



NETFLIX MADE AVAILABLE IN MACAU

P2



FMBA SUPPORTS TWO LOCAL CHARITIES The France Macau Business Association (FMBA) introduced its donation beneficiaries for this year

P3



TEN DEAD IN ISTANBUL TOURIST DISTRICT BLAST A Syrian suicide bomber detonated a bomb in a historic district of Istanbul popular with tourists yesterday, killing at least 10 people

P15

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Property management companies want automatic fee increase

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A court in northern China sentences a former vice minister of public security to 15 years in jail for accepting bribes.



INDONESIA The jailed radical Islamic cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, 77, appealed yesterday to an Indonesia court to have his conviction for funding a terror training camp overturned.

IRAN's state TV says that an Iranian Phantom fighter jet has crashed close to the Pakistan border, killing two pilots.

More on backpage



More than 80 whales wash ashore on India's southern coast

P12

THE American Internet streaming pioneer Netflix launched its over-the-top (OTT) service on Friday in the company's 130 new markets, including Macau and Hong Kong, with bargain offers.

OTT applications deliver services over the Internet and bypass traditional distribution channels from telecommunications, cable or satellite network operators.

The South China Morning Post reported on Friday that Netflix provides three plans in Hong Kong with monthly fees of HKD63, HKD78 and HKD93, respectively, similar to Macau. Under each of these plans, users can enjoy unlimited access to movies and television shows on laptops, televisions, phones and tablets, making it significantly cheaper than cable or satellite network operators.

"The prices it offered are

extremely competitive," said Harry Yuen, senior analyst at Bright Smart Securities. He noted that HKD63 is even cheaper than a movie ticket." Yuen said that Netflix's overseas success in Hong Kong will depend on how fast it can adapt to the local market.

Netflix can be accessed on the company's website on laptops or computers, through the Netflix App on tablets, and through a Google Chromecast in order to connect Android tablets or phones to the television. The service requires a minimum internet connection speed of 0.5mbs, and it allows access to subtitles in selected programmes, including simplified and traditional Chinese.

Though SCMP claimed that although almost all new Netflix shows are available in Hong Kong, its experts found a large

Netflix made available in Macau, Hong Kong



number of popular programs missing.

Netflix allows users to watch popular television

series and movies on portable devices, unlike the Beijing-based LeTV, which needs to rely on a tra-

ditional TV screen and an accompanying box to be able to deliver services in Hong Kong.

Netflix, offering high-resolution content, provides a free one-month trial for users.

3-5-year low point after marriage



A survey conducted in 31 provinces and cities, including Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan, has found that marital unions are least strong on average between three and five years after marriage, contradicting the myth of the "seven-year itch."

Researchers surveyed more than 80,000 people in a joint study organized by Peking University and dating site Baihe.com, and found that about 11 percent of those married for three to five years said they would not stay with their partner if given a second chance.

Almost 9 percent simply said

that they would rather be single.

The research also concluded that more than half of those with marital issues said the problems were linked to extramarital affairs, reports the Standard.

Women with children were considered a particularly vulnerable group to feelings of inadequate satisfaction, because of the dual pressure from their occupation and the responsibility for taking care of children and elderly relatives.

According to the study, only 2.1 percent of respondents indicated that fathers participated in taking care of their children.

In terms of liberal attitudes toward sexual intercourse, teenagers were unsurprisingly determined to be "more open" toward the subject, with survey participants claiming to have first had sex between the ages of 17.71 and 22.17, on average.

Furthermore, respondents from Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan were found to be more sexually liberal than their counterparts in mainland China. Respondents from the three areas reported that they had had their first sexual experience at an average age of 19.24, compared with Beijing teenagers who average 20.63.

In terms of the practice of "safe sex," younger people in the Greater China region appear to be more proactive.

The survey found that most of the respondents under the age of 30 said that they used contraceptives. However, only 20 percent of those over the age 46 said that they used the same safety precautions.

9pct

Those married for 3-5 years who would rather be single

Packer and Carey seen vacationing across the globe

MELCO Crown Entertainment stakeholder James Packer and partner pop star Mariah Carey have been spotted by the Daily Mail Australia vacationing in recent months. The newspaper claims that since "hooking up six months ago," the duo has spent a total of 56 days and counting on relaxing vacations that span the globe.

According to the Mail, the couple was spotted on a Mediterranean cruise before moving on to Israel in a joint trip that last 18 days. They then spent a total of 15 days in Ibiza and Italy.

Packer and Carey spent three days together in Macau to coincide with the launch of Melco Crown's Studio City in October. Mariah Carey performed at the official launch of the resort, which also included the company of Robert De Niro and Leonardo Di Caprio.

Their first official appearance together was during their seven-day stay in New York where they attended the premiere of De Niro's film, "The Intern." Packer



Carey and Packer, pictured in Macau

put on an uncomfortable display as he walked down the red carpet, claims the Daily Mail Australia.

In addition, the couple visited the Aspen ski resort in Colorado, traveled to Australia, and most recently embarked on a tour of the Caribbean where they remain to this day.

On various parts of their vacationing world tour, Carey and Packer were joined by the pop star's children, along with Carey's former husband, Nick Cannon, during the festive Christmas period.

They are now in St. Barts enjoying fireworks displays, according to the photographs that Mariah Carey shared on her social media.

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MDT's Website has logged over 94 million page views since January 1st, 2012 up to today.

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Times

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Property management companies want automatic fee increase

THE associations of property management companies want to introduce an automatic building management fee update pegged to the inflation rate. The fee increase would happen on every contract renewal.

This proposal came yesterday during a meeting of the members of the 2nd Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL), which intended to discuss the legal regime for the management of the common parts of the condominiums.

The president of the 2nd Standing Committee, Chan Chak Mo, brought the proposal forward to debate. The committee aims to create a legal procedure that allows the condominium management companies to perform a yearly update of their fees according to the official inflation rate of the year before.

"According to the opinions of the sector, they claim that, at the moment of the contract



A man walks through the courtyard of a residential complex in Macau

renovations, the fees should be determined according to the inflation rate or the consumer price index," said Chan Chak Mo, cited by Radio Macau.

This measure comes in the wake of a new law coming into

force that introduces the minimum wage for the condominium workers. The condominium management companies claim that this law has brought them many problems and increased costs.

As the Times reported, since the implementation of the Law on Minimum Wage for Cleaning and Security Workers of the Property Management Industry, which came into effect on January 1, several contro-

versial cases have arisen from instances in which property management companies have raised their fees and suspended their services. The management companies allege that the introduction of the minimum wage would add an extra cost to their services. Some of the residents that live in affected buildings have expressed concerns over security if the companies cease operations.

These concerns from residents have led the government to contact the Housing Bureau (IH) to set up a contingency plan to assist flat owners via the Management Commission, in case the flat owners decide to manage private buildings independently. However, this help from IH should be a restricted provision of support during negotiations between newly formed commissions and former management companies. This would ensure that the buildings' common areas remain under property management. **RM**

FMBA to support two local charities this year

THE France Macau Business Association (FMBA) introduced its donation beneficiaries for this year at its press conference yesterday at Grand Lapa.

This year, FMBA will support Architecture Sans Frontiers Macau (ASF), a local non-profit organization working with different sectors of society to promote being a sustainable community, highlighting environmental conservation, cultural diversity and heritage. The other beneficiary will be Cradle of Hope, a non-profit organization that supports orphan children from when they are born to 18 years of age.

The Chairman of FMBA, Rutger Verschuren, says that it wasn't easy finding a charity to support, as there are several charities in the city.

"Every year, we choose a charity beneficiary and this time it wasn't easy to find because there are a lot of charities in Macau. ASF has a connection with France, which is very important, but it is still local and that's a unique combination for us because we have strong support from the local community," Mr Verschuren said.

ASF launched its first pilot of the Humanitarian Project in 2013 called "Project Yolanda," which was done in collaboration with Macau Anglican College, the Rotary Club of Macau and other local organizations. "Project Yolanda" was undertaken to assist in the aftermath of the disastrous storm that



Dominic Choi and Rutger Verschuren (right)

ASF has a connection with France, which is very important, but it is still local and that's a unique combination.

RUTGER VERSCHUREN

hit the Philippines in 2013.

The association aimed to help restore five schools that needed assistance for reconstruction in Roxas City, Philippines.

"We started with rebuilding two classrooms in one of the high schools in the city called Dumulog National High School, because it was in the most need of help," said the founding president of ASF, Dominic Choi, while presenting pictures of the rebuilt classrooms. "In October 2015, the two classrooms were completed."

Apart from fundraising locally in Macau, ASF has successfully donated over 1,000 books, laptop computers and bookshelves with the help of its donors. However, he noted that there is more to be done.

This year's project is named "Project Cradle" and they are targeting the younger group aged between birth and six-years-old.

"They need to ensure the environment is safe, rather than dealing with a beauty and aesthetic issue," said Choi. He added that they conducted a site visit to see the areas that need assistance, as they lack professional advice when it comes to architectural counseling.

FMBA and ASF are expecting estimated expenses totaling MOP400,000 for "Project Cradle," and are hoping to finish the project within two to three months with the assistance of professional volunteers.

The FMBA Charity Gala Dinner 2016 will be held on January 22 at the Grand Ballroom of MGM Macau with the theme of "Shanghai le Paris de l'Orient."

All proceeds from the event will be given to its beneficiaries.

CNY decorations appear in Senado Square



WORKERS in Senado Square have been seen preparing Chinese New Year (CNY) festive decorations to mark next month's entry into the Year of the Monkey.

A red and golden CNY stage was installed, featuring a red silhouette of a monkey and winding dragons, which are customarily present each year.

Nearby is a circular installation with large octagonal components also featuring monkey motifs. Some octagons present monkeys with a semi-Western appearance, while others look definitively Chinese.

In the middle, atop a flower podium, sits the legendary "Monkey King" – instantly recognizable by his golden headband which, according to Chinese folklore, serves as punishment for when the Bodhisattva Guanyin deems the charming character to be misbehaving.

Numerous monkey lanterns are also featured alongside the larger installations. These may represent the monkeys that follow the Monkey King after he demonstrates his prowess and bravery in the early chapters of popular folk tale "Journey to the West".

Behind the flower podium, and all along the road from Senado Square on the way to St. Dominic's Church, hang innumerable red lanterns decorated with auspicious Chinese characters to ring in the new year. **Staff reporter**

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Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

FORBES'S latest rankings of Hong Kong's 50 richest individuals once again heavily features Macau- and Hong Kong-based casino tycoons, with the Ho family retaining multiple entries despite last year's gaming slump.

Notably absent from the list was Stanley Ho, who began to dissolve his gaming empire in 2010. The family was represented on the top 50 list by Pansy Ho, Lawrence Ho and lawmaker Angela Leong, who tallied in at 19th, 41st and 44th place, respectively, with a combined worth of USD6.67 billion. All three fell in the rankings this year, according to Forbes' assessment.

Lui Che Woo, who owns Galaxy Entertainment Group, was also down in this year's rankings, due to the recent gaming avails in Macau. Despite presiding over the opening of the revamped Broadway Macau, the Jiangmen-born entrepreneur placed seventh this year, down from being named Hong Kong's second-richest man in 2014.

But it was Cheng Yu-tung, a longtime gaming investor in Macau, who came third in this year's ranking. The 90-year-old, who owns the holding companies "New World Development" and "Chow Tai Fook Jewelry Group," has a net worth of USD15 billion.

As was the case last year, property and infrastructure tycoon Li Ka-shing has been contending for first place with Lee Shau Kee, the real-estate, hotel and energy empire mogul.

Asia's richest man, Lee Shau Kee, now ranks second with a

Ho family remains strong in HK richest 50, despite gaming woes



Pansy Ho



Lawrence Ho



Angela Leong

net worth of USD23.9 billion. His billionaire rival, Li Ka-shing, takes the top spot with a worth of USD31.3 billion.

Li's own fortunes suffered last year when anti-corruption officials in Beijing questioned his loyalty to the mainland after significant investments abroad. Meanwhile, his son Richard Li moved up the list to sit at 15th place this year. He owns ING's life insurance business in Macau, Hong Kong and Thailand, with an individual net worth of

USD4.7 billion.

Other notable mentions in the top 50 include real estate and toymaker magnate Francis Choi (11) and 80-year-old banking head Ko Fook Kau (23), the latter of whom started his fortune in Macau after his father opened pawnshops and began investing in casinos.

Cui Lijie – longtime property investor in China and a jewelry collector, who secured 75 percent of what is now Imperial Pacific International Holdings

Cheng Yu-tung, longtime gaming investor in Macau, came third in this year's ranking

in 2013 – made the list for the first time in 2016.

The company is linked to a Macau junket promoter known

as Hengsheng Group. Despite setbacks for the junket sector last year, Cui places 35th on the list with a net worth of USD1.9 billion.

Seventy-two-year-old casino tycoon Albert Yeung, known for his links to Cantonese pop stars and Hong Kong movie stars, came in at 46th place with USD1.25 billion. According to Forbes, the self-made billionaire says he always carries HKD40,000–50,000 to "ward off feelings of inferiority." **Staff reporter**

TRANSPORT

Gov't and Transmac to sign new public bus service contract

THE Government and Transmac – Transportes Urbanos de Macau S.A.R.L. have reached an agreement to amend the latter's public bus service contract. The revised contract will be signed shortly, according to an executive order published in the Official Gazette this week.

The amendments follow advice given by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) after they had completed an analysis in 2013 of the city's public bus service contracts. Transmac operates two groups of public bus routes in Macau.

Public bus service operator Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau S.A.R.L. (TCM) signed a revised contract with the government in September 2015. The contract with the bus service operator that replaced the bankrupted Reolian – New Era – was signed in 2014. Both of these contracts



already complied with the suggestions from the CCAC.

According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, the authorities and Transmac have worked closely on drafting the amendments to the contract and to ensure the operation of normal, uninterrupted public bus services during the negotiation period.

The statement mentions that "under the amended contract,

Transmac will need to take more obligations and will be subject to supervision from the government under the public services concession system. The company's income will be linked to the quality of service provided." It then adds that further details of the revised contract will be announced at a later time. However, the contract provisions will be similar to those included in the contracts signed with New Era and TCM.

UM announces start of entrance examinations

THE University of Macau (UM) has announced that the online application system for entrance examinations for the 2016/2017 academic year opened yesterday, and that the deadline for applications is February 19.

In addition, the UM stressed that students with "special talents" in academia, sports, music or community service can apply for the Preferential Admission Scheme, which will award successful applicants with between 10 and 30 bonus points toward admission.

This year, the scope of awards and qualifications that make an applicant eligible for bonus points has expanded.

Applicants may accrue bonus points if they hold awards from science or art-related competitions, certificates of high-level

musical accomplishment, or awards received under the Macao Youth Volunteer program.

The UM says its first priority is nurturing local talent. The preferential scheme is therefore only available to applicants who are Form Six students of Macau secondary schools at the time of their application.

Various other scholarships have been made available again this year. The UM "Outstanding Student-Athletes Admission Award Scheme," for example, seeks to encourage outstanding athletes to pursue academic studies simultaneously. The university says that this scholarship includes a full waiver of tuition fees and, in some cases, a partial or full waiver of residential college fees.

FMBA Charity Gala Dinner 2016
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ANALYSIS

Surging yuan borrowing costs in Hong Kong: What you need to know

Saijel Kishan & Justina Lee

HONG Kong Interbank Offered Rates for yuan loans jumped by records to all-time highs across all tenors yesterday as intervention by China to support its exchange rate tightened the currency's supply in the offshore market.

Here's what you need to know about the surge:

What is Hibor?

Yuan Hibor is the benchmark used to price loans in the currency outside of China and was introduced by Hong Kong's Treasury Markets Association in June 2013 amid rising demand for such credit. Fixings for tenors ranging from overnight to one year are released daily at 11:15 a.m. local time and based upon contributions submitted by 15-18 qualifying banks.

Why is it rising?

The People's Bank of China has been buying yuan in Hong Kong since the offshore exchange rate sank last week to a record 2.9 percent discount to the onshore level, a gap that raises questions about the yuan's value before it joins the International Monetary Fund's reserve-currency basket this year. The PBOC's purchases drain funds from the banking system, tightening the supply of the currency and so making it more expensive to borrow.



Is it only Hong Kong that's affected?

No, Hong Kong is the biggest centre for offshore yuan financing but comparable rates for loans in the currency spiked in other markets. Taiwan's all jumped by record amounts to all-time high, with the overnight rate rising 47.6 percentage points to 59.72 percent, according to Taipei Forex Inc. prices.

Who gets hurt by the rate increases?

The biggest losers will be those who sold short the yuan in

the offshore market, said Sue Trinh, head of Asia foreign-exchange strategy at Royal Bank of Canada in Hong Kong. Higher interest rates make it costlier to execute the trade, which entails borrowing the currency.

Global investors that hold yuan-denominated debt in the offshore market may also be hit, according to James Yip, a fund manager at Shenwan Hongyuan Asset Management (Asia) Ltd. in Hong Kong. "If you invest in Dim Sum bonds, a lot of the time your funding cost

will be offshore yuan, so it'll very hard to keep the position."

Longer-term, elevated Hibor rates would hamper China's push for the currency to take on a greater role in global trade and finance. That would be bad news for Hong Kong, the leading centre for offshore yuan financing. Global companies requiring yuan to finance trade and investments in China wouldn't be too impacted as they can already obtain relatively cheap funding in Shanghai, where interbank rates with tenors of up to a month remain below 3 percent.

Why doesn't the HKMA do something about it?

Hong Kong Monetary Authority said on Monday that it had provided yuan liquidity to banks and that the interbank market for yuan loans was operating in an "orderly manner." It didn't respond to questions about whether it added funds again yesterday.

"The HKMA is notably absent from the market," said Andy Ji, a Singapore-based foreign-exchange strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia. "They're trying to help the PBOC achieve their objective to converge the renminbi spot rates," he said, using an alternative name for the yuan.

When will rates return to more normal levels?

The surge in Hong Kong borrowing costs will probably be temporary because the PBOC seems to have succeeded in efforts to narrow the gap between onshore and offshore exchange rates, said Ryan Lam, Hong Kong-based head of research at Shanghai Commercial Bank Ltd.

"Given that the Chinese have achieved their target of narrowing the convergence between offshore and onshore, we could see the end" of the surge in rates, Lam said. "I don't see this as a start of a crisis, at least for now."

The yuan was 0.15 percent weaker in Hong Kong than Shanghai as of 5:44 p.m. and earlier the rates converged for the first time since October. The gap averaged 1.7 percent last week. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

IBIZA-STYLE NIGHTCLUB OPENING EVENT AT STUDIO CITY

Melco Crown's Studio City has announced the arrival of Pacha – an Ibiza-style party club – which will become a permanent offering at the entertainment resort and will host its grand opening on Saturday night.

The opening event will feature world-renowned international DJ acts flown in from around the globe, says Melco Crown Entertainment.

Meanwhile, on Friday night, the evening prior to the grand opening, Pacha will host a "Welcome to Macau" party with resident DJ Sebastian Gamboa.

The new club will offer state-of-the-art audio-visual facilities and specialized li-



ghting systems to complement a 1,000-square-meter dance floor that can host up to 3,000 partygoers.

The Pacha Macau's web-

site states that the company intends to bring an "exclusive lifestyle experience [to Macau that is] not currently available in Greater China."

CEM TO OFFER COMPLIMENTARY CNY ENVELOPES

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) is offering complimentary "Lai See" envelopes to its customers.

While stocks last, each customer of CEM is entitled to a pack of 20 Lai See envelopes featuring the company's mascots and branding.

In order to receive their envelopes, customers must apply for a service or settle a payment at one of CEM's two customer service centers located on Estrada D. Maria II in Macau, and Lai Chun Kok, Supreme Flower City in Taipa.

The company adds that it wishes Macau residents good health and prosperity in the coming Year of the Monkey.



China auto sales rise 18.3 percent in December

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S auto sales rose 18.3 percent in December over a year earlier on explosive demand for SUVs, pushing the year's total sales to 21.1 million, an industry group reported yesterday.

Drivers in the world's biggest auto market by the number of vehicles sold bought 2.4 million cars, minivans and SUVs last month, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. The month's total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 15.4 percent to 2.8 million.

Auto sales suffered an unexpectedly sharp contraction from June through August, rattling a global industry that is counting on China to drive revenue growth. Demand rebounded in September after Beijing cut sales taxes on vehicles with smaller engines.

China's auto market has been cooling since growth peaked at 45 percent in 2009 but last year's plunge prompted analysts to cut growth forecasts.

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

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

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

SUV sales rose 60.7 percent in December over a year earlier to 794,000 vehicles, according to the CAAM. Sales for the year were up 52 percent at 6.2 million.

Sales by China's domestic auto brands, which benefited from strong demand for lower-priced vehicles, rose by 15.3 percent to 8.7 million vehicles.

—General Motors Co. said sales of GM-brand vehicles by the company and its Chinese manufacturing partners rose 14 percent in December to 445,227. Full-year sales grew 5.2 percent to a record 3.6 million vehicles.

—Volkswagen AG, which competes with GM for the status of China's most popular auto brand, said December sales edged up 0.3 percent in December but gave no total. The company earlier blamed its failure to match overall market growth on its lack of a model in the popular low-priced SUV segment.

—Ford Motor Co. said December sales rose 27 percent over a year earlier to 124,768 vehicles. Full-year sales edged up 3 percent to 1.1 million.

—Nissan Motor Co. sales in December rose 15 percent to 159,100. For the year, sales grew 6.3 percent to 1.2 million.

—BMW AG, Europe's biggest luxury automaker, said 2015 sales of BMW and Mini brand vehicles rose 1.7 percent to 463,736. It blamed the slowdown on China's cooling economy and government frugality measures that have hurt a wide range of luxury goods suppliers.

—South Korea's Kia Motors Corp. said December sales rose 28.1 percent to 88,531. AP

MARKETS

Chinese stocks fluctuate, fueling Asian market volatility

CHINESE stock markets eked out a last-minute gain yesterday as a continuation of volatile trading sent other Asian benchmarks lower while European shares stabilized.

KEEPING SCORE: European stocks opened higher, with France's CAC 40 rising 0.5 percent to 4,333.57. Germany's DAX advanced 0.9 percent to 9,910.63. Britain's FTSE 100 climbed 0.2 percent to 5,885.63. U.S. stocks were poised to open higher. Dow futures rose 0.1 percent to 16,299.00. Broader S&P 500 futures added 0.1 percent to 1,916.80.

VOLATILITY: Worries about the Beijing's ability to manage financial markets coupled with deepening fears about a protracted slowdown in the world's No. 2 economy continue to keep investors on edge after sharp losses over the past week. After losing 5 percent the day before, stocks in Shanghai zigzagged throughout the day.

YUAN MOVES: China's tightly controlled onshore yuan, which was the source of last week's market turmoil after authorities guided it sharply lower, was little changed. However, interbank rates spiked for the offshore yuan, which is freely traded in Hong Kong, leading many to believe China's central bank is intervening in the market in order to foil speculators trying to drive it lower. The rate that Hong Kong



A currency dealer takes a client's order near an electronic board showing a variety of foreign exchange rates at Ueda Harlow, a foreign exchange trading company in Tokyo

banks lend yuan to each other overnight soared to 66 percent from 13.4 percent on Monday and 4 percent last week, making it more profitable to hold the currency.

CONFIDENCE: "In the Chinese equity markets so much damage was done to investor confidence last week" by new "circuit breaker" trading halt mechanisms that backfired, said analyst Angus Nicholson of IG. "I think that has really done a significant amount of damage to Chinese investor confidence and confidence in the government's ability to manage and regulate Chinese capital markets," he said. "Concerns about how the Chinese economy is faring has only added to these other concerns. I think we still are seeing that today."

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 reopened after a holiday, falling 2.7 percent to close at 17,218.96 as the index caught up with losses the previous day on other Asian markets. The Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China

fluctuated between gains and losses throughout the day before ending 0.2 percent higher at 3,022.86. Other regional indexes opened higher but reversed course to finish in the red. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.9 percent to 19,711.76 and South Korea's Kospi edged 0.2 percent lower to 1,890.86 while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 0.1 percent to 4,925.10.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude extended losses, falling 76 cents to USD30.65 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped \$1.75, or 5.3 percent, to settle at \$31.41 a barrel on Monday. The last time it finished lower was Dec. 5, 2003, when it closed at \$30.73 a barrel. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, fell 55 cents to \$31.33 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged lower to 117.53 yen from 117.63 in the previous day's trading. The euro rose to \$1.0876 from \$1.0861. AP



AD



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ANGOLA

Gov't wants self sufficient water and electricity companies

WATER and electricity supply and production companies should be self-sustaining, and no longer require public funding, said Angola's Minister for Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges.

Cited by local media the minister said that these companies had to ensure sufficient revenues to remain in operation, ensure the implementation of their investment plans, "without having to resort to funding from the state budget."

The minister's statement comes at a time when new tariffs for both sectors have been in place since 1 January, with price increases of up to 100 percent and changes to consumption bands, particularly for domestic customers.

The various increases in water and electricity tariffs, according to information from the Angolan Electricity Sector Regulation Institute, are the result of a process of transformation of the sector that began in 2015 and ended with the recent approval of the General Electricity Law, which safeguards "customers with lower incomes." **MDT/Macauhub**

Chinese company advertises real estate investment in Portugal

THE Level Constellation real estate company intends to invest 100 million euros in a new real estate development in Lisbon, Portugal, the president of the Chinese company, Wen Yingjie, told Portuguese weekly newspaper Expresso.

The new project will be the first project to be built from scratch by the company in Portugal, Wen said, adding that Level Constellation had so far focused on purchasing property for refurbishment and resale.

Last week the group presented its latest residential project in Lisbon, called Grand Gold, which resulted from the purchase of a building occupying an area of 5,000 square meters brought to auction by the Lisbon City Council.

The building had previously been occupied by the Banco Totta & Acores bank, later by Santander Totta and more recently by the municipality of Lisbon.

This project, the second real estate refurbishment



in the Portuguese capital, should be completed in 2017 and will put 55 apartments on the market. The first one, called Park Avenue, offered

27 apartments, half of which were essentially sold to Chinese buyers.

Level Constellation was established in 2014 in Shan-

ghai, in order to invest in the real estate sector, and according to Wen Yingjie, has so far invested 20 million euros in Portugal. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Wanda is new leisure power



Wanda Group's takeover of the U.S. studio behind hit films such as "Batman" and "Inception" is the latest in a slew of acquisitions for its billionaire chairman Wang Jianlin, who has ambitious plans to turn the

company into a global leisure and entertainment powerhouse. Wanda has snapped up businesses in areas from sports to real estate since 2012.

CHINA'S HOLLYWOOD

Film is a big part of Wanda's strategy. The company is creating China's Tinseltown with an USD8 billion movie studio complex in the country's northeast that will be fully operational by June 2017. The Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis is a key part of Wang's plan to dominate China's fast growing film market. One of the complex's 20 studios will be the world's largest at 10,000 square-meters (108,000 square-feet). There's also a permanent underwater studio, an Imax research and development center and China's biggest film and celebrity wax museums. Wang said at the project's launch in 2013 that the company aims to shoot 100 domestic films and TV shows a year at the studios, where sets will simulate locations from Europe, the Middle East and China's Ming and Qing dynasties.

CINEMA CHAIN

Wanda bought AMC Entertainment Holdings, the second biggest U.S. movie theater chain, in 2012 in a \$2.6 billion deal that was the biggest Chinese takeover of an American company at that time. Leawood, Kansas-based AMC, which acquired small U.S. operator Starplex last year, operates 379 cinemas with 5,261 screens in the U.S. and Canada.

TRIATHLONS

Wanda bought the company that owns the Ironman triathlon brand and race series last year to tap rising demand for the sporting competitions from China's growing middle classes. The company paid \$650 million for Tampa, Florida-based World Triathlon Corp., which operates 250 events a year. It plans to introduce the swimming, biking and running races to China, where people are becoming more interested in fitness as their incomes rise.

SPORTS MARKETING

Wanda made inroads into the lucrative sports broadcasting industry by buying Swiss sports marketing company Infront Sports & Media last year. The 1.05 billion euro (then \$1.2 billion) acquisition gives it a business that produces World Cup television broadcasts for FIFA and clients that include governing bodies of skiing and ice hockey, Italy's top-tier Serie A league and the Chinese basketball league.

SPANISH SOCCER

Wanda took a 20 percent stake in Spanish champion team Atletico Madrid for 45 million euros (then \$52 million) last year. The company plans to work with the team to open three football schools in China while also inviting Atletico to play there in order to provide Chinese players with advanced training and experience from Europe. The two are also investing in a Madrid center that will provide special training for Chinese youth players.

LUXURY YACHTS

Wanda made a high profile expansion into the luxury motor yacht industry with the acquisition of Britain's Sunseeker for 320 million pounds (then \$500 million) in 2013. The company said the purchase was part of its strategy to expand into the global luxury, entertainment and tourism markets. It also came at a time when surging numbers of newly minted Chinese billionaires were fueling demand for luxury cars, boats and private jets. Sunseeker, based in Poole, Dorset, also has ties to the film world. Its boats have appeared in James Bond movies since 1999's "The World Is Not Enough," which featured them in a chase down London's River Thames.

REAL ESTATE ROOTS

The company is building a 700 million pound (\$1 billion) luxury hotel and apartment complex in London, in what it says will be the first Chinese-operated luxury hotel overseas. The project's five-star, 160-room hotel and more than 400 apartments overlooking the Thames reflect the company's roots, which are in real estate development.

Wanda buys Legendary Entertainment for USD3.5 billion

Joe McDonald, Beijing

WANDA Group said yesterday it is buying Hollywood's Legendary Entertainment, the maker of films such as "Batman," for USD3.5 billion in the first Chinese acquisition of a major U.S. film company.

Wanda, whose chairman, Wang Jianlin, is one of China's richest businesspeople, has expanded rapidly into the film industry. It bought the U.S. cinema chain AMC in 2012 and is developing an \$8 billion studio complex in eastern China.

New but cash-rich Chinese companies are on a buying spree abroad in industries from finance to yacht building for assets that can speed their development at home and help them expand in global markets.

With its latest acquisition, Wanda's film businesses will include a full range of production, distribution and exhibition, Wang said in a statement. The company, headquartered in the northeastern port city of Dalian, also has interests in hotels, retailing and real estate.

Legendary's productions include the "Batman" trilogy, "Inception" and "The Hangover." The company says its movies have grossed more than \$12 billion worldwide.

"Wanda will help Legendary increase its market opportunities, especially in the fast-growing China market," said

Wang.

Wanda's latest purchase is the fourth-largest Chinese investment in the United States, according to Dealogic, a financial information provider. It ranks behind WH Group Ltd.'s \$7 billion acquisition of pork packer Smithfield Foods in 2013, the Chinese sovereign wealth fund's 2007 purchase of a 9.9 percent stake in Morgan Stanley for \$5.6 billion and Unisplendour Corp.'s offer of \$3.7 billion this year for 15 percent of Western Digital Corp.

Global film, music and television companies see China and its increasingly prosperous population of 1.3 billion potential viewers as one of their most promising markets. Even as economic growth slows, China's consumer spending is expanding faster than that of the United States and other Western markets.

Ticket sales in China, already one of the world's biggest movie markets, rose nearly 50 percent last year to 44 billion yuan (\$6.8 billion), according to Nomura. It said in a Jan. 7 report that total revenue is forecast to rise another 25 percent this year.

Wang, 62, ranked as China's richest businessperson last year, with a net worth of \$34 billion, according to the Hurun Report, which follows China's wealthy.

Chinese companies invested \$11 billion in the United States over the past year, according to data gathered by Derek

Scissors, a researcher at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. The total since 2005 stands at \$93.3 billion.

Many acquisitions abroad are aimed at obtaining technology or brands to expand the buyer's market share in China or to capture profit from foreign goods and services flowing into China.

On Monday, China's biggest chemical company, state-owned ChemChina, announced it has bought a German maker of machinery to process rubber and plastic, KraussMaffei, for \$1 billion (925 million euros). It was the biggest Chinese investment to date in Germany.

In August, Wanda paid \$650 million for the Florida company that operates the Ironman triathlon race, World Triathlon Corp., and said it planned to promote the growth of competitions in China. Last February, Wanda paid \$1.2 billion (1 billion euros) for Swiss sports management company Infront Sports & Media.

In contrast to Western companies that cut staff after purchases, Chinese buyers keep employees and sometimes hire more because want foreign skills and experience.

Wanda said Legendary's Thomas Tull would remain chairman and chief executive, with responsibility for day-to-day operations.

"Wanda and Legendary will create a completely new international entertainment company," said Tull in the Wanda statement. AP



A Chinese moviegoer walks into the Wanda Cinema at the Wanda Group building in Beijing

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippine court OKs pact allowing US troops in local camps

Teresa Cerojano, Manila

THE Philippine Supreme Court yesterday declared as constitutional a defense pact that allows American forces, warships and planes to temporarily base in local military camps, in a boost to U.S. efforts to reassert its presence in Asia as China rises to regional dominance.

Ten of the 15 members of the high court also ruled that the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, which was signed by U.S. and Philippine officials in 2014 and has a 10-year lifespan, is an executive agreement that does not need Senate approval, court spokesman Theodore Te said.

"EDCA is not constitutionally infirm as an executive agreement," Te said at a news conference after the justices' long-awaited vote.

The ruling will bolster U.S. efforts to reassert its presence in Asia and dovetails with Philippine efforts to harness America's help in addressing China's aggressive acts in the disputed South China Sea.

Washington immediately welcomed the court's decision, saying the defense pact is a mutually beneficial accord that will bolster both countries' ability to respond to disasters and strengthen the Philippines' military.

Left-wing activists said they would consider filing an



Protesters shout slogans as they picket the Philippine Supreme Court to await the decision on the constitutionality of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) in Manila

appeal, adding that U.S. military presence won't solve the country's worries over China in the disputed waters.

"This is another sad day for Philippine sovereignty," said left-wing activist Renato Reyes, who was one of those who challenged the legality of the defense accord before the high court. "We maintain that the EDCA is not the solution to the problems of China's incursions."

The Department of Foreign Affairs said that with the court's decision, the Philippines and the U.S. can finalize

the full implementation of an agreement that is a critical component of efforts to strengthen national security and disaster relief capabilities.

"This decision bodes well for deepening our defense cooperation with a key ally," and will "redound to improving our capability to perform our mandate to protect our people and secure the state," said armed forces chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry.

The Philippines has turned to Washington as it scrambles to strengthen its military, one of the most ill-equipped in

Asia, to deal with an increasingly assertive China in the South China Sea.

Presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma said the court's ruling boosts the ongoing military modernization program, and will introduce the armed forces to the "most modern equipment," which will allow "a generational leap in our abilities."

The long-simmering disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei have escalated in recent years. Tensions have been especially high since

Beijing transformed seven disputed reefs into islands on which it is now constructing runways and facilities that rival claimants say can be used militarily in an already very tense region.

Nearly a century of U.S. military presence in the Philippines ended in 1992 when Americans shut their bases, including the largest military facilities outside the U.S. mainland, after Filipino senators voted a year earlier not to renew the lease on the bases amid a tide of nationalism.

A resurgent territorial dispute with China in the mid-1990s, however, prompted Manila to reach out to Washington. In 1998, the U.S. and the Philippines signed the Visiting Forces Agreement, allowing large numbers of American forces to return to the country for joint military exercises each year.

The 2014 defense pact allows the Americans to stay in facilities within Philippine military camps, where they can also station warships and fighter jets in a presence that Filipino officials hope will serve as a deterrent against Chinese aggression in disputed territories.

At least eight local camps have been designated as harboring areas for the Americans, including some located near the South China Sea and in areas prone to natural disasters, according to the Philippine military. AP

Ex Chinese vice minister jailed for 15 years for bribery

A court in northern China sentenced a former vice minister of public security to 15 years in jail yesterday for accepting bribes, state media reported.

Li Dongsheng is the latest senior figure to fall in President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption crackdown that has targeted scores of high-level officials, including figures linked to China's former state security chief, Zhou Yongkang. Zhou, the biggest tiger to fall,

was once seen as a potent rival of Xi and was at the center of a vast patronage system from his various positions of power.

Li was sentenced by a court in Tianjin city, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Calls to the court rang unanswered.

Li helped others get benefits from 1996 to 2013 when he held positions including the vice minister in the Ministry of Public Security and the de-

puty head of state broadcaster China Central Television, Xinhua said.

He also demanded and received bribes worth 22 million yuan (USD3.4 million) from 2008 to 2013, Xinhua said.

Despite having no experience in law enforcement, Li was elevated to vice public security minister in 2009, sparking rumors he was assisted by Zhou, who was sentenced to life in prison in June for corruption and other crimes. AP

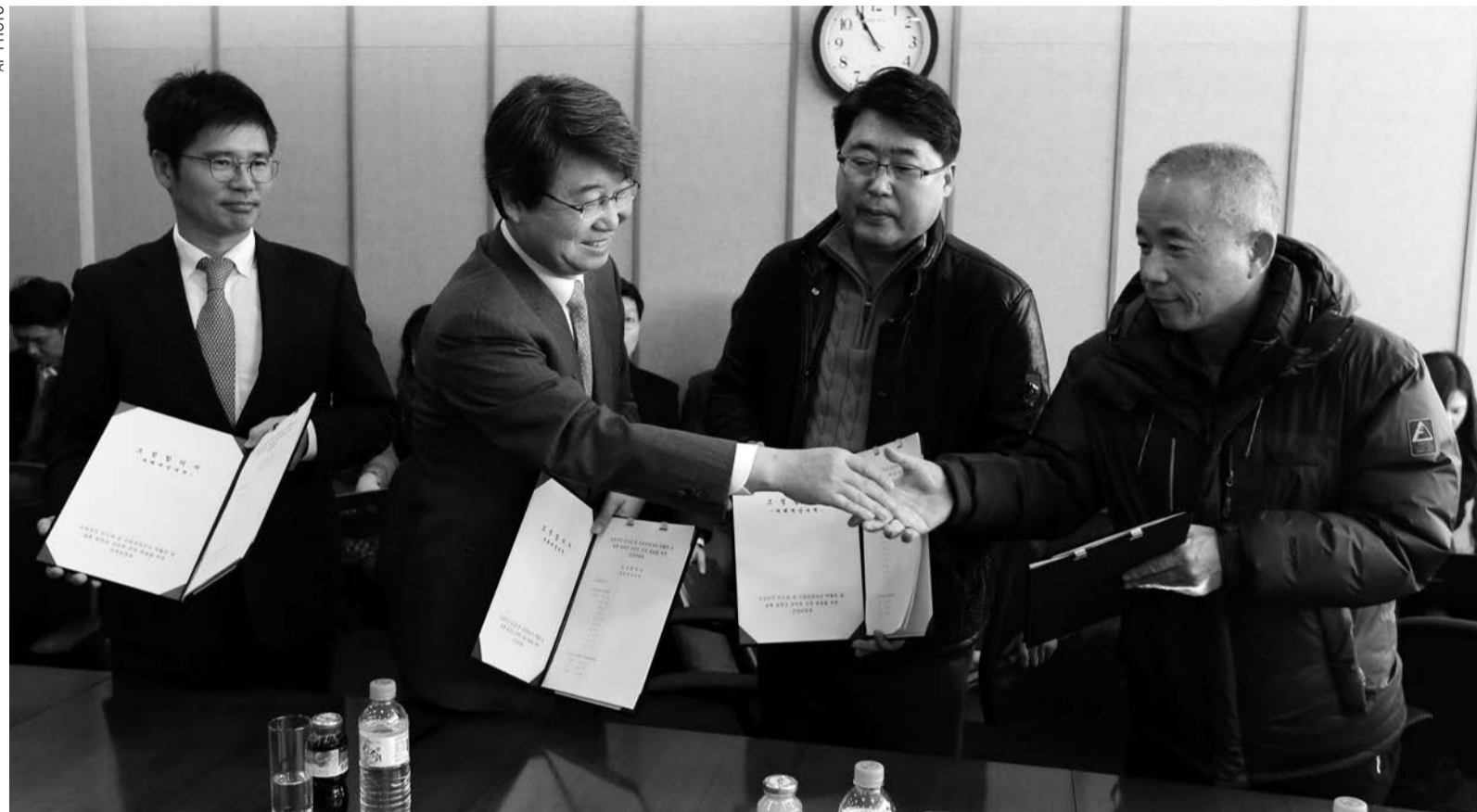


An electronic screen displaying images and convicted corruption charges of China's fallen politicians, Bo Xilai, bottom second right, Zhou Yongkang, bottom left, and other senior officials, at the China Court Museum in Beijing

SOUTH KOREA

Samsung reaches partial agreement with sick workers

AP PHOTO



Kim Ji-hyung, center left, a chairman of the Mediation Committee, shakes hands with Hwang Sang-gi, right, father of former Samsung semiconductor factory worker Hwang Yu-mi who died from leukemia in 2007, as Baek Suhyeon, left, a senior vice president at Samsung Electronics, and another family member looks on after they reached a partial agreement in Seoul

Youkyung Lee, Seoul

SAMSUNG Electronics reached a partial agreement on workplace safety with sickened workers and their families, nearly a decade after the death of a 22-year-old chip worker from leukemia galvanized concern about conditions in South Korea's semiconductor industry.

The South Korean company and Banolim, which is the main advocacy group for sick workers, along with another group representing workers signed an agreement yesterday to establish an external committee that will have over-

sight of safety at Samsung.

Its mandate includes measures such as ensuring Samsung preserves information related to workers' health and conducting spot checks of chemicals used in its manufacturing. If any hazardous substances are detected during random checks, the company's health management team will order their use stopped, according to the agreement.

Samsung also agreed to give workers access to information related to their health and safety when they apply for government insurance covering occupational diseases. Workers and their lawyers have com-

plained that Samsung denied access to key information on health and safety, citing confidentiality.

Baek Suhyeon, Samsung's top negotiator, said the agreement was "meaningful." Hwang Sang-gi, the founder of Banolim, said the measures were "significantly inadequate" but the group concluded the talks on preventive measures because negotiations had become too time-consuming. The group vowed to continue its protests and urged Samsung to resume talks on compensation.

The external committee will examine workplace conditions

that affect workers' health and safety at Samsung, such as management of chemicals. The committee can also make recommendations to Samsung on its disclosure of chemical hazards and the company's standards on trade secrets. Workers have complained that trade secrets meant they were denied information about chemicals that may have affected their health.

Paek Domyung, a professor of occupational medicine at Seoul National University who was part of the three member panel that mediated between Samsung and workers, said the agreement laid out a sys-

tem to put Samsung under external oversight. But the company's capacity to prevent illnesses and improve safety depends on the commitment of its top executives, he said.

The agreement, which is not legally binding, is the first of its kind between Samsung and Banolim since the death of 22-year-old chip worker Hwang Yu-mi from leukemia in 2007 ignited public debate about safety at Samsung factories and South Korea's semiconductor industry in general.

Samsung and Banolim are still deadlocked over other areas, mainly compensation for Samsung workers who became seriously ill allegedly due to exposure to carcinogens at its chip and LCD factories.

Last year, Samsung rejected the mediator's recommendations that an independent organization oversee compensation. Instead, the company launched its own committee whose members were selected by Samsung. Many workers and their families denounced Samsung's compensation measures, which they said were unilateral and veiled in secrecy.

Samsung said more than 150 individuals applied for compensation and more than 100 of them accepted its financial support. It said the rest are still in talks and it is still receiving applications for financial support even though the initially announced deadline has passed. The company refused to disclose how much of its 100 billion won (USD85.8 million) fund allocated for compensation was used to compensate workers.

More than 200 current or former Samsung workers suffering from grave illnesses have contacted or sought help from Banolim. Of them, 76 died, Banolim said. Many had cancers such as leukemia and were aged in their 20s or 30s. The oldest cases date to the 1980s but most are from the 1990s and 2000s. **AP**

INDIA

More than 80 whales wash ashore on southern coast

MORE than 80 whales have washed ashore on India's southern coast, officials said yesterday.

The short-finned pilot whales began washing up on beaches Monday evening, said M. Ravi Kumar, the top government official in the southeastern port town of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu state.

Rescuers took at least 36 of the mammals back to sea, but they appeared to be disoriented and some found their way back to the beach, Kumar said.

Short-finned pilot whales travel in groups or pods, and the absence of a leader confuses the group, he said.

Local officials have

asked experts from a nearby marine park to help them assess why the whales are washing up ashore and to help return them to the ocean as quickly as possible.

Local records show that the last time whales washed up on the beaches of Tuticorin in large numbers was in 1973, Kumar said. **AP**

AP PHOTO



People stand near two among the dozens of whales that have washed ashore on the Bay of Bengal coast's Manapad beach in Tuticorin district, Tamil Nadu state

Richard Lardner, Washington

House moves on North Korea sanctions bill after bomb test

THE U.S. House of Representatives pushed ahead on legislation that seeks to punish North Korea for its latest nuclear test by expanding sanctions on Pyongyang, a move with strong bipartisan support despite questions over how effective the new restrictions can be.

Lawmakers are scheduled to vote today (Macau time) on the North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act, which proposes to deny North Korea the hard currency they say it needs for its weapons programs. Holding the vote tomorrow puts it on the same day as President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address.

But former State Department officials said any new sanctions won't have teeth unless China makes a major shift in policy toward its rebellious ally. Separately, a panel of experts on North Korea said existing United Nations sanctions against the reclusive country are going unenforced.

The House bill is sponsored by Rep. Ed Royce, the Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The new sanctions would put "targeted economic financial pressure" on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Royce said Monday ahead of the vote, arguing that a failure to respond aggressively will embolden Pyongyang.

Rep. Eliot Engel, the committee's top Democrat, said Kim is on a "dangerous, destabilizing course" and the U.S. needs to act unilaterally to show the North Koreans that "there are consequences for their actions."

Royce's committee unanimously approved the measure



House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., left, talks with the committee's ranking member Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y. on Capitol Hill in Washington

in February 2015 and it remained there until last week when North Korea announced it had conducted a fourth nuclear test — this one detonating a thermonuclear device with massive destructive power.

The announcement was met with doubt North Korea had

set off a hydrogen bomb, which would mark a major technological advance for Pyongyang's limited nuclear arsenal. But it could take weeks or even longer to confirm or refute the claim. Yet lawmakers are pushing ahead.

In the wake of the announ-

cement, Republicans derided the Obama administration for not being more forceful in its policy toward North Korea. Royce said the administration's approach of "strategic patience" toward North Korea has failed to stop its nuclear program.

It's uncertain what the bill's prospects will be in the Senate if it's passed by the House.

But Sen. Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he wants the U.S. and its allies "to take a more assertive role in addressing North Korea's provocation."

A central part of Royce's legislation is to make so-called "blocking sanctions" mandatory rather than discretionary as currently permitted through existing regulations. The sanctions are mandated against any country, business or individual that materially contributes to North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile

development, imports luxury goods into North Korea, or engages with Pyongyang in money laundering, the manufacture of counterfeit goods, or narcotics trafficking, according to the legislation.

A similar tactic was used by the Treasury Department a decade ago, Royce said, and it drained North Korea of the hard currency essential for buying the parts and supplies necessary for weapons development and missile production. Nor did Pyongyang have enough money to pay its army or police forces.

But Joseph DeThomas, a former senior State Department official who advised on Iran and North Korea sanctions policy until February 2013, said new sanctions wouldn't force change in Pyongyang unless China is convinced of the strategic consequence of North Korea having nuclear weapons that could threaten America. **AP**

CNN reports American detained by North Korean government

THE government of North Korea has detained a U.S. citizen on suspicion of spying, CNN reported this week.

It said a man identified as Kim Dong Chul was being held by the Pyongyang government and said authorities had accused him of engaging in spying and stealing state secrets.

In an interview with a CNN correspondent, Kim said he had traveled extensively in recent years between China and North Korea and had made some trips to South Korea as well.

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said he could not confirm the report. He declined to dis-

cuss the issue further or confirm whether the U.S. was consulting with Sweden, which handles U.S. consular issues in North Korea because Washington and Pyongyang do not have diplomatic relations.

"We are looking into the matter, and when we have more that we can say — if we have more that we can say — we will," Kirby told reporters.

CNN displayed Kim's US passport and said he had lived in China for many years, but also had resided in Fairfax, Virginia.

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi takes part in talks to boost cease-fire

AUNG San Suu Kyi, whose pro-democracy party will take over power in Myanmar from a pro-military government in coming months, yesterday participated for the first time in official talks to bring peace with the country's fractious ethnic minorities.

Suu Kyi (pronounced "Suu-chee") spoke at the opening of a peace conference in the capital, Naypyitaw, that seeks to drive forward a cease-fire agreement signed last year between the government and ethnic guerrilla armies. Several major groups failed to

sign the pact, and were also absent from yesterday's event.

Myanmar has been wracked by war for decades as ethnic minorities fight for greater autonomy from the central government.

Suu Kyi, who led her National League for Democracy to victory in November's historic election, said in her speech that having all of the rebel groups take part would make the cease-fire talks more effective.

President Thein Sein hoped the ceasefire deal, inked in October, would be the keynote achieve-



Leader of National League for Democracy party (NLD) Aung San Suu Kyi, left, greets unidentified lawmakers as she arrives to deliver a speech in Naypyitaw

ment of his term of office, which will almost certainly end within the next few

weeks. But the failure to be inclusive has thrown its effectiveness into gra-

ve doubt.

The meeting that started yesterday is looking at political aspects of the agreement, such as giving more administrative powers to the regions.

The head of the army, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, told the meeting the door remained open to the other groups though it isn't immediately clear how or why they will join if the agreement remains as it is.

Suu Kyi had previously urged armed ethnic groups not to sign on to the current agreement. In her speech she said she believed the fighting

could be stopped but she referred to the need to bring all the armies into the process.

"It will be always more effective to have the inclusiveness of all ethnic groups than having a few," she said. "We all can reach the ethnic people's dream faster by cooperating with all ethnic groups."

Among the groups staying outside the agreement are the United Wa State Army, whose numbers are put at around 20,000 and who control territory along the Chinese border, the Kachin Independence Army who are currently embroiled in fighting with government forces in jade-rich, mountainous northern Myanmar, and the smaller Ta'ang Liberation Army. **AP**

IRAQ

PM vows to expel IS after deadly mall attack

IRAQ'S prime minister vowed yesterday to continue the fight against Islamic State militants, a day after the group launched a suicide attack on a shopping mall in the capital, Baghdad, killing 18 people.

Touring the bombed and destroyed mall in the eastern Shiite-dominated area of New Baghdad, Haider al-Abadi described the attack as a "desperate attempt" by militants after they lost control of the key western city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province.

Iraq's government will "spare no efforts" to expel IS forces from the country, al-Abadi said.

Gunmen stormed the Jawhara Mall on Monday after setting off a car bomb and launching a suicide attack at its entrance. Iraqi forces later surrounded the building, landing troops on the roof before clashing with attackers

inside, killing two gunmen and arresting four. Along with the 18 killed, around 50 people were wounded.

Shortly after the attack, IS posted an online statement saying it targeted an area where many Shiite Muslims are known to gather and warned of "worse" to come. The Associated Press could not immediately verify the authenticity of the statement, but its language and phrasing is consistent with past IS claims of responsibility.

Shortly after the attack, a back-to-back suicide attack targeted a cafe in the town of Muqadiyah, about 90 kilometers north of Baghdad in Diyala province, killing at least 24 people and wounding 52. And in a crowded area in southeast Baghdad, a car bomb explosion killed at least five people and wounded 12 others.

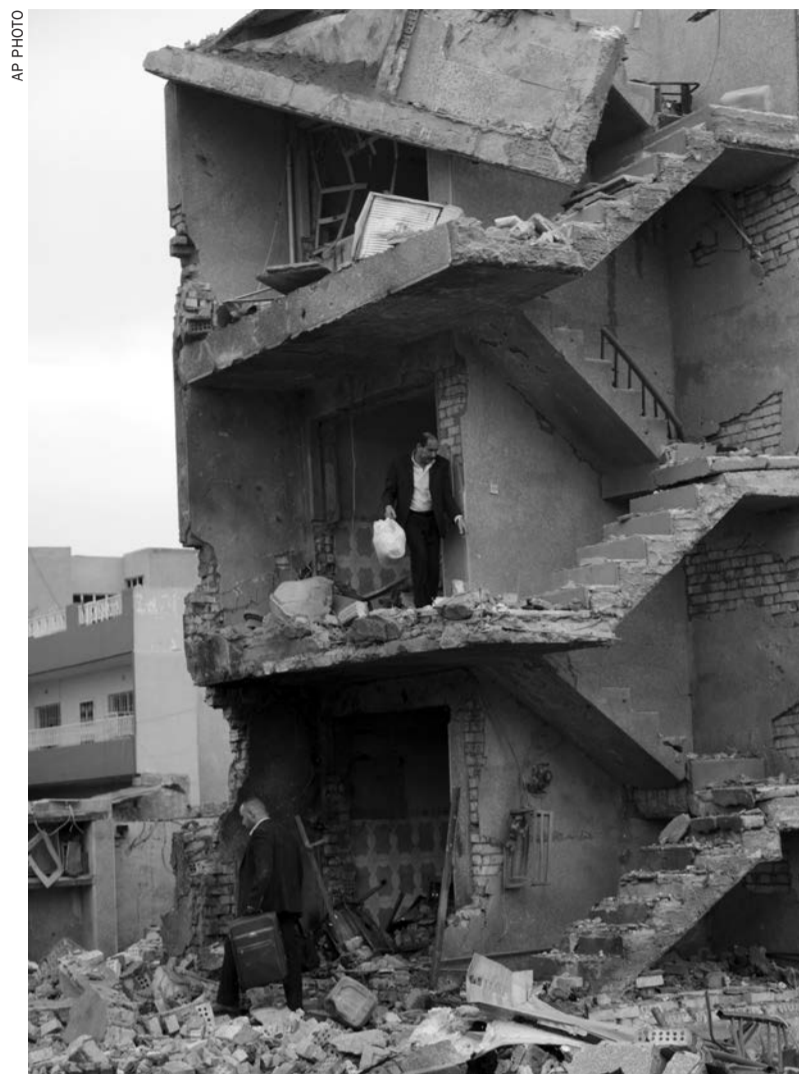
All police and health officials

spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Iraq is going through its worst crisis since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. troops. In the summer of 2014, the Islamic State group blitzed across large swaths of the country's north and west, capturing Iraq's second-largest city of Mosul and the majority of the western Anbar province.

Last month, the group suffered a major defeat when Iraqi forces drove the extremists out of the western city of Ramadi, the capital of the sprawling Anbar province. Islamic State still controls much of northern and western Iraq.

Baghdad has been almost quiet over the past few months, except for a few small attacks with bombs and assaults targeting Iraqi forces and government officials. **AP**



People collect their belongings from a heavily damaged building in the aftermath of a car bomb explosion in a commercial area of New Baghdad

GERMANY

Authorities to ease deportation rules after Cologne attacks

THE German government wants to ease the rules for deporting foreign criminals in the wake of the New Year's Eve assaults in Cologne, two senior officials said yesterday.

The planned reform of laws on deportation and sexual offenses would "significantly" lower the legal hurdles for expelling foreigners who commit serious crimes, Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said.

"That's a hard but right response by the state to those who are seeking protection here, but think they can commit crimes" without consequences, de Maiziere told reporters in Berlin.

Justice Minister Heiko Maas, who announced the plans alongside de Maiziere, said that public pressure following the Cologne assaults had played a role in getting the plan agreed so quickly.

Cologne police say 553 criminal complaints have been filed with them in connection to the New Year's attacks. About 45 percent involve allegations of sexual offenses.

Police say most of the suspects are believed to be foreigners, including at least some asylum-seekers. Many were described as being of "Arab or North African origin."

The changes, which have to be approved by the Cabinet



German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, left, and Justice Minister Heiko Maas brief the media on a planned reform of the laws on deportation and sexual offenses at the Reichstag building, in Berlin

and Parliament, would mean that any custodial sentence for crimes against another person's bodily integrity, including sexual assaults, as well as violent thefts, would be grounds for deportation. Youth sentences would be covered too.

Many asylum seekers who commit crimes currently avoid deportation because the danger they face in their home country is considered greater than the reason for deporting them.

Separately, a top German police official said he doesn't believe the New Year's Eve assaults in Cologne and elsewhere were linked to organized crime.

Holger Muench, the head of Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office, told RBB Inforadio that "the same conditions were in place at different locations," with crowds of people

gathering to celebrate the new year.

"I am not saying that there was no organization, but it is not organized crime," he said. "That would have a different quality for me. We would be talking about ... hierarchical groups."

However, "what we see here is perpetrators communicating with each other and making arrangements ... and of course we must recognize better where they do this, how they do this," Muench said.

The assaults have heightened tensions over Germany's migrant influx and prompted politicians to consider tougher laws against migrants who commit crimes.

Cologne police say they have identified 23 possible suspects. Separately, 32 suspects have been identified by federal police, who are responsible for train station security. **AP**

USA

Last survivor of 1906 San Francisco earthquake dead at 109

THE last survivor of the devastating San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906 has died, a relative confirmed Monday.

William A. "Bill" Del Monte died at a retirement home in nearby Marin County yesterday. He was 11 days shy of his 110th birthday. His niece, Janette Barroca of San Francisco confirmed his death of natural causes.

He'd been doing "great for 109-years-old," Barroca said.

Del Monte was just three-months-old when the quake struck, forcing his family into the streets to escape in an open horse-drawn carriage with fire burning on both sides, Barroca said. The family crossed the bay to Alameda County but eventually came back to the city after the home was rebuilt, Barroca said.

His father had opened the famous Fior d'Italia restaurant on Broadway in 1886 and it was destroyed in the quake but reopened in a tent not long after. By 1915 the Italian restaurant was prospering again, according to a 2011 San Francisco Chronicle story.

Del Monte attended San Francisco schools and after graduation went to work briefly for his father at his North Beach restaurant. But even in his teens he was interested in playing the stock market. And he was good at it. By 1929 at age 23, he was worth

a million dollars, according to the San Francisco Chronicle story.

He lost the money but around the same time he gained a wife, Vera Minetti. They eloped to Reno in 1935 and were married for more than 55 years before she died in 1991. They never had children. While his true passion was playing the stock markets, he also ran a San Francisco Bay Area theater for years.

Del Monte's death leaves a void in the city's history.

Ruth Newman was the oldest remaining survivor of the earthquake before her death last summer. She was 113.

Newman was 4 years old when the quake struck in the early morning of April 18, 1906. She died July 29 at her home in Pebble Beach.

Del Monte attended the annual earthquake commemorations events in San Francisco, which include gatherings at Lotta's Fountain in downtown before dawn. In 2010 he was the only survivor who made it to Lotta's Fountain, riding in the back of the city's big black, 1930 Lincoln convertible.

More than 1,000 people were killed in the earthquake and fires. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, measurements of the quake have ranged from magnitude 7.7 to 8.3. **AP**

Letteris Pitarakis & Suzan Fraser, Istanbul

TURKEY

10 dead, 15 wounded in Istanbul tourist district explosion

A Syrian suicide bomber detonated a bomb in a historic district of Istanbul popular with tourists yesterday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 15 others, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said.

Erdogan said in televised remarks that both Turks and foreigners were among the dead in the explosion in the Sultanahmet district.

"I strongly condemn the terror incident that occurred in Istanbul, at the Sultanahmet Square, and which has been assessed as being an attack by a Syria-rooted suicide bomber," Erdogan said.

Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said the bomber was a 28-year-old Syrian national. He said most of the people who died were foreigners. It was unclear whether the death toll of 10 included the alleged bomber.

The explosion, which could be heard from several neighborhoods, was at a park that is home to a landmark obelisk, some 25 meters from the historic Blue Mosque.

Turkey's Dogan news agency reported that at least six Germans, one Norwegian and one



Policemen secure the historic Sultanahmet district after an explosion in Istanbul

Peruvian were among the wounded, and Seoul's Foreign Ministry told reporters via text message that one South Korean had a finger injury. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry told Norway's news agency NTB that the Norwegian tourist was slightly hurt and was being treated in a local hospital.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack,

although the Islamic State group was suspected. Kurdish militants and left-wing groups are active in Turkey.

Last year, Turkey agreed to take a more active role in the U.S.-led battle against the IS group. Turkey opened its bases to U.S. aircraft to launch air raids on the extremist group in Syria and has carried out a limited number of strikes on the

group itself.

It has also moved to tighten security along its 900-kilometer border with Syria in a bid to stem the flow of militants.

The attack comes at a time of heightened violence between Turkey's security forces and militants linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in the country's mostly-Kurdish southeast.

The country is also dealing with more than 2 million Syrian refugees and a wave of migrants from Syria and other countries pouring across Turkey to Europe.

Germany warned its citizens to avoid crowds outside tourist attractions in Istanbul, saying on a government website that further violent clashes and "terrorist attacks" are expected across Turkey. It also urged travelers to stay away from demonstrations and gatherings, particularly in large cities.

Police sealed the area, barring

people from approaching in case of a second explosion, and a police helicopter hovered overhead.

The Sultanahmet neighborhood is Istanbul's main sightseeing area and includes the Topkapi Palace and the Hagia Sophia museum.

Erdem Koroglu, who was working at a nearby office, told NTV television he saw several people on the ground following the blast.

"It was difficult to say who was alive or dead," Koroglu said. "Buildings rattled from the force of the explosion."

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu immediately convened a security meeting with the country's interior minister and other officials.

As with previous attacks, authorities imposed a news blackout, barring media from showing images of the dead or injured or reporting any details of the investigation. AP

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what's ON



"PRINT" – ART PROJECT

TIME: 12pm-7pm

(Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 21, 2016

VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

GEGEGE MEMORIES: COMIC EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30 am to 6:30 pm

(Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: January 31, 2016

VENUE: Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, 10, Macau

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY

– PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDELOT

TIME: 10am-7pm

(No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 19, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House,

Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

THE MAGNIFICENT PALACE – IMPERIAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY

TIME: 10am-7pm

(No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 13, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 7588

Offbeat

MOSCOW POLICE LOOKING INTO NO-PANTS SUBWAY RIDE



Moscow police are looking into the weekend's no-pants subway ride for a possible misdemeanor.

Despite freezing temperatures, several dozen people joined the global annual event on Sunday by riding Moscow's ornate subway with no trousers or skirts on.

The Moscow police said in a statement that it is studying reports and posts on social media to see if any laws or regulations have been breached.

It was not immediately clear what the pantless subway riders could be charged with but the stunt could technically fall under the law against disturbing public order.

The Communists of Russia, a marginal political party, earlier on Monday called for charges against young people in Moscow and St. Petersburg who "challenged public morality and traditional values" by wearing no pants.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:50	Criminal Minds S.7
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Os Resistentes - Retratos de Macau
21:05	Montra do Lila
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	The Resistentes - Macau Portraits
23:35	Documentary series

cinema



CINETEATRO

7 JAN - 13 JAN



THE 33

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Patricia Riggen

Starring: Antonio Banderas, Rodrigo Santoro,

Juliette Binoche

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

SECRET IN THEIR EYES

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Billy Ray

Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Nicole Kidman,

Julia Roberts

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 111min

IP MAN 3

ROOM 2

7.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

SHERLOCK: THE ABOMINABLE BRIDE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Douglas Mackinnon

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman,

Una Stubbs

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 89min

THE BOY AND THE BEAST

ROOM 3

7.15 pm

Director: Mamoru Hosoda

Language: Japanese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 119min

MACAU TOWER

COMING SOON 14 JAN - 10 FEB

THE 5H WAVE

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: J Blakeson

Starring: Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson,

Maika Monroe

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



Marlin Fitzwater

1993 ALLIES BOMB IRAQ

American, British and French fighter jets have carried out a series of bombing raids over southern Iraq.

The Iraqis have repeatedly breached the "no-fly zone" set up after the Gulf War - which began almost two years ago - and made a number of military raids over the border into Kuwait.

The Gulf War Allies targeted missile sites and aircraft command and control bases.

The air raids took place early this evening, (1700 GMT) led by American stealth fighter bombers, based in Saudi Arabia.

Planes were also deployed from a US aircraft carrier in the Gulf, and British tornado bombers and French mirage jets joined the attack.

Initial reports suggest the mission was successful and there were no allied casualties.

The Iraqi ambassador to the UN, Nizar Hamdoon, has said the raids into Kuwait will stop.

White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said: "The government of Iraq should understand that continued defiance of UN security council resolutions will not be tolerated."

He said if the cross-border raids continued, there would further attacks without warning.

The UK Prime Minister, John Major, called the action "limited and proportionate".

He said it would mean British planes could once again operate in safety in the no-fly zone.

The BBC's correspondent in Baghdad, Michael Macmillan, says the air raids are likely to strengthen support for Saddam Hussein.

Sanctions imposed since the Gulf War are biting hard and the Iraqi people support his defiance against the West.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The air raids against Iraq were not repeated.

However, relations between the two sides remained tense.

In June, US forces launched a cruise missile attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Al-Mansur district, Baghdad, in retaliation for the attempted assassination of US President, George Bush, in April.

In November 1994, Iraq formally accepted the demarcation of the border with Kuwait as laid down by the UN Security Council.

In March 2003 George Bush's son, George W, launched an attack on Iraq in spite of worldwide opposition to war.

Within a month, President Bush was claiming victory but there was no sign of the weapons of mass destruction he claimed he was trying to eliminate.

Saddam Hussein was captured in 2003 after several months in hiding, stood trial in an Iraqi court, was sentenced to death and was executed in December 2006.

Power was officially handed back to Iraq by the US on 28 June 2004.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your vision of the future seems less like a carrot on a stick and more like a tease now. But you don't have to give up on it altogether. You just need to add a serious dose of patience to the mix.

Taurus April 20-May 20 One good thing about lowering financial expectations is that other things just don't matter as much, either. It's a lot harder to get a rise out of you these days. But someone tries to do it anyway. Don't bite.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Now that you've had some time for thought, you can see that most things in your life are not really as foreign as they first seemed. Yep, the shock is starting to wear off. Welcome to the new normal.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 People are entitled to their own opinions. Except when money is involved, that is. Try not to fly off the handle over someone else's ideas about just how your finances should be handled.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You may not be making headway, but given current conditions, going sideways can be considered making progress. As long as you're not moving backwards, you're ahead of the game.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's a brave new world, so don't count on anything being regular or routine. Experiment with things a bit. You may find that your biggest asset going forward is an open mind.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Life is a challenge. Even the state you're in can be fun if you have the right attitude. Getting it can take some creativity but once you conjure it up, hold onto it for the duration.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Problems at home aren't unexpected. If you and family members disagree over the details, remind yourself of the basics. And if all else fails, remember that you're all working hard towards improving the bottom line.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You'll get an unexpected boost in your mood. If it's been a while since you've impressed anyone, it will come as a welcome surprise. Be open to it, even when interacting with strangers.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry. And that doesn't even include the schemes. If you want your future to pan out, you've got to lay an honest foundation. Start today.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have one thing going for you, but it's a big one. Your high energy can tide you over as long as you use it on things that are worth it. Once you start squandering it like money, you're lost.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Daydreaming about the future can either fan the flames of your discontent or help you come up with a realistic map. As long as they don't involve winning the lottery, let yourself indulge in fantasies.

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.

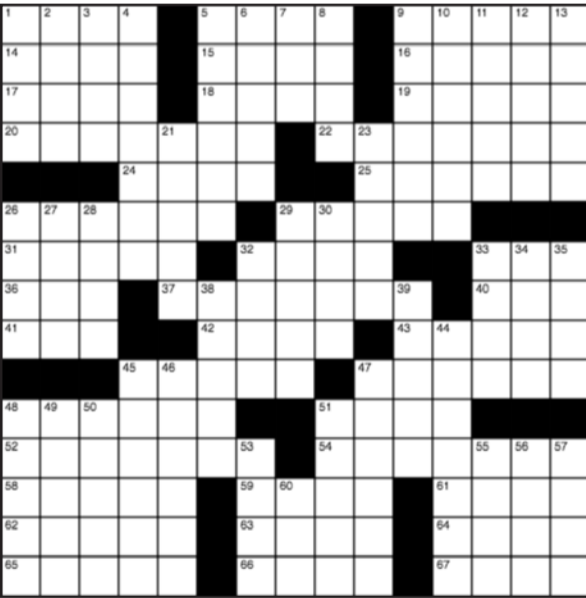
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather forecasts for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Prego rival; 5- Honolulu's island; 9- Be in a bee; 14- Med. school subj.; 15- Ink spot; 16- Kate & ...; 17- Monogram ltr.; 18- Graf ...; 19- "Mule Train" singer; 20- Ancient capital of Assyria; 22- Disperse; 24- Tabula ...; 25- Westerns; 26- Evaluate; 29- Disgrace; 31- Forest clearing; 32- Musical composition for two; 33- Hit sign; 36- Western Hemisphere org.; 37- Caused by an earthquake; 40- Kind of cross; 41- Skid row woe; 42- Sounds of relief; 43- Goes into business; 45- Anwar's successor; 47- Rostrum; 48- Skiing style; 51- First-class; 52- Sour cherry; 54- Codes of ceremonies; 58- Video game pioneer; 59- Bingo call; 61- Actual; 62- Suppress; 63- "... She Lovely?"; 64- Cartoonist Peter; 65- Part of an act; 66- Afternoon affairs; 67- "Stay" singer Lisa;

DOWN: 1- Shower; 2- Years in old Rome; 3- Profit; 4- Spoken; 5- Haunt; 6- Omega's opposite; 7- Weeding implement; 8- Salt Lake City collegians; 9- Low bow; 10- Missouri feeder; 11- Best of a group; 12- Cruise ship; 13- Sly looks; 21- Urns; 23- Raccoon relative; 26- Yes, there is ...; 27- Blind piece; 28- Back talk; 29- Japanese dish; 30- Fashion lines; 32- Zoologist Fossey; 33- Word that can succeed dance, foot and door; 34- Hindu queen; 35- Evict; 38- Stand used by painters; 39- Enumerate; 44- Of lung membranes; 45- Sacred place; 46- Surfing, perhaps; 47- Indicates a direction; 48- Compile, accumulate; 49- Living in flowing water; 50- Babble; 51- Where the action is; 53- Final notice?; 55- Prefix with dynamic; 56- Alley; 57- Oscar Madison, for one; 60- Half a fly



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Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications.

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Richard Rosenblatt, Arizona

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WELCOME to the epic national championship club Alabama and Clemson.

Your game is a unanimous choice to join the short list of some of the most dramatic, exciting, fantastic finishes to a college football season.

With one big play after another — by both teams — Alabama beat Clemson 45-40 yesterday in the College Football Playoff title game.

An instant classic. And no doubt, this one will last for a long time.

The game was a thrill-a-minute. Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry ran for three touchdowns, including a 50-yarder to open the scoring. A daring on side kick with the score tied 24-all led to an Alabama points explosion, with quarterback Jake Coker throwing for two long touchdowns to tight end O.J Howard. Oh, and Kenyan Drake returned a kickoff 95 yards for another score.

Clemson didn't flinch. Dual-threat quarterback Deshaun Watson threw four touchdowns and had 478 total yards — 403 passing. He was virtually a one-man show in keeping the Tigers ahead for a while.

In the end, it was too much Alabama, and the Tide won their fourth national crown in the past seven years. When the game ended, the entire crowd of 75,765 — the majority of them Clemson fans — stood and cheered. Not only for their team, but for the fabulous game they had just witnessed.



Alabama's Derrick Henry runs for a touchdown during the first half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game

Here's a few other epic games that belong in the club:

NOTRE DAME 10, MICHIGAN STATE 10 (1966). A tie is an epic? When it comes to this one, it tops the list. Ara Parseghian's Notre Dame team came into the game unbeaten and ranked No. 1. Duffy Daugherty's Michigan State team also was unbeaten and ranked No. 2. The game, sometimes referred to as the "Game of the Century," ended in controversy as Notre Dame, playing at Spartan Stadium, elected not to try

for a score on the final series. The not-so-Fighting Irish ended up No. 1 in the final AP poll. The game featured Terry Hanratty getting knocked out of the game after a sack by Michigan State's Bubba Smith. The Irish had the ball with 1:01 left after rallying to tie the score, and needed about 40 yards to get into Joe Azzaro's field goal range. Parseghian chose to run out the clock. Alabama finished the same season 11-0-0.

MIAMI 31, NEBRASKA 30 (1984 ORANGE BOWL).

Miami, which considered shutting down its program due to lack of interest several years earlier, pulled off one of the greatest upsets to win its first national title. Led by gawky yet efficient quarterback Bernie Kosar, Miami built an early lead and the hometown crowd rocked the Orange Bowl. The potent Cornhuskers needed a trick play — a "fumblerooski" TD by lineman Dean Steinkuhler — to stay in the game. They pulled within a point with less than a minute left, but instead of kicking the extra point that would have assured a championship, coach Tom Osborne decided to go for the win with a 2-point try. Turner Gill's pass was swatted away by Ken Calhoun, and Miami benefited when higher ranked teams lost in earlier bowl games and rose from fifth to No. 1 in the final AP poll.

OHIO STATE 31, MIAMI 24, 2 OT (2003 FIESTA BOWL). Miami was poised for another perfect season. They were a unanimous No. 1 choice riding a 34-game winning streak. Ohio State also was unbeaten, ranked No. 2, but appeared to be no match for the speedy 'Canes. Led by freshman running back Maurice Clarett, though, Ohio State outplayed Miami for much of the game. But it was a still debated pass

interference call in overtime that gave the Buckeyes another chance, and they won 31-24 in double OT. With his team down 24-17 and facing fourth down in OT, Craig Krenzel's pass into the end zone was called incomplete by one official, but another ruled interference against Miami. Ohio State then tied it, and won it in the second OT for its first national crown in 34 years.

TEXAS 41, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 38 (2006 ROSE BOWL). This game was like Alabama-Clemson for excitement, but had an even wilder finish. It was a No. 1 vs. No. 2 game, and USC was loaded — with two Heisman winners in running back Reggie Bush and quarterback Matt Leinart. Like Clemson's Deshaun Watson, Texas QB Vince Young piled up over 400 total yards, but his Longhorns came out a winner when he scored on fourth down in the closing seconds.

FLORIDA STATE 34, AUBURN 31 (2014 ROSE BOWL). The Seminoles stormed to a 21-3 lead behind Heisman winner Jameis Winston, but Auburn caught up and the lead went back and forth with the Tigers going ahead 31-27 with 1:19 left. But Winston led them to victory — and the national title — with a short TD pass to Kelvin Benjamin with

BASEBALL

Cardinals sign Korean pitcher Seung Hwan Oh to bolster 'pen'

SEUNG Hwan Oh has been such a dominant pitcher in Japan that he has two nicknames: "Final Boss" and "Stone Buddha."

The St. Louis Cardinals project the Korean with 357 career saves as a reliever who'll get the ball to their own record-setting closer, Trevor Rosenthal.

"We felt like we wanted to do something to ramp it up," general manager John Mozeliak said yesterday at a news conference to announce the signing of Oh to a one-year contract with a club option for a second year. "He really matched up well for what we were trying to accomplish."

The 33-year-old Oh,

who had 41 saves last year, said through an interpreter that playing in the major leagues has long been a dream and now "the dream comes true."

"I've achieved everything in Korea and Japan as a closer," Oh said. "I wanted a new environment and was looking for motivation."

Rosenthal set a franchise record with 48 saves last season for the NL Central champions. The Cardinals also have Jonathan Broxton and Kevin Siegrist for late-inning work although Mozeliak said the team doesn't know the availability of Jordan Walden, who missed much of last year with

a shoulder injury.

"Success in the postseason is based on having a very strong bullpen," Mozeliak said. "You look at that core and you have to have a lot of confidence going forward."

The Cardinals have been devoting more energy to finding talent in the Asian market in recent seasons. Earlier this winter, they unsuccessfully bid on Korean first baseman Byung-Ho Park, who landed with the Twins, and last year, they bid on shortstop Jung Ho Kang, who plays for the Pirates.

Mozeliak said the team has been scouting Oh since 2009. Manager Mike Matheny said he's seen Oh on videotape and was

impressed, saying "Good stuff is good stuff."

The 5-foot-10, 205-pound Oh had been facing a suspension for casino gambling had he returned to pitch in Korea. He said he hadn't been aware that casino gambling was illegal in that country. Mozeliak said the sides came to an agreement before that suspension was announced.

Oh signed a free agent deal with Hanshin prior to last season. He led the Japanese Central League in saves in 2014 and '15, setting the record for most saves by a Korean pitcher in Japanese League play.

In 498 career games in Korea and Japan, Oh is



32-20 with a 1.81 ERA with 772 strikeouts in 646 1-3 innings. He also was a member of the Gold medal-winning Korean Olympics team in 2008 and played for Korea in the World Baseball Classic in 2006, '09 and '13.

The Cardinals will hire a full-time interpreter to help Oh adjust to the United States. Matheny said it shouldn't be a big deal with mound conferences because he and pitching

coach Derek Lilliquist aren't big on making "a whole lot of mechanical adjustments," but rather giving the pitcher a chance to take a deep breath.

Though other rivals have been more active in the offseason, Mozeliak said he's confident taking this team to spring training next month.

"Ultimately, I'm not all that bullish on necessarily chasing something right now," the GM said. AP

opinion

Made in Macao
Jenny Lao-Phillips



TRADITION OF 'SELLING LAZINESS'

As Chinese New Year approaches, we can see people getting ready everywhere, ordering New Year food, buying red envelopes, and, earlier than before, they have started preparations by exchanging their money for crispy new bank notes for Lai Si (red packets). As the day gets closer to Chinese New Year's Eve, more people are lining up in the banks for new bank notes, so in order to beat the crowd, many of my acquaintances have been withdrawing new notes since last month. It seems that among the many customs and traditions during the Chinese New Year, giving out Lai Si is still first on the must-do list.

Nowadays, it has become practice that only adults who are married have to give out Lai Si, and anyone who is single is on the receiving end. But I'm surprised to find out that traditionally all adults who have joined society (I guess that means started working), married or not, should give out Lai Si to children, and usually only to children in the family and extended family. For kids to receive Lai Si from other adults, usually just neighbors or friends of the family, there are certain customs they need to practice.

One such custom is the tradition of 'Selling Laziness' 賣懶. According to the records, there were two practices. One of these said that on Chinese New Year's Eve, before midnight, parents would have their children go out into the streets and shout 'Selling Laziness'. Then, adults in the neighborhood would give them Lai Si. In this way, the children would have sold their sloths and it was believed that they would be hard-working in the coming year.

Another practice of 'Selling Laziness' goes together with the additional tradition of 'Sending the god of Fortune'. On Chinese New Year's Eve, children would write the words '財神 god of Fortune' in calligraphy on a piece of red paper, then before midnight, they would knock on their neighbors' doors saying "Sending the god of Fortune". The event is not unlike the trick-or-treat custom on Halloween in the West, except that children do not have to dress up in costumes. And instead of candies, adults would give Lai Si to the kids as they accept the god of Fortune into their houses. Of course, those who refuse to open their doors or offer Lai Si to the kids would not be tricked; having rejected the 'god of Fortune,' they just wouldn't have prosperity in the New Year.

Here, together with the red piece of paper adorned with the words 'god of Fortune,' some children would sneak in another piece of paper with the word 'Lazy' written on it. If the receiver offered Lai Si to the kids and took the 'Lazy' paper together with the 'god of Fortune' paper without noticing it, the kids would then have successfully sold their laziness. So, aside from gaining pocket money for the New Year, they will also become hard-working children. What happens to the people who unknowingly bought 'Laziness'? Well, they already got the god of Fortune, I guess they didn't need to be hard-working the next year.

While some Chinese New Year traditions have been widely practiced throughout the years, there are some interesting ones that have been forgotten, or have slowly faded out due to changes in society. As the level of trust decreases in the neighborhood, parents probably do not think it is safe anymore to let children go out at night 'selling laziness'. And if someone knocked on our doors at night sending the 'god of Fortune', there may be a higher chance we would call the police instead of opening the door. I guess community social capital is a small price to pay for rapid economic development in society.

THE BARCELONA CASINO DECISION
BUZZ DELAYED UNTIL Q2

Melco International Development has informed the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKSE) that the company's plan to acquire a license to operate a casino in the Catalan capital, Barcelona, might be delayed.

The company has revealed that a regional election in Catalonia had not been able to produce a single majority party or ruling coalition. As such, there is uncertainty regarding the outcome of previous consultations for the

casino license.

In a statement to the HKSE, Melco International Development said that the company had not been updated as to the status of the tender process.

The statement also said the delay meant that a final announcement on the tender process would be postponed until the second quarter of 2016 at the earliest, and could be delayed even further.

Despite worldwide fame, Bowie kept illness a secret



Memorabilia and bouquets of flowers are left in honor of David Bowie outside his New York apartment

Hillel Italie, New York

NILE Rodgers suspected a couple of years ago that his old friend David Bowie might have health problems, but had no idea he was terminally ill.

"I was being honored by my charity (the We Are Family Foundation) and they thought the most appropriate person to give me the award was Bowie," said Rodgers, who produced Bowie's platinum-selling "Let's Dance" album.

"And he did give me the award, but he had to give it by film. His speech was lovely, charming and really, really big-hearted. But I could see that he wasn't well."

Bowie died Sunday night at age 69 after an 18 month battle with cancer, news that stunned his millions of admirers and inspired worldwide grieving. Though he rarely made public appearances in

recent years, Bowie had just released a new album, "Blackstar" on Friday, his birthday. Few suspected he had only days to live.

His death showed how a life-threatening diagnosis can lead to secrecy or an equally strong compulsion to share. Public figures such as Dr. Oliver Sacks and Christopher Hitchens openly and vividly chronicled their battles with cancer, and Rodgers has blogged about being treated for prostate cancer. (He has been cancer free for five years, he says). But others celebrities such as Bowie, Nora Ephron and Jackie Collins managed to hide their illnesses from all but those closest to them. When Ephron died, in 2012, even good friends such as Meryl Streep didn't know she was sick until near the end. Collins published a book last summer and toured as she was fighting breast cancer,

the severity of her health kept even from her sister, actress Joan Collins.

"I just felt like she didn't need it in her life," Jackie Collins told People magazine shortly before she died, last September.

Rodgers said he never asked Bowie about his physical condition.

"I didn't want to pry," he said. "Everyone deals with their health in their own way."

Rodgers' friendship with Bowie dates back more than 30 years, when both were spending time in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. They first spoke in the early '80s, and quickly "vibed," Rodgers explained. They agreed to work on an album, with Rodgers producing new versions of such songs as "China Girl" and "Cat People." The result, the well-named "Let's Dance," came out in 1983 and became one of Bowie's biggest commercial successes. Rodgers, who co-founded Chic and has produced Madonna, Mick Jagger and many other artists, says "Let's Dance" was an easy recording that took just 17 days to complete.

"It was a real meeting of the minds," he said.

A Connecticut resident, Rodgers had returned from the West Coast last weekend when he received a call telling him Bowie was dead. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Greet the Monkey. A villager dries newly-made red lanterns in Shijing Village of Wuzhi County, central China's Henan Province, yesterday. Local villagers in recent days were busy in making red lanterns to greet the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	35-55 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

CAMBODIA Two trucks transporting Cambodian garment workers to their factory crashed yesterday, killing five of the workers and injuring 65 others, officials said. The accident occurred early Tuesday morning as one truck sped up to overtake the other but collided with it, causing the vehicles to spiral out of control, said Ma Savath, a district governor in Kampong Speu province, about 40 km southwest of the capital, Phnom Penh.



GERMANY wants to ease the rules for deporting foreign criminals in the wake of the New Year's Eve assaults in Cologne, two senior officials said. More on p14



MEXICO Actor Sean Penn tells AP he has 'nothin' to hide,' after photos published yesterday indicate Mexican agents apparently kept a very close watch on the actress who led Penn to a meeting with Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman — and may have even followed and photographed the Hollywood figures as they set out for the supposedly secret meeting.



USA Natalie Cole was remembered as a loyal friend, "the best and bossiest big sister," and a worthy successor to her famous father's legacy in a joyous and music-filled funeral highlighting her Baptist faith yesterday. The two-hour, 50-minute service at West Angeles Church of God in Christ was filled with affection for the daughter of crooner Nat King Cole, who established her Grammy-winning career before intertwining her father's musical legacy with her own in their hit "Unforgettable."