



MOMS CARE FOR EXPATS
 'Moms' consultancy firm provides 'emotional and logistical support' to over 20 clients including couples who do not have their families around

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CHINA POST ACQUIRES ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND TRANSFER BUSINESS
 China Post has acquired the exchange traded fund business of Royal Bank of Scotland, giving the state-owned postal company its first foothold in Europe

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg held a rare meeting with China's propaganda chief, Liu Yunshan at a time when Chinese authorities are tightening control over their cyberspace. *More on p7*

CHINA's film authorities have suspended the license of a distributor that inflated box office figures for Hong Kong martial arts movie "Ip Man 3," according to state media.

AUSTRALIA Thousands of people have taken to the streets of Australia to call on the federal government not to send asylum seekers back to Nauru Island. The protests come following a High Court ruling last month that declared Australia's offshore detention at Nauru and Manus Island is legal.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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St Paddy's parade charms Taipa 'green houses'

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Ferry hits Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge

A ferry sailing from Hong Kong to Macau carrying 74 people on board hit the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge on Saturday. Officials have announced that nobody was injured. The boat left Hong Kong at about 8:16 a.m. and collided with a concrete pillar of the bridge 24 minutes after departure. No water breached the hull, which was carrying a total of 67 passengers and seven crew members. The dense fog that fell upon Macau throughout the weekend caused transportation to slow across the city. Reportedly, the boat was sailing through the fog with very low visibility when the incident occurred. However, the potential causes of the crash are still under investigation.

Li Gang absent from NPC because of illness



Li Gang, the director of the Liaison Office has said that he missed the recent National People's Congress (NPC) session because of an illness that has rendered him

unable to remain seated for long periods of time, Macao Daily News reported yesterday. Li Gang told reporters in a meeting that he was not seriously ill, but that he did not attend the NPC because he "can't remain sitting for too long." He said he has been traveling back and forth between the hospital and the Liaison Office during the course of the NPC. "Unfortunately, I can't go to Beijing to attend the meeting because of my physical condition. I have been paying attention to the NPC news every day, though." He added that he no longer needs time to recover from his sickness.

Health Bureau fighting influenza with free vaccines

The Health Bureau (SSM) started providing seasonal influenza vaccines to all local residents for free on Saturday. The administration of these vaccines, which have been available since the end of September 2015, has now been extended to all residents aged six months and above. The SSM explained that these measures come in acknowledgment of the fact that the number of severe flu cases recorded in 2016 has already topped the figures from 2015. From the 13 registered cases of pneumonia caused by the flu, four have required treatment in the intensive care unit due to respiratory failure. The director of SSM, Lei Chin Ion, said last week that the Bureau purchased a total of 110,000 vaccines last year and that it expects the peak of the influenza to last until April.

Consultants provide 'emotional and logistic support' to new mothers

IN response to the lack of maternity support in the city, and to enable access to comprehensive maternity education services, two mothers started a consulting service named "Moms - Macau Maternity Support" in September last year.

The initiative is led by Maria Sá da Bandeira, a child routine and sleep consultant, and Rita Amorim, a clinical psychologist. The two women came together after experiencing the lack of support from the community during their own experiences of pregnancy and child-birth.

"Moms started with our own personal experiences which is of the lack of support during pregnancy and maternity. [...] Both of us felt a great lack of support, a huge lack of support," Maria told the Times.

With both wanting to contribute to change in the community, they educated themselves by completing certificates and training courses.

"The first idea that came up was to create a pre-natal class as its core service. And from there, understanding the needs, talking to our clients and looking into our own experience, we started building our own services as well," Maria said.

Currently, "Moms" core services are pre-natal classes, psychological support during pregnancy and post-partum advice on routines and baby sleep. In addition, it has undertaken several collaborations with local residents and expatriates who have related expertise.

"We're slowly building our way up. We didn't have the expertise we needed [...] so we looked around for people who did," Maria explained.

The consulting service now has between 20 and 25 clients. Its managers say that they see a great advantage in providing "emotional and logistic support" to couples who



(Left to right) Rita Amormim, Maria Sa da Bandeira and Christian Kimont

Moms started with our own personal experience - which is [of] the lack of support during pregnancy and maternity.

MARIA SÁ DA BANDEIRA

do not have their families nearby. The primary client base is Portuguese and other expatriates.

"The majority of these people have no families around to give support. And they feel lost, [with] no information and alone, they need some support. And I think we're providing a good service for these kinds of people."

"Moms" is also set to organize a workshop on "early screening of developmental delays" on April 2.

A Portuguese education expert has been invited to attend

in honor of the first session of the new activity, "Listen, Share and Learn" which targets parents, primary caregivers, and educators. The purpose of these workshops is to encourage these people to learn, share, and ask questions on a variety of topics related to early childcare.

Moreover, the organization will launch its "Play, Share and Learn," with a talk titled "Gut Health in Children" on April 9.

"Now we have started a new activity [...] where we call mothers and babies to come and share about one specific topic that we choose. So each month is a different topic, and they share with an expert," explained Maria.

The organization believes that by educating their clients to parent in the most effective way, it will help reduce "emotional stress" in households.

Meanwhile, Rita claimed that local hospitals do not organize groups that start from the "beginning till the end" of pregnancy. Though there are talks on breastfeeding, it only caters to Chinese-speaking mothers-to-be.

Christina Kimont, a birth doula [i.e. a person trained and experienced in childbirth], who also provides services

to "Moms" clients, strongly supports breastfeeding. Kimont added that there is a definite absence of any "support network" for women who wish to breastfeed.

"I strongly believe in supporting breastfeeding. I know that's something continuing to be more valued in this culture and community here but there isn't yet the support network to help women breastfeed to the recommendations that they are being given," Christina revealed.

"So they're just being told that they should breastfeed but not being told how to maintain it. There are significant emotional and health impacts that come along with long-term breastfeeding," she added.

"Moms" also believes that the government should be involved and encourage the setting up of 'comfortable' and 'friendly' spaces for women to breastfeed.

"What we feel is important is for places in Macau to be ready to have private areas for ladies to be able to breastfeed [...] even in the public hospitals. For example in the pediatricians' [clinic], you have a very uncomfortable room," said Maria. **Staff reporter**

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Times

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Daniel Beitler

A Saint Patrick's Day parade was held yesterday outside the Taipa Houses-Museum in celebration of the Irish national day. The parade marked the first of its kind in Macau and increased local residents' awareness of the festival, which was commemorated on Friday and over the weekend in the MSAR.

The festival was well-attended by Irish and Anglophone expatriates in the MSAR and saw around 20 groups participate, including Chinese cultural performers and more traditional Irish folk music and dance.

Among these were performers from the International School of Macau, the Macau Anglican College and Mad Cherry, a band formed by students from the University of Macau. Mad Cherry performed classic rock songs to an eager audience, including covers of Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine" and Bob Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door."

In addition, there were performances by the Macau Lo Leong Sport General Association Lion Dance group, who delighted onlookers with a dragon dance and a lion dance; a group of Celtic bagpipe players known as the "Hong Kong Police Band Pipers"; and Portuguese folk dance groups wearing traditional costumes.

Irishwoman Sheila Goldsworthy, whose daughter was taking part in the TIS contribution to the parade, told the Times that there has been a "great atmosphere" throughout the St Patrick's Day festive weekend.

"The weather is very Irish today, too," Goldsworthy drolly observed, commenting on the light rain, grey clouds and strong



First Macau St Paddy's Day parade a hit

I was in Dublin where the St Patrick's Day parade had 500,000 people. What is amazing here is that the atmosphere is just as good!

CRÍONA NÍ DHÁLAIGH
LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN

winds in Taipa yesterday.

Asked whether local residents were aware of the festival, she

replied, "No, I don't think that the locals will know very much about the day – I suppose that's partly because of the language barrier."

Kelvin Tsui, another parent of a performer in the parade, was wearing a green hat traditionally associated with the festival and standing on the sidelines. "I hadn't heard of the festival," Tsui admitted, "and I'm not sure what it is about."

Also in attendance yesterday was the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Críona Ní Dhálaigh, who had attended the St Patrick's Day gala on Saturday night, which was organized by the Irish Chamber of Commerce.

"It's unbelievable!" she said of the parade. "I was in Dublin where the St Patrick's Day parade had [a turnout of] 500,000

people. What is amazing here [in Macau] is that the atmosphere is just as good!"

Asked about local awareness of the day, which is probably the most celebrated in the European nation's calendar, Ní Dhálaigh replied: "Local people weren't sure of the origins [of St Patrick's Day]... but they know it is good fun."

Today the Lord Mayor is in the HKSAR presenting the "Freedom of the City of Dublin" award to Hong Kong-based Irishman Joseph Mallin, who is the son of Michael Mallin, an Irish rebel and socialist who was considered a leader in the 1916 Easter Rising. The presentation of the award will coincide with the centennial anniversary of the armed insurrection against the British occupation.

Finally St Patrick himself arrived – or rather gaming executive Michael Clifford, who dressed as the saint – and told reporters about the history of the figure, including what he is perhaps most famous for: "Banning the snakes from Ireland."

Clifford believes that "more and more locals are becoming aware of the day."

"There are some great shows [here today], a great spirit and great happiness," he said.

As event organizers explained to the Times, a drumming group had turned up to the parade despite not being officially registered to perform as part of the festivities. The group, called DreamCast productions, had performed the previous night at the gala dinner, they told the Times, and had decided last minute yesterday to join in with the celebrations.

A member of the band, Pedro Cuevas, said: "We wanted to be a part of this event, as it is the first time and it looked like fun."

"We saw some of the groups and they are all great," added Cuevas. "They will definitely do it again next year."

UN CORRUPTION

Humanitarian worker charged in bribery scheme

A humanitarian organization officer was charged with money laundering in a United Nations bribery case that has ensnared two diplomats and Macau real estate mogul Ng Lap Seng, according to court papers unsealed last week.

Julia Vivi Wang, also known as Vivian Wang, is accused of paying USD500,000 in exchange for diplomatic positions for her late husband and another businessman and laundering the money through the sustainable development organization where she was an officer. Prosecutors say the bribe was solicited by John Ashe, a former Ge-



Ng, who pleaded not guilty, is under 24-hour security, confined to a Manhattan apartment

neral Assembly president and U.N. ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda,

and Francis Lorenzo, deputy ambassador for the Dominican Republic.

Wang made an initial court appearance at federal court in Manhattan Friday afternoon. Messages left for her attorneys and a call to her nonprofit were not immediately returned.

Federal officials say Wang worked at one nonprofit and then created a second that aimed to fund economic development in developing countries. She used bank accounts from the second organization to launder money from China through the U.S. and to an account in Trinidad, authorities said. According to court papers, Wang and her husband wanted an offi-

cial diplomatic position because "they believed that such a position would permit them to make money."

After her husband died, she used the development fund to transfer \$200,000 to a California company to pay for her husband's cemetery plot, authorities said.

Lorenzo, who pleaded guilty last week and agreed to cooperate against the other officials charged in the case, helped facilitate the transfers, according to court papers.

Federal prosecutors have said Ashe turned the world body into a "platform for profit" by accepting over \$1 million in bribes

from Ng Lap Seng and other businesspeople to pave the way for lucrative investments. Some of the bribes were paid to gain Ashe's support for the construction of a U.N.-sponsored conference center that Ng hoped to build in his hometown of Macau, prosecutors said.

Ashe, of Dobbs Ferry, New York, and Ng have each pleaded not guilty and are free on bail. Ng is under 24-hour security, confined to a Manhattan apartment.

Ashe served in the largely ceremonial post as head of the 193-nation assembly from September 2013 to September 2014. **MDT/AP**



Rui Leão



Macau's modern heritage in exhibition

Renato Marques

THE Casa Garden is the stage for an exhibition on "Modern Architecture in South China" that opened last week.

The exhibition is being organized by Docomomo Macau, a local organization headed by the architect Rui Leão, and aims to document buildings that serve as examples of Macau's modern architecture and to draw attention to the need

to preserve and protect these kinds of architecture.

A total of 38 buildings, along with information and the locations of each, are on display. The information is of value, according to Leão, in its purpose of educating people about the history and stories behind each of the properties.

"The list was much longer, about 100 properties," Leão said, "but we chose to present these 38 as examples of

an ongoing project that aims to illustrate and classify this heritage."

The head of Docomomo Macau explained, "The aim is to classify these properties to protect them. We already presented the government with a simple listing of these buildings [as a reference]. A formal proposal for classification needs to have more information and detail. We have not reached that stage yet."

Leão also mentioned, "We are looking at a spectrum of different degrees of urgency; some of these [buildings] are not at risk for the moment, but the idea is to submit them all for classification in our proposal."

The exhibition is divided into seven different sections, each one forming a proposed walking tour.

A guidebook is expected to be released soon, collating all of the information about these buildings in order "to help people decode the modernist heritage of Macau" during the recommended walks. The walking guide will be titled "Macau - Modern Architecture."

The exhibition will be on display until April 11.

MSAR, Republic of Belarus sign visa-free deal

AUTHORIZED by the central government, the Macau SAR government signed a mutually visa-free agreement with the government of the Republic of Belarus last week. The deal was inked by Sonia Chan, secretary for Administration and Justice, and Burya Viktor, the ambassador of the Republic of Belarus in Beijing.

The agreement assures that Macau residents holding valid passports or valid travel permits issued by the MSAR government will be exempted from visa requirements when entering the Republic of Belarus for a maximum stay of 30 days. The effective date will be announced later.

A total of 122 countries or regions have agreed to grant visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to the passport holders issued by the MSAR, while 13 countries have agreed to grant Macau Travel Permit holders visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to their regions.

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Participants can follow a map to find Easter eggs around the St. Lazarus neighbourhood. The Albergue SCM courtyard will also host a series of Easter workshops including egg painting etc. The event objective is promoting eye health and raise funds for "Orbis" to support their saving sight program around the world.

活動詳情 Event Details:

日期 Date: 2016.3.27 (星期日 / Sunday)

時間 Time: 2:00pm - 6:00pm

尋蛋地點 Area: 望德堂區 - 婆仔屋 St. Lazarus - Albergue SCM

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Cultivation Camp to open to the public

THE Cultivation Camp at Hac Sa Park welcomed 300 visitors during the Green Week event. The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has announced that the camp will be open to the public.

According to Leong Kun Fong – who is a representative of the Administration Committee of the IACM – the Cultivation Camp, which is also a vegetable farm, will be used for tourism-related purposes. With hopes of helping to promote tourism in Taipa and Coloane, the civic authority considers the farm to be both a suitable option for residents to spend family time while farming and a good opportunity to enhance public awareness of green environments. Leong said that “the number of visitors will be limited, so groups of visitors will be randomly selected through a draw.” The farm will be open to the public for a period of three months, during which time visitors will be able to learn how to plant and harvest a crop.

Currently, there are more than 40 parks in Macau.

“Parks should not serve only as entertainment; they should also exist for residents to study different plants and insects,” said Leong.

The Cultivation Camp covers an area of around 5,000 square meters, 60 percent of which is a planting area where lettuce, carrots, radishes and other vegetables are grown. **Staff reporter**

Picture of water cannon receives public attention

A picture of a water cannon has been gaining attention on Hong Kong websites and social media. Netizens are claiming that the cannon is the latest form of equipment purchased by the Hong Kong police in order to prevent potentially violent public riots. However, the Hong Kong police clarified that the picture has no connection with any water cannon that it might have ordered, Wen Wei Po reported.

After the events of Occupy Central back in 2014, the Hong Kong police planned to invest HKD27 million in three water cannons as the result of a bidding process that started at the end of last year and ended in February.

The aforementioned picture depicts a blue water cannon along with a caption claiming that the cannon was purchased by the



police force.

Naturally, comments followed. Internet user Ian Man said, “You don’t see

the police doing anything else that fast, only when they stand against their own people.”

Besides those criticizing the supposed purchase, other users have been pointing out that the water cannon in the picture might in fact belong to the Macau police force. Internet user Pau Ming wrote that “the cannon was on display at the anniversary ceremony of the Public Security Police Force.”

A third user, Brian Poon, indicated that “the private car seen in the background of the picture has a Hong Kong license plate.” Nonetheless, a few other users have said that the water cannon was, indeed, in Hong Kong, but only during the shipping process, with Macau set to be the final destination.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong police authority released a statement saying that it is indeed in the process of acquiring three water cannons. **Staff reporter**

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THE Commissioner of Audit, Ho Veng On, last week led a delegation from his office to the National Audit Office (NAO) in Beijing, a statement from the Commission of Audit (CA) announced.

During the meeting with Auditor General Liu Jiayi, several issues relating to enhanced support for the SAR Government to develop audit procedures were discussed, including participants' concerns about the implementation of on-site audit software updates and technical training of CA staff.

According to the same statement, at the meeting Ho Veng On highlighted the advantages of the system that has been in place since 2010, indicating that it enables public audit data to be updated, thereby increasing the efficiency and accuracy of the audit process.

The Macau official also announced his office's intention to organize a seminar for leaders and managers in order to raise awareness of the role of audits in promoting good public governance.

Ho Veng On visits National Audit Office for update on audit software

Liu Jiayi agreed with the commissioner on the role that a high-quality audit could play in the speed of the administrative reform process and the increase in government effectiveness. Liu said, "We will continue to work together on strengthening personnel training and auditing, supported by information technologies."

During the visit, Ho Veng On also met with Zheng Zhenhao, who is the head of the NAO group at the Central Committee of Discipline Inspection (CCDI), and discussed issues relating to cooperation and communication between the CA and the NAO. **RM**



Liu Jiayi (right) meets Ho Veng On

ATFPM welcomes Taiwan delegation 'to promote relations between the two sides of the strait'



THE President of the Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM), José Pereira Coutinho, met last week with a delegation from the Association of Civil Servants of the Ministry of Justice of Taiwan at the ATFPM headquarters.

According to a press statement issued by the ATFPM, the purpose of the meeting was to promote contact and relations between the two associations. The meeting also provided an opportunity to promote ideas and exchange knowledge in or-

der to improve the quality of the services offered by the ATFPM to its members and to Macau citizens in general.

Pereira Coutinho said, "During the meeting, our association found that there are many differences between the civil servants associations on both sides, including the methods for treating internal and external administrative affairs. Both associations profited from discussing several issues of mutual interest." He added that "the associa-

tions have their own characteristics and advantages, and we can always learn from exchanges with other associations to help the development of the ATFPM."

In the same statement, the ATFPM also announced that it will continue to invite delegations and visit other regions in order to learn from their experiences and improve its own services.

In mid-January, a local delegation of about 40 people representing several sectors, including

trade, social and public services, was led by the president of the ATFPM on a visit to Taiwan at the invitation of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macau.

During the three-day visit, the Macau delegation attended several events relating to the political campaigns for the presidential and legislative elections in the island.

On this occasion, the group also met with leaders of the two main parties and exchanged views with local officials. **RM**

AD



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Mark Zuckerberg's Beijing 'Smog Jog' provokes online commotion

MARK Zuckerberg's latest attempt to woo China's Facebook-deprived people may have backfired.

The Facebook Inc. founder posted a photo of himself jogging on a smoggy day in Beijing, causing a stir on social media. The picture of the 31-year-old making his way past Tiananmen Square below the iconic portrait of late Communist leader Mao Zedong resulted in more than 150,000 interactions, such as likes and comments. They spanned those ridiculing his braving the air without a mask in a city where pollution is a daily concern, to outrage over his decision to highlight the sensitive site of a violent 1989 crackdown.

Zuckerberg's interactions with the world's most populous nation have attracted wide attention, from addressing students in Mandarin in 2014 to touting a book by President Xi Jinping. But the photo touched a nerve among people for whom the plaza is linked with one of China's most controversial episodes.

"The floor you stepped has been covered by blood from students who fought for democracy. But, enjoy your running in China, Mark," a user going by

Cao Yuzhou wrote in one of the top-ranked comments on Zuckerberg's Facebook page.

Not all the comments were as virulent. Many merely poked fun at the world's eighth-richest man: among the memes making the rounds was a photo-shopped image of Zuckerberg jogging before the famous picture of a line of tanks during the crackdown. Charlene Chian, a spokeswoman for Facebook, did not respond to messages seeking comment.

"Mark, don't you see the air pollution? Stop running outside! Beijing is my home, but I'm not recommending you run outside," commented a user who went by Tan Peinong.

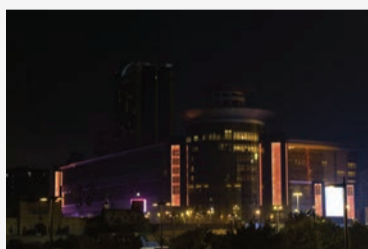
The billionaire has appeared several times in China, where the world's largest social network has been blocked by censors since 2009. The company was said to have rented office space in the capital in 2014 and has sought to build up a business selling ads.

Some defended Zuckerberg from the criticism.

"He's not cowardly sitting by a screen typing useless words but trying to change this world by working very hard," went another commenter called Hugo Wang.

corporate bits

LIGHTS OUT AT SANDS CHINA PROPERTIES TO SUPPORT EARTH HOUR 2016



All Sands China Ltd properties turned off their exterior and non-essential lights for one hour on Saturday at 8:30 p.m., joining businesses and homes around the world for Earth Hour for the eighth straight year. The global

initiative aims to raise awareness of climate change.

In the week leading up to Earth Hour, Sands China encouraged team members to participate in the global "I Will If You Will" challenge (IWIIYW) through initiatives such as adjusting thermostats and switching to LED bulbs.

According to a press release, Sands China's participation in Earth Hour is part of the ongoing environmental sustainability efforts of Sands ECO360°, the global sustainability program of Sands China's parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp.

STUDIO CITY, CITY OF DREAMS, ALTIRA ANNOUNCE EASTER FESTIVITIES

In celebration of Easter, Studio City has announced a variety of festive, family-fun entertainment for the holidays.

The Warner Bros. Fun Zone will be offering a buffet breakfast feast and interactive fun in its themed indoor play center.

According to a statement, special Easter delicacies will be served at the buffet at Spotlight, including a spread of festive chocolates and desserts, while Il Mulino will offer a range of festive Italian delights.

Meanwhile, City of Dreams will continue to run its production, "The Hou-



se of Dancing Water."

Altira is promising a festive brunch and a dinner buffet with Italian cuisine and fresh seafood at Aurora, and a feast at its Japanese restaurant Kira.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Unveils Latest Career Development Opportunity for Local Team Members

Flexible and unique programme develops local talent, offering 1,000 team members new horizontal career mobility options

Sands China Ltd. has launched My Way, a new career development programme for its team members. Focused on developing the company's local talent, the new programme supports Macao's development as a world centre of tourism and leisure and the diversification of the city's tourism industry.

The first 1,000 team members who join My Way will train to work in one of several diverse non-gaming areas, including food and beverage, security, business development, wardrobe, guest relations, housekeeping, and facilities.



The My Way programme is the latest to offer Sands China gaming team members opportunities for horizontal career mobility to non-gaming departments. It is unlike standard work transfers, in which team members apply for permanent placement after finding a suitable position. In contrast, My Way is the first career development programme of its kind in Macao to be implemented at such a large scale. It is the result of a systematic, cross-departmental effort to provide opportunities for team members – the programme encourages them to try new fields and positions for a set period of time to find the ones most suitable for paving their career paths. Team Members develop new capacities in the programme, giving them more opportunities for their future career development.

Participants in the voluntary programme will have an opportunity to take new positions at Sands China properties, including at The Parisian Macao, working in their new roles for a period of two years with a possibility to extend for another year. Team Members can return to their original gaming roles at any time or can choose to stay in their new non-gaming roles.

"Sands China is pleased to offer this latest career development opportunity for its local team members," said Antonio Ramirez, senior vice president of human resources for Sands China Ltd. "Our team members are our greatest assets, and our success would not be possible without their dedication and professionalism. This is our latest effort to invest further in them, providing new opportunities to broaden their career horizons with new skill sets, training and experience – all while supporting Macao's diversification and growth as a world centre of tourism and leisure."

Sands China Ltd. has launched My Way, its new career development programme, giving 1,000 local team members the opportunity to spend two years or more training and working in one of several non-gaming positions.

The pioneering programme is a flexible one. All participating team members have the option to return to their original positions with 30-days' notice. Team members who complete the programme choose whether to remain in their new roles or return to their original ones.

To date, around 1,200 local team members have already shown interest in My Way, with more expected as the programme moves forward.

The My Way programme is committed to developing team members and their skills. As Macao's leading integrated resort operator, Sands China offers a diversity of job opportunities across its properties, with both upward and horizontal career mobility opportunities.

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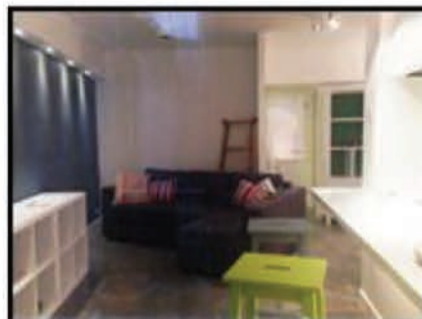
Bauhinia Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 16020562)
1,262sq. ft. HKD 10,500
Fully furnished 2 Bedroom apartment in Ocean Gardens, Taipa. 2 Bathrooms and sizeable balcony. Convenient location with quick access to Macau and Cotai. Club Facility available, pool and gym. Great value for money apartment in a quality development. Available immediately. Can also be rented 'unfurnished' with white goods included.



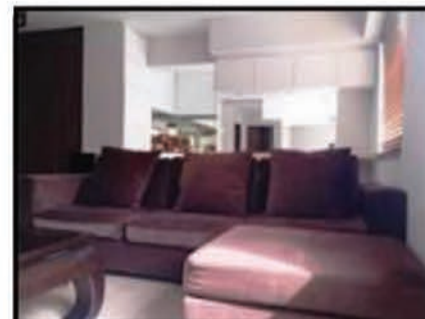
Kingsville Tower 3

(Ref: 16020566)
1,250q. ft. HKD 15,000
Great three bedroom furnished apartment. Good size master bedroom with en suite bathroom.
Galley style kitchen with small balance overlooking podium. Open plan living/dining area.
Stunning views over Cotai.



Modern Apartment Old Taipa - Nam Long

(Ref: 16020564)
820sq. ft. HKD 14,000
Newly renovated 2 bedroom apartment. 1 x Double bedroom. 1 x Box guest room with large wardrobe. Modern shower room. Open plan kitchen / living area. Renovated throughout; electric, plumbing, kitchen cabinets, bathroom, double glaze windows & A/C all new. New white goods in kitchen.



Rent Houston Court

(Ref: 15110549)
740sq. ft. HKD12,500
Sited in the heart of the village.
The apartment has a modern open plan kitchen, dining & living area, good size master bedroom with built in storage, separate walk in shower room, second bedroom has built in cabinets could be a large office or small double bedroom.



The Buckingham, Mid Floor

(Ref: 16020558)
1,350q. ft. HKD 18,000
Newly furnished apartment in Taipa's latest complex. Fully furnished inc. linens & kitchen ware. Open kitchen inc. built in Siemens appliances. Spacious living area with 3 metre L shape sofa bed. Good size balcony for two. Two bedrooms & one Bathroom.



Studio in Soi Cheong

(Ref: 16020568)
600sq. ft. HKD 8,250
Modern furnished studio apartment located in Old Taipa Village. Balcony with street views of the village. Lovely décor and furnishings.
Open style kitchen fully equipped with appliances.
Convenient location close to banks, restaurants and shops, walking distance to Cotai Strip. Available from end of April 2016



One Central, Tower 7, Unit E Macau

(Ref: 15090533)
1,300q. ft. HKD 26,000
Premier Apartment Building. Central Location. Bright & Airy. Newly furnished / Colour Palette Grey Blues, White & Yellow. Modern Fitted Kitchen galley style. Available from December 2015. Newly furnished. Excellent club facilities.



One Oasis, Tower 3, Unit B - Coloane

(Ref: 15070515)
1,286sq. ft. HKD 13,800
Furnished 2 bed apartment, 2 bathrooms with one being en suite. One Oasis offers amazing club house facilities including a indoor and outdoor swimming pool, cinema, restaurant, kids playroom and a fantastic gym. Hourly shuttle bus and main route for public transportation. Great location with Cotai Strip and ferry terminal only 10 minutes away. Located south of the Cotai Strip, One Oasis is in an area surrounded by both entertainment and Nature.

For Sale



Kam Long, Lilau Square, Macau

(Ref: 15085452)
1,100sq. ft. HKD 4.9M
Rate: HKD4,454sq ft
Originally two apartments renovated in 2004, this owner redesign the properties into a lovely 3 bedroom apartment with one spacious bathroom.
The open plan living / dining area is a great space with a large western style kitchen adjacent to the dining area. Most of the furniture items and kitchen white goods will be sold with the property if required.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



Tou Un, Tower 2 - Taipa

(Ref: 16025469)
690sq. ft. HKD 4.58M
Rate: HKD6,636sq ft
Fully furnished 2 bedroom apartment with a lovely green view.
Bright and spacious living areas. Open kitchen in a quiet location. Walking distance to Cotai strip and Central Taipa.
Easy access to the Airport and both jetfoil terminals.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Nam Ngon

(Ref: 16025468)
1545sq. ft. HKD 10.5M
Rate: HKD 6,796sq ft
Fabulous apartment renovated 5 years ago. Originally 3 bedrooms converted to 2 double bedrooms. En suite bathroom off master bedroom with another separate shower room. Modern open plan kitchen, with island feature and separate utility room.
Large living room with dining area which could be converted to a 3rd single bedroom. Great size balcony overlooking the Grand Lapa resort.



Car Park Space in Chun Leong - Taipa

(Ref: 15050514)
0sq. ft. HKD 1.8M
Car park for Sale.
Asking price : HKD1,800,000

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CHINA Post has acquired the exchange traded fund business of Royal Bank of Scotland, giving the state-owned postal company its first foothold in the European market.

RBS sold its Market Access ETF range, which has assets of 360m euros, to China Post after discussions were held with a number of interested parties including asset managers, ETF providers and private equity managers.

The terms of the deal were not disclosed but the purchase was carried out by China Post Global, the group's international fund arm, which was set up in Hong Kong last year. The RBS deal marks its first foray into Europe.

Including its postal services, China Post has assets of USD1.05tn. Its subsidiaries include insurance, banking and asset management operations.

Deborah Fuhr, co-founder of ETFGI, a London-based consultancy, said: "Chinese financial services providers are stepping up their efforts to establish ETF operations, but this is the first time that we have seen an overseas acquisition of this kind."

China Post Global plans to cross-list Market Access's existing range of 10 ETFs in Hong Kong and will also develop new Chinese equity and fixed income ETFs that will be avail-

China Post acquires Royal Bank of Scotland's ETF business



able in both Europe and Asia. It additionally intends to build China's first smart-beta ETFs,

which are a halfway house between passive and active management.

"We are aiming to be innovative," said Danny Dolan, a managing director at China Post Glo-

bal. Mr Dolan said the 10 newly acquired ETFs would be seeded with additional capital to make them more attractive to institutional investors. He added that two new sales staff have been appointed.

The annual management fees on the 10 ETFs will remain unchanged at between 50 and 70 basis points. However, improved terms for the underlying derivative contracts will reduce the overall cost on each fund by up to 40 basis points per annum.

The mainland Chinese ETF market remains at an early stage of development, with total assets of \$28.9bn. Investors withdrew a net \$5.7bn in 2015 from ETFs listed in mainland China after high levels of volatility led to the suspension of more than half the stocks listed on the Shanghai bourse.

Bank of China, China Life AMP and Huarun Yuanda all launched their first ETFs in 2015, bringing the number of mainland Chinese ETF providers up to 30, according to ETFGI. **MDT/FT Exclusive**

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Ashwini Bhatia, Dharamsala

THE prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile called yesterday for China to engage in dialogue on autonomy for his people's homeland, as tens of thousands of Tibetans around the world voted for new leaders of a government that Beijing does not recognize.

Buddhist monks in crimson robes lined up along with hundreds of Tibetan men and women in schools, government buildings and the courtyard of the Tsuglakhang Temple in India's northern city of Dharamsala, where the exiled government is based, to cast their votes for prime minister and parliament.

They started to line up early yesterday, carrying their "Green Books" — passport-size booklets that record their paid taxes and are mandatory for Tibetans to be eligible to vote.

The voters stood patiently, at times for more than an hour, as they waited for their turn to mark their choices on ballot papers printed with the images of the two prime minister candidates. Elderly Tibetans carrying walking sticks and rosaries were assisted by government officials in voting.

The ballot boxes were fashioned out of painted tin boxes with hinged lids. Separate boxes were marked in Tibetan for the election of the prime minister and for parliament.

It was the second election since the Dalai Lama stepped down as head of the government-in-exile in 2011 to focus on his role as the Tibetans' spiritual leader. Some 80,000 voters were registered, and results are expected next month.

Lobsang Sangay, the incumbent prime minister, arrived with his young daughter to cast his vote at a polling booth in a government building.

"The dialogue [with China] will be the main initiative," Lobsang, who is running for re-

Exiled Tibetans vote for government shunned by China



Exiled Tibetan monks cast their vote to elect the next prime minister and parliamentarians in Dharamsala yesterday

election against parliamentary speaker Penpa Tsering, told reporters.

"I hope Chinese President Xi Jinping in his second term in 2017 will look at the Tibetan issue and take the initiative" to hold talks with Tibetan exiles, he said.

Lobsang added, however, that the reality on the ground "is repression."

China doesn't recognize the Tibetan government-in-exile, and hasn't held any dialogue with the representatives of the Dalai Lama since 2010.

"We never recognize this so-called government-in-exile," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a regular news conference last week in Beijing. "We hope that

all countries in this world, especially those that want to maintain friendly relations with China, will not provide facilities or

We never recognize this so-called government-in-exile.

LU KANG

venues for any anti-China, separatist activities by the so-called Tibet independence forces." China says Tibet has histori-

cally been part of its territory since the mid-13th century, and the Communist Party has governed the Himalayan region since 1951. But many Tibetans say they were effectively independent for most of their history, and that the Chinese government wants to exploit their resource-rich region while crushing their cultural identity.

The Dalai Lama and his followers have been living in exile in Dharamsala since they fled Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

Both prime minister candidates support the "middle way" approach advocated by the Dalai Lama, which calls for seeking regional autonomy under Chinese rule.

Some Tibetan groups advo-

cate independence for Tibet, since little progress has been made in dialogue with China. But their representatives couldn't win enough support in the first round of voting last year to be in the running for the prime minister's post.

"There has been little discussion about the future of Tibet," said Bhuchung D. Sonam, a Tibetan writer. "For example, how the two candidates would approach the issue of Tibet in terms of talking to China."

Lobsang said he wants India's government to recognize Tibet as a core issue of its policy. New Delhi considers Tibet as part of China, though it is hosting the Tibetan exiles.

He said that Tibet has become more of an issue for India, and mentioned New Delhi's concerns over the falling water levels of the Brahmaputra River, which flows from Tibet into India, as well as plans for a railway link.

"In that sense, I think Tibet is becoming an important issue not just simply for human rights, but also from a geopolitical point of view, an environment point of view and from a climate change point of view," he said.

Exiled Tibetan officials say at least 114 monks and laypeople have set themselves on fire to protest Chinese rule over their homeland in the past five years, with most of them dying. U.S. government-backed Radio Free Asia puts the number of self-immolations at 144 since 2009.

Beijing blames the Dalai Lama and others for inciting the immolations and says it has made vast investments to develop Tibet's economy and improve quality of life. AP

Top planner promises foreign companies access to markets

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S top planner tried to reassure foreign companies they are welcome in its slowing, state-dominated economy in a speech yesterday aimed at dispelling growing anxiety Beijing is squeezing them out of promising industries.

Speaking to an audience that included executives of top global companies at a government-organ-

ized conference, Xu Shaoshi pledged to "promote two-way opening up and liberalization."

Xu promised foreign companies equal treatment with local enterprises as Beijing carries out a sweeping overhaul aimed at promoting self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption and making state companies that dominate a range of industries more competitive and efficient.

"We are ready to share these growth opportunities with you," said Xu, chairman of the Cabinet's National Reform and Development Commission.

The ruling party's plan promises to give the private sector a bigger economic role, but business groups say regulators are trying to shield Chinese rivals from competition or compel foreign companies to hand over technology in exchange for

market access.

Business groups say Beijing has yet to carry out most of the reforms promised in a separate 2013 plan that called for giving market forces a "decisive role" in the economy. They point to limits on foreign ownership in an array of industries and say in some areas such as information security technology for banks regulators are reducing or blocking market access.

"The big question is whether foreign companies will be able to access that growth," John Frisbie, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, said in an interview last week.

Companies are getting "mixed signals" from Chinese regulators, said Frisbie. "That uncertainty is weakening business confidence."

Meanwhile, Chinese leaders also are trying to restore faith in their ability as economic managers following a stock market collapse and currency turmoil. Senior officials including Premier Li Keqiang have spent the past month making an unusually prominent

series of statements that the economy is on track and trying to dispel fears Beijing might weaken its yuan to boost exports.

Yesterday, Xu announced no new initiatives but promised to make "markets more open, more efficient and more sustainable."

Reform advocates complain the ruling party is dragging its feet on carrying out promises to open more industries to private competition. The party has given itself until 2018 to show the first results from its overhaul of state industry but reformers say with growth falling steadily, they need to act faster. MDT/AP

HEILONGJIANG

Governor's false claims highlight rampant deception

A Chinese governor's rare admission of having given a misleading account about the plight of coal miners among the public about pervasive deception practiced by China's bureaucracy, with even state media calling on officials to be more truthful.

Heilongjiang Gov. Lu Hao's assertion that 80,000 miners at his province's largest mining company had been fully paid triggered an angry protest by the workers. The governor soon backtracked and pledged to pay back wages.

His candor won some applause, but it also reignited questions online and even in state media about how he could have been so easily misinformed on such an important matter.

"There's hardly any thread of authenticity these days in the reports from subordinates to their supervisors in the government, and the superiors shall by no means believe any of those reports," wrote Hua Yuxi, a Chinese blogger. "Their statistics, their work summaries, and their achievements are all fully



In this March 16 file photo, Chinese miners at the Longmay Fuli Mine change out of work clothes after a night shift in Hegang. Heilongjiang governor Lu Hao's assertion that 80,000 miners at his province's largest mining company had been fully paid triggered an angry protest by the workers

inflated."

The incident came just months after the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that officials in China's northeast admitted they had inflated economic data, apparently to meet targets and impress their superiors.

In one case, a county in Liaoning province inflated its fiscal revenue by 847 million yuan (USD131 million) for 2013, sta-

te auditors reported last year. Xinhua said local governments had cooked the books to cover up fabricated data on everything from economic growth to investments, consumption, trade, urban projects and urban incomes, before investigators and cooperating officials uncovered the scam.

"Although officials at all levels know the dangers of inflated

statistics, they feel they have no choice when they feel the pressure from performance evaluation, regional competition and promotions for themselves," Xinhua said.

Even Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has reportedly spoken of his distrust of official information. Quoted in a U.S. diplomatic cable released by Wikileaks, Li, then a provincial Communist Party secretary, described Chinese economic statistics as "man-made" and "for reference only," saying he preferred to look at raw data such as electricity consumption, bank loans and the cargo volume moved by railways.

No less than the party's flagship newspaper, the People's Daily, reported last year that local cadres in an unnamed Chinese village ordered children to drape themselves in white fertilizer bags and pretend to be a herd of sheep to please higher ranking officials on a poverty reduction inspection tour.

Then came the gaffe by Lu, who was speaking during the annual national legislature in Beijing on the challenges of orderly reducing the payrolls of

the province's largest publicly owned mining company, Longmay Mining Holding Group Co., Ltd., which has been hemorrhaging cash and cannot make timely payments to its more than 200,000 employees.

Lu claimed Longmay made sure that 80,000 miners weren't owed "even a cent." The remarks seemed aimed at showing that Longmay and the provincial leadership were meeting the central government's expectations for competently handling economic challenges.

Carried in state media, Lu's remarks infuriated Longmay miners, who said they hadn't been paid in six months. Thousands of them and their families took to the streets on March 12 to demand back pay.

The same day, Lu's office admitted his error, saying he'd been misinformed. It issued a stern warning demanding officials tell the truth in briefing provincial leaders about important information and vowed to punish those less forthcoming.

But critics are skeptical. Without the checks of a free press, local officials feel secure in passing upward false data to ensure a positive evaluation, Sun Liping, a professor at prestigious Tsinghua University, wrote on his personal microblog.

"A key is to have another feedback system, especially the press freedom," Sun wrote. The system's ability to distort or just plain delete information "actually hurts the people and hurts the country." **MDT/AP**

Beijing journalist linked to petition on president disappears

Gerry Shih

A Beijing-based journalist linked with an online petition calling for the Chinese president's resignation has been missing since he disappeared from the Beijing airport on his way to Hong Kong several days ago, his lawyer said on the weekend.

Jia Jia has not been seen since Tuesday, said the lawyer, Yan Xin, in the latest instance of a Chinese government critic vanishing without a trace.

Yan said he could not confirm that the government is holding Jia because local police and airport, airline and immigration officials have all denied knowledge of his case. But Jia's friends believe he may have unwittingly implicated himself when he warned an editor friend about the publication of an anonymous letter asking President Xi Jinping to step down.

Jia's friends believe that his disappearance is related to the petition, which surfaced briefly on the government-linked news site Wujie earlier this month during China's parliamentary session and attracted intense interest among watchers of Chinese politics.

The petition criticized Xi's handling of economic and domestic affairs and noted that more and more factions of the Communist Party oppose the president's tightening grip over speech, government bureaucracy and dissent within the party. The letter was taken down shortly after it was published, with the website saying it had been hacked.

Even though similar letters have been published before, the petition, which was signed "Loyal Communist Party Members," struck a raw nerve because there have been hints of resistance to Xi's rule within the uppermost ranks of the party, said Chinese University of Hong Kong politics expert Willy Lam.

Jia's wife has not heard any word on her husband's whereabouts, Yan said. Chinese police are required by law to notify family members of a detained person within 24 hours unless the case endangers state security. Detainees in politically sensitive cases are frequently held much longer without any official acknowledgment.

Jia has worked for news outlets in the mainland and in Hong Kong, and his past criticism of state censorship and corruption may have made him a

person of interest for government investigators.

In the early hours of March 5, Jia told a group chat in an online messaging app that he had spoken to Ouyang Hongliang, a Wujie editor, to let him know that the petition had been published on the site.

"They're handling it," Jia told the chat group, according to a screenshot seen by The Associated Press. "I bet someone will be fired."

Jia denied any involvement in the petition, according to two of his friends.

Jia is the latest critic of China's government to go missing. Several booksellers in Hong Kong disappeared in recent months after publishing salacious material about Xi and other Chinese leaders. The booksellers have resurfaced to say that they left for mainland China on their own volition, while their friends maintain they were abducted by Chinese agents but compelled to later say otherwise.

Rights groups have expressed concern about Jia's disappearance, with the Committee to Protect Journalists calling on Chinese officials to disclose if and where they are holding him. **MDT/AP**

Lawmakers urge crackdown on illegal foreigners

ACCORDING to an article published in the Global Times, National People's Congress deputy Zhu Lieyu has said that he believes China should pursue stricter punishments on foreigners that illegally enter the country, overstay or work without legal permits.

"The 'three illegals' should be listed as a crime and should attract stricter punishment," Zhu said, as cited by the Global Times. "Some of these foreigners have occasionally caused trouble in civil society."

Under the current exit and entry regulations, those who violate the 'three illegals' can face an administrative detention of up to 15 days and a fine that can reach 20,000 yuan if the individual has been found working illegally.

The proposal is likely to affect China's southern province of Guangdong, where many internal Chinese migrants and foreigners choose to settle. Guangzhou itself boasts the largest population of African immigrants in Asia, estimated to exceed 200,000.

Liu Guofu, an expert of immigration law at the Beijing Institute of Technology told the tabloid that working visas should be issued to foreigners involved in low-wage jobs on a quota basis.

"The problem of the 'three illegals,' which has not been solved for a long time, shows that there is a demand for such a low-cost labor force in China," he said, though admitted that stricter punishment was still needed. **DB**

Hackers stalked Bangladesh bank for two weeks before big heist



HACKERS who stole USD101 million from Bangladesh's central bank stalked its computer systems for almost two weeks beforehand, according to an interim investigation report seen by Bloomberg.

Prepared for Bangladesh Bank by cyber security firms FireEye Inc. and World Informatix, the assessment offers a tantalizing glimpse into how cyber criminals can use banks' own systems against them. The cyber companies say the thieves deployed malware on servers housed at the central bank to make payments seem genuine.

The report cast the unidentified hackers as a sophisticated group who sought to cover their tracks by deleting computer logs as they went. Before making transfers they sneaked through the network, inserting software that would allow re-entry.

It's the sort of thorough operation often mounted by nation-state hackers, according to the report, but FireEye's intelligence unit believes the group, which it has been tracking for some time, is criminal. "These threat actors appear to be financially motivated, and well organized," the report said.

The heist, which saw payments processed through the bank's accounts at the U.S. Federal Reserve and money moved to the Philippines and Sri Lanka, was part of a bigger attempt to steal nearly \$1 billion in total from the central bank. It exposed weaknesses in systems, sparked a dispute between

■ **The report cast the unidentified hackers as a sophisticated group who sought to cover their tracks by deleting computer logs as they went**

Bangladesh's central bank and its finance ministry and cost the central bank governor, Atiur Rahman, his job less than five months before he planned to retire.

The hackers sent \$81 million from Bangladesh Bank's account in New York to the Philippines, and another \$20 million to Sri Lanka. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York blocked transactions worth another \$850 million. A bank in Sri Lanka stopped and returned the cash, while the money in the Philippines is still missing, leading to a Senate probe that is riveting the nation.

"Malware was specifically designed for a targeted attack on Bangladesh Bank to operate on SWIFT Alliance Access servers," the interim report said. Those servers are operated by the bank but run the SWIFT interface, and the report

makes it clear the breach stretches into other parts of the bank's network as well. "The security breach of the SWIFT environment is part of a much larger breach that is currently under investigation."

SWIFT is a member-owned cooperative that provides international codes to facilitate payments between banks globally. It can't comment on the investigation, according to Charlie Booth from Brunswick Group, a corporate advisory firm that represents SWIFT.

"We reiterate that the SWIFT network itself was not breached," Booth said in an e-mail. "There is a full investigation underway, on what appears to be a specific and targeted attack on the victim's local systems." SWIFT said last week its "core messaging services were not impacted by the issue and continued to work as normal."

Dedicated servers running the SWIFT system are located in the back office of the Accounts and Budgeting Department of Bangladesh Bank. They are connected with three terminals for payment communications.

Patrick Neighorn, a spokesman for FireEye, declined to comment on the report or the investigation. An e-mail to Rakesh Asthana, managing director of World Informatix, wasn't immediately returned. A call to the company's office wasn't answered. Subhankar Saha, spokesman for Bangladesh Bank, said he's not aware of the report.

The assessment found the first suspicious log-in came on Jan. 24 and lasted less than a minute. On Jan. 29, attackers installed "SysMon in SWIFTLIVE" in what was interpreted as reconnaissance activity, and appeared to operate exclusively with "local administrator accounts."

Operator logs showed the hackers logged in for short periods of time until Feb. 6, according to the report. The four transfers that went to the Philippines occurred on Feb. 4. The report said the hackers have already hit other FireEye clients, though it's unclear if those include other central banks.

As of March 16, the FireEye team was about half-way through the examination of the central bank's computer network.

"Complex malwares have been identified with advanced features of command & control communication, harvesting of credentials and to securely erase all traces of activity after accomplishing its task," the report said. It identified 32 "compromised assets" that "were used for reconnaissance and to gain control of the SWIFT servers and related assets." **Bloomberg**

INDONESIA

Three more suspected militants killed

INDONESIAN security forces have killed three more suspected militants linked to the country's most wanted Islamic radical, police have said.

Central Sulawesi police chief Brig. Gen. Rudy Sufahriadi said two men were fatally shot in a clash last week near Siliwanga village in Poso district. He said a body believed to be another militant killed in an earlier clash was also discovered in a river.

The deaths brought to five the number militants killed this week as security forces including elite army troops intensify their operations in Sulawesi against Indonesia's most wanted militant, Abu Wardah Santoso, who leads the East Indonesia Mujahidin network that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

Last week police killed two suspected Chinese Uighur militants who were also believed to be linked to the group, which is thought to be hiding in Poso, a mountainous district considered Indonesia's terrorist hotbed. Police believe four other foreigners are still with the group.

Authorities believe some ethnic minority Uighurs have entered Indonesia to join forces with local militants at the urging of Santoso, who has claimed responsibility for the killings of several police officers.

Last July, an Indonesian court sentenced four Uighurs, arrested in September 2014 in Central Sulawesi, to six years in prison for conspiring with militants from Santoso's network. Another suspected Uighur militant who was allegedly preparing to be a suicide bomber was arrested in December near Jakarta, the capital.

Sufahriadi said security forces are guarding some areas of Poso to try to prevent members of the network from escaping. **AP**

THE PHILIPPINES

Airliner with 254 aboard makes emergency landing

A Philippine Airlines plane carrying more than 250 people made a safe emergency landing in Manila on Saturday shortly after takeoff on a domestic flight due to suspected smoke in the cockpit, an official said.

The Airbus A340 aircraft was airborne for 10 minutes when its pilot declared an emergency and requested to land back in Manila, said Eric Apolonio of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

The plane landed safely and there were no injuries among the 254 people aboard, Apolonio said. After the passengers disembarked, Manila airport firefighters began checking the aircraft.

It was not immediately clear what went wrong with Flight PR 1857, which had 13 crew members and 241 passengers and was bound for central Cebu province, about an hour by air from Manila.

A Filipino journalist onboard, Nestor Abremate, said he and other passengers smelled smoke after takeoff but did not see any in the cabin, adding that many got scared but did not panic when the pilot announced that the plane would head back to the Manila airport for safety reasons.

Apolonio said the passengers were to be flown to Cebu later in another aircraft. **AP**

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Death toll climbs from airstrikes on IS-held Syrian city

THE death toll from purported Russian airstrikes on the IS-held city of Raqqa in the past 24 hours has climbed to at least 55, mostly civilians, Syrian opposition activists and the Islamic State group said yesterday.

The extremist group has controlled the city in northern Syria since 2013 and considers it the capital of its self-styled caliphate. It has recently become the focus of more intensified airstrikes. A Kurdish-led force supported by the U.S. and Russia has said that it is planning to liberate the city in the next months.

The alliance, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, has had success fighting against IS in northern Syria, and expelled its militants from their stronghold in Hassakeh — the town of Shaddadeh — last month.

Intensified airstrikes on Raqqa were ongoing yesterday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which documents the conflict through activists on the ground, said 55 people have been killed, including 13 children and a pregnant woman, in what it said were Russian airstrikes that hit residential areas over the past 24 hours.

The anti-Islamic State activist group Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently also said the airstrikes were by Russian warplanes and put the number of deaths at 60.

The IS-affiliated news agency



A child visits an injured man at the Imam Ali Hospital in Baghdad, on February 29

Amaq said 43 were killed and 60 wounded. It released a video that purports to show the “massacre committed by Russian aircraft in one of Raqqa’s most congested streets.” The video shows what appears to be dead babies as well as bombed

out buildings, burning cars and other wreckage.

The activist groups on the weekend said the air raids struck near the national hospital, a former army base and other neighborhoods.

Russia has been conducting

air raids in Syria since Sept. 30. Moscow began drawing down its military presence in Syria over the past week after President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial pullout of Russian aircraft and forces in support of indirect peace talks in Geneva.

Last week Putin said Moscow would keep enough forces in Syria to continue the fight against the Islamic State group, the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front and other extremist organizations.

The Islamic State group is not included in the truce that was brokered by Russia and the U.S. and went into effect on Feb. 27, leading to a drop of violence in Syria.

The air raids come at a time when IS has lost large swaths of territory in northern Syria, including in Raqqa province, in battles with the Syrian Democratic Forces.

To the south, Syrian troops are on the offensive in an attempt to capture the ancient town of Palmyra, which has been under IS control since May.

Opposition activists reported heavy airstrikes yesterday on the town that is home to some of the world’s most precious archaeological sites. Several of those sites have already been damaged or destroyed by the extremists.

Syria’s five-year civil war has killed more than 250,000 and displaced half the country’s population. **MDT/AP**

Lights out: Cities worldwide mark the 10th annual Earth Hour

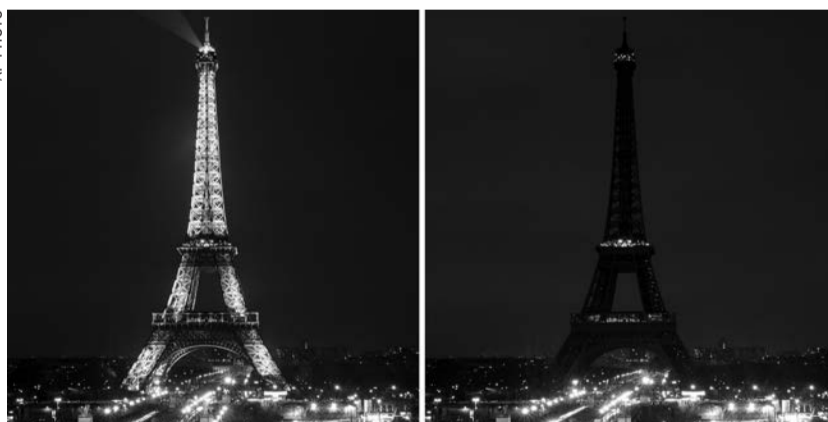
CITIES around the world turned out the lights Saturday evening to mark the 10th annual Earth Hour, a global movement dedicated to protecting the planet and highlighting the effects of climate change.

As night came on, the lights went out in cities from South Korea to the United States in what the World Wildlife Fund describes as a moment of solidarity for climate action. The group sponsors the event and says people in 178 countries and territories had planned to participate.

Lights went out for the hourlong event in Beijing, Moscow, Beirut, Cairo, Athens, Rome, and Paris. The lights atop the Empire State Building in New York were dimmed, and some billboards in Times Square also went dark.

In Seoul, the glass-covered City Hall was among several public buildings where officials switched off the lights inside and out. Lights illuminating landmarks such as the massive COEX shopping mall, the city’s main railway station and several bridges on the Han River were all either turned off or dimmed.

In Beijing, Chinese actress Li Bingbing showed up at the iconic Temple



This combination photo shows the Eiffel Tower before and after its lights were turned off to mark Earth Hour in Paris on Saturday

of Confucius, which was shut dark for an hour while municipal government officials announced that the city’s energy conservation slogan would be “Consume less, consume wisely.”

The Taipei 101 skyscraper was among the buildings to go dark in Taiwan’s capital.

Philippine officials in metropolitan Manila led hundreds of environmental activists, students and movie and TV celebrities in switching off lights at the Quezon Memorial Circle in suburban Quezon city. Amid the darkness, some partici-

pants pedaled bamboo bikes attached to small energy generators to power LED lights and illuminate a giant Philippine map to symbolize the country’s yearning to shift to renewable energy sources, organizers said.

The first Earth Hour event was held on March 31, 2007, when the WWF conservation group inspired people in Sydney to turn out the lights for an hour. Since then, the WWF-organized event has expanded to thousands of cities and towns around the world and has been held every March. **AP**

Turkish politician stirs controversy with anti-Israeli tweet

Suzan Fraser, Ian Deitch

ATurkish official linked to the party founded by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stirred up controversy after posting on Twitter that she wished for the death of more Israelis caught up in Saturday’s suicide bombing on Istanbul’s main pedestrian shopping street that killed five people, including two people with dual Israeli-U.S. citizenship.

Irem Aktas, an official at a local office of the Justice Development Party (AKP), wrote. “I wish the Israeli citizens were not wounded but had all died.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who gave the news that two Israelis had been killed and that there might be a third fatality, said his government had con-

tacted the Turkish government, which gave assurances that action would be taken against the official. Turkish officials said at least six Israelis were wounded in the attack.

Speaking to reporters after an emergency meeting in Jerusalem, Netanyahu said: “I demanded it be removed and that steps be taken against the woman who published it. The tweet was removed.”

Turkish media said Aktas would be expelled from the ruling party.

Hatice Yucel, the chairman of the AKP women’s branch in Istanbul’s Eyup district, tweeted that the opinion shared on social media certainly does not reflect the party’s views and expressed condolences to the victims of the attack, Daily Sabah reported. **AP**

what's ON



MOIST AND SALTY – GALO FANZINE PHOTO EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: May 1, 2016

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, at the intersection of Av. Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

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

NEW ART PEOPLE PROJECT 2016 POP UP SHOP FOR SOMETHING-SI-WAI'S CLOTHING EXPERIMENT EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 27, 2016

VENUE: No Cruzamento da Avenida do Coronel

Mesquita com a Avenida Almirante Lacerda Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY – PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDERLOT

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 19, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

ROMANIA: COURT AFFIRMS PRISON TERM FOR CHICKEN BRIBES

A court has upheld the prison sentence of a former Romanian lawmaker known as “the chicken baron” who was convicted of bribing voters with 60 tons of packaged, ready-to-fry meat.

The top court of appeal rejected the appeal of Florin Popescu, who went on trial in 2014, a court official said last week, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Popescu bought 60 tons of chicken for 485,000 lei (USD120,000) for his campaign for another term as local council chairman in June 2012 elections. He protested he had not even eaten “a chicken wing.”

Popescu later won a Parliament seat, but resigned on March 2.

It's not unusual for Romanian politicians to hand out oil and flour to voters in rural areas.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:45	Trail of Lies (Repeat)
18:35	Contraponto (Repeated)
19:35	Soap Oepra
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

17 MAR - 23 MAR



KUNG FU PANDA 3_

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm

(3D) 5.45 pm

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 95min

GODS OF EGYPT_

ROOM 1

9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Robert Schwentke

Starring: Shailene Woodley, Theo James,

Jeff Daniels, Naomi Watts

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

THE TAG ALONG_

ROOM 3

2.15, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Wei-hao Cheng

Starring: Wei Ning Hsu, River Huang, Yin-Shang Liu

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 93min

LONDON HAS FALLING_

ROOM 3

4.00, 7.30 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

MACAU TOWER

03 MAR - 23 MAR

GODS OF EGYPT_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Brenton Thwaites, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

Gerard Butler

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

this day in history



1963 TRAIN DRIVES ITSELF

The first automatic train on the London underground could be hurtling into stations in three weeks, the government has revealed.

The trains, which operate without a driver, are currently undergoing a series of trials commissioned by the Ministry of Transport before passengers are allowed on board.

But the public has the chance to glimpse the trains today, which have cost £60,000 to test, as they are demonstrated in South Ealing, west London, by the London Transport Board.

If these final tests are successful the trains could be fully operational over a section of the district line from 8 April.

The trains work by picking up signals from coded electrical impulses from the rails which give them the intelligence to start, accelerate, coast or slow down automatically.

An operator will still be on-duty aboard the train in the motorman's cabin to survey opening and closing doors and to take charge of the train if any of the electrics fail during a journey.

Safety is maintained through a signalling system, also run on impulses from the rails, designed to halt the train if it overruns.

This system eliminates the need for fixed visual signals although some may be retained for emergency.

There are three routes which will first run the new system including the test train route operating as part of the normal service between Stamford Brook and Ravenscourt Park in west London, from 8 April, subject to Ministry of Transport approval.

From next year a fully operational route will be run between Hainault and Woodford on the Central Line along with automatic trains on the new Victoria line when it opens in 1968.

London Transport has revealed it may take between 20 to 30 years before automatic trains are introduced throughout the whole of the network.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Automatic trains were first tested on the London underground in 1962 between Stamford Brook and Ravenscourt Park after years of planning.

The Victoria Line became the first underground line in the world to be fully equipped for automatic train operation after it was opened in stages between 1968 and 1971.

It was not just the drivers who had technological replacements but a range of workers from ticket sellers to train time announcers.

In 1983 the dot matrix train destination indicator was introduced on platforms allowing passengers to see at a glance a selection of trains, with various routes arriving at stations.

And in 1987 new self-service ticket machines were introduced throughout the network - cutting back queuing times at kiosks.

In 2003 Transport for London introduced smartcards for commuters in the capital. The new Oyster cards are contactless - meaning they do not need to be inserted into a machine and can simply be placed on top of a reader.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You easily resist the urge to go your own way or ignore those in need...

Taurus April 20-May 20 If you want to re-commit yourself to eating right or exercising regularly...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're having tons of fun and finding new ways to enjoy yourself...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's time to become more active - things are pretty tough for you, but that doesn't mean that you can't find a few new ways to have fun...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You can't quite take care of all your needs today, so reach out to the one person you know who can.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's far too easy to sweat the small stuff today - so try to get some perspective.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Get out in the world and soak up some artistic or natural beauty.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You should be finding a certain work or personal situation easing up today...

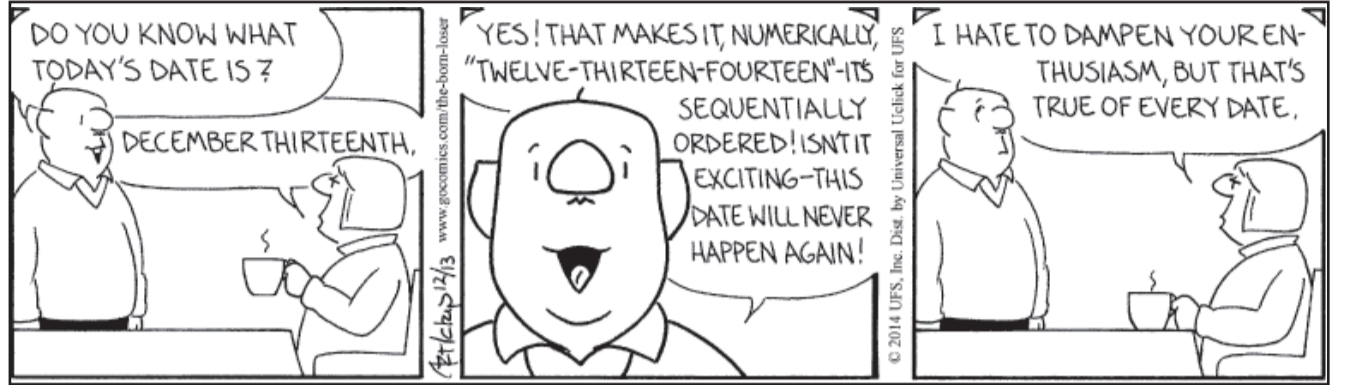
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The best thing you can do today is speak out - your energy is strong, but you're more likely to win support by explaining than by pressuring.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to expose yourself to some culture today - otherwise, things are sure to get weird.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your big brain is always a potent force of nature - and today, it's firing off great ideas at a rapid clip!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Forgive and forget! It's time for you to let someone off the hook, possibly for a debt but maybe for something much more intense.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Distinctive quality; 5- Clear the board; 10- Uris's "... 18"; 14- Numbered rds.; 15- Festive occasions; 16- Ready for business; 17- Bryce Canyon site; 18- Breathing organs of fish; 19- Not mint; 20- ... canto; 21- Yearly celebration; 23- "Am not!" rejoinder; 25- Singles; 26- Serenaded; 29- Roman general; 33- Championship; 35- Surround snugly; 37- Therapists' org.; 38- Colorful computer; 39- Leg joints; 40- Workers' rights org.; 41- Deserter; 42- MetLife competitor; 43- Lush; 44- Vigor; 46- Lighted by the sun; 48- Evict; 50- Add fizz; 53- Black, tan, and white critter; 58- As well; 59- ...Seltzer; 60- Verbal exams; 61- Fail to hit; 62- Affirm; 63- Like some checking accounts; 64- Sites; 65- Gentlewoman; 66- Clampett player; 67- ... uproar;

DOWN: 1- Island off Venezuela; 2- Absolute; 3- Property; 4- Blond shade; 5- Milk and egg drink; 6- Drops from the sky; 7- ... want for Christmas...; 8- Artillery burst; 9- Concentrated extracts; 10- Sweet dessert; 11- Res ... loquiter; 12- Suggestive look; 13- Hardy boy; 21- Primo; 22- Went through, as the paper; 24- After-bath powder; 27- Camp sight; 28- Signs; 30- Greeting; 31- Auto loan figs.; 32- Broccoli ... (leafy vegetable); 33- Grow weary; 34- ... old cowhand...; 36- Boyfriend; 39- Foundation; 40- Film ...; 42- Shivering fit; 43- Hill toy; 45- Series of prayers; 47- Norwegian arctic explorer; 49- Pulsate; 51- Puccini opera; 52- Red fluorescent dye; 53- Ancient Semitic for "Lord"; 54- Edison's middle name; 55- Timetable, for short; 56- Clods; 57- Peter Fonda title role; 61- Year in Edward the Confessor's reign;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



FOR SALE FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property with contact info.

Real estate listing: H Unit Gladiolus Court Coloane, 2,530 sq ft / HKD 11.8M.

Real estate listing: Chun Leong Car Park, Taipa, 0sq ft / HKD 1.8M.

Real estate listing: Kam Long, Lilau Square Macau, 1,100 sq ft / HKD 4.9M.

Real estate listing: Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau, 627 sq ft / HKD 3.88M.

JML Property logo and contact information.



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- ✦ Luggage area under-floor box
- ✦ Superior independent 2nd row captain seats with adjustable shoulder support & ottoman.

Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications.



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Bruce Schreiner, Louisville

BOXING

Muhammad Ali's boyhood home restored, to be open to public

AS a boxer and humanitarian, Muhammad Ali stood out. So does the bright pink home in Kentucky where he shadowboxed and played pranks on his brother.

The small frame residence where the former heavyweight boxing champ grew up will soon open to fans, allowing a glimpse into Ali's life before the world came to know him.

Renovations are nearing completion on the two-bedroom, one-bathroom house in western Louisville. Entering the home is like stepping back in time when Ali — known then as Cassius Clay — lived there with his parents and brother, said the former Pennsylvania state boxing commissioner and catalyst for the project.

"You walk into this house ... you're going back to 1955, and you're going to be in the middle of the Clay family home," said George Bochetto, a Philadelphia lawyer. The longtime Ali fan co-owns the house with Las Vegas real estate investor Jared Weiss.

The developers are aiming for a May 1 grand opening, capping about nine months of reconstruction on the once-abandoned house, Bochetto said. They spent more than USD300,000 on the venture, which includes buying the house next door and turning it into a welcome center and gift shop.

It was the neighborhood where Ali began dreaming of a boxing career.

He lived in the home when he left for the 1960 Olympics. His gold medal performance launched a career that made him one of the world's most recognizable figures as a three-time heavyweight boxing champion. The Clay family moved after Ali signed a professional contract, Bochetto said.

Using old photos from insi-

AP PHOTO



In this March 18 photo, Rahman Ali (left) brother of Muhammad Ali, and George Bochetto, a Philadelphia lawyer who has been restoring the boyhood home of Ali are pictured in front of the home in Louisville

de and out, the developers set out to portray the home just as it looked when Ali lived there. They replicated its furnishings, appliances, artwork and even the home's pink exterior at the time the boxer was growing up there, he said.

"We're trying to demonstrate where it all began," Bochetto said of the home, where the former boxer's family lived from the late 40s until the early 60s. "How did Ali become Ali?"

Ali's younger brother Rahman Ali, a former fighter himself, consulted on the reconstruction.

Looking at the home moved Rahman Ali to quiet reflection. "It's just like my boyhood," he said. "The only things missing are Dad and Mom. Otherwise, it's perfect."

The brothers shadowboxed together in the home, and it was there that the future champion showed his mischievous side. When the boys were in bed he tied string to a curtain and pulled it when his younger brother wasn't looking. He told his brother that ghosts were moving the curtains.

At the outset, the home will be open for tours Thursday

through Sunday, said Bochetto, adding general admission will be \$8. Three videos, including a 15-minute documentary on Ali's childhood and another in which Rahman Ali recalls growing up with his brother, will be featured.

The museum won't chronicle Ali's boxing career, focusing instead on his formative years, according to Bochetto. Ali's accomplishments as a boxer and advocate for peace and social justice are displayed in exhibits at the Muhammad Ali Center in downtown Louisville.

Ali, now 74, has been battling

Parkinson's disease. He and his wife Lonnie haven't toured the site but have an open invitation to do so, according to Bochetto.

In a statement, Lonnie Ali said the boxer welcomes the restora-

“We’re trying to demonstrate where it all began [...] How did Ali become Ali?”

GEORGE BOCHETTO

tion and the thought of tourists visiting the home.

"Muhammad is happy the house is being restored and he knows that if his parents were alive, it would make them happy, too. As time passes, even more people will want to visit the house. In 100 years, it will be a bigger attraction than ever, as Muhammad's life and legacy continues to inspire people," she said.

For Bochetto, the modest home will offer encouragement to future generations.

"You don't have to be from any particular neighborhood, any particular kind of house," he said. "You can be from anywhere and you can become great... And this is a living monument to just that." AP

FORMULA ONE

Rosberg beats Hamilton in season-opening Australian GP

NICO Rosberg beat Lewis Hamilton in yet another Mercedes 1-2 finish at the Australian Grand Prix yesterday, but the predictable result disguised what was an exciting Formula One season opener, punctuated by a frightening accident that suspended the race.

The red flags came out after a high-speed collision between McLaren's Fernando Alonso and Esteban Gutierrez of Haas about a third of the way

through the race. While in the pits awaiting a restart, Mercedes made a call that proved decisive — the team switched to the hardest available tire, enabling the silver cars to run to the finish, while early leader Sebastian Vettel's Ferrari was fitted with the soft rubber, and he had to pit again, dropping him to third.

"It's the perfect start," Rosberg said. "The strategy was crucial today. It was the tire choice after

the red flag. I was glad to see they [Ferrari] were on the super-soft [compound] and happy that I could keep up on the medium."

Local favorite Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull was fourth, falling just short in his bid to become the first Australian on the podium at his home race.

The crash between Alonso and Gutierrez occurred when the Spaniard's McLaren clipped the rear left tire of Gutierrez, who

was breaking to make the corner at Turn 3. The McLaren was launched into the concrete barrier and flipped over twice.

The car was a crumpled wreck but Alonso was able to climb out, and though clearly sore as he limped away, he shook hands with Gutierrez, who had walked over quickly to see if he was injured. The race was stopped for 22 minutes before resuming.

Hamilton was pleased to have finished second

AP PHOTO



McLaren driver Fernando Alonso of Spain climbs out of his wrecked car after his collision yesterday during the Australian Formula One Grand Prix at Albert Park in Melbourne

after a slow start dropped him down to seventh on the opening lap. He was behind Rosberg in the run to the first corner after Vettel had speared in between them with much better acceleration off the line.

Rosberg ran onto the curb at the first bend, forcing Hamilton to break

heavily on the grass verge into Turn 2 and other cars made their way around the outside.

"I did the best I could after a difficult start — damage limitation really," Hamilton said. "I've had much worse in the first race and I'd take this as a bonus after being as low as seventh." MDT/AP

opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



OF TIGERS AND FLIES

Apparently maverick lawmaker Pereira Coutinho was one of the few MSAR public figures to comment about the detention of former Prosecutor Ho Chio Meng as being no surprise at all. This kind of insight is usually compared to a Monday morning NFL Quarterback... not even a wise "I told you so". However, Coutinho, apparently not buying the bad-apple theory of the corrupt all-mighty HCM's decade-long skimming antics, was bold enough to comment beyond the fate of the former Prosecutor-general and anticipate more casualties from the unstoppable anti-graft campaign inspired by President Xi. Coutinho is right, the now infamous times of fei-chien or flying money are certainly over and the files remain open. A strong sign of the ongoing scrutiny is the high-profile appointment of Central Commission for Discipline Inspection Li Qinfang to supervise the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council.

As we know, elementary accounting knowledge is good enough to have an idea of the amount money that was being recycled at the baccarat tables by comparing the roaring years with the new normal of 19 billion patacas a month. David Dodwell from the Hong Kong-Apec Trade Policy Group wrote in the SCMP that it takes a "brave punter to bet on a steady recovery from here". Coincidentally both the report to the Central Government on the midterm review of the gaming industry and the Asia-Pacific Financial Action Task Force assessment on money laundering are to be presented by this year-end. Money is an issue. Beijing is setting up a special fund of 100,000 million yuan to help workers that lose jobs due to the industrial restructuring. Money is a pressing issue.

Anyway, the casino industry is to change for good and the Central Government is giving a hand to help Macau adjust to mass-market oriented gaming in an environment that's hard to diversify to anything that does not need heavy subsidizing and public money. The rubber stamp of the 13th five-year plan NPC annual session promises to increase the integration within the 9+2 Greater Pearl River Delta.

This is what Macau gets: what it loses in terms of autonomy, amongst others, is open to debate. Hopefully, such dialogue will not be through an opinion survey, and definitely not through the new trendy inspiration of the indirect/functional elections: 13 of the 15 members of the Heritage Council decided that Estoril Hotel has no relevance. Congratulations.

Finally, believe it or not, Macau seems unable to draft an updated Animal Protection Bill as a piece of legislation that could be suitable for any NGO around, applicable to all forms of life and also a coherent and technically clean one. Commonly known as the dog law, the Animal Protection Bill began its saga by confronting the hurdles of tradition, but now it seems to be confronting logic and its very destiny. Legal expert Paulo Cardinal speaking about the shortcomings - to say the least - of the new draft quoted by Portuguese daily Ponto Final, brought the case of an article that states no dog is to be allowed in a public space that forbids dogs. Is this an example of a norm that must be transgressed to be fulfilled? Monsieur La Palisse would underwrite it...proudly.

We mention this not so important legislation and not so thrilling lawmaking suspense just to warn of the damage the lack of will to legislate can cause society. This is about your dog but it could be about YOU, not you as an owner under a Dangerous Dogs Act. Renowned travel writer Pico Yier recalls that one day in Reykjavik, Iceland he saw a crowd gathered on a street and he looked to see what they were staring at: "it was a dog (long illegal in the capital)". Just replace the dog.

THE BUZZ THE ONLINE LODGING SERVICE AIRBNB OPENS CUBA LISTINGS TO WORLD

The Obama administration has given San Francisco-based online lodging service Airbnb a special license allowing travelers from around the world to book stays in private homes in Cuba.

Airbnb was the first major American company to enter Cuba after Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro declared detente on Dec. 17, 2014. The online service handles listing, booking and payments for people looking

to stay in private homes instead of hotels. Cuba has become its fastest-growing market, with about 4,000 homes added over the last year.

Airbnb had only been allowed to let U.S. travelers use its services in Cuba under a relatively limited Obama administration exception to a U.S. trade embargo. That limit has been lifted, dramatically increasing the number of people likely to use the service in Cuba.

US releases video of Obama with Cuba's best-known comedian



A woman poses for a photo, holding her cell phone that shows a frame from the video released by the White House of President Barack Obama joking with Cuban comedian Panfilo

Michael Weissenstein, Havana

In a direct appeal to the Cuban people's sense of humor, the White House has released a video of President Barack Obama joking with the country's most famous comedian a day before the president makes a historic trip to the island.

Luis Silva plays Panfilo, an elderly character on a wildly popular show that often uses biting humor to comment on social reality and lampoon the failings of Cuba's government and centrally planned economy.

The video released yesterday [Macau time] shows Panfilo calling the White

House to find out the weather for a baseball game during Obama's trip to Cuba. Obama answers and banter with Panfilo, using Cuban Spanish slang to say "Panfilo! Get outta here! What's going on?"

At one point, Silva says, "I am so glad you will come to visit so that you can know Cuba, its people."

"I'm looking forward to it," Obama responds. "The American people and the Cuban people are friends."

Relatively few Cubans have access to internet fast enough to watch a video, and it wasn't immediately clear if Cuban TV would show the sketch, in which Silva pokes fun at Cuba's old cars and hours-long li-

nes at airport customs booths.

Obama has been aggressive in blending politics with entertainment, a conscious effort to reach a broad array of Americans. He makes regular appearances on late night talk shows and has been interviewed by people with popular YouTube channels, including a woman best known for a video featuring her in a bathtub full of milk and cereal.

White House officials have pointed to Obama's 2014 appearance on the satirical web series "Between Two Ferns" as one of the biggest successes of this outreach strategy. Obama bantered with actor Zach Galifianakis, who needles his guests with hostile or inappropriate questions, as part of a pitch to get young people to sign up for his health care law.

Silva's wildly popular Monday night show "Vivir del cuento" — roughly "Surviving By Your Wits" in Spanish — is unusually edgy programming for Cuban state television, known more for sports and dry public affairs shows, unadventurous news and roundtables, and recycled telenovelas, sitcoms and U.S. crime serials. AP

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

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES A Philippine presidential debate has erupted into heated exchanges over allegations of corruption, a lack of patriotism and incompetence that have been hurled against some of the four leading candidates who are locked in a tight race to lead their divided nation.

PAKISTAN officials say a mudslide buried eight teenage students returning home after exams in the country's north, which has seen heavy rains in recent days. A spokesman for the local disaster management authority said that they are working with the army, police and paramilitary forces to recover the bodies of the students, who are presumed dead.



RUSSIA The black box from a passenger plane that crashed in southern Russia on Saturday, killing all 62 people on board, has been found. The Boeing 737-800, operated by budget airline FlyDubai, nose-dived and erupted in flames while trying to land at Rostov-on-Don airport.

KAZAKHSTAN Voters in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan headed to the polling stations yesterday for an election that is intended to confirm the ruling party's solid grip over parliament.

TURKEY A key suspect in a suicide bombing that left five dead in Istanbul's main shopping district had ties to the Islamic State, said Turkey's interior minister. Two Israeli-Americans, one Israeli and an Iranian died in the busy shopping district and at least 36 people were injured. More on p.15

SPAIN At least 14 people are believed to have been killed as a bus crashed near Tarragona in Catalonia, Spain. The accident occurred yesterday on a motorway between Valencia and Barcelona.

GUINEA A new outbreak of Ebola has killed four people in Guinea since Feb. 29, but the World Health Organization has said that it is unlikely that a pandemic will occur again as the country's health department is prepared this time to deal with the virus.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Floating pollution. A Sri Lankan man feeds crows in front of the floating market in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday. Floating market, an ambitious project launched by the previous regime emulating Bangkok and Hong Kong to boost post-war tourism industry, is lying idle, leaving the area to become one of the most polluted places in the city.