



'PORTUGUESE CORNER SHOP' ANNIVERSARY

A shop featuring traditional Portuguese products is celebrating its fourth anniversary with expansion plans

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MACAU-SHENZHEN FURTHER COOPERATION

Several agreements between Macau and Shenzhen were inked during the annual cooperation conference

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N KOREA TRIES TO WOO TOURISTS

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA The wife of the prominent Chinese political dissident Gao Zhisheng says her husband has been out of contact for three days after he voiced support for a fellow activist who was sentenced to prison last week. Gao, a rights lawyer who defended members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement and alleged Chinese authorities tortured him while in detention, has been under tight surveillance since his release from jail in the summer of 2014.

JAPAN's government has violated the rights of Okinawa's residents for decades by allowing a heavy presence of American troops on the tiny southern island, Okinawa's governor tells a court hearing, the start of a legal battle over plans to relocate a U.S. air base.

NORTH KOREA-UN U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power says the United States hopes to schedule a U.N. Security Council meeting this month on the "very grim" human rights situation in North Korea.

INDIA Weeks of torrential rains have forced an airport in southern India to close and have cut off several roads and highways, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded in their homes, officials say. *More on p13*

INDIA's federal government said it will restore funding to the country's HIV-AIDS program months after it cut its contribution and asked regional governments to fill in the gaps.

More on backpage

Tam plans Nam Van, Taipa outdoor leisure areas

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Franz Harary's 'The House of Magic' opens at Studio City

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'PORTUGUESE CORNER SHOP'

Featuring traditional Portuguese products in town

Renato Marques

FOUR years have passed since Margarida Vila-Nova and Ivo Ferreira decided to add a new title to their lives as actors and filmmakers. Establishing a "Portuguese Corner Shop" (Mercearia Portuguesa) in Macau seemed like an odd choice to most of their friends and family, but the appeal of this "life project" was bigger than any fear.

Margarida Vila-Nova has no hesitation in classifying the first four years as "very positive" ones.

"This is not only in terms of the growth in visitors and sales [...] but also in terms of the image of the shop, which has been featured by its specificity in every part of the world,

■ **The shop's biggest group of costumers, around 80 percent, are tourists**

from the US to Japan," explained Margarida Vila-Nova.

As they told the Times, the shop's biggest group of costumers, around 80 percent, are tourists – tourists who, in the shop-owners' opinion, are different to the ones seen in many other parts of the city. "These are tourists with a special profile. They search for diversity and for a more cultural kind of tourism that is not necessarily gaming tourism." Initially these tourists started to come to us from Hong Kong, but nowadays Japan, Singapore, Korea, and

Taiwan make up the majority of visitors to this shop.

"For us, these four years were also four years of learning. None of us [Margarida and husband, Ivo] had any experience in dealing with this kind of business before, so it was an interesting learning process," Margarida says.

Regarding the larger difficulties, the shop-owner singles out the import-related procedures, since they "work with a wide range of small-batch producers and suppliers (over 80 in total), and it is very dif-

ficult to coordinate all of them to have the product ready to be shipped at the same time in one shipping container."

There are also other logistical aspects relating to the fact that the shop sells a wide range of seasonal products, so from expiry dates, to shipping time, to product variety, there are many things to take into consideration, she mentioned.

"There is also special consideration given to the holiday periods, and the products that are of special interest and commonly requested during these seasons," the owner added.

The secret to success lies in the fact that, from the start, the business model was built upon something that the owners really wanted to develop, regardless of the difficulties they would encounter. "It is a life project more than it is a business. You really need to like doing a lot of this to overcome problems, to continue to work and to have new ideas."

For the near future, Margarida Vila-Nova revealed that she is planning a new project with the "Portuguese Corner Shop" as a starting point. So far they are looking at launching the new endeavour in the middle of 2016. For now, the only information available is that it will be a "tasting space" where visitors will be able to try a wide range of "gourmet" delicacies coming exclusively from Portugal and from the shop's very wide range of suppliers.

THE Macau Rotary Club hosted its first "Rotary Day with Grannies" on Saturday in partnership with the Rotaract Club of Macau and the University of Macau's Student Union's Rotaract Club.

Over 80 senior home-alone residents from four elderly-care associations participated in heritage outings to Taipa and Coloane. These outings included a walking tour of old Coloane village, and visits to the Church of San Francisco Xavier, the ferry terminal and the Temple of Tam Kung.

The elderly residents were aged between 65 and 80, affectionately termed "grannies" by the

Rotary organizes 'day with grannies'



organizers.

Participants were gathered at their respective associations and shuttled from one stop to the next. After their visit to the Co-

loane village, the group went to see the busy streets of Rua Cunha in Taipa, enjoying Portuguese egg tarts along the way.

The last stop on the



day's activities was a luncheon that introduced some of the elderly residents to Portuguese and Macanese food for their first time.

Rotary club volunteers

distributed take-away bags of essentials for the residents, each of which contained a handkerchief, Pak Fa oil, a hand warmer, and cookies donated

by October Fifth Bakery.

The Rotary Club of Macau stated that the day's activities were well received and that they expect some of the participants will be looking forward to the next occasion when the event is held.

The elderly-care associations involved in the "Rotary Day with Grannies" were the Macau Federation of Trade Unions, the Women's General Association of Macau, the Macau General Union of Neighborhood Associations and Caritas Macau.

Staff reporter

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR_Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com

DESIGN EDITOR_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS
Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Aries Un, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Viviana Seguí | ASSOCIATE
CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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2016 POLICY ADDRESS

Tam plans outdoor areas at the Nam Van Lake and Taipa



The bars at the Nam Van Lake leisure area, pictured before the 2012 closure



Aspect of the area after the renovation works conducted by IACM

Paulo Barbosa

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, is expected to announce during today's Policy Address presentation that the area lining the Nam Van Lake facing the government headquarters will include cafés with outdoor areas managed by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). During a dinner with local media representatives, Mr Tam said that the region is in need of alfresco areas, revealing that the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) will provide students to work and train in the lakeside precinct.

Tam's announcement comes after almost four years of stagnation in the area since the bars there were shut down against the will of their owners. In 2012, the proprietors of the six bars still operating there (eight had previously closed) defied the authorities' closure order and said that they intended to stay on when the lease was set to end in May.

The landlord of the area was the Finance Services Bureau (DSF) before the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) took over management.

"The two departments are kicking us around like a football.

Short distance cruises linking Macau, Taipa and Coloane could be resumed

DSF said they would hand over the issue to IACM on June 1, while IACM said the issue is not their concern before June 1," a representative of the Nam Van bar owners, Cheung Wing, told the Times in May 2012. That month, bar owners handed a petition to the government in order to avoid the shut down, but their efforts were in vain. The bars shut down in August.

A development plan for the Nam Van Lake section was announced around that time. Raymond Tam, who was head of IACM by then, stated that the place is "designed to be a cultural and leisure district that will consist of an open theater, drama stage, café and the largest center in the city for book and magazine retailers."

Meanwhile, IACM confirmed to the Times on Monday that the renovation works at the space

had been concluded. "The transfer of infrastructure management to the IC is scheduled. The use to be given to them and the opening date will be announced by the receiving service [IC]," the IACM replied. However, the institute didn't answer all of our questions, choosing not to disclose the cost of the revamp works.

Alexis Tam is also expected to confirm this week that the House of Portugal (Casa de Portugal) will be invited to be part of a project to boost Taipa's "Carmo" district, managing a restaurant and coffee shop in one of the Taipa Houses or Museum buildings. The House of Portugal already manages the restaurant Lvsitanvs, which initially operated in the yellow building close to the Ruins of St Paul. This was before the eatery was forced to move when the lease expired, at which point it relocated to the association's headquarters.

As the secretary mentioned re-

cently during a visit to facilities managed by the association, the area is expected to become multicultural, citing the likely occurrence of daily cultural and entertainment events, including music performances and food festivals. Countries from all over the world will be invited to develop events there, with a special scope on Portuguese speaking countries.

During the dinner with local journalists, Mr Tam also said that some of the city's museums will be revamped. Hence, the Grand Prix Museum will be expanded to occupy a larger section of the Tourism Activities Center (CAT). Currently located at CAT, the Wine Museum will be transferred to the IFT. The secretary recalled his infancy in Macau, when it was possible to go by boat from the A-Ma Temple to Taipa and Coloane. Those short-distance cruises are expected to be resumed now, targeting both tourists and locals.

HEALTH TAKES CENTER STAGE

HEALTH IS expected to be one of the main topics discussed in Alexis Tam's presentations at the AL today and tomorrow. The secretary is optimistic about the work developed under his watch, believing that health care has improved. He expects the future Taipa Island Hospital to be concluded within six years. The number of medical staff to be hired is expected to be around 2,000, including 500 physicians.

New Hengqin-Cotai water pipeline approved

A plan to build a new water supply pipeline was approved after Macau's Marine and Water Bureau signed an agreement with Zhuhai authorities on November 30. The pipeline, which is planned to run between Hengqin and Cotai, will be about 15 kilometers long and will supply 200,000 cubic meters of water per day.

Authorities have stated that the pipeline is required to meet Macau's growing demand for water as the city expands.

The agreement includes the Macau government picking up the RMB528 million tab for the project – the pipeline's entire cost. Meanwhile, Zhuhai authorities will take the lead on its construction, along

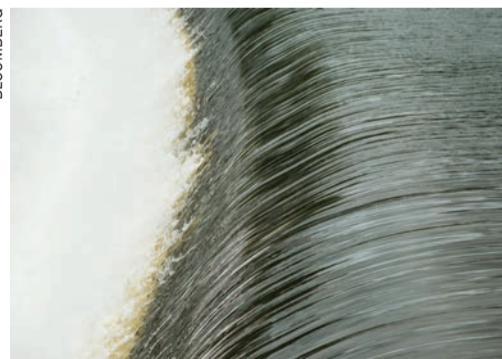
with its subsequent maintenance and repair in future years.

Work on the pipeline is expected to commence this month and will be completed by mid-2017.

The agreement was signed by representatives of authorities from both regions: Lin Xutian, director general of the Water Resources Department of Guangdong Province and Susana Wong, the director of the Marine and Water Bureau of the MSAR.

The agreement also covered new proposals regarding the maintenance and development of the existing Ping Gang and Guang Chang pumping stations. The two pumping stations will be connected by a

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second planned water pipeline, thereby enhancing the stability of the water supply.

Once completed, the second pipeline will allow the pumping stations to circulate one million cubic meters of raw water per day.

According to a local government statement, Zhuhai currently supplies around 254,000 cubic meters of water to Macau daily. Approximately 95 percent of Macau's raw water comes from the Modao-men Estuary in Zhuhai.

Credit Suisse: avoid Macau gaming stocks

Credit Suisse has released a report recommending that conservative investors avoid buying stakes in Macau's gaming stocks. This advice comes in light of the weaker-than-expected Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) indicators for November. The research house added that, despite a slight improvement in the mass gaming sector and the loan repayment system for VIP customers, the recovery of the industry is likely to occur more slowly than has been suggested. GGR plummeted 32.3 percent year-on-year in November to MOP16.43 billion. The report advised investors to avoid buying stakes in gaming stocks until there are stronger signals of a recovery. The broker's top pick was Galaxy Entertainment Group.

USJ awards 95 scholarships



The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) held its 2015 Scholarship Award Ceremony at the Chapel of Saint Joseph Seminary yesterday. The annual ceremony takes place each year to support students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance or those experiencing financial difficulties. A total of 95 students, either undergraduate or recently graduated, were awarded scholarships from a donation fund of MOP1,062,500. The fund was bankrolled by the university's donor community, of whom there were more than 20 representatives present at the ceremony. This year, the Bank of China Macau Branch Best Research Awards Ceremony was included to recognize the contributions of academic staff.

Lions release star pitcher after local gaming spree

Korean baseball champions, the Samsung Lions, have announced the release of pitcher Lim Chang-yong. He has been prohibited from playing since October, due to an investigation into his gambling activities. In October, allegations emerged that Lim and teammates Ahn Jiman and Yoon Sung-hwan had traveled to Macau in January to gamble. According to The Chosun Ilbo, Lim Chang-yong and other two players have been affected by the case.

China slowdown could halve world growth



Residential units under construction in the mainland, where the property market is slowing down

OXFORD Economics has published a report assessing the potential global ramifications of a slowdown in China's economic growth, indicating 46 other economies that would likely be affected. The group has identified the countries that would be most exposed if a slowdown does occur in its report entitled "China-pedia - one hard landing, 46 economies."

The global effects of what the group terms a "hard landing" for the Chinese economy could include a catastrophic deceleration in world growth. This growth has

been forecast to drop from 3 percent to as low as 1.7 percent in 2016, which almost halves today's world GDP growth rate and demonstrates just how deeply linked China's performance is to that of the world economy.

Emerging markets and commodity producers and exporters would probably be hit the worst, according to the report. Amid a slackening global demand, commodity prices would likely fall and deflationary pressures increase, adding to debt sustainability concerns.

The analysis makes clear, how-

ever, that more mature economies would also experience negative growth and a subsequent drop in their Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Hong Kong, Singapore and Korea could suffer a 3 percent hit to their GDP.

The U.S. and European countries

HK, Singapore and Korea could suffer a 3pct hit to their GDP

would be the least impacted by the China slowdown, and could keep their modest growth rates intact.

The implications of a potential slowdown could lead some countries to reconsider their monetary policies. However, the ability and willingness of a country to enact such policies where necessary varies across the globe. In some countries, the report says, monetary policy is constrained by concerns over sharp capital outflows, exchange rate depreciation and ensuing inflationary pressures. **Staff reporter**

T'Way commences Seoul-Macau route



SOUTH Korean low-cost carrier T'Way Airlines has announced the opening of its new Seoul-Macau route, which came into operation on November 27. The 2,102-kilometer route between Seoul's Incheon International Airport and Macau will be flown five times each week by the airline's 737-800s.

South Korea is a popular tourist destination for Macau residents. It is believed the new flight will better meet consumer demand during peak seasons such as Christmas.

T'Way Air is a low-cost carrier based at Seoul Gimpo Airport in South Korea. It was established in 2010 and currently operates routes to mainland China, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand.

The airline has undertaken significant international growth from its operations at Incheon. However, more than half of the company's weekly flights are operated on a single domestic route within South Korea.

T'Way Air was not the only airline to commence new flights at Macau International Airport last week. On the same day, Air Asia launched their new daily flight from Macau to Pattaya, Thailand, providing further options for Macau travelers.

According to the Macau International Airport, the new routes are intended to complement the efforts of the MSAR government in building the region into a world-class tourism destination.

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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Aries Un

Studio City unveils magic centered attraction featuring stellar line-up

CELEBRATED illusionist Franz Harary has brought an award-winning line-up of magicians to Studio City's new entertainment attraction, "The House of Magic," which opened to the public yesterday.

Packed with hundreds of attendees from the media, magic industry and other sectors who gathered to witness the opening, the tripartite theater, the new show's home, is perched right next to the magic-themed restaurant, Shanghai Magic, which serves up modern Shanghai. The restaurant was also unveiled on the same day.

"The House of Magic is a destination that is designed by magicians, for magicians. With the opening of the House of Magic today, I am delighted that, together with Studio City, we are setting a new bar for Asia's entertainment industry," said the 53-year-old American magician, who is also the mastermind behind the theater.

After 30 years of being on the go around the globe for his large-scale spectacles, Harary wished to transform the elaborately designed venue into a platform for other wizards to shine.

"For the decades that I have



Franz Harary

performed magic around the globe, I have dreamt of creating a venue in which magicians of all types can visit and perform their talents and tricks on a huge scale, but which also brings magicians close enough so that fans are virtually immersed in the magic of the show itself," Harary said.

The technologically sophis-



Kyle Knight & Mistie

ticated theater show offers a 90-minute repertoire divided into three sessions, which each take place in three individual sub-theaters: the Majestic Theater, Lair Theater and Mega Magic Theater. The first two shows are both 15 minutes long, with the last one featuring Harary's "Mega Magic."

The spectacle will also intro-



Luis De Matos

duce other equally well-known magicians who will perform their signature tricks in Macau.

Las Vegas-based illusionists Kyle Knight and Mistie, and famous Portuguese magician Luís de Matos showcased their acts to the guests yesterday before Harary staged one of his most revered illusions – four ladies carved into two in a gargan-

tuan spinning roulette wheel – among other ruses.

More than simply a show, the entire performance is said to be a journey throughout which attendees experience close-up and interactive magic devised by performers themselves. Moreover, the high-tech monitor embedded in the major chamber allows visual and audio sensations throughout Harary's illusion.

“We are setting a new bar for Asia's entertainment industry.”

FRANZ HARARY

AD

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2015 SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH AWARD CEREMONY

Yesterday, 2nd of December, 2015, 95 undergraduate students of the University of Saint Joseph will be awarded with scholarships totalling MOP1,062,500. The USJ scholarships aim to encourage and support students with outstanding academic performance or those with low household income. In addition, 10 Bank of China Macau Branch Research Awards will be made for the ten best papers published in the past few years.

USJ would like to thank the following prominent local institutions and individuals in Macau for sponsoring scholarships to USJ students (Listed in no particular order):

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| | | | | |
| | Henry Fok Foundation 霍英東基金會 | | Ms. Jenny Kong's Scholarship 江美芬女士獎學金 | Mr. Kuan Vai Lam's Scholarship 關偉霖先生獎學金 |
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| | | Ms. Siu Wai Chu's Scholarship 邵惠珠女士獎學金 | | |

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DSI launches Basic Law info website

The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has set up a website to inform residents about their fundamental rights and duties under the jurisdiction of the Basic Law. The website, which was made available to the public this week, includes information on consular protection and services, safety reminders, and emergency contact details for those intending to travel overseas. The bureau will also feature videos and online games in order to encourage residents to familiarize themselves with their basic rights, and to incentivize the use of the website in general. One of the games set to be introduced on the website will allow citizens who complete the game to enter into a draw to win a special gift. The website can be accessed at www.dsi.gov.mo/frdep

PRC approves merger of state-owned companies

The government of China has agreed to the merger of two state-owned enterprises; the crude oil firm Zhuhai Zhen Rong Co. and Macau-based conglomerate, Nam Kwong Group Co., according to Shanghai Securities News. Nam Kwong Group, headquartered in Macau, is the largest supplier of various goods and services, including tourism, exhibition services, food, and energy products such as oil depots. Zhuhai Zhen Rong trades in crude oil imports and exports, particularly from Iran. The company imports approximately 240,000 barrels of Iranian oil per day – a figure that constitutes around 4 percent of China’s total oil imports. According to Reuters, a Zhuhai Zhen Rong spokesperson has said that a date for the merger is yet to be finalized.

COOPERATION

MSAR, Shenzhen intend to create joint logistics hub

THE development of the “Dawan area” – a logistics hub in the coastal areas covering Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau – and the strengthening of cooperation on tourism are two major bilateral agreements between Macau and Shenzhen set for the coming year, according to the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong.

The secretary was speaking to reporters yesterday in Shenzhen following the Shenzhen-Macau Cooperation Conference 2015. The annual event was chaired by the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, and the mayor of Shenzhen, Mr Xu Qin.

Before the press briefing, Mr Chui and Mr Xu witnessed the signing of a memorandum on promoting development of the “Dawan area” and the signing of a bilateral memorandum on tourism.

According to the Government Information Bu-



Chui Sai On shakes hands with the mayor of Shenzhen, Mr Xu Qin

reau, the next milestone in bilateral cooperation is advancing regional cooperation via policies favoring the FTZ in the Qianhai-Shekou Area (Shenzhen). Lionel Leong said that it is a major opportunity for bilateral cooperation between young entrepreneurs. He added that his team was analysing the measures that

would be needed in order to support local youngsters in extending their activities to the three Free Trade Zones in Guangdong – Qianhai-Shekou, Hengqin, and Nansha.

Mr Xu also attended the press briefing. He said Shenzhen welcomed more Macau businesses – in fields such as finance, logistics, legal servi-

ces, accounting, and architecture – to set up operations in Qianhai, a move that would further liberalise trade in services between Guangdong and the MSAR.

The Shenzhen government would also continue to optimize platforms and mechanisms for cooperation on education, culture, tourism, environmental protection, and inspection and quarantine procedures, added Mr Xu.

Later in the evening, the Chief Executive had a meeting with the Secretary of Shenzhen’s CPC Municipal Committee, Mr Ma Xingrui.

Mr Chui told Mr Ma that the two memoranda signed yesterday would bring bilateral cooperation to a higher level. Macau would make use of its special advantages in the fields of tourism and culture in order to help create fresh opportunities for the country as a whole, he added.

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ICBC wins Tata as client in overseas push as China growth slows

Bhuma Shrivastava and Anto Antony

INDUSTRIAL & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., the world's largest lender by assets, signed up the USD109 billion Indian conglomerate Tata Group as a client as part of its overseas push to counter a slowdown at home.

ICBC will be a "strategic banking partner" to Tata that has over 100 operating companies and will provide services ranging from global cash management, consulting, international trade finance to investment banking, foreign exchange and derivatives trading, according to an e-mailed statement from Tata Sons Ltd. The lender will also set up a team to support Tata's growth plans in countries including China, Singapore, the U.S. and Europe.

The lender with more than \$3.5 trillion in assets is looking at overseas markets as the weakening Chinese economy threatens its asset quality and



profitability. ICBC, which generates about 94 percent revenue from its domestic operations, more than doubled provisions for bad loans last quarter from a year earlier amid near-zero growth in profit.

It is ramping up its Indian presence as the third-largest Asian economy expanded at a

world-beating 7.4 percent pace in the three months, compared with China's 6.9 percent.

"This shows ICBC's ambitions to grow their franchise as a global player," said Singapore-based Gaurav Arora, head of corporate and institutional banking for India at Greenwich Associates. "This also suggests

a fundamental shift in strategy to serve more non-Chinese mega conglomerates."

With many U.S. and European banks turning more selective in the Asian market, large regional banks such as ICBC are stepping in to fund the expansion plans of big business groups, Arora said.

The Chinese lender is expanding in the South Asian country at a time local banks are struggling to clean up their balance sheets amid the slowest pace of loan growth in 20 years. Publicly-owned Indian banks need to raise \$28 billion of equity by 2019 to meet stricter regulations and 11.1 percent of the nation's loans are classed as stressed assets.

As part of Chairman Cyrus Mistry's Vision 2025, the Tata Group aims to be among the top 25 globally by market value within 10 years and targets to get its products and services to a quarter of the world's population. In 2014, Mistry earmarked \$35 billion to carry out this plan, with a special focus on building

group's retail, infrastructure, finance, defense and aerospace businesses. The group has a total debt of \$37.5 billion.

Trade between China and India has been booming. Investment by Chinese companies in the Indian market will continue to increase, according to an e-mailed response from ICBC. "That provides great cooperation opportunities for Tata and ICBC," it said. Tata didn't immediately elaborate on the partnership beyond its statement. **Bloomberg**

This shows ICBC's ambitions to grow their franchise as a global player.

GAURAV ARORA
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Australia's economy gathers pace in September quarter

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

THE threat of recession in Australia receded with new data yesterday showing the economy gathered pace in the most recent quarter as mining exports grew.

Mining companies are making up for falling iron ore prices by cranking up tonnages to China of Australia's most lucrative export.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released yesterday show the economy expanded 0.9 percent during the September quarter from the previous quarter and 2.5 percent from a year earlier. The USD1.45 trillion economy grew a slower-than-expected 0.2 percent in the April-June quarter.

The Australian economy has been buffeted by weak commodity prices and the Chinese economic slowdown, which led to predictions it would suffer its first recession in more than two decades. The iron ore price reached a 10-year low of \$42 a metric ton on Tuesday. The price peaked at \$185 in 2011.

Treasurer Scott Morrison said the economy is shifting gears after a mining investment boom that carried it through the global financial crisis.

"Over the last seven years, the Australian economy has experienced the biggest structural swings in a century," Morrison told reporters.

"While economic transitions of this magnitude are rarely seamless, the rebalancing continues to take place and the Australian economy is evolving, it is broadening and it is growing," he said.

Australia is in a record 25th year without recession. The economy has grown in every quarter except one since September 1991.

The only wealthy country to enjoy a longer period of continuous growth in modern times was the Netherlands which expanded for 26 years from 1982 until 2008. **AP**



Thai aviation authorities acknowledge US safety downgrade

Nattasuda Anusonadisai, Bangkok

THAI officials yesterday acknowledged weaknesses that caused the United States to downgrade the safety rating of the country's aviation industry, saying its growth outpaced the ability of regulators to keep up.

The Federal Aviation Administration on Tuesday downgraded Thailand to a "Category 2" rating, which means its civil aviation authority is deficient in one or more critical areas or that the country lacks laws and regulations needed to oversee airlines in line with international standards.

"Thailand does not comply with International Civil Aviation Organization safety standards," the FAA statement said. It audited Thailand's civil aviation authority in July as part of its role in ensuring airlines that fly to the United States meet international standards.

Thai airlines will not be allowed to establish new services to the U.S. under the category 2 status.

Thai Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith said at a news conference yesterday that the main concerns among the 33 raised by the FAA were inadequate manpower and training and insufficient ability to vet the licensing of pilots in a timely manner.

"We had limitations in training our people to become inspectors," Arkhom said. "We have 2,300 pilots and they have to renew their permits. We don't have enough people to inspect and grant the permits."

Thailand is one of the world's top tourist destinations, and its tourism industry accounts for about 7



percent of the country's economy.

Regulators in other countries are likely to be influenced by the FAA announcement, which could lead to measures against national flag carrier Thai Airways and other airlines.

Asked if he was concerned that the European Aviation Safety Agency would issue a downgrade similar to the FAA's later this month, Arkhom acknowledged that the agencies operate by similar rules.

He said the effect of a European downgrade would be similar to that of the United States: existing flights to Europe would not be affected, but Thai airlines might not be able to increase the number of flights or change destinations or types of aircraft.

Thailand's military government ordered an overhaul of the civil aviation authority after the ICAO's initial negative assessment in March, but it could not meet a deadline for rectifying all

the problems.

Akom said the body approved Thailand's corrective action plan and the two sides were working to implement it. He said Thai aviation authorities would focus on recertification of the 28 of Thailand's 41 airlines that operate international flights.

If the process goes according to plan, ICAO would be invited to make a new inspection before August 2016. If it is satisfied that the problems have been corrected, it could lift its rating immediately.

Thai Airways International President Charamporn Jotikasthira said the airline's business would be affected if any European restrictions on Thai flights were not lifted by 2017.

The airline, which is Thailand's flag carrier with 11 European destinations, has been ailing financially, and in October cut its last U.S. route, to Los Angeles. It doesn't plan to add to its European flights in 2016. **AP**

corporate bits

VISA AND BNU LAUNCH RIO 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES CAMPAIGN

Use Your BNU Visa Credit Card and win a trip to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, thanks to Visa

To celebrate the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, its card and official payment system partner - Visa, and BNU have launched the BNU VISA Credit Card Spending Campaign, giving BNU Visa credit cardholders a chance to win tickets to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, thanks to Visa.

The campaign runs from 1st December until 15th March 2016. For each MOP10,000 spent with their BNU Visa credit cards, cardholders will get one entry into a lucky draw, with up to a maximum of 10 entries. The grand prize is a



complete package for two to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games including flights, 4-night deluxe hotel accommodation with daily breakfast, tickets to the opening ceremony and minimum 3 Olympic games. The package also includes a tour of iconic Rio de Janeiro landmark, Visa Olympics-themed merchandise and USD400 worth of Visa prepaid products, courtesy of Visa.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL

Mandarin Oriental, Macau is offering special Christmas rates between 24 and 27 December 2015. Guests booking through the hotel's website are additionally entitled to a bottle of selected wine. The hotel also offers a series of festive events, including feasts, themed afternoon teas, traditional goodies, as well as hampers and spa products.

At the hotel's signature Vida Rica Restaurant, Dominique Bugnard, Director of Culinary Operations and Food & Beverage, is offering a six-course dinner on Christmas Eve and a petite version of a four-course dinner on Christmas Day, plus a seven-course New Year's Eve dinner. Dinner sets



feature dishes such as duck liver mousse savarin with truffle jelly and Paris mushrooms, seared Hokkaido scallop with black truffle and crispy Iberico ham, and white chocolate mousse with wild strawberry sorbet.

CTM CONDUCTS FIRE DRILL TO ENHANCE EMPLOYEE SAFETY AWARENESS



On Dec 2, CTM conducted a fire drill at its headquarters in Taipa with the purpose of enhancing employees' fire safety awareness and emergency readiness.

The fire drill was conducted successfully with over 400 CTM employees and visitors participating. Upon the fire alarms being activated, all employees immediately followed the fire emergency procedures

and instructions by fire wardens, and proceeded to the designated fire assembly point in approximately 10 minutes. The company also conducted fire system maintenance at its building located in Rua Pedro Coutinho a few days ago. CTM expressed its gratitude to the Fire Services Bureau, and police officers from the Public Security Police Force in the successful fire drill.

Officials criticize French journalist's Xinjiang report

CHINESE officials yesterday accused a French journalist of political bias for her reporting on Beijing's efforts to equate ethnic violence in the western Muslim region of Xinjiang with global terrorism.

In response to the Nov. 18 article by Ursula Gauthier in the French news magazine *L'Obs*, formerly *Le Nouvel Observateur*, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs criticized Western media for using double standards in reporting the violence and said terrorism should not be considered ethnic violence in Xinjiang.

"Why is terrorism in other countries called terrorist actions, but it turns out to be ethnic and religious issues in China?" ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular news briefing.

China blames much of the violence on the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, although many international observers question if the group exists in any organized form.



Paramilitary police officers patrol as Uighur men walk by in Urumqi, China's western Xinjiang province.

Rights groups also have argued that the violence largely stems from economic marginalization of ethnic Uighurs and what is seen as suppression of their culture and religion.

Gauthier said yesterday that she was "standing by every word of my report."

She said that some violent assaults involving Uighurs amounted to terrorism, but that they appeared to be homegrown with no evidence of having foreign ties.

Gauthier said her article focused on a deadly mine attack in a remote region of Xinjiang,

which she described as more likely an act by Uighurs against mine workers of the majority ethnicity Han for what the Uighurs perceived as mistreatment, injustice and exploitation.

Chinese authorities had censored information on the Sep-

tember incident until after the terrorist attacks in Paris, when Chinese police announced they had killed all but one of the 29 people — described as terrorists — responsible for the mine attack.

The timing of the announcement drew concerns that Beijing was trying to ride public anger over terrorism to justify its hardline policies in Xinjiang.

The criticism of Gauthier from the foreign ministry followed earlier attacks in state media against her.

The nationalist newspaper *Global Times* said in a Nov. 20 editorial that Gauthier had "severely distorted the reality in Xinjiang" and said her prejudice against China was "appalling."

Gauthier said the *Global Times* had twisted her article and made wild accusations. "They say I am anti-Chinese. I am not," she said. "They say I am pro-terrorist, I am not."

"It's a very despicable form of journalism on the part of the *Global Times*," she said.

Gauthier said she has yet to have her press credentials renewed by the Chinese foreign ministry for the coming year, whereas new press cards have been issued for most other foreign correspondents. **AP**

Bereaved only child parents protest in Beijing

BEREAVED parents of only children staged protests in Beijing this week seeking greater compensation, in a sign of one of the far-reaching consequences of China's recently scrapped one-child policy, the *Financial Times* reported yesterday.

According to *FT* reporter Lucy Hornby in Beijing, about 700 parents gathered by the National Health and Family Planning Commission on Tuesday, with a smaller group remaining yesterday, after officials escorted many of them back to their hometowns.

The protesters want monetary support for "orphaned" parents to be built into new regulations allowing all couples to have two children. China announced its move to a two-child policy in late October but has not yet enacted the change.

The UK-based



A child is wrapped up against the cold at a park in Beijing

newspaper notes that the issue of parents who have been left with no child to support them is an Achilles heel for Beijing, which beginning in the early 1980s enforced the one-child policy with coerced abortions, sterilization of women, destruction of houses, loss of jobs and the removal of infants from their families. Couples who complied were promised bonuses and life-long security under Communism's cradle-to-grave "iron rice

bowl".

"Most of us end up being orphaned parents because we believed what the party and the government had told us. They said they would look after us parents if we followed the one-child policy," Xie Jinlan, a 49-year-old from Hunan province whose 14-year-old son died in 2010, told the *FT*.

"My husband is a party member and if we didn't follow the one-child policy he would have lost his job and the family

would have lost our means of support. I had two abortions after the birth of our first child."

Many of the protesters hail from the ranks of state-owned enterprises and even the civil service, the two groups for whom the policy lasted the longest and from whom the ruling Communist party derives much of its support.

China eased the policy for rural dwellers and minority ethnic groups after a few years of fierce resistance in the countryside, allowing a second child if the first was a girl. Increased wealth, urban migration and employment in the private sector allowed other couples simply to pay fines for a second child.

Despite recent attempts to build a national social safety net, the bankruptcy of many state-owned enterprises beginning in the 1990s and the lack of formal pension in the countryside mean that most elderly Chinese rely on their families for support.

Party vows to keep yuan at reasonable level after SDR inclusion

CHINA'S cabinet will continue a "managed floating" exchange rate regime and maintain the basic stability of the yuan at a reasonable and balanced level after it was added to the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies.

China welcomes the inclusion of the yuan in the Special Drawing Rights basket and vows to dissolve risks and improve the mechanism to orderly push for the currency's convertibility under capital account, the State Council said in a statement yesterday.

The pledge may ease concern the yuan will weaken amid speculation China's central bank will rein in intervention now that the IMF vote on reserve currency status is out of the way. The central bank will have a more hands-off

approach and develop enough confidence to give market forces greater say, Paul Mackel, head of emerging markets foreign-exchange research at HSBC Holdings Plc in Hong Kong, wrote in a note on Tuesday.

The yuan's addition into SDR means the balance of risks remains tilted toward depreciation in the longer term, Tom Orlik, Bloomberg Intelligence's chief Asia economist, said in a note on Monday.

The government will start pilot programs on financial innovation including small business financing at Taizhou city of eastern Zhejiang province, rural financial reform in northeastern Jilin province, and free trade zones in Guangdong, Tianjin and Fujian province, according to the statement. **Bloomberg**



A cold front that swept choking smog from northern China couldn't have come sooner for Beijing's mayor.

After days of hazardous pollution forced people to wear masks and huddle indoors, residents of China's capital turned their attention to the mayor, Wang Anshun, and his bold vow last year to clear the air. If pollution wasn't brought under control by 2017, Wang said at the time, he would cut off his own head and present it to the country's leadership.

"Hi Mayor, I'm here, waiting for your head," a person using the Internet handle "I Love Rao Zizhao" wrote Tuesday on a discussion board on the Weibo social network, with dozens of others reposting the comment. Earlier, the official count of PM2.5 - the particles that cause the greatest risk to human health - had exceeded 500 micrograms per cubic meter, more than 20 times the World Health Organization's recommended limit.

The smog surged in northern China on Monday during President Xi Jinping's visit to Paris,

Blast of fresh air quiets calls for Beijing mayor's head



A woman wearing a face mask rides a bicycle along a street in Beijing

The mayor has vowed on his own head to control the smog, but we still have to rely on the wind to control it.

SICHUAN PEOPLE'S RADIO
WEIBO POST

where he vowed to work with U.S. counterpart Barack Obama and other world leaders to stem carbon emissions and fight climate change. The capital raised its pollution alert to orange - the second-highest level - for the first time in 13 months on Sunday, the same day that the Chinese government said it had met pollution-reduction targets for the year.

Late Tuesday, winds began to flush the smog from the region

and, by yesterday morning, PM2.5 levels in Beijing had plunged to single digits. But the skies couldn't clear before people began mocking local officials who had so frequently vowed to control the pollution.

"The mayor has vowed on his own head to control the smog, but we still have to rely on the wind to control it," Sichuan People's Radio wrote on its official Weibo account. "What do you think?"

While China's Internet is tightly controlled and politically sensitive posts are often deleted, the censors do tolerate some criticism of local officials and national issues. In March, an online documentary discussing the government's failures to fight industrial pollution attracted more than 200 million views before disappearing from the Chinese Web.

Wang made his anti-pollution vow during a local legisla-

tive meeting in January 2014, saying the city would invest 76 billion yuan (USD11.9 billion) on air quality, including replacing coal-fired heating systems in urban areas with natural gas ones. The mayor's office didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment yesterday.

The controversy was noticed by the Communist Party's People's Daily, which published on its website an article entitled, "What We Need is Clean Air, Not the Head of Beijing Mayor." The by-lined piece acknowledged the challenge of fighting air pollution and said efforts to shut industry and clear the skies during events like Xi's military parade in September and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum last year showed the government's resolve.

"What we need most is the actions for solving the problem, rather than just warnings that predict the imminent problem," the article said. "It is the determination and active actions that will lead to the most-wanted clean air, not the promised 'head.'"

Another Weibo user named Little Li From the Village questioned whether Wang would fare so well if he worked for China's neighbor, North Korea. "I bet his head would already be on the table in front of Kim Jong Un, if he was a North Korean official," it said **Bloomberg**

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's five-day trip to Africa comes as the continent suffers more than anywhere else from China's slowing economic growth and an associated rout in the value of the region's commodities exports.

Trade between the two slumped 18 percent in the first nine months of 2015 from a year earlier, the largest decline in China's trade with the world's continents, according to China's commerce ministry.

Xi arrived Tuesday in Zimbabwe, where he met President Robert Mugabe, before traveling yesterday to South Africa to co-chair a two-day summit in Johannesburg between China and African nations. He is also to meet South African President Jacob Zuma.

China-Africa trade is under pressure, but that's

Xi in Africa as continent feels most pain from mainland trade slump



A woman holds a portrait of Chinese President Xi Jinping while welcoming him in Harare, Zimbabwe

a temporary phenomenon induced by plunging commodity prices, China's Vice Commerce Minister Qian Keming said at a press briefing last

week. The quantity of products including crude oil, manganese, copper, cobalt ore and other energy and resource products that China imports

from Africa hasn't declined, he said. Sino-Africa imports and exports totaled USD222 billion last year.

The Republic of Congo, Angola and Mauritania are African nations most exposed to China's slowdown because almost half of their exports go to the Asian nation, according to data from the International Monetary Fund. Oil accounts for the bulk of exports from Congo and Angola, while iron ore makes up more than 40 percent of Mauritania's exports.

There were some bright spots. Oranges imported from Africa surged 309 percent, South African

wine shipments jumped 84 percent and coffee from Kenya rose 30 percent in the first nine months, Qian said.

China's exports to Africa have done better. Africa has become China's second-biggest overseas market for contracted engineering services, Qian said. The trade deficit Africa has with China is a problem and the nation will try to import as much as possible to improve the balance, Qian said.

China also plans to expand investment in Africa and will move manufacturing industries there to help the continent industrialize. The stock

of China's direct investment in Africa reached \$32.4 billion at the end of last year after growing at an annual rate exceeding 30 percent for the past 15 years, Qian said.

"We're still confident about China-Africa trade" because of positive developments in Africa including its growing population and abundant resources, Qian said.

While on his African trip, Xi is also expected to showcase China's expanding role as a protector of regional security. China has pledged \$100 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. **Bloomberg**

NORTH KOREA

Security heightened even as hermit kingdom tries to woo tourists

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

SO you're thinking of taking an exotic vacation, having a little adventure and coming back with lots of stories for your envious friends and colleagues. Believe it or not, North Korea might just be the place for you.

But watch what you bring. And what you do. And what you say.

While North Korea is making a strong push to increase the number of tourists who visit the country each year — currently a few thousand come from Western countries and more from neighboring China — it is stepping up its enforcement of a broad set of strict but sometimes ambiguously implemented regulations about what foreign visitors can bring with them or what they can do while in the country.

North Korea's push for tourists began in 2013 and visitors can now enjoy a surprisingly broad array of options, from helicopter rides over the capital to surfing on the country's scenic eastern coast. With winter now setting in, the North is hoping its newly opened luxury ski resort near the city of Wonsan, which was largely empty of tourists last season while Pyongyang closed its borders over Ebola fears, will be a big draw.

Even so, the pro-tourism policy, like many other business opportunities that involve dealing with and possibly making concessions to the outside world, poses an obvious conundrum for Pyongyang — the potential of economic gains that require change, versus concerns about how that might undermine regime security.

"Despite the policy of getting more tourists, they still see security, or at least perceptions of security, as a bigger concern, and tourism is pretty far down the list of priorities," said Simon Cockerell of Beijing-based Koryo Tours, which has specialized in North Korea travel since 1993. "It's clear that the restrictions, rules and so on often act against increasing tourist numbers."

For those visitors who do break the rules, the risks of detention, arrest and possibly even jail sentences are real enough, especially if the offender is from the United States. The U.S. State Department recently updated and expanded its already blunt warning



Passengers wait for their luggage upon arrival at the Sunan International Airport in Pyongyang, North Korea

against North Korean travel. In a nutshell, its advice is simple: Just don't do it.

"While tourism and the flexibility of travel in the DPRK has expanded, there has been a measurable increase in security at the borders," said Andrea Lee, CEO of New Jersey-based Uri Tours, which has been organizing tours to the North — officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — for 15 years.

Detentions and arrests, while certain to grab international headlines, are actually quite rare.

Most involve extenuating circumstances, such as illegal border crossings or religious or political activities that lead to fairly predictable problems. The vast majority of tourists also visit on carefully orchestrated tours arranged by major agencies that specialize in travel to the North and are well versed in the latest set of dos and don'ts, which they pass on to their clients before anyone boards the flight to Pyongyang.

"I have never heard of anyone getting in trouble by accident or by doing something that they genuinely thought would not cause them any trouble," Cockerell said. "There are rules and laws, of course, that differ from those most visitors are used to, but they

are not secret and responsible companies advise their clients in advance what can and can't be done."

Just how does one toe the line in one of the world's most authoritarian countries?

For many, the first test comes while they are still in the air.

On North Korea's flagship airline, Air Koryo, cabin attendants sternly scold passengers shooting souvenir photos and delete anything they decide is inappropriate. English-language newspapers are available on most flights, but crumpling them will bring a lecture and possibly require a written apology. Newspapers inevitably feature photos of Kim Jong Un and defacing the leader's image is a serious crime.

Customs can also be a shock. Scrutiny of books is increasing to the point some agencies advise against bringing any at all. At Pyongyang's new airport, officials recently started to not only turn on laptops but to also at times search whatever is on them extensively.

They can and often do, as the most recent State Department warning noted, "inspect USB drives, CDs, DVDs, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, or any other electronic and multimedia devices brought into the country. Internet browsing histories and cookies on travelers' computers and

other electronic devices are subject to search for banned content, including pornography or material critical of the DPRK government."

Anything pro-South Korea, of course, is a no-no. And heaven forbid taking a Bible.

Once inside the country, visitors can expect to have virtually no freedom to roam about unescorted.

But they can still land in hot water if they start up conversations with random people on the street, do anything that smacks of politicking or proselytizing, attempt to exchange currency with an unauthori-

zed vendor, take unauthorized photographs, shop at stores not designated for foreigners or in any way show disrespect to the "Great Persons of Mount Paektu" — national founder Kim Il Sung and his son Kim Jong Il and the current dictator, Kim Jong Un.

And, as the State Department warns, if you take a mobile phone and feel like calling home, "please keep in mind that you have no right to privacy in North Korea and should assume your communications are monitored."

"The DPRK is a much different place to visit now than it was a decade ago. Now, travelers can visit 8 of the 9 provinces and there are a wide range of activities available to tourists," said Lee, of Uri Tours. "In our experience, the DPRK is a safe and rewarding place to visit. However, travelers are expected to follow the rules and to be escorted by our guides at all times."

So, is it worth it?

Seeing North Korea first-hand can be a great opportunity to learn something about one of the most enigmatic places on the planet. But like the 24 million people who live here, for whom the pleasures of tourism abroad are not an option, you won't have much freedom to really make the most of it. AP

Despite the policy of getting more tourists, they still see security, or at least perceptions of security, as a bigger concern.

SIMON COCKERELL
KORYO TOURS

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi meets outgoing president for transition talks

Aung Shine 00, Naypyitaw

NEARLY a month after her party's resounding election win, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi held closed-door talks with Myanmar's outgoing president yesterday to discuss what both said they hope will be a smooth transition of power.

Because it took so long for the two to meet, there were some concerns the still powerful military would not easily accept the results.

Suu Kyi met later yesterday with Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the military commander-in-chief.

The Southeast Asian nation started moving from a half-century of dictatorship toward democracy in 2011, when military rulers inexplicably agreed to hand over power to a nominally civilian government headed by President Thein Sein, a general turned reformist.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy easily won the Nov. 8 elections, securing enough seats in both the lower and upper houses of Parliament to form a government. A clause in the 2008 military-directed constitution bars her from the presidency, but she has vowed to rule by proxy.

Presidential spokesman Ye Htut said the meeting at Thein Sein's residence in the sprawling capital, Naypyitaw, lasted about 45 minutes.

"The main point was to talk about a smooth transition and transfer of power to the newly elected government



Myanmar President Thein Sein, left, shakes hands with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi during their meeting at the presidential residence yesterday

and to discuss mutual cooperation in the future," he said.

Another goal, he said, was to "ease people's concerns."

Despite the NLD's landslide victory, most analysts agree it will be almost impossible for it to govern without the support of the military establishment. By law, the military still controls a quarter of the seats in Parliament, giving it veto power over all constitutional amendments. It also has a grip on all key security portfolios.

Ye Htut told reporters the meeting between Suu Kyi and Thein Sein was amicable.

The president congratulated "The Lady," as she is popularly known, for leading her party to victory. And Suu Kyi said she was thankful that the elections were free and fair as promised.

The transfer of power should take place in February after the new Parliament meets and votes on a new president, along with two vice presidents.

The NLD will face a variety of challenges, not least of which is the huge tide of pent-up expectations evidenced by the vote. Its lack of experience in

public administration is another big question.

The victory is a sweet second chance for the party, which also won a landslide victory in the first election it contested, in 1990, only to see the results annulled by the military and many of its leading members harassed and jailed.

Suu Kyi was put under house arrest prior to the 1990 election and spent 15 of the next 22 years mostly confined to her lakeside villa in Yangon. She was under house arrest when she won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. **AP**

INDIA

Flooding closes airport, cuts off power in Chennai

WEEKS of torrential rains have forced an airport in southern India to close and have cut off several roads and highways, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded in their homes, government officials said yesterday.

Junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters that the annual winter monsoon rains in Tamil Nadu state have been the heaviest the region has seen in decades. Army and naval rescue teams have joined several teams of National Disaster Response Force to help evacuate residents stranded in low-lying areas.

The airport in the state capital Chennai



was closed earlier yesterday, and television channels reported that most main roads in the city were blocked by several feet of water and that power supplies had been cut. People could be seen wading in waist-deep water in several parts of Chennai. In several of the city's taller buildings all the ground floor apartments have been flooded forcing people to seek shelter with their neighbors.

The state has seen heavy rains for two weeks, and while the deluge slowed down to a drizzle Wednesday morning, the meteorological department has predicted more heavy rain over the next two days.

The rains have resulted in levels of the Adyar river, which runs through the city before draining into the Bay of Bengal, rising to a danger mark. The threat of the river overflowing its banks has led to fears the flooding could worsen.

The flooding has cut off several sections of the East Coast Road, a major highway that connects Chennai to adjoining Pondicherry. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Authorities hang 4 suspected militants over school attack



Pakistani security officials say authorities have hanged four militants who were sentenced to death over a Taliban attack on an army-run school last year that killed more than 150 people, mostly children. The two officials said the men were executed yesterday in the northwestern city of Kohat. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media. The executions came less than two weeks after Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif asked the country's president to reject the clemency petitions of the four "terrorists." The Dec. 16 attack on the school in Peshawar was claimed by the Taliban and prompted Pakistan to lift a 2008 moratorium on the death penalty. Since then, Pakistan has hanged nearly 300 people, most of them convicted criminals, not militants.

AUSTRALIA

Weather bureau won't comment on cyberattack report

Australia's weather bureau has refused to comment on a media report that it has been hacked in a major cyberattack that compromised sensitive systems across the federal government. Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported yesterday that China has been blamed for the recent attack that breached the defenses of the Bureau of Meteorology's computers and would cost millions of dollars to fix. The bureau said in a statement it does not comment on security matters. The statement says: "The bureau's systems are fully operational and the bureau continues to provide reliable, on-going access to high quality weather, climate, water and oceans information to its stakeholders." The ABC report, citing unnamed officials, said the motivation for the attack could be commercial, strategic or both.

PHILANTHROPY

Zuckerberg, now a father, will give away most of his money

Brandon Bailey
Technology Writer, San Francisco

TALK about birth announcements: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife say they'll devote nearly all their wealth — roughly USD45 billion — to solving the world's problems in celebration of their new baby daughter, Max.

Zuckerberg's wife, Priscilla Chan, gave birth to a 7-pound, 8-ounce daughter last week. But the couple didn't put out the news until Tuesday, when Zuckerberg posted it on Facebook, of course.

In the same post, Zuckerberg said he and Chan will, over time, commit 99 percent of their Facebook stockholdings to such causes as fighting disease, improving education and "building strong communities." The couple had previously pledged to give away at least half their assets during their lifetime, but hadn't provided specifics.



In this undated photo provided by Mark Zuckerberg, Max Chan Zuckerberg is held by her parents, Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg

They are forming a new organization, called the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, that will pursue those goals through a combination of charitable donations, private investment and promotion of government-policy reform.

"Like all parents, we want you to grow up in a world better than ours today," the 31-year-old so-

cial media mogul and his wife wrote in a letter to their daughter, which they also posted on Facebook.

The announcement stunned the charity world. "It's incredibly impressive and an enormous commitment that really eclipses anything that we've seen in terms of size," said Phil Buchanan, president of the nonprofit Cen-

ter for Effective Philanthropy.

By comparison, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has an endowment of just over \$41 billion, which includes wealth donated by the Microsoft founder and his friend, the businessman Warren Buffett.

The new initiative will be organized as a limited liability company, however, rather than as a nonprofit foundation. "They want the most flexibility and they are going to use a wide variety of activities to achieve their mission," Rachael Horwitz, a Facebook spokeswoman, said via email. "So in that way this is not a foundation nor is it entirely charitable."

The notion of investing money in companies that tackle social issues isn't new, but it has gained more currency among a younger generation of philanthropists, particularly in the tech world.

Zuckerberg has also shown a previous interest in influencing

public policy. He led other prominent Silicon Valley figures in forming a group, FWD.us, that lobbied and gave donations to congressional candidates in an unsuccessful effort to promote immigration reforms. Depending on how much of the new effort is devoted to lobbying, it could raise new questions about the influence of money in today's politics, some experts said.

In the letter to their daughter, Zuckerberg and Chan described their goals as "advancing human potential and promoting equality." They added: "We must make long term investments over 25, 50 or even 100 years. The greatest challenges require very long time horizons and cannot be solved by short term thinking."

While Zuckerberg promised to release more details in the future, he said the couple will transfer most of their wealth to the initiative "during our lives." The couple will be in charge of the initiative, although Zuckerberg won't be quitting his day job.

"I have a full time job running Facebook," he told The Associated Press in an interview last month, during which he discussed the couple's approach to philanthropy. Of his job at the social network, he added, "I'm going to be doing this for long time." AP

AD

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Legal limbo awaits millions of future 'climate refugees'

FARMER Ajmad Miyah has given up on ever settling down again. Three years after the sea swallowed his home on the Bangladeshi coast, he still has no property or possessions, and survives by tilling other people's fields in exchange for food.

"I've accepted that this is reality," the lean, 36-year-old Miyah said in the island district of Bhola, where the Meghna River spills into the Bay of Bengal. "My house will always be temporary now, like me on this Earth."

At least 19.3 million people worldwide were driven from their homes by natural disasters last year — 90 percent of which were related to weather events, according to the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Center.

Most have stayed within their own countries, including millions displaced in the South Asian delta nation of Bangladesh. But as their numbers rise, more will feel compelled to cross international borders in search of safe haven. They could end up in a state of a legal limbo with no rights or guaranteed help.

A study in November suggested 470 million to 760 million people worldwide could lose their land to rising seas in this century if global warming is allowed to continue unchecked. The study, by the nonprofit research and news organization Climate Central, looked at global population data and sea rise projections.

Some countries like Bangladesh and the Philippines stand to lose large portions of land; some small island nations like the Marshall Islands or the Maldives could effectively disappear.



35-year-old Nurun Nahar, right, who lost her husband along with her belongings to the River Meghna stands for a photograph in the island district of Bhola, Bangladesh

“The world is still not talking enough about the climate migration that is going to happen.”

HARJEET SINGH
ACTION AID INTERNATIONAL

The U.S. Department of Defense has called climate change “an urgent and growing threat to our national security, contributing to increased natural disasters, refugee flows, and conflicts over basic resources such as food and water,” according to a report this year.

Yet climate change does not make one a refugee, a designation for people forced to leave their home countries because of war, persecution or other violence. Someone seeking refuge from environmental disaster

cannot apply for refugee status, lacks protection under the U.N. High Convention for Refugees and can be sent back to their countries of origin without question at any time.

The issue may remain unresolved through the two-week summit in Paris, aimed at hammering out a new treaty to limit global warming and deal with its effects. The U.S. is among the countries that oppose addressing migration issues in the treaty.

“This is actually becoming a

fast-developing disaster,” said Harjeet Singh, the international policy manager for the advocacy group Action Aid International. “The world is still not talking enough about the climate migration that is going to happen.”

New Zealand deported a man back to the tiny South Pacific island nation of Kiribati earlier this year after its Supreme Court dismissed his appeal — the world's first — for asylum as a climate refugee.

Some in vulnerable countries fear they could face the same hostile reception that Syrian war refugees have received from some countries.

“What's happening now in Europe with all these refugees will be a small thing compared to what will happen when climate change takes effect,” Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak told The Associated Press in his nation's capital of Majuro.

Yet, many of them believe rich nations should shoulder most of the responsibility.

“The U.N. protocol on refugees has to be revised, and responsibility for climate change migrants has to be taken by the developed countries, who are responsible for climate emissions,” said Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, head of a Bangladeshi organization that aims to help people affected by climate change called COAST. “This is a matter of these countries' survival.” AP

IRAQ

PM: Foreign troops not needed on the ground to fight IS

Sinan Salaheddin, Baghdad

IRAQ'S prime minister has defended his country's security forces, saying they're capable of defeating the Islamic State group without the help of foreign combat troops.

Haider al-Abadi's statement late Tuesday came hours after U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter told Congress that a new special operations force will be deployed to Iraq to step up fighting against IS. The militant group controls a wide swath of Iraq and neighboring Syria.

“Iraqi special operations and anti-terrorism forces

are playing an important role in the fight against Daesh terrorist gangs and proved their capability in targeting Daesh leaders and carrying out dangerous missions to retake vital areas,” al-Abadi said, referring to the IS group by its Arabic acronym.

Al-Abadi said his country needs training, weapons and advice from the international community and not “foreign ground combat forces fighting on Iraqi soil.”

But he left the door open for such a possibility.

“The Iraqi government underlines that any military operation or de-

ployment of any foreign special or non-special forces in any part of Iraq can't be done without its approval, full coordination and with full respect to Iraqi sovereignty,” he said.

Carter told the House Armed Services Committee that over time, the special operations force will be able to conduct raids, free hostages, gather intelligence and capture IS leaders. He said the number in the new expeditionary force would be more than 50. It would focus on helping Iraq defend its borders and build its security forces, but also be in posi-

tion to conduct unilateral operations into Syria.

According to a U.S. official, the force could total up to a couple hundred troops, including assault teams, aviation units and other support units. It would likely be based in Irbil, the capital of Iraq's self-ruled northern Kurdish region. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the individual was not authorized to publicly discuss military planning.

Carter said the force might be American-only, but more likely would be mixed with Kurdish troops or others who are



Iraq's prime minister, Haider al-Abadi

fighting the militants. He said the new force would conduct operations similar to two from earlier this year.

In October, U.S. special operations troops and Iraqi forces raided a compound in northern Iraq, freeing about 70 Iraqi prisoners who were facing execution. One U.S. service member was killed in the raid, the first American combat death in Iraq since the U.S. began its campaign against

IS in August 2014.

In May, a Delta Force raid in Syria killed IS financier Abu Sayyaf, yielding intelligence about the group's structure and finances. His wife, held in Iraq, has been cooperating with interrogators.

There currently are about 3,300 U.S. troops in Iraq, and President Barack Obama had previously announced he was sending fewer than 50 special operations forces to Syria. AP

what's ON



MACAU PRINTMAKING TRIENNIAL

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: February 14, 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

MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Multi-function Hall,

Handover Gifts Museum of Macao

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MACAU OLD SHOPS

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

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS

- EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS

OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Museum of Taipa and Coloane History

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Adult); MOP2 (Student or

Group); Free (Under 12 or above 65)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

Offbeat

SAN FRANCISCO APPROVES USD290,000
PAYOUT FOR JOURNEY WEDDING

AP PHOTO
Neal Schon, left, and Michael Salahi arrive at the CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors this week approved a USD290,000 payout to settle a lawsuit by the guitarist of rock band Journey that claimed the city unfairly jacked up fees to use a city landmark for his lavish wedding.

The full board voted unanimously to approve the settlement with Neal Schon.

Schon married "Real Housewives of D.C." star Michael Salahi in December 2013 at the Palace of Fine Arts with a reception at an adjacent building that once housed the Exploratorium science museum.

Schon said he agreed to pay the city \$58,000 for the use of the building, but he was surprised to learn days before the wedding that he would have to pay \$240,000 for the opulent event to go on. He reluctantly paid, likening the price hike to "extortion."

The couple sued in federal court in February, claiming that the city unfairly jacked up the fee after learning the couple planned to broadcast the event on pay-per-view television.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera initially defended the higher charge as appropriate for a commercial event. "We're grateful we were able to reach an amicable agreement to resolve the dispute, and we wish Neal and Michael every happiness in married life," Herrera's office said in a statement.

Journey is a band nearly synonymous with San Francisco in some circles. Two of its songs, "Don't Stop Believin'" and "Lights," are unofficial theme songs of the San Francisco Giants.

Before starring in the 2010 season of "Housewives," Salahi made headlines when she and her then-husband crashed a state dinner at the White House in 2009.

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:30 | Publicity |
| 14:55 | Debate on Social Affairs and Culture Policy Report for 2016 (Live) |
| 20:00 | Documentary Series |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Talk Show |
| 21:40 | Comedy |
| 22:10 | Trail of Lies |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Television Film |
| 00:10 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |

cinema

CINETEATRO

03 DEC - 09 DEC



POINT BREAK

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Ericson Core

Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 113min

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

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2

ROOM 2

7.00 pm

Director: Francis Lawrence

Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson,

Liam Hemsworth

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 137min



THE CROW'S EGG

ROOM 3

2.30, 7.30 pm

Director: M. Manikandan

Starring: Ramesh, J. Vignesh, Iyhwarya Rajesh

Language: Tamil (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 91min

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

ROOM 3

4.30, 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

1965 WHITE JURY CONVICTS
KU KLUX KLANSMEN

An all-white jury in the southern US state of Alabama has convicted three Ku Klux Klansmen over the murder of white civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo.

The mother of five from Detroit was shot and killed while driving a young black activist, Leroy Moton, back to the town of Selma following a protest march to the state capital Montgomery on 25 March.

A car pulled up alongside Mrs Liuzzo's car. She was shot twice in the head and killed instantly. Her car veered off the road and crashed but Mr Moton was unhurt.

Collie Leroy Wilkins, aged 22, Eugene Thomas, 42, and William Eaton, 41, were convicted in a federal court on conspiracy to violate the constitutional rights of 39-year-old Mrs Liuzzo.

They were given the maximum 10-year sentence.

The men were not able to be convicted on a murder charge because homicide is not within federal jurisdiction.

Wilkins had already been acquitted of the same murder in a state court in neighbouring Lowndes County, a decision which sent shockwaves across America.

The US President, Lyndon B Johnson, had intervened in the case from the very beginning.

The day after Mrs Liuzzo's murder he announced on television that four members of the KKK had been arrested, including Gary Rowe - later revealed as an undercover FBI agent and who testified against the other three.

The president also condemned the Klan as "a hooded society of bigots".

Robert Shelton, leader of Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, called the president "a damn liar" and suggested Mrs Liuzzo's death, along with that of Rev James Reeb, were a "trumped up communist plot to destroy the right wing in America".

Both the president and civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King have been calling for legislation to prevent courts in the southern states from refusing to convict those who kill black people and civil rights workers.

Last month President Johnson promised new laws "to prevent injustice to Negroes at the hands of all -white juries".

The pressure for change seems to be having an effect.

Today's groundbreaking verdict comes a day after an Alabama court made history by convicting a white man of the second-degree murder of a black man.

Hubert Damon Strange, aged 26, was found guilty by the Anniston state court in Alabama of murdering foundryman Willie Brewster last July.

He was sentenced today to 10 years' in prison. Two other white men charged with the murder will be tried at a later date.

All the convicted men have given notice of appeal.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

William Eaton died of a heart attack in March 1966 while free on bail.

Six months later, Eugene Thomas was acquitted on appeal by a jury of eight African Americans and four whites in Hayneville, Alabama.

The House Committee of Un-American Activities conducted an investigation into the Ku Klux Klan that same year and the federal government under President Johnson did impose some control over their activities.

But the KKK is still sporadically active in parts of the USA.

Viola Liuzzo's children attempted to get the FBI to admit complicity in the murder but were unsuccessful.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 There is so much inner friction building that you should be careful being around any sparks...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Ah, the days you were involved in power struggles suddenly seem like such fond memories...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 So what if your mood isn't as high as a kite. It's being opinionated about your prospects that's keeping you down...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 All that planning ahead now seems like a waste, but it will arrive even if it's in a different state than the one you imagined...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Not losing your confidence in this climate is your biggest achievement. Don't let anything or anyone pull the rug out from under you now...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Do something constructive with the time on your hands, like organizing. There may not be too much action now, but you want to be prepared for any projects that might be coming down the line...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to get creative. The details don't really matter, because there is no money involved. It's not even a dry run. Consider it a necessary step to becoming fluid...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're not the only one in the midst of a career crisis. But being in good company isn't any consolation to you or the bank. Come up with a more effective mantra to keep yourself from feeling too stressed...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Keep up the fantasies of faraway places, because you won't be going on those kinds of journeys anytime soon. Unless you run into some serious luck, that is...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Watch closely those around you. Exactly how different people handle adversity is an education in itself. If you pay attention, you'll learn the lessons of a lifetime without spending a penny...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The changes in you finances feel sudden, but they were a long time coming. Just because you were the last to know doesn't mean they were out of the blue. Look over your shoulder for the missed clues...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your world is getting narrower and narrower. It feels like there's too much going on to focus on anyone's financial problems but your own. That's fine for now...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

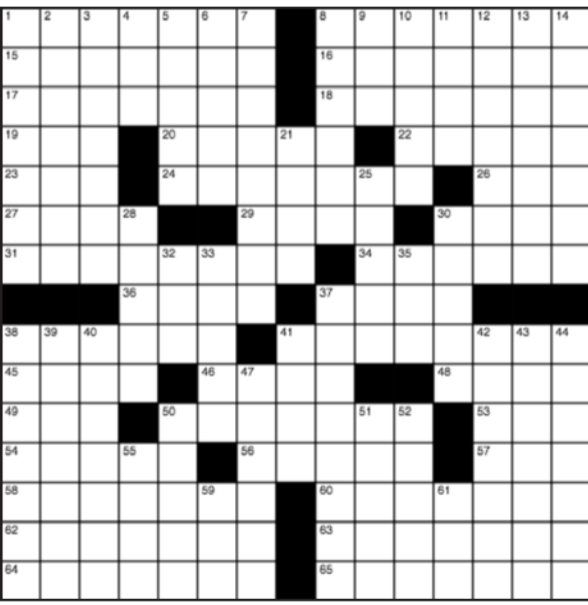
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Blemished; 8- Jabber; 15- Spread throughout; 16- Regret; 17- Loss of the sense of smell; 18- Snob; 19- Explosive stuff; 20- Finished; 22- Cut off; 23- Kind of cross; 24- Having some sodium; 26- Having four sharps; 27- Sicilian smoker; 29- Swear words; 30- Tailless rodent; 31- Change the course of; 34- Lucky charm; 36- Hazard; 37- Shrinking Asian sea; 38- Thumbs-up; 41- Person's individual speech pattern; 45- Tailless amphibian; 46- 1999 Ron Howard film; 48- Did in; 49- Up to, briefly; 50- To reiterate...; 53- Ivy Leaguer; 54- Inventor Howe; 56- Spiritual sustenance; 57- Parisian possessive; 58- Tanning salon purchase; 60- Clog; 62- Restraint; 63- Understanding; 64- Permanently attached, to a zoologist; 65- Go in again;

DOWN: 1- Splash; 2- Feathered; 3- Pompous; 4- Boob tubes; 5- Domesticates; 6- Minneapolis suburb; 7- Stalemate; 8- Accept as true; 9- Norse goddess; 10- Mennonite sect; 11- Carry; 12- Insignificant; 13- Spirit; 14- Strategic withdrawal; 21- Coup d'; 25- Puppeteer Lewis; 28- Ventilated; 30- Tugs; 32- Tin Tin; 33- Park, CO; 35- Long March leader; 37- One who says 'Mother, may I?'; 38- Certifies; 39- Stain; 40- Steinbeck's birthplace; 41- boy; 42- Rudimentary component; 43- Actress Holm; 44- Tornado; 47- Cheek depression; 50- Me too; 51- Combined; 52- 'Inferno' writer; 55- Material charity; 59- Actor Gibson; 61- X



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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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FOOTBALL

Embattled Benzema wants to win Euro 2016 with Valbuena

Samuel Petrequin, Paris

SPEAKING publicly for the first time since becoming embroiled in a blackmail scandal, Karim Benzema said yesterday he wants to play again for France and win the 2016 European Championship with teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

Benzema, one of France's key players, is facing charges of conspiracy to blackmail relating to an extortion scam over a sex tape featuring Valbuena. He is suspected of having played an active role in pressuring Valbuena to deal directly with the blackmailers.

"Hopefully it will end well, we will all be OK ... and we will all return to the France team to win that Euro," Benzema said in an interview with TV channel TF1 to be aired later Wednesday.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls joined in the criticism of Benzema on Tuesday, saying he "has no place" on the



France's Karim Benzema

national team, days after Valbuena said he felt betrayed by his France teammate.

"I'm not playing for the came-

ras, I'm not playing a game," insisted Benzema in excerpts released by TF1. "I'm here to be sincere."

Benzema's involvement in the plot has not yet been fully determined but investigators believe he was approached by a childhood friend, Karim Zenati, to act as an intermediary and convince Valbuena to deal directly with the blackmailers.

Benzema, who denies any wrongdoing, has also been placed under judicial supervision, meaning he cannot meet with Valbuena during the investigation. If the case continues to drag on until the Euro starts on June 10, France coach Didier Deschamps won't be able to call both players in his squad for the continental tournament.

Meanwhile, Benzema's lawyer Alain Jakubowicz said that he will file a law suit for breach of confidentiality of a judicial investigation after Le Monde newspaper published excerpts of the striker's first examination in front of the investigating judge.

"This is absolutely unacceptable, this case has been turned

upside down," Jakubowicz told RTL radio. "Mathieu Valbuena, who is a victim and an honest man, has been influenced in his declarations. But how could it have been different?"

Le Monde published statements given by Benzema to the judge investigating the case after he spent a night in custody at Versailles police station last month. Benzema denied his implication in the plot and told the judge he was a victim of "a big misunderstanding."

Benzema said he just wanted to "help" Valbuena by letting him know about the sex tape and putting him in touch with his "best friend" Zenati, who is suspected of having played a central role in the scheme and has also been handed preliminary charges.

"I am really disappointed with the magnitude of this story, because blackmail and stuff like that, frankly it's very serious," Benzema was quoted as saying.

Benzema also told the judge he thought that Zenati would intervene for free in favor of Valbuena and make sure the tape would be destroyed.

"I've been successful in my life and (Zenati) is being looked after, because he is my boyhood friend," Benzema said. "That's why I don't understand this story about blackmail and money." **AP**

AD

2016 MIECF

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Edf. China Civil Plaza, 19th Floor,
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綠色展區 - 重點推介「廢物管理專區」及「綠色建築專區」

Green Showcase - Industry zones of "Waste Management Area" and "Green Building Zone" will be set up

今屆展覽除了一如以往歡迎各類環保企業參與外，大會將特設行業專區，重點推介「廢物管理專區」和「綠色建築專區」，以配合區域發展之環保需要。歡迎本澳有關企業參與其中，透過MIECF展示先進環保科技及方案，開拓業務，進軍海外包括葡語國家等地的環保市場。

Apart from welcoming participation from various green industries, industry zones of "Waste Management Area" and "Green Building Zone" will be set up to respond to the key environmental needs in the region. Relevant SMEs are welcome to exhibit at these zones to present advanced environmental technologies and solutions, and reach out to overseas environmental markets including Portuguese-Speaking countries and beyond!

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Macao Special Administrative Region

澳門貿易投資促進局
Instituto de Promoção de Comércio e Investimento do Macao
Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute
電郵 Email: miecf@pim.gov.mo

澳門特別行政區政府
Government of the Macao
Special Administrative Region
電郵 Email: miecf@dspa.gov.mo

Pat Graham, Beaver Creek, Colo.

BODE Miller being Bode Miller, he will of course try to go as fast as he can in a downhill training run yesterday. Doesn't matter if there's nothing at stake since he's only testing out the hill or that he's hardly in "go crazy" form.

That's just the way he's wired.

Although he's taking a break from World Cup racing this season, the 38-year-old Miller said he will serve as a forerunner in Beaver Creek for one day only and wear cameras mounted on his helmet and ski pole. Quick disclaimer: The six-time Olympic medalist can't fully guarantee the safety of those cameras.

Sure, he will play it safe, but safe to Miller is a relative term.

Don't be surprised if his time is fast, either. He certainly wouldn't be as he returns to a venue where he wiped out last February during a world championship super-G race and severed his right hamstring tendon.

"There's no question I have the ability to be fast. I have no doubt there," Miller said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "I know what I'm capable of doing because I know how to take risks. I'm better at managing risk than anyone else on the World Cup."

No denying that. He's won 33 World Cup races and two overall titles with his risk-taking style.

While this is just a friendly meander down the Birds of Prey hill, Miller's treating it almost like a race and has a plan of attack in mind. He will charge 100 percent up top because "there's no risk." He'll let the skis he's using — Bomber Ski, a company he's now collaborating with after a split from Head — do their thing. But then in the middle, when the course turns gnarly, he'll "take it easy" before cranking it up again.

"Very excited," Miller said. "But I know I can't go out there and go crazy, because I'm not in



Volunteers prepare safety netting at the finish area in Beaver Creek

SKIING

Miller will take course as forerunner before training run

that kind of form yet."

When he passes the spot where he crashed last February, he said he won't think twice.

"Because I've come back to places a lot of times where I've crashed," said Miller, who will also serve as a commentator for the races this week, beginning Friday with a downhill. "I'm not too worried about it. That was a freak accident."

U.S. men's coach Sasha Rearick can't wait to see how Miller looks on the hill. He may just be super speedy, which could be a glimpse of things to come.

"I'd love to have him back and throwing down," Rearick said. "It's good for the sport, good for the team and good for him. Having him come to the big events is good for everybody."

As Miller's said in the past, a return to racing isn't out of the picture. Not likely this season, but possibly down the road and in a limited capacity.

"I don't commit to coming back. But I don't commit to quitting, either," Miller said. "But I think that there's a good likelihood that I do a few races, because of the benefits of Bomber.

It's going to be an exciting time with a new company.

"I think there's enough benefit for me inside of that, that it really is worthwhile. How it goes down, I don't know."

That's because his family remains his top priority. He and his wife, pro beach volleyball player Morgan Miller, welcomed a son in May.

"The commitment for my family is pretty extreme these days," said Miller, who's also into horse racing and owns a barn full of promising thoroughbreds. "But I can see doing

some racing. I'm never going to do the full circuit again — that's way too time-consuming and demanding. I need to manage how that all goes down."

Could he see himself on a podium again?

"There's no question I have the ability to win," Miller said. "There are young skiers out there who are fit and hungry and charging and that's the way it always is. The kids are good."

"But yeah, I have no doubt I can still be relevant. It's just a matter of managing it with the rest of my priorities." AP

RUGBY

England to play Wales twice at Twickenham in 2016

ENGLAND and Wales will meet at Twickenham on May 29 in a warm-up before leaving for rugby tours in the southern hemisphere of Australia and New Zealand respectively.

In announcing their full or partial fixtures lists for next year, England and Wales noted the capped test will be only two months after they meet in the Six Nations, also at Twickenham.

Wales will play 14 times next year, including



Mike Brown in action during England's World Cup

four tests in the autumn, starting with Australia's opening bid for a first Grand Slam of the home

nations in 32 years. That match on Nov. 5 will be outside the international test window, as will be

the possible Grand Slam decider against England on Dec. 3, which England said was still subject to a final agreement with the Premiership clubs.

Australia will play five tests on five consecutive Saturdays, including one against France in Paris.

The All Blacks were confirmed to play Ireland at Lansdowne Road on Nov. 19, two weeks after the teams were expected to meet at Soldier Field in Chicago. That match was still to be confirmed. AP

2016 FIXTURES

IRELAND

- Nov. 12 vs Tier 2 team, Dublin
- Nov. 19 vs. New Zealand, Dublin
- Nov. 26 vs. Australia, Dublin

WALES

- Nov. 5 vs. Australia, Cardiff
- Nov. 12 vs. Argentina, Cardiff
- Nov. 19 vs. tbd, Cardiff
- Nov. 26 vs. South Africa, Cardiff

ENGLAND

- Nov. 12 vs. South Africa, London
- Nov. 19 vs. Fiji, London
- Nov. 26 vs. Argentina, London
- Dec. 3 vs. Australia, London

opinion

World Views

Editorial Board, Bloomberg

INDIA'S SMART CLIMATE STRATEGY

To many eyes, India looks like a roadblock to an effective world climate deal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's demand for "climate justice" - meaning that rich nations should reduce their carbon emissions even as India and others continue to pollute - reprises the polarizing rhetoric that has sunk previous international attempts to battle global warming. Yet there's merit to Modi's argument, and success in Paris requires that all countries recognize it.

The first thing to appreciate is that, whatever commitments Modi's government ends up making at the climate talks, India's fuel mix is growing steadily greener. While coal is still the cheapest and most abundant domestic fuel source, it's getting more expensive and harder to dig from the ground. Many banks already see more potential in funding solar projects than new coal-fired power plants. In fact, the most apt criticism of India's pledges to reduce carbon intensity and the use of fossil fuels - rather than cap emissions - is that the country could probably meet them without really trying. It can and should aim higher.

That said, Modi's central argument is sound: India can't accept a hard limit on emissions when it's still trying to lift hundreds of millions of Indians - more than 20 percent of whom lack electricity - out of poverty. Western nations are most responsible for the greenhouse gases now in the atmosphere; the average American accounts for 10 times the annual emissions of the average Indian. Judged by whether countries are doing their "fair share," based on how much they've contributed to the problem and how able they are to pay, the U.S. and European Union's climate pledges look far weaker than India's. Among major nations, only China appears to have committed to doing more than its fair share.

Politically, however, the chances that the U.S. or other Western nations will commit to lower their own emissions fast enough to prevent dangerous climate change are slim. So it's essential that they also help fund emissions cuts in the developing world. And, dollar for dollar, money devoted to mitigation in poorer countries is well spent. In India, solar power costs USD96 per megawatt hour, compared with \$107 in the U.S., according to data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Modi has pressed developed nations to fulfill their promise to provide \$100 billion a year to help India and others develop clean energy. However, that number is arbitrary, unlikely ever to be reached, and far short of the \$2.5 trillion India says it will require by 2030 to meet its goals. What the country needs more is access to cheaper capital. And it's taken welcome steps in this direction by authorizing tax-free investment bonds and by setting up programs to encourage private investment in renewables. Western nations could help by mobilizing both public and private sources of funding, including soft loans from institutions such as the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

As much as money, India and other developing countries need assistance with clean technology. Better grid technology could allow India to tap its potential for rooftop solar projects, for example. And access to next-generation solar cells could lower costs further.

This is not to say that India itself doesn't have work to do. If it can't raise its climate targets immediately, it should at least not block efforts to scrutinize the progress that all countries are making. Gas and electricity pricing and, in the nuclear-power sector, liability concerns need to be addressed to better encourage investment. And India could cooperate with Western companies by offering itself as a test bed for new technologies - to draw energy from ocean waves and tides, for instance.

In the short term, India's carbon emissions are virtually certain to rise. But that doesn't mean the country can't help move the world toward a clean-energy future.

THE PUBLISHER PLANS SERIES OF TECH BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Girls Who Code is teaming with Viking Children's Books on a line of at least 11 planned works about computer science and coding.

In a joint announcement yesterday, the tech organization and Viking said the upcoming books would include middle grade fiction, doodles and board books. The initial releases, coming in the summer of 2017, will be "Girls Who Code: Tips, Tricks, and Inspi-

ration for Taking Over Tech" and the start of a fictional series billed as "The Baby-Sitters Club" meets coding.

Girls Who Code, founded in 2012 by Reshma Saujani, is a nonprofit with a mission "to close the gender gap in the technology and engineering sectors." Saujani is an activist and former deputy public advocate in New York City.

THE LATEST 'JOINT'

Spike Lee rips Rahm Emanuel on 'Chi-Raq' orange carpet

Rachelle Blidner & John Carucci, New York

KIND words were in short supply for Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel at the premiere of Spike Lee's latest "joint" "Chi-Raq" yesterday (Macau time).

Emmanuel fired the city's police superintendent after tensions flared over the release of a graphic video that showed a black teenager being shot by a white police officer (see below).

Lee predicted at the premiere, held before he and cast members participated in an anti-gun violence march, that "some more heads are gonna roll."

The police superintendent "is not going to be the only one," Lee said.

Lee's satire is based on the ancient Greek play "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes. This modern adaptation is about the murder of a child hit by a stray bullet in Chicago's South Side, and the group of women that organize a unique way of dealing with the ongoing violence; they hold back sex.

Chicago actor John Cusack, who appears in the



John Cusack, left, and Spike Lee attend the premiere of "Chi-Raq" at the Ziegfeld Theatre

film, said the shootings and killings in Chicago each year are "unacceptable," and cited political motives.

He said the police officer involved in shooting the 17-year-old wasn't charged or the superintendent fired until the city's election had passed. Emanuel won a second term earlier this year. The shooting took place in 2014.

"It's very tragic that information was suppressed for an election cycle," Cusack said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who walked the film's orange carpet before the premiere, said the power of the satire can send a mes-

sage to young people about gun violence more than Tuesday's announcement in Chicago.

The movie's kickoff segued into the anti-gun violence march. Lee, Sharpton and members of the film's cast joined about 150 people who marched from a midtown theater to Times Square. Actor John Turturro, who isn't in the movie, marched with them.

Activists wore orange beanies with pompom tops. The color was chosen from the vests hunters wear as a "don't shoot me sign," said Cleo Pendleton, whose 15-year-old daughter, Hadiya Pendleton, was killed in Chicago in 2013.

Lee even wore orange-framed glasses.

Actor Nick Cannon, who portrays Chi-Raq in the movie, said the march was being held "for the right reasons."

"We've got to get out here and express our pain the right way," he said.

The Rev. Michael Pfleger, a Catholic priest and social activist from Chicago who is the basis for Cusack's character in the movie, urged the crowd to pledge to end gun violence. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Evan Agostini/Invision/AP file



Top gram. Singer Taylor Swift performs during her "1989" world tour at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. in July. Kendall Jenner and Swift dominated the photo-sharing platform, Instagram's list of the top 10 most liked images of 2015.

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Roadside | 40-60 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 50-70 Moderate |
| Ambient | 40-60 Moderate |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA-TURKEY Sharply raising the stakes in Moscow's spat with Ankara, Russia's top military brass yesterday accused Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his family of personally profiting from oil trade with Islamic State militants.

SPAIN Spain's Constitutional Court has rejected a Catalan regional parliament resolution setting a road map for independence from Spain by 2017.



UK Prime Minister David Cameron appealed to lawmakers yesterday to authorize the British military to take part in airstrikes in Syria, insisting that Britain should help degrade and destroy the threat posed by the Islamic State group.

MONTENEGRO NATO member states have formally invited the tiny Adriatic nation of Montenegro to join the alliance in the face of Russian opposition. Alliance Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg announced the invitation yesterday, the second day of a two-day meeting of NATO foreign ministers. Russia has repeated its opposition to the accession of Montenegro, a favored getaway spot and investment site for some Russians.



USA Rahm Emanuel (pictured) sought for months to keep the public from seeing a video that shows a white police officer shooting a black teenager 16 times. Now, a week after the video's release, the Chicago mayor has fired the police superintendent, created a new task force for police accountability and expanded the use of body cameras.