



WINTERPLAY TO DEBUT IN TOWN

Having garnered fame in Asia and parts of Europe over eight years, the Korean pop-jazz band plays at the CCM tomorrow

P7



SUVs INCREASINGLY POPULAR IN CHINA

P9 BUSINESS



CHAMPS ADVANCE TO THE ROUND OF 16

The UEFA Champions League round of 16 draw will be held on Monday in Nyon, Switzerland

P19 FOOTBALL

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Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



CHINA's environment ministry said pollutants were reduced by a third in Beijing during this week's temporary restrictions to reduce heavy smog, which included taking half the city's cars off the roads. Beijing's authorities ordered limits on cars, factories and construction sites during a red alert for smog from Tuesday through midday yesterday.

AP PHOTO



N KOREA-CHINA An all-female band formed by Kim Jong Un will perform behind closed doors in Beijing on a visit to cultivate better ties with China. The Moranbong Band, a group of women who sing and play instruments including violins, electric guitars and keyboards in short dresses and high heels, was set up by the N Korean leader in 2012. The band will play alongside another N Korean musical troupe at Beijing's National Center for Performing Arts for three nights starting yesterday.

AUSTRALIA Thailand's highest-ranking police investigator in charge of human trafficking has fled to Australia, telling Australian media yesterday that he feared for his life after his findings implicated "influential people" at home who want to silence him. Police Maj. Gen. Paween Pongsirin told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the Guardian Australia newspaper that he was too afraid to return to Thailand and planned to seek political asylum in Australia.

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Macau more expensive for expats, construction

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BLOOMBERG

Public Works Secretary: 'We do not have the habit of planning'

P5 POLICY ADDRESS



IN HOUSE MAGICIANS

Extra times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

MACAU is the second most expensive Asian city to build in after Hong Kong, while Singapore ranks third, says the latest International Construction Costs 2016 index published by Arcadis, a global design and consultancy firm for natural and built assets.

Globally, Macau is ranked fifth, behind Geneva (4), Hong Kong (3), London (2) and New York (1), according to the index which collates construction costs data from 44 major cities. According to the study, the MSAR is subject to less-than-ideal market pressures which inflate costs in the construction sector.

Construction projects for casino and entertainment resorts, residential housing units, and land reclamation works are in high demand here, while a lack of space and available labor to satisfy this demand exerts upward pressures on costs.

In October information from the Statistics and Census Service indicated that the value of construction for the year of 2014 was up by 63.2 percent when compared with the previous year. The bureau accredited the rise to the construction of new hotel and entertainment facilities.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong saw its construction output reach a record high in 2014 largely due to government investment into the metro system and high speed rail services, which created a shortage of labor and drove labor costs higher.

An accompanying report to the index notes that while the construction sector remains

Growth in the region is expected to ease as we enter 2016.

ALAN HEARN

strong, growth in construction costs across Asia have generally eased over the past 18 months.

"For Asia, China's economic slowdown and weakening demand in many cities, including Singapore and Jakarta, mean that growth in the region is expected to ease as we enter 2016," said the head of Southeast Asia Arcadis bureau, Alan Hearn.

Macau construction costs second highest in Asia



Workers labor as cranes operate at the Lisboa Palace construction site, developed by SJM in Macau

Speaking in relation to Singapore, Hearn told the real estate website Property Guru that the construction market "enjoyed a strong recovery since 2010. It is for this reason that the recent slowdown in residential and commercial markets represents something of a correction."

The report said that construction markets in many parts of Asia are likely to endure any economic turbulence from China in the coming years due to a shortage of affordable housing and infrastructure across the region.

But Arcadis warned that if long term construction costs

continue to rise, Asian global cities could find themselves sidelined as developers shift their interest to lower-cost locations.

Ho Chi Minh City, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Bangalore and Taipei are among the world's cheapest cities for construction, added the report. **Staff reporter**

Designer's canvases challenge stereotypical concept of beauty

Aries Un

PORTUGUESE designer Sofia Bobone challenges herself with new attempts at painting, seeking to defy conventional standards of beauty.

The 44-year-old artist, who decided to dabble in painting three years ago, has had her artwork on show at the Casa Garden since last week. The exhibition will run until January 10.

Her debut solo exhibition features not only the focus of her painting exercises in her initial two years of training, galloping horses, but also what she deemed "the real curves of women".

"I like the shape of human bodies, both male and female," said Bobone, while pointing at two of the portraits showing the backs of buxom ladies. "I want to portray women in a nice and gracious way."



Sofia Bobone poses next to one of her paintings

"It is wildly different from what it's supposed to be," she further explained, reflecting on her choice of physique to depict. "Everyone is supposed to have a perfect body shape, relying on exercise and diets, yet it's not always beautiful."

Painting rounder subjects also allows the painter to get a grasp of color and shadow, which she applies in her works to a large extent.

Bobone also told the Times how the shape of horses helped inform her techniques, despite only knowing how to draw them as a designer. "Because horses are very difficult to draw," she explained. "They have to be exactly in proportion, otherwise they would look strange." Rather than powerful and strong, horses make the artist feel tranquil and calm.

Local productions win awards at audio-visual competition

FIVE films and a music video received awards at the Sound & Image Challenge Festival award ceremony, held recently at the Dom Pedro V Theatre. The contest, which is now in its sixth consecutive year, was transformed this year into the Macau First Short Film Festival with the aim of promoting and nurturing the local film industry and encouraging local individuals to consider a career in audio-visual design.

A Macau local film, entitled "Come, The Light" by Chao Koi Wang, won both the "Macau Cultural Identity" and "Best Local Entry" awards. Local band "Forget The G" and producer, Ao Ieong Weng Fong, won the "Best Music Video" award for the video accompanying the band's song, "Sleepwalker."

"The Mechanical Waltz," an animated film by Julien Dykmans of France, took out awards for "Best in Event" and "Best Animation". Meanwhile, "The Wall (Le Mur)" by Andra Tevy – also from France – secured the award for "Best Fiction"

and the "Public Favourite Award," as voted by the attendees at the open screening sessions.

In addition, the "Best Documentary" prize was awarded to "A Journey" by Naya Kuu from Belgium, while the prize for "Best Advertisement" was given to "Ad Rem" by Polish director Bartosz Kruhilk.

The Sound & Image Challenge Festival this year received a total of 680 film entries from 65 different countries, according to event organizers. The entries spanned five key categories: fiction; documentary; animation; advertisement; and Macau cultural identity.

"We have drawn a larger number of contestants this year through a new conceptual competition, with a higher outstanding level and quality movies – especially the twenty-five nominated films," the event director, Lúcia Lemos, explained.

The Sound & Image Challenge Festival was originally launched in 2010 by Creative Macau – Centre for Creative Industries. The event was expanded in later years based on the five categories. **Staff reporter**

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MSAR jumps to 13th place in most expensive cities for expats rank

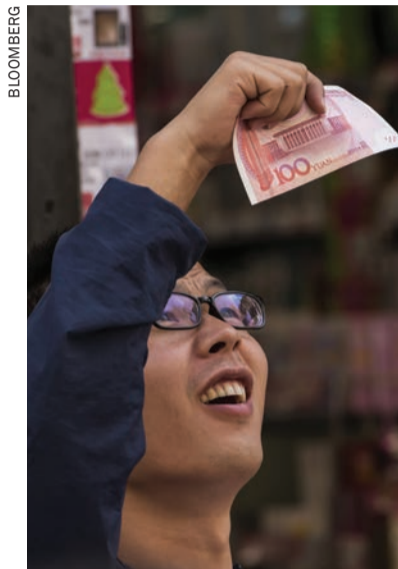
A survey by ECA International has revealed that Chinese cities now account for more than half of the Asia-Pacific's top 20 most expensive cities for expatriates. The survey found that 11 Chinese cities dominated the list, including Beijing (2), Hong Kong (3) and Macau (13).

Macau saw the largest rank increase for the Asia-Pacific region in 2015, rising from 34th position last year to 13th place in 2015. The MSAR also jumped 70 places in the global rankings to edge into the global top 30.

Shanghai (1) and Beijing (2), both moved up two places in the rankings this year from 3rd and 4th last year respectively, while Hong Kong (3) climbed seven places after ranking 10th in 2014.

The strengthening of the renminbi against major currencies such as the euro may account for the recent findings, says ECA's Asia regional director, Lee Quane.

"In spite of the minor depreciation in the renminbi against



A man looks at a Chinese one-hundred yuan banknote in front of a currency exchange store in Macau

the dollar (USD) over the summer, [the renminbi] has strengthened against most other currencies, leading to Shanghai becoming the most expensive Asian city for international assignees," Quane said, cited by the Economic Times.

Equally, Hong Kong's climb

to 3rd could be attributed to the relative strengthening of its currency over the last year, the ECA suggested. The depreciation of the Chinese currency against the USD has caused Hong Kong to become more expensive, owing to its currency being pegged to the dollar.

A year ago, Singapore ranked alongside Hong Kong in the rankings, 9th and 10th respectively. The price of goods and services in ECA's 2014 "shopping basket" selection showed Singapore to be about 1 percent more expensive than Hong Kong. However, this year it has been reported to be 8 percent less expensive than the HK SAR.

According to Lee Quane, the results reflect "the general trend seen in China with Chinese locations gradually moving up our rankings over recent years."

"It is likely that major Chinese cities will remain expensive destinations for mobile executives for the foreseeable future," he added.

Meanwhile, Australian lo-

TOP 20 MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES IN THE AP REGION

Location	Asia-Pacific rank 2015	Asia-Pacific rank 2014
Shanghai	1	3
Beijing	2	4
Hong Kong	3	10
Seoul	4	1
Tokyo	5	2
Guangzhou	6	13
Shenzhen	7	22
Singapore	8	9
Port Moresby	9	12
Busan	10	7
Yokohama	11	5
Nagoya	12	6
Macau	13	34
Dalian	14	25
Osaka	15	8
Suzhou	16	35
Ulsan	17	14
Chengdu	18	28
Nanjing	19	30
Tianjin	20	29

cations continue to fall in the rankings. Sydney remains the most expensive Australian city,

but it currently ranks 80th in the global list, down from last year's place of 27th. **Staff reporter**

AD

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 Chef Guillaume Galliot, The Tasting Room
 Chef Tam Kwok Fung, Jade Dragon

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Raimundo do Rosário thinks while listening to a lawmaker

2016 POLICY ADDRESS

Rosário makes first attempt at infrastructure plan

Renato Marques

THE five-year plan being introduced by the government is, according to the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, “a first attempt by the MSAR government to have a plan.” Raimundo do Rosário said yesterday during the second day of Policy Address debate at the Legislative Assembly (AL) that in Macau “we do not have the habit of planning.”

“It’s true! But I think there is time to start and to experiment. I myself took some risks here saying that the Pac On works will end, that the Taipa LRT works will end by 2019.

We are creating a new culture - slowly, but we will,” he noted.

The secretary was replying to the interpellation from Pereira Coutinho, who said that the five-year plan will be useless if no concrete measures to fulfill it are taken.

Raimundo do Rosário reiterated that it will be “impossible” to complete all the infrastructures planned by the government in such a short time. “I do not know if I can do everything that was promised by the MSAR government, so many works to complete by 2019 - buses, public housing, taxis, land management, etc. I have to study and create new diplomas, sanitary landfills, the

fourth connection between Macau and the islands, the Pac On ferry terminal, the more than forty thou-

I do not know if I can finish my work by 2019.

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

sand square-meter Islands healthcare complex. I do not know if I can finish my work by 2019,” he said.

During the second day of sectorial debate at the AL,

the Secretary for Transport and Public Works stated that he expects to be able to solve the problem related to the lack of sand to build the new landfills during 2016.

In case the prospective Zone A landfills are not ready in time for the planned connection to the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai bridge, a temporary bridge may be built on the Macau side.

“I hope that in 2016 there is sand. I do not know if it will be right at the beginning or the end of the year. It is merely my expectation. If we do not have sand, then we will proceed to the construction of a temporary bridge,” he said.

The secretary also added some information regarding reclamation Zone B, saying that a report over the location of the judiciary complex should be ready in February 2016.

The new judiciary complex and other public services are being planned for Zone B. The creation of facilities to host public services is considered a priority for the government in order to reduce the huge amount of public money paid to the owners of the buildings where the entities are currently hosted. The issue was a hot topic of debate during the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong’s presentation.

Yesterday’s AL session also closed the sequence of sectorial debates over the government’s 2016 Policy Address.

UN criticizes current human rights situation

In the aftermath of recent meetings held to discuss the human rights situation in Macau, the United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) has produced a list detailing various issues of concern to the organisation. These include the lack of progress in combatting human trafficking, incidents of police abuse and the extradition of prisoners to mainland China. On November 18, delegates of the Chinese, Hong Kong and Macau governments gathered at the Palace of Nations in Geneva to debate with the UN body. Local activist Jason Chao also attended the event as a Non-Governmental Organization delegate. The MSAR government recently rejected the CAT’s suggestion to establish an independent human rights body in Macau.

MSAR congratulates Japan



The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, has spoken at a Japanese National Day reception, ahead of the Japanese Emperor’s

birthday which will occur later this month. “It is on this day of joy and happiness that we gather here to celebrate the Japanese National Day and the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan,” said Chan on Wednesday. “Macau and Japan have long enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship. Since the liberalization of the gaming industry and with the increasing investments [...] the collaboration between our two territories [has] been elevated to a new level,” added the secretary. On the Emperor’s birthday, December 23, a public ceremony will be held at the Imperial Palace. The general public are only permitted to enter the inner grounds of the Imperial Palace on the Emperor’s birthday and on January 2.

First local fellowship at IEEE

Professor Ben U Seng Pan, of Synopsys (Macau) and the University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Science and Technology, has been awarded a fellowship of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for the year 2016. Professor U becomes the first scholar educated in Macau to attain the prominent position at the IEEE. “I am very honored to be the first Macau-educated scholar elevated to [the position of] IEEE fellow,” the professor said. “It is not only recognition of my more than 20 year[s] of endeavors in the field of microelectronics in academia and industry; it also shows solid recognition of the world-class achievements of [Macau’s] microelectronics team[s].” He was nominated by the IEEE Solid-State Circuit Society President-elect, Jan Van Spiegel from the American University of Pennsylvania. Currently, less than 20 percent of the 296 scholars who have been awarded an IEEE fellowship hail from the Asia-Pacific region.

Gaming: Fitch forecasts 2016 stabilization

Fitch Ratings has predicted that Macau’s 2016 gaming revenues will provide the good news the SAR has long awaited. While gaming revenues will post a full-year decrease of approximately one third for 2015, Fitch reports that 2016 will see only a moderate decline – approximately a 5-percent fall in revenues. “Investors in Macau’s gaming sector are playing the long game,” said Alex Bumazhny, Director of Gaming, Lodging and Leisure, according to Casino City Times. “As Macau’s gaming revenues begin to stabilize next year, we will start to see its long-term potential on the horizon,” he added. Fitch concluded that while the Asia-Pacific gaming market remains underpenetrated, the ability of Macau to grow its gaming sector will depend on the available infrastructure connecting the SAR to the mainland. According to the organization’s report, once the infrastructure is completed, Macau will be made more accessible to mass market gamers.

No date or budget for Islands Hospital

SEVERAL lawmakers inquired about the costs and date of completion of the future Taipa Island Hospital. Raimundo do Rosário only said, “We cannot have a date, neither a budget for the future Islands hospital.”

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works explained that the works are being done in several stages.

The project has a total of six different buildings, and each plan is subject to a process of verification that is not solely dependent on his department.

“I do not know when [it will be completed], because the plans have not yet been authorized, and from the six buildings, one of them does not even have a plan for the foundations yet. Therefore, I cannot say when the hospital



The location of the future Islands Hospital

is going to be ready and I also cannot point out a budget, because we do not yet have all the preparatory work ready for all the buildings,” he concluded.



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Kindergarten gets award for maintaining elements of Macanese heritage



From left, Jorge Rangel, Vera Gonçalves, José Manuel Rodrigues and Edith Silva

Renato Marques

THE International Institute of Macau awarded this year's Identity Award to D José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten "for its contributions to reinforcing the Macanese identity", according to the institution's president, Mr Jorge Rangel.

The prize-giving ceremony, held at the school this week, was attended by many prominent figures from within the Macanese community.

"The D José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten is contributing in an effective and persistent way to the preservation of the Macanese identity by developing activities that have been strengthening the Portuguese language and culture," said Mr Rangel during the award

presentation speech.

It was the third time that the award, having been created in 2003, was granted to a school institution. In 2006, it was given to the University of Macau, and was last year awarded to the Macau Portuguese School (EPM).

The kindergarten's director, Vera Gonçalves, mentioned that the award represents "the cherry that tops the cake" for the school.

"This award that is granted to us, recognizes that in truth, and side-by-side with the love that the children give us, is the driving force of our commitment to do our job better every time," she said.

Located close to the Tap Seac Square, the kindergarten was created in 1993 and currently educates 170 students from 10 different nationalities.

MUSIC

Korean pop-jazz band Winterplay to debut in town

Aries Un

THE up-and-coming Korean band Winterplay will grace the region with its first-ever performance in Macau tomorrow night at the Macau Cultural Centre.

With a distinct sound and famed for their strong-beat dance songs, the group's primary members are trumpeter-songwriter Juhan Lee and female singer Haewon. When the band was formed in 2007, together they decided to forge their own path, creating a unique style of pop-jazz music.

Having garnered some fame in Asia and parts of Europe over eight years, the group is finally coming to Macau. They hope to deliver a spectacular performance and will perform a new song specially arranged for this gig.

The group achieved success in the highly competitive industry in their home region while retaining their uniqueness.



Haewon (left) and Juhan Lee (right)

"When you're doing your own thing, especially if it's kind of a new genre in Korea, pop-jazz, you don't really have the time to see what other people are doing. We're too busy trying very hard to make it work," Juhan Lee said.

"Our dream is to showcase our music in many different countries. It's a very selfish thing, that every musician wants to showcase their music, not only in his own country, but in many other countries as well," he added.

AD



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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Common misconceptions about renting a property in Macau (Part 4 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.



JULIET RISDON

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After many years of handling rental transactions we would have to be completely blind not to see some recurring patterns amongst tenants, especially when people first arrive in Macau. 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. Bearing this mind, it is wise to get all agreements in writing prior to signing a final contract. Carrying on from last week, we continue with some of the most common misconceptions...

15-I can paint the apartment any colour I want

You may assume the answer is "yes, of course!" because "This is my apartment!" But you'd be wrong. Most leases stipulate that when you move out, the apartment must be restored to the same condition you got it in. If you painted the walls purple, you could be expected to repaint them to their original white. And covering purple paint isn't such an easy task. Some agreements state that written permission is required before painting or decorating. Putting up pictures, driving nails into the walls to hang artwork, changing the colour scheme etc are all things that need to be pre-approved and/or reversed when you move out. Basically, the landlord will accept normal wear-and-tear in the apartment, and everything else is on the tenant.

Before moving in it is important to do a walk-through with photos to record the actual condition of the property. Don't forget that damages to the apartment will be deducted from your security deposit. Do you still want deep purple walls?

16-Pets are welcome

Many owners simply forbid any cats or dogs. Those that do allow pets usually have a clause to say the apartment must undergo a deep clean upon termination of the agreement, and funds will be withheld to take care of this (a deep clean typically costs around MOP2,000). Check your landlord's policies, and while not all landlords refuse to allow pets, many say they do for financial reasons. Dogs can scratch doors and hardwood floors, and not every pet can handle long hours left alone in an apartment while their human is at work. Barking also disturbs neighbours, and accidents can stain carpets, cause hygiene issues and wreck flooring. If the landlord and the building management allow pets, you may be asked to pay an extra pet security deposit. And of course pet owners are absolutely expected to clean up after their animals.

17-The landlord cannot throw me out of the apartment...

Yes, you can be evicted under certain circumstances. These include: If a tenant does not pay rent at the appropriate time; If a tenant uses the property for illegal purposes; If all or part of the property is sub-leased without the express permission of the landlord; If the usage of the property is different from the original purpose, for example

if the apartment is used as an office or workshop space; If alteration work on the apartment is carried out without the express permission of the landlord.

18-There is a maximum that the landlord can increase the rent...

There have been calls from residents to try to 'cap' rent increases. However, it is likely that interference in the market would have a reverse effect as we have seen many times in the past. For example, if rent increases were capped at 15%, many owners would not rent properties. As supply falls and demand grows, this would push rental prices even higher in the mid and long term. The Macau government is discussing a rental cap increase, but it is not yet effective. According to Macau Law, the rental amount paid by a tenant is in agreement with both parties. Macau law states that a rent increase must be 'reasonable'. By definition this means that as long as both parties agree to it, it is deemed reasonable.

19-The landlord is responsible for handling emergency repairs

No one wants to deal with a burst pipe at midnight on a Tuesday, but it's a repair that has to be handled ASAP. You need to know how the owner wants you to respond in a genuine emergency: Fixing a running toilet on your own because it was driving you nuts and the owner didn't respond quickly enough may leave you stuck with the bill. Before choosing an apartment it's important to know how all kinds of repairs are handled as mentioned in this article, but particularly the emergencies.

To continue next week...

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Inditex sales rise at fastest pace in three years on Spain



Rodrigo Orihuela

INDITEX SA, the world's largest clothing retailer, reported sales growth at the fastest pace in three years as Spanish consumption shows signs of recovering after years of austerity.

Revenue rose 15 percent excluding currency shifts in the nine months through October and continued at that rate in the start of the final quarter, the Arteixo, Spain-based owner of the Zara and Stradivarius brands said yesterday in a statement. Net income gained 20 percent to 2.02 billion euros (USD2.2 billion) in the nine months, matching the average of estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

The company is benefiting from growing demand in Spain, where Inditex gets about a fifth of its revenue. The country's October clothing retail sales were the strongest in at least six years, according to Barclays Plc. The rebound contrasts with the rest of Europe, as Fitch Ratings lowered its outlook for the region's retail sector to negative on Wednesday, citing rising competition and

"fragile" consumer spending. "The reason Inditex is trading strongly is that the company has focused hard on value and range," Anne Critchlow, an analyst at Societe Generale SA, said by phone from London. "Value for money is very strong, particularly at Zara, while the choice of products has become wider. It's an extremely good proposition."

Inditex shares rose 1 percent to 32.86 euros as of 9:05 a.m. in Madrid. They have gained 37 percent this year, boosting the company's market value to more than 100 billion euros. Founder Amancio Ortega is the world's second-richest person, with a net worth of about \$75 billion.

The retailer has opened about 400 stores annually on average over the past 5 years spread out among eight brands, reaching more than 6,900 total. This year's introductions include its first shop in Hawaii and the first Bershka womenswear store in Taiwan. It has also added online sales in 28 of its 88 markets, having added Zara.com in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. **AP**

China's November auto sales accelerate on SUV popularity

Joe McDonald, Business Writer, Beijing

CHINA's auto sales grew at this year's fastest rate in November as Chinese manufacturers took market share from global rivals, helped by the popularity of their lower-priced SUVs, an industry group reported yesterday.

Sales of cars, SUVs and minivans in the world's biggest auto market rose 23.7 percent over a year earlier to 2.2 million vehicles, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. That was an improvement over October's 13.3 percent rise.

Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 20 percent to 2.5 million vehicles.

Auto sales suffered an unexpectedly sharp contraction from June through August, sending shock waves through an industry that looks to China to drive future growth. Demand rebounded in September after Beijing cut sales taxes on vehicles with smaller engines.

November sales were helped by a 72 percent rise in purchases of sport utility vehicles, especially Chinese brands in lower price tiers.

Sales by domestic Chinese auto brands outpaced the market, rising 26.9 percent. Their market share grew by 1.1 percentage points to 41.9 percent.

Sales of Chinese-brand SUVs soared 88.1 percent to 395,000 vehicles. Their share of the SUV



market expanded by 4.7 percentage points to 55.2 percent.

China's auto market has been cooling since growth peaked at 45 percent in 2009 but this year's plunge prompted analysts to cut growth forecasts. General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG reduced prices to spur sales.

Sales have been dented by measures imposed by Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities to curb smog and congestion by limiting new vehicle registrations.

This week, half the vehicles in Beijing were ordered off the road on alternate days after the Chinese capital's air pollution spiked to dangerous levels.

November sales by German brands rose 18.2 percent over a

year earlier. Sales by Japanese brands rose 15.7 percent and those of U.S. brands 12.4 percent.

Longer-term, overall demand is expected to be helped by the Communist Party's decision in October to allow all Chinese couples to have two children, easing restrictions that limited many to only one. **AP**

72 pct

November's rise in SUV purchases

corporate bits

RING IN 2016 AT MGM MACAU



MGM's Aux Beaux Arts restaurant is offering French gourmet food under the theme of Parisian cabaret "Moulin Rouge" on December 31. The New Year's Eve Dinner Sets include

Bay scallop tartar with fine herbs, Fine de Claire oyster with cucumber, Oscietra caviar and lemon balm sorbet as the starter. The Tick Tock, Tick Tock Sacher is a special dessert for guests to end the festive dinner.

Buffet restaurant Rossio is presenting New Year's Eve and New Year's buffet options on December 31 and January 1, 2016. Guests at the New Year's Eve Dinner Buffet will be welcomed with complimentary face-painting sessions, a balloon twisting performance and other party favors.

Meanwhile DJ Ted will rock the Lion's Bar together with Soul Republic, one of the most popular live bands in Macau's nightlife scene, with a count down to ring in 2016.

CEM AMBASSADORS VISIT IN-PATIENT CHILDREN AT KIANG WU HOSPITAL FOR FESTIVE SEASON

With the approach of the Christmas season, more than 20 CEM Ambassadors paid a visit to Kiang Wu Hospital to celebrate with in-patient children.

On the day, accompanied by several Kiang Wu Hospital

professionals, CEM staff visited nearly 40 in-patient kids aged up to 6 years of old, from different units. CEM Ambassadors spent some time with the kids, sung Christmas songs, and had Santa Claus distribute presents to each one of them.



CTM DONATES MOP400,000 TO SUPPORT WALK FOR A MILLION AND TUNG SIN TONG



On Wednesday, CTM made a cheque donation of MOP200,000 to the Charity Fund from the Readers of Macao Daily News and Tung Sin Tong respectively, with the objective of supporting the fundraising activities.

On Dec 9, the representatives of the Charity Fund from the Readers of Macao Daily News including President Vong Kok Seng, Vice President Wan Nang Hon, Wong Pan Seng, Choi Ka Weng, Hoi Kin Chong, Aaron

lu, and Director Lei Weng Son, Raymond Wong, and representatives from Tung Sin Tong including Chairman Chui Sai Cheong, Vice Chairman Chui Sai Peng and Director Choi Wai Kun and Eva Lou paid a courtesy visit to CTM. They were welcomed by CTM's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Xin Yue Jiang, and CEO Vandy Poon. During the occasion, Xin and Poon presented cheques of MOP200,000 each to the individual organizations respectively.

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

Who's investigating fake goods? Fake investigators

MULTINATIONAL corporations doing business in China face a losing battle when it comes to keeping copies of their products off the market: The anti-counterfeiting industry they rely on is plagued with fraud, making it that much easier for potentially dangerous fake goods — from air bags to Christmas lights — to reach consumers, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Most Western companies subcontract anti-counterfeiting work to private investigators paid on commission. More seizures mean higher fees, creating powerful incentives to cheat in an industry with little oversight. As a result, money spent fighting counterfeiting often doesn't make things better, and sometimes makes them worse.

The AP found instances of investigative fraud involving products that could be hazardous: counterfeit auto parts, pharmaceuticals, personal care products and electrical components.

The wrongdoing took many forms:

- Western firms paid investigators who were themselves manufacturing or selling counterfeit versions of their clients'



A vendor waits for customers inside a shop advertising ABB branded electrical components in Liushi city

own goods.

- Investigators doctored documents, fabricating raids that never took place.

- Investigators colluded with factories to make counterfeit goods they could "seize" and present to their Western bosses for payment.

As counterfeiting has flourished in China over decades, a lucrative, parallel industry has blossomed

to fight it. Counterfeiting today is a multibillion-dollar business in China, which produces nearly nine of every 10 fake items seized at U.S. borders.

Chinese authorities have been getting better at fining counterfeiters and sending them to jail. But the momentum of reform has yet to reach the front lines of the fight against fakes, according to previously undisclosed material from legal cases and internal corporate investigations in China reviewed by the AP, lawsuits, and interviews with 16 private investigators, lawyers and law-enforcement officials.

All described a broken system, beset by endemic and under-reported fraud, made worse by Western companies that have a poor command over how to successfully fight fraud.

Shanghai's Public Security Bureau took the unusual step of warning foreign brand owners to be watchful of the investigators they hire. "We very much hope that

brand owners will pay attention and devote more manpower and material resources to ensure that the fight against counterfeiting is healthy and orderly," the bureau said in written response to questions from the AP.

Swiss power technology giant ABB Asea Brown Boveri found that one of the investigators it was paying to hunt counterfeiters was herself selling fake ABB circuit breakers. ABB sued the firm she worked for, the China United Intellectual Property Protection Center, which was one of China's oldest and largest investigations companies. ABB lost its case in Beijing, despite the fact that the investigator, a woman who called herself Flaming Lee, was convicted of selling ABB counterfeits by a court in Dubai, where she lived.

ABB, a \$40 billion company whose products range from simple switches to sophisticated industrial robotics, declined to comment. But in court filings, the company said it was astounded

to learn that its exclusive brand protection agent in China had itself "directly participated in infringing acts against the ABB trademark." They accused ChinaUnited of protecting a factory that produced ABB fakes and of engineering its work to maximize billing, rather than truly solve ABB's multimillion-dollar counterfeiting problem. In one case, ABB said it ended up paying China United \$5,000 for a raid that uncovered \$1 worth of fakes.

China United denied wrongdoing. Chinese judges acknowledged Flaming Lee's double-dealing, but exonerated upper management and dismissed the rest of the accusations. They ordered ABB to pay China United over \$500,000 in back investigation fees.

China United officials declined to comment, as did Flaming Lee, whose real name is Li Yue.

In the end, China United's legal victory proved hollow. Its reputation damaged, the firm closed. **AP**

AD



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Vendors wait for customers at Liushi China Electronic City, a market known for selling counterfeit electronic components, in the town of Liushi near Wenzhou city in eastern China's Zhejiang province

Shampoo case shows perils of honesty in fight against fakes

Erika Kintez, Shanghai

ON paper, the reports were perfect, brilliant parries in the fight against fakes in China. There were phone numbers, dates, official agencies, photographs and a nice haul: over 120,000 packages of counterfeit anti-dandruff shampoo, plus seven vats of ingredients.

There was one problem: None of it was true.

The reality of what happened was so galling that when the director of brand protection in China for the company that made the shampoo found out, he did not tell his boss.

"If I disclosed this, it would do very big damage to the team's reputation," the director said. He, and another in-house investigator directly involved in the case, spoke on condition that their names and the name of their employer not be disclosed, for fear of losing their jobs.

As counterfeiting has flourished in China, a lucrative parallel industry of investigators has blossomed to fight it. The AP found cases of investigative fraud where western firms paid investigators who were themselves manufacturing or selling counterfeit goods.

In the case of the dandruff shampoo, the company had outsourced its anti-counterfeiting work to an outside investigator. But instead of finding real counterfeiters, the investigator opened his own factory in a two-story house in Anhui, one of China's poorest provinces. There, above a small grocery shop, a machine pumped out counterfeit shampoo, which the in-

vestigator then had seized and billed to the consumer goods company as a successful raid.

It wasn't the first such factory the investigator — a tall, quiet man named Wang Yunming — had opened. It was the fourth.

If he hadn't been caught, Wang could have made over USD9,000 for the faked raid in Anhui. Instead, Wang was convicted of fraud and is due to be released from prison in 2023, according to a copy of a judgment from Hefei Intermediate People's Court. Anhui police declined to comment.

In response, the company's brand protection director fired the investigations company Wang worked for and quietly built in new checks and balances to his anti-counterfeiting operation. He now sends staff on every raid and gets the contact numbers of local authorities involved in the raids so he can double-check investigators' reports.

"I want this industry to be more ordered, regulated and legal," he said.

The case showcases the ample opportunity for fraud in the fight against fakes in China and highlights the distortions that underpin many brand protection programs.

"My team's performance depends on three numbers: How many criminal cases you did. The second is how many administrative cases you did. The last is the value of the seizures you disclosed," said the firm's brand protection director.

That means if he had kept quiet and accepted Wang's faked numbers, he himself might have gotten a bigger bonus that year. **AP**

AD



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Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang's once sleepy roads now filling with cars

THE once sleepy streets of Pyongyang, where the city's iconic traffic controllers would stand in the middle of usually deserted intersections to direct what few cars came by, are now looking a lot busier. So much so, in fact, that a new word has entered the North Korean lexicon — “jam,” as in traffic jam.

Traffic in North Korea's capital has gotten visibly heavier over the past year or so, with more trucks, taxis, passenger cars and other vehicles plying the streets and giving the often empty-seeming city of roughly 2.5 million a much more lively look.

To be clear, Los Angeles or Jakarta it is not.

Even with more vehicles on the roads, it's unusual to have more than a dozen or so cars waiting behind a red light at any time of day, in any part of the city. At night, the roads remain virtually empty. Most residents still get around on foot, pedal their way around town on bicycles — Pyongyang also got its first cycling lanes this year — or use public transportation. Unlike any other city in North Korea, Pyongyang has a subway system.

What's driving the increase in traffic in Pyongyang, like many things about North Korea, is something of a mystery. Obtaining official figures on vehicle numbers in North Korea is virtually impossible given the opaque nature of the government bureaucracy.

But the trend does seem to jibe with an increase in construction going back about five



A policewoman directs traffic in Pyongyang

years, which has meant more trucks are on the road to deliver workers and building materials, and the spread of entrepreneurial-style businesses that have the backing of state-run organizations. Such businesses could be generating the kind of profits needed for their mother organizations and their own managers or workers to use automobiles. Pyongyang streets continue

to be dominated by trolleys, buses, cargo-carrying trucks and the official vehicles of the military, government or party elites. And while the number of taxis has swelled over the past few years, they are still probably in the 1,000-plus range. It remains exceptionally rare for any North Korean to have a car that is strictly for personal use. Most passenger cars are either

overtly from China or brought in from China and then given some final assembly touches and rebranded with local markings. North Korea only has one domestic automaker, Pyonghwa Motors, and its production output is believed to be very low.

Nevertheless, the ripple effects from the growth in traffic — and efforts to deal with it — are

beginning to stand out.

For one, the number of traffic lights has been steadily increasing, though they probably don't pose much of a threat to the traffic controllers, who are mostly young women and whose ubiquitous presence and bright uniforms that change with each season have long made them a symbol of the capital.

Parking lots, including the one at Pyongyang's new airport, that charge hourly fees are also springing up all over the city. Lots outside some department stores are now charging fees and so are attendants in the parking area outside the popular Tong'il market, a bazaar-like spot off-limits to most foreigners but normally crowded with locals and diplomats.

It's also gotten a lot easier to find a gas station, even outside the city.

Though paying for gas is a big hurdle to car ownership, the price has reportedly gone down recently. At one Pyongyang gas station last week, the price for one kilogram of gas — instead of liters, that's the most commonly used unit — was 73.33 North Korean won, or 80.06 won if purchased with a debit card. Diesel costs 63.33 won.

At the official exchange rate, that is less than one U.S. dollar. **AP**

MALAYSIA

PM Razak vows he will not resign over financial scandal

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

EMBATTLED Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak vowed yesterday that he will not retreat nor surrender amid pressure for him to resign over a USD700 million financial scandal.

Najib has been under fire since July after leaked documents showed he received \$700 million into his private accounts from entities linked to indebted state investment fund 1MDB. The 1MDB crisis has been partly blamed for a sharp plunge in the Malaysian ringgit, which fell to 17-year lows against the dollar in August.

Opening an annual meeting of his ruling Malay

party, Najib reiterated that the money in his accounts was a political donation. He said 1MDB debts of at least 42 billion ringgit (\$9.8 billion) were being resolved with the recent sale of its power assets to a China company.

“I am convinced that I am on the side of the truth, and the truth will eventually prevail,” Najib told more than 2,000 delegates of his United Malays National Organization.

He said he was aware of efforts to try to remove him and warned that “such treasonous acts” could sink UMNO and destroy the Malay race.

“Even though some

may turn against us, even though we are being pushed repeatedly to make us fall, there shall be no retreat, no surrender. No retreat! No surrender!” Najib said.

It is the biggest political crisis for Najib since he took power in 2009. He has denied any wrongdoing but refuses to identify the donor of the money from the Middle East. He has fired his deputy and other critics in his government, sacked the attorney-general probing him, suspended two newspapers and blocked a British-based website.

The hardline tactics are also employed at the three-day party assembly. Muhyiddin Yassin,

who was fired as deputy prime minister in August but remained as the party's deputy president, was barred from speaking at the assembly.

Debates by delegates, which are usually broadcast live on screens in the public hall where the meetings are being held, are now held behind closed doors to prevent misreporting, officials said. Non-Muslim reporters were barred from an event held by the party Wednesday to uphold Islam.

Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, an ardent critic of Najib, has slammed the repression and said that democracy is dead in the party.



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak inspects a ceremonial guard of honor in Kuala Lumpur

UMNO is the linchpin of the National Front coalition that has ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957.

Support for the National Front has eroded in the last two general elections. In 2013, it won the polls

but lost the popular vote for the first time to the opposition alliance led by Anwar Ibrahim, who is now in prison after being convicted of sodomizing an aide in a case widely regarded as politically motivated. **AP**

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ARGENTINA

New president assumes power, promises many changes

Peter Prengaman, Buenos Aires

AFTER 12 years of often divisive rule and heavy spending on social welfare programs, Argentina's president-elect promises to usher in an era of more civil discourse and roll back much of the spending that many economists say has brought the South American nation to the brink of crisis.

President-elect Mauricio Macri was sworn in yesterday after defeating the chosen successor of outgoing President Cristina Fernandez during last month's election. Macri ran on free-market ideas, promising to overhaul a struggling economy and be a leader "who listens more and talks less," a clear dig at Fernandez, who frequently blasted opponents during hours-long speeches.

Fernandez, and before her late husband and predecessor, Nestor Kirchner, dominated Argentina's political landscape for the last 12 years. The power couple sharply increased spending on social welfare programs while raising tariffs in attempts to protect local industries and

AP PHOTO



Opposition presidential candidate Mauricio Macri and his wife Juliana Awada, back left, celebrate after winning a runoff presidential election in Buenos Aires

aligning the country with leftist leaders like late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Bolivian President Evo Morales.

Macri has promised to undo many of those policies and improve relations with the United States. While his election victory represented a seismic change in Argentine politics, enacting his reforms will prove difficult.

Yesterday, he inherited

myriad problems: Inflation around 30 percent, dangerously low foreign reserves for the third largest economy in Latin America and a long-time spat with a group of creditors in the U.S. that has kept Argentina on the margins of international credit markets.

Macri will also be wedged in by campaign promises to lift restrictions on buying U.S. dollars, and thus eliminate a

booming black market that has made it difficult for local businesses to operate. The lifting of restrictions will likely lead to a devaluation of the Argentine peso, a scary proposition in a country that defaulted on USD100 billion in debt during a 2001-2002 financial crisis that plunged half the country into poverty.

Macri will have to maneuver without ruling majorities in

either chamber. However, his party will control both the city of Buenos Aires and the vast Buenos Aires province, where 40 percent of the country's 41 million people live.

He will also have to work to win over a polarized electorate and Fernandez has made clear she will be a stiff opposition opponent.

In recent weeks, she has rushed dozens of bills through Congress, appointed ambassadors and many other public

President elect Mauricio Macri was sworn in yesterday

workers and cut some taxes on the provinces, which will all make Macri's initial months more difficult.

She also decided not to attend yesterday's inauguration ceremony after she and Macri bickered for weeks about logistical details. Macri wanted to receive the presidential baton and sash from Fernandez in the government house, or Casa Rosada. However, Fernandez insisted that Macri receive them in Congress.

The tiff, which had many Argentines shaking their head in shame, ended on Tuesday when a top aide said the president simply wouldn't attend. **AP**

HEALTH

Mexican safety agency approves first use of dengue vaccine

Mark Stevenson, Mexico City

MEXICAN health authorities approved the first vaccine to gain official acceptance for use against the dengue virus, which sickens about 100 million people every year, mostly in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The federal medical safety agency said Wednesday (early yesterday, Macau time) the vaccine has undergone testing on over 29,000 patients worldwide. It said the vaccine's manufacturer had proved its safety and effectiveness, but did not name the drug.

In a separate statement, the Lyon, France-based Sanofi Pasteur identified the vaccine as Dengvaxia.

Mexico said the vaccine is aimed at people ages 9 to 45 and will be used in areas where the disease is



endemic.

According to a World Health Organization report published in late 2014, the vaccine had an average rate of effectiveness of about 60.8 percent in protecting against the four strains of dengue currently circulating. Sanofi said its vaccine was shown to

"reduce dengue due to all four serotypes (strains) in two-thirds of the participants," a figure similar to the 65.6 percent rate reported in a study published in September by the New England Journal of Medicine.

That is relatively low for a vaccine. Common vaccines like those for measles

and polio are more than 95 percent effective.

But Dengvaxia appeared to be particularly effective in protecting people from the most extreme, potentially life-threatening form of the disease, known as dengue hemorrhagic fever, which can cause internal bleeding, shock, organ failure and death. That form of the disease seems to hit people who have already had one strain of dengue, and then suffer a subsequent infection by a different strain.

Because of that, Mexico said it planned to apply the vaccine in areas where exposure rates to at least one strain were 60 percent or more.

Dr. In-Kyu Yoon, director of the international Dengue Vaccine Initiative, said the drug "may potentially have a significant public health

impact," but noted "we still don't know how much Sanofi will charge."

"It probably will work best in those regions and countries that have the highest rate" of dengue exposure, Yoon said.

Sanofi said in its statement that the drug "prevented 9 out of 10 cases of severe dengue and 8 out of 10 hospitalizations due to dengue."

Dr. Cuauhtemoc Ruiz, chief of Pan American Health Organizations' immunization program, said that whether the vaccine will be widely used will depend on a cost-benefit analysis. Countries will have to weigh whether another treatment or simply spraying to reduce mosquitoes would prevent more illnesses and deaths for the same money.

Ruiz added that at least five other dengue vacci-

nes are in clinical development.

Mexico's federal medical safety agency, known by its initials as Cofepris, said the vaccine could help prevent 104 deaths and 8,000 hospital admissions and save about USD65 million in health expenditures annually. Mexico's Health Department declined to comment on whether the government would supply the vaccine to those who need it most in the country's largely poor, low-lying southern states.

WHO's report said it was unclear how long the vaccine would protect those who receive it.

Mosquitoes transmit the dengue virus. Symptoms include high fevers and severe muscle and joint pain. There's no specific treatment for dengue. **AP**

Angela Charlton and Matthew Lee, Le Bourget

COP 21

Sleepless, tense climate negotiators haggle over Paris deal

SLEEP-DEPRIVED and increasingly tense, diplomats and climate negotiators outside Paris struggled yesterday to narrow down a 29-page draft of an unprecedented deal to tackle climate change— but countries remained at odds on critical issues a day before the organizers' deadline for an agreement.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reached out to two major developing nations — Brazil and India — and is expected to meet other negotiators as the Obama administration works for a deal that reflects its concerns about global warming but doesn't require congressional approval.

Climate negotiations continued until about 5 a.m. yesterday (0400 GMT) before resuming midmorning, and a new draft accord was expected to be released sometime during the day, a French diplomat said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the negotiations.

The draft released Wednesday left major issues unresolved, including the long-term goal of an eventual accord, and which



A participant holds a poster amid NGO representatives staging a sit-in protest close to the plenary session to denounce the first draft COP21 Climate Conference agreement

countries should pay to help the most vulnerable nations cope with global warming.

The French organizers of the two-week talks want a final

agreement by Friday night, though U.N. climate conferences rarely end on time.

This time is different from past talks, because the French

organizers pushed countries to set their own emissions targets before the Paris conference, and the U.S. and China, who have clashed over climate in the past, bridged key differences earlier this year.

Another thing different this time is the scale of the proposed deal: Ministers from more than 190 countries are trying to craft the first climate accord asking all nations to reduce or slow their emissions. The previous agreement, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, required only rich countries to do so.

"The outlook is positive, but there is still a lot of work to be done," Elina Bardram, head of the EU climate delegation. The draft is "still too heavy."

Chinese negotiator Gao Feng was one of many suggesting the talks won't finish on time. "Friday or maybe Saturday, I think we will get it."

Kerry was holding talks at the

Le Bourget conference site with the environment ministers of Brazil and India, according to the U.S. State Department. Brazil and India are among the biggest nations demanding that richer countries pay and do more to reduce carbon emissions.

One unresolved question for the deal is its long-term goal for fossil fuels — oil, coal and gas — that are the source of most man-made emissions and provide most of the world's energy today. Replacing them with renewable sources like wind and solar power requires big investments, which poor countries say they can't afford without help.

The document doesn't settle the sensitive question of whether advanced developing countries such as China and oil-rich Arab nations should join industrialized countries in providing financial aid. AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
14:55	Trail of Lies (Repeated) TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
20:00	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	News
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europa League Highlights
23:45	Europa League: Sporting - Besiktas (Repeated)
01:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:45	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Boonie Bears - Sr2
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 - Partners
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	Miscellaneous
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

MOSCOW AUTHORITIES TO OFFER FREE WI-FI AT CEMETERIES

As part of their campaign to bring Wi-Fi to crowded public spots in the Russian capital, Moscow authorities are connecting up an unlikely new location: cemeteries.

The Moscow city hall said in a statement yesterday that free Wi-Fi will be available at the city's three main cemeteries starting next year.

Artyom Yekimov from a state-owned funeral directors company did not mention the permanent residents of the cemeteries but said Wi-Fi will attract more visitors to the city's historic cemeteries where many illustrious Russians have found a resting place.

Internet connection will also help visitors to "unwind" at specially designated places in the cemeteries, Yekimov said.

Some 120,000 people are buried in Moscow every year, with a further, smaller number cremated.

cinema



CINETEATRO

10 Dec - 16 Dec



POINT BREAK

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.30 pmDirector: Ericson Core
Starring: Teresa Palmer, Luke Bracey, Édgar Ramírez
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 113min

KEEPER OF DARKNESS

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pmDirector: Nick Cheung
Starring: Nick Cheung, Kuo Tsai Chieh, Louis Chueng
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 105min

INITIATION LOVE

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pmDirector: Yukihiro Tsutsumi
Starring: Shota Matsuda, Atsuko Maeda
Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)
Duration: 110min

THE CROW'S EGG

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

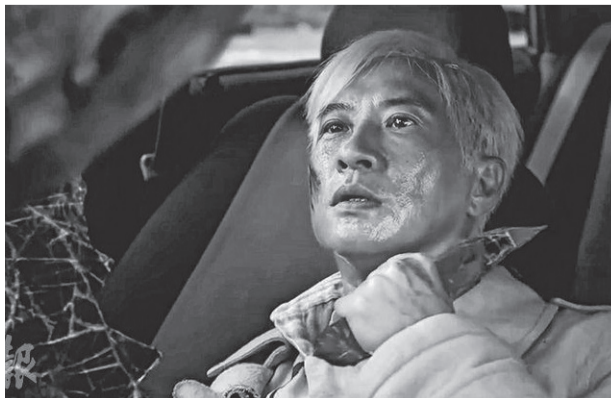
Director: M. Manikandan
Starring: Ramesh, J. Vignesh, Iyshaarya Rajesh
Language: Tamil (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 91min

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



2001 30,000 POSTAL JOBS 'TO BE CUT'

Up to 30,000 Post Office workers could lose their jobs over the next 18 months, Consignia, the company which runs the service, has announced.

The company previously said it was to launch a £1.2bn cost-cutting package but today's news was the first indication of the scale of the jobs affected.

Consignia's Chief Executive John Roberts made the announcement as he spoke to the House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee today.

"We haven't finalised numbers. We could be looking at anything up to 30,000 redundancies," Mr Roberts said.

Mr Roberts said it is hoped the bulk of the cuts would be through natural wastage, voluntary redundancies and contracting out activities like cleaning and catering.

He also said many parcel routes would be franchised out.

Consideration would also be given, he said, to transferring mail from trains on to road and air transport.

Earlier this year Consignia announced a reduction of about 10,000 managers' positions with many of the staff affected to be moved to other jobs.

Consignia has been hit by falling profits and lost £281m in the first six months of this year.

It aims to cut costs by 15% by March 2003 in order to stay profitable and inline with competitors.

Bosses blame the losses on the rising popularity of e-mail and text messaging along with the current economic climate and the rail chaos since the Hatfield crash.

Other factors are also said to be the cost of installing post office computers, Parcelforce's losses and the autumn decision not to increase stamp prices.

But Mr Roberts refused to be drawn on whether the company's semi-privatised status had anything to do with its financial difficulties.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The announcement was met with the threat of strike action from postal unions.

They argued any compulsory redundancies would force Post Office workers on to the picket line creating further profit slumps for Consignia.

The company appointed a new chairman, Allan Leighton, in 2002 to turn round the fortunes of the Post Office and bring it back into profit.

He did this but at a cost - 30,000 jobs were cut and thousands of post offices were closed in order to stem losses that peaked at more than £1bn in the year to March 31 2002.

The organisation reverted to the name Royal Mail Group plc split into three divisions - Royal Mail, delivering letters, Parcelforce, delivering parcels and Post Office Limited, managing the nationwide network of post office branches as retail outlets.

From January 1, 2006, the Royal Mail lost its 350-year monopoly and the UK postal market became fully open to competition.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your drive and motivation are everything right now — and you should find that your energy is best spent sparingly. Focus it all in one direction and you should see great dividends soon!

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Try not to worry all that much about your emotional state — you are sure to feel more grounded early on today. In fact, you may find that what felt like a burden is actually a blessing!

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Watch out for new rules — especially those that come from people you know and trust! It's hard for you to accept authority when it's so close to home, but for now you may be better off letting it happen.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Things are looking up, most likely — but if this seems wrong to you, then that means it's time for a quick adjustment to your perspective! You've got the means to pull up out of any rut.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your confidence and righteousness may rub others the wrong way today, so try to wrap them up in a big blanket of humility. It may feel weird, but it's the best way to get others to notice.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your romantic energy is heightened today, so if you're single, get out there! If you're already seeing someone, it may be time to get more serious. Whatever you do, have fun with it!

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your past is not as distant as you would like — someone or something comes back to haunt you today. It may be that it ends up as nothing much to fret over, but you may have to work to make it right.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your plans are great — but you need to take action on them! Start today, even if it's just something small. You should be able to make serious progress, but only if you actually get to work.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You are always true to your values — even when you can feel them start to change, as they are today. You should be able to make sense of it all by the time you're through this phase, though it may take some work.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You can work all night if you must — but the odds are that you don't really need to. Things are looking good, and you should find that your energy is stable for as long as you need it to be.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You feel the walls start to close in on you — and no, you're not going insane. It's just that new rules are starting to make themselves known, and you may need to just cope with new restrictions — for now.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Life is easy right now — maybe too much so! You need to make sure that you're asking the right questions and checking in with the right people in order to make the most of this great time.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

1	3		9					
		2		8	5			
5	2	1		4				
			2	7	3			
	9		1		6			
5	3	7						
	6		9	1	4			
4	1		3					
			4		7	6		

Easy+

8	7	2						
	4				5	2		
		3	6	1				
8	6	2	3	4				
9					6			
4	5	9	3	8				
		2	1	6				
9	5				1			
			8	4	7			

Medium

2			8					
3				5	1			
	1	7	4	2				
			4	9	7			
5						8		
	7	5	6	1				
	5	3		6	9			
3	9						2	
			1				3	

Hard

7		4						
	5					8		
						3		
4					7			
			3	5				
	8	1						
1	3						6	
			5		2			
			9					

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	1	5	foggy/clear
Harbin	-10	-8	flurry/snow shower
Tianjin	2	6	foggy/overcast
Urumqi	-8	-2	cloudy/moderate snow
Xi'an	1	8	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	-3	8	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	9	12	cloudy/drizzle
Chongqing	11	11	overcast/cloudy
Kunming	6	13	clear
Nanjing	9	10	drizzle
Shanghai	12	10	heavy rain
Wuhan	5	10	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	10	drizzle
Taipei	20	19	heavy rain
Guangzhou	12	17	drizzle/cloudy
Hong Kong	18	21	shower/cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	2	3	drizzle
Frankfurt	3	9	drizzle
Paris	4	8	overcast/drizzle
London	6	11	moderate rain/drizzle
New York	4	10	cloudy/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Maui memento; 4- Fleet; 8- Cheerful; 14- Aliens, for short; 15- Bacchanalian cry; 16- Breed of sheep; 17- B'way hit sign; 18- Helps; 19- Monetary unit of Tonga; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Icelandic epic; 24- Stun gun; 25- Heat meas.; 28- Sound again, again; 30- Rubella; 33- Coordinate; 36- Gaucho's rope; 40- Electrically charged particle; 41- Doorkeeper; 42- Sponsor; 45- Ramble; 46- Scoffs; 51- Old map abbr.; 52- Pull on; 55- Sailing; 56- Perfidious; 59- Aviator Earhart; 62- Christmas carol; 63- City official; Abbr.; 64- Contemporary; 65- Cookbook writer Rombauer; 66- "... the cows come home"; 67- Truly; 68- What you do to a joint, prior to a heist; 69- Opposite of WSW;

DOWN: 1- Children of a ___ God; 2- Online brokerage; 3- Tristan's love; 4- Actress Patricia; 5- Pilot; 6- Russian liquor; 7- Affirmatives; 8- Referees; 9- ___ moss; 10- Donkey cry; 11- Ich bin ___ Berliner; 12- Film director Lee; 13- Get thee ___ nunnery; 21- Tic Dough; 22- Building material; 25- Drab; 26- Head of France?; 27- Computer operator; 29- Accumulate; 31- Take ___ for the worse; 32- Gown renters; Abbr.; 34- High-altitude cloud; 35- ___ polloi; 36- Jamaican exports; 37- Supermodel Sastre; 38- Hebrew month; 39- 1980's movie starring Bo Derek and Dudley Moore; 43- Marsh; 44- Values highly; 47- Musical aptitude; 48- Executor's concern; 49- Land, as a fish; 50- Bicycle seat; 53- Photo finish?; 54- Now, in Nogales; 56- Run away; 57- Suffix with concession; 58- Wings; 59- Where ___?; 60- Calendar abbr.; 61- Actor Byrnes;

Yesterday's solution

A	R	L	O	U	S	E	R	S	A	L	A	I
G	A	O	L	P	A	R	E	E	S	E	E	N
A	G	E	D	S	U	N	U	P	F	A	R	O
S	U	B	S	O	I	L	P	T	T	A	L	L
H	A	L										
K	I	L	O	T	O	N	I	T	S	A	L	I
N	O	S	E									
U	T	A		S	T	L						
T	A	T	S									
E	S	S	A	Y	E	D						
C	O	M	B	U	S	T						
O	N	E	A									
N	E	E	T									
K	I	T	H									

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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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<p>Ieng Kok, Unit A Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment Close to St Paul's ruins HKD 9,000 / 756 sq ft Ref: 14070426</p>	<p>Car Park Space Chun Leong-Taipa Parking Car Park for Rent HKD 9,000 / 0 sq ft Ref: 15050514</p>	<p>Houston Court, Coloane Village 1 Bedroom Apartment Upgraded in Sept 2015 HKD 13,500 / 800 sq ft Ref: 15090532</p>	<p>Manhattan F Unit, Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Large Master Bedroom HKD 22,800 / 1,720 sq ft Ref: 15090534</p>

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Tales Azzoni
Sports Writer

ARSENAL left its best performance for the last game of the Champions League group stage, advancing to the round of 16 with a remarkable 3-0 victory at Olympiakos yesterday. Chelsea also went through on a good night for English soccer with a 2-0 home win over FC Porto.

"I told you before that it would be the greatest escape," Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger said.

Both Arsenal and Chelsea were trying to avoid following in the footsteps of fellow Premier League club Manchester United, which was eliminated.

Roma's 0-0 draw against BATE Borisov was just enough to allow the Italian club to edge Bayer Leverkusen for second place in its group. Leverkusen couldn't manage more than a 1-1 home draw against already qualified Barcelona as Lionel Messi scored his 80th goal in the tournament.

Belgian side Gent advanced in its first ever Champions League campaign after beating already qualified Zenit St. Petersburg 2-1, a result that eliminated Valencia in Gary Neville's first game in charge of the Spanish club.

The day before, Ronaldo scored four goals and set up two others as Madrid routed Malmo 8-0, making him the first player with 10 goals or more in the group stage of the Champions League.

The Portuguese striker reached 11 goals in six games, surpassing the nine scored by Luiz Adriano with Shakhtar Donetsk last season. Ronaldo also scored nine times in the 2013-14 season group stage.

Madrid had already secured first place in Group A, but the convincing victory helped ease the pressure on coach Rafa Benitez and club president Florentino Perez.

Ronaldo's former club Manchester United was relegated to the Europa League after getting beat 3-2 by Wolfsburg, as the German side advanced to the round of 16 for the first time.

Wolfsburg won the group and PSV also advanced.

Atletico Madrid won Group C by beating Benfica 2-1 to leapfrog the Portuguese host, which took second.

In Group D, Manchester City scored three late goals in a five-minute span to beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-2 and finish top for the first time. Juventus, last season's runner-up, wasted a chance to finish first with a 1-0 loss at Sevilla, although still advanced.



Arsenal's Olivier Giroud, not seen, scores against Olympiakos' goalkeeper Roberto to claim the opening goal during his team's Champions League Group F soccer match

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Seven champs advance to the round of 16

GROUP A

Ronaldo's exploits overshadowed a hat trick by Karim Benzema at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

It was the second straight game in which Benzema scored at least two goals after a brace in the team's 4-1 win over Getafe in the Spanish league on Saturday. Those were his first goals since being implicated in a blackmail case in relation to an alleged extortion scam over a sex tape featuring his French national teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

Mateo Kovacic also scored for Madrid.

Also, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Lucas set each other up for goals as Paris Saint-Germain beat Shakhtar Donetsk 2-0.

PSG was already guaranteed to finish second behind Madrid.

Madrid advanced with 16 points and PSG with 13. Shakhtar finished third with three points and dropped into the Europa League while Malmo came last, also with three points but with only one goal scored and 21 conceded.

GROUP B

Central defender Naldo scored a brace as Wolfsburg advanced to the knockout stage for the first time when it beat three-time winner Manchester United 3-2. United dropped

to third place in the group when PSV Eindhoven came from behind to beat CSKA Moscow 2-1 and join Wolfsburg in the round of 16.

Wolfsburg won the group with 12 points and PSV finished with 10, two more than United, which will now have to play in the Europa League. CSKA finished last with four points.

PSV advanced for the first time since 2006. Veteran defender Sergei Ignashevich converted a 76th-minute penalty to give CSKA the lead, but PSV captain Luuk de Jong equalized just two minutes later, and midfielder Davy Propper's low shot sealed the win in the 86th.

In Wolfsburg, Anthony Martial put United ahead in the 10th, but Naldo volleyed in the equalizer in the 14th. Vieirinha regained the lead for Wolfsburg in the 29th, before an own goal by Joshua Guilavogui in the 82nd tied the score. But two minutes later Naldo scored his second with a header to seal Wolfsburg's victory.

GROUP C

Luciano Vietto scored one goal and set up another as Atletico Madrid won 2-1 at Benfica to win the group.

Playing at the same stadium where it lost the 2014 final, Diego Simeone's side avenged a 2-1 loss to Benfica from earlier this season.

Vietto passed for midfielder Saul Niguez to convert Atletico's aggressive start into a goal after half an hour, before he added a strike of his own early in the second half.

Benfica substitute Kostas Mitroglou halved the difference in the 75th.

Galatasaray was held to 1-1 at home by Astana in the other Group C match. The Turkish side finished third and will join the Europa League.

Atletico finished with 13 points, Benfica with 10, Galatasaray with five and Astana with four.

GROUP D

Raheem Sterling netted in the 80th and 81st minutes and Wilfried Bony scored in

the 85th to spark Manchester City's late turnaround in a 4-2 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach

To qualify in first place, City also needed Juventus to lose in Sevilla and last season's runner-up was beaten 1-0.

Sevilla secured a berth in the Europa League as Fernando Llorente scored against his former team.

On the two previous occasions City reached the knockout stage, it was runner-up in the group and drew Barcelona both times. The English club is likely to get an easier draw in the last 16 this time.

City finished with 12 points, Juventus with 11, Sevilla with six and Gladbach with five. **AP**

THE DRAW: LUCK WITH RULES

THE UEFA Champions League round of 16 draw in Nyon will be streamed live on UEFA.com from 7pm on Monday 14 (Macau time). Two seeding pots will be formed: one consisting of group winners and the other of runners-up. Confirmed group winners: Real Madrid (Group A, ESP), Wolfsburg (B, GER), Atletico Madrid (C, ESP), Manchester City (D, ENG), Barcelona (E, ESP, holders), Bayern München (F, GER), Chelsea (G, ENG), Zenit (H, RUS) Confirmed group runners-up: Paris Saint-Germain (Group A, FRA), PSV Eindhoven (B, NED),

Benfica (C, POR), Juventus (D, ITA), Roma (E, ITA), Arsenal (F, ENG), Dynamo Kyiv (G, UKR), Gent (H, BEL)

- No team can play a club from their group or any side from their own association.

- Due to a decision of the UEFA Executive Committee, teams from Russia and Ukraine cannot meet.

- Seeded group winners will be away in the round of 16 first legs on 16/17 and 23/24 February and at home in the return matches on 8/9 and 15/16 March.

Courtesy uefa.com

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



LIVE AND LET LIVE

35 years on, we have been reminded all too often these last weeks of acts of violence against others. John Lennon was assassinated on 8th December 1980 at the hands of someone deranged, with a gun.

In the last year alone, the USA has seen 353 deranged acts listed one by bloody one on www.shootingtracker.com. The latest recorded on 2nd December was the San Bernardino mass shooting by the husband and wife duo, killing 14 and wounding 21. The mere existence of a website recording such data from 2013 is a shocking reminder that not all liberties liberate. Automatic weapons in the hands of people with intent - even if for that one deranged moment - caused this carnage.

In 1996, Australian Martin Bryant killed 35 and injured 23 people in a rampage known as the Port Arthur massacre. This incident was the impetus behind Australia's strict gun control and licensing laws for which Prime-Minister of the day, John Howard, is applauded. Australia has no call for a shooter tracker website. She might still have crazy people with intent but not crazy people with intent with easy access to semi-automatic or automatic weapons.

As the November 13 Paris attacks and subsequently reported attacker profiles have shown, not all the bad guys are crazy. Principles, values, beliefs - however warped the socialisation appears - underlie the potential for mass murder.

The best-selling single of John Lennon's solo career, John and Yoko's Imagine, resonates truer than ever. Sovereignty, religious perversion, greed; all have potential to pit man against man.

In younger days, I did not need to imagine living in peace. I had a life free from violence, from guns, or even anger. Flickers of happenings elsewhere crossed the television screen for a half an hour each night but the lives of almost everyone around me were remote from this. A decided lack of interest in current affairs, of keeping up with the news and conflicts elsewhere kept me sheltered; kept me ignorant.

I did not need to imagine. Meritoriously chosen authority figures were trusted. Religion was school chapel once a month; uplifting choral music; memories of suppressed giggles as a kitten struggled over the organ pedals or that Sunday the altar-boy doused the deacon with water from the chalice as his cassock caught fire - too close to the candles, he was; mystical architecture; and the occasional reminder of how to live well. Countries were other places to visit with interesting food and quaint customs: welcoming.

There were no principles for which I would die, for life was sacrosanct and having no understanding of the values that created this existence, I could not conceive of a life without them. There too were no principles imaginable for which others would kill. Irrelevant political and ideological debates were tiresome. I was living in peace, and I could not imagine otherwise.

The other day I read: "We were all humans until race disconnected us, religion separated us, politics divided us and wealth classified us." But it has always been so. Seemingly inconsequential comments such as that by Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak to the effect that the victims of most of the recently reported gaming related crimes were non-resident so residents should not be impacted, show that one class of being is more valued than another. More substantial symbols of division such as China's National Day of Remembrance of the Nanjing Massacre serve to perpetuate and instill hatred rather than imagine a harmonious relationship.

Surely the aim is not to imagine living life in peace. The aim is to live that life and imagine what it might be like otherwise: to know what we are protecting, to know our values, to know our how our social, cultural, political, and economic systems work together to provide us with a secure and meaningful existence. Imagine what the murderer will kill or die for, for without the ability to imagine this, we cannot conceive of what to protect or how. Without the Bataclan, Port Arthur, San Bernardino, or the 352 other mass shootings in the USA, could we still imagine?

THE BUZZ RUSSIANS READ TOLSTOY'S WAR AND PEACE IN 60-HOUR TV MARATHON

More than 1,300 Russians are reading Leo Tolstoy's notoriously lengthy novel "War and Peace" aloud in a 60-hour marathon on national television.

The public readings, pre-recorded at locations all over Russia, from the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg to remote Arctic islands, have been coordinated by Tolstoy's great-great-granddaughter and feature Russians from all walks of life, from

gas workers to cosmonauts.

The event runs over four days and finishes today. The organizers invited French actress Fanny Ardant to read the numerous French-language passages in the novel, which describes both the Napoleonic wars and French-speaking high society in imperial St. Petersburg. The readings are being webcast live and broadcast on national TV and radio, with nighttime intermissions.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

ARTS

Forbidden City architecture exhibition comes to Macau



A new exhibition focusing on the architecture of the Forbidden City is being hosted by the Macau Museum of Art in partnership with the Palace Museum in Beijing. The exhibition will be inaugurated today at 6.30 pm. and will be open to the public until March 13, 2016.

The showcase, entitled "The Magnificent Palace - Imperial Architecture of the Forbidden City," features nearly 100 exhibits, including cultural relics which celebrate ancient Chinese architecture. The exhibits will be accompanied by relevant illustrations and videos, allowing visitors to gain an insight into the palaces' architectural features and styles.

According to organizers,

the display will be divided into four themed sections: "Glazed Glamour"; "A Miniature"; "Gilded Windows, Embroidered Doors"; and "Literary Charms." The scope of the display will therefore cover the perspectives of general planning and the design of individual structures or components.

Among the exhibits are "Glazed Immortals" - glazed decorations installed along the edges of a roof - which serve both a practical, rain-resistant purpose as well as a decorative function. Visitors can also view an ancient Chinese architectural component, known as a "dougong bracket," which was used on the top of ancient structures to provide stability.

The Museum of Art will host a series of activities in tandem with the exhibition. These will include workshops and seminars hosted by experts from the Palace Museum along with demonstrations of ancient construction techniques.

Children are invited to attend a LEGO workshop organized by the Macao Museum of Art, which will see Chinese LEGO certified professional Andy Hung present a model themed on architecture from the Forbidden City. According to a press release issued by the local museum, "The Magnificent Palace" is the first exhibition of Forbidden City architecture held outside of the Palace Museum.

WORLD BRIEFS

SINGAPORE-AUSTRALIA Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott defended his comments suggesting that Western culture is superior to that of Islam, and called for U.S.-led assistance in defeating the Islamic State group.

S KOREA After a prolonged standoff, South Korean police detained a labor union official for his alleged involvement in organizing anti-government protests that turned violent last month. In a massive show of force, more than 2,000 uniformed police officers surrounded a Buddhist temple where Korean Confederation of Trade Unions President Han Sang-gyun had been holed up for nearly a month.



SWITZERLAND Geneva police were "actively searching" yesterday for suspects in connection with an investigation into the Paris attacks last month, and authorities raised the security alert level in the city and surrounding region, Swiss security officials said.

INDIA An appeal court acquitted Bollywood star Salman Khan yesterday in a drunken-driving, hit-and-run case from more than a decade ago.

SINGAPORE's defense minister says that Islamic State fighters pose a "clear and present danger" to Southeast Asia as they return from Syria and Iraq with a mission to establish a caliphate.

GERMANY-KOREA German police have arrested five South Koreans on suspicion of murder following the death of a relative in an exorcism ritual in the city of Frankfurt, prosecutors said yesterday. Officers discovered the body of the 41-year-old woman in a hotel room Saturday when the suspects called a priest after it became apparent that the victim had died, prosecutor Nadja Niesen said.

times square by rodrigo

