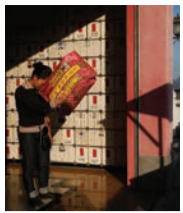




'LATIN PARADE' TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY

P2



IN HONG KONG, DEAD FIND NO SPACE TO REST IN PEACE
To store residents' ashes, the gov't builds large structures known as columbaria. But supply hasn't kept up with demand

P12 FEATURE



14 DEAD IN CALIFORNIA SHOOTING
It was the deadliest mass U.S. shooting since the attack at a school 3 years ago that left 26 children and adults dead

P17

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Dec 2015

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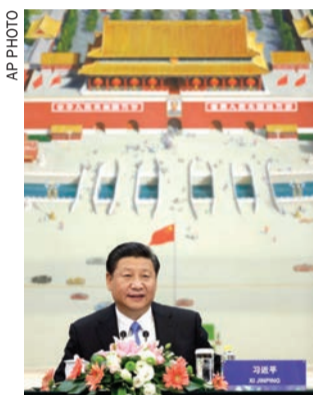
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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA's economy will grow slightly faster than expected this year at 6.9 percent and its shift to fostering services and private consumption is helping support regional growth, the Asian Development Bank says. An ADB report says Asia's developing economies remain resilient to economic weakness in industrialized countries and are on track to grow 5.8 percent in 2015 and 6 percent in 2016.

MALAYSIA Human Rights Watch has slammed a proposed new security law by Malaysia's government that will give sweeping powers to a council led by the prime minister, warning it is a step toward a dictatorship.



NORTH KOREA A U.S. website says North Korea is building a new tunnel at its nuclear test site. The website, 38 North, says a nuclear test does not appear imminent, but the new tunneling adds to North Korea's ability to conduct more nuclear tests in coming years if it chooses to do so.

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Junkets squeezed by China's delinquent debtors

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Alexis Tam: 'Health for me is the priority of all priorities'

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times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

Surge in gaming crime will not affect residents' security, Wong says



Wong Sio Chak (center)

THE number of gaming-related crimes increased by 34 per cent year-on-year for the first three quarters of 2015, marking a significant increase in this year's casino-related illicit activities, according to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

At a press conference on Wednesday where the criminal cases for the first three quarters of the year were reported, Wong told journalists that gaming-related crimes such as illegal imprisonment and loan sharking have been on the rise since March.

A total of 1,118 gaming-related crimes were recorded to date in 2015, of which 153 involved

loan-sharking activities, and 170 constituted illegal imprisonment, Wong said.

Loan-sharking and illegal imprisonment are two of the SAR's most common gaming-related crimes. In a year-on-year comparison, loan-sharking had increased by 35.6 percent, while illegal confinement soared 112.5 percent compared to the same period in the previous year.

Wong pointed out that most of the victims and suspects were non-residents. As such, while the crimes were mostly committed in casinos, the impact on residents' security has been negligible.

"Most of these crimes occurred in casinos. Therefore police [have concluded that] the crimes have little impact on security outside casinos," the Secretary said.

He added that the ability of the SAR to react to other security concerns remains unaffected by the changes within the gaming sector.

At a press conference for a similar issue in August, Wong noted the increasing number of gaming-related crimes over the first and second quarters of 2015, but said that the incidents were unrelated to the SAR's gaming slump.

He suggested that the perceived increase in illicit activity was the result of the police's improved crime-detecting capabilities.

Wong reiterated this belief and referred to the recent Dore case, citing the lack of any "causal" link between the scandal and the decline in gaming revenues. The case was a management loophole, he explained, and not an industry-wide response.

The total number of criminal cases in the first three quarters of 2015 fell by 2.2 percent compared to a year ago, an improvement on the 0.9 percent year-on-year decrease observed at the end of the second quarter of 2015.

All ready for Sunday's 'Latin City' parade



THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) organized a "worship ceremony" on Wednesday at the Largo da Companhia de Jesus ahead of this weekend's Latin Parade, where participants prayed for the success of the event. The ceremony included spectacles such as a lion dance performance.

The "Parade Through Macau, Latin City" will take place on Sunday as a celebration of both the 16th anniversary of Macau's handover to China, and the 10th year since the inscription of the Historic Centre of Macau on the World Heritage List.

This year's parade features a "Treasure Hunt Adventure", in which participants travel through three secret

areas. Nearly 1,500 performers from more than 50 local and foreign groups will perform during the parade.

Two public seating areas will be located on both sides of Tap Seac Square to ensure that members of the public can view the performances in comfort.

The parade will be broadcast on TDM, Teledifusão de Macau S.A., and TDM HD from 4pm to 7pm on Sunday. A montage of the day's highlights will be aired at 7pm on Dec. 15 on Hong Kong's TVB Jade Channel.

The parade will also feature a giant balloon performance. In the interests of public safety, IC has forbidden unmanned aerial devices.

Evolution opens first online squeeze baccarat game

WILLIAM Hill's newly opened online business went live yesterday with Evolution Gaming's first web-based squeeze baccarat table. The game – by far Macau's most popular – is streamed live to users from Evolution's studios in Riga, Latvia, via William Hill's Macau website (macau.williamhill.com).

A total of 17 high-definition cameras relay the action from live tables, according to Dow Jones Institutional News. But the real highlight is the live squeeze of the cards captured through close-ups; an element that many live baccarat tables do not have.

"For many players, the most absorbing and thrilling aspect of baccarat is the ritual of the squeeze. With Live Baccarat Squeeze, the squeeze is captured in crystal-clear close-ups," said Richard Hadida, co-founder and creative director of Evolution.

The launch comes shortly before Evolution Gaming is scheduled to take their generic live baccarat tables online. All company licensees will be included by the



end of January 2016.

"With this comprehensive upgrading of our entire Live Baccarat offering, we have created a totally authentic live gaming experience. All of our Baccarat variants feature bean-shaped tables, cards dealt face down and a new user interface. These elements, combined with additional side bets and a choice of roads, make the whole experience just like playing at the VIP baccarat tables in Asia," said Hadida. **Staff reporter**

Gov't cautious over coupon scheme to spur spending

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

Asked about the details of the possible coupon policy hinted at by Chief Executive Chui Sai On during his policy address, the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said that it will be a crucial measure to spur spending. However, he noted that "citizens' rational spending still



remains, as the employment environment is fine at the moment."

However, the policy will still take some time to materialize as it requires "cautious study" to determine coverage, targeted stores, and distribution methods, Leong noted.

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

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Alexis Tam (center)

2016 POLICY ADDRESS

Alexis Tam: 'Health for me is the priority of all priorities'

Renato Marques

AS would be expected, health related issues took center stage yesterday on

the first day of the Social Affairs and Culture sector Policy Address debate at the Legislative Assembly.

Secretary Alexis Tam said that there are four main

points guiding the policies under his watch for the coming year, namely maximizing existing health care resources, raising educational standards, implementing

permanent mechanisms to support and care for vulnerable groups, and boosting the establishment of a "world tourism and leisure center."

"Health for me is the priority of all priorities," he said, giving lead to the plenary debate with interventions that ranged between praise for what was already achieved and doubts regarding the feasibility of what is intended for next year. Lawmakers, including Sio Chi Wai, Pereira Coutinho, Wong Kit Cheng, Cheung Lup Kwan, Gabriel Tong, Melinda Chan, and Si Ka Lon, addressed concerns over the possibility of recruiting such a "large number" [2,000, according to Tam's estimate] of health care professionals over the next five years.

Also on the topic of health, lawmaker Lam Heong Sang questioned the secretary about the need to create a "medical academy". In his opinion, "it is better to do this physician [postgraduate] training in Hong Kong or Guangzhou instead of wanting to have everything here in Macau, a small city," he said.

Wong Kit Cheng and Si Ka Lon also remarked that some of the "achievements" stated by the secretary, like the extended opening hours to create four specialized services at the public hospital and two health care centers, might in fact be creating extra pressure on healthcare workers, putting at risk the quality of their performance and potentially raising the likelihood of medical errors.

Alexis Tam once again affirmed his hopes that the new Islands hospital would be ready to enter into operation in 2019. "Until 2017 I'm sure we will not have the hospital [open]. But I hope in 2019 everything will be working," he said.

'Blue Sky' project raises questions

AFTER health, education was another of the "hot" topics of the day with some lawmakers' showing disbelief at the scheduling for the "Blue Sky" project that aims to remove fifteen school institutions from building podiums and give them better facilities.

Although the lawmakers all agreed that the measure is "a good thing", some, like Chan Hong and Si Ka Lon, expressed concerns over the 20 year period set for the duration of the project as well as finding the space to build the new facilities. "I understand that the 'Blue Sky' project needs time, but 20 years? In my opinion land is a big problem," Si said. Melinda Chan also asked, "Which school will want to move to Seac Pai Van?"

The Audit Commission (CA) report over the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau's (DSEJ) lack of control in granting private school subsidies was also recalled with the Secretary stating, "I agree with these suggestions from CA and I've alerted everybody, not just DSEJ and IAS, including my office, to have a prudent attitude regarding public money."

Kou Hoi In went further and questioned the government on the potential spike in unemployment due to the possibility of many casino workers being dismissed over the gaming slowdown. "We have 90,000 workers in the six [gaming] operators; most of them have poor qualifi-

cations. How to solve this? This can be a serious problem. Unemployment can rise a lot," he said.

The University of Macau (UM) was also mentioned, with Pereira Coutinho stating that one of the topics the policy address refers to is the development of language training, especially Mandarin, Portuguese and English. The lawmaker probed the government's strategy on this matter since, in his opinion, "The Polytechnic Institute is doing a good job regarding the protocols signed with the Portuguese government on language development, but the University of Macau is 'cutting' Portuguese [classes]," he said.

UM rector Wei Zhao, called to reply, said: "We have undergraduate programs with mandatory core subjects, plus the optional ones. At this time and after an internal study, we hope that more students can opt for some subjects that are more relevant for their degree. There are also some options in which a greater number of credits are required. For example, also we have a 'major' and 'minor' in the Masters degrees. For now what we are going to do is to try to communicate better with teachers, and warn people that we will not cut the Portuguese language courses," he said.

The UM Rector also revealed that the university recently hired three new teachers for the department in order to continue their task of "promoting and developing the Portuguese language".

FOUR NEW NURSING HOMES BY 2018

ANSWERING THE questions of several lawmakers, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) president Ip Peng Kin revealed that by 2018 Macau will have four new nursing homes with space for 750 elderly. The IAS head also mentioned that the bureau is currently working on an accreditation norm that will create an

"ISO style" certification for the nursing home facilities in order to improve their quality. According to the same source, the current number of local nursing home residents stands at about 1700, with a waiting list of about 500. "We hope that in about one year people can enter acceptable [facilities]," he stated.

A Glittering Christmas at One Central

Enjoy superb festive shopping, a magnificent revolving Christmas tree with its 32 pieces of stained acrylic glass, plus exceptional rewards in Macau's most exciting fashion hub.



The instrument installation will rotate to the tune of Christmas carols.



The revolving musical Christmas tree, together with the light show every 30 minutes, give off a gorgeous ambience.



There will be special Christmas barrel organ performance during weekend and Christmas time.



The barrel organ music box producing a beautiful timbre.

Musical tree lights up Christmas

The festive season is a dazzling affair at One Central this year with a towering 10-metre Christmas tree spreading joy and good cheer. A glittering edifice of 32 acrylic stained glass, the musical tree comes to life in a show of light and music every 30 minutes with 32 unique pieces of instrument installation, rotating to the tune of Christmas carols and casting light and music on festive shoppers in the mall.

One Central is the perfect destination this Christmas with something for everyone to enjoy. Young and old will marvel at the extravagant festive decorations that festoon the mall, while the impressive Christmas tree as well as the barrel organ performance will charm and delight the crowds of Christmas shoppers.



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FLORA Collection - Dragonfly
by Juli Zofia



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Logo-Print
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Dior Homme
Croco Briefcase



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with Camouflage Dial*



Salvatore Ferragamo
Lenny Sandal

Perfect gifts exclusively for your loved ones

Fantastic Christmas gift ideas will inspire you in the mall's luxury boutiques. One gift guaranteed to always be welcome is a statement handbag. Not only a useful and practical present, a carefully crafted leather bag from one of the world's leading brands is an investment piece that will last for years and transcends fashion and trends. Among this season's best is Céline's classic leather and striped cotton woven bag, which is both functional and fashionable.

Moschino's fabulously fun bags are for the adventurous spirit! Salvatore Ferragamo's 'Lenny' shoes in the softest calf leather are a show-stopping pair of heels that will set off any Christmas outfit to perfection. For a wide selection of luxury timepieces from the world's leading brands, Rainbow is the perfect place to start. The knowledgeable and helpful staff will make your Christmas shopping experience a pleasant one.

Men are well catered for at One Central this season, too. A classic gift, a luxury watch is a constant treasure that can be handed down to generations to come. Ralph Lauren's iconic timepieces are both masculine and elegant. Similarly, Dior's black crocodile briefcase is a timeless classic that will seamlessly take you from work to play.

* exclusive items at One Central

Splendid Rewards Spending at One Central brings its own rewards this Christmas season. Spend MOP5,000 or above and you can receive vouchers worth up to MOP4,500. After all, everyone deserves a gift at Christmas! For more information, please visit the One Central website www.onecentral.com.mo, or phone (853) 2822 2345.



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Future single border inspection deemed safe



SECURITY authorities assured the public of the safety of the upcoming single border checkpoint initiative after coverage emerged accusing it of increasing security risks by curtailing the double-inspection procedure.

The policy, which allows singular inspection for mainland entry permit holders, was expected to first come to force in the new hub connecting the northern Macau peninsula and Zhuhai, according to the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak.

Currently, locals holding a document known as the 'Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macau Residents' have to respectively undergo inspections at both sides, either through machines or customs counters. The new initiative is expected to merge the totally independent checks into one

automated process.

The travel document is only issued to residents of the two Chinese special administrative regions with Chinese nationality. The policy for other residents remains unchanged.

The Public Police Security explained on Wednesday that the process would still require verification from both sides, which involves the existing electronic operations systems. Furthermore, as the policy involves a substantial amount of personal information, it was said to require further elaboration with the mainland authorities over technologies and regulations.

A final scheme is expected by the end of the year. It was also stated that the policy would likewise be extended to the immigration checkpoint at the Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau Bridge in the future. **AU**

Youngsters nabbed for elaborate theft scheme

THE Judiciary Police has caught nine local youngsters that are being accused of making off with the takings of jewelry stores after infiltrating the firms as staff members.

One of the shops was said to have lost MOP1 million. The suspects, aged between 19 and 28, would firstly find ways of becoming knowledgeable with the operations. Later on,

they approached them using a pseudo identity, mostly as the firm's boss or other staff, to take away money from the unsuspecting personnel. They would even employ non-local casino-goers to support their deception.

It was said that the group had been active since the end of last year and in total made five attempts to defraud shops.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Former marathon runner Rosa Mota, who won an Olympic gold medal in the 1988 Seoul games and bronze in the 1984 Los Angeles games, is in Macau to attend the local marathon race on Sunday. Yesterday, the Portuguese sportswoman visited the Portuguese School to talk with the students about her athletics glory days. On Wednesday, she met with local athletes.

SIMON CHAN

Airport expansion expected to bring more passengers and cargo

On the sidelines of a cocktail reception celebrating the Macau International Airport (MIA)'s 20th anniversary, Simon Chan, President of the Macau Civil Aviation Authority, commended the recently announced plans to transform Macau's airport infrastructure. The impending scheme, which would enable the airport to accommodate long-haul flights, includes an extension to the passenger building and is expected to increase the maximum transit capacity from six million visitors to seven and a half million. "It will be positive to Macau because what we will have is more [flight] slots. It depends on the commercial development. Maybe we will have more passengers for the regions. Mainly tourists, maybe some of them cargo", he said, cited by TDM.

Mr Chan added that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (Delta Bridge) would have a significant impact on Macau's economy, allowing more passengers and cargo to transit through the SAR.

Acting Chief Executive Sonia



Chan stated at the celebration that the MIA was a fundamental transport hub for Macau's international accessibility.

When the Macau International Airport was inaugurated in 1995, it catered mainly to

the Taiwanese market, due to the absence of direct flights between mainland China and Taiwan. After mainland China resumed flights to Taiwan in 2008, MIA began to revise the airport's focus.

FLYOVER CLOSED DUE TO LRT WORKS

ALL TRAFFIC access to the airport's passenger terminal building via the airport flyover to the departures level will be suspended between 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. hours between December 4 and December 20. According to a press release issued yesterday, the road closure is due to the Light Railway Project works.

GAMING ALERT

Vegas Casinos can leave Buffett's NV energy for a price

Mark Chediak and Jim Polson

THREE of Las Vegas's largest casino operators can buy electricity from a source other than Warren Buffett's utility, but must pay multimillion-dollar exit fees if they want to do so, state regulators ruled.

MGM Resorts International, Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Las Vegas won final approval Wednesday to stop buying power from NV Energy, a Nevada utility owned by Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. The decision by the state's Public Utilities Commission was unanimous, Peter Kostas, a spokesman, said in an e-mail. The casinos must pay combined impact fees of almost USD127 million to NV Energy.

The threat of three electricity-hungry customers leaving the utility posed a challenge to a business Buffett purchased just two years ago. But the size of the impact fees may help him avoid that outcome. While the casinos said that they'd be willing to pay to leave during the hearings for their request, they disputed the amount.

Las Vegas Sands's bill would be \$23.9 million; Wynn's would be \$15.7 million; and MGM's \$86.9 million, according to a state-

ment by the regulator last week. The casinos also would have to pay undetermined recurring fees and charges after they exit.

"We're disappointed in the PUC's order and their apparent desire to put out-of-state big money interests ahead of Nevada ratepayers and their families," Ron Reese, a spokesman for Las Vegas Sands, said by phone. MGM hasn't decided whether to switch providers, Clark Dumont, a spokesman, said in an e-mail. Michael Weaver, a spokesman for Wynn Las Vegas, didn't return a phone call.

Jennifer Schuricht, a spokeswoman for NV Energy, said the company will "support" large customers to make decisions in the best interest of their business.

The casinos can ask to leave NV Energy because of a 2001 law that permits large customers to buy electricity from a third party as long as they pay an exit fee and get approval from the utilities commission. When the measure passed, Nevada got most of its electricity on the open market and was trying to encourage new generation in the state.

Since then, NV Energy has built gas and solar plants and now supplies most of its own power. The added cost of those facilities has pushed rates higher **Bloomberg**

Junkets squeezed by China's delinquent debtors

Daniela Wei and Annie Lee

MACAUS gaming promoters, who loan money to Chinese high-rollers for gambling in the city's struggling casinos, increasingly find themselves in a new line of business: debt collection.

The so-called junket operators, who use personal connections to lure high-stakes players to the city's baccarat tables, are collecting only 20 percent to 30 percent of their debts, said Kwok Chi-chung, president of Macau's Association of Gaming & Entertainment Promoters. In 2013, 70 percent of loans were repaid promptly, he said.

That was before China introduced curbs on illicit money flows and began a campaign against corruption that deterred VIP players, setting Macau's casino industry on an 18-month-long downward spiral. High-rollers' wagers have plummeted at least 70 percent to about HKD200 billion (USD25.8 billion) a month since 2013, according to Kwok, reflecting a plunge in VIP numbers and a diminishing junket cash pool from which they can borrow.

"Getting the money back is a bigger challenge now for junkets than before," Kwok, 60, said in a Nov. 23 interview from his 15th-floor office in Macau, which offers unblocked views of the city's casinos. "With a longer payback period, junkets have less money to lend to new customers, and the business size is shrinking accordingly."

Under pressure from the government in China, authorities in Macau have imposed tougher smoking restrictions in casinos and plan to make junkets adhere to stricter accounting standards, including

BLOOMBERG



Kwok Chi-chung, president of Macau's Association of Gaming and Entertainment Promoters, speaks during an interview in Macau

a requirement to submit monthly financial records and to carry out background checks on senior finance staff.

The changes follow incidents that exposed flaws in the uniquely Macanese industry. Junket operator Dore Entertainment said in September that some of its customers may have been cheated by a former cage manager who is suspected of stealing at least HK\$100 million from it. Last year, the disappearance of a Macau middleman left investors struggling to recoup more than HK\$10 billion.

The events prompted some investors to withdraw funds from junkets, said Tony Tong, co-founder of Pacific Financial Services Ltd., a Hong Kong-based firm whose services include debt-collection and risk management.

It's now harder for VIPs to borrow cash for betting with, and for those who don't repay their loans, junkets have no legal avenue to recover the money in China as gambling debt is illegal on the mainland, he said. Junkets are now waiting a year to 18 months to get their money, compared with one to six months in the past, according to Tong, who had previously invested in junkets.

"It's very difficult for junkets to collect debt in China," Tong said, estimating that as much as 50 percent of all credits to high-rollers are not fully paid when they're due, and collection often requires "a lot of patience, begging and hassle."

To cut their losses, junkets are now trying to come up

with creative solutions, including packaging bad debts and distressed assets and selling them to third-party financial investors at a discount, he said.

The problem resonates across Macau, the only place where casinos are legal in China. With 36 the licensed gambling halls, the former Portuguese colony supported a gaming industry about five times larger than the Las Vegas Strip in the first 10 months of the year.

Junkets, and the high-rollers they lure, have been integral to that growth. Offering returns of as much as 36 percent a year, these businesses are financed by corporate investors and wealthy residents of Macau and mainland China, providing cash that's lent at high interest rates to VIP custo-

mers for gambling in the city's casinos. Commissions are earned from casinos as a reward for bringing them high-stakes bettors.

With the junket business illegal in China, these middlemen are forced to conduct their business covertly in the mainland or work from Macau, where they can obtain a license to work legally. The territory had 183 licensed gaming promoters as of the beginning of 2015, down from 218 last year, according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Long reliant on personal connections and opaque networks to obtain business, junkets are renowned for eschewing paper trails and transparent accounting in providing discreet services.

Junket services can extend to

arranging private jets and limousine transfers, to booking five-star hotel rooms, according to Suncity Group, Macau's biggest junket operator, according to its website.

To stem ballooning debts, the Association of Gaming & Entertainment Promoters has called for the Macau government to authorize the dissemination of a blacklist that members could use to identify bad debtors, said Kwok. A law graduate, he joined the Macau Judiciary Police in 1985 and managed its gaming-related crimes, economic crimes and anti-money laundering divisions until his retirement from the force in August 2010.

Junket operators may have themselves to blame for their debts. In previous years, some of them extended gaming credit to less credit-worthy players, Vitaly Umansky, a gaming analyst with Sanford C. Bernstein wrote in a Nov 24 report. That created a bubble that's now burst.

Casinos have shuttered or removed 30 up-scale rooms dedicated to high-stakes gamblers over the past four months alone, Kwok said. "It's now an adjustment period for junkets," the association leader said. "More VIP rooms will be shut. Quality will become the priority when it comes to lending, rather than quantity."

The test will come in February, he said, when Chinese celebrate Lunar New Year - a time when people traditionally settle debts.

"If there's still much debt uncollected, the liquidity will be too tight for some junkets to survive and we'll see more closures," Kwok said. "Macau won't return to the heyday."

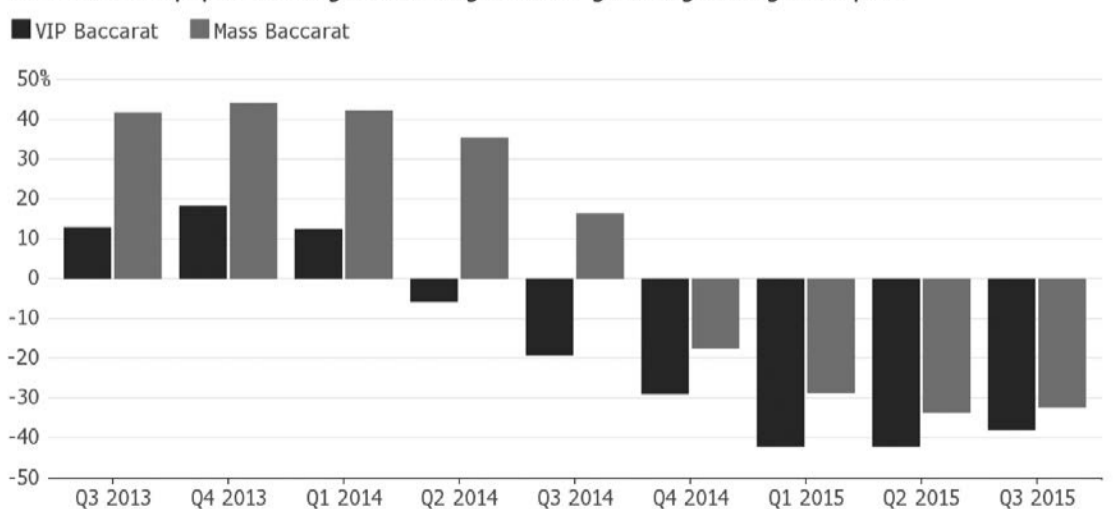
That might not be a bad thing, according to Bernstein's Umansky. "Longer term, we believe the consolidation in the junket industry would actually be helpful, as it would create more liquid and professional junket operations," he said. **Bloomberg**

If there's still much debt uncollected, the liquidity will be too tight for some junkets to survive and we'll see more closures.

KWOK CHI-CHUNG

Baccarat in a Rut

Macau's most popular card game hurting with VIP gambling feeling most pain



Sources: Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau; revenue growth year-on-year

Bloomberg

corporate bits

MGM CELEBRATES YULETIDE SEASON WITH CHRISTMAS MARKET



Grande Praça, the heart of MGM Macau, has been specially decorated as a European Christmas Market fused with the aroma of Belgian Waffles, Berliner German Doughnuts, Chocolate Dipped Fruits, Caramelized Almonds, Eggnog ice-cream and Warm Mulled Wine, all available at the stalls. Shoppers can even tailor-make their own gingerbread men and cookies at the Gingerbread and Cookies Counter. At the Nutcracker & Santa Counter, a large assortment of Santa dolls and wooden nutcrackers are available in various sizes. Last but not least, two local art associations, the Macau Design Centre and the Art for All Society, have brought popular products created by local artists. For those who want to give tailor-made gifts to loved ones, the Christmas Arts Workshops are not to be missed.

Bank of China appeals disclosure order in counterfeit case

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

THE Bank of China is appealing a decision by a New York court to fine it USD50,000 a day for withholding information about counterfeiters' bank accounts in China.

The appeal, filed Tuesday, is the latest twist in a five-year legal saga that pits one of China's largest state banks against Western luxury brands seeking new, more powerful tools to fight rampant counterfeiting. Bank of China says it is fighting to maintain client privacy as a matter of national sovereignty.

Gucci, along with other Kering Group brands, is seeking \$12 million from the bank to cover damages inflicted by a counterfeiting ring it says sold fake handbags and wallets to U.S. consumers. Using records provided by JPMorganChase, Gucci traced \$530,000 in transfers from U.S.-based counterfeiters to Bank of China accounts in China.

The Bank of China has repeatedly



refused to provide information about those accounts or freeze the counterfeiters' funds for Gucci. Instead it secretly froze over \$890,000 of the accused counterfeiters' money to cover its own legal costs in the fight with Gucci, Chinese court documents show.

The case highlights the incompatibility between Chinese and U.S. legal systems and could have far-reaching implications for the ability of U.S. courts to extract information from Chinese banks operating in America. That legal firewall has helped Chinese banks serve as safe havens for counterfeiters, who

use them to process credit card payments for fakes, often sold online, and move their money around the globe.

The Bank of China, and other Chinese banks embroiled in similar litigation in the U.S., argue that complying with U.S. court orders to disclose client information would violate Chinese bank secrecy laws and subject them to civil and criminal penalties in China. They have so far failed to provide undisputed evidence that those penalties are, in practice, significant.

On Sept. 29, New York District Court Judge Richard Sullivan ruled that the U.S. has jurisdiction over the Bank of China, which has four U.S. branches. He ordered the Bank of China to comply with subpoenas for documents related to the accused counterfeiters' bank accounts, even though the accounts are in China. The bank refused, and Sullivan said if the bank did not provide the records by Dec. 7, he would begin imposing a \$50,000-a-day

contempt fine.

The court "will not tolerate any further attempt by BOC to delay these proceedings and thwart Plaintiffs' efforts to access account information that is essential to the prosecution of Plaintiffs' claims against rampant counterfeiters who have consciously used BOC to facilitate their illegal schemes," Sullivan wrote in a Nov. 30 order.

Bank of China USA's chief executive, Xu Chen, told state-run Xinhua news, in an interview published Wednesday, that the case has wide-ranging implications, which could discourage Chinese investment in the U.S.

"Many Chinese investors believe the United States has an open and fair legal system, which is a key factor in good business environments," Xu told Xinhua. "Now they might start to worry that they could also get caught in a legal dilemma because of the 'unlimited jurisdiction' sought by some U.S. courts." AP

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Common misconceptions about renting a property in Macau (Part 3 of 6)

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

This list of common misconceptions may look innocent enough, but the difference in expectation is usually the source of major rental conflicts, and one that could be easily avoided with a little more clarity up front.

When you consider the rental process usually involves at least two different languages (sometimes three), its not surprising that misunderstandings are commonplace. Carrying on from last week, we continue with some of the most common misconceptions...

10. I can make any changes to the apartment that I want?

Adding a personal touch to an apartment may end up being quite costly if you don't have permission to do so.

Many owners don't mind a degree of customization as long as you put things back the way they were when you moved in, but they are wary of tenants who claim to have 'improved' the apartment by leaving brightly colored walls and makeshift furniture.

You should always return the apartment in the same condition it was handed over including paint colors, furniture and white goods. In particular the REMOVAL of unwanted furniture and other items costs money.

As a tenant, you may think you are doing the owner a favour by leaving your old chair, but ultimately someone has to come along with a truck, park, collect the chair and remove it from the apartment, then dispose of it, all of which takes time and costs money, and the funds can be deducted from your security deposit.

11. I can give notice any time on my rental apartment?

As a tenant, you have a few choices.

When the tenancy agreement is coming to an end, you can let the owner know you will not extend at any point leading up to the end of the lease.

If it is prior to the end of the agreement, you can give notice in accordance with the contract. For example, it may say that the agreement can be terminated with 2 months notice.

If the agreement does not have a termination clause, you can give the owner 3 months notice.

When a lease is broken, the owner has the right to retain part or all of the security deposit dependent on the notice period and the wording in the tenancy agreement.

12. The landlord must ensure the safety of the building

Safety is often the major concern when people first arrive in Macau.

However, it is made very clear in Macau. Owners are responsible only to ensure that the apartment itself (think 'inside the apartment') does not have any infrastructure flaws that could be dangerous for a tenant such as open electrical sockets, a major structural issue etc. The building management company is responsible for the external / common areas of the building. The tenant is responsible for the fixtures and fittings within the apartment. They have heard stories about the dangers of living in Asia, and these stories combined with a natural fear of a new environment play havoc with a persons mind.

In terms of crime, you will struggle to find many places safer than Macau. Crimes against the general population are rare, especially those of a violent nature.

However, crimes do happen occasionally of course, so do take the time to do a security check, and consider changing the locks on the doors at your own expense to give you the peace of mind about other people having keys to your apartment.

How secure is the external security door? Is there a security guard or video surveillance system? Does the front door feel safe to you.... Is there a deadbolt?

If the apartment is on a low floor is there a cage over

the windows?

13. The landlord is responsible for maintaining everything in the apartment

Macau law is very clear and may differ from other places around the world. The owner of an apartment is not obligated to do anything in an apartment unless the issue is one of a dangerous nature.

It is therefore vital that the procedure for getting things fixed should be fully documented in the lease. If not, you should assume that the owner will not be interested in making any improvements in the apartment.

Some buildings have an on-site building management company, and they will be able to recommend someone when the faucet leaks, or the paint starts peeling.

Some landlords hire a property administration company who can assist with maintenance issues, or the landlord might ask a tenant to call him directly, in which case you may have to ask a friend or colleague that speaks Cantonese to liaise with the owner on your behalf.

14. A furnished apartment should have everything in it?

in summary:

'Unfurnished' generally means that there are no pieces of furniture such as chairs or TV. No surprise there.

However, you would usually expect to find 'white goods still in the apartment such as fridge, freezer, washing machine etc.

In addition, you could also expect to see air-conditioning units, and basic kitchen appliances such as an oven and / or a cook top.

In a 'furnished' apartment, you would expect to find chairs, tables, TVs, sofa, etc, but may not have such things as cutlery or plates.

In a 'fully furnished' apartment, the general idea is that you can walk into the apartment with a suitcase, unpack and live there. So the apartment would have cutlery, bed linen, towels etc.

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4 sentenced to death over miner murders

A court in northern China has sentenced four people to be executed over the deaths of coal miners who were slain in a plot to collect compensation.

The four were found guilty of battering to death three miners with clubs and hammers from 2009 to 2011, Wang Jiyuan, chief justice of the Intermediate Court in the Shanxi province city of Yangquan, told The Associated Press yesterday.

They then found co-conspirators to pose as family members of the deceased to demand compensation from mine owners. Another five people were sentenced to prison for their parts in the killings, Wang said.

Mine owners would often prefer to hush-up such deaths with off-the-books payments to prevent being reported to the authorities and to avoid resulting fines or possible criminal charges.

Although rare, such scams were facilitated in the past by the carnage and chaos in China's mining industry, where thousands were killed annually. Safety improvements and a production decrease have significantly reduced deaths to about 1,000 per year.

In a similar case in July, another court in northern China upheld death sentences for five people who killed four miners and faked accidents at coal mines to claim compensation.

Mining competition scams formed much of the plot of the 2003 Chinese film "Blind Shaft," which won the Silver Bear prize at the Berlin Film Festival. AP

Former university admissions officer on trial for bribe taking

A former admissions officer at a top Chinese university stood trial yesterday in the eastern city of Nanjing for taking USD3.6 million in bribes.

The Nanjing Intermediate People's Court announced the trial against Cai Rongsheng, the former admissions head at Renmin University in Beijing, but the panel was not immediately available yesterday to offer updates.

Prosecutors alleged that Cai took the money in exchange for helping 44 students get admitted into the university or have their majors adjusted. State media said one beneficiary was the daughter of a Hong Kong businessman.

The trial was being held in the neutral venue of Nanjing to avoid possible interference.

It was part of a crackdown by authorities on corruption in higher education and a broader campaign to fight graft in all public sectors.



Cai Rongsheng

Earlier this week, the Education Ministry announced the removal of Wang Cizhao as the head of the Central Conservatory of Music after he was accused of using his position to get discounted services for his daughter's lavish wedding.

Yang Fangchun, vice president of the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, was fired after some university employees siphoned off \$440,000 from public funds into a secret stash.

Liu Yadang, vice president of the University of International Business and Economics, got sacked after he failed to report incomes of \$200,000 from serving on the boards of six companies.

Last week, the president and a vice president of the Communication University of China were removed from the posts for several mismanagement issues.

More university administrators have been reprimanded. Education Minister Yuan Guiren said Tuesday that the education sector should be free of corruption. AP

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HONG KONG

In crowded city, dead find no space to rest in peace

Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

IN tightly packed Hong Kong, the dead are causing a problem for the living.

After Chui Yuen-sing's mother died in April, she was cremated and her ashes put in storage while he tried to find a final resting place. He was willing to wait up to 18 months for a pigeonhole-like "niche" in a memorial building. If none was available, he was considering putting them in mainland China, where his father's ashes are already stored, or taking an even more drastic step that conflicted with Chinese tradition.

"Maybe I would have scattered my mom's ashes in a public park," the retired university lecturer said. "But if I used this method then in my heart I probably wouldn't feel very good," he said. "Chinese people think that you should be buried in the ground to find peace."

Chui's choices highlight the long-running struggle to find enough space to accommodate both the living and the dead in the cramped southern Chinese city of 7.2 million. Limited land to build on and soaring property prices are colliding with a tradition of visiting grave sites on "tomb sweeping" holidays to burn incense and pay respects to venerated dead ancestors.

Hong Kong's aging society means the problem will get worse. The number of senior

AP PHOTO



Graves cover a hillside in front of apartment buildings in Hong Kong

citizens is expected to rise from 15 percent of the population in 2014 to nearly a quarter by 2024. The number of deaths each year will rise from 42,700 in 2010 to 50,300 by the end of the decade, according to government forecasts.

In the 1960s, administrators of Hong Kong, which was then a British colony, began encouraging cremation to ease the strain of a fast-growing population on space-starved cemeteries. Now, the cremation rate has risen to about 90 percent.

To store the ashes, the government builds large structures known as columbariums that have tens of thousands of ni-

ches for urns as well as furnaces to burn paper money and other offerings. But supply hasn't kept up with demand.

"There's undoubtedly not enough," said Lam Wai-lung, chairman of the Funeral Business Association. Official attempts to encourage local councils to build more face fierce opposition, he said.

"When the government holds consultations, residents of every district oppose building it in their neighborhood. Every area says no," Lam said.

Part of the reason is that columbaria draw huge crowds of people during tomb sweeping holidays, causing big traffic jams and air pollution from the

paper offerings being burned

Families face a waiting list of up to six years for a government-provided niche, so some turn to private providers, including more than 120 that have been deemed illegal.

■ Limited land to build on and soaring property prices mean Hong Kong is fast running out of space to store the dead

But private niches can be too expensive for many families, with prices at one temple ranging from 73,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$9,500) to HK\$890,000 (\$115,000).

Since 2007, authorities have also been promoting "green" burials by scattering ashes at sea or in 11 gardens of remembrance. But such practices conflict with Chinese traditions that hold that burying remains in an auspicious spot on a mountainside or near the sea are vital for a family's fortunes.

The government has been trying to change attitudes with educational videos and seminars at retirement homes. It's even set up an electronic me-

morial website where families can post photos and videos of the deceased and send electronic offerings of plums or roast pork. Interest remains limited, with green burials rising from a few dozen in 2005 to only 3,553 last year.

Some companies are offering more creative solutions.

Sage Funeral Services started offering a service three years ago through a South Korean laboratory that uses ultrahigh heat to turn ashes into memorial gems.

"In the first year everybody said I'm crazy," said Betsy Ma, Sage's sales director, who had her father's ashes made into gems that she wears in her earrings and necklace.

Many Chinese believe that carrying human remains as jewelry or storing them at home will attract ghosts, said Ma. Still, in the past year the procedure has gained in popularity, she said.

Government auditors said this month that Hong Kong faces an "acute shortage" of niches over the next three years because of project delays and a government plan to regulate private operators.

The new law, expected to take force next year, is aimed at better managing private operators, which frequently violate land-use rules or safety codes. Some entrepreneurs spot an opportunity to modernize a market dominated by small, old-fashioned operators.

"There will be a new generation of high class columbariums coming up," said Francis Neoton Cheung, a former urban planner and chairman of Life Culture Group, which invests in columbarium projects.

One company he has worked with, Kerry Logistics, is proposing converting a 15-story waterfront warehouse into a modern columbarium.

The HK\$2 billion project will have 82,000 niches opened by smartcards and video screens showing photos and movies of the deceased and high-tech air filtration to cut pollution from burning joss sticks and paper offerings. However, the company has yet to secure planning approval after local residents objected.

Chui, the retired lecturer, compared waiting times for public urn spaces to demand for public housing.

"There's never enough supply. For some people it causes great hardship," he said.

Chui, was one of about 9,480 people who applied for 3,256 new niches offered in October from the Board of Management of Chinese Permanent Cemeteries, a private group.

He got lucky, winning a family niche. He plans to bring his father's ashes back from mainland China so that his parents can be together. **AP**



Graves are placed next to apartment buildings at a cemetery in the Kowloon City district of Hong Kong

INDIA

More rains coming as Tamil Nadu grapples with massive flood



People waded through a flooded road in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

THE heaviest rainfall in more than 100 years has devastated swathes of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, with thousands forced to leave their submerged homes and schools, offices and a regional airport shut for a second day yesterday.

At least 269 people had been killed in the state since heavy rains started in the beginning of November, said India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh, although no deaths have been reported in the latest deluge.

"I can't even believe that this much water was possible in Chennai," one woman told NDTV channel as she stood in waist-deep water in the state capital. "We don't have any food. We don't have any milk," she said, adding that she had stepped out to see if she could find a shop selling some food. "But I'm scared to walk down this road. The water comes up almost to my hips."

Chennai has received more than 330 millimeters of rain over the last 24 hours, which is significantly higher than the regional average for the entire month of December, Singh said.

While the downpour eased early yesterday, the Indian Meteorological Department has predicted more heavy rain in several parts of the state through the rest of the week. The rains have been caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, the agency said.

Separately, news reports said that floodwaters released from a lake on

the outskirts of Chennai inundated more neighborhoods in the city. The Adyar river, which runs through Chennai before draining into the Bay of Bengal, was flowing above a danger mark.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi surveyed the destruction and flooding from an air force helicopter.

An aerial view of Chennai showed low-lying neighborhoods as well the city's airport almost completely submerged. The Airport Authority of India said that the airport was likely to be closed until Sunday.

Dozens of trains to the state have been delayed this week, and yesterday the main train station was so heavily flooded that it had to shut down operations. Singh said that railways officials convened an emergency meeting to get the station back on track quickly.

Even though hundreds of army, navy and local police and fire department rescuers were helping evacuate those trapped in their homes, Twitter and other social media were flooded with calls for help from across the city.

Most of those still trapped were either the elderly or people with very young children.

The state government cut power to several parts of Chennai as a safety measure to prevent electrocutions. Most deaths in the last month of rains have been due to drowning, electrocution and wall collapses. **AP**

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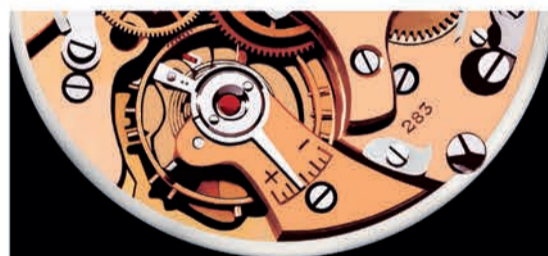
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AUSTRALIA

Search for Malaysian jet refocuses in southern Indian Ocean

Rod McGuirk and Nick Perry,
Canberra

THE deep sea hunt for the missing Malaysian airliner has been refocused on the southern reaches of an expansive search zone based on new analysis released yesterday of the Boeing 777's final hours and how it might have plunged into the Indian Ocean with 239 people aboard after running out of fuel.

Searchers have been combing a 120,000-square-kilometer expanse of the Indian Ocean since October last year but have yet to turn up any trace of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

A wing flap found in July on the other side of the Indian Ocean when it washed up on remote Reunion Island is the only debris recovered.

The new analysis by a Defense Department agency confirmed "the highest probability" the final resting place for the plane was within the southern end of the search zone.

Two ships towing side-scan sonar have continued the search during the harsh southern hemisphere winter months. A third ship will join the search in the new priority area on Saturday, said Australian Transport Safety Bureau chief commissioner Martin Dolan, who runs the search on behalf of Malaysia.

The latest ship is equipped with a video camera inside an underwater unmanned submarine that can examine



In this April 8, 2014 file photo, relatives of Chinese passengers onboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 hold a candlelight vigil for their loved ones at a hotel in Beijing

rough terrain and objects of interest detected by sonar that require a closer look.

A Chinese ship will join the search in late January equipped with Synthetic Aperture Sonar, state of the art technology that provides higher resolution images than the standard sonar now being used, Dolan said.

Some experts have been critical that the sonar was not used throughout the search and have questioned whether wreckage might have already been overlooked.

Dolan said about 4 percent of the area already searched

would have to be searched again because of gaps in the sonar mapping and because some objects that had been detected could not yet be ruled out.

About 54,000 square kilometers of the 98,000 square kilometers of the highest-priority search zone have already been searched, the bureau's search director Peter Foley said. That area is 2,800 kilometers southwest of the Australian port of Fremantle.

Foley said the Synthetic Aperture Sonar and the camera would be used to examine a trench that runs north-south through the high priority zone,

the Geelvinck Fracture Zone.

"It's very, very difficult terrain. Very steep drop offs. It's pretty bad," Foley said. "A lot of the area is hard and rocky and that's the hardest place to search."

The latest analysis by a team of mathematicians and a satellite expert will likely be the last of the scant satellite clues that have been used to track the airliner's final hours after it disappeared from radar on March 8, 2014, during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing.

One of the engines sent an hourly signal to a satellite and

a final signal when it apparently ran out of fuel.

Team leader Neil Gordon said dozens of flights around the world were tracked to fine tune the analysis of these engine signals and to test the accuracy of their methodology.

The methodology was also extensively tested against the actual routes flown by the doomed aircraft on four previous flights and by two different Boeing 777s. The routes calculated by the methodology proved close to the actual routes.

Flight 370 apparently ran out of fuel after flying for 7 hours and 38 minutes, with the left engine running for up to 15 minutes after the right engine failed.

Bureau accident investigator Alex Talberg said from that point, the airliner could have glided no further than 185 kilometers in the prevailing headwind of the time from an altitude of 10,000 meters.

The search area was widened because of calculations by Boeing, flight simulations and evidence from previous accidents showed that the plane could have banked in a variety of ways and flown further off the automatic pilot course than had previously been thought, Talberg said. Analysis found it most likely turned to the east after running out of fuel.

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said the new analysis gave authorities "real encouragement" they were on the right track

"We remain hopeful, indeed optimistic, that we will still locate the aircraft." Truss said. **AP**

CAMBODIA

Unlicensed doctor imprisoned for spreading HIV

Sopheng Cheang,
Phnom Penh

ACambodian court sentenced an unlicensed medical practitioner to 25 years in prison yesterday after finding him responsible for infecting more than 100 villagers with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by reusing unsanitized syringes. At least 10 of the infected people have died.

Yem Chrin was found guilty of cruel behavior resulting in death, intentionally spreading HIV



Yem Chrin, an unlicensed medical practitioner, sits in a car escorted by prison guards

and practicing medicine without a license, said a spokesman for the court in the northwestern province of Battambang. His trial was conducted over five days in October.

Yem Chrin, 56, was arrested last December and taken into protective custody, with authorities fearing he might be lynched by residents of Roka village, where at least 106 of 800 people tested were found to be infected with HIV. Local newspapers reported the total was 300. He insisted he

meant no harm and was only trying to help people in the community where he practiced from 1996 to 2014.

The infected patients ranged in age from 3 to 82 and included Buddhist monks. Cambodia had a high HIV prevalence rate of 2.0 percent in 1998, but an aggressive campaign to promote safe sex brought the figure down to an estimated 0.7 percent last year, according to the U.N. agency that spearheads the worldwide fight against AIDS.

Cambodia, one of the world's poorest countries, has inadequate health care facilities, especially in rural areas, where villagers often have no recourse but to rely on unlicensed medical practitioners who have trained themselves to treat minor ailments and give injections.

The court also ordered Yem Chrin to pay a fine to the state and damages to the victims. He was barred for life from practicing medicine again, the court spokesman said. **AP**



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USA

14 dead, 17 wounded in California shooting; 2 suspects dead

Amanda Lee Myers and
Justin Pritchard, San Bernardino

A heavily armed man and woman dressed for battle opened fire on a holiday banquet for his co-workers, killing 14 people and seriously wounding more than a dozen others in a precision assault, authorities said. Hours later, they died in a shootout with police.

Authorities were trying to determine a motive, which could include workplace violence or terrorism.

Wednesday's (yesterday, Macau time) shooting happened at a social services center for the disabled where the suspect's colleagues with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health were renting space for a celebration. It was the nation's deadliest mass shooting since the attack at a school in Newtown, Connecticut, three years ago that left 26 children and adults dead.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan identified one dead suspect as Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, the other as Tashfeen Malik, 27, his wife or fiancée. Burguan said Farook was born in the United States; the chief said he did not know Malik's background.

The attackers invaded the Inland Regional Center about 60 miles east of Los Angeles around 11 a.m., opening fire in a conference area where county health officials were having an employee banquet, said Marybeth Feild, president and CEO of the nonprofit center.

"They came prepared to do what they did, as if they were on a mission," Burguan said.

Farook attended the event before leaving — and returning to kill.

Co-worker Patrick Baccari said he was sitting at the same table as Farook, who suddenly disappeared, leaving his coat on his chair. Baccari said when the shooting started, he sought refuge in a bathroom and suffered minor wounds from shrapnel slicing through the wall.

Baccari described Farook as reserved and said he showed no signs of unusual behavior. Earlier this year he traveled to Saudi Arabia and returned with a wife, later growing a beard, Baccari said.

The FBI is investigating several possible motives, including workplace violence and terrorism, according to David Bowdich, assistant director of

AP PHOTO



Authorities search an area Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015, following a shooting that killed multiple people at a social services center for the disabled in San Bernardino, Calif.

the bureau's Los Angeles office. He did not elaborate.

Farook was a restaurant inspector for the health department, according to public records. Police chief Burguan said he had been a county employee for five years.

The couple dropped off their 6-month-old daughter with relatives Wednesday morning, saying they had a doctor's appointment, Hussam Ayloush, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said after talking with family. Farhan Khan, who is married to Farook's sister, told reporters he last spoke to his brother-in-law about a week ago. He said he was in shock, condemned the violence, and had "absolutely no idea why he would do this."

About four hours after the morning carnage, police hunting for the killers riddled a black SUV with gunfire in a shootout 2 miles from the social services center in this Southern California city of 214,000 people. Farook and Malik were found with assault rifles and semi-automatic handguns, and were wearing "assault-style clothing" with ammunition attached, authorities said.

Television news helicopters captured the aftermath, as of-

icers slowly approached the mangled SUV.

In the morning, as the day's first bursts of gunfire echoed through the large three-building complex, some people locked themselves in offices, desperately waiting for police and texting or making hushed phone calls to loved ones.

"People shot. In the office waiting for cops. Pray for us. I am locked in an office," Terry Petit's daughter, who works at the center, texted him.

Petit choked back tears as he read his daughter's words for reporters outside the center, where social workers find jobs, housing and transportation and provide other services to people with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Olivia Navarro said her daughter, Jamile Navarro, a case manager at the social service center, called her and whispered that she was hiding in a locked room.

"I said, 'All right, I'll be there, turn off the lights, don't make a sound,'" Navarro said. "And that was it."

Her daughter survived. That the violence happened at a place dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities — even if they were not targeted — made it even harder

for some to comprehend.

"These are all disabled kids, very disabled," said Sherry Esquerro, who was searching for her daughter and son-in-law, both of whom work at the center. "She gets all the services she possibly could for these kids. So I just don't understand why somebody would come in and start shooting."

According to its web page, the center has a client base of more than 30,000 people and their families. It is a privately run nonprofit, the largest of its kind in California with about 670 employees.

The one thing we do know is that we have a pattern now of mass shootings in this country that has no parallel anywhere else in the world.

BARACK OBAMA

FBI agents and other law enforcement authorities converged on the center and searched room to room for the attackers. Triage units were set up outside, and people were wheeled away on stretchers.

Seventeen people were wounded, according to authorities. Ten were hospitalized in critical condition, and three were in serious condition, Fire Chief Tom Hannemann said.

President Barack Obama urged the country to take steps to reduce mass shootings, including stricter gun laws and stronger background checks.

"The one thing we do know is that we have a pattern now of mass shootings in this country that has no parallel anywhere else in the world," Obama told CBS.

Federal authorities said that the two assault rifles and two handguns used in the violence were purchased legally, but they haven't said how and when they got into the hands of the two shooters.

The social services center has two large buildings that require a badge to get in, said Sheila Stark, a member of its board of trustees. However, the conference room that hosts public events such as Wednesday's banquet is usually left open when visitors are expected. AP

SOUTH AFRICA

Appeals court convicts Pistorius of murder

Christopher Torchia, Johannesburg

A South African appeals court yesterday convicted Oscar Pistorius of murder, overturning a lower court's conviction of the double-amputee Olympian on the lesser charge of manslaughter for shooting girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp to death in 2013.

Justice Lorimer Eric Leach of the Supreme Court of Appeal delivered the ruling by the five-judge tribunal in Bloemfontein and directed the trial court, the North Gauteng High Court, to impose sentence. He did not specify when that should happen. The former track star is currently under house arrest at his uncle's mansion in Pretoria.

"The accused ought to have been found guilty of murder on the basis that he had fired the fatal shots with criminal intent," Leach said to the courtroom, in which Steenkamp's mother sat.

A 15-year prison sentence is the minimum punishment for murder in South Africa. However, the law allows for a lesser



In this Friday, Sept. 12 file photo, Oscar Pistorius puts his hand on his face in court in Pretoria

sentence to be imposed in exceptional circumstances.

Pistorius was placed under house arrest in October after serving one year in prison. He had been sentenced to five years in prison for manslaughter and got out early in line with corrections department regulations. The trial court can also consider whether he should be shown leniency because he is disabled and is a first-time offender.

Pistorius, 29, killed Steenkamp

in the early morning of Valentine's Day. He insisted he thought she was an intruder behind the door of a toilet cubicle in his home. The prosecution said Pistorius shot Steenkamp during an argument.

Leach said regardless of who might have been behind the door, Pistorius should have known someone could be killed if he fired.

"The identity of his victim is irrelevant to his guilt," the judge said.

Under the concept of "dolus eventualis" in South African law, a person can be convicted of murder if they foresaw the possibility of someone dying through their actions and went ahead anyway.

Reeva Steenkamp's mother, June, sat quietly in the courtroom during the announcement, which was shown live on television. Pistorius was not there.

The former athlete's family said in a statement that it had taken note of the judgment.

"The legal team will study the finding and we will be guided by them in terms of options going forward," the statement said.

A date for Pistorius' new sentencing will be announced in the city of Pretoria, where he had been tried and imprisoned.

On Tuesday, journalists got a look at his former cell during a tour of a maximum security prison. It is in the hospital section of the Kgosi Mampuru II prison and is furnished with a single mattress on a metal frame, a basin with a backdrop of white tiles on the wall and a small

cabinet. A barred window is backed by a metal screen, blocking the view.

The austere cell is set apart from the main prison in an area with a room for just one other inmate.

Pistorius, a multiple Paralympic champion, became one of the world's most famous athletes and the first amputee to run at the Olympics and the able-bodied world championships. He was known as "Blade Runner" for his carbon-fiber running blades

Leach described the story of Pistorius and Steenkamp as a "human tragedy of Shakespearean proportions" whose legal aftermath was conducted in the glare of international attention.

"A young man overcomes huge physical disabilities to reach Olympian heights as an athlete," Leach said. "In doing so he becomes an international celebrity. He meets a young woman of great natural beauty and a successful model. Romance blossoms and then ironically, on Valentine's Day, all is destroyed when he takes her life." AP

AD

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A Look at Asia
AFA Macau
12:00 - 19:00 / Mon - Sat

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
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
21:15	News
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Movie
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:30	Boonie Bears - Sr.2
11:30	Young Adult
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
15:30	Portuguese Music
18:30	Contest
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:50	Macau 360° (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Tactical Unit - The Code
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:00	Parade through Macao, Latin City (Live)
19:00	Documentary
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:00	The School That Turned Chinese
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	UEFA Europa League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

US ZOO CONTEST WINNERS WILL GET EARLY PEEK AT PANDA CUB



Red panda cubs, born in June, make their public debut at the Philadelphia Zoo

The U.S. National Zoo says winners of an Instagram contest will be invited to be among the first to meet panda cub Bei Bei.

The cub, who was born Aug. 22, is set to make his public debut Jan. 16. The zoo said in a statement this week that it will choose 25 people to see the cub as part

of a "behind-the-scenes experience." The participants will be able to take pictures of the cub and share them on Instagram.

The zoo says that to enter the contest, participants must make a 15-second or shorter video using Instagram explaining why they want to be part of the event and fill out a registration form by Monday.

The zoo plans to notify winners by Dec. 11. The behind-the-scenes event will be Dec. 19.

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



George W Bush

2003 US PULLS BACK FROM STEEL TRADE WAR

The US President, George W Bush, has withdrawn a punitive tax on imported steel to avoid a damaging trade war between the United States and Europe.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) last month turned down a US appeal against its July ruling that the duties, imposed in March 2002, are illegal.

Mr Bush justified them by saying foreign steel firms were driving US firms out of business with unfair competition and government subsidies.

The EU was planning sanctions worth \$2.2bn in retaliation against the move, but says they will now be dropped.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan, reading a statement on behalf of Mr Bush, said: "These safeguard measures have now achieved their purpose and, as a result of changed economic circumstances, it is time to lift them."

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said the tariff decision had been made independently of the EU's threat of retaliation.

At no stage did the US administration admit it had acted illegally in breaching WTO rules.

On hearing the tariffs were being dropped, the EU Trade Minister Pascal Lamy said: "This is good news for us.... The important thing is that this sort of thing should not happen again."

It is believed that pressure from the British Prime Minister Tony Blair during Mr Bush's controversial visit to London last month was instrumental in convincing him to lift the tariffs.

The tariffs, which added up to 30% to the cost of a range of imported steel products, were originally imposed to satisfy an election pledge Mr Bush made to steel bosses and workers.

The US blamed cheap imports for the bankruptcy of 31 steel firms since 1997, with 20,000 job losses.

But the EU - which had also suffered 22,200 job losses over four years at the time - said it had not resorted to such measures while it was forced to restructure.

President Bush may now face a backlash from those workers who said he promised to keep the tariffs in place for three years.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Further trade wars threaten over the import of genetically modified food and crops from the US, despite the fact that EU public opinion is strongly opposed to such products.

The US has launched a trade complaint at the WTO, while the EU has postponed a decision on whether to allow some GM crops to be imported.

In January 2004, China - the world's top steelmaker and user - imposed tariffs of up to 55% on steel imports from five countries which it said were hurting its domestic producers, to an international outcry.

In August 2004 trade talks in Geneva reached a framework agreement on opening up global trade to allow poorer nations better access to world markets. It was hailed as a major breakthrough after three years of wrangling over the issue.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can have a great day if you don't think about anything except what's in front of you, and be sure to do it well.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Attachments are more important than ever. You need security in life, and you're not getting the financial variety, at least not at the moment.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Be careful what you say, unless you can afford to put your money where your mouth is. If not, don't offer any ideas.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Life just gets bigger and better, even if you can't see the same sparkle you once could. Interest is still accruing on your inner investments, if not your outer ones.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're certainly not at one of life's pinnacles. That leaves you plenty of room to move forward. Keep aiming for that high point, even if the only capital you have is willpower.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 So how does it feel to be the underdog? It's a rank you don't want to brag about, that's for sure. But if your last place ribbon is obvious, then make the most of your little guy status.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Just how much longer will this dry spell last? You don't have any ready answers, not that anyone is looking to you for them anyway.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your biggest challenge is accepting the status quo. But conditions won't be changing anytime soon, so don't even bother asking.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You used to think hoping for good luck was a waste of time, but these days, what do you have to lose? Hard work won't help you make any extra pennies.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 This isn't the old days. Don't be talked into sharing if you don't have enough for you and yours. Some around you may feel more deserving but you ultimately control the purse strings.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You don't have any energy to waste on power struggles. The real struggle is so important you can't afford even the slightest distraction from it.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's easy to slip into a fantasy world when the real one starts to feel overwhelming, but daydreams won't put bread on the table.

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.

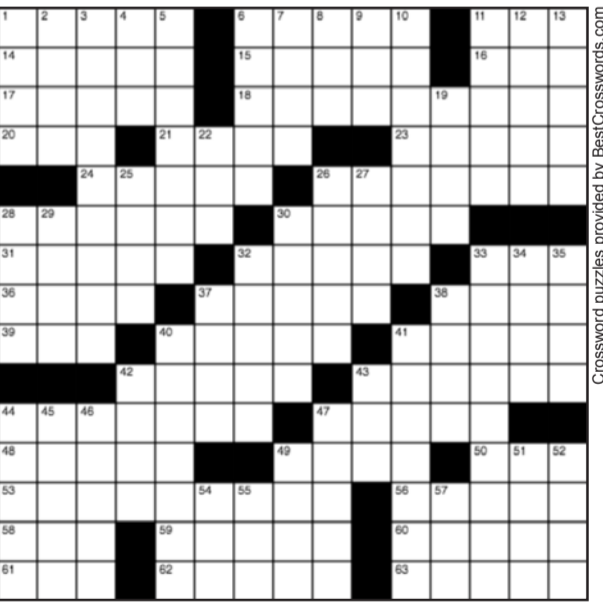
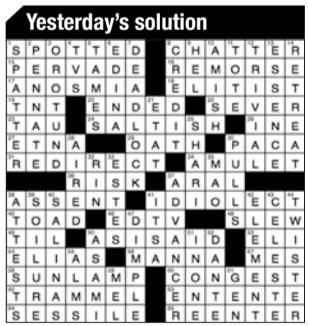
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Buy alternative; 6- Seventh sign of the zodiac; 11- "Rope-a-dope" boxer; 14- Senator Hatch; 15- Final notices; 16- Unburden; 17- ___ acid; 18- Italian yeast bread; 20- Bell and Barker; 21- Dirty look; 23- Desert havens; 24- Implements; 26- Scholar; 28- Like angel food cake; 30- Hotelier Helmsley; 31- British buddy; 32- Beg; 33- Structural engineer's software; 36- Spanish stew; ___ podrida; 37- Got wind of; 38- Hobbling; 39- Golly!; 40- Farm structures; 41- Ribbons; 42- Greeting; 43- Naked-faced Amazon monkey; 44- Capital of New Mexico; 47- "Lou Grant" star; 48- Les ___-Unis; 49- This ___ outrage!; 50- Belief; 53- Woman who tempts; 56- "Who's there?" response; 58- Neckwear; 59- Ancient Greek colony; 60- Clogs, e.g.; 61- Switch settings; 62- Edit; 63- Sharpens;

DOWN: 1- Good earth; 2- Writer Bombeck; 3- Greek philosopher; 4- Sloth, e.g.; 5- Science of winemaking; 6- Easy gaits; 7- Support beam; 8- Coal container; 9- Road with a no.; 10- Shock with wonder; 11- Got up; 12- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 13- That is, in Latin; 19- I did it!; 22- English cathedral city; 25- Draft classification; 26- Visionaries; 27- Tailless amphibian; 28- Problem with L.A.; 29- Ashen; 30- Grassy plain; 32- Hostess Mesta; 33- Trappings; 34- From the U.S.; 35- Lucie's father; 37- One of two equal parts; 38- Canoeing body; 40- Small animal; 41- A little brown; 42- URL starter; 43- NATO member; 44- Spat; 45- Had dinner at home; 46- Titles; 47- Syrian president; 49- The doctor ___; 51- Hook's helper; 52- Pigsty; 54- CD-___; 55- Opposite of WSW; 57- Howe'r



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FOOTBALL | EPL PREVIEW

Leicester's Vardy looks to extend scoring record at Swansea

Jonah Mendel, London

Saturday, 11:00pm
Swansea v Leicester
H 2.85, D 3.55, A 2.7

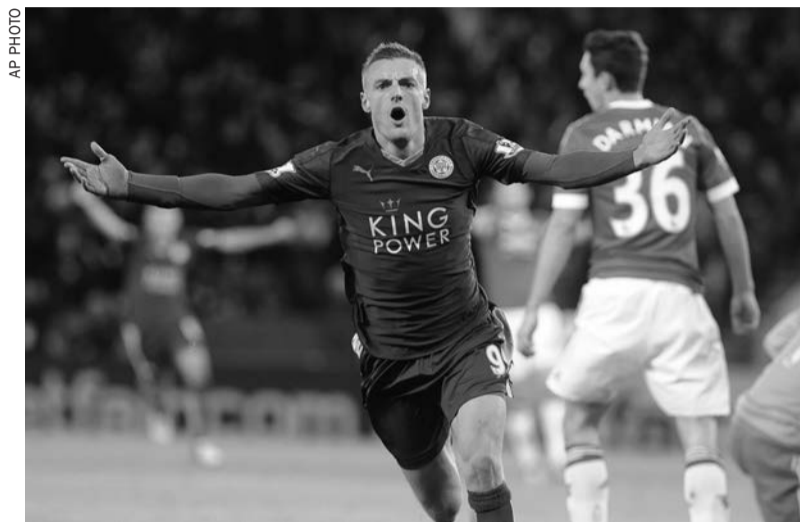
RECORD already in hand, Leicester striker Jamie Vardy is ready to make the most of every chance he gets in his pursuit of more goals.

Vardy can extend his scoring streak to 12 straight Premier League games tomorrow when Leicester plays at Swansea.

"You have to realize that there are not a lot of chances coming your way," Vardy said. "Once you get them, you need to be taking them. Otherwise, you're going to get punished yourselves."

With his goal in the 1-1 draw with Manchester United last weekend, Vardy eclipsed the record previously held by Ruud van Nistelrooy, who had a 10-match scoring streak.

Leicester is in a surprising second place in the Premier



Leicester's Jamie Vardy celebrates after scoring against Manchester United

League after 14 games, trailing Manchester City on goal difference and leading Man United by one point. Leicester only escaped relegation last season by winning nine of its last 11 games.

Much of this season's success can be credited to the 28-year-old Vardy, who signed for Leicester in 2012 from non-league soccer.

"He's very, very smart," Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri said, "very clever and very cool."

Man City, which beat Hull 4-1 in the League Cup quarterfinals earlier this week, faces Stoke tomorrow with Spain playmaker David Silva back in the team. Silva played for 80 minutes against Hull.

"The most important thing

Leicester is in a surprising second place in the Premier League after 14 games

was to qualify," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said, "but it was important for him to have 80 minutes after a long injury."

Also Saturday, Man United will host West Ham and Arsenal will host Sunderland. Also, it's: Chelsea vs. Bournemouth; West Bromwich Albion vs. Tottenham; Watford vs. Norwich; and Southampton vs. Aston Villa. On Sunday, Liverpool will visit Newcastle, while Everton will host Crystal Palace on Monday.

Here are some things to know about this weekend's matches:

With Santi Cazorla, Laurent Koscielny and Alexis Sanchez

all getting injured in Arsenal's 1-1 draw at Norwich last week, the team is hurting.

Sanchez has scored six goals in the Premier League and nine overall, and it's unclear how long he will be out.

"He says it is a kick on his hamstring," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said. "I fear the reality is worse than that."

Those Arsenal injuries, combined with a rejuvenated Sunderland squad under recently hired manager Sam Allardyce, should be a boost for the Black Cats.

"We will go into the big games as the underdogs and tell the lads to enjoy themselves because nobody expects you to get a result," Allardyce said. "Hopefully we can shock one or two because the lads have enough confidence in their ability to play any team at any time."

West Ham, still without the injured Dimitri Payet and Enner Valencia, could end up losing Diafra Sakho as well ahead of the trip to face Old Trafford.

The Senegal striker was injured in the team's 1-1 draw with West Brom last week.

"I don't know if it's too early before the scan ... but it looks like a muscle injury," West Ham manager Slaven Bilic said. "It's a big blow for us after Valencia and Payet." **AP / Oddschecker.com**

AD



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USJ DECEMBER Events

	<p>Untimely: A Counter-History of Environmental Architecture By Lydia Kallipoliti 7 December 2015 (Monday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall</p>
	<p>On a Windy Day Let's Go Flying: Making Flyways Safer for Migratory Soaring Birds By Miguel Repas, MSc. 11 December 2015 (Friday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Speakers' Hall</p>
	<p>Design as a variable: crafting music in the 21st Century By Victor Gama 11 December 2015 (Friday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 1 Library 2</p>
	<p>Positive Approaches to Social Sciences: impacts on emotional development and relational goods By Prof. Luis Miguel Neto & Prof. Helena Águeda Marujo 14 December 2015 (Monday) 18:30 - 20:00 Language: English Venue: NAPE 3 Speakers' Hall</p>

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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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opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautede



HOOKED ON JUNKETS

By mid-2015, gambling-related crimes had already gone up by more than a third, with loan sharking cases and unlawful detentions being of particular concern. This trend was just confirmed by Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak during a media briefing held on December 2nd: for the first nine months of 2015, the overall increase in gambling-related crimes stabilized at 34% (1,118 cases in total), with loan-sharking offences increasing by 40% year-on-year and unlawful detentions by a staggering 112.5%! Mr Wong also previously insisted on a turning point in March this year, with no further explanations being given.

In fact, quite the contrary: the Secretary was adamant in downplaying the significance of this highly noticeable jump. For him, in official speak, the rise was not to be attributed to the “adjustment in the gaming industry” — even though many junket venues are shutting down and all analysts seem to concur that credit lines have been crunched. Furthermore, he insisted on the fact that most of the victims and suspects of these crimes were “non-residents” and that these offences had no spillover effects on the rest of the community, as demonstrated by a slight decrease of the overall number of crimes over the first nine months of the year. To support Mr Wong’s claim, I would even add that gambling-related crimes appear rather limited in scope, representing a mere 11% of the total number of crimes (10,347 over the period), whereas revenues attributed to “gaming” amounted to 85%! Still, there was and there will continue to be an upsurge...

Ultimately, what I find really suspicious are these efforts at attenuating the meaning of everything. This of course goes beyond Macao and local politics: most modern politicians tend to “shelter” public opinions just like a mother or father protects her or his own children from hearing too blunt a disturbing reality and eventually one always benefits from showing that he or she is fully in control of the inner workings of any situation. No wonder then that Mr Wong would remark that the Dore case — theft and default in repayment put together — exclusively resulted from the shortcomings of the gambling promoter itself, and had therefore nothing to do with the ailing situation of the gambling industry. Yet, just like it is pure hypocrisy and manipulation to use the palatable and entertainment-minded word “gaming” (博彩 bocai or even 玩樂 wanle) instead of the highly hazardous and irrational term “gambling” (賭博 dubo), “adjustment” actually means a complete revamping under duress of the industry that has made Macao a “success” over the past decade. Article 118 of the Macao Basic Law has not changed, but drawing policies that will promote “tourism and recreation” in line with Macao’s interests has taken a whole new meaning.

Contrary to what some lawyers and foreign observers profess, it is highly debatable to univocally state that “the territory would not have achieved what it did if the [gambling] industry had been over-regulated.” First, because remaking history with “if” is pointless. Second, because one could infer that whatever the legal framework, investors would still have been tempted by the proximity of such a huge market, especially in a monopolistic position and with a cultural background somehow favoring games of luck. Third, because a lot of rich Chinese millionaires, whatever the origin of their wealth, saw Macao has a way out and on top of that credit did not have to be guaranteed by the casinos themselves. In short, Macao was bound to be a magnet.

Actually, I would argue quite the opposite: lax regulation of THE industry delayed necessary adjustments and long term vision — money was simply too easy to make — and we are finally witnessing the beginning of the unraveling of the promise made back in 1993 when the Basic Law was passed. Before Dore, there was Huang Shan in May 2014, with some HKD10 billion vanishing in smoke, so clearly the “adjustment period” is closely related to the “new normal”, for better and for worse.

THE MORRISSEY WINS ANNUAL ‘LITERARY REVIEW BAD SEX’ AWARD

Maybe he should have stuck to writing songs — former Smiths frontman and lyricist Morrissey has won the annual award for the poorest quality writing about sex.

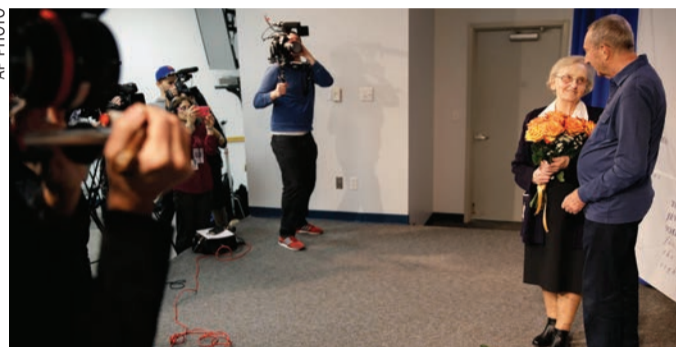
The award that writers don’t want to get was given this week at a gala ceremony in central London. The prize was given for Morrissey’s first novel, “List of the Lost.” The judges cited a scene between relay runner Ezra and his gir-

lfriend Eliza in which the couple “rolled together into the one giggling snowball of full-figured copulation.”

Morrissey is the 23rd winner of the not-so-prestigious prize awarded by the Literary Review magazine to spotlight “poorly written, perfunctory or redundant” passages of sexual description.

Past winners include Norman Mailer and Tom Wolfe.

Holocaust survivor, rescuer reunited in New York City



Michael Hochberg, right, talks with Krystyna Jakubowska while surrounded by members of the media at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York

Verena Dobnik, New York

AN Israeli man and a Polish woman were reunited in New York, seven decades after her Catholic family saved him during the Holocaust.

Michael Hochberg, 77, sat holding hands with 86-year-old Krystyna Jakubowska at Kennedy International Airport, locking eyes as their relatives looked on.

“He was a very pretty boy and he was very good — no problems with him as a child,” she said with a smile, speaking in Polish through a translator. “But I was scared, because the Germans announced on the street what would happen if somebody is saving a Jew.”

The punishment was death. This week, Jakubowska flew in from Warsaw to meet Hochberg.

The Polish woman’s family had taken in the boy at age 4 after he was literally thrown over the wall of the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw by a friend so as not to fall into the hands of the Nazis who herded hundreds of thousands of Jews there, many of them then sent to an extermination camp.

For two years, the child lived with Rozalia and Jozef Jakubowski — friends of his family — and their son and three daughters including Krystyna, then a teenager. The family made sure no one discovered that he was circumcised, and therefore Jewish; most Christian babies did not undergo the procedure at that time.

Hochberg had escaped just before the 1943 uprising that sent the ghetto up in flames he could see from the balcony of the Jakubowski

apartment.

The boy never again saw his parents or grandparents, who all died. And he could never venture out of the apartment except at night.

“Very few people helped the Jews,” Hochberg said on Wednesday. “In the Jewish tradition, you say, whoever saves one soul saves the whole world.”

Jozef Jakubowski, who fought against the Nazis as a member of the Polish underground, was killed in combat. The rest of the family, including the boy, was forced out of the city into the countryside, where the mother died.

At the end of the war, “I just hugged everybody, and I had to leave,” said Hochberg, who grew up in a Jewish orphanage in the town of Otwock, eventually moving to Israel, where he had three sons and eight grandchildren.

The survivor and Jakubowska had previously met briefly in Poland in 2006. They were brought together in New York by The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

Hochberg and his wife live in the Israeli city of Haifa and are now spending a month in the U.S. They also plan to visit Las Vegas and Miami. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	35-55 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPAN Toyota Motor Corp. is harboring big ambitions to become a significant player in the growing market for robots that help the elderly and other people get around in everyday life. The company believes it can use its manufacturing expertise to become as crucial in a field it calls “partner robots” as it is to auto-making.

BRAZIL Already struggling with weak popularity over Brazil’s economic ills and a political corruption scandal, President Dilma Rousseff now must fight an impeachment effort launched by a political foe who heads Congress’ lower house. Speaker Eduardo Cunha opened impeachment proceedings against Rousseff yesterday, citing a court’s finding that her administration violated fiscal responsibility laws by using money from state-run banks to fill budget gaps and pay for social programs.



UK British lawmakers vote by a wide margin to join the international campaign of airstrikes against the Islamic State militant group in Syria, after Prime Minister David Cameron asserts that bombing the “medieval monsters” in their heartland will make Britain safer.

RUSSIA-TURKEY A Turkish Foreign Ministry official says the Turkish and Russian foreign ministers have met on the sidelines of a European security meeting in Serbia’s capital. Yesterday’s meeting in Belgrade between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu was the first between the countries senior officials since Turkey downed a Russian plane near its border with Syria, touching off a crisis between the two states that previously enjoyed warm ties.

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