



ONLINE SHOPPING CHALLENGES RETAILERS
Running a business is getting more difficult due to the online availability of most products, some local retailers say

■ P5 MDT REPORT



FOUR MINERS RESCUED AFTER 36 DAYS TRAPPED

■ P10 CHINA



MONKS DELIVERED VIA AMAZON
Japanese families are able to go online to find a Buddhist monk to perform funerals and other rituals

■ P11 FEATURE



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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA strongly condemned the United States after a U.S. warship deliberately sailed near one of the Beijing-controlled islands in the hotly contested South China Sea to exercise freedom of navigation and challenge China's vast sea claims. *More on p9*

SINGAPORE Southeast Asia's fickle weather forced the organizers of the Singapore Open to delay the completion of the final round until today, just as Jordan Spieth was making a late charge for the title.

AP PHOTO



NIGERIA A survivor hidden in a tree says he watched Boko Haram extremists firebomb huts and heard the screams of children among people burned to death in the latest attack by Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremists.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Hong Kong: Beijing opens new chapter ■ F1

FRAUD FEARS

US colleges vet China applicants with video

■ P7



XINHUA

Zou Shiming (right) fights against Brazilian Natan Coutinho in their WBO international flyweight boxing title bout in Shanghai. The Chinese fighter promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank won the fight. Interviewed by the Times, Arum stressed the role that Macau has played to promote boxing in China.

Bob Arum: 'If Macau wants us back we would be happy to do it'

■ P3 INTERVIEW

Monetary Authority says economy to 'adjust' less in 2016

IN its Monetary and Financial Stability Review, the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) has stated that "Macau's economy would continue to adjust in 2016 but the adjustment would be 'obviously' less than 2015."

The same report states that this financial forecast is based mainly "on a less gloomy expectation of the gaming sector".

Another of the conclusions reached was that a "limited rise in the unemployment rate" could be expected. However, the labor market at large is considered "robust" and has also



Pedestrians stand in front of a supermarket, left, and a BNU bank branch, right, under a residential building in Macau

been helped by a lowering of inflationary pressures due to the fall in property prices and, consequently, the rents.

The AMCM report states, in summary, that the growth outlook would gain traction in 2016 despite the existence of some challenging risk factors, such as the contraction of internal consumption due to "extra cautious" spending behavior by residents. However, the possibility of a rise in interests rates, culminating in home mortgages becoming more expensive could threaten aggregate growth in the region.

As for the government's accounts, they should continue to perform well with a fiscal surplus recorded in 2015 at MOP346.4 billion at end-October and should sustain surpluses in 2016.

The AMCM also states that the government's diversification strategy would help to nurture long-term economic development, which would include the diversification of the tourism sector and the cultivation of target industries.

The Monetary Authority says that developments in the financial sector, namely in services exports, could make these policies consistent with the plan to transform the MSAR into a "World Centre of Tourism and Leisure" and a "Commercial and Trade Cooperation Service Platform between mainland China and Portuguese-speaking Countries." RM

Missing editors mark new setback in SAR extradition deal

NEGOTIATIONS over a legal agreement between Hong Kong and Macau that would allow the extradition of fugitives between the two Special Administrative Regions has encountered another setback over the case of missing publishers, such as Lee Bo.

An unidentified source close to the matter told the SCMP that the negotiations have been "put in an even more difficult place," following the bookseller scandal that started in October.

"Differences between the Hong Kong and Macau legal systems and the unique constitutional status of the two SARs within China meant the negotiations

were always going to be difficult," the source said. "The Lee [Bo] situation has made things even worse."

The talks, which have been in progress for two and a half years, have been subjected to a number of complications in recent months. If it can be concluded, the agreement will be the first of its kind, allowing fugitives who reside in one SAR in order to avoid punishment in the other to be returned to their place of origin.

Michael Blanchflower, a key drafter in Hong Kong's implementation of the Organized and Serious Crime Ordinance, told SCMP that the disappearances "put into question the ongoing

negotiations between Hong and Macau over mutual legal assistance."

"It also raises the specter of wanted fugitives overseas putting up an argument that they might be subject to mainland legal strictures if returned to Hong Kong," he added.

However, political activists already voiced their concerns in relation to further instances of extradition to the mainland. In September, Jason Chao pointed out that cases in which double criminality does not apply may see Hong Kong residents extradited to Beijing via Macau, even though the person in question has not committed a crime according to Macau's Basic Law.

Earlier last year, Macau's director of the Law Reform and International Law Bureau, Chu Lam Lam, confidentially told lawmakers that the extradition deal would be signed in 2015. **Staff reporter**

SURVEY

Public expects amendments to holiday pay

THE Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) published the results of a survey conducted to gauge the opinions of local residents on Labor Law amendments.

The president of FTU's executive board, Chiang Chong Sek, proposed during last week's press conference that the legislative body prioritize the amendments which provide compensation for working hours on holidays.

The survey collected 1,701 valid questionnaires, 684 of which were from men and 1,017 from women, with 91.3 percent of the respondents aged between 25 and 54. The number of interviewees that support the amendments concerning the holiday compensation is striking with 41 percent considering it their first option. "If employees are required to work on holidays, then subsidies and vacations are expected to be provided," the FTU head remarked.

Furthermore, Chiang explained to local media representatives that legislation concerning solutions to overlap holidays is still unavailable. "There are no existing laws protecting wage-earners from losing days on overlap holidays. Occasionally, festivals fall on weekends or the holidays are on the same day as the workers' day off," he said.

The statistics indicate the preferred solution to the issue of working on holidays, with 40.3 percent of the respondents believing that workers should be given one day of compensatory leave.

The report is expected to be delivered to the Legislative Assembly, according to Chiang. As he suggested, amendments to laws related to female employees and non-local labor should be made together with an amendment to enhance the mechanisms for recovering wages in arrears. **Staff reporter**

Seminar on Singapore-style business strategies

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) organized a training seminar, titled "Best Practices of Marketing, Branding and Promotion of Singapore Enterprises."

Last week's event targeted local SMEs and young entrepreneurs and focused on the successful business strategies of

Singapore. It attracted the participation of over 130 representatives from business associations, SMEs and new enterprises from different sectors.

Gloria Batalha Ung, Executive Director of IPIM, attended the event's opening ceremony and explained that IPIM is dedicated to providing a multi-dimensional

"One-Stop Service" for local and overseas investors. She also commented that Singapore has a concrete foundation in enterprise and brand development.

According to a press release issued by IPIM, a wide array of topics were discussed during the seminar, including an overview of Singapore's business and

SME development; branding strategies and the importance of branding; and successful cases of retail on e-commerce platforms. During the Q&A session, speakers invited from Singapore gave their insights on how enterprises in the island city-state utilize technology and innovation in running their businesses.

A study trip to Singapore will be organized in the second quarter of the year, constituting the second part of the enterprise training.

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BOB ARUM

'If Macau wants us back we would be happy to do it'



Bob Arum

Renato Marques

TOP Rank's founder and CEO, Bob Arum told the Times yesterday that Macau played a very important role in launching boxing in China. "Now boxing is strong and can survive without casino support but of course we would like to come back and do events in Macau that we consider the birth-place for boxing in China," he said, speaking from Shanghai, where Chinese champion Zou Shiming fought on Saturday.

Bob Arum has no doubts that the eventual return of boxing to Macau is related to the interest of the gaming operators

"To do an event in Macau you need the support of the Venetian or Studio City, with its new arena, but above all people need to look at this and say that doing a boxing event makes sense for our property, and once they say that we would be happy to do it," he concluded. Arum acknowledged that in this field Macau and Las Vegas are still very apart since in the U.S. all of the operators cooperate in promoting a boxing event independently of who is hosting it.

Still, "it would be wrong not to give a lot of credit to the Venetian and to what they accomplished," Arum noted. "None of these [bo-

xing bouts in Shanghai and Hong Kong] would have been possible without the Venetian. They gave us the opportunity to do events in China and to benefit from televised exposure and to build a fan base for boxing."

The Las Vegas-based promoter said he is very pleased with the outcome of the event held at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Centre where Zou Shiming recaptured the WBO International Flyweight Championship title.

"It was tremendous," said the promoter. "We had a very exciting crowd of more than 12,000 people and Zou Shiming was outstanding, putting on a really terrific performance."

Arum revealed himself impressed by the fact that what was only the second event held in Shanghai had generated a great deal of enthusiasm from the public. "The crowd was very into it and very loud. [It] was beautiful," the legendary promoter added.

As for the coming Hong Kong boxing event, Mr Arum said that he is "very optimistic" about selling out the 3,500-seat Convention Center venue.

He recalls that Rex Tso is "as popular in Hong Kong as Zou Shiming is in mainland China, so we expect the arena to be packed."

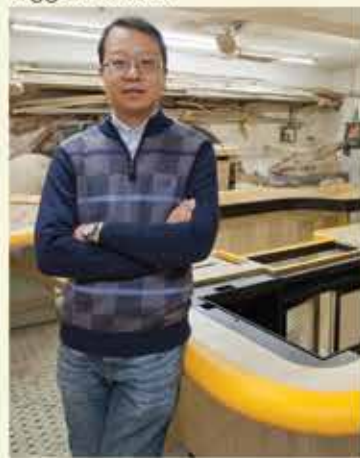
ADVERTORIAL

Wynn grows alongside local SMEs

Being a committed member of the local community, Wynn Macau and local small-and-medium-sized enterprises have grown together over the past decade, forming strong and strategic partnerships with each other. The company has also borne witness to the city's staggering development and it is a strong believer that the future can only bring even greater opportunities.

CHAN MENG KEI WYNN'S FIRST MADE-IN-MACAU GAMING TABLE

Chan Kwok Wai has been in the local gaming-table business for 10 years, a trade he inherited from his father, Chan Meng Kei, from whom the family company borrows the name, and who started the business over 30 years ago. Wynn Macau's patronage opened a new chapter in the history of this family operation, being the first foreign-funded company it had worked with. For Chan Kwok Wai the success of his business lies in the pursuit of perfection, a principle that perfectly matches Wynn Macau's core values and results in Chan Meng Kei being chosen as its local supplier. As of now, Wynn Macau is still Chan Meng Kei's biggest client.



Chan said that their years of experience in working with foreign-funded companies has made him more confident when competing in the international markets and converting challenges into opportunities.

LEI KEI A THREE-GENERATION BUSINESS

Opened in the 1950s, Lei Kei Vegetables is the product of the combined efforts of three generations. Lam Choi Chan - commonly known as Sister Choi - is the second



successor to the Lei Kei Vegetables business. Sister Choi is a big believer in persistence since first getting into the business 46 years ago. Her perseverance has sustained Lei Kei's continuous expansion. "Pressure is motivation," says Sister Choi.



Since Wynn Macau opened in 2006, Sister Choi has continuously improved the quality of her vegetables. She has also built a manufacturing facility and acquired a fleet of refrigerated delivery trucks to meet the requirements of Wynn Macau. Her efforts eventually made Lei Kei stand out and become Wynn's vegetable supplier of choice. Sister Choi emphasizes that companies must set clear development goals and that gaming operator's high standards serve as guidelines for them.

Looking ahead, Sister Choi believes that continuous learning is the key for individuals and companies alike to overcome difficulties and grasp new opportunities.

ON'S AD & MARKETING WOW THE CLIENT

João Leung, a designer for almost 20 years, is the principal of ON's Advertising & Marketing. ON's has grown from a firm of three persons into one of more than 50 people, with offices and assembly plants located in Macau, Hong Kong and Mainland China. João said he never likes doing the same work twice.

ON's Advertising & Marketing started working with Wynn Macau's team, back in 2006 for its opening. From printing brochures to building stage settings, João believes the key to client satisfaction is to avoid repetition, emphasizing that his company never earns business through low priced products because their strong suit is offering premium and creative services.



Leung smiles when he says that actually, the best-selling point of his company, is the fact that they are Wynn Macau's selected supplier for more than a decade.

Local artists adopt monkey theme for CNY

FOUR entertainment activities will be offered in the outdoor lagoon area at the Venetian Macao throughout February in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Known as "Seasons of Prosperity," the varied events will feature a mix of traditional Chinese festivities and contemporary activities.

A total of 25 local artists will each produce a monkey sculpture in support of a local art project called "Anno Simius." Collectively, the project is known as "Creative Creatures – Art and the Chinese Zodiac" and celebrates the arrival of the Year of the Monkey.

Thirteen of the sculptures will be displayed in the outdoor lagoon area of the Venetian, while the remainder of the sculptures will be on display at Sands Macao and at other popular tourist attractions in the MSAR.

Between February 2 and 22, visitors will have the chance to experience an entertainment activity involving "peach blossom decorations," and to peruse a mini model and 3D painting exhibition.



Benjamin Hodges

In addition, an event that is being described by organizers as a "3D Light and Sound Spectacular" will run from 6

p.m. until 10:30 p.m. between February 5 and 22, at 30 minute intervals.

Benjamin Hodges, who serves as assistant professor in the Department of Communication, University of Macau, is

one of the artists returning this year to take part in the "Anno Simius" project. He spoke to the press about his sculpture that will be showcased as part of the exhibition next month.

"I'm an anthropologist and often we look at monkeys as representing human nature – or as our distant relative, our cousin."

Hodges said he is a little bit nervous about the representation of monkeys in art since people have used it "to almost represent our animal side – like the savage side of human beings."

"There is a long history – a really negative history – of racial stereotypes [...] that are related to people representing people from other parts of the world as more animal than others, or more savage or non-modern," he noted.

Other artists showcased include Pat Lam, a street artist with an educational background spanning sculpture, calligraphy, modern painting and graphic design. Also set to feature is the work of Aya Lei, a local comic artist and illustrator who is active in various art scenes in Macau, Hong Kong and on the mainland. The Times award-winning editorial cartoonist, Rodrigo de Matos, will be involved in the event.

'Pearl Horizon' buyers stage new protest

A group of protesters staged a new protest yesterday after government confirmation last Friday in the Official Gazette that considers Pearl Horizon's Lot P concession as having expired as of December 25 last year.

The march started at the Polytec headquarters, ending at the Central Government Liaison Office in Macau, where a petition was delivered. The representative of the Pearl Horizon pre-sales owners revealed that people who were affected by the case "are in panic," claiming that many of the pre-sale buyers are paying high mortgages up to MOP20,000 per month to the banks without any guarantees that they will ever see the return of their units.

The government declared that the developer has failed to complete the projects during the term of their land-use agreement. The buyers are likely to continue to request that the Pearl Horizon project be completed in 2018.

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Online shopping challenges local retailers

Local retail stores have been challenged by the expansion of online shopping, which has found a large majority of its followers in younger audiences. Internet giant Alibaba, through its e-shopping platform Tmall, exceeded its 2014 sales records with sales totaling RMB 91.2 billion exclusively during last year's Singles Day. Across the border, Guangdong Province ranked first in value of purchases. As online competition intensifies, traditional stores in Macau – especially small businesses run by the self-employed – start to fade away.

Figures show that the top provinces to purchase the greatest quantity of goods on Singles Day using the Tmall websites were Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Shanghai and Sichuan.

A few street traders told local media that running a business is getting more difficult due to the online availability of most products. However, in-store shopping remains strong in Macau, with thousands of tourists visiting local malls and



A Gongbei express delivery service

many new shops opening, particularly in the casino-resorts.

Mostly located at the Zhuhai Port Plaza (Gongbei), express delivery services are on offer to enhance the on-line shopping experience. As part of this service, customers can pick up the goods that they purchased online.

Mr Chen, who has been managing a warehouse at a temporary address over the last six years, is preparing for the last days of shipments, just before couriers cease all mail deliveries in time for the Spring Festival.

"People who come from Macau have been collecting more

parcels in recent days because we are closed for the Spring Festival, and they have also been using the express mail services," said Chen, who also told the Times that Macau residents often retrieve their mail once a week, usually on weekends.

Online shoppers from Macau prefer to collect their parcels at the Zhuhai Port Plaza. Due to Macau's status as a Special Administrative Region of China, shipping costs are always more expensive when compared to Zhuhai. Most local online shoppers therefore request their goods be delivered to temporary addresses like

Chen's. "Most of the customers that I am familiar with buy clothes, shoes and car accessories, among many other things. As I said, it's very busy on weekends because they all cross the Border Gate to pick up their mail. It's hard to tell their ages. They are mostly young and middle aged, but sometimes one or two older customers come to the store," Chen responded.

When interviewed by the Times, a local lady explained that "it's very convenient to shop online, and there are many choices."

Ng, a college student, said, "I like to buy daily products online. Normally I go to Zhuhai Port Plaza to pick up the orders once every two weeks. Shopping online is convenient but at the same time inconvenient because I still need to go to Zhuhai to return them. So, I still like to do in-store shopping in Macau."

Online retailers have been dealing with large quantities of returned goods, a problem which does not originate with Macau's shoppers according to Chen. "Macau customers seldom return their items," he said. Chen also mentioned that he has few elder customers. These older people have learnt how to conduct online shopping from others. **Staff reporter**

Delta Bridge section opens to traffic

A section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge [Delta Bridge] has opened to traffic, allowing vehicles to travel in and out of Hengqin more efficiently than ever before. Li Jian, a senior engineer responsible for the construction said that the section links the north Hengqin interchange with Hongwan interchange. He added that after completion the Delta Bridge will allow travel times from Hong Kong to Zhuhai to be cut from three hours to half an hour.

Two more perish due to cold weather

It was revealed on Friday that two more people – a woman aged 79 and a 65-year-old man – perished from the cold in Macau. The unusual weather conditions were the cause behind four previous deaths induced by hypothermia. According to information released by the Health Bureau, the first victim was a woman suffering from chronic illness, followed by a 65-year-old woman who lived alone and was found by relatives in a critical state. The third casualty was a 75-year-old man and the fourth a 105-year-old woman.

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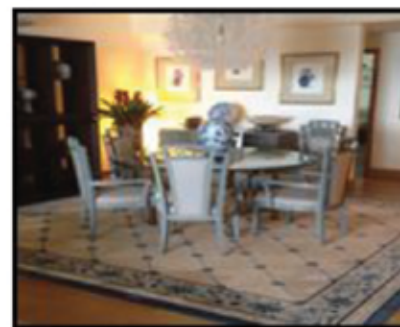
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EDUCATION

Amid fraud fears, U.S. colleges vet China applicants with video

AMERICAN colleges sorting through a record number of applications from China are increasingly turning to video interviewing services to assess students' language skills, get a feel for their personality — and weed out fraudsters.

The recorded interviews, recommended by dozens of schools, have emerged as a way to address cheating concerns highlighted by a breach that forced a cancellation last weekend of SAT exams in China.

"If you believe in all the fraudulent claims, and there certainly has been some documentation out there, then the one true equalizer is getting an unscripted interview with a limited English speaker," said Gregg Strehorn, an assistant provost at the University of Massachusetts. "That will put anyone's mind to rest."

Admissions officers are wary of fraud in applications from all countries, including the U.S., but attention has focused on China with the huge rise in applications from the country's middle class. More than 300,000 people from China studied in the U.S. last year, up from roughly 60,000 only a decade ago.

College officials and industry consultants describe a range of issues including plagiarism, purchased transcripts and surrogate test-takers. Evidence is largely anecdotal and the topic can be a delicate one for colleges, which receive a boost by enrolling international students who often pay full tuition.

"It's the kryptonite of international education," said Daniel Ghur, who has studied fraud as the director of the Illuminate Consulting Group in California.

One service provider, InitialView, was launched in Beijing in 2009 by an American couple. While many colleges have interviewed students themselves



Linda Liu, of Beijing, a freshman at Wellesley College

College Board, which oversees SAT registrations, canceled the exams at 45 testing centers in China and Macau

on the Internet, the company offers verification of student identities. InitialView conducts interviews in 14 cities across China and has begun operating in other countries. The company charges a one-time fee of \$220 and will send a recording

of the interview to as many schools as the student wants.

"The schools that use us, they just want to have integrity in their process," company founder Terry Crawford said.

A Wellesley College student, Linda Liu, said she sat for an InitialView interview at the urging of a counseling agency that helped her with college applications. Liu, 18, said the service has grown in popularity among students at her Beijing high school and she saw it as an opportunity to tell American schools more about herself.

"It's a way to show yourself, showing actually who you are, in a very direct way instead of just showing it in on paper or in essays," she said.

For colleges, the interviews offer a baseline for assessing students from a different sys-

tem for secondary education. Even as American admissions officers have visited China to recruit students and better understand local institutions they say it remains difficult to know how to weigh the significance and validity of varied transcripts and recommendations.

"It's one of those 'the more you know, the less you understand' situations," said Rick Clark, admissions director at Georgia Tech. "You cannot apply an American filter."

Georgia Tech, which now reviews interviews from non-native English speakers in any country, started with applications from China several years ago to find students who would adapt well to campus life after some professors noted a lack of classroom interaction by Chinese students, Clark said. In

practice, he said, the interviews on occasion have helped to flag potential fraud in cases where statements in an interview blatantly contradict material in a student's application file.

Scrutiny of Chinese application materials was expected to increase after the College Board, the New York-based nonprofit organization that oversees SAT registrations, canceled the exams at 45 testing centers in China and Macau last weekend over concerns that some students might have accessed copies of the exam in advance. The company wouldn't say how many students might have seen the tests, or how they did so.

Admissions officers say suspected fraud has turned up in applications from many countries. One challenge in vetting applications from China, they say, is separating out the work of the many third-party agents and consultants who promise to help students win admission to American universities.

At the University of Oregon, which recommends the interview services, admissions director Jim Rawlins said he worries more about Chinese students becoming victims themselves than about them committing fraud. When discrepancies are found in Chinese applications he said the university often suspects consultants or agents who submit fake documents, possibly without students' knowledge.

"Every now and then a student gets turned down and, when told why, is very surprised to hear what was done on their behalf," he said. **AP**

Adelson to meet with Raiders owner about NFL move to Las Vegas

Christopher Palmeri

BILLIONAIRE casino mogul Sheldon Adelson is scheduled to meet Friday with Oakland Raiders owner Mark Davis about a possible move of the American football team to Las Vegas.

Adelson, the chairman of Las Vegas Sands Corp. and one of the world's richest men, wants to build a USD1 billion stadium in Las Vegas that would be home to University of

Nevada sporting events, concerts and possibly a professional football team, according to his spokesman Ron Reese.

The stadium proposal is part of a broader call for ideas to promote travel in the state by Governor Brian Sandoval's Southern Nevada Tourism Infrastructure Committee. The committee is expected to submit a report to the governor at the end of July. A National Football League stadium

would bring more visitors to the city, filling its hotels and casinos, Reese said.

Davis, who inherited the team from his father Al in 2011, was rebuffed this month by the league's owners in his attempt to move the Raiders back to the Los Angeles area. The franchise doesn't have a lease for a home stadium for the 2016 season.

Adelson's plan would put a 65,000-seat domed stadium on 42 acres of

land north of McCarran International Airport and east of the city's famous Strip. UNLV's football team plays in the smaller Sam Boyd Stadium in Whitney, Nevada, further east of the Strip.

The new stadium could be financed with a combination of public and private money, Reese said. It could include Adelson's personal money as well as financing secured by hotel taxes, he



said. Sands and the university are working with Majestic Realty Co.'s Ed Roski, who had previously sought an NFL team for land he owns east of Los Angeles.

Brian McCarthy, a spokesman for the NFL, declined to comment.

The location of NFL franchises must be approved by team owners on a three-quarters vote. The league doesn't have a policy against locating franchises in any specific locations, nor does it have a ban on particular cities like Las Vegas. **Bloomberg**

James Bond, Adele save Sony profit in global smartphone rut

Pavel Alpeyev and Takashi Amano

SONY Corp.'s earnings got a huge helping hand from Hollywood, music and games last quarter, validating Chief Executive Officer Kazuo Hirai's shift away from its consumer hardware roots. The company's U.S. shares jumped the most in more than seven years.

As Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. reel from the twin blows of a global smartphone slump and emerging-markets uncertainty, Sony posted better-than-expected results. A 33 percent surge in net income to 120.1 billion yen (USD997 million) in the December quarter appeared to endorse its move toward gaming and entertainment; confining mobile exposure mainly to the sophisticated camera sensors it's known for.

Sony gave due credit on Friday to both the James Bond film "Spectre" and record-breaking sales of Adele's "25," which wasn't available on streaming services Spotify and Apple Music. Games, its biggest division by sales, sold more PlayStation 4 consoles and software titles to help offset a plunge in sensor orders from smartphone customers such as Apple and Samsung.

"Games, music and movies are now in a position to help out when the electronics business isn't doing well," said Yoshihiro Nakatani, a senior fund manager at Asahi Life Asset Management. "From the credit market point of view, Sony has become a solid investment."

Sony has relied on image sen-

AP PHOTO



sors to bolster profits while Hirai shifted focus away from consumer electronics such as TVs. The company kept its forecast for the highest annual profit in eight years.

Operating income for the quarter was 202.1 billion yen, 16 percent more than estimates while sales of 2.58 trillion yen surpassed the 2.53 trillion yen expected by analysts.

Sony's American depository receipts rallied 18 percent to \$23.88, their biggest jump since October 2008. The ADRs, which rose 20 percent in 2015, recovered much of this month's decline, leaving them down 3 percent this year.

While Sony kept its full-year forecasts unchanged for the whole company, including ope-

rating income of 320 billion yen, it increased projections for games on higher network sales while cutting expectations for the devices unit that produces image sensors.

Gaming operating income will be 85 billion yen, about 6 percent more than an October forecast, Sony said. Quarterly operating profit for the business was 40.2 billion yen.

It's now sharpening its focus on streaming and online game services by bringing its PlayStation hardware, software and network operations under one roof.

Sony has said it will launch PlayStation VR, a virtual reality headset, by June 30. The company's nearly 36 million-strong global base of PS4 consoles may

give it an advantage over rivals like Facebook Inc.'s Oculus, which require a high-end computer to run. Sony can also leverage two decades of experience working with game studios and already has more than 100 titles in development.

About 7 million VR headsets will be sold by the end of 2016, according to market researcher IHS Technology. By 2020, the market is expected to reach \$2.6 billion with 37 million headsets sold.

Both music and film turned in solid performances. The film division was its fastest-growing in the quarter, with revenue climbing 27 percent to 262.1 billion yen. Sony had the fourth-biggest hit at the North American box office in the

quarter with "Spectre, which grossed \$199 million, according to BoxOfficeMojo.com.

Adele's latest album, featuring the hit "Hello," helped propel music revenue 8 percent higher to 181.2 billion yen. Full-year earnings at the music division are now seen 14 percent higher than the company forecast in October.

While the new album was kept off streaming services, demand for other titles in Sony's catalog is helping revive the music industry, the company said.

"Thanks to services like Spotify and Apple Music, the music market is finally showing signs of rebounding," Chief Financial Officer Kenichiro Yoshida told reporters in Tokyo last week. "Movies is another business we expect to contribute to profit growth. We will also continue to invest in TV production."

Sony's devices unit however felt the pain of decelerating smartphone demand as markets matured and China slowed. It had a loss of 11.7 billion yen in the quarter after Sony took a 30.6 billion yen impairment on its battery business. The full-year operating income forecast for the business was cut to 39 billion yen from 121 billion yen.

"Film and music are very much hit-and-miss and profit will vary greatly depending on whether there are hits like Adele or James Bond," said Amir Anvarzadeh, a manager of Japanese equity sales at BGC Partners Inc. in Singapore. "Sony is in a very advantageous position for VR. With 37 million PS4s out there, they have a much better chance of growing this business." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

FIRST GROUP OF 49 SANDS CHINA STAFF GRADUATES AT UM

The first batch of Sands China team members graduated from the University of Macau's one-year diploma in business management last week, marking the achievement with a graduation ceremony at the university.

According to a press release, the gaming operator is the first company to work with UM to develop this unique one-year diploma programme, which features coursework tailored for Sands China team members. The Corporate-University Partnership Programme - Diploma in Business Management is an initiative of the Sands China Academy, a platform focusing on team member training and develop-



ment. Sands China sponsored 55 percent of the course fees for each student. In addition, the company supported team members' attendance in the programme having relevant departments arrange rosters according to students' class schedules. The company sponsored 49 team members for the 2014-2015 academic year, and is sponsoring another 44 currently enrolled for 2015-2016.

WYNN TO LAUNCH LOCAL SME PROGRAM

Wynn Resorts together with the Macau Chamber of Commerce (MCC) announced on Friday the launch of the Local SME Procurement Partnership Program.

The company also publicized an upcoming quarterly Business Matching Session and the commission of the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center to organize a Procurement Platform Mobile App Design Com-

petition, as well as a series of workshops tailored for local SMEs.

Interested companies are invited to participate in Mobile App Design Competition. According to the organizers, "it intends to allow local SMEs to conveniently access opportunities presented by larger corporations, foster the growth of local technology industry and entice the creativity of local youth enterprises."



ART AND WINE PAIRING AT BENE, SHERATON



Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotal Central and the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Macau collaborated to host a dinner of art and wine at the hotel's Italian restaurant Bene, in aid of the Fuhong Society of Macau on Friday. Italian artist Francesco Lietti, renowned for his paintings of city skylines, gave a live painting demonstration of scenes in Macau at the dinner.



Throughout the evening, guests savored a five-course Italian dinner prepared by the team of chefs at Bene along with fine Merlot wines. Guests had the opportunity to interact with Lietti and observe his skill in bringing city skylines to life through his art.

A silent auction featuring Lietti's paintings was held to help raise funds for the Fuhong Society of Macau.

U.S. warship enters waters claimed by China without approval



In this June 4, 2010, file photo, the USS Curtis Wilbur arrives at a naval base in Busan, South Korea

Alan Bjerga

THE Pentagon confirmed it sent a ship into waters claimed by China, calling it a "freedom of navigation" operation meant to challenge attempts by that country and others to restrict navigation in the area.

The USS Curtis Wilbur got to within 12 nautical miles (22 km) of Triton Island in the South China Sea, Defense Department spokesman Mark Wright said by e-mail Saturday.

The island, administered by China, is part of the Paracel islands chain in the South China Sea also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan. Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou ignored a rebuke from the U.S. and visited an island in the contested area earlier this week, reiterating claims to the disputed waterway.

The operation by the U.S. was intended to affirm sea rights and wasn't meant to take position on competing land sovereignty claims, Wright said.

"The United States will fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows," Wright said. "That is true in the South China Sea, as in other places around the globe."

The move on the part of the U.S. is "a deliberate provocation," Yang Yujun, China's Ministry of National Defense spokesman, said in a statement, according to the official Xinhua News Agency on Saturday.

Yang said the move was unprofessional and irresponsible, and may cause

extremely dangerous consequences, Xinhua reported.

While the U.S. has challenged China's expansive maritime claims as part of President Barack Obama's "pivot to Asia" strategy, the Pentagon emphasized Saturday it was also signaling opposition to actions by other countries vying with China.

The operation "challenged attempts by the three claimants, China, Taiwan and Vietnam, to restrict navigation rights and freedoms around the features they claim by policies that require prior permission or notification of transit within territorial seas," Wright said in the e-mail.

Vietnam respects harmless travel complying with international rules, Foreign Minister spokesman Le Hai Binh said in comments on the government website yesterday.

The U.S. has also said that all sides in various territorial disputes should avoid aggressive actions and claims.

As is customary in such operations, no other countries were notified in advance, Wright said. The movements were watched by China and not approved by the nation, Chinese foreign affairs ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in a statement, urging the U.S. to respect and abide by Chinese laws.

The passage of the USS Curtis Wilbur near Triton Island was reported earlier by the Wall Street Journal.

Bloomberg

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Celebrating MGM Employee Greatness

At MGM our team members are offered tremendous opportunities to pursue their career goals. Our employees are provided with high quality career experience, learning and development opportunities as well as industry and community activities to showcase their professionalism and inspire our team members to reach their true potential.

As a result, our employees go above and beyond to deliver great experiences to our guests, while also ensuring operational excellence; we are deeply grateful for their commitment. While we provide continuous on-the-job recognition, our *Leo Award* and *Golden Lion Award* serve as formal recognition to reward outstanding efforts and service by our staff. Since we began these awards programs, we have recognized over 11,500 team members for their extraordinary efforts, which have in turn helped us to become the successful integrated resort offering we are today.

Leo Award

The MGM Leo Awards program recognizes employees for single remarkable events where an employee has shown career greatness, be it in the form of leadership, teamwork, or contributions towards effectiveness and efficiency of operations. Such events might include reporting lost and found items, handling a difficult complaint with tact or providing suggestions for improved business. Employees are encouraged to support their teammates at any time by nominating them, with recognition happening on a regular basis.

Golden Lion Award

MGM's second awards program, the Golden Lion Award, is our most high profile which recognizes 10 employees on a monthly basis for creating great moments not only for our guests, but for our team members by being outstanding leaders, professionals and team players. Our Golden Lion Awardees are company role models who consistently inspire their colleagues and represent our core company values through action. The winners of the Golden Lion Award are presented with a prize and certificate by our CEO at the monthly Golden Lion Award Ceremony, with their photos displayed on in our *Hall of Fame* at the employee entrance throughout the month.

A few of our Golden Lion Awardees



Jennifer Chan 陳建珍
Casino Operations 賭場營運經理
Dealer 荷官

Jennifer Chan is a dealer in the Casino Operations team and has worked with MGM for three years. Jennifer was recognized for her consistently positive attitude.

"I felt very proud to have received the Award, it makes me feel appreciated by the company I work for" – Jennifer Chan

Leo Su is a casino accounting officer in the Property Accounting Office and has worked with MGM for eight years. We are grateful for Leo's work ethic and teamwork.

"Knowing that MGM recognizes my hard work makes me enjoy coming into work" – Leo Su



Leo Su 舒展騰
Property Accounting 物業會計
Casino Accounting Officer 賭場會計主任



Su Rung Hua 蘇榮華
Rooms 客房部
Valet Attendant 送貨服務員

Su Rung Hua works in Rooms as a Valet Attendant and has worked with MGM for one year and 9 months. Su was awarded for the positive energy he brings to the team through his hard work and determination, and always working with a smile.

"Working brings me great joy and I am happy to have been recognized for that" – Su Rung Hua

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China may resume U.S. beef imports in 2016, ending 12-year ban

Lydia Mulvany and Jen Skerritt

CHINA halted imports of U.S. beef in 2003 after a case of mad cow disease was found in Washington state. Ten months later, a U.S. trade official said resumption of beef trade with China "may be imminent." In 2006, the ban was lifted on some boneless beef products.

Now, an industry group is predicting that China, the world's biggest importer of U.S. agricultural goods, will open its market fully by the middle of this year.

The last issue to resolve is the procedure to track U.S. cattle, and Chinese representatives must audit the system, Philip Seng, chief executive



officer of the Denver-based U.S. Meat Export Federation, said last week in an interview

at an industry conference in San Diego.

"There's a sense of urgency to

getting this done," Seng said.

China's beef imports from 2010 to mid-2015 increased more than ten-fold as consumption climbed, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show. Countries such as Australia are boosting export sales.

China's beef consumption will continue to expand in the coming decade, and an additional 2.2 million tons will be needed by 2025, Rabobank International says. Domestic production probably will meet 80 percent of the demand, and 20 percent will be met by imports, the bank said.

In 2015, China, the biggest pork importer, consumed about 8 million tons of beef a year, according to Rabobank.

Lifting the beef ban "would

be a big deal," said Christian Mayer, a market adviser at Northstar Commodity Investments Co. in Minneapolis. "With the amount of pork they buy, if they could translate it over to beef, that would obviously be a big number."

U.S. cattle inventories have started to rebound after a prolonged drought in Texas cut the herd to the smallest in six decades. Beef production will rise 3.8 percent in 2016, the first gain since 2010, the USDA said on January 12.

Any increase in export demand would probably boost cattle prices, and the Chinese market may be "substantial," Mayer said. "It would surely give a boost to the market."

Bloomberg

Beijing seen funding half of Pakistan USD1 bn clean power push

Anindya Upadhyay

PAKISTAN expects half of the USD1 billion it's seeking for clean-energy projects this year to come from China after an agreement between the two nations aimed at helping the government in Islamabad develop its infrastructure for years to come.

Syed Aqeel Hussain Jafri, director of policy at Pakistan's Alternative Energy Development Board, said 90 percent of the money for renewable power plants will come from overseas, with China the biggest benefactor. Excluding hydro, the ambition is to add about 800 megawatts of renewables this year, double the current installed capacity.

Pakistan relies on hydroelectric units and traditional fossil-fuel plants for almost all of its 25 gigawatts of ge-

neration capacity, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Many of its 183 million people suffer routine blackouts. Last year, the two nations signed a USD45 billion program known as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to upgrade Pakistani infrastructure.

"It's easier to get Chinese financing due to CPEC so we expect China's investments to continue propelling the clean energy space in future as well," Jafri said.

The deal has bolstered investor optimism in Pakistan and has the potential to lift long-term growth, according to a report by the World Bank. The agreement would boost investment in energy, port and transportation projects across Pakistan in the next few years.

Pakistan currently has about 308 megawatts of

wind-energy capacity through six projects working in the Sindh province, according to Jafri. That may grow to 800 megawatts by year-end as eight projects in the same region get commissioned. The official said overseas development banks probably would provide much of the remainder of the funding needed.

The Quaid e Azam solar park in Punjab province will add 300 megawatts of capacity to the existing 100 megawatts by March or April, he said. Chinese firm Zonergy Co Ltd. will set up 900 megawatts in this 1-gigawatt solar park.

"Renewable energy in Pakistan has attracted maximum investments compared with all sectors at \$2 billion over the last two years, of which 90 percent has been foreign investment," Jafri said. **Bloomberg**

Authorities sentence two men to death in slaying of Tibetan monk

Gerry Shih

A Chinese court sentenced two men to death in the 2013 killing of Akong Rinpoche, a well-known religious figure who founded the first Tibetan Buddhist monastery in the West and built an international network of spiritual retreats.

Thubten Kunsal, a Tibetan man who had worked at Akong's monastery in the United Kingdom as an artist for nine years, fatally stabbed Akong, his nephew and his driver after confronting him at his home in the city of Chengdu over USD415,000 in wages he believed he was owed, according to a statement yesterday by the Chengdu People's Intermediate Court.

Thubten and another man, Ciren Banyue, were given the death penalty while a third man was sentenced to three years' prison for hiding daggers used in the killings. Thubten and Ciren said they plan-

ned to appeal, according to the court statement.

Akong's monastery Kagyu Samye Ling, which is based in southwest Scotland with branches in Europe and Africa, has denied it owed Thubten pay. It did not immediately have comment on the sentences.

Born in 1939, Akong was recognized at age 2 by a search party as a lama incarnate and entered the Dolma Lhakang monastery before fleeing to India as Chinese forces moved in to stamp out the 1959 Tibetan uprising. He moved to Britain several years later, studied at Oxford University and founded his Buddhist center in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in 1967.

The monk, who became a British citizen, maintained friendly relations with the Chinese government and frequently visited the country to look after charity projects. Akong was on a fundraising trip when he was stabbed. **AP**

4 Shandong miners rescued after 36 days underground

Natasha Khan

FOUR miners were rescued from a collapsed mine in eastern China on Friday after 36 days trapped underground, the state-owned Xinhua news agency reported.

The gypsum mine in Shandong Province collapsed on Christmas Day when 29 miners were working below ground, Xinhua said. About one thousand people have been involved in rescue efforts, complicated by falling rocks, unstable

geological structures, water outbursts and carbon monoxide leaks, according to the report.

The rescue team drilled several tunnels after the accident to locate four of the trapped workers, and have been using those to supply food and clothes, it said. The rescue was made after a 220-meter shaft was drilled through the limestone, sandstone and gypsum, Xinhua reported.

One miner died in the accident, while 11 were saved immediately after the

incident, according to the report. Thirteen people are still missing, Xinhua said.

The owner of the mine committed suicide by jumping into a flooded shaft in the early days of the rescue, Xinhua said. The county's Communist Party chief, government head and two deputy heads were fired after the incident, according to the report.

Several executives of the mine are under police investigation, Xinhua said. **Bloomberg**



Rescuers work at a collapsed mine in Pingyi County, east China's Shandong Province on Saturday

Mary Yamaguchi, Yachiyo

Monks delivered via Amazon as role of Japanese temples fade

IN Japan, where communal ties to local Buddhist temples are fading, families have in recent years been able to go online to find a Buddhist monk to perform funerals and other rituals.

But when Amazon Japan allowed a provider to offer “Obo-san bin,” or “Mr. Monk Delivery,” on its website, it shone a spotlight on the emerging trend and prompted a major Buddhist organization to criticize the Internet marketer of commercializing religion.

A basic plan for monk, transportation and a donation offered by the Tokyo-based provider, Minrevi Co., one of dozens of emerging budget companies, costs 35,000 yen (USD300). Three other options are available for more money. The monks would typically go to a home, funeral hall or a grave to perform the requested ceremony.

“Such a thing is allowed in no other country in the world. In this regard, we must say we are disappointed by an attitude toward religion by Amazon,” Akisato Saito, director of the Japan Buddhist Association, said in a statement.

Many Japanese, however, welcome the service as a consumer-friendly approach to Buddhist rituals, whose cost is often perceived as murky and overpriced. Buddhist-style memorial services offered



A laptop monitor shows “Obo-san bin,” or “Mr. Monk Delivery,” tickets which can be ordered at the “home and kitchen” section of Amazon.co.jp. in Tokyo

by temples comparable to the “monk delivery” could cost as 100,000 yen (\$830). Funerals are even more expensive and can cost well over 1 million yen (\$8,500).

Monk delivery services have emerged as many of Japan’s 75,000 temples are losing offerings and business with hereditary members in their communities which traditionally have been the main source of financial support. That is threatening the survival of many temples in rural areas. In fact, some experts predict that the majority of Japanese temples without income from tourism and other businesses are expected to close over the next several decades.

Minrevi spokesman Jumpei Masano says the service seems to attract those who want to have Buddhist funerals but are uneasy about pricing system, and want to keep their distance

from temples.

“Many people don’t have ties with temples and they have no idea where and how to arrange Buddhist rituals, while monks are increasingly concerned about their declining temple membership,” Masano said. “We can cater to the needs on both sides and hopefully we can bring them together.”

Some monks acknowledge that the growing business highlight the Buddhist temples’ complacency and their failure to reach out and adapt to the people’s needs.

“We do understand there are criticisms of us as well and we take them seriously. And we must ask ourselves if and how we can change,” said Hanyu Kakubo, public relations secretary for the Japan Buddhist Association.

When Yutaka Uematsu’s 17-year-old son Kakeru died just over a month ago after ba-

ttling cancer, he searched on the Internet for a funeral service provider.

Uematsu didn’t consider asking his father’s family temple as he had heard the prices charged for a family member’s funeral were “outrageous.”

So he and his wife went to the Minrevi website and picked for their son a package at a price less than half or even cheaper than an average, conventional service.

“Honestly, the cost was my biggest concern,” Uematsu said. “I liked its price system that was simple and clear.”

At first, he was worried about the quality of the service he might get, but that wasn’t a problem. A 24-hour customer service line was also helpful for the couple emotionally devastated by the loss of their son. While it didn’t offer counseling services, representatives could be reached regarding funeral

details at any time, helping them feel more at ease during a painful time. Uematsu also arranged the traditional 49th-day posthumous ritual for his son using the same service.

Amazon declined to comment, saying it’s only renting the space to Minrevi to promote the service, which offers only for monk delivery and a separate 20,000-yen (\$170) charge for a posthumous Buddhist title, not funeral packages.

Minrevi, whose orders for the monk delivery service has tripled over the past five years, said Internet-based inquiries and phone calls surged after it placed the service on Amazon. More surprisingly, some 100 monks came forward to register for the delivery service. The company already has contracts with 400 monks nationwide, said Masano, the spokesman.

Kaichi Watanabe, the 40-year-old monk dispatched to a memorial ceremony for the Uematsu family recently, said he had been looking ways to perform rituals to earn a living and meet more people to share Buddha’s teachings.

His elder brother had succeeded the temple founded by their grandfather, also a monk, in Fukushima prefecture, so Watanabe had to go elsewhere. About a year ago, he found Minrevi and signed a contract.

“Today, nobody comes to temples asking for us to perform funerals for their parents,” Watanabe said in an interview before the service, at which he chanted in front of an altar decorated with chrysanthemum flowers and Kakeru’s photo in a black frame. “I’m hoping that a service like this, a brainchild of the Internet age, could make Buddhist temples a more approachable place for everyone.”

“There is no point being a monk,” he said, “if we can’t offer a helping hand when someone needs us.” AP

I’m hoping that a service like this, a brainchild of the Internet age, could make Buddhist temples a more approachable place for everyone

KAICHI WATANABE
MONK

David Bowie wanted ashes scattered in Bali

ROCK legend David Bowie wanted his ashes scattered in Bali “in accordance with the Buddhist rituals,” and he left most of his estate to his two children and his widow, the supermodel Iman, according to his will filed Friday in Manhattan.

The 20-page document,

filed under his legal name David Robert Jones, said the estate was worth about USD100 million, but didn’t break down the finances.

The “Fame” singer left his SoHo home he shared with Iman to her, and half of the rest of his worth. His son Duncan Jones from a pre-

vious marriage received 25 percent and his daughter Alexandria also received 25 percent as well as his Ulster County mountain home. Bowie left \$2 million to his longtime personal assistant Corinne Schwab and left her shares he owned in a company called Opposum Inc. He left \$1

million to Marion Skene, Alexandria’s nanny.

The chameleon-like star transformed the sound — and the look — of rock with his audacious creativity and his sexually ambiguous makeup and costumes. His hits included “Space Oddity,” “Golden Years,” “Heroes” and “Let’s

Dance.” He had cancer about 18 months before he died Jan. 10. He was 69.

Bowie prepared the will in 2004. He said if cremation in the Indonesian island was “not practical” then he wanted his remains cremated and his ashes scattered there still. According to the death certificate, filed with the will, his body was cremated Jan. 12 in New Jersey. AP



David Bowie

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	Tenmasa	Premium Japanese Set Dinner	\$788 per person
	Ying	Chinese Set Menu	\$880 for two
	38 Lounge	Champagne & Choco-berries	\$288 for two*

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(open during lunch time)
Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays

ADMISSION EXAMS:
Between 18 March - 28 April, 2016

ENQUIRIES:
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E-mail : registry@ipm.edu.mo
Website : http://www.ipm.edu.mo

REQUIREMENTS:
1. Secondary school (Form 6) graduates or
According to the Higher Education Legislation of RAEM, article 28, applicants aged 25 or above on or before 1st September 2016 with specific pre-approved abilities may apply, but are required to sit for the admission exam.
2. Satisfactory medical examinations

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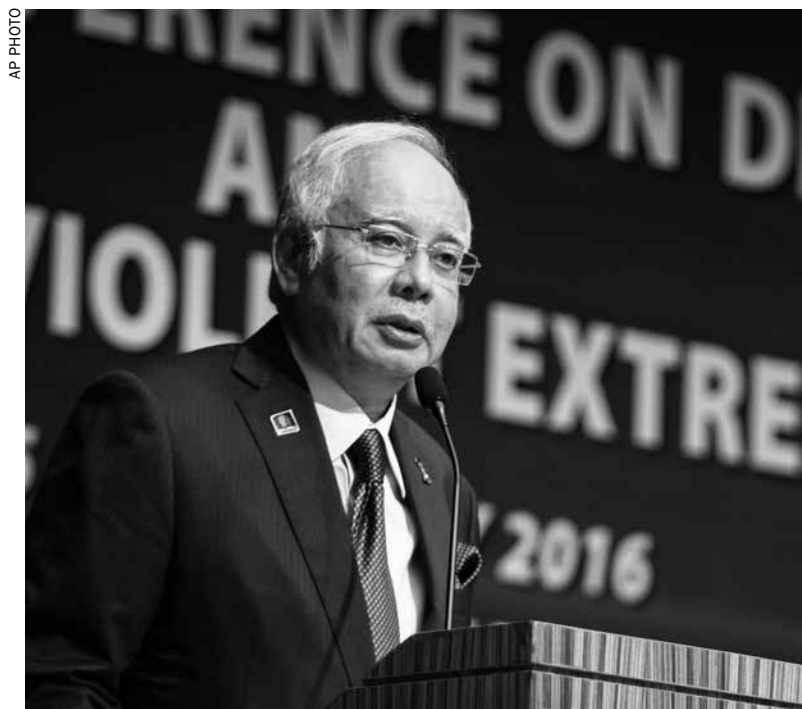
Swiss probe of Malaysia fund sees USD4bn possible misuse

SWITZERLAND'S prosecutors are seeking legal assistance from Malaysia after a probe into a government investment fund revealed "serious indications" that about USD4 billion may have been misappropriated from state companies in the Southeast Asian nation.

The Swiss Attorney-General's office said in a statement Friday that during an investigation of 1Malaysia Development Bhd., four cases involving allegations of criminal conduct and occurring between 2009 and 2013 have so far come to light. It has been ascertained a small amount of funds were transferred to Swiss accounts of former Malaysian public officials, according to the statement. The Swiss authority is seeking help from the Malaysian attorney general to determine whether funds were misappropriated.

"The monies believed to have been misappropriated would have been earmarked for investment in economic and social development projects in Malaysia," the Swiss authority said in the statement. "To date, however, the Malaysian companies concerned have made no comment on the losses they are believed to have incurred. The object of the request for mutual assistance is therefore to advise the companies and the Malaysian government of the results of the Swiss criminal proceedings, with the aim of finding out whether losses on this scale have been sustained."

1MDB, whose advisory board is headed by Prime Minister Najib Razak, has been the



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak

subject of overlapping investigations in Malaysia, as well as overseas jurisdictions including Singapore and Hong Kong amid allegations of financial irregularities.

1MDB said in a statement Saturday that it hasn't been contacted by any foreign legal authorities on any matters relating to the company.

"1MDB remains committed to fully cooperating with any lawful authority and investigation, subject to advice from the relevant domestic lawful authorities, and in accordance with in-

ternational protocols governing such matters," the company said in the statement.

Malaysia will cooperate with its Swiss counterparts and review the findings before determining a course of action, Attorney General Mohamed Apandi Alisaid in a statement Saturday. A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office said they won't be commenting on the matter.

Swiss authorities in August opened criminal proceedings against two executives of 1MDB and what it classified as "per-

Najib has maintained the funds were not used for private benefit, with USD620m later returned to the Saudi donors

sons unknown" on suspicions of bribery of foreign public officials, misconduct in public office, money laundering and criminal mismanagement. The proceedings were based on notifications of suspicious transaction reports by the Swiss financial intelligence unit MROS, the attorney-general's office said in September.

While the Swiss statement on Friday didn't identify any individuals, it named companies "in connection" to its investigation of 1MDB. The suspected cases that were discovered were "each involving a systemic course of action carried out by means of complex financial structures," according to the statement.

Genting Bhd., one of the companies mentioned by the Swiss prosecutor, declined to comment. 1MDB built an energy bu-

ness by acquiring assets from Genting and Tanjong Plc. Calls after office hours to Tanjong, another company cited in the statement, weren't answered.

While an initial Malaysian auditor general's report in July on 1MDB didn't reveal any suspicious activity, the nation's central bank had made requests for the attorney general to initiate criminal proceedings against the debt-ridden company. The Malaysian attorney general's office dismissed the central bank's requests, which alleged that 1MDB breached the Exchange Control Act.

Separately, the attorney general closed the door on a graft investigation into Najib this month, clearing him of wrongdoing over a "personal contribution" of \$681 million from Saudi Arabia's royal family, and funds from a company linked to 1MDB that appeared in his personal bank accounts. Under Malaysia's federal constitution, the decision to initiate criminal prosecution lies solely with the attorney general.

Najib has maintained the funds were not used for private benefit, with \$620 million later returned to the Saudi donors, although there hasn't been a clear explanation as to what the rest was spent on or where that money is now. Both the premier and 1MDB have consistently denied any wrongdoing. **Bloomberg**

Chinese ship with advanced sonar to search for Flight 370

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

A Chinese ship equipped with advanced sonar equipment will soon join the search for the Malaysian airliner believed to have crashed in the southern Indian Ocean almost two years ago, an official said on Friday.

The Dong Hai Jiu 101 was expected to leave Singapore yesterday to join the hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 over a 120,000-square-kilometer expanse of deep seabed by late February, Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said.

The ship brings the state-of-the-art Synthetic Aperture Sonar (SAS),

which some experts say is more accurate than standard 75 kHz side-scan sonar devices that have been used to scan most of the area searched so far.

With standard acoustic sonar, the image becomes less clear the farther a seabed object is from the equipment. But with SAS, the image remains sharp regardless of an object's distance.

Fugro Survey, the Dutch underwater survey company hired by Australia to find the Boeing 777, has defended its choice of sonar and maintains the search has been thorough.

Fugro search director Paul Kennedy has described SAS as developing

technology with some questions about its reliability. Because the search was in such a remote region, Fugro opted for established technology with ready supplies of spare parts.

The Dong Hai Jiu 101 will join two Fugro ships, Fugro Discovery and Fugro Equator, which will continue to search with standard sonar equipment. The Fugro Discovery lost its sonar unit plus 4.5 kilometers of cable at the weekend when the ship towed the equipment into an underwater volcano. The ship was headed back to the Australian port of Fremantle to collect new cable to deploy with a spare sonar unit.

A fourth ship, Havila Harmony, is equipped with a maneuverable deep-sea drone that has been fitted with a camera and high-resolution sonar for searching difficult terrain and for taking a closer look at potential clues. The drone was also recently damaged when it struck a fish net but has been repaired.

The ProSAS-60 sonar equipment aboard the Chinese ship will be operated by marine services companies Phoenix International Holdings, based in Maryland, and Seattle-based Hydrospheric Solutions. Both companies gained experience searching for Flight 370 when they operated Go Phoenix, a ship



In this March 18, 2014 file photo, students from the Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino High School walk on a mural depicting the missing Malaysia Airlines plane at their campus at Makati city

which was contracted by Malaysia to take part in the search for eight months until June last year.

More than 85,000 square kilometers of the search area have been scoured since late 2014. The Chinese ship is the first time China has agreed to share the financial cost of the search with Malaysia and Australia. Truss on Friday thanked China for the contribution.

Most of the 239 people aboard Flight 370 were Chinese.

The plane vanished on March 8, 2014, after mysteriously flying far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia to Beijing. A wing flap found in July on the other side of the Indian Ocean when it washed up on Reunion Island is the only debris recovered. **AP**

Henry Meyer

THE latest bid to end five years of war in Syria gathered some momentum as the main opposition group arrived in Geneva for United Nations-sponsored talks, after lifting its threat to boycott the peace process.

The Saudi-backed High Negotiating Committee arrived in the Swiss city on Saturday, said Khawla Mattar, spokeswoman for UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura.

"The HNC welcomes the opportunity for a political process that will end the crisis in Syria, and stop the bloodshed," it said in an e-mailed statement.

The U.S. and European countries welcomed the opposition's decision, which boosts the most serious effort so far to end the conflict after two previous failed peace conferences. The Syrian war, which has killed 250,000 people, has left Europe facing an escalated threat from terrorist attacks and a growing refugee problem.

The HNC had demanded that air strikes by Russia and government forces against insurgents end before the talks. De Mistura, who met a delegation

Syrian opposition arrives for peace talks with Assad regime



AP PHOTO
Diplomats meet for the Syria peace talks in Geneva, Switzerland

sent by Assad on Friday, said the opposition's participation was the best way to secure their demands, which also include prisoner releases and the lifting of sieges of rebel-held Syrian towns.

The peace efforts to end the conflict come as Assad's forces,

backed by Russian air power, are making progress against Islamic State militants as well as the rebel forces supported by Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations.

The UN-sponsored negotiations, which are envisaged as stretching over several months, are being held in a so-called proximity format. This will involve de Mistura shuttling between the government delegation and two opposition factions – a second opposition grouping is made up of Moscow-friendly figures.

The U.S. on Friday welcomed the decision of the HNC to attend the negotiations. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called on both sides to achieve results "in the days ahead," according to an e-mailed statement.

The conflict has forced millions to flee their homes, provoking the worst refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. It's also helped the rise of Islamic State, a militant organization with a stronghold in Syria and Iraq that has spread into regional neighbors including Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Afghanistan, and poses a growing threat further afield. The group claimed responsibility for attacks last year that brought down a Russian airliner in Egypt in October with 224 people on board

and killed 130 people in Paris in November. The U.S. and Russia, which have taken the lead in promoting the Syrian peace process, secured an agreement among major powers in November for a timetable that would see a power-sharing government by mid-2016. Elections would follow a year later after changes to the constitution. The warring sides must also agree to a nationwide cease-fire, except for offensives that target Islamic State and the al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front.

The Syrian war has left Europe facing an escalated threat from terrorist attacks

and killed 130 people in Paris in November.

It will be an achievement if the talks do actually get underway with the government and opposition, though with neither side willing to make concessions, "that does not mean its prospects of success are very high," said Dan Smith, director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. **Bloomberg**

45 KILLED IN DAMASCUS AREA BLAST

THE SYRIAN government says that the death toll from a triple explosion in a suburb of the capital of Damascus has risen to 45. A website linked to the Islamic State group said yesterday's explosions were carried out by IS supporters. The state news agency SANA said the attackers detonated a car bomb at a bus station, followed by two blasts set off by suicide bombers as rescuers rushed to the scene of the first explosion.

UN working group suggests US work on racial reconciliation

Jesse J. Holland

THE United States should consider reparations to African-American descendants of slavery, establish a national human rights commission and publicly acknowledge that the trans-Atlantic slave trade was a crime against humanity, a United Nations working group said Friday.

The U.N. Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent released its preliminary recommendations after more than a week of meetings with black Americans and others from around the country, including Baltimore, Chicago, New York City, Washington and Jackson, Mississippi.

After finishing their fact-finding mission, the working group was "extre-

mely concerned about the human rights situation of African-Americans," chair Mireille Fanon-Mendes-France of France said in the report. "The colonial history, the legacy of enslavement, racial subordination and segregation, racial terrorism and racial inequality in the U.S. remains a serious challenge as there has been no real commitment to reparations and to truth and reconciliation for people of African descent."

For example, Mendes-France compared the recent deaths of unarmed black men like Michael Brown and Eric Garner at the hands of police to the lynchings of black men in the South from the post-Civil War days through the Civil Rights era. Those deaths, and others, have inspired protests around

the country under the Black Lives Matter moniker.

"Contemporary police killings and the trauma it creates are reminiscent of the racial terror lynchings in the past," she told reporters. "Impunity for state violence has resulted in the current human rights crisis and must be addressed as a matter of urgency."

Some of the working group's members, none of whom are from the United States, said they were shocked by some of the things they found and were told.

For example, "it's very easy in the United States for African-Americans to be imprisoned, and that was very concerning," said Sabelo Gumedze of South Africa.

Federal officials say 37 percent of the state and federal prison populations

were black males in 2014. The working group suggests the U.S. implement several reforms, including reducing the use of mandatory minimum laws, ending racial profiling, ending excessive bail and banning solitary confinement.

"What stands out for me is the lack of acknowledgment of the slave trade," said Ricardo A. Sunga III, who lives in the Philippines.

The working group suggests monuments, markers and memorials be erected in the United States to facilitate dialogue, and "past injustices and crimes against African-Americans need to be addressed with reparatory justice."

The group will suggest several U.S. changes to improve human rights for



AP PHOTO
A slavery port marker sits along the shore in Portsmouth, N.H., identifying a port where slaves arrived or where ships were sent to be used in the trade

African-Americans, which also include establishing a national human rights commission, ratifying international human rights treaties, asking Congress to study slavery and its aftereffects and considering reparations.

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent was established in 2002 by the then-Commission on Human Rights, following the World Conference against Racism in 2001.

It also visited the United States in 2010, where its final report found simi-

lar problems, including blacks facing disproportionately high unemployment, lower income levels, less access to education, "problematic access to quality health-care services and the high incidence of certain health conditions, electoral disenfranchisement and structural issues in the administration of justice [in particular incarceration rates]."

The current panel will give its final findings to the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva in September. **AP**



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what's ON



"FANTASY" PAINTING EXHIBITION BY GRACE YEU
 TIME: 2pm-7pm
 UNTIL: February 13, 2016
 VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue
 ADMISSION: free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING
 TIME: 10am-6pm daily
 (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM
 TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)
 VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE
 TIME: 10am-6pm daily
 (Except Thursdays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: Macau Science Centre, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen
 ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre MOP25; Planetarium MOP60-80
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

TUTTI COLORI
 - ARTS, CRAFTS & SKETCHES EXHIBITION
 TIME: 10am-6:30pm
 UNTIL: February 18, 2016
 ADMISSION: Free
 VENUE: Calçada Da Barra, No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif. San Chak, Macau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

THE MASTERY OF SHIPBUILDING
 - FISHING JUNK MODELS BY WAN CHUN
 TIME: 10am-6pm
 (Closed on Sundays and public holidays)
 UNTIL: April 9, 2016
 VENUE: Gallery of the Historical Archives of Macau, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida N° 91 - 93, Macau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919
 ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

GROUP SAYS BRITISH PILOT KILLED BY POACHERS IN TANZANIA

Elephant poachers in Tanzania fired on a helicopter on an anti-poaching mission, killing the British pilot, a conservation group said. Roger Gower was shot on Friday while flying on a joint operation with Tanzanian wildlife authorities who were trying to track and arrest the poachers, the Friedkin Conservation Fund said in statement on its website.

"This tragic event again highlights the appalling risk and cost of protecting Tanzania's wildlife," said the Texas-based group, which oversees a number of wildlife areas in Tanzania.

Lazaro Nyalandu, a former Tanzanian minister of tourism and natural resources, wrote on Twitter that the shooting happened in Maswa wildlife reserve, near Serengeti park. Gower managed to land the helicopter despite his fatal wound from AK-47 assault rifle fire, according to Nyalandu.

"You loved our country and I knew you on many flights we took together" on wildlife missions, the former minister wrote. In a statement, Britain's Foreign Office confirmed the death of a Briton in Tanzania and said it was "providing assistance to the family at this difficult time."

Tanzania has been identified as a key hotspot for elephant poachers. The elephant population declined by 60 percent to about 40,000 since 2009, according to a census announced last year.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:50	Castle S.5
17:40	Trail of Lies (Repeat)
18:30	Contraponto (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Oepra
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

28 JAN - 04 FEB



THE 5H WAVE

ROOM 1

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



THE LAST WOMEN STANDING

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Luo Lu

Starring: Shu Qi, Eddie Peng Yuyan, Hao Leie

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 100min

THE BIG SHORT

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Adam McKay

Starring: Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Ryan Gosling

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 130min

IP MAN 3

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Wilson Yip Wai Shun

Starring: Donnie Yen, Lynn Xiong, Max Zhang

Language: Cantonese (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 110min

MACAU TOWER

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



2003 COLUMBIA SHUTTLE DISINTEGRATES KILLING SEVEN

The US space shuttle Columbia has broken up as it re-entered the Earth's atmosphere killing all seven astronauts on board.

This is the first time there has been an accident on landing in the 42 years of American space flight. President George Bush told a nation in shock: "The Columbia is lost. There are no survivors."

Six of the seven astronauts were US citizens. They were Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, David Brown, and female astronauts Laurel Clark and Indian-born Kalpana Chawla.

The seventh - fighter pilot Colonel Ilan Ramon - was Israel's first astronaut and was carrying with him a miniature Torah scroll of a Holocaust survivor. Columbia disintegrated just 16 minutes before it was due to land at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

At 0900 local time (1400 GMT) Mission Control lost all data and contact with the crew. The US space agency Nasa then sent search teams to the Dallas-Fort Worth area amid reports of "a big bang" and TV pictures showing smoke and fireballs in the sky.

In an emotional announcement, Nasa's administrator Sean O'Keefe, said: "This is indeed a tragic day for the Nasa family, for the families of the astronauts and likewise, tragic for the nation." Flags at the Kennedy Space Center have been lowered to half-mast.

Debris from the shuttle is scattered across eastern Texas and western Louisiana and has crashed into car parks, forests, backyards, a reservoir, a rooftop and a dentist's office.

Nasa has temporarily suspended shuttle flights. Shuttle program manager Ron Dittmore told a news conference in Houston, Texas, "We will not fly again until we have this understood. Somewhere along the line we missed something."

The finger of blame points to a piece of insulating foam from an external fuel tank that hit the shuttle's left wing as it took off 16 days ago.

Some experts say this could have damaged tiles that protect the craft from intense heat on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. But the lead flight director in mission control, Leroy Cain, assured journalists engineers had concluded any damage to the spacecraft was considered minor.

The shuttle was the world's first reusable space vehicle and Columbia was the oldest of a fleet of four and flew her maiden voyage in April 1981. Her sister ship Challenger exploded soon after take-off 17 years ago killing six astronauts and schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Three days later President Bush led a memorial service to the seven astronauts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. In a statement the families of the astronauts insisted the tragedy should not hamper future space programs.

An independent investigation team spent months studying data recovered from computers tracking Columbia's final moments, and thousands of pieces of recovered debris.

The final conclusions of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, published in August 2003, confirmed the view that a breach of the shuttle's heat shield on take-off caused it to break up on re-entry. But it was also highly critical of Nasa itself, saying management blunders were as much to blame as technical problems for the destruction of the shuttle.

It also said that while the space shuttle was not inherently unsafe, a number of mechanical changes should be made in order to ensure safety before flights resume.

It made 29 major recommendations aimed at both a short-term return to space and continuing exploration in the long term.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Get out there and take in a museum or a performance - your energy demands cultural exposure, and there's just no denying it this time. You may have to create your own event.

Taurus April 20-May 20
You've got a lot going on in your head today - so much so that it may get kind of confusing! Try not to read too much into the frenzy of ideas, as this is just your mind defragging itself.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
This is a bad time to hang onto old ideas - you need to look forward if you want to get anywhere. It's one of those days when you may be tempted to go it alone, but you need others by your side.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You need to deal with a service issue - it may be a utility that's out of whack, or possibly your own service to someone else is in need of maintenance. Think it through and take care of business!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your generosity is almost limitless today - and you've got the energy to back it up! Try not to dip into your retirement fund, but the more you give, the better off you'll be in the future.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You are your own drill sergeant today - and you may find that you start to resent how responsible you can be! Just tackle the important stuff and you can kick back and have fun soon.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
Philosophical meanderings are good for the soul - so your soul should be in excellent shape by the end of the day! Your mental energy is engaged with the biggest issues facing humanity.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Don't be too sure of yourself today - cockiness is a serious risk for you. Things may get a little weird later in the day when you're tempted to make a bigger play than you can really afford.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You either make a new friend or take a current friendship to a new level today - your energy is undeniable, and others are drawn to you. Romance may be in the air, but it's not your sole focus.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Nothing seems to be working out for you today - but you still believe, don't you? If not, look elsewhere for inspiration, as you need to stick it out this time. Success is almost upon you!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You are feeling the social vibe today - and you ought to be able to get your people to go along with you. It's a good time for you to throw a party or celebrate something small but wonderful.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
Your supervisor at work (or teacher at school) doesn't seem to listen today - so you may be better off keeping your opinions to yourself. This is short-lived, so take notes and get them at a better time.

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.

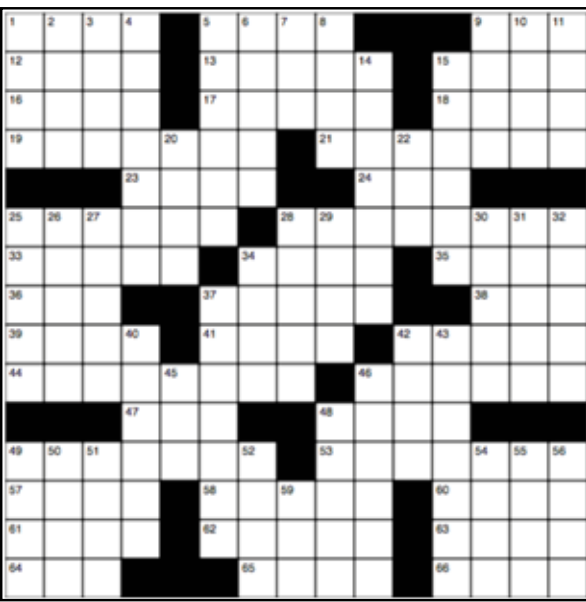
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Porn; 5- Mission control gp.; 9- Stimp's pal; 12- ___ browns; 13- As ___ resort; 15- Hawaii's state bird; 16- Prefix with present; 17- Taxi's ticker; 18- Do ___ others...; 19- Letter opener; 21- Tank; 23- Dispatched; 24- Leg, slangily; 25- Sale indicator; 28- Remove the lard; 33- Kind of alcohol; 34- Drink to excess; 35- Skedaddles; 36- HBO alternative; 37- Less bananas; 38- Got together; 39- Head of France?; 41- Feminizing suffix; 42- Chicago hub; 44- Ceylon, now; 46- Orifice of a volcano; 47- Hoopla; 48- Attendee; 49- Castings; 53- Inelastic rubber; 57- American football measure; 58- Big name in insurance; 60- Utopia; 61- Actor Kristofferson; 62- Slowpoke; 63- Chair; 64- Tricky curve; 65- Editor's note; 66- Fifth Avenue store;

DOWN: 1- Not barefoot; 2- Auntie of Broadway; 3- Annapolis inst.; 4- Parched; 5- Nominating; 6- Tip off; 7- Warmed the bench; 8- Just ___!; 9- Actress Russo; 10- ___acte (intermission); 11- Inert gas; 14- Part of a gun; 15- Spice; 20- Authenticating mark; 22- Mediterranean isl.; 25- Reposes; 26- Old anesthetic; 27- Hindu loincloth; 28- Italian lady; 29- Fencing weapon; 30- Shoot for; 31- Cubic meter; 32- Fragrant compound; 34- Liquid container; 37- Ladies of Spain; 40- African antelopes; 42- Nabisco cookie; 43- Working gear of a draft animal; 45- Make another point; 46- Blue coloring; 48- Bottled spirit; 49- Bag-shaped fish trap; 50- Crew needs; 51- "Trinity" author; 52- Cravings; 54- Notion; 55- Durable wood; 56- Tolkien tree creatures; 59- Make lace;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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John Pye, Melbourne

Djokovic wins 6th Australian title; Murray loses 5th final

NOVAK Djokovic was still walking around Melbourne Park with his trophy, celebrating his record sixth Australian title, when five-time runner-up Andy Murray was heading for the airport in a rush to reunite with his pregnant wife.

Top-ranked Djokovic maintained his perfect streak in six Australian Open finals with a 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory yesterday night, equaling Roy Emerson's record for Australian titles. Murray continued his unwanted streak, too, slumping to 0-5 in championship deciders Down Under.

"First of all I need to pay the respect to Andy," Djokovic said. "Tough match, tough luck tonight."

"You're a great champion, great friend, very committed to this sport. I'm sure in the future you're going to have many opportunities."

The 28-year-old Murray had his share of distractions in Australia. His wife, Kim, is due to have their first child in February and stayed in Britain. Kim's father, Nigel Sears, traveled to Australia as coach for Ana Ivanovic, and had to be rushed to hospital by ambulance while Murray was on court in his third-round match. Nigel Sears spent a night in a nearby hospital last weekend but was well enough to return home, which meant Murray could stay in Australia and try to refocus on winning the title.



Djokovic (right) is congratulated by Andy Murray after winning the men's singles final at the Australian Open

"It's been a tough few weeks for me away from the court," Murray said in his on-court speech, thanking his support team before turning his attention to his wife.

"You've been a legend the last two weeks. Thank you so much for all your support," he said, choking back tears and waving as he walked away from the microphone. "I'll be on the next flight home."

A little more than a half-hour later, Murray was sitting in a mandatory news conference, saying he was proud of his achievements here but was ready to get home. At 11:15 p.m. local time, Murray said he was aiming for a 1 a.m. flight — "I've been held on flights for it feels like five days. The first one out of here, I'm leaving."

Hundreds of Serbian fans,

many waving flags, gathered outside and cheered and screamed as Djokovic did an interview with the host TV broadcaster.

"I never experienced this much crowd and this much love," Djokovic said, before waving to his fans. "It's an incredible feeling especially because of the fact that I managed to make history tonight, and equal Roy Emerson's record of six Australian

Opens, that's why this trophy is even more."

Djokovic increased his career haul to 11 Grand Slam titles, including four of the last five, to join Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg at No. 5 on the all-time list.

Two-time major winner Murray, meanwhile, became only the second man to lose five finals at one major — Ivan Lendl lost five and won three U.S. Open finals in the 1980s.

Djokovic had won 10 of his previous 11 matches against Murray and was 21-9 in their career meetings — including four finals at the Australian Open.

Again, he was just too good.

Djokovic broke to take a 2-0 lead and, after he'd hit a perfectly placed drop shot, a fan yelled: "Give him a chance Novak!"

He didn't, racing to a 5-0 lead and serving out the first set in 30 minutes.

The second set contained long rallies and plenty of tension. Murray was yelling at himself and swiping his racket in anger, and Djokovic waved his racket in frustration as well.

After an exchange of breaks in the seventh and eighth games, Djokovic broke again in the 11th and closed out the set before taking an early break in the third set with a forehand winner around the post. Murray broke back in the sixth game and the set went to tiebreaker.

Djokovic took a 6-1 lead, setting up five championship points, and finished it off in 2 hours, 53 minutes, with an ace on his third match point.

He dropped to his hands and knees and kissed the court, slapping it with his right hand, and went to the stands to hug Boris Becker, his coach since 2014. AP

Kerber upsets Serena Williams to win Australian title

SERENA Williams put up both hands after sending a forehand long and high over the baseline in the first set. She wanted nothing to do with yet another unforced error in her Australian Open final against Angelique Kerber.

For the second time in as many majors, Williams fell short of equaling Steffi Graf's Open-era record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles.

No. 7-seeded Kerber had never played in a major final and had lost five of her six



Angelique Kerber

previous career meetings with Williams, but she responded with a stunning 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 upset win over the six-time Australian Open champion.

Williams had won the title every previous time she'd reached the final at Melbourne Park, and was overwhelming favorite to continue that streak against Kerber, who joked she was "one leg in the plane to Germany" when she faced match point in her first-round win over Misaki Doi. AP

Macau figure skater takes part in National Winter Games

FOR Ho Zhixuan, an amateur figure skater from Macau, finishing last at the National Winter Games is as big a triumph as winning medals.

"I'm proud of myself for having tried my best," said Ho. "I came here not for medals."

The 16-year-old Ho earned 18.77 points for the short program and 39.89 for free skate, far behind his nearest rival in the

youth group. The winner, Li Tangxu, scored 51.90 and 109.75 points respectively.

Despite his error-prone performance, Ho received a lot of applause from the stands.

"The rink is beautiful, and so many spectators were cheering for me. I really enjoy the experience," said Ho, who began to skate when he was nine years old.

There is only one indoor ice rink in Macau due to its sub-tropical climate. And Ho doesn't have the finest coaches that his peers on the Chinese mainland enjoy, but he nevertheless keeps practicing four times a week and trains for about two hours per session.

"I didn't start preparations for the National Winter Games until mid-December last year," said

Ho. "It's a little bit hasty."

Ho said that these National Winter Games have exposed the gap between him and well-trained professionals.

"I've learned a lot from my competitors. Hopefully I can execute some difficult jumps in the future as they can do," he said.

However the only representative of Macau at



A young spectator cheers at the opening ceremony of the 13th Chinese National Winter Games in Urumqi, Xinjiang

the National Winter Games has regrets as well.

"Unlike me, the other skaters all have teammates. So I feel lonely some-

times. I hope next time there will be more Macau athletes taking part in the National Winter Games," he said. Xinhua

opinion

World Views

Mark Buchanan, Bloomberg

ECONOMICS MIGHT BE VERY WRONG ABOUT GROWTH

Has the world entered a period in which economies simply won't grow at the rate they once did? Radical as the thought may seem, it might not be radical enough.

A few years ago, the economist Larry Summers stirred much debate when he suggested that the anemic growth of recent years might not be just a temporary affliction, and might have little to do with the 2008 financial crisis. Instead, he surmised, it could reflect secular stagnation - a new normal of low consumption and lagging growth stemming from accumulated household debts and rising inequality, among other factors. In different terms, considering the impacts of technological innovations, economist Robert Gordon has been arguing for much the same conclusion.

For two decades now, a lesser-known group of mostly German economists has been making a more extreme argument: that the standard model of exponential growth - in which an economy can be expected to expand by a given percent every year, no matter how big it gets - is fundamentally flawed. Rather, these economists claim that while exponential growth fits some young economies, mature economies tend, as a rule, to grow much more slowly -- in a linear way, meaning that the percentage growth rate would constantly decline.

The latter view has gained support from a new study, in which a team of European economists and statisticians looked at data on the economic development of 18 mature economies, including the U.S. and most major European nations, from 1960 to 2013 (they started at 1960 to avoid the effects of World War II). They found that the data on growth in gross domestic product per capita fit best, statistically speaking, with a linear model. For only two countries did the exponential work better, and then only barely. In other words, linear growth - in which mature economies add less new activity (in per capita, percentage terms) each year - is the empirical norm.

If the finding holds up, then today's economics may stand in need of some serious conceptual change. As the authors of the new study note, an awful lot of conventional economic analysis rests on the unquestioned assumption of exponential growth. Governments, for example, rely on it when they decide how much money they need in their social security funds, or when summing up the costs and benefits of any proposed project, including measures to mitigate climate change. If growth isn't exponential, the discounting procedures used habitually in such analyses make no sense at all, and standard economics systematically undervalues the future.

Moreover, the idea of exponential growth rests at the core of essentially all modern theories of growth - theories purporting to explain how capital, labor and technology combine to increase productivity. How valuable can such concepts be if they don't even get the basic observed pattern of growth right?

Perhaps Summers and Gordon are correct that the fast growth seen over the past couple centuries was a unique, unparalleled episode, and that future growth will be much slower. Although the new study doesn't get into the specific drivers of linear growth, it's consistent with their conclusion.

Paradoxically, a slowing trend could actually be good news, even if humans will have difficulty getting used to it. Due to explosive growth, it will soon take nearly two planet Earths to support the world population sustainably at average resource consumption levels. We don't actually have two Earths, so growth should probably slow. If it's already doing so, that may actually be a relief.

THE BUZZ WOMAN WITH PRO-INDEPENDENCE PASSPORT STICKERS BARRED

A Taiwanese woman was refused entry into Macau last week due to the fact that her passport was decorated with "Republic of Taiwan" stickers that advocate Taiwan's independence.

Apple Daily reported that the woman was then sent back to Taiwan by Macau Customs authorities.

Supporters of Taiwan's independence move-

ment launched a campaign in August which involved placing stickers on their Taiwanese passport covers to advocate the use of the "Republic of Taiwan" instead of the Republic of China. Meanwhile, the Taiwanese ministry announced its refusal to make alterations to passports. A total of 180 such cases this year have already been reported.

Press freedom report criticized for lack of local consulting



A newsstand in Beijing

In response to a report addressing the topic of world press freedoms, the Association of Portuguese and English Press in Macau (AIPIM) has issued a statement criticizing the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) for failing to consult with all associations that represent reporters in Macau before reaching a conclusion.

The report, compiled by the International Federation of Journalists, deemed press freedom in the greater China region (with the exception of Taiwan) to be on the decline.

"Press freedom in China, Hong Kong and Macau deteriorated further in 2015, as the Communist Party of China used every means at its disposal to control the

media," read the IFJ China Press Freedom report.

"Propaganda, censorship, surveillance, intimidation, detention, brutality and attacks and televised 'confessions' have become go-to tools for the government as they tighten their grip on the media and the press in 2015," the report continued.

The IFJ explained declining press freedoms by making reference to the recent case of the Hong Kong missing booksellers, which they deemed "a significant case with implications for all media."

It also forecasted the world press freedom outlook for 2016 in mainland China as "even worse."

But a statement issued by AIPIM said that it regretted the fact that the federation had not consulted all of the associations that represent journalists in Macau.

AIPIM added that they had applied to join the federation in 2011 but had not been successful. According to the association, their application is "still pending." **Staff reporter**

ONLY 1 IN 10 KILLINGS ARE INVESTIGATED

OVER THE last 25 years at least 2,297 journalists and media staff have been killed, the IFJ has revealed in the report, adding that many of those responsible for the deaths continue to act with impunity. According to the AP, the report said that only one in ten killings is investi-

gated. IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger said in an interview that "the last ten years were the most dangerous." 2006 was reported as being the worst year since the IFJ began recording the killings of reporters; a total of 155 reporters were killed that year.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

USA Hillary Clinton is holding onto a slim lead over Bernie Sanders in Iowa as Democrats prepare for today's caucuses, though an outpouring of young voters and those who say the system is rigged could enable Sanders to pull off an upset, according to a new poll.

RUSSIAN officials say a fire at a textile workshop in Moscow has killed 12 people, including three children. The Investigative Committee, the top state investigative agency, says the fire that erupted late Saturday in northeastern Moscow engulfed an area of 3,000 square meters. It says it's looking at arson as one of the possible causes.



AP PHOTO

UK Terry Wogan, whose warm Irish brogue and sly, gentle humor made him a star of British television and radio for decades, has died. He was 77. Wogan died yesterday surrounded by his loved ones "after a short but brave battle with cancer," his family said in a statement.

TURKEY A boat carrying Syrians attempting the short sea journey from Turkey to Greece struck rocks and capsized at dawn on Saturday, causing at least 37 people to drown, among them several babies and young children. Images of dead children on a beach on Saturday were another soul-searing reminder that Europe's migrant crisis keeps destroying lives and families by the day.

EGYPT At least 21 people were killed and 16 injured in a massive multi-car pile-up on a road south of Egypt's capital. The Health Ministry said in a statement that fog and excessive speed had led to the massive crash yesterday near Beni Suef, about 95 kilometers south of Cairo, keeping the road closed for three hours. Deadly traffic crashes claim over 10,000 lives annually in Egypt, where roads are poorly maintained and traffic rules often ignored.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

L.Bernardin©Marine Nationale



A team of experts are expected to make a final attempt today to salvage a cargo ship that has been adrift off the coast of France for five days before it runs aground.