



ROSÁRIO REJECTS COMPENSATION FOR BREACH OF CONTRACTS

Whether or not to adopt compensatory payments for violations of construction contract provisions dominated yesterday's AL debate

P3



FORMER VICE MAYOR OF SHENZHEN DEAD AFTER FALLING FROM BUILDING

P5

TERROR THREATENS CAMERON'S EU PITCH, MERKEL'S OPEN DOOR

The murderous attacks in Brussels, at the heart of the Union, which left 34 dead and hundreds injured, deepened the political turmoil facing the leaders of the UK and Germany

P14,15

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WORLD BRIEFS



TAIWAN flew international media to its largest island holding in the South China Sea, Taiping Island, in a bid to reinforce its territorial claims in the disputed and increasingly tense region. More on page 11



VIETNAM A court has sentenced a prominent Vietnamese blogger to five years in prison for posting anti-state writings in a one-day trial that highlights the communist country's tough approach to dissent.

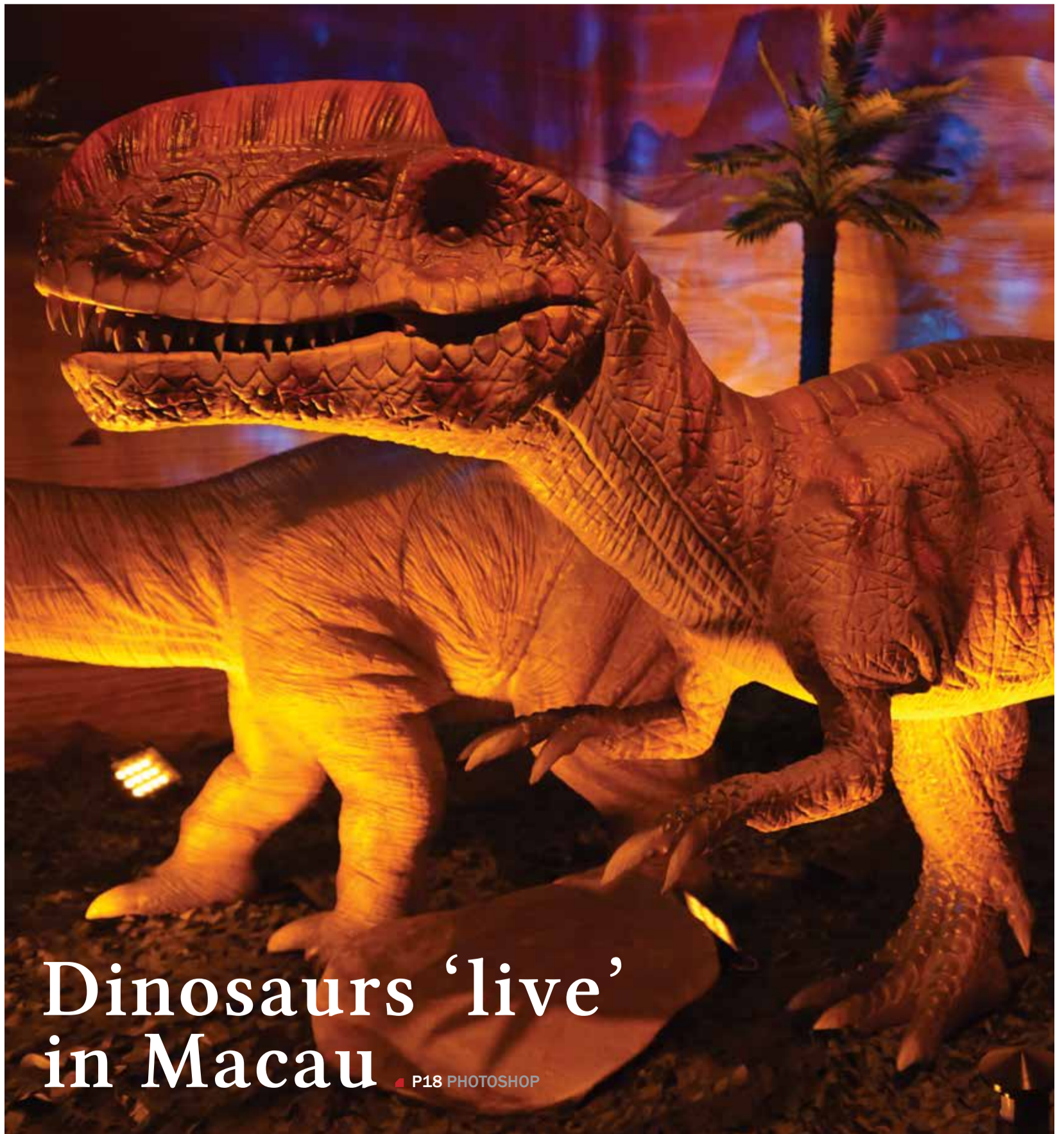
MYANMAR It emerged yesterday that a man proposed as Myanmar's new finance and planning minister has a fake degree in finance. Kyaw Win admitted to having bought the bogus PhD from an online fictitious university which sold fake qualifications from Pakistan.

AUSTRALIA A Sydney schoolgirl has appeared in court accused on terror financing charges, which carry a maximum term of 25 years in jail. She is suspected of having sent thousands of dollars to the Islamic State group in Syria through a Western Union money transfer.

More on backpage

Liaison Office hastens Macau gaming change

P2



Dinosaurs 'live' in Macau

P18 PHOTOSHOP

Thick fog to give way to sunshine on Saturday



The thick fog that led to hundreds of flight delays and cancellations at Macau International Airport between Friday and Sunday is about to give way to sunshine. The Meteorological Bureau predicts the foggy weather will continue until tomorrow, while the sun will shine through from Saturday. More than 115 arrival and departure flights were cancelled due to the foggy weather, leaving passengers departing Macau no option but to remain at the international airport. A spokesperson for the Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. (CAM) said diverted and delayed flights landed at the airport in later time slots, adding that no further flights have been cancelled since the weekend.

Winter shelter opened to those in need

The Welfare Affairs Bureau (IAS) announced yesterday the opening of its Winter Shelter Center at Ilha Verde to receive people in need, due to the sudden drop in the mercury. The IAS appeals to all citizens to "look better after the elderly and the sick" in order to protect them from cold and eventually hypothermia. At least nine people died from hypothermia in January, when Macau recorded the lowest temperatures since 1949.

Concrete repair and waterproofing association established

Macau Concrete Repair and Waterproofing Association announced that the board's inauguration will take place on March 30. The association, which is giving a press conference today, is a newly established non-profit organization which seeks to improve the communication and connection between different companies within the industry. The final goal of the association is to promote and develop the practice of good concrete repair and good waterproofing maintenance. It suggests that efficient testing systems can lead to better results in local construction.

Liaison Office: Progress in economic restructuring

THE restructuring of economy in the MSAR has achieved progress, an official from the Liaison Office said, Xinhua reported yesterday.

Yao Jian, deputy head of the office, made the comments at a recent seminar attended by senior officials from six large local tourism and leisure enterprises as well as major subsidiaries of Chinese mainland corporations here.

New active elements have appeared in the process of

Macau's industrial restructuring, and non-gaming revenues increased 2 percent in 2015 despite the drastic slump of the gambling industry, Yao said.

Lauding Macau's major enterprises' contribution in supporting the growth of local small and medium-sized enterprises, Yao called for more efforts to be made to speed up industry transformation so as to maintain sustainable economic development in the SAR.



Yao Jian, Liaison Office

Wynn stock bucked the trend in NY

CASINO operator Wynn Resorts bucked the downtrend on travel and the hospitality stocks yesterday after Morgan Stanley upgraded the company from "equal-weight" to "overweight".

Wynn may go from "double-digit EBITDA decliner to double-digit grower in the next six months," said Morgan analyst Thomas Allen, referring to a measure of profits known as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.

He added that the brand might also benefit from stabilization in Macau - a city that has taken a powerful blow from the government's corruption crackdown in addition to a broader economic slowdown in the country.

Wynn shares yesterday rose 2.4 percent to USD95, bringing their year-to-date rally to 37 percent.

The apparent stabilization of the gaming market was also reflected in the HKSE. Most of the big-six made gains yesterday with the exception of MGM China which declined slightly (-0.36 percent). Sands China led the pack gaining 2.14 percent.

AP PHOTO



BOAO FORUM

Roger Coles reminds Macau to focus on customer service

THE challenge Macau faces in developing itself into a global leisure center is linked to the international market, Roger Coles, Chair of the World Leisure Organization's board of directors, told media at the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), in Hainan yesterday.

According to Coles, China and Macau have a series of chain hotels that rank among the top internationally.

"Good customer service is one of the key areas into which Macau should put serious effort if the city wants to deal with international customers," he said, as cited by TDM.

Coles revealed that he plans to visit Macau and the mainland next month. During his stay, he will discuss the positioning that China

should set for some of its cities, from a tourism-wise perspective, with Chinese policy-makers.

Last year, the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) opened new facilities for yachts that travel between Zhongshan and Macau. Coles pointed out that tourist sectors created by leisure yachts are important.

"I think that yacht tourism in both Europe and America will be expanded to China, where large harbors are already under construction. Then we can expect western travelers to come to Asia by means of that kind of transportation," said Coles, who predicted that there will be an acceleration in the development of the yacht tourism industry after 2020. **Staff reporter**

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AL PLENARY

Secretary Rosário admits DSSTOP needs to improve its effectiveness

WHETHER or not to adopt compensatory payments for violation of contract provisions was the main focus of yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting.

Raimundo do Rosário, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works informed that the government intends to apply Law No. 74/99 when contractors violate their contracts. He said, "Law No. 74/99 actually applies heavier fines to contractors when they delay construction."

In his view, adopting compensatory payments for violation of contract provisions will lead to an increase in contractor's prices.

Secretary Rosário also admitted that several large-scale projects, such as the elevated train project have been delayed in part due to ineffectiveness and inefficiencies in the department. He also acknowledged that no company has been fined more than half of the total value of any contract because "Macau doesn't nurture a culture of fines."



Raimundo do Rosário



Au Kam San

For lawmaker Au Kam San, "public contracts follow a threefold paradigm: first, they are delayed; second, they go over budget; third, their quality turns out to be bad."

San asked the Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSTOP) whether they will amend the regulation. His question followed the bureau's admission that existing regulations need to be changed, although changes to compensatory payments are not needed. Addressing Secretary Raimundo do Rosário, Au Kam San questioned, "you are doing your

job, but once you leave your position, will there be continuity of such work? How can it just depend upon your services?"

According to the DSSTOP, the execution rate of the investment budget is 85 percent, which, in the secretary's opinion, provides evidence that

the department has put considerable effort into the work.

Delegates from the DSSTOP gave an example of the final payments which contractors will have to make under the two different regulations, namely the Law No. 74/99 and the compensatory payments scheme. The latter remains under deliberation.

"Suppose the price of the contract is MOP100 million. Each day the company is late on completion of construction, it will be fined one percent of the total price, which results in MOP100,000. However, it will only pay MOP17,000 if the compensatory payments are adopted."

The lawmakers acknowledged the efforts of the government in the area of Public Works, however they also remarked that contractors should not be the only ones to be blamed. They recommended DSSTOP to undertake internal reviews. **Staff reporter**

Public contracts follow a threefold paradigm: they are delayed, they go over budget, and the quality turns out to be bad.

AU KAM SAN

AD

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Macau, HK look to multi-city packages to promote tourism

THE Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, met with the Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Peter Lam, on Tuesday, according to a statement from the Government Information Bureau (GCS), where the two officials discussed prospects for broadening tourism cooperation between the two special administration regions.

It was agreed that the SAR authorities should work in tandem to transform Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau collectively into a world-class region for tourists.

The agreement comes as a necessity for Macau's economy as it undergoes a period of adjustment, and as the local government heeds Beijing's economic diversification mandates.

Strengthening cooperation with Hong Kong should help Macau attract more tourists to visit, said Chui, according to the GCS statement, suggesting that multi-destination tours in Asia could bring Hong Kong visitors to Macau and vice-versa.



Chui at the center led the Macau delegation to Hong Kong

Peter Lam agreed that the two SARs can assist each other in promoting tourism, making

reference to a recent partnership between Hong Kong and Taiwan to promote multi-destination holidays in Asia.

In addition, the completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau

Bridge would be an important milestone in terms of promoting closer cooperation in tourism, said Peter Lam, through facilitating additional transportation routes between the two South China territories.

Also in attendance at Tuesday's meeting was the Director of the Macau Government Tourism Office, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, the Chairman of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong, Jason Wong, and the executive director of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Anthony Lau.

Anthony Lau said that the total visitors to Hong Kong fell by about 2.5 percent last year, the first decrease in 12 years.

While Macau's visitor volume has also seen marginal change, both SARs are experiencing a severe decline in visitor spending as the Times reported yesterday. **DB**

Visitor arrivals rebound over CNY

INFORMATION released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that, attributable to the Chinese New Year holiday, visitor arrivals rebounded in February by 8.1 percent month-to-month, to a total of 2,644,289.

However, this still represented a 1.2 percent shortfall over the same month in 2015. Same-day visitors dropped by

7.6 percent year-on-year to 1,454,944, whereas overnight visitors rose by 7.9 percent to 1,189,345.

Visitors from mainland China totaled 1,799,522 last month, down by 5.2 percent year-on-year, coming mainly from Guangdong Province (897,096), followed by Zhejiang Province (57,817) and Shanghai (53,261).

Visitors from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan arrived in greater numbers this year than in February 2015, seeing respective rises of 12 percent, 4.8 percent and 16.6 percent respectively.

In the first two months of 2016 visitor arrivals totaled 5,090,165, down by just 1 percent year-on-year. The decline was led by visitors from mainland China, of which 3.1 percent fewer have arrived in Macau so far this year.

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Former vice mayor of Shenzhen dead after falling from building

CHEN Ying Chun, former vice mayor of Shenzhen, was found dead yesterday after falling from a building.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



Shenzhen police announced his death via a short post on its office's Weibo account. The same post indicated that the reasons behind the accident remain unknown.

A report was filed about a fall at 11:14 a.m. Shenzhen police subsequently went to the Futian district of Shenzhen, where the former vice mayor of the city was found dead.

Rumors surrounding the death and innuendo regarding Chen's life immediately spread on Weibo.

"One dead, everyone else is now safe," posted Po Xiao Xia Guang_80. A user identified as Ju Jing Wei De Pang Ci wrote, "Another corrupted governor committed suicide."

Among the number of people applauding the death of the former mayor, there are some who believe that

his death is related to the landslides that took place in Shenzhen in December

of last year. More than 70 people were killed during the disaster. There are some

allegations that he had been negligent in allowing the buildup of discarded waste that

resulted in the landslide, and by implication that some of the deaths may have been averted.

A third user, Yi Ma Ping Chuan, wrote, "Another one who jumped, thus another corruption case." In turn, user masters-zhuang posted. "[The] news is short, but what happened is serious."

Before being appointed as the vice mayor, Chen was the secretary of the former mayor of Shenzhen, Li You Wei, who was also the former vice director of the Subcommittee of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Compatriots and Overseas Chinese, of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Chen Ying Chun had been vice mayor since 2003, occupying his position until May of 2015, when he left for early retirement. During his time in office, he made an official visit with other governors of Shenzhen to Macau in 2007.

Staff reporter

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REVIEW

Hyundai restyles 2017 Elantra to look like a luxury vehicle

HYUNDAI'S top-selling car in the United States, the Elantra, has been nicely restyled and upgraded to the point that its 2017 model could pass for a higher-priced luxury car.

The new Elantra, which is already at dealerships, has a surprisingly refined ride and can be stocked with features like heated rear seats, driver-seat memory settings, automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection and headlights that swivel to the side to illuminate roads during turns. The 2017 Elantra even has a hands-free trunk that opens on its own when a driver, perhaps laden with grocery bags, has the car's proximity key fob in his or her pocket or purse and stands within 3 feet of the back of the vehicle for at least 3 seconds.

It also comes with something that no luxury car has: Hyundai's 10 years/100,000-mile warranty of coverage on the car's powertrain and five years/unlimited miles of free roadside assistance.

Starting manufacturer's suggested retail price, including destination charge, is USD17,985 for the base 2017 Elantra SE with six-speed manual and \$18,985 with six-speed automatic — some \$100 less than the starting retail prices for the base 2016 Elantras. The top 2017 Elantra — the Limited — has a starting retail price of \$23,185, and prices can approach \$28,000 when all luxury features are added.

The Elantras have a new 147-horsepower, four-cylinder engine that generates 132 foot-pounds of torque at 4,500 rpm. It's also lighter than its predecessors, even a loaded Elantra Limited weighs less than 3,000 pounds, according to Hyundai. As a re-

CARS.COM



sult, the Elantra Limited test vehicle performed capably.

The test vehicle impressed with its virtually vibration-free ride. The driver didn't detect powertrain vibrations or any roughness, even when resting a hand on the Elantra's gearshift lever when the car was idling. When the Elantra accelerated, some engine noise could be heard, but it was strong, not a buzzing sound.

The restyled Elantra maximizes aerodynamics, which eliminate drag and help fuel economy. The test vehicle aver-

aged nearly 29 miles per gallon in mostly city driving that was done primarily in Normal, not Eco, mode; with 14-gallon fuel tank, it could travel a noteworthy 400 miles in mostly city driving.

The U.S. government rates the 2017 Elantra Limited at 28 mpg in the city and 37 mpg on highways for a combined 32-mpg average that makes the Elantra second best among gasoline-powered, non-hybrid sedans of its size.

Inside, the Elantra is comfortable, particularly for front-

seat passengers, who have up to 42.2 inches of legroom and nearly 39 inches of headroom. Back-seat passengers have 35.7 inches of legroom and 37.3 inches of headroom, which allows two adults to travel well. A nice touch is the pull-down rear-seat armrest with cupholders, which doesn't flop loosely or rest at a downward angle.

Rear seatbacks split 60/40 and fold down so that the Elantra's 14.4-cubic-foot trunk can accommodate long items.

Fit and finish of the Alabama-built Elantra tester was excellent, and the tactile feel of the car's buttons and knobs was akin to a luxury car's.

However, the base Elantra SE doesn't include a standard rearview camera nor does it have the hood-insulator material that comes on the Limited, meaning its interior isn't as quiet as the Limited.

A second Elantra engine — a turbo with 158 foot-pounds of torque — is due this spring, when the 2017 Elantra Eco debuts. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS RESORTS OFFERS 'MACAU MEETINGS WITH MORE' PACKAGES



Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao is offering special offers and exclusive entertainment choices to meeting planners and organizers as part of the "Macau Meetings with More" promotion, allowing meeting planners to choose from six interconnected luxury and family style hotels.

According to a press release, the meetings promotion offers a wide range of discounts on packages, complimentary rooms,

discounts on hiring audio visual equipment, 'buy-one-get-one-free' offers on Cotai Water Jet ferry tickets, a five percent discount off the master bill and an exclusive complimentary 30-minute performance from one of the many themed entertainment options available at Sands Resorts.

The "Macau Meetings with More" promotion allows meeting planners to book until December 31, 2016, for meetings to be hosted before December 22, 2017.

Moreover, Sands Resorts promises an experienced production team to aid in creating a unique event with spectacular entertainment, including the "Streetmosphere" entertainers, singing gondoliers and characters from the DreamWorks Experience.

TUNG SIN TONG STUDENTS, PASTRY CHEFS FOR A DAY AT WYNN

Two groups of Primary Four students from Tung Sin Tong Middle School, a total of nearly 60 youngsters, were afforded the opportunity to be junior master chefs for a day at Wynn Macau's F&B academy.

According to a note from the gaming operator, the space is dedicated to the teaching of culinary arts and skills, and is located inside the hotel. It is the first of its kind in the city, and was created with the intention

of further cultivating local talent.

By the end of the two sessions, the group, who decorated chocolate eggs, had gained a whole new appreciation for the precise art of chocolate making.

The event was led by the executive pastry chef of Wynn Macau Yoann Mathy, the executive pastry chef of Wynn Palace Christophe Devoille, and pastry chef of Wynn Palace Kwan Kai Leong.



TWENTY-FIRST POWER INDUSTRY SERVICES SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Power Industry Services Seminar, which will be held in Dongguan, Guangdong Province this November.

Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), Guangdong Power Grid Co., Ltd (GPG) and CLP Holdings Limited (CLP) take turns each year to host the seminar in a bid to maintain close cooperation and communication between the power companies.

A statement says that representatives from the three companies attended the first preparatory meeting at Zhuhai Power Supply Bureau yesterday.

The Seminar will be hosted by GPG, with the theme of "New



Technologies New Services". In order to meet customers' diverse electricity demands and to provide stable and quality electricity supply, over the years the power industry has studied and implemented various applications of new technologies to deliver innovative services in the hope of further improving the reliability of the power supply.



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Brazil's Azul invests in TAP – Air Portugal

BRAZILIAN airline Azul made an investment of about USD100 million in Portuguese airline TAP – Portugal, according to a statement posted on its website. “The investment will give Azul the right to hold approximately 40 percent of the economic value of the Portuguese airline at the time of conversion of the security and after approval by the Civil Aviation Authority of Portugal,” the statement said. The issue of bonds convertible into shares, is occurring under the TAP recapitalization plan agreed in June 2015 during the privatization pro-

cess of the Portuguese airline. Azul also said that this investment takes place under the “application agreement of \$450 million by the HNA group announced at the end of 2015,” which gave the Chinese partner a 23.7 percent equity interest in Azul. “The investment in the Portuguese airline was a requirement of the agreement between Azul and the HNA Group,” added the Brazilian company. Azul also said it had been authorised by the National Civil Aviation Agency of Brazil to make seven weekly flights to Portugal, according to a decree published in the



Official Gazette. The airline plans to launch the route on May 4 and ini-

tially will offer three weekly flights from Campinas, São Paulo, to Lisbon, potentially

increasing to six flights per week in the peak season. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Brazil's Andrade Gutierrez starts construction of dam



THE construction of the Moamba Major dam, a project costing USD500 million that will supply electricity and water to Mozambique's Maputo province, should start in May, the director of the project said this week. Elias Paulo, cited by pan-African news agency APA, said the hydroelectric plant would take three years to build, and that the contractor was a consortium led by Brazilian group Andrade Gu-

tierrez. The cost of construction includes an amount of \$48 million spent on the relocation of about 1,600 people currently residing in the administrative posts of Sabie and Ressano Garcia, on the border with South Africa. The foundation stone for construction of the Moamba Major dam on the Incomati River and related works was laid in November 2014. The project will have

capacity to store 760 million cubic meters of water, to be partially used for irrigation and production of 15 megawatts of power to add to the national power grid. The work, estimated to cost \$466 million in 2014, will be financed with a loan to Mozambique from Brazil, which also provided a loan of \$8.5 million to carry out the environmental impact assessment and engineering project. **MDT/Macauhub**

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PetroChina income falls to lowest since 1999 amid oil crash

Aibing Guo

PETROCHINA Co. profit tumbled to the lowest since 1999 as falling crude prices crimped earnings at the country's biggest oil and gas producer.

Net income at the Beijing-based explorer dropped 67 percent to 35.5 billion yuan (USD5.46 billion) from 107 billion yuan, according to a statement sent to the Hong Kong stock exchange. That compares with a 34.3 billion yuan mean estimate from 11 analysts compiled by Bloomberg. Sales fell 24 percent to 1.73 trillion yuan. The company warned in January that 2015 profit may fall 60 percent to 70 percent.

Brent, the global benchmark, dropped to an average of about \$54 a barrel last year, from roughly \$99 the year before, prompting global oil energy companies to write down assets, slash earnings and cut capital expenditure plans. Despite the pain, PetroChina and its state-owned parent China National Petroleum Corp. won't resort to laying off frontline oil and gas workers as a way to cut costs, Chairman Wang Yilin said this month.

"In 2015, the global economic recovery slowed down, the downward pressure on China's economy continuously intensified, the overall supply in the oil and gas market was sufficient and the international oil prices kept dropping at a low level," the company said in its earnings release.

Oil has climbed back from a 12-year low this year on speculation that stronger demand and falling U.S. output will ease a global surplus. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers including Russia plan to meet in Doha next month to discuss limiting output to reduce a global oversupply.

China's biggest explorers including PetroChina, China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. and Cnooc Ltd. all posted profit or revenue declines for the first nine months of 2015. PetroChina and CNPC sold pipeline assets in November to raise cash to meet their annual profit target. Capital spending this year will be 5 percent lower at 192 billion yuan, following a 31 percent cut last year.

The company rose 0.9 percent to HKD5.37 before the earnings announcement, compared with a 0.3 percent loss in the city's benchmark Hang Seng Index. Shares are down 35 percent in the past year.

Parent company CNPC will be among the first state-owned companies to undergo government-guided reforms, transforming into a strategic holding company that will not manage day-to-day operations of its subsidiaries, according to people with knowledge of the situation. As part of the overhaul, China's government is looking to spin off oil and gas pipelines from its energy companies into independent businesses. **Bloomberg**



Chinese job seekers visit a job fair in Beijing last month. Even small pay rises for workers has caused economists to forecast an increase in unemployment in China this year

Great wage boom seen abating with rising unemployment

RAPID wage gains in China that began after the 2009 global financial crisis have begun to fade as the economy slows, and that could create problems for officials trying to boost domestic consumption.

Income increases for migrant workers will fall below 7 percent this year, down from a 7.2 percent rise in 2015, according to nine of 12 economists surveyed by Bloomberg News this month. The findings follow an announcement by Guangdong province, China's biggest exporter and one of the biggest destinations for rural job seekers, that it will freeze minimum wages for two years.

A slower rise in labor costs could make Chinese companies more competitive while also helping employers weather structural reforms that Communist Party leaders pledge will address excess capacity in the world's No. 2 economy. Authorities under the previous administration had championed wage gains as a way to stoke domestic demand.

"China's fairly pragmatic policy makers have recognized the limits of things like minimum wage increases," said Louis Kuijs, chief Asia economist at Oxford Economics in Hong Kong. "You cannot expect wage growth to continue to power ahead if business conditions and profit developments are weaker."

Consumers also won't spend as freely, according to the survey. Six economists said they see average disposable income rising 6.5 to 6.9 percent this year, compared with a 7.4 percent increase in 2015. Four forecast a rise of 7 percent to 7.4 percent.

Jobs, income and the "new normal" of slower economic growth were top agenda items for Chinese leaders this month

Jobs, income and the "new normal" of slower economic growth were among the top agenda items for the Chinese congress meeting earlier this month in Beijing and again this week on the southern island of Hainan, where policy makers are gathering for their annual Boao Forum. Premier Li Keqiang set a target to create 10 million jobs this year, the same goal as the last two years.

Even with smaller pay rises

for workers, economists still forecast an increase in joblessness in China this year. The urban unemployment rate will rise to 5.3 percent to 5.5 percent in 2016, up from about 5.1 percent last year, seven out of 12 economists said in a Bloomberg survey.

"For all the talk of the new normal, the implicit promise is that things will get better," said Pauline Loong, managing director at Asia-Analytica Research in Hong Kong. "But look at wages growth – or the lack of it. With even big bank profits down, where is the room for wage growth? The big state-owned enterprises are not making money either."

The projected weakening of the job market is notable because China has a shrinking labor force, something that otherwise would typically lead to companies having to pay more to attract the workers they need.

Wage growth has been held down by salary freezes, most recently in Guangdong, China's most populous province with 107 million people and a USD1.1 trillion economy. The provincial government said last month it will freeze the minimum wage for two years to help companies cut labor costs. The three provinces in the northeast rust belt, Heilongjiang, Liaoning and Jilin, haven't raised their minimum wages since 2013.

Seven economists said migrant worker wage growth will decelerate to 6.5 to 6.9 percent this year, while two project that it will fall below 6.5 percent.

Average monthly wages for China's 277 million migrant workers rose 7.4 percent last year to 3,072 yuan (\$473), slower than the 9.8 percent gain in 2014 and 13.9 percent in 2013, National Bureau of Statistics data show. The most recent data for wages for all Chinese workers show they grew 9.5 percent in 2014, the slowest pace since at least 2000.

"Subdued exports and construction will keep depressing migrant worker wages," said Harrison Hu, Chief Greater China economist at Royal Bank of Scotland Plc in Singapore. "Lowering corporate costs is a priority now."

Five out of the 12 economists surveyed by Bloomberg, including Hu, said income growth will be less crucial for policy makers, while the other seven said boosting wages will remain a priority for officials.

"The Chinese government faces a difficult balancing act," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific chief economist at IHS in Singapore. "Does it allow rapid wages growth to support consumption-led GDP growth or prevent buoyant wages growth from steadily eroding export competitiveness and fueling rising labor costs?" **Bloomberg**

Johnson Lai, Taiping Island

TAIWAN flew international media to its largest island holding in the South China Sea yesterday in a bid to reinforce its territorial claims in the disputed and increasingly tense region.

Deputy Foreign Minister Bruce Linghu, who was leading the trip, said he intended to demonstrate that Taiping is an island capable of sustaining human habitation, and not simply a “rock” as the Philippines claims in a case brought before the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Islands are entitled to territorial waters, an exclusive economic zone and other rights not enjoyed by mere rocks.

Taiwan, which lacks diplomatic ties, has increasingly turned to public diplomacy to reinforce its own claims

Two dozen journalists were flown to the island aboard a Taiwanese air force C-130 transport plane that landed on an airstrip on Taiping guarded by coast guard sentries with rifles. They were shown the island's post office and its fresh water well, and were to later visit the harbor and a traditional Chinese temple.

The Philippines, along with Vietnam, also claims Taiping. Critics say Manila is seeking to have Taiping designated a rock

TAIWAN

Media tour arranged for Spratly Islands claims

AP PHOTO



In this Jan. 28, 2016 file photo released by the Taiwan Presidential Office, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou (second right) walks after arriving at Taiping Island in the Spratly archipelago

to avoid having to share an exclusive economic zone with its own nearby island of Palawan.

The Philippines “distorted the facts and misinterpreted the law” in its arguments, Linghu told reporters at a pre-trip briefing Tuesday in Taipei, Taiwan's capital.

Manila's case, which has

been rejected by China, aims to challenge Beijing's blanket claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. Yet it threatens also to harm relations between the Philippines and fellow pro-U.S. democracy Taiwan.

Taiwan, which lacks diplomatic ties to negotiate with the five other governments with terri-

torial claims in the South China Sea, has increasingly turned to public diplomacy to reinforce its own claims.

Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou paid a visit to Taiping in late January, drawing rare criticism from the United States, Taiwan's key ally, which has urged all parties to avoid steps

that might raise tensions. Although Taiwan's claim to almost the entire region overlaps with China's, Ma has sought to cast Taiwan as a peaceful, humanitarian player in the region.

Taiwan operates a 10-bed hospital, a lighthouse and a fishing industry aid station on 46-hectare (110-acre) Taiping, also known as Itu Aba, which has a population of around 200 mostly coast guard personnel. It is spending more than USD100 million to upgrade the island's airstrip and build a wharf capable of allowing its 3,000-ton coast guard cutters to dock.

Roughly 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) south of Taiwan, Taiping is the largest naturally occurring island in the South China Sea's disputed Spratly Islands.

However, it has recently been eclipsed in size by artificial islands China has built by piling sand on top of reefs and shoals, and then constructing housing, ports, airstrips and other infrastructure. The United States and others say Beijing is exacerbating tensions in the strategically vital region, while China accuses the U.S. of militarizing the area by ordering Navy ships to cruise in defiance of Beijing's claims.

Malaysia and Brunei also say parts of the strategically vital sea belong to them. The dispute now threatens to draw in Indonesia, whose sea border abuts China's vague, unilaterally declared boundary around the South China Sea known as the nine-dash line.

Indonesia this week detained the eight crew members of a Chinese vessel it accused of fishing illegally in its waters, while China says the ship was being “harassed” by an armed Indonesian government boat. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Vague Nine-dash line underpins China-Taiwan claim

CHINA'S South China Sea territorial claims are demarcated in vague terms by the nine-dash line, a U-shaped boundary that loops down from Taiwan as far as Indonesia's Natuna Islands.

Although China's claim to the area of about 3.5 million square kilometers (1.4 million square miles) is based on historical records and geographic proximity, the nine-dash line is a modern creation. It first appeared on 1947 maps produced by the government of the Republic of China, which was replaced by the communist People's Republic on the mainland just two years later.

Taiwan inherited the Re-

public of China's claim when Chiang Kai-shek moved his government to the island ahead of the communist advance. The Taiwanese and Chinese claims now overlap, although China has been seeking to expand its land holdings by creating new islands from reefs and atolls.

In contrast to Beijing's increasingly aggressive moves to assert its claims and expand the size of maritime features under its control, Taipei has sought to avoid conflict. However, it has been pushing back against parts of a lawsuit brought by the Philippines challenging China's claim.

Taiwan's biggest terri-

torial holding is Taiping island, where it operates a hospital, airstrip and facilities for roughly 200 residents, mostly coast guard troops.

Although it claims the Spratly Islands in their entirety, Taiwan's only other actual holding in the area is a small coral reef called Zhongzhoujiao, located about 5 kilometers (3 miles) east of Taiping. The reef is only partly exposed at high tide and is exclusively populated by sea birds and other wildlife, although observation posts have been built on it and there are plans to construct a lighthouse.

Taiwan also has complete control of the Pratas Is-



AP PHOTO

lands, which it calls Dongsha, centered on an atoll in the northern section of the South China Sea about 340 kilometers (211 miles) southeast of Hong Kong. Taiwan has designated the area a marine nation-

nal park, but still operates a small airport there, maintains a garrison and operates a fishing boat aid station. China claims Pratas, but has made no moves to dislodge the Taiwanese presence.

China also has refused requests to clarify the exact geographical coordinates of its South China Sea boundary. It also declines to say whether it considers the South China Sea to be Chinese territorial waters, an exclusive economic zone or some other legal designation.

Beijing says that in no way impedes freedom of navigation, and its diplomats accuse others of picking fights. However, rising tensions, including Indonesia's worries over China's designs on waters around the Natuna Islands, threaten to make China's preference for ambiguity no longer tenable. **MDT/AP**

MALAYSIA

Central bank predicts another year of volatile flows

Chong Pooi Koon, Choong En Han

MALAYSIA'S central bank said the nation will probably be confronted by another year of volatile capital flows amid uncertainty in the global economy.

Monetary policy will be focused on supporting growth as private consumption and public spending eases, Bank Negara Malaysia said in its annual report in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Malaysia's gross domestic product is projected to expand 4 percent to 4.5 percent this year, the central bank said, reiterating the government's trimmed forecast.

Global stocks have had a roller-coaster first quarter and are rallying from the worst January plunge in seven years as oil prices recovered and the Federal Reserve slowed the path of interest-rate increases. In Malaysia, the ringgit has rebounded in recent weeks as crude



climbed even as the economic outlook remains clouded by rising costs and weaker consumption.

"The international economic and financial landscape is likely to remain challenging and will be a key factor that will influence the prospects of the Malaysian economy in 2016,"

the central bank said. "Given the expectation of a challenging global financial environment, Malaysia will likely be confronted by volatile movements in capital flows."

Malaysian stocks, bonds and currency saw periodic selloffs last year as investor sentiment hurt by financial scandals sur-

Malaysia needs to move away from depending on being a low-cost production center to drive growth

rounding Prime Minister Najib Razak and a state investment company. Both have consistently denied wrongdoing. Foreign funds pulled 30.6 billion ringgit (USD7.6 billion) from stocks and bonds in 2015 and helped send the currency to a 17-year low.

The central bank said the country still faces significant challenges over the medium term and there's an increased urgency to accelerate the eco-

nomy's transition to a higher-income nation. Malaysia needs to move away from depending on being a low-cost production center to drive growth and intensify efforts to boost productivity.

"The Malaysian economy continued to be in a period of adjustment, with the ongoing implementation of fiscal reforms," the central bank said. "These reforms are crucial and have a vital role in supporting the sustainable growth of our economy. In the interim, however, these domestic adjustments, alongside the impact of weaker ringgit exchange rate, have affected the cost of living for households."

Inflation is forecast to average 2.5 percent and 3.5 percent this year, quickening from a pace of 2.1 percent in 2015 and higher than an October prediction of as much as 3 percent. Price gains will be driven by increases from highway toll charges to electricity tariffs and a weaker ringgit, the central bank said. This will be countered in part by lower global commodity prices, it said.

Malaysia is expected to record an overall trade surplus in 2016, the central bank said. The current account surplus is projected to be 19.1 billion ringgit in 2016, narrowing from 34 billion ringgit last year, according to the report. **Bloomberg**

INDIA

Discarded electronics that may poison environment targeted

Anindya Upadhyay

INDIA is proposing stringent new rules to crack down on waste from discarded electronics that will require those who make and sell the units to be responsible for collecting old devices that otherwise would end up in landfills.

The rules are aimed at preventing toxic chemicals included in electronics from leaching into the environment. For the first time, the rules will cover compact fluorescent lamps, most of which include quantities of mercury that can poison or kill humans as it seeps from landfills into the groundwater or farmland. They apply both to manufacturers and the companies that sell electronics.

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said India will mandate collecting



In this Oct. 17, 2014 photo, young waste pickers look for recyclable items at a landfill as the sun sets on the outskirts of New Delhi

30 percent of the units by 2018 and 70 percent by 2023. Those who produce the goods will be required to establish a method to pick up the units as their customers discard them.

"A provision for financial penalty for violation of rules has also been introduced," Javadekar said at a press conference in New Delhi yesterday.

The new rules will

help improve the accountability of companies producing electronics by making them responsible for waste, said Toxics Links, an environmental research and advocacy organization.

The current systems with few restrictions on dumping electronics raises the risk that toxic substances inside can leak into the water table, farmland or atmosphere. Some goods are

thrown into landfills, where poisonous materials can escape. Others are either burned or picked apart by scrap dealers in an unsafe way.

"Government will have to ensure strict penalties for defaulters in order to ensure compliance and transparency," said Satish Sinha, associate director of Toxics Link.

The environment ministry's inclusion of recycling mercury-containing CFL bulbs in the new norms is also a result of an order by the country's green tribunal. Toxics Link has been pressing for the move since 2014.

About 1.7 million tons of electronic waste was generated in India in 2014, and the volume is growing at a rate of 4 percent to 5 percent a year, the minister said. **Bloomberg**

Zebra runs amok in Japanese golf course, dies in lake

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

A zebra that was on the loose on a Japanese golf course for hours has died after it was chased around by a dozen men including police officers, likely drowning after being shot by tranquilizer dart and plunging into a lake.

Police say the 2-year-old male zebra escaped late Tuesday from a horseback riding club. It had belonged to a farm in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan.

By yesterday morning, it had wandered onto a nearby golf course in Gifu Prefecture, with TV news footage showing it zipping from hole to hole.

People were chasing the ani-

mal around the golf course, some holding lassos, trying to capture it, but with little luck. The animal would let them get close, then would dash off when they tried to rein it in.

It was shot with a tranquilizer dart, but then ran into a lake.

It was rescued within minutes, but its heart had stopped, and attempts to resuscitate it failed, said Takahiro Taniguchi of Tajimi police in Gifu.

Although the cause of death was unclear, as it may have died from the tranquilizer medication, it likely drowned, Taniguchi said. A veterinarian on scene said the zebra appeared to have drowned, he said.

"We pulled it out, but its heart had stopped," he said. **AP**





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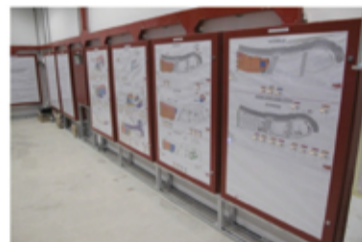


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opinion

Mohamed A. El-Erian, Bloomberg

ASSESSING MARKET REACTIONS TO BRUSSELS

The reaction of financial markets to the terrorist attacks in Brussels on Tuesday was calm and mature, showing that they have learned the lessons of such tragedies, which have become all too common. Nonetheless, markets will find it increasingly difficult to price the longer-term effects, including unusual political developments that could affect the global economy.

The markets' relatively muted reaction signaled that macroeconomic effects would be limited. This forecast of a contained impact is consistent with the after-effects of other such outrages, including those that followed the attacks in London, Madrid and Paris. In previous cases, the impact on overall gross domestic product has usually been limited and transitory, fading with time.

Investors and traders also reacted maturely at the sector level. The price action in markets on Tuesday was characterized by notable differentiation, again illustrating the extent to which the marketplace has learned from previous attacks in Europe. For example, travel and leisure stocks underperformed the market as a whole while health care and technology outperformed.

But even though markets responded rationally in the short run, there now could be a greater sense of uncertainty about what is ahead. The effects of that incertitude are not easy to predict and price.

The main question concerns the ways in which national politics will be influenced by geopolitical developments that are perpetrated by non-state disruptors rather than traditional nation-states. Such changes could have consequences for economic policy, growth and corporate earnings. In this case, it is likely that the Brussels attacks will further fuel the rise of non-traditional and anti-establishment political movements on both sides of the Atlantic.

In continental Europe, this is likely to translate into a greater empowerment of fringe parties that, in countries such as Denmark and France, already have become serious electoral contenders. In the U.K., the disruption will embolden the anti-immigration message of those who want their nation to leave the European Union. In the U.S., it could lead to greater support for Donald Trump in the Republican presidential nomination contest.

None of these developments has yet reached an unambiguous tipping point. But the horror on Tuesday brings such an outcome a step closer. And these events complicate the role of traditional parties, including those now in office, even as a comprehensive policy approach is needed to take over from the increasingly overburdened central banks.



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (front center), stands with (front row left to right) French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, Belgium's King Philippe, Belgium's Queen Mathilde and Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel as well as members of the European Commission during a minute of silence at EU headquarters in Brussels yesterday

Fear of bloody attacks becomes part of life in Europe

PARIS, Copenhagen, Brussels. In just over a year three European capitals have been ravaged by bombs and gunfire.

After each attack life slowly returns to normal. But it's a new normal for Europe, where terror alerts are always on high and where people in cities so far spared major violence assume it's a matter of when, not if.

"With each atrocity that occurs we change," said Ian Duncan, a Scottish member of the European Parliament in Brussels. "We become less open. We pull down barriers and close doors. But it is a direction we are following now."

The carnage in Brussels on Tuesday came as Europe was still reeling from the November attacks by Islamic militants in Paris that killed 130 people. In the following months France and Belgium have looked like countries at least partially at war, with soldiers in the streets, lockdowns and deadly shootouts with militants. The rest of Europe has watched with trepidation.

"These were attacks in Belgium. They could just as well be attacks in Britain or France or Germany or elsewhere in Europe," British Prime Minister David Cameron told the BBC on Tuesday. He said Britain's threat level remains "severe," meaning an attack is considered highly likely.

The Islamic State group

claimed responsibility for the attacks at the Brussels airport and in the city's subway that left dozens dead and scores more wounded.

French President Francois Hollande said the attacks targeted all of Europe and he warned of a long "war" ahead.

■ The recent frequency and scale of attacks have made some Europeans feel that it's just something they have to get used to

Though people in Western Europe have dealt with the threat of violence from Muslim extremists as well as homegrown nationalist and revolutionary movements for decades, the idea that a "war" is playing out in their streets is hard to imagine. But the recent frequency and scale of attacks have made some Europeans feel that it's just something they have to get used to.

"Five years ago you didn't think about it so much," said Francesca Cervellini, a 20-year-old Italian tourist as she passed by the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm. "It didn't happen so often before. Now it's everyday life. It's normal."

In Moscow, security has been tightened notably at everyday locations in the wake of a series of attacks in the past 15 years. There are metal detectors at the entrances to all subway stations, all passenger rail stations do luggage scans, most indoor shopping centers have metal detectors and glowering guards. Airports do luggage scans at the entrance.

In Western Europe people are more reluctant to trade civil liberties and an open society for more security. But after each attack that equation changes, at least temporarily, said Catherine Muller, of the Institute of Development Studies in Brighton, England.

"Terrorism is one of the risks people normally overestimate because it is very scary and has a strong emotional effect," said Muller.

While those fears are perfectly understandable, she said, it's important to remember that "no matter what policies or laws are in place, there's not going to be 100 percent security."

In Germany the fear of ter-

rorism is less acute than in France or Belgium, but the risk of such attacks is something far-right and nationalist groups focus on a lot, especially in connection with the influx of migrants from the Middle East.

There haven't been any attacks by Islamic extremists in Germany since Arid Uka shot dead two American servicemen at Frankfurt airport in 2011. However there have been several attempted attacks that failed or were foiled.

Denmark witnessed an attack in February last year, when a gunman, apparently inspired by the Charlie Hebdo shooting massacre in Paris a few weeks earlier, opened fire against a free-speech seminar and outside a synagogue.

Sweden hasn't seen an attack since a suicide bomber blew himself up in Stockholm in December 2010, but failed to kill anyone else. But reports of hundreds of extremists from Sweden joining Islamic State fighters in Syria have sparked concerns that an attack will happen sooner or later.

"It could happen tomorrow or in a year or in five years," said Dani Amouri, a 23-year-old Stockholm resident who left Lebanon five years ago. "In Sweden, Denmark, Germany, everywhere. There is no peace in the world anymore. Not even in Europe."

MDT/AP

Raf Casert, Lorne Cook, Brussels

Belgian broadcaster identifies two suspects in attacks

BELGIAN authorities searched yesterday for a man pictured at the Brussels airport with two apparent suicide bombers, amid growing suggestions that the bombings of the Brussels airport and subway were the work of the same Islamic State cell that attacked Paris last year.

The European Union's capital awoke under guard after 34 people were killed and more than 200 wounded in Tuesday's attacks. The Islamic State group, which was behind the Paris attacks, claimed responsibility for the Brussels bombings, which laid bare Europe's vulnerability to a group trying to spread violence well beyond its bases in the Middle East.

Police conducted raids overnight and circulated a photo of three men seen at the airport wheeling trollies that presumably contained explosives-filled suitcases.

Belgian state broadcaster RTBF identified two of the attackers as brothers Khalid and Brahim El Bakraoui, and said they are believed to have blown themselves up. According to the report, which did not say who its sources were, Khalid El Bakraoui had rented an apartment that was raided last week in an operation that led authorities to top Paris attacks suspect Salah Abdeslam.

One of the men pictured at the airport is at large. Authorities have not identified him, but Belgian newspaper DH reported that he might be Najim Laachraoui, whom Belgian authorities have been searching for since last week as a suspected accomplice of Abdeslam.

Laachraoui is believed to have made the suicide vests used in the Paris attacks, a French police official told The Associated Press, adding that Laachraoui's DNA was found on all of the vests as well as in a Brussels apartment where they were made.



Belgium's justice minister said the country will remain at its highest terrorism threat level

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Abdeslam was arrested Friday in the Brussels neighborhood where he grew up, a rough place with links to several of the attackers who targeted a Paris stadium, rock concert and cafes on

Nov. 13. Those attacks killed 130 people and terrified Europe.

A Belgian official working on the investigation told the AP that it is a "plausible hypothesis" that Abdeslam was part of the cell linked to the Brussels attack. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss an ongoing investigation.

French and Belgian authorities have said in recent days that the network behind the Paris attacks was much larger than initially thought — and developments this week suggest the same group could have staged both the Paris and Brussels attacks.

Belgium's justice minister said yesterday that the country will remain at its highest terrorism threat level until further notice. That level means there's a threat of an "imminent" attack.

The airport and several Brussels metro stations remained closed yesterday. Security forces stood guard around the neighborhood housing the headquarters of European Union institutions, as nervous Brussels residents began returning to school and work under a misty rain.

As befits an international city like Brussels, the foreign minister said the dead collectively held at least 40 nationalities.

"It's a war that terrorism has declared not only on France and on Europe, but on the world," French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said yesterday on Europe-1 radio. Valls, who planned to visit Brussels yesterday, urged tougher controls of the EU's external borders.

"We must be able to face the extension of radical Islamism

[...] that spreads in some of our neighborhoods and perverts our youth," he said. The Paris attackers were mainly French and Belgian citizens of North African descent, some from neighborhoods that struggle with discrimination, unemployment and alienation.

In its claim of responsibility, the Islamic State group said its members detonated suicide vests both at the airport and in the subway, where many passengers fled to safety down dark tunnels filled with hazy smoke from the explosion. IS warned of further attacks, issuing a statement promising "dark days" for countries taking part in the anti-IS coalition.

European security officials have been bracing for a major attack for weeks and had warned that IS was actively preparing to strike. **AP**



Terror threatens Cameron's EU pitch, Merkel's open door

IF David Cameron and Angela Merkel thought they had earned a moment's respite from their woes, the murderous attacks in Brussels only deepened their political turmoil.

The bombings at the heart of the European Union that killed at least 34 people were seized upon by proponents of Britain leaving the bloc to argue that EU membership puts the U.K. more at risk, rather than making it safer as the prime minister asserts. In Germany, an insurgent party that benefited from opposition to Chancellor Merkel's open-door po-

licy on refugees immediately warned of the threat of "political Islam."

The Brussels attacks may increase xenophobic and anti-immigration sentiment across the EU, which has already been rising in light of the refugee crisis, said Mujtaba Rahman, director of European analysis at the Eurasia Group in London. That has implications both for the survival of the passport-free Schengen area championed by Merkel and the outcome of the U.K.'s in-out referendum on the EU in June, he said.

The blasts are a "nail in Schengen's coffin," and crea-

te the perception among the public that EU leaders are "not in control," Rahman said in a Bloomberg Radio interview. Outside the Schengen zone in Britain, "Cameron has argued that the U.K. will be safer in the EU, but these events will make that narrative harder to sell."

The Sun newspaper picked up the baton yesterday, referring to comments Cameron made in an interview that Europe helps make Britain safer. "How hollow that sounds today after the atrocities in the heart of Brussels," it said in a op-ed. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Trump: Brussels the result of lack of assimilation

LEADING U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said Tuesday's attacks in Brussels that killed at least 34 people are the result of unassimilated Muslims refusing to turn in terrorists living in their midst.

"There is no assimilation, very little assimilation for whatever reason," Trump said in an interview with ITV's Good Morning Britain. "They want to go by their own sets of laws."

"What is going on there and what is going on in many other locations, like Paris and others, is a disgrace, an absolute disgrace that we allow it to happen," Trump said, according to an e-mailed transcript.

Asked for a message to British Muslims, he said: "When they see trouble, they have to report it, they're absolutely not reporting it and that's a big problem." Trump, who last year called for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S., said he had "great respect" for Muslims and had many Muslim friends.

Trump said countries in the region had to provide the troops to fight Islamic State on the ground, but as president he'd provide "back up like you've never seen before, in terms of air power, air strikes. And you've got to take them out and you've got to take them out harshly and you've got to take them out fast." **Bloomberg**

what's ON



"HUMAN SCENERY" - PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
BY TANG KUOK HOU

TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on Sunday and public holidays)

UNTIL: April 23, 2016

VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

Free Admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

EASTER CONCERT

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: St. Dominic's Church

Admission with free ticket

ORGANIZER: Macau Orchestra

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

ONE CENTURY OF AUSTRIAN ART 1860-1960

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

UNTIL: April 3, 2016

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

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

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

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

CHAN MING'S EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30 pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: April 30, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

Offbeat

ELEPHANT DUNG AT PRAGUE ZOO MORPHS INTO A NEW FORM: PAPER



At first, their elephant dung was sold to gardeners as fertilizer. Now Prague Zoo has come up with a new use for it: making paper.

The zoo has joined forces with the country's famed hand paper mill in Velke Losiny to process the manure to be used in traditional paper-making techniques.

Petr Foucek, a director from Velke Losiny, says the 420-year-old mill has made paper from all sorts of materials but elephant dung "is something new for us."

Visitors will be able to make their own paper at a new zoo facility starting today. The announcement comes almost five years after the zoo began selling elephant dung in 1-kilogram containers.

The brains behind the project is zoo director Miroslav Bobek, whose surname literally means "dung" in Czech.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:35	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Serie
00:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

24 MAR - 30 MAR



BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

ROOM 1

2.30, 6.30, 9.15 pm

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 153min

KUNG FU PANDA 3

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Alessandro Carloni, Jennifer Yuh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 95min

LONDON HAS FALLING

ROOM 2

9.30 pm

Director: Babak Najafi

Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart,

Morgan Freeman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min



ZOOTOPIA

ROOM 3

(2D) 2.15, 4.05, 7.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 5.45 pm

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 108min

(25-28 MAR) EDDIE THE EAGLE

ROOM 3

9.30 pm

Director: Dexter Fletcher

Starring: Taron Egerton, Huge Jackman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 99min

MACAU TOWER

24 MAR - 27 APR

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 153min

this day in history



1992 PUNCH ENDS 150 YEARS OF SATIRE

Punch, Britain's oldest satirical magazine, is to close after suffering crippling losses of £1.5m a year.

The decision ends a publishing tradition dating back almost 151 years.

It is expected to publish its final issue on 8 April after circulation plummeted from highs of 175,000 sales in the 1940s to 33,000 in the present day.

Publisher United Newspapers Group, which also owns the Daily Express, made the announcement today and said it was beyond recovery unless another buyer is found.

UNG managing director Graham Wilson said he would continue searching for a buyer but would not reveal any likely candidates.

There have been many rumours in recent years Punch would fold.

A £700,000 campaign to promote the magazine during its 150th anniversary last year did little to boost flagging sales.

"We needed sales to go up by thousands but they only went up by hundreds," David Thomas, the editor, said. "We did our best but it just wasn't enough."

Losses have been blamed partly on advertisers shifting to the rising number of colour supplements in weekend newspapers.

But its main failure is seen as not having kept up with the competition.

The magazine which once set the pace of political satire was outwitted in the circulation department by the racier Private Eye and the schoolboyish Viz magazine.

Ironically, its bid to keep up with these competitors also alienated traditional readers.

The magazine, which became a British institution, has carried articles by William Makepeace Thackeray and A. A. Milne as well as cartoons by the likes of Sir John Tenniel, the illustrator of "Alice in Wonderland".

It was founded in 1841 in the back room of a pub in the Strand.

Mark Lemon, a brewery manager who wanted to become a writer, Henry Mayhew, a lawyer-turned-journalist and the noted engraver Ebenezer Landells decided to publish a new magazine.

It would combine humour, stylish illustrations, political debate and a social conscience with a fresh audacity which became its hallmark.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The old joke, "Punch is not as funny as it used to be - but then again it never was", drew little laughs as it folded.

Four years later the Egyptian businessman Mohamed al Fayed brought it back to life.

He funded new exposés on the likes of Peter Mandelson, the architect of New Labour, and the media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

But eventually it was costing £40,000 per issue to produce with subscriptions at only 6,000 and Mr Al Fayed closed the title again in 2002.

A website still exists for the magazine, reported to have at one time refused articles by Charles Dickens, with many hoping it could make a comeback and regain its cutting-edge image.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's important that you be direct today - otherwise, you're just wasting your time. You do have to be nice about it, but you should find that things are still worth standing your ground for.

Taurus April 20-May 20 It's easy to laugh today - especially because the universe seems to be dreaming up new ways to entertain you! Push yourself to try new things and ask big questions, as the answers are sure to amuse you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Has a bill been hanging over your head lately? Now is the time to face up to that backlog and deal with your finances, even if you don't feel like it. Things start to get better almost immediately!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're in charge - but not everyone is on board with that. It's up to you what to do with the mutineers, but your energy is good enough that you can probably afford to be merciful.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You may get stuck within the system if you find yourself anywhere near a bureaucracy today - you're allergic to red tape for now! Try to put that stuff off for just one more day, if possible.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your left brain is hyperactive today - so let it analyze every little thing you encounter! It's a really good time for creative problem-solving and helping others with their difficult issues.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Someone close introduces you to a new friend - and it could turn into something much deeper. It's more likely an alliance than a romance, but knowing you, almost anything is possible!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Life gets a little more intense today - and that's how you like it! Try to find a way to get your people to get in between you and your adversaries, or there could be some serious trouble afoot.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 There's nothing you can't handle today - your energy may be a bit unfocused, but you can still cope with the details of your new situation. A friend helps you reorganize to make things even better!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your great energy is helping you save money on essential shopping today, but not so much on luxuries. Stick to the basics and you should end the day feeling like you've saved enough to splurge later.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 This is not the most exciting day of the year - but you can still find a few ways to keep your mind engaged. You may want to read old books, check in with family or learn a new trick.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're feeling a bit more arty today - so communicate through poetry or other indirect means. You should connect with the right people and confuse the wrong ones, so it's win-win!



SUDOKU

Easy and Easy+ Sudoku puzzles. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in. The Easy puzzle has numbers 2, 1, 4, 6, 7, 1, 7, 8, 4, 8, 1, 6, 5, 3, 4, 8, 6, 3, 1, 4, 7, 8. The Easy+ puzzle has numbers 6, 4, 9, 3, 2, 7, 1, 2, 5, 1, 3, 5, 7, 1, 6, 2, 3, 2, 6, 5, 7, 9, 8, 8, 6, 1, 3, 9.

Medium and Hard Sudoku puzzles. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in. The Medium puzzle has numbers 9, 1, 6, 8, 6, 4, 1, 7, 9, 7, 1, 2, 6, 5, 4, 2, 1, 4, 8, 5, 1, 2, 9, 9, 5, 4, 8, 9, 3. The Hard puzzle has numbers 8, 3, 5, 4, 1, 5, 2, 3, 7, 4, 8, 1, 6, 3, 2, 7, 4.

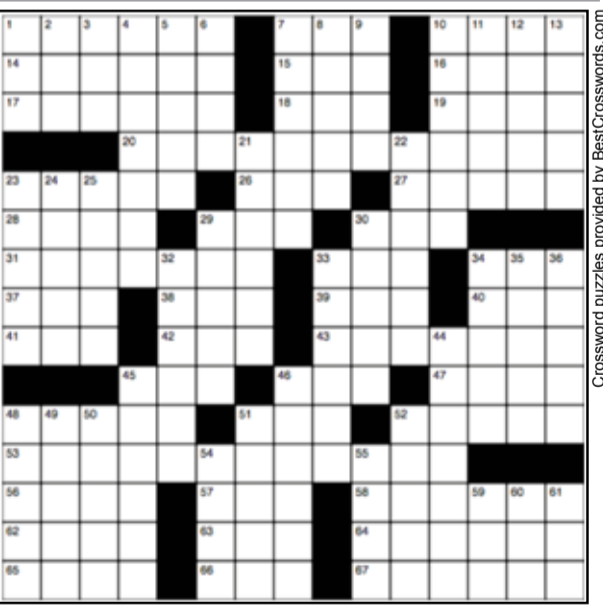
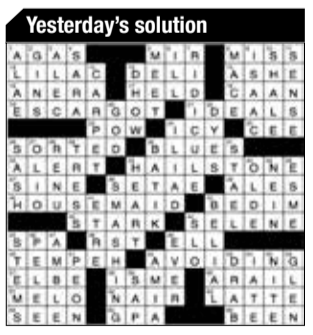
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Metamorphic rock; 7- Air rifle ammo; 10- Apprehends; 14- Eye membrane; 15- Slice of history; 16- Shrinking Asian sea; 17- Think; 18- ___ room; 19- Capital of Yemen; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Become less intense, die off; 26- Help, resource; 27- Anklebone; 28- First class; 29- Raggedy doll; 30- Hockey's Bobby; 31- More than a little excited; 33- Defunct airline; 34- Ukr. or Lith., once; 37- Some MIT grads; 38- Foot digit; 39- Conducted; 40- Tax pro; 41- Banned insecticide; 42- Religious sch.; 43- Using no fluid; 45- DDE opponent; 46- Gore and more; 47- Neighbor of Sask.; 48- Stable compartment; 51- Hoopla; 52- Apple juice; 53- Largest ocean; 56- High-performance Camaro; 57- Orch. section; 58- Plate appearances; 62- Me neither; 63- "The Simpsons" bartender; 64- Tastelessly affected; 65- 2002 erupter; 66- Grads-to-be; 67- In a faint;

DOWN: 1- Chem., for one; 2- Atlantic food fish; 3- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 4- Agitated; 5- Stiff bristles; 6- Chinese weight; 7- Capital of Germany; 8- Baked dough; 9- Large bag; 10- Winston Cup org.; 11- Thin as ___; 12- African language group; 13- Does in; 21- Bicycle built for two; 22- Online brokerage; 23- Oohed and ___; 24- Greeted the villain; 25- Emo anxiety; 29- Healing plants; 30- 1936 Olympics star; 32- In and of ___; 33- Aztec god of rain; 34- Reprimand; 35- Ill will; 36- Speeder spotter; 44- Multicolored; 45- Actress Silverstone; 46- Idolizes; 48- Backbone; 49- Fortune-telling cards; 50- Nut of an oak; 51- Thespian; 52- The Younger and The Elder; 54- Doctrines; 55- I could ___ horse; 59- From ___ Z; 60- Likewise; 61- Male child;



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



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H Unit Gladiolus Court Coloane 2,530 sq ft / HKD 11.8M HKD 4,664sq ft Roof Top Terrace Ref: 11115275
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Houston Court Coloane Village 2 Bedroom Apartment Lovely Roof Terrace HKD 12,500 / 740 sq ft Ref: 15110549

Kam Long, Lilau Square Macau 1,100 sq ft / HKD 4.9M HKD 4,454sq ft Renovated in 2004 Ref: 15085452
Modern Apartment Old Taipa 2 Bedroom Apartment Newly Renovated HKD 14,000 / 820 sq ft Ref: 16020564

Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau 627 sq ft / HKD 3.88M HKD 6,188sq ft Near Ruins of St Pauls Ref: 15075447
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Dinosaurs 'live' at the Science Center



THE LIVING Dinosaurs Exhibition, held at the Science Center, features 14 types of life-like mechanical replica dinosaurs, interactive virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) games as well as 72 small-scale dinosaur models and e-books. The various components of this exhibition will allow the public to perceive how dinosaurs appeared on Earth, and dominated the planet for over 160 million years. Still controversial, the true reason for the extinction of dinosaurs is an ongoing debate among scientists. Visitors will learn about different dinosaur species, their behavior, their habitat, as well as the roles they played in ecosystems during the Mesozoic era. Designed and produced by Imagine Exhibitions and Aurea Exhibitions with the scientific contribution of three paleontologists, the exhibition also features the award-winning works of the 'Dino Coloring Contest'. Moreover, the science center has launched its planetarium's newest dome show, "Dinosaurs at Dusk: the origins of flight 3D". The show won the Innovative FullDome Production Award at the 2013 Jena FullDome Festival. The exhibition opened yesterday at the Exhibition Center Gallery 2 and will run until September 11.

BRAZIL'S economic and political crisis has relegated Rio de Janeiro's Olympic preparations to an afterthought with South America's first games just over four months away.

Rio's Olympics are being sidelined by an even bigger show: Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff's fight against impeachment with millions on the streets marching against her. All of this amid multiple corruption scandals with the country mired in the worst economic recession since the 1930s.

"If this was five years ago, we could have even lost the games," organizing committee spokesman Mario Andrada told The Associated Press. "I have never experienced such political turmoil in my whole life," he added. "If you ask me what's next on the political front, I don't have a clue."

Brazil's leaders were hoping attention from the Olympics — and the 2014 World Cup — would burnish the country's image. Instead, they may have done the opposite with the ominous impeachment getting intense coverage, highlighting graft trials, endemic corruption and a sharp fall in the value of country's currency.

Earlier this month an estimated 3 million people took to the streets across the country in

OLYMPICS

Political crisis relegates Rio to an afterthought



In this March 13, 2016 file photo, a demonstrator holds a poster with the photo of Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff and former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in prison stripes during a protest on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro

anti-Rousseff demonstrations, which were reported to be larger than protests in 1984 demanding elections and an end of the country's military dictatorship.

Andrada sounded buoyant, saying: "We are almost there. The things that we need from the government — they are smaller, day-to-day things."

However, there are worrying signs.

The city of Rio de Janeiro, which is building many of the new Olympic venues, has rescinded contracts on at least two venues — the tennis and equestrian center — and delays have been reported on at least four other Olympic projects. The city says about 95 percent of the building

work is done and venues will be delivered in time.

"The political crisis at the federal level does not affect the last building mile for the preparation of the games in any way," the city hall said Tuesday in a statement.

Earlier this week, the head police for the state of Rio de Janeiro, Jose Mariano Beltrame, said his budget had been reduced by 2 billion reais (USD600 million), a cut sure to impact Olympic security.

Sergio Praca, a political scientist at the respected Getulio Vargas foundation, said the Olympics would not escape the government chaos.

"The federal bureaucracy is

completely paralyzed right now; for lack of money, for lack of knowing where all of this is headed," he said. "So all the security planning, any planning that has to do with the Olympic Games is made more difficult now."

It was different in 2009 when Rio was awarded the games, championed by then-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. He called it a "sacred day" and praised the "strength of Brazil's economy," which shrank by 4 percent in 2015 with no improvement in sight.

"This is a day to commemorate because Brazil has left its status as a second-class nation," Silva said in Copenhagen as thousands back home celebrated

on Copacabana beach. "Today we're getting the respect that Brazil has been deserving."

The promises now seem hollow, and so does the legendary Silva.

A few weeks ago he was hauled into a police station for questioning in a graft and money-laundering investigation.

Last week Rousseff named him her chief of staff, which would grant him some legal immunity — an appointment subsequently blocked by a court ruling.

Hours later he told a screaming rally: "There will be no coup," a reminder of the military dictatorship that ended 31 years ago.

"I assure you the Olympic Games are the last thing on everybody's mind right now," Praca said. "This was supposed to be a great year for Brazil and Rio, but it's been anything but that — even if the Olympic Games go well."

It's possible that Rousseff will be out as president when the games open on Aug. 5, which may leave the ceremonial opening of the games to vice president Michel Temer. Lula's future is also murky with some newspapers suggesting he and some family members could face jail time.

"Part of me wishes the Olympics Games would not happen here just so people don't see how politically disorganized the country is, the economic chaos and the recession," Praca added. "This is the worst time in Brazilian history to hold the Olympic Games. Brazil's image, which had gotten a lot better in the last few years, will now completely tank."

This is not the first time in recent memory that unprecedented events have pushed the Olympics off the radar.

The May 2008 Sichuan earthquake in China killed tens of thousands and left millions homeless. It muted protests in the three months before the games began, sparking a wave of goodwill toward the Beijing Olympics that had been battered by pro-Tibet protests, noxious air pollution and attacks on the torch relay as it circled the globe.

MDT/AP

The federal bureaucracy is completely paralyzed right now; for lack of money, for lack of knowing where all of this is headed.

SERGIO PRACA
POLITICAL SCIENTIST

BOXING

Heavyweight champion Browne unsure if he can clear his name

WBA heavyweight boxing champion Lucas Browne says he's "completely" innocent of doping, but has no idea whether he will be able to clear his name.

Browne tested positive to banned steroid clenbuterol, which boosts metabolism and burns fat, when he won his world title by beating Ruslan Chagaev in the 10th round of their fight in Grozny, Russia, on March 5.

The victory made him Australia's first hea-

vyweight world boxing champion.

The positive case was first reported by ESPN, citing a letter to the boxers and managers involved in the Grozny fight from the Las Vegas-based Volunteer Anti-Doping Association (VADA).

"I am completely innocent," Browne told Perth media yesterday. "Unfortunately social media runs wild with things like this."

"A lot of people I thought were friends are now

jumping on the bandwagon, saying I'm a cheat when they don't really know the story. I would like to assure all my fans, the whole of the boxing world and all of Australia that I am not a drug user or a drug cheat."

Browne's promoter, former British boxer Ricky Hatton, confirmed earlier this week he had been notified of Browne's positive test.

"We believe Lucas Browne to be a clean athlete who arrived in Chechnya a clean athle-

te," Hatton said in a statement. "We are therefore conducting our own further investigations and cannot comment further at this time."

Browne earlier said he'd never heard of clenbuterol, until now. He said he has been told the substance is used as a weight-loss drug, which he said would be "utterly ridiculous" to use as a heavyweight.

Browne suggested the positive test could have resulted from sabotage.

MDT/AP



Lucas Browne

opinion

HK Observer
Robert Carroll



**APPEASEMENT
— 'QUELLE SURPRISE'**

Unexpectedly it seems that a lighter touch by Beijing towards Hong Kong has arrived even despite calls for independence! The great taboo subject raised here and responded to without fire and brimstone fearmongering. "Quelle surprise." While I rooted for more patience in the last HK Observer (China Needs to Woo Youth) it was a plea but not anticipated, yet we saw a slew of conciliatory commentary about the territory come out. Signals to Hong Kong from mainland officialdom had been largely stern and reproachful until this month's National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference meetings.

Quite why officials appear to be setting a more soothing tone in how Beijing addresses Hong Kong is not yet clear. Counsel taken to avoid provocative remarks to radical elements may well be behind it. This year's potentially crucial legislative council election would logically be a factor too. There was the strong showings of youthful candidates in district elections and the recent by-election where a young localist, separatist candidate came third with 60,000 votes; double the amount a number of incumbents were elected with. This from growing youth disenchantment with how once country two systems is playing out, and the young, unlike in past LegCo elections, intend to vote en masse. That will not likely favour the establishment.

Reportedly there has been a long term research effort to take local pulses. However if that was the case why was the NPC's Standing Committee position on democratic reform so contra flow to public opinion and citizens' aspirations? Did the pan-democrat engineered LegCo rejection of the reform bill galvanize new research? Was there a more rigorous appraisal of existing surveys that had been previously been doctored to produce what wanted to be heard?

Whatever the reasons, to see evidence of an appeasing approach is a relief, and very welcome as was the - albeit secret - meeting of the Democrat party members with senior Chinese officials during the NPC meetings; a brave but risky move for the democrats in an election year when significant numbers of pan-democrat voters and legislators reject rapprochement with Beijing. Those against such meetings argue that past attempts have proved useless because their words went unheeded. Worse, it appeared to some voters as kowtowing when in their eyes so little had been achieved. Sadly this view ignores who much was achieved by the Democrats in Beijing getting a ten-seat enlargement of the directly-elected legislative council for 2012, including the five so-called super seats - even through indirectly - chosen via the directly elected district councilors, which thereby also substantially widened the voting base.

It's that sort of pragmatism and mutual good will that's needed to go forwards when the political reform process is restarted. Unfortunately the process will be five to ten years away too many years for the impatience of many young voters.

In the meantime if only middle ground could be found between the chief executive and the pan-democrats on inclusiveness in the decision-making process. In order for that to happen there must be the necessary give and take by both Beijing and the pan-democrats, which can only happen with plenty of interaction and that cannot be done with loudspeaker political grandstanding. A good start could be made if in exchange for some - private - climbing down in their long-term demands the pan-democrats could expect to have more influence in local affairs.

THE BUZZ US ELECTIONS: CRUZ TRIES TO ENTICE KASICH TO DROP OUT OF RACE

Ted Cruz is suggesting he'd find a place for Republican rival John Kasich in his future administration if Kasich agrees to drop out of the presidential race and supports him.

Cruz noted that it's mathematically impossible for Kasich to reach the 1,237 delegates needed to secure the GOP nomination. So the only role Kasich is playing now is that of a "spoiler"

by taking votes that could have gone to Cruz. And that is only serving to help front-runner Donald Trump, Cruz says.

In an interview on CNN's "New Day," Cruz said of Kasich: "I think he'd be a tremendous addition to an administration."

Cruz also praised his latest endorsement from Jeb Bush.

**Want to be a zombie?
Join 'The Walking Dead' immersive show**



This undated image released by Walker Stalker Con shows a scene from "The Walking Dead Experience - Chapter One," a touring immersive show based on the popular zombie series on AMC

WHEN the lights come on, the scene in front of you isn't pretty: There's a gagged woman handcuffed to a wall, a TV on at full volume and a guy lying on a couch with a gaping belly wound.

Such is the troubling landscape that greets audience members at the beginning of the touring immersive show recreating the chilling world of AMC's "The Walking Dead," in which the world has been plagued by a zombie apocalypse. The horror drama series is one of the most popular shows on television.

Visitors make their way through the 10,000-square-foot attraction — six sets built into tractor trailers, plus various tents — as either a postapocalyptic survivor or, after a quick makeup session, an undead

zombie.

If you go in as a human, the handcuffed woman — she's the one moaning "They're going to kill me!" — needs to be ungagged. Then she'll give you some more unsettling news: The key to her handcuffs was swallowed by the gentleman on the couch. The one with the hole in his gut.

"Someone's got to go and get the key," says creator and director Michael Counts, one of the early pioneers of immersive theater, during a backstage tour. "Use your imagination to figure it out."

After that gross situation, you must handle simulated gunfire, holographic images of Walkers, billowing smoke, tunnels, realistic light and sound effects, and actors playing Walkers hunting for you. And that's

just the first part.

"It's all these effects that are highly designed, very specific, very produced that ultimately create this totally immersive, totally transportive experience where you're in the world of 'The Walking Dead,'" says Counts.

"The Walking Dead Experience — Chapter One" is set the night that the zombie apocalypse starts. It's backed by the fan-driven Walker Stalker Con and Skybound Entertainment, the company led by "The Walking Dead" creator Robert Kirkman.

It's traveling the country in three tractor trailers and is part of both the Walker Stalkers tour and the Heroes & Villains Fan Fest. It's currently in Salt Lake City and will make stops in April in Denver and Nashville, Tennessee; Chicago in May; Charlotte, North Carolina, in June; Boston and Secaucus, New Jersey, in July; San Jose, California, in August; Philadelphia and Atlanta in October; Atlanta again in November; and Edison, New Jersey, in December.

Walker Stalker Con, the second largest fan convention in North America, plans 16 events across America, a meet-up in London in February and a cruise to the Bahamas. AP

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

SOURCE: D5M6G

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA A journalist was arrested and beaten in police custody after he criticized the police on social media and demanded a law protecting reporters in a region embroiled in a decades-long Maoist insurgency, his lawyer and brother said.



PAKISTAN's president Mamnoon Hussain praises his country's security forces and pledges to fight against terrorism.



BRAZIL A Brazilian Supreme Court justice rejects a motion that would have let former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva take a cabinet post. More on page 19



U.S.-RUSSIA American Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Moscow for talks on Ukraine and Syria with Russia's counterpart Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and President Vladimir Putin. The talks come after last week's surprise announcement of Russia's partial military withdrawal from Syria.

SOMALIA's prime minister has publicly backed a campaign to ban female genital mutilation from his country. The United Nations children's agency, Unicef, estimates that more than 90 percent of Somali girls undergo the practice.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth



Springtime. A bus passes a display of daffodils growing in a park in London this week. The Spring equinox started in the Northern Hemisphere on Sunday.