded, addressing the fact that currently the juvenile detention

PROPOSAL TO MOVE PRISON TO THE MAINLAND

AN UNUSUAL proposal regarding the management of prison facilities came from Kou Hoi In. The lawmaker suggested the government "rent one of the deserted outlying islands" off the coast of Macau (in mainland Chinese territory) to be used exclusively for that purpose.

center and the prison work next to one another.

Another lawmaker, Vong Hin Fai, also referring to the same topic, mentioned that he understood the explanations of the secretary and acknowledged that IM will continue to work autonomously even after its integration. But he expressed his hopes that IM-related matters would be "treated with proper discretion so [as to] avoid a future stigmatization of the youngsters."

On the first day of the debate Ng Kuok Cheong already expressed concerns that the merger would only contribute to "aggravate the stigmatization of the minors in the institution", and Au Kam Sam even suggested that IM "should be under the auspices of the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) instead."

Hooded detainee lineups to continue

LEONEL Alves again raised the issue of the display of hooded detainees at police press conferences. In his opinion the practice puts "human dignity" in cause and "inevitably, produces negative effects on the person."

The lawmaker, who is also chairman of

the Discipline Inspection Commission of the Macau Security Forces, claims that the practice does not favor human rights.

On the other hand, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, justified that it has an important "deterrent effect" contributing to safety and public order.

Mr Alves also referred to the efforts of the police forces to relate to the community and especially to the media, stating that the quality of the press conferences has clearly improved but stressing that in some particular cases, like the ones of a sexual nature, the spokesperson should refrain from entering into too much detail and unnecessary description that is shocking to society.

New measures to ease border congestion

QUESTIONED by lawmakers Sio Chi Wai and Kou Hoi In regarding problems related to delays and complications with border crossings, the Secretary delegated the answers to the Director of the Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau, Pun Su Peng. He informed the lawmakers that a facial recognition system is "being prepared" and "should be en-



tering into operation in the coming year."

"We are working on this for the tourists. We will try to implement this next year in all border points," said the director, stating also that this new system is faster and safer than the fingerprint-based one that is prone to "many failures". He further expressed hopes that the new facial recognition sys-

tem will "improve a lot on this matter."

Mr Wong also added that his secretariat has been constantly working to improve congestion, and in the past year the Public Police Security Force (PSP) installed special channels for students during "peak hours" while extending the number of gates from 90 to 152.

Another related topic raised was the possibility

of a single document and identity inspection instead of the current double procedure. The secretary stated that the PSP is working together with the mainland authorities on this matter and that an agreement has already been reached with the implementation of this method expected "soon".

The secretary also noted that reciprocal negotiations to expand the current electronic passage system for citizens of Singapore, Thailand and Australia are also underway. **RM**

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Daniela Wei

GAMING

Casino revenue falls 32pct amid ongoing pressure on VIP market

MACAU'S casino revenue fell for the 18th straight month in November, as China's moves to curb illicit money flows from the mainland deterred the high-stakes players who rely on junket promoters for betting loans.

Gross gaming revenue fell 32.3 percent to MOP16.4 billion (USD2.1 billion), according to data released by Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. That compared with the median estimate of a 31.5 percent decline from six analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. Gaming revenue in the world's largest center of gambling has fallen 35.3 percent so far this year.

The worse-than-expected decline "shows that the ongoing pressure on the high roller business hasn't been offset by mass market stabilization," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Tim Craighead. If mass-market gambling doesn't progressively improve from now until the peak Lunar New Year holiday period in February, "it will be a bad time" for the industry, he said.

Macau's casino industry has been on a downward spiral since mid-2014, as China's slowing economy and its campaign against corruption scared off Chinese VIP players and hurt mass-market gambling. These high-stakes punters, typically measured via their



favorite card game baccarat, have led the decline since the downturn started.

Macau, which relies on gamblers for about two-thirds of economic output, saw its economy shrink 24.2 percent in the three months through September. The region's GDP is expected to fall more than 20 percent this year.

Casino shares rose in Hong Kong trading led by Sands China Ltd., which gained as much as 5 percent to HKD27.50, the highest since Nov. 18. Galaxy En-

tertainment Group Ltd. rose as much as 4.4 percent and Wynn Macau Ltd. advanced 2.6 percent. The Hang Seng Index was up 1.8 percent as of 3:49 p.m.

China's heightened oversight on its underground banking system "will likely continue generating headwinds for Macau's VIP business," Sanford C. Bernstein analyst Vitaly Umansky wrote in a note on Nov 24. This could cause consolidation in the junket industry to speed up further, creating volatility in VIP gaming, accor-

ding to the note.

Macau's government last year tightened scrutiny of junkets, amid concerns some illegal funds are being taken out of the mainland into the territory through these gambling promoters. China said in November it cracked the nation's biggest "underground bank," which handled 410 billion yuan (\$64 billion) of illegal foreign-exchange transactions, as the authorities try to rein in capital outflows that have hit records this year.

The campaign to curb illicit outflows has stemmed liquidity

among Macau's gambling agents "as junkets generally rely on the underground banking system to sidestep China's capital control rules and to transfer large sums of money across the border," according to Umansky.

Any recovery in Macau's gambling industry may also be damped by delays in the city's infrastructure building efforts, such as the completion of a bridge linking Hong Kong with Macau, and the city of Zhuhai, part of which has been postponed by a year to end-2017.

The bridge's delayed completion "ties to our thesis of expecting a moderate mass gaming improvement in 2016," with any expected recovery further weighed down by China's continued slowdown and depreciating yuan, said Richard Huang, an analyst at Nomura Holdings Inc.

China unexpectedly devalued the yuan in August as it sought to boost economic growth. The weakened currency hurts Macau as it means converting yuan to the greenback-pegged Hong Kong dollar, the main currency used in the city's casinos, will cost gamblers more. **Bloomberg**

The ongoing pressure on the high roller business hasn't been offset by mass market stabilization.

TIM CRAIGHEAD

Paulo Chan vows to put gaming industry in order

Aries Un

FORMER Assistant Public Prosecutor-General Paulo Martins Chan was officially sworn in yesterday as the director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), bracing himself for a new chapter of his career expected to be fraught with challenges.

The gaming regulator's new head, appointed by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, told media after the induction ceremony that he would like to rise to the challenge in what he described as a "complex domain," after 17 years of service in the Public Prosecutions Office.

Mr Chan will take on the role of overseeing the region's dominant industry, currently beset by economic woes that have stretched almost a year and a half, as well as the unsettled heist at the Dore Group in September.

"If we could lay down the rules of the game, everyone would know what to follow,"



Paulo Chan

he expressed. "If something went wrong, penalties would follow. We also resort to the established set of regulations to settle conflicts."

Chan pledged to not only focus on the gaming industry, but also to place the DICJ in a position to respond to the challenges that have occurred in the new economic at-

mosphere.

Lionel Leong revealed in his legislative debate last week that it was necessary to expand the gaming watchdog's audit and legal manpower. Yesterday, Paulo Chan said he was confident that he would be allocated sufficient resources to meet the demand.

"It has been in the back of my mind since I learnt of the news. I wish to use as many resources as possible," he stated. Asked if he had already developed contacts with gaming operators prior to taking office, Mr Chan told media that he has not and would not use such external connections.

Chan's trilingual proficiency and exhaustive judiciary background have allowed him to succeed Manuel Joaquim das Neves to take the reins at the gaming regulator. He joined the public service in 1995 as an officer at a translation center, making a foray into prosecution three years later.

"I believe the bureau under Chan's management will continue optimizing gaming laws and regulation and related guidelines as well as better its department's functions," said the Secretary for Economy and Finance, who officiated at the inaugural ceremony.

Gov't cautious over coupon scheme to spur spending

Aries Un

NOVEMBER'S gaming earnings have been the lowest of the year so far, which came as little surprise to the authorities. The government is currently exploring the viability of distributing coupons to citizens to encourage spending and stimulate the local economy.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, told media on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony for the gaming regulator's new head that the gross gaming revenue of around MOP16.4 billion was forecast to steeply decline, as suggested by the previous figures.

The continued economic downturn will take a toll on the region's gross domestic product (GDP) this year by at least 20 percent, Leong also predicted.

Asked about the details of the possible coupon policy hinted at by the Chief Executive Chui Sai On during the policy address presentation,

Leong said that it will be one of the crucial measures taken to spur spending, yet he noted that "citizen's spending still remains [high] as the employment environment is fine at the moment."

However, the policy will still take some time to formulate as it requires "cautious study" to decide the initiative's coverage, targeted stores, and ways of distribution, Leong noted.

"Without the coupons, citizens could still collectively push for spending as long as they are capable of it," said Leong.

Furthermore, the statistics bureau has updated the unemployment rate for the third quarter to 1.9 percent. Leong hopes this rate will not exceed 2 percent next year.

To ensure this, he said the authorities would continue to keep updated on the employment climate and liaise with gaming operators over initiatives to retain manpower.

ARTS

Sculpture exhibition celebrates local traditions

SCULPTOR and University of Macau (UM) professor, Zhang Zexun, has put together a sculpture exhibition at the Mandarin's House entitled "Sculpting the History of Macau."

The exhibit, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, features works by Zhang Zexun, in the style of her family clay figure collection – artistic representations of figures inspired by legends, theater, fiction and daily life.

"Zhang's Clay Figures" were first created by Zhang Mingshan in the mid-19th century, during the Qing Dynasty. The clay figures are created through a process of moulding and painting, and their characteristics are portrayed through the use of colour. The works symbolize the mix of contemporary culture with Chinese cultural and artistic traditions.

The essence of this art has been inherited and carried forward through successive



generations.

Zhang Zexun, the fifth-generation descendant, is showcasing her work at the Mandarin's House in an exhibition that comprises 19 sculpture works themed on historical figures. Such figures include Zheng Guanying, Luis de Camões, Lin Zexu, Matteo Ricci and George Chinnery's "The Fisherwoman."

Zhang Zexun has been a professor at the University of Macau since 2004, and has

previously been honoured with two solo exhibitions in 2007 and 2009. In addition, her sculpture works and Chinese paintings have been selected for a number of art exhibits in China and have also received awards.

The "Sculpting the History of Macau" exhibition was inaugurated at the Mandarin's House on Friday. It is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except on Wednesdays. Admission is free.

Trade law debated in int'l conference

LEGAL experts and scholars from around the world congregated at the University of Macau (UM) on Monday to discuss the harmonization of trade law as part of the university's second joint conference with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

The conference held several discussions on international trade laws and how the harmonization of these laws could be conducive to the future development of the private sector.

Legal experts were present from a diverse range of countries, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, Singapore, Mozambique and India, as well as from mainland China, Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In addition, a number of scholars in attendance represented universities such as the University of Western Australia, the University of Melbourne, and the University of Hong Kong.

Representatives from the UNCITRAL's Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, the Macau SAR government, the Macau Lawyers' Association and UM



spoke at the conference.

Professor Haydn Chen, vice-rector for student affairs at UM, said that the teaching and research functions of academics were inseparable at universities, and, as such, UM has aimed for cooperative research with other international research institutions.

The conference also saw the launch of a book entitled "Trade Development through Harmonization of Commercial Law," co-authored by UM's Professor Ramaswamy and Joao Ribeiro, the head of UNCITRAL's Asia-Pacific centre.

Ribeiro delivered a keynote speech in which he discussed the importance of the recently adopted 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UM says that the conference's proceedings will be published at a later date.

AD

Research Assistant position within the Department of Psychology at the University of Macau

Applications are being sought for a full-time Research Assistant position in the Department of Psychology in the University of Macau (www.umac.mo), to begin immediately. The position will consist of multiple duties related to the initiation and maintenance of research projects focused on, but not limited to, Autism Spectrum Disorder. Duties will include translation, participant recruitment, data entry, administration of interviews and psychological/neuropsychological assessments, and potentially, data analysis and write-up of results. This research will take place both within the Department of Psychology within the University of Macau, and in the greater community of Macau.

The successful applicant should possess a Master's level of education or higher (although applications from individuals with a Bachelor's degree will be considered), preferably in the fields of psychology, social work, or education, or other fields incorporating knowledge/training related to mental health, development and/or psychopathology. Fluency in Cantonese, and the ability to read/write in traditional Chinese characters is required. Good communication skills are a necessity.

For inquires and applications, please send an email to Dr. Charles Zaroff (charleszaroff@umac.mo). Applicants should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and two letters of reference.



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New requirements for lithium batteries on aircraft

THE Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM) has revised the regulations concerning the transportation of lithium batteries on aircrafts in accordance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO). These changes will be implemented as of January 1, 2016.

The new regulations state that electronic devices with lithium batteries will be permitted both in hand luggage and in checked-in baggage, provided that the batteries do not exceed 2 grams of lithium content or a watt hour rating of 100Wh (for lithium ion). If the lithium content does exceed the imposed limits, passengers will be required to contact the airline beforehand to ensure that such devices will be permitted.

Devices with lithium batteries include laptop computers, mobile phones, tablets, and cameras. Also



included are e-cigarettes, which will be subject to their own set of regulations. A new requirement states that passengers are only allowed to carry electronic cigarettes in their hand baggage, and in a quantity deemed to be for personal use. Spare batteries should also be carried in hand baggage.

According to an AACM statement, the revision follows the best-practices established by the ICAO, and is intended to ensure that aviation security in Macau meets international standards.

MICE records exhibition-led growth

THE Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) industry recorded a strong growth rate in the third quarter of 2015, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service. This comes ahead of the government's intention to step up the development of the industry next year.

The third quarter saw a total of 213 MICE events, up by 32 year-on-year, while the total number of participants and attendees rose by 40.8 percent to 1,009,794 due to an increase in large-scale exhibitions.

Large-scale exhibitions led the growth for the quarter seeing attendees increase by 42.9 percent year-on-year to 993,848. There were a total of 29 exhibitions, up by 3 year-on-year, but only 17 exhibitions reached 20,000 participants or more, accounting for 76.1 percent of the total number of attendees.

The Statistics and Census Service reports that the information collected from the organizers of 28



exhibitions indicates that a total of 1,842 exhibitors were attracted, mostly from Macau (42.5 percent) and Hong Kong (24.4 percent).

Meanwhile meetings and conferences continued to account for the majority of MICE events in the SAR (184) and saw the fastest growth in the quantity of events; up by 29 year-on-year at the end of the third quarter. However the number of participants decreased from the previous year's figures by 27.1 percent to 15,946.

Large meetings and conferences (200 attendees or more) increased by seven percent year-on-year but

the total number of participants declined by 43.5 percent.

For the first three quarters of 2015, a total of 637 MICE events were held, up by 77 year-on-year. The total number of participants and attendees increased by 8.7 percent to a total of 1,663,956, of which meetings and conferences accounted for only 56,313.

Finally exhibitions were down for the first three quarters by two percent year-on-year to 55, but the number of attendees increased by 10.1 percent to 1,607,643, representing more than 90 percent of the total.

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Service Star Award : AURORA (Altira)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 888 GOURMET PLACE (Sands) | 10. KWUN HOI HEEN (Grand Coloane Resort) |
| 2. AURORA (Altira) | 11. L'ARC CHINESE RESTAURANT (L'Arc Hotel Macau) |
| 3. BELCANÇÃO (Four Seasons Hotel Macau, COTAI Strip*) | 12. LAUREL RESTAURANT (Starworld Hotel) |
| 4. BELON (Banyan Tree Macau) | 13. SHIKI HOT POT RESTAURANT (L'Arc Hotel Macau) |
| 5. CAFÉ PANORAMA (Grand Coloane Resort) | 14. SPLASH (Four Seasons Hotel Macau, COTAI Strip*) |
| 6. COFFEE SHOP (L'Arc Hotel Macau) | 15. TEMPTATIONS RESTAURANT (Starworld Hotel) |
| 7. FADO (Royal) | 16. THE TASTING ROOM (City of Dreams) |
| 8. GOLDEN FLOWER (Wynn) | 17. WING LEI (Wynn) |
| 9. KAM LAI HEEN (Grand Lapa) | 18. ZI YAT HEEN (Four Seasons Hotel Macau, COTAI Strip*) |

First Class Restaurant

Service Star Award : TERRAZZA ITALIAN RESTAURANT (Galaxy Hotel)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 456 MODERN SHANGHAI CUISINE (The Venetian Macao) | 20. NAAM THAI (Grand Lapa) |
| 2. 99 NOODLES (Wynn) | 21. NOODLE SHOP - MOONLIGHT FOOD MARKET (Sands) |
| 3. BAMBU (The Venetian Macao) | 22. NORTH (Sands COTAI Central) |
| 4. CIAO (Metropark Hotel) | 23. PORTOFINO (The Venetian Macao) |
| 5. CLUB LKF (Lan Kwai Fong, Macau) | 24. RED 8 (Wynn) |
| 6. DYNASTY 8 (Holiday Inn Macao, COTAI Central) | 25. RED DRAGON NOODLE RESTAURANT (The Venetian Macao) |
| 7. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (City of Dreams) | 26. RESTAURANT FU HUA HEEN (Fu Hua Guangdong Hotel Macau) |
| 8. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (One Central Macau) | 27. RESTAURANTE ÊXITO DO PORTO EXTERIOR (Rua de Cantão) |
| 9. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (Sands COTAI Central) | 28. RICE EMPIRE (Conrad Macao, COTAI Central) |
| 10. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (Venetian Shop) | 29. SAFFRON (Banyan Tree Macau) |
| 11. FESTIVA RESTAURANT (Galaxy Hotel) | 30. SALA (Sheraton Macao Hotel, COTAI Central) |
| 12. GOSTO (Galaxy Hotel) | 31. SENSATIONS (Starworld Hotel) |
| 13. GRAND EMPEROR COURT (Grand Emperor Hotel) | 32. TASTES OF ASIA (Galaxy Hotel) |
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| 17. JIN YUE XUAN RESTAURANT (Galaxy Hotel) | 36. VERGNANO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT (The Venetian Macao) |
| 18. KENG OU SUEN KUNG (Metropark Hotel) | 37. XIN ASIAN HOT POT & SEAFOOD (Sheraton Macao Hotel, COTAI Central) |
| 19. LAUREL (Galaxy Hotel) | 38. YUM CHA (Sheraton Macao Hotel, COTAI Central) |

Second Class Restaurant

Service Star Award : TALAY VIP RESTAURANT (Macau Fisherman's Wharf)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. ALBERGUE 1601 (Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro) | 3. TALAY THAI RESTAURANT (Macau Fisherman's Wharf) |
| 2. RESTAURANTE DO NORDESTE KAM WAN (Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues) | 4. TALAY VIP RESTAURANT (Macau Fisherman's Wharf) |

Food and Beverage Establishments

Service Star Award : COMIDAS TIPICAS JAPONESAS OTARU (Avenida Sir Anders Ljungstedt)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. COMIDA JAPONESA TOEI (The Venetian Macao) | 14. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS MODERN THAI (Rua do Regedor, Taipa) |
| 2. COMIDAS TIPICAS JAPONESAS OTARU (Avenida Sir Anders Ljungstedt) | 15. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS NIKUJ HALL (Rua do Dr. Soares) |
| 3. COZINHA BOA FORTUNA (Macau International Airport) | 16. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS PEREIRA (Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira) |
| 4. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS AZUCAR (Rua de Seng Tou, Taipa) | 17. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS SUN YICK (Rua de Kun lam Tong) |
| 5. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CHARMING GOURMET CAFE (Rua de Xangai) | 18. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS TIN TIN FO WO (Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Taipa) |
| 6. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS COMBO (Rua dos Mercadores) | 19. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS TING MAT MAT (Rua da Tranquilidade) |
| 7. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CRYSTAL PALACE SEAFOOD HOT POT (Rua do Regedor, Taipa) | 20. PARAÍSO DE COMIDAS (Macau International Airport) |
| 8. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS DE FONDUE DE MARISCOS EPICURE (Rua da Ribeira do Patane) | 21. PONTE 16 TAK HENG (MACAU) FONDUE DE MARISCO (Rua do Padre António Roliz) |
| 9. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS FRUITARIAN (Rua de Coimbra, Taipa) | 22. PONTE 16 TAK HENG (MACAU) FONDUE DE MARISCO (Rua de Pequim, Edf. I Chan Kok) |
| 10. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS FRUITARIAN (Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira) | 23. PONTE 16 TAK HENG (MACAU) FONDUE MARISCO (Rua de Pequim, Central Comercial Kuong Fat) |
| 11. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS MEET & SWEET CAFÉ (Rua de Pedro Coutinho) | 24. STARBUCKS COFFEE (Rua dos Clérigos, Taipa) |
| 12. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS MENG MUM HOI SIN FO VO (Rua Cidade de Sintra) | |
| 13. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS MENG MUM HOI SIN FÓ VÓ (Rua de Nam Keng, Taipa) | |



Terrence Dopp

DEMOCRATS who control the New Jersey legislature are in talks to get a measure on the November 2016 ballot that would ask voters to allow casinos outside Atlantic City.

The move requires an amendment to the constitution, which limited gambling houses to the seaside resort at the state's southern end nearly 40 years ago. State Senator Paul Sarlo, a Democrat from Wood-Ridge in Bergen County, said allowing gambling in other towns is crucial to reclaim tax revenue that has gone to New York and Pennsylvania.

"The only way we're going to be able to compete with surrounding states and provide a meaningful amount of dollars to Atlantic City is to expand gambling to the North Jersey market," Sarlo said Monday in a telephone interview.

Atlantic City has been pushed into state financial oversight after losing its onetime dominance over East Coast gambling. Casino revenue declined to USD2.9 billion in 2014 from a peak of \$5.2 billion in 2006 as Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New York expanded gambling. So far this

New Jersey Democrats race to get casino expansion on 2016 ballot



The closed down Atlantic Club Casino Hotel stands in Atlantic City, New Jersey

and five don't?" he said. "Some people are going to take a provincial view, but this is a new source of resources."

Both Sarlo and Caputo said the full economic impact of expansion is unclear. They said adding the casinos in the populous northern section of the state would allow it to tap into gamblers who would otherwise travel to New York and Pennsylvania.

Jeffrey Gural, a New York real-estate executive spearheading the effort to construct a casino at his Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, said a gambling expansion would help Atlantic City and the state's struggling horseracing industry. Tracks have suffered as the gambling proceeds that fund purses have shriveled, and increasing the pot of money would help both sides, he said.

Gural's current plans call for a Hard Rock Casino attached to the racetrack as part of a project he said would create \$500 million a year in tax money and "a couple of thousand jobs." He said he's agreed to pay the higher Pennsylvania tax rate of 55 percent on slot machines and 14 percent on table games instead of the 8 percent casinos in Atlantic City now pay.

"Everybody recognizes the town has to be rebuilt and they have to find a way to avoid default," Gural said in an interview. "The customers we'd see are not going to go to Atlantic City. The reality is that it's only going to get worse for Atlantic City." **Bloomberg**

The only way to compete with surrounding states and provide dollars to Atlantic City is to expand gambling to North Jersey.

PAUL SARLO
STATE SENATOR

year, total revenue is down 10 percent from last year, when four of 12 casinos closed. The remaining eight include three properties operated by Caesars Entertainment Corp.; The Tropicana owned by Las Vegas-based Tropicana Entertainment, as well as others such as the Borgata Hotel, Casino & Spa.

Governor Chris Christie, a second-term Republican running for president, has struggled to revive the coastal community of almost 40,000 people, about one-third of whom live in poverty. After years of refusing to consider a northern expansion of casinos, Christie said this year he would be open to the

idea if some of the new revenue went to Atlantic City. Even so, constitutional amendments don't need the governor's approval.

The proposal lawmakers are discussing would redirect a portion of the proceeds to Atlantic City, Sarlo said. The number of new gambling houses and their locations are still under discussion, he said.

Lawmakers are discussing whether to hurry to approve the referendum in the final weeks of the session, setting up a final vote by August, Sarlo said. A referendum can pass with simple majority votes in two straight years or with one three-fifths vote.

"It's going to happen; everyone's convinced about that, and now it's just about the final details," said Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, a Democrat from Belleville in Essex County and a former 20-year casino executive. Caputo, who worked at casinos including the Trump Castle Hotel and Casino, Tropicana and Showboat, said opponents of expanded gambling are dooming the industry to extinction, and cutting off a flow of money to New Jersey's treasury.

"Their solution is what: Keep the casinos going and four of them will make money while four won't? What happens next year - three make money

corporate bits

DREAMWORKS EXPERIENCE WINTER CELEBRATION AT SANDS RESORTS COTAI STRIP



The DreamWorks Experience Winter Celebration at Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao returns this year for the third year in a row. Along with all the regular fun and frolics that you expect from the DreamWorks Gang, this winter will also see a range

of fun festive events. From now until Jan. 3, 2016, visitors will be able to enjoy a holiday wonderland with events such as the DreamWorks Holiday Celebration, King Julien's New Year's Eve Party with The DreamWorks All-Stars, meet-and-greets at Shrek's Holiday House, and the festive DreamWorks Experience All-Star Parade.

During holiday buffet lunches and dinners, characters from "Madagascar," "How To Train Your Dragon," "Kung Fu Panda," and "Shrek" will perform to an array of Christmas carols, with opportunities to take photographs. Every kid will also be given a DreamWorks character plush toy as a special gift.

MGM'S FIRST BUSINESS MATCHING SESSION WELCOMES OVER 300 LOCAL SMES

The first MGM SME Business Matching Session co-hosted by MGM China with the Macao Chamber of Commerce (MCC), supported by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and event partner, the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM), was held yesterday at MGM's Grand Ballroom. The occasion also witnessed the establishment of the MGM SME Committee with an inau-

guration ceremony yesterday afternoon.

At the business matching session, focus was placed on cultivating three key local SME segments: "Micro SMEs", "Made in Macau" and "Young Entrepreneurs". The business matching session attracted over 319 local SMEs, where each SME merchant was provided a meeting with an MGM representative from the corresponding department.



MELCO SUPPORTS LOCAL ORGANIC VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Leveraging the experiential agricultural land at the Macau University of Science and Technology, Melco Crown Entertainment has been promoting the consumption and production of locally grown organic vegetables to its employees and the local community.

Through practicing farming in Macau, participants, including Melco volunteers and community organizations, learned the benefits of organic and locally grown vegetables to the environment and consumers.

Melco has actively engaged the local community with organic farming. MCE volunteers assisted members from the Fuhong Society of Macau's Yee Lok Center and Macau



Teen Challenge to plant seeds for the next crop. The Macau Autism Association was invited to harvest the crops with their families, with some of the produce donated to elderly people who live alone. These activities will continue throughout the year to mid-2016.



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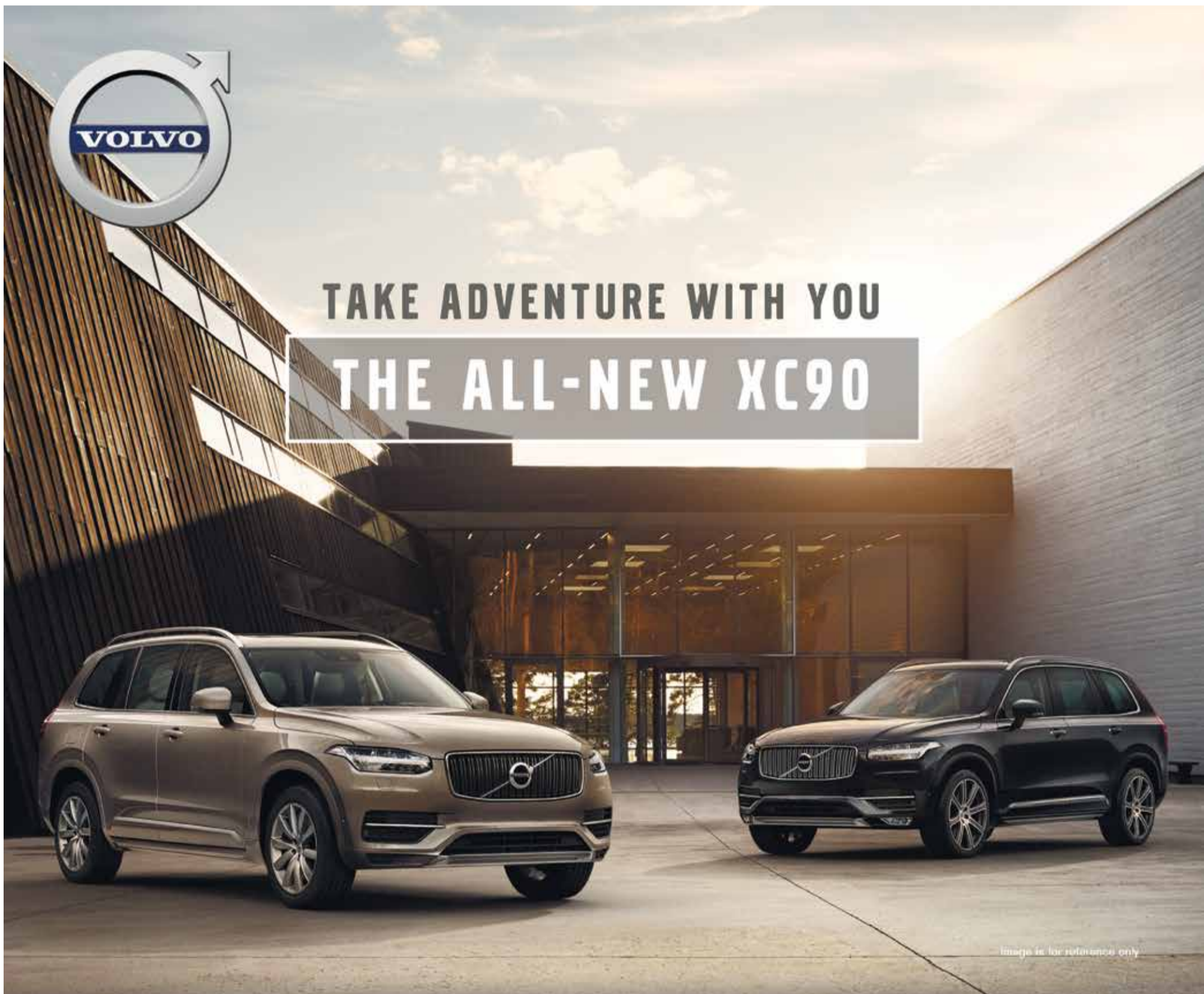


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COOPERATION

Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau benefit from China's support

CHINA is deepening its involvement in agriculture in Africa and Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau are to benefit from this diversification of cooperation, according to a survey of Chinese projects in West Africa.

The study "Beyond the extractive industries: The case of Chinese agricultural assistance in West Africa", published by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), argues that these countries, including the two Portuguese-speaking ones, "have much to learn from China" in agriculture, an area that the Chinese authorities have defined as a priority for cooperation.

China "intends to apply a model of South/South cooperation calling for reciprocal gains and the exchange of best practices" after in "the last two decades building a strong domestic agricultural sector and have developing it faster than any other sector", said the authors of the study, Emanuele Santi and Maxime Weigert.

Many of the recent projects they added, are led by public com-



■ Agriculture accounts for the largest portion of the countries' economies

panies and focused on cash crops, as in other regions of the continent, such as Southern Africa, where there are also significant examples in Angola and Mozambique.

Among the projects of this kind in West Africa, the authors hi-

ghlighted cashew cultivation in Guinea-Bissau, along with cocoa in Ghana, sugar and cotton in Benin, sugar in Sierra Leone, cotton in Burkina Faso and sugar and cotton in Mali, in partnership with local authorities.

More recently biofuel projects have also been launched in Benin, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. "These projects are export-oriented - to China, in the case of cotton, to Europe, in the case of other crops and include technical assistance from China, involving training, inputs and machinery, in order to increase productivity and the quality of local production," said the authors, who also identified some difficulties on the ground.

Under supervision of the Ministry of Trade, China donates agricultural machinery and participates in financing of agricultural programs and rural infrastructure projects, such as the Poilão dam in Cape Verde, dedicated to irrigation, similarly to another dam built in Ghana.

China has also set up four training centers in the region wi-

thin the framework of technical assistance, one in Guinea-Bissau, where Chinese experts "provide technical training to local farmers," said the authors.

China's cooperation with African countries they added, is guided by a focus on "greater diversification" and these investments "benefit the region," as several countries have "expressed their willingness to increase agricultural development and modernize their agro-industrial sector".

Agriculture accounts for the largest portion of the region's economies, which is the case of Guinea-Bissau, and Cape Verde is one of the countries that is least dependent on this sector.

The authors also gave some recommendations, such as promoting local employment, long-term involvement and profit sharing, broader participation of local partners, to ensure cultural and social norms are taken into account and benefits provided by local authorities, access to capital, land lease, legal incentives and institutional support.

"China could also provide vital opportunities for greater access to finance, which are traditionally lacking in the region and the sector and, at the same time a solid alternative and a complement to the resources channeled by traditional donors," added the authors. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

CFM receives last batch of railway carriages from China

Mozambican state port and rail company Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique (CFM) has received the last batch of railway carriages ordered from China for cargo and passenger transport in southern and central regions of the country, said the Director of CFM-Sul, Augusto Abido. The last batch to reach the port of Maputo consists of 33 carriages, four wagons and the same number of generators to meet the increasing demand for rail transport in the two regions, with particular incidence in the province of Maputo and the city of Beira, the provincial capital of Sofala. In 2014 CFM acquired at least 10 passenger carriages, which was not enough given existing demand, and the Matola/Maputo route is used by about 100,000 every day. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Beijing continues to grapple with severe pollution



A visitor wearing a mask to protect herself from pollutants takes a photo as a vendor waits for customers in front of Tiananmen Gate, shrouded with heavy pollution and fog, in Beijing

Didi Tang, Beijing

SCHOOLS in the Chinese capital kept students indoors and parents brought their kids to hospitals with breathing ailments yesterday as Beijing grappled with extremely severe air pollution for the fifth straight day.

The heavy smog erased the capital's skylines with a monotonous gray and left buildings just a block or two away hardly discernable. Neon signs barely punctured the gloom, and many Beijingers wore masks of various kinds while walking the streets.

"It's the worst day so far this year," said Liu Feifie, a 36-year-old mother and Internet com-

pany employee. "I feel my throat totally congested with phlegm and it feels very itchy. But I'm more concerned about the health of my 7-year-old kid."

Readings of the tiny poisonous PM2.5 particles reached into the high 600s micrograms per cubic meter through the capital, as compared with the World Health Organization safe level of 25. Some suburban neighborhoods logged levels up in the 900s on Monday.

Outside a packed children's hospital in downtown Beijing, parents and grandparents complained about the smog's impact on small children and say the pollution has made their chil-

dren vulnerable to illnesses such as throat infections and the flu.

"The government is supposed to be tackling the pollution, so we need to see the effects. If in a few years the situation does not change, we will consider leaving," said Yin Lina, who brought her 5-year-old daughter to the hospital with a stuffed nose.

Several hospitals in Beijing contacted by the AP declined to provide figures on patient visits, or their symptoms, during the period of smog.

The pollution spike is a reminder of China's severe environmental challenges as President Xi Jinping joins other world leaders at the Paris cli-

mate conference.

Factories and construction sites were told to reduce work after the city government on Sunday issued its first orange alert — the second highest of four warning levels — in almost two years.

China's cities are among the world's dirtiest after three decades of explosive economic growth that led to construction of hundreds of coal-fired power plants and the spread of automobile ownership.

Communist leaders have tightened emissions standards and are investing in solar, wind and other renewable energy. But the country still depends on coal for more than 60 percent of its power.

Beijing has vowed to clean up its notoriously foul air and had been doing fairly well prior to the latest stretch of pollution, with generally cleaner air than in 2014.

Tests found coal burning to be to blame for the bulk of the latest pollution surge, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Zhang Dawei, head of the city's environmental monito-

I feel my throat totally congested with phlegm and it feels very itchy.

LIU FEIFIE, 36
BEIJING RESIDENT

ring center.

Power demand soared due to unusually cold weather in November. For most of that month, the capital was shrouded in persistent smog.

Air quality worsened on Friday and deteriorated throughout the weekend. Authorities said they avoided issuing the highest-level alert because conditions were forecast to improve by today.

Beijing schools were ordered to stop outdoor activities. A primary school in the Xicheng district on the west side sent a message to parents that classes were canceled yesterday.

Conditions were worsened by cold air that trapped pollutants near the ground, according to Zhang, the environment official. He said pollution from surrounding areas also blew into the capital.

Outside Beijing, reduced visibility due to heavy fog prompted authorities to close 1,553 highway sections in central, eastern and southern China, the Transportation Ministry said on its website.

Gao Yang, 35, a teacher who lives in the coastal city of Tianjin, said he was trapped in Beijing while on a business trip because of the closed highways. "I can do nothing but park my car at the hotel and wait until the smog goes away," Gao said.

Forecasters expected winds to clear the smog before today.

Outside Beijing, readings for PM2.5 were as high as 976 micrograms in the suburban region of Liulihe.

Several cities in the northern province of Hebei, which surrounds Beijing, also reported extremely polluted air.

Inspectors from the Ministry of Environmental Protection found some construction projects flouted orders Monday to stop work that could raise dust, according to Xinhua. **AP**

Factory index at 3-year low, services improve

Kelvin Chan, Business Writer, Hong Kong

CHINESE manufacturing was at its weakest in more than three years in November despite stimulus measures to bolster the world's No. 2 economy while service industries improved, according to an official survey released yesterday.

The manufacturing index based on a survey of factory purchasing managers slipped for the fourth straight month, falling to 49.6 in November from 49.8 the previous month.

The index is based on a 100-point scale, with the 50-point mark separating



Two women walk by a bank electronic board showing the Hong Kong share index at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange

expansion from contraction.

The latest data highli-

ght the two-speed nature of China's economy as officials try to shift the

economy's focus from manufacturing to services in a transition that's proving to be rocky. Growth in the latest quarter fell to a six-year low of 6.9 percent, slightly down from 7 percent in each of the two preceding quarters after repeated interest rate cuts and other stimulus measures.

Services, which have helped offset the weakness in manufacturing, showed some improvement. The official measure covering China's service industries rose to 53.6 from 53.1.

A sub-index covering new manufacturing orders, seen as an indicator

of overall demand, fell to 49.8 from 50.3.

Separately, the private Caixin/Markit purchasing managers' index for manufacturing released the same day also remained at a level indicating contraction, although it improved to 48.6 from 48.3.

The official index, compiled by the Chinese Federation for Logistics and Purchasing, includes more of the country's larger, state owned enterprises while the Caixin survey is weighted to smaller, private enterprises in China's manufacturing industry, which employs tens of millions.

ANZ Bank economists Liu-Li Gang and Louis Lam said the official manufacturing index was consistent with other data released last month that showed factory output weakening and reinforce the need for Beijing to roll out further stimulus measures.

"With soft growth momentum and deflation pressures creeping up, we expect the authorities to further ease monetary policy and continue to implement an expansionary fiscal policy in order to prevent further slowdown of the economy in 2016," they said in a report. **AP**

Mike Cohen and Ting Shi

TO see China's evolving foreign policy, look to Africa, where a desire to protect economic investment is leading to a revision of the country's hands-off approach to the internal affairs of other nations.

Chinese President Xi Jinping began a five-day African visit yesterday that he'll use to showcase China's expanding role as a protector of regional security, as well as a provider of infrastructure and consumer of resources. China has pledged USD100 million of military aid for the African Union, sent an infantry battalion to support peacekeeping efforts in South Sudan and deployed frigates to fight piracy off the Somali coast, leading the country to consider building its first overseas naval resupply station in Djibouti.

"Such initiatives are a clear departure from Beijing's aversion to military or security intervention in Africa," Lyle Morris, a project associate at the RAND Corp., said, citing in particular the military assistance Xi pledged in September. "The announcement suggests a rethinking of Chinese priorities on the continent, and marks a recognition that China's participation in conflict resolution will be an unavoidable byproduct of increased Chinese engagement."

The moves are part of broader policy shift, as Xi works to build geopolitical influence for the world's second-largest economy without abandoning a decades-old vow against interfering in other countries. The new approach to Africa - a major hot spot for Chinese investment - could illustrate how China tries to strike that balance globally as its business interests expand.

The security moves help China counter questions about its commitment to Africa's long-term development after complaints about the fairness of deals trading resources for infrastructure and the level of local labor used by the more than 2,500 Chinese companies on the continent. Xi also must protect an estimated 2 million Chinese working in some of Africa's most unstable areas - a concern highlighted by a Nov. 20 attack on the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali, that left at least 20 people dead, including three China Railway Construction Corp. executives.

The Mali attack showed that "China's vast business interests in Africa face an uncertain future if security issues are not tackled," said Shu Yunguo, director of the Center for African Studies at Shanghai Normal University.

China must weigh whether



Xi Jinping arrives for the start of the COP21 UN Conference ahead of his trip to Africa

Xi's African tour highlights expanding security role

the risks of taking a bigger role in such danger zones are worth the benefits. In Syria, for instance, the country might provide some logistical support to an international coalition against the Islamic State, but is seen as unlikely

China is approaching Africa a little differently than it used to... it certainly has reached the point of a redefinition of what non-interference means.

DAVID SHINN
TEACHER
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

to commit forces or back a proposal that undermines the government.

Xi is expected to cast China's security role in Africa as limited and within the framework of international organizations. "In the long run, the international community and the United Nations should support African countries in increasing their own capacity in keeping peace and stability so that African issues can be addressed in an African way," he told the UN General Assembly in September.

Xi arrived yesterday in Zimbabwe for a state visit hosted by President Robert Mugabe, a longtime Chinese ally who currently heads the African Union. He'll then receive a similar reception in South Africa before participating in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Johannesburg on Friday and Saturday - the first such top-level gathering to be held in Africa. Trade relations and development projects will top the agenda, but talks are also planned on joint anti-terrorism efforts.

"We cannot have development

without security," said Ghulam Asmal, director of international partnerships at South Africa's Department of International Relations. "There is a realization that security cannot be left out of the equation."

While China is Africa's biggest trading partner, with two-way flows exceeding \$220 billion last year, the pace of investment has slowed. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce said last month that the country's investment in Africa fell by more than 40 percent in the first half of 2015. Premier Li Keqiang has pledged to increase spending since 2000 to about \$100 billion by the end of the decade, compared with \$30 billion as of last year.

Xi will propose "new thoughts, new policies and new ideas" for developing ties with Africa, Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters last Thursday. He's expected to discuss plans to build a high-speed rail network in Nigeria and regional aviation links and highways, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

While in South Africa, Xi will pursue cooperation on energy,

finance, infrastructure, human resources, marine issues and production capacity, the Chinese president wrote in a piece published yesterday on the front page of the Johannesburg-based Star newspaper.

Africa wants to convince China to process more raw materials locally and provide greater access to Chinese markets for its manufactured and agricultural goods, Asmal said. "What we are asking for is development and socioeconomic upliftment," he said.

In building security ties with African leaders, China's also cultivating a base of global diplomatic support, said David Shinn, who teaches African affairs at George Washington University. African nations constitute more than a quarter of the UN General Assembly.

"China is approaching Africa a little differently than it used to," Shinn said. "It's not reached the point yet where you could say they have abandoned the principle of non-interference, but it certainly has reached the point of a redefinition of what non-interference means." **Bloomberg**

Jim Gomez and Teresa Cerojano,
Olongapo

PHILIPPINES

US Marine found guilty of killing transgender Filipino

A Philippine court yesterday convicted a U.S. Marine of killing a Filipino last year after he discovered she was a transgender woman in a hotel in the Philippines while he was on a break after participating in joint military exercises in the country.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton was convicted of homicide by first strangling Jennifer Laude and then dunking her head into a toilet bowl in the hotel they had checked into after meeting in a disco bar in Olongapo city, northwest of Manila. He was sentenced to 6-12 years in jail, with time already spent in detention credited, said court clerk Gerry Gruspe.

Laude's mother, Julita, said that while she was happy the verdict detailed everything that had transpired, she was not pleased with the jail term because she had hoped Pemberton would be found guilty of murder, a more serious crime than homicide.

"But the important thing is he will be jailed," she said, crying. "My son's life is not wasted."

Outside the courthouse, a small number of left-wing activists rejoiced but warned that they would closely watch to ensure Pemberton is detained in a Philippine jail, as the judge ordered.



U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton, left, arrives for the verdict of his court case for the killing of Filipino transgender Jennifer Laude, at Olongapo city

The Oct. 11, 2014, killing sparked anger in the Philippines and reignited calls by left-wing groups and nationalists for an end to America's military presence in the country at a time when the U.S. is reasserting its dominance in Asia and Manila has turned to Washington for support amid an escalating territo-

rial dispute with China.

Pemberton, an anti-tank missile operator from New Bedford, Massachusetts, was one of thousands of American and Philippine military personnel who participated in a joint exercise last year. He and a group of other Marines were on leave after the exercise and met Laude and her

friends at a bar in Olongapo, a city known for its nightlife located outside Subic Bay, a former U.S. Naval base. At least two witnesses testified that Laude was a sex worker.

Pemberton and Laude left the bar and checked in together at a nearby hotel. About 30 minutes later, Pemberton walked out, leaving the room's door ajar, according to hotel staff.

Pemberton testified in August that he had choked Laude during a fight that erupted when he discovered she was a transgender woman, but said she was still alive when he left her in a shower, according to his lawyer, Rowena Garcia Flores.

Lawyers of the Laude family, however, said Laude was dead when Pemberton left her. Police have said that Laude had apparently been drowned in a toilet.

In the decision, Regional Trial Court Judge Roline Ginez-Jabalde ordered Pemberton jailed at the New Bilibid Prison, a na-

tional penitentiary in suburban Muntinlupa City.

The case also revived a debate over which government should have custody of U.S. military personnel who run afoul of local laws under a Visiting Forces Agreement the two allies signed in 1998.

The agreement, which allows U.S. forces to conduct military exercises in the Philippines, says that the Philippines can prosecute American service members, but that the U.S. has custody over them "from the commission of the offense until completion of all judicial proceedings."

However, the Philippine Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that convicted U.S. personnel must serve their sentences in the Philippines.

In a compromise last year, the U.S. agreed to have Pemberton detained in a compound at Philippine military headquarters in Quezon City guarded by U.S. Marines with an outer ring of Filipino forces. **AP**

AD

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INDONESIA

Rudder problem, pilot actions led to AirAsia crash

Ninieck Karmini, Jakarta

A rudder control system problem that had occurred 23 times in the previous 12 months coupled with the pilots' response led to last year's crash of an AirAsia plane that killed all 162 people on board, Indonesian investigators said yesterday.

The National Transportation Safety Committee said an analysis of Flight 8501's data recorder showed the rudder control system had sent repeated warnings to the pilots during the Dec. 28 flight between the Indonesian city of Surabaya and Singapore.

Aircraft maintenance records for the Airbus A320 showed that problems with the rudder system had been reported 23 times during the year prior to the crash, with nine occurring in December. The investigators said the fault was caused by cracked soldering on an



electronic circuit board. Investigator Nurcahyo Utomo said the problem by itself

should not have been dangerous. But after the fourth time an alarm went off during the

flight, a crew member apparently went against recommendations and removed a circuit breaker to try to reset the system, he said.

Problems with the rudder system had been reported 23 times during the year prior to the crash

The autopilot became disengaged, and the aircraft began to roll, but no movement was detected on the plane's manual control stick for nine seconds, he said. It then began climbing rapidly before stalling and plummeting into the Java Sea.

Utomo said the voice recorder showed the pilot said "pull down," but in fact the plane was ascending.

"It seemed that there was a miscommunication between the pilot and co-pilot after the fourth fault," he said.

The same warnings had occurred three days before the crash with the same pilot, who witnessed a technician on the ground addressing the problem by removing the circuit breaker and then replacing it, according to Utomo and the investigation report.

The last contact the pilots had with air traffic control indicated they were entering stormy weather. They asked to climb from 9,753 meters to 11,582 meters to avoid threatening clouds, but were denied permission because of heavy air traffic. Four minutes later, the plane dropped off the radar. No distress signal was issued, and investigators said weather conditions did not play a role in the crash.

"There is much to be learned here for AirAsia, the manufacturer and the aviation industry," tweeted Tony Fernandes, chief executive of the Malaysia-based budget carrier. "We will not leave any stone unturned to make sure the industry learns from this tragic incident." **AP**

AD



Thermomix Macau

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Tong Jia de Ramirez
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LEBANON

Syria's al-Qaida branch releases captive Lebanese soldiers

Zeina Karam, Beirut

SYRIA'S al-Qaida branch yesterday released a group of Lebanese troops held captive for over a year as part of a Qatar-brokered swap that involved Lebanon setting free at least 11 prisoners wanted by the militants, including a former wife of the Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

The release caps Lebanon's ordeal over the fate of its soldiers while also providing the al-Qaida branch known as the Nusra Front with new leverage as a group that can be negotiated with in Syria's ever-chaotic civil war.

The fate of the Lebanese troops has shaken the tiny Mediterranean country, which has seen innumerable spillovers from the civil war in neighboring Syria.

"My happiness is beyond description," said a Lebanese policeman, one of the 16 released yesterday, shortly after he was



Lebanese Druze women stand next to posters with pictures of soldiers and policemen who were kidnapped by militants from the Islamic State group and al-Qaida's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front, in Beirut

brought to the point where the exchange will take place on the edge of Aarsal.

In Beirut, families and friends of the abducted soldiers and policemen who have held a months-long sit-in in downtown

Beirut broke into a dance and cheered as news of the released reached them.

Earlier in the day, masked Nusra Front fighters brought the captive troops in three pickup trucks to a meeting point

on the edge of the town, to be handed over to Lebanese authorities who were waiting along with Red Cross vehicles. The government had bused its 11 prisoners to the exchange point.

Militants waving black al-Qai-

da flags fanned out across the area, with several who took positions on the roof of a building overlooking the location. The deal went ahead after trucks carrying humanitarian aid entered Aarsal as part of the deal.

Pan-Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera, funded by the Qatari government and based in Doha, said the tiny country had mediated the deal. The Gulf nation, a strong supporter of insurgents fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad, has a history of mediating prisoners' exchanges in the Middle East.

Yesterday's exchange comes amid heightened diplomatic activity to end Syria's civil war, now in its fifth year. It reflects an attempt by the group to portray itself as a more moderate player, one that can be negotiated with at a time the West and Russia are trying to separate "terrorist" groups in Syria from opposition factions they can communicate with. **AP**

USA

Suspect in Planned Parenthood attack makes 1st appearance

Sadie Gurman, Colorado Springs

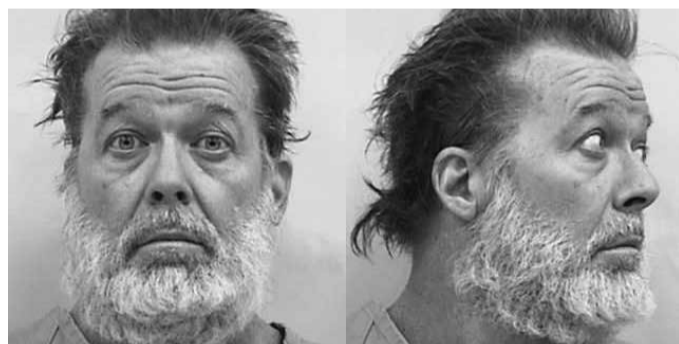
THE man accused in the shooting rampage at a Colorado women's health care clinic that provides abortions made his first court appearance Monday (yesterday, Macau time) and learned that he will face first-degree murder charges in the deaths of three people killed in the standoff with police.

Speaking in a raspy voice, Robert Lewis Dear appeared via a video hookup from the jail, where he has been held since surrendering after Friday's five-hour siege.

The white-bearded suspect gazed downward during most of the hearing. Victims' relatives watched from a courtroom.

When asked by Judge Gilbert Martinez if he understood his rights, Dear replied, "no questions."

The clinic's parent organization, Planned Parenthood, has said witnesses believe the gunman was motivated by his opposition to abortion. But Dear has been described by acquaintances as a reclusive



Colorado Springs shooting suspect Robert Lewis Dear of North Carolina is seen in undated photos provided by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office

loner who did not seem to have strong political or social opinions.

Whatever authorities decide about motive is sure to be controversial, given the political murkiness of Dear's statements and the debate over Planned Parenthood, which was reignited in July when anti-abortion activists released undercover video they said showed the group's personnel negotiating the sale of fetal organs.

Police have declined to speculate on a motive for the attack. A law enforcement official said Dear told authorities, "no more baby parts" during a rambling statement after being arrested. The official spoke

on condition of anonymity because the official was not allowed to publicly discuss the ongoing investigation.

Public defender Daniel King, who represented Colorado theater shooter James Holmes will act as Dear's attorney. The suspect is expected to be formally charged on Dec. 9.

Dear, 57, is accused of fatally shooting a university police officer who responded to the attack, as well as an Iraq war veteran and a mother of two inside the clinic. Nine other people were wounded.

After Monday's hearing, District Attorney Dan May said Dear could face other charges, but he did not elaborate. **AP**

COP 21

Climate talks get down to tough business of compromise

Sylvie Corbet and Angela Charlton, Le Bourget

FROM deserts encroaching on African farmland to rising sea levels shrinking islands of the South Pacific, leaders of poor nations most affected by climate change shared their stories of global warming with leaders of some of the richest yesterday.

The encounters highlighted one of the biggest debates in the effort to reach an international accord to fight global warming: how much aid rich countries should give poor ones to help them adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions.

French President Francois Hollande heard from 12 African leaders who described the Sahara Desert encroaching on farmland, forests disappearing from Congo to Madagascar and rising sea levels swallowing homes in West African river deltas.

"When a young student is forced to go study under a street lamp at night, it clearly demonstrates the electricity issue," Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita said.

Hollande said France would invest billions of euros in the coming years for renewable energy in Africa and to increase Africans' access to electricity: "The world, and in particular the developed world,

owes the African continent an environmental debt."

Later yesterday, President Barack Obama was meeting in Paris with envoys from island nations hit hard by rising seas and increasingly violent storms, which scientists attribute to climate change prompted by man-made carbon emissions.

Yesterday, the negotiations began in earnest, with the key task of figuring out who will pay for everything the leaders said needs to be done.

Developing countries say they need financial support and technology to relocate threatened populations and make their own transition to cleaner energy.

With a new fund announced Monday, rich countries pledged a total of USD248 million toward that effort. The Obama administration didn't specify where its \$51 million pledge would come from; Obama has struggled to persuade the Republican-run Congress to fund his climate goals, amid concerns that his energy plan is unattainable.

The talks, which run through Dec. 11, are aimed at a broader, tougher replacement to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. That treaty required only rich countries to cut their emissions, while this time the goal is for everyone to pitch in. **AP**

Nancy Benac, Paris

TURKEY-RUSSIA JET DOWNING

Obama urges Moscow, Ankara to set tension aside, focus on IS

AIMING to head off a rift between major Mideast players, President Barack Obama urged Turkey and Russia yesterday to set aside tensions over the downing of a Russian warplane and focus on the common priority of defeating the Islamic State group.

Obama, in a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, vouched for the NATO ally's right to self-defense, and he pledged a solid U.S. commitment "to Turkey's security and its sovereignty." Yet he emphasized the need for Turkey and Russia to "de-escalate" their conflict and not get distracted from the campaign against IS and efforts to resolve Syria's long-running civil war.

"We all have a common enemy. That is ISIL," Obama said, using one of several acronyms for the extremist group. "I want to make sure that we focus on that threat."

Tensions between Turkey and Russia have erupted into diplomatic crisis since Turkey shot down a Russian jet it accused of violating its airspace less than two weeks ago. Russian President Vladimir Putin has claimed Turkey shot the plane down to protect oil he says Turkey is illegally importing from IS — a charge Turkey vehemently denies. Turkey has insisted it won't apologize for the



President Barack Obama, right, shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after a bilateral meeting in Paris

shoot-down, which also led Russia to slap a package of new sanctions against Turkish products.

The spat between two countries the U.S. sees as critical to resolving the Syria crisis has threatened to undermine Obama's efforts to expand the U.S.-led coalition. After IS claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks and shooting down a Russian passenger jet in Egypt, Obama

had sought to turn the outrage across Europe into newfound resolve for stepping up the fight against IS.

To that end, Obama has been working to persuade Russia to focus its airstrikes in Syria against IS, instead of U.S.-backed rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad. Further muddying the diplomatic picture, Moscow has steadfastly supported Assad whi-

■ Putin has claimed Turkey shot the plane down to protect oil he says Turkey is illegally importing from IS

le the U.S. and Turkey insist he must leave power as part of a political solution to Syria's civil war.

Sitting down with Erdogan in Paris on the sidelines of global climate talks, Obama said the U.S. was very interested in accelerating its military relationship with Turkey. He also praised Turkey for generously accepting refugees fleeing violence in Syria, and credited Turkey with strengthening

security along its border.

Turkey, too, hopes to avoid tensions with Russia, Erdogan told reporters as he and Obama finished their roughly hour-long meeting. Waxing optimistic about a new diplomatic effort in Vienna aimed at a ceasefire in Syria's civil war, Erdogan said he hoped it would result in "sigh of relief for the entire region." The U.S., Russia and Turkey are all taking part in those talks.

"As the coalition forces, we are determined to keep up the fight against ISIS, and ISIS forces on the ground," Erdogan said through a translator.

Yet in a fresh reminder of strains with Moscow, Erdogan repeated his denouncement of Russian airstrikes in Syria's Turkmen region. He said more than 500 civilians had been killed recently in an area where he said Islamic State fighters are not operating.

"They are Turkish descendants," Erdogan said. "That area is continuously bombed." AP

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what's ON

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY
— PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDERLOT
TIME: 10am-7pm
(No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 19, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

NOTABLE COUPLE — ARTEFACTS FROM SUN WAN, DR. SUN YAT-SEN'S SECOND DAUGHTER, AND HER HUSBAND, TAI ENSAI
TIME: 10am-6pm (Ticket booth closes 5:30pm; Closed on Mondays; Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: January 10, 2016
VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor, Macau Museum, No. 112 Praceta do Museu de Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

ZHOU CHUNYA - NEW WORKS 2015
TIME: 10am-7pm
(No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: January 3, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE ART OF LINGNAN SCHOOL
— CHINESE PAINTINGS BY LAI MING
TIME: 10am-7pm
(No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 6, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

WESTERN VIEWS ON CHINA:
PAINTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY ABOUT CHINA
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

DRAKE IS SPOTIFY'S MOST STREAMED ARTIST OF THE YEAR GLOBALLY

Spotify users are clearly listening to Drake. The rapper was the most streamed artist of the year globally.

Spotify announced its end-of-the-year list yesterday and said Drake earned 1.8 billion streams in 2015. Rihanna was the year's most streamed female performer with 1 billion streams, while Major Lazer's ubiquitous hit, "Lean On," was the most streamed song of the year with 540 million streams.

The Weeknd's breakout album, "Beauty Behind the Madness," was the most streamed album of the year, beating Drake's "If You're Reading This It's Too Late," which was No. 2.

Ed Sheeran, who was the top streaming artist last year, is second behind Drake. The Weeknd, Maroon 5 and Kanye West round out the top five.

In the United States, Drake topped the list of most streamed artists, followed by the Weeknd, West, Sheeran and Eminem. Drake's "If You're Reading This" also topped the U.S. albums list, while Fetty Wap's "Trap Queen" was the most streamed song in America.

In Spotify's all-time lists, Sheeran is the most streamed act with more than 3 billion streams; Justin Bieber has the record for most streams in a day with 36 million streams; and Major Lazer's "Lean On," which features MO and DJ Snake, is the leading song. **AP**

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
19:00	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:50	TDM Interview (Repeat)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:35	Antibiotic Apocalypse
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary series
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

26 Nov - 02 Dec



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

KEEPER OF DARKNESS

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Nick Cheung

Starring: Nick Cheung, Kuo Tsai Chieh, Louis Chueng

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 105min

RETURN OF THE CUCKOO

ROOM 2

7.30 pm

Director: Patrick Kong

Starring: Chi Lam Cheung, Chairmaine Sheh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 86min



VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Paul McGuigan

Starring: James McAvoy, Daniel Radcliffe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 109min

MACAU TOWER

26 Nov - 16 Dec

KEEPER OF DARKNESS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Nick Cheung

Starring: Nick Cheung, Kuo Tsai Chieh, Louis Chueng

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 105min

this day in history

**1977 SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE CLEARED OF BIKO DEATH**

Security police in South Africa have been exonerated of any blame in the death of black consciousness leader Steve Biko who died while in detention.

The chief magistrate of Pretoria, Martinus Prins, said he officially accepted findings the 30-year-old died of extensive brain injuries sustained during a scuffle with police on the morning of 7 September.

At the time, he said, Mr Biko was being interrogated by five members of the security police who said he had gone "berserk". Mr Biko died on 12 September in a cell.

"The court finds the available evidence does not prove the death was brought about by an act or omission involving any offence by any person," he said.

The three-minute ruling ended a dramatic three-week inquest and attracted widespread international condemnation.

About 200 of his supporters held an impromptu demonstration outside, watched by police. They chanted: "They have killed Steve Biko. What have we done? Our sin is that we are black?"

Mr Biko was arrested on 18 August in Grahams-town for writing inflammatory pamphlets and "inciting unrest" among the black community. During the inquest, the family lawyer, Sydney Kentridge, argued the young nationalist died after an assault by one or more members of the Port Elizabeth Security Police - which they denied.

They did admit Mr Biko was handcuffed, shackled, and left naked in custody and was driven 750 miles to hospital on the floor of a car. Eastern Cape security police commander, Colonel Pieter Goosen, in charge of the investigation, suggested Mr Biko may have fallen on the floor during the fight "bumping his head".

The post-mortem examination revealed he sustained five major lesions to the brain, a scalp wound, an inner cut on the upper lip, and abrasions and bruising around the ribs.

The magistrate may publish the reason for his findings within the next two weeks but is not obliged by law to do so. Mr Biko's widow, Ntsikie, refused to comment but intends to sue Justice and Police Minister Jimmy Kruger for damages.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Stephen Biko, the subject of the film *Cry Freedom*, is widely seen as the greatest martyr of the anti-apartheid movement. He gave up studying medicine to devote himself to the "struggle", and founded the Black Consciousness Movement in 1969. It flourished in the mid 1970s as many ANC leaders were jailed or in exile.

Twenty-two years after his death, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up to investigate political atrocities between 1960 and 1994, denied amnesty to four former security policemen involved in his custody, as they did with a fifth officer in 1998.

The officers were told his killing was not politically motivated, the requirement for granting amnesty.

Criminal proceedings against the five men were submitted to the attorney general of the Eastern Cape. But in October 2003, South African Justice Ministry officials said the policemen would not be prosecuted because of insufficient evidence. Charges of culpable homicide and assault were also considered, but because the killing occurred in 1977, the time frame for prosecution had expired.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to take control of a new situation, and make sure that everyone involved knows what's expected of them.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You don't like the big change that has been announced from on high, but there's not much you can do except to be clear about your concerns.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your thinking gets even deeper today, which is saying quite a bit. All that great mental energy helps lead you to an exciting new conclusion.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to deal with financial issues today - though you probably would rather do anything else. Just get your information all in one place and then work until it starts to make sense.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 People come to you looking for answers - and you've got them! It's a great time for you to step up and offer solutions to problems that have been bugging friends and coworkers for weeks or months.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You can't just assume that you know what's going on this time - so make sure that you're playing around and trying to figure out the details. That could mean you need to experiment more than usual.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your friendly ways are making life a lot better for those around you - and you can easily mend fences with those you need to have back on your side.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your urge to redecorate is strong, and almost impossible to resist. That could lead to problems if you don't live alone, but your style should help you win any arguments that pop up.

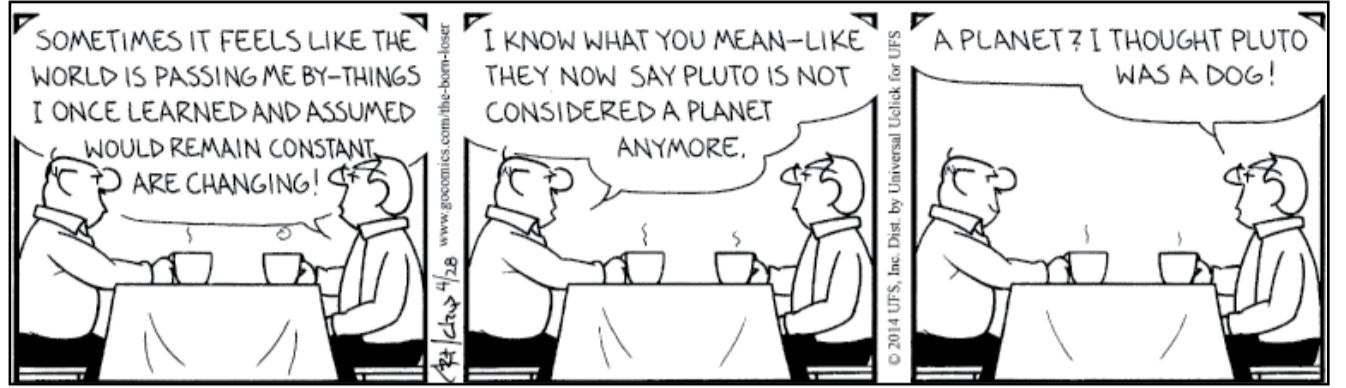
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your social energy is peaking right now, and you should find it easier to end feuds and reach out to new people. It's a great time to make new friends and to connect with those you love.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 It's time for a little change - everyone else seems to be doing it! See if you can tweak your style or your approach to something important without coming across as a revolutionary.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You are sure to get a good response to your proposals today - people are really affected by your passion! It's a good time to offer new ideas at work, but you can succeed almost anywhere.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 This isn't a great day for intense study or concentration - you are much better off wandering physically and mentally. Pretty soon, your energy will refocus itself and you can get back to work.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

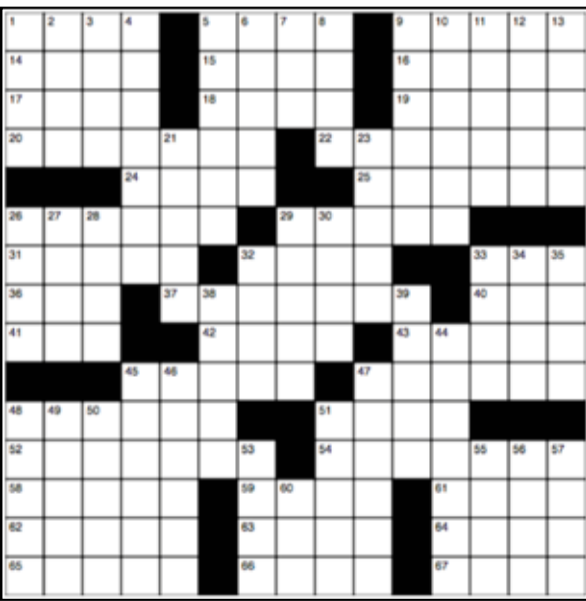
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fall feller; 5- Gal Fri.; 9- Watchful guardian; 14- Choir voice; 15- Freelancer's encl.; 16- Molars, e.g.; 17- Small dam; 18- ___'acte (intermission); 19- Actress Shire; 20- Eighth planet; 22- Tool to break solid water; 24- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 25- Eventually; 26- Wide street; 29- Time off; 31- Old Testament book; 32- Shake ___ (hurry); 33- Devour; 36- Small island; 37- Open-minded; 40- From ___ Z; 41- NFL 6-pointers; 42- Nothing special; 43- Eagle's nest; 45- Confusion; 47- Processed, as grain; 48- Objects from everyday life; 51- New Rochelle college; 52- In circulation; 54- Dons clothes; 58- Do something together; 59- French friend; 61- Drive-___ window; 62- Nobelist Root; 63- 1982 Disney film; 64- Actress Skye; 65- Shops want to achieve high ones!; 66- Prefix with plasm; 67- Codger;

DOWN: 1- Mown grass; 2- Gen. Robt. ___; 3- Take ___ from me; 4- Wealth; 5- In ___ (sort of); 6- Less loony; 7- Fast flier; 8- Actress Garr; 9- Be present; 10- Grim character; 11- Very cold; 12- Mohawk River city; 13- Atremble; 21- Customary; 23- Line dance; 26- At the drop of ___; 27- Empty; 28- Ballpark figs.; 29- Like non-oyster months; 30- Dynamic opening?; 32- Peek-___; 33- ___ Grey, tea type; 34- End in ___ (draw); 35- Nailed obliquely; 38- Designer Mizrahi; 39- "Mule Train" singer; 44- Flexible; 45- Woman's close-fitting hat; 46- Gap; 47- "West Side Story" Oscar winner; 48- Speed contests; 49- Deadly virus; 50- Thin as ___; 51- Fool; 53- Abhor; 55- Drive away; 56- Rubik of cube fame; 57- Haggis ingredient; 60- Richie's dad, to the Fonz



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SAILING

America's Cup skipper seriously injured in accident

America's Cup skipper Franck Cammas of Groupama Team France was seriously injured Monday when he fell off his high performance catamaran and the rudder sliced into his right ankle. The accident happened when he and his team were training on two GC32 catamarans at the National Sailing School in Quiberon Bay. According to a statement posted on Team France's web site, Cammas went overboard while the catamaran was going full speed in 17 knots of wind. Cammas was rushed to shore and then flown by a medical helicopter to a hospital in Nantes, the team said. The GC32s are the new boat for the Extreme Sailing Series. The America's Cup also is sailed in catamarans.

FOOTBALL

Higuain leads Napoli to top of Serie A

Displaying a form at the San Paolo stadium not witnessed since Diego Maradona's exploits, Gonzalo Higuain scored twice in a 2-1 win over 10-man Inter Milan on Monday to provide a big boost for Napoli's title chances. Napoli leapfrogged Inter for the Serie A lead, moving one point ahead of the Milan club as it seeks its first Italian league title since Maradona led the southern squad to the championship in 1987 and 1990. Napoli hadn't had sole possession of the lead since its second title 25 years ago. "It was a magical evening," Higuain said. "I think we deserve first place. ... Although there's still a long way to go in the season and it's going to be a struggle. I don't know any squad that hasn't won something without a struggle."

Manchester City gets USD400m Chinese investment deal

Rob Harris, London

MANCHESTER City announced yesterday that a Chinese consortium is investing USD400 million to buy 13 percent of the Premier League club's umbrella organization in a deal that values the business at \$3 billion.

Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan bought City in 2008 for around \$400 million and since then the club has expanded to create the City Football Group that includes teams in New York, Melbourne and Yokohama.

China Media Capital Holdings and CITIC Capital are investing in the group after six months of talks and the deal remains subject to regulatory approval in some countries, City said.

City's injection of funding comes after Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the club during a four-day state visit to Britain in October. During Xi's visit, former City defender Sun Jihai, who



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (left)

made 130 appearances for the club between 2002 and 2008, was inducted to the Manchester-based National Football Museum's Hall of Fame. He was also appointed a club ambassador in China in September.

Though long overshadowed in Manchester by the more illustrious United, City's value as a business is now closer to its neighbor following the Chinese investment. United, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, is currently valued at \$3.05 billion

"Our belief is that we now have an unrivalled platform

to grow CFG, our clubs and companies both in China and internationally, and we will be working hard with our new partners to realize the potential that this deal creates," City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said.

CMC Chairman Ruigang Li said the consortium envisaged "unprecedented growth opportunities" from the investment that will benefit Chinese football.

"We and our consortium partner CITIC Capital also see this investment as a prime opportunity for furthering the contribution of China to the

global football family," he said. State-backed China Media Capital was founded by Li Ruigang, an influential Shanghai Communist Party member who has deftly mixed business and politics.

During Xi's state visit to Britain, the Chinese president and the Prince William looked on as Li inked a deal with a British attraction operator to build a new Lego theme park in Shanghai.

Li was present during Xi's visit to the U.S. weeks earlier, when CMC announced a tie-up with Warner Brothers to produce and distribute films.

Aside from his film and entertainment concerns Li splashed \$1.3 billion last year to win broadcast rights for five years to the Chinese football league, in the latest sign of growing interest in football among China's business elite. In 2014, Jack Ma, chairman of Internet giant Alibaba, purchased half of Guangzhou Evergrande, the reigning Asian Champions League winners. AP

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Kavitha A. Davidson

ANALYSIS | NBA

Which Kobe Bryant will hoops fans remember?

KOBE Bryant has decided that this season will be his last, posting a "Dear Basketball" farewell poem on the Players' Tribune Sunday afternoon. Among even those of us who are not Lakers fans, his dynamic talent on the court and his eccentric presence off it will be missed. For the Lakers, however, his immense contract and crippling salary cap hit won't be.

It's fitting that Bryant chose to make his announcement on Derek Jeter's post-retirement publishing project. An aging star, a face of the league's premier franchise, whose salary by the end of his career reflected more his marketability and iconic status than his actual contribution to the team – sound familiar? I'd never deny basketball fans the opportunity to say farewell to a player who will go down as one of the greats, as baseball fans did with Jeter. But Bryant remains a highly polarizing figure, one whose legacy will ultimately be much more complicated than the soaring stats and otherworldly plays for which he's immediately remembered.

It was nearly two years ago that Bryant, coming off a torn Achilles at age 35, signed a two-year, USD48.5 million ex-

AP PHOTO



Los Angeles Lakers forward Kobe Bryant (24) drives against Indiana Pacers forward Paul George

At the end of the day, I'll remember the legend - the 81-point game, the 61-point game, the circus shots, the game-tying threes.

KAVITHA A. DAVIDSON

tension that has significantly hampered the Lakers' ability to go after big free agents. The Lakers have been in perpetual rebuilding mode, with Bryant looking like a shell of his former self, calling into question the wisdom of a contract that can't be justified beyond the desire to keep a franchise player as an attendance draw. (I'll reiterate my stance that any anger over his contract should be directed at Lakers ownership, not the player who was unwilling to take a pay cut given that the league caps individual salaries at a maximum, meaning he's been re-

latively underpaid his entire career.)

But even before the contract put a strain on the Lakers' immense resources, free agents were wary of coming to Los Angeles. As Henry Abbott wrote last year in ESPN the Magazine, agents and players alike felt that "Bryant undermined the team's rebuilding by alienating would-be free agent recruits." Much ink has been spilled over Bryant's selfish reputation, at times overstated, but it's clearly had an impact on the Lakers' ability to build around him. His contract extension in 2013

didn't just cost the team cap space – it also cost them human capital.

His feud with former teammate and fellow legend Shaquille O'Neal broke up one of the most successful duos in the NBA, one that won three straight championships and emerged as the backbone of a new Lakers dynasty. Owner Jerry Buss made his choice, trading O'Neal to the Miami Heat in 2004 and signing Bryant to a seven-year, \$136 million extension the next day. The pair have since apparently buried the hatchet, discussing the feud on O'Neal's

podcast in August. Bryant himself even admitted, "I was an idiot when I was a kid."

Even when you look at Bryant's impressive career stats, there's some disagreement over where he ranks among the greatest players of all time. He's the only player ever to have accumulated 30,000 points, 6,000 rebounds and 6,000 assists. He ranks 20th all-time in player efficiency rating and 15th in win shares. At .450, his career field-goal percentage is fairly average, and his reputation for taking a ton of shots have led many to dismiss his scoring records as mainly a function of volume and longevity. That view is supported by the fact that the player efficiency rating actually rewards players who shoot the ball more.

It's also impossible to talk about Bryant's complicated legacy without mentioning his 2003 rape case, though fans and writers alike sure are trying. Bryant's accuser refused to testify in the criminal case, which was dropped, and the two later settled a civil suit for undisclosed terms that included his public apology. Unlike some other recent cases of athletes accused of violence against women, I honestly don't know what to make of Bryant's guilt or innocence. Looking back on it now, the case serves as a prototype for the privileges a wealthy, famous man can expect - the benefit of doubt from fans, the characterization of the accuser as a gold-digging cleat chaser - and also for how such allegations are quickly erased most people's memory.

It's all part of the enigma that is Kobe, a player so compelling and confusing that he can polarize how even just one person thinks of him. At the end of the day, I'll remember the legend - the 81-point game, the 61-point game, the circus shots, the game-tying threes, the entire month of February 2003. But I'll also try not to forget all those things that make his memory not quite that easy. **Bloomberg**

Macau Int'l Kart Grand Prix gathers 140 competitors

THE 2015 Macau International Kart Grand Prix will be held from December 10 to 13 at the Coloane Karting Track. The organizing committee hosted a press conference yesterday to announce the details of the event. Around 140 karters from Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, France, U.S.A., Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippi-

nes, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Hong Kong and Macau will compete in 7 races involving a total of 11 groups.

The heats include the Asian Karting Open Championship (AKOC) Formula 125 Open Senior, Junior and Veteran Class; Rotax Max Junior and Senior; Mini Rok; Rok Senior; Formula Cadet; AAMC Cup (X30 Senior and Vete-

ran), KZ Macau Cup; as well as the CIK-FIA Asia Pacific KZ Championship. Free admission will be offered to spectators looking to experience this 4-day event organized by the Automobile General Association of Macau-China (AAMC), co-organized by the Macau Sport Development Board and the Macau Government Tourist Office.



opinion

Made in Macao
 Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE NEW TRADITION OF MACAO'S CHINESE WEDDINGS

Being one of the few local Chinese among a group invited to a wedding recently, acquaintances new to Macao naturally came to me for advice on the custom of local wedding banquets. That reminded me, it wasn't just this wedding. In the last few years, quite a number of acquaintances from abroad or from mainland China had asked me about local wedding traditions. So, I started to ponder on the evolution of the Chinese Wedding in Macao, which has been getting more and more complicated over the years.

I remember from when I was a kid, the morning ceremony involves the groom coming to the bride's home to 'pick the bride up' at an auspicious time. It is customary for the bridesmaids to open the door to the groom and his groomsmen, and a 'Door Opening Lai See' (red package) will be given to the bridesmaids for luck. After that, the groom's father-in-law will offer the bride's hand to the groom. The morning ceremony ends with the bride and groom offering incense to the gods and ancestors, and tea to the bride's parents. Then off they go to the groom's place for lunch.

Nowadays, it is not that simple. The groom is expected to arrive an hour before the auspicious time to jump through hoops in order for the bridesmaids to open the door. The groom and his men are given numerous challenges ranging from doing push-ups to running up stairs to reciting love poems on the street while being filmed. And these are just the less creative challenges. Then the bridesmaids demand an auspicious amount for the 'Door Opening Lai See', something like MOP8,888 before they consider opening the door. But that's just the first door. The bride usually stays in her room until the groom completes another round of challenges before she comes out, which sometimes involves the groom eating a bunch of wasabi filled sushi and singing a cheesy love song in tears. If the father-in-law enjoyed the performance too much, he may throw in a few more challenges himself before handing over his daughter's hand to the groom.

In the afternoon, after having lunch at the groom's home and offering tea to the groom's parents, the newlyweds' car, followed by a fleet of cars of bridesmaids and groomsmen, will drive around Macao. Why? Traditionally, three days after being married, the couple would go back to the bride's home to visit her parents. That was because after being married, the wife would become a member of the husband's family, and couldn't go home to her parents that often, especially not within three days of getting married. We still adopt the tradition, but instead of three days, to save time, most couples do it on the same day. So after driving around Macao they return to the bride's home, and head to the banquet venue together with relatives.

In the last 10 to 12 years, it has become customary for couples to show a video of their lives, and from a few PowerPoint Slides, photos of how they grew up, met, fell in love and got engaged, it has become high quality videos nowadays. After that, the bride and groom enter for the usual cake cutting, toasting and speeches. Then the 12-course Chinese Banquet begins.

One more thing - modern brides often change into five different wedding dresses and gowns throughout the night. I have often been asked why. This has nothing to do with local tradition; I guess it's just once in a lifetime a woman gets to wear all the wedding gowns she likes.

THE BUZZ FRENCH PRIME MINISTER THREATENS BENZEMA

French Prime minister Manuel Valls has threatened Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema with the loss of his spot on the national squad due to his involvement in a sex-tape case. Facing charges of conspiracy to blackmail relating to an extortion scam, Benzema is suspected of having played an active role in the plot and to have pressured teammate Mathieu Valbuena to deal directly with the blackmailers.

Speaking on French radio Europe 1, Valls said "a great athlete should be exemplary. (...) If he is not, he has no place within the France team." The investigation, centering on wiretap evidence, started when Valbuena took legal action after being contacted by a man claiming to possess an incriminating sex tape. Valbuena spoke last week about Benzema's attempts to pressure him.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good
Ambient	40-60 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

Artist sucks up Beijing air to draw attention to air quality



Wang Renzheng demonstrates the use of his industrial shop-vac alongside a highway in Beijing

Didi Tang, Beijing

FOR four hours every day, for 100 days, Chinese artist Wang Renzheng held up the attachment of an industrial vacuum cleaner to suck in Beijing's notoriously polluted air at various landmarks.

Passers-by were intrigued, inquiring if he was an air sanitation worker, or if he was taking air samples, or if he could be hired to do air sweeps of their apartments, Wang recalled.

The 34-year-old artist hopes the performance art — dubbed the Dust Project — can sharpen the public's sense of China's air quality.

"Have you ever thought how much dust there is in the air, as Chinese cities are growing at high speeds?"

Wang said yesterday.

Although the public has come to realize the severity of China's air pollution, Wang said he feels the change has been painfully slow.

"This is not an issue to be ignored, and I want to magnify it so much that you cannot ignore it," he said.

Coincidentally, the project's 100-day phase of dust-collecting ended Sunday — right in the middle of this year's worst pollution spell in Beijing, when its

This is not an issue to be ignored.

WANG RENZHENG

landmark buildings disappeared into thick smog and residents were asked to stay indoors. Monitoring sites reported that the density of the tiny, poisonous PM2.5 particles had reached more than 40 times the safe level set by the World Health Organization.

Local media reports of Wang's performance art went viral this week with the headline that his efforts had gathered enough dust to make a normal-size brick.

Wang said that his 400 hours of air-sucking had netted 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of dust, which has been added to a mixture to make a brick at a factory in the northern city of Tangshan.

The 100 grams were more than he expected when he first embarked on the project on July 24 with the \$1,100 vacuum cleaner.

Wang said that after three days, the machine collected little dust. "I checked again after 100 days, and the dirt was far more obvious. It was black and dirty, and it crumbled upon touch," he said.

Once the brick is made, it will be used in construction along with other bricks. "It should just disappear like a drop of water going into the sea," Wang said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Li Xiang



People visit the "comfort women" memorial in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province. The memorial opened to the public yesterday and it is the first in mainland China dedicated to victims of sexual abuse during the Japanese invasion, more than 70 years ago.

WORLD BRIEFS

NEPAL A shortage of medicine, fuel and other supplies has put millions of Nepalese children in danger of illness, malnourishment and even death, child rights groups warn.

PHILIPPINES A Philippine court convicts a U.S. Marine of killing a Filipino last year after he discovered she was a transgender woman in a hotel while he was on a break after participating in joint military exercises in the country. More on p12

JAPAN Authorities are investigating nearly a dozen wooden boats carrying decomposing bodies found drifting off the northwestern coast over the past month. Coast Guard officials found fishing equipment on board and signs written in Korean, suggesting they came from North Korea.

PUERTO RICO's heavily indebted government has until midnight to address a multimillion-dollar bond payment that is key to the U.S. territory's economic future. Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla has not said whether his administration will be able to make the \$355 million payment.



BURKINA FASO Hundreds of supporters of Burkina Faso's newly elected president started chanting "Presi, Presi," as preliminary results announced early yesterday handed Roch March Christian Kabore (pictured) an outright win. The electoral commission said 60 percent of the 5.5 million registered voters participated in Sunday's election to replace a transitional government established after a popular uprising ousted President Blaise Compaore last year. Compaore had been in power for 27 years.

RUSSIA While the rate of HIV infection is on a global decline as World AIDS Day was marked yesterday, the number of new infections in Russia continues to rise. By 2016, the country's Federal AIDS Center estimates the total number of those diagnosed with HIV will reach 1 million. The majority of new infections occur among injecting drug users when dirty needles are shared.