



JAPAN REOPENS DEBATE TO LEGALIZE CASINOS
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe needs the support of his coalition partner Komeito to pass the legislation

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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES Thousands of protesters have returned to the site of a 1986 revolt that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos, this time to condemn his burial at a heroes' cemetery. Police said at least 3,000 people gathered yesterday at a "people power" monument along the main EDSA highway in metropolitan Manila, chanting "Dig him up." Millions gathered there three decades ago in a largely peaceful uprising to oust Marcos.



SOUTH KOREA President Park Geun-hye's conditional resignation offer appears to be causing cracks in what previously had been a strong push for her impeachment, with opponents now struggling to set a date for a vote to strip her of power.

More on p12

INDONESIA The capital of Muslim-majority Indonesia is on edge ahead of what is expected to be a second massive protest by conservative Muslims against its Christian governor, and no group more so than its Chinese minority.

VIETNAM Authorities have seized nearly a ton of ivory smuggled from Africa after locating nearly five tons in five previous shipments to the same port in the past two months. Ho Chi Minh City's deputy customs chief, Le Dinh Loi, said the ivory seized was hidden inside timber in two containers that arrived at Cat Lai port and was en route to neighboring Cambodia.

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Prospects for democracy dimming in Macau, HK

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MIA welcomes six millionth traveler, terminal expansion concluded next year

P6

Two local men arrested for shooting air guns in the streets

Two local men were arrested for being in possession of multiple air guns, knives and other weapons, including a samurai sword, mountaineers and a rubber mace. The two suspects are aged 21 and 22 years old. Last month, the Judiciary Police (PJ) received reports of people using converted air guns to shoot trees and cars driving on the road at multiple locations around Coloane. The PJ has arrested five suspects, including the abovementioned duo. The three other suspects are also local male residents, aged 19, 20 and 21 years old. One is still a student.

Central Library exhibition attracts 900 visitors

The exhibition of the planned New Central Library, which is being held at the old court building, has attracted approximately 900 visitors since its opening on October 31, according to a statement released by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). More than 20 groups, including schools and associations, have requested guides when visiting the exhibition. With 400 participants, these groups represent almost half of all visitors to date. The IC is arranging introductory sessions to the Library in local middle and primary schools. The exhibition will run until December.

Locals defeated in Macau Open Badminton

All local badminton players who competed in the first two days of the Macau Open 2016 lost to their competitors. According to the latest official results, 12 Macau athletes have already played, on November 29 and yesterday. One of Macau's leaders in women's badminton, Ng Weng Chi, ended her journey in this competition with a 1-2 loss to Indonesian player Debora Rumete Vehrenica. In the first round, she had beaten the Indonesia player by four points, with a final score of 21 to 17 for Ng. The last two rounds were 19 to 21 and 15 to 21.

ELECTIONS

Law revision triggers alarm over democratic prospects

Daniel Beitler

A revision to Macau's Legislative Assembly (AL) Election Law that would bar AL candidates from standing for office if they are found to have violated the territory's Basic Law, or if their loyalty to the MSAR is considered questionable, is poised for introduction ahead of next year's legislative election.

The revision, spearheaded by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, is being touted as a preemptive effort to avoid a similar legislative scandal to Hong Kong's recent oath-taking controversy. It relates specifically to Article 104 of Hong Kong's Basic Law, which Macau authorities say "is basically the same" as Article 101 of the MSAR's Basic Law.

Secretary Chan was clear this week that the initiative had not come at the request of the Central Government; rather, it had been introduced by the local government as a means of "optimizing the legal system for electing members of the Legislative Assembly."

According to a statement from the Government Information Bureau, the preemptive initiative will "prevent any misunderstandings in the future."

However, the revision has already caused a great deal of alarm in the city, as it would grant government bodies the ability to disqualify potential lawmakers before they have even been accepted as candidates.

Moreover, potential candidates may be prevented from running for office on the basis of statements or actions made prior to announcing their intent to run, instead of just statements and actions made from the point when the revision takes effect.

The potential for the law to be applied retroactively, and the ability of non-independent government bodies to act as an arbiter over who should be permitted to run, as well as the subjective nature of the checklist criteria, has led some obser-



vers to regard the changes as a threat to local democracy.

Speaking on the sensitive subject, a legal expert said that one of the most worrying developments is that a fundamental right of Macau citizens will be transferred to what is essentially a municipal authority.

"What we are dealing with is a fundamental right [controlled] by a municipal body, [but] which body can decide this?" asked the expert, who insisted on anonymity.

"In Macau, it is likely that this body will be the Electoral Affairs Committee [...] can one part of the government decide who can run in the election? [...] This [power] is typically the responsibility of the courts."

"These are extremely open concepts which should not be so open. [...] There are some qualities that are easy to quantify [when determining who can run for election], like nationality or age. But these [new] conditions are less quantifiable. They are potentially open to abuse – not that they necessarily will be abused, but they could be."

An email statement from the Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice confirmed that the planned revision will grant the Electoral Affairs Commission the power to judge the sincerity of pledges, as well as whether candidates who have made questionable statements in the past have now "abandoned those previous be-

liefs or not."

Current affairs commentator Eric Sautede told the Times that the proposed policy amendment is unlikely to have a significant effect on future elections.

"It's more a show of solidarity with the Hong Kong government [...] and done to satisfy Beijing," he said, adding that a hypothetical enforcement of the policy might provoke "an adverse reaction" from Macau residents.

Sautede also proposed that the new requirements might be intended to quell potential separatism in the city in the distant future. In this sense it might be used as an "instrument" to prevent the emergence of an unpalatable scenario, as in Hong Kong. However, there is a slim chance they will be required, he said, since Macau is devoid of separatist movements

calling for independence.

Asked whether the requirement would contravene other existing rights enshrined by the Basic Law, the legal expert said it would be incompatible with freedom of expression, and the right to elect and to be elected.

"I don't know where this is going... It is not normal in any democratic or semi-democratic system."

However, Sonia Chan's office refuted the allegation, which would implicate the Secretary herself of failing to uphold the Basic Law.

"There is no contradiction with Article 26 of the Basic Law stating that the permanent residents of the Macau SAR shall have the right to vote and the right to stand for election, nor with Article 27 stating that the Macau residents shall have freedom of speech," the Secretary's office asserted.

RETROACTIVE APPLICATION NOT A PROBLEM FOR CHAN

IT IS not the first time that the Secretary for Administration and Justice has indicated that a new law in Macau should be applied retroactively, despite such a requirement being highly unusual. The extradition treaty with Hong Kong – which is currently being discussed – would also apply retroactively, Chan told the press in April, allowing the surrender of fugitives who have already been

convicted as long as the rulings against them are still valid. It is believed that the cases of Joseph Lau and Steven Lo, who were both sentenced to prison in 2014 for corruption and money laundering, would be targeted by the extradition agreement in this case. However, Chan has declined to address the matter, saying that she is unable to comment on individual cases.

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HONG KONG

Disqualified separatist lawmakers lose appeal

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

TWO separatist Hong Kong lawmakers lost their appeal yesterday against a ruling disqualifying them from office because they altered their oaths with an anti-China insult.

The Court of Appeal sided with a judgment earlier this month barring Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching of the Youngspiration Party from taking their seats in the city's Legislative Council.

It agreed with the High Court's decision two weeks ago that the two effectively declined to take the oath, violating a section of the semiautonomous Chinese city's Basic Law constitution covering oaths taken by officials.

The three-judge panel said its ruling was backed up by Beijing's own controversial interpretation of the



Sixtus Leung (left), and Yau Wai-ching

Basic Law.

In an act of defiance at the swearing-in ceremony last month, Leung and Yau modified the oath, which requires pledging allegiance to Hong Kong as a part of China, by referring to the "Hong Kong nation" and using a derogatory term for China. They also displayed a flag that said "Hong Kong is not China." Yau, 25, cursed and Leung, 30, crossed his fingers.

"There can be no innocent explanation for what they

uttered and did," the ruling said. "What has been done was done deliberately and intentionally."

The actions infuriated China's central government in Beijing, which responded with a constitutional interpretation that Hong Kong courts are required to enforce. But in an unprecedented move, the interpretation was released before the lower court came to a decision, sparking fears that Beijing was eroding Hong Kong's considerable

autonomy and independent judiciary.

Leung and Yau said they are considering appealing to Hong Kong's top court, the Court of Final Appeal, but had to take into account mounting legal costs and whether the move would trigger another interpretation by Beijing.

Leung and Yau were among a group of lawmakers newly elected in September amid a rising tide of anti-China sentiment driven by fears that Beijing is tightening its grip on the former British colony.

The ruling comes after the Hong Kong government indicated it plans to widen its campaign against the opposition by taking action against a third pro-democracy lawmaker, Lau Siu-lai, who read her pledge in an exaggeratedly slow manner in an apparent protest.

The Justice Department said in a brief statement Tuesday that the government plans to "issue proceedings" against Lau, without further details. Unlike the other two, Lau was allowed to retake her pledge later. **AP**

Shenzhen, Macau to pursue financial cooperation



The local government is planning to explore further cooperation opportunities

in the field of financial services with the city of Shenzhen. The Shenzhen-Macau Cooperation Conference was held yesterday at the government headquarters (pictured). On the sidelines of the event, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, told reporters that the cooperation with Shenzhen would aid Macau in achieving its goal of developing specialized financial services. The Secretary also noted the previous support that Shenzhen has offered Macau in terms of the latter's establishment of system regarding the clearance of patacas and renminbi. Leong further promised that the two cities would continue to push forward cooperation in the MICE, financial services, tourism, education and cultural affairs sector. However, the next phase of the cooperation conference will focus on the development of a logistics hub in coastal areas of Guangdong Province.

Catarina Domingues wins local journalism award

Catarina Domingues has won the Fundação Oriente (Orient Foundation) Journalism Award 2016 for a report aired by TDM's Canal Macau last year. The report is focused on the challenges faced by breastfeeding mothers in Macau. The accolade, which includes a MOP50,000 cash prize, will be presented at the Orient Foundation delegation in Macau (Casa Garden) on December 14 at 6.30 p.m.

AD



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Lawrence Ho plans hotels beyond Macau

MELCO Crown Entertainment Ltd.'s billionaire chairman said he wants to be the first resort operator to use Macau as the launchpad for a global hotel brand, beginning with a USD1 billion project in the world's biggest gambling center with ambitions to expand to Japan and other Asian countries.

As the Times reported yesterday, casino tycoon Lawrence Ho plans to debut the company's first Morpheus hotel, a futuristic high-rise designed by late architect Zaha Hadid, on Macau's Cotai strip in the first half of 2018. Interviewed by Bloomberg on Tuesday, Ho said that he intends "to build something special in big jurisdictions like Japan or other parts of Asia" to expand the lodging brand aimed at "the most sophisticated international travelers," he said.

Along with developing a global hotel brand, Melco Crown is mapping a global expansion beyond its Macau flagships with casino projects in Cyprus, Russia and other Asian countries. The company is looking to branch out internationally as the fight for market share against rivals heats up in Macau

after a two-year gaming slump. "It's a global footprint that we are developing," said Ho, the 39-year-old chairman and chief executive officer of Melco Crown. "We have done well in Macau and we want to see how we can do even better internationally."

The expansion plan comes as the casino industry has been rocked by the Chinese government's detentions in October of 18 employees of Crown Resorts Ltd., which owns a 27 percent stake in U.S.-listed Melco Crown. A group of them were

The view in Macau right now is China is trying to crack down on the foreign casinos trying to poach their players to go overseas.

LAWRENCE HO

formally arrested last week on alleged gambling crimes. Ho said the arrests haven't had a direct effect on Melco Crown as it operates independently of Crown, and operators in the Chinese city of Macau could see a boost if the government clamps down on foreign operators luring its citizens to gamble overseas.

Ho earlier this month took on a more direct role at Melco after complaining he was dissatisfied with the performance at the \$3.2 billion Hollywood-themed Studio City resort that opened in Macau last year. The resort has "ramped up," and performed well over the last quarter, Ho said Tuesday, adding that there's "more potential for Studio City to grow." The company posted third-quarter profit that topped estimates.

The company's overseas growth strategy got a boost earlier this month when its plan to develop a casino resort in the eastern Mediterranean country of Cyprus won government approval. Its first major expansion outside of Macau is the City of Dreams Manila, which opened in the Philippines in early 2015. Ho is also the chair-

man of a holding company that opened a casino in Russia last year, according to exchange filings.

"In terms of getting the name out there and growing the customer database, it does make sense to pursue non-gaming opportunities globally," said Grant Govertsen, a Macau-based gaming analyst at Union Gaming Group LLC. There's little land available for gaming development in Macau, he added. "New development that can move the needle for most Macau's casino operators effectively has to come from overseas development at this point."

While Ho wants to expand overseas to Japan and Vietnam, he said he's confident about the company's prospects in Macau, where new resort openings are contributing to a rebound from a two-year gaming slump.

"We are in a recovery. That recovery is not going to be the same as the recovery during the global financial crisis," Ho said. "This time around, it's diffe-

rent. It's going to be more of a natural recovery."

Casino operators in Macau, the only place in China where casinos are legal, may actually benefit from a Chinese government crackdown on foreign casinos that woo its citizens to gamble overseas, said Ho.

"The view in Macau right now is China is trying to crack down on the foreign casinos trying to poach their players to go overseas," said Ho, who added that his company has always been in compliance. "At the end of the day, Macau is a part of China. The reason for Macau's success is China. Our hope is that for home-grown Macau operators, we would be safe."

Melco has said it's also re-examining the way it runs its business in the wake of the detentions of more than a dozen employees of stakeholder Crown.

Australia's Crown, controlled by Melco's former co-chairman James Packer, had been warned by Chinese authorities last year to halt its efforts to attract high rollers from the mainland to gamble overseas, a person familiar with the government's action said in October.

Macau's operators have opened new billion-dollar resorts that target casual gamblers instead of the high rollers that the industry relied upon for the bulk of its revenue in previous years. The city reported a third straight month of revenue gains in October, regaining ground after a being dragged down by China's slowing economy and anti-corruption measures.

Melco Crown's market share rose to 15.7 percent in the third quarter, from 14 percent the same period a year earlier, before Studio City opened, according to data compiled by CLSA Ltd. But Melco Crown is battling competition - as Sands China and Wynn Macau opened new resorts in the last quarter, Melco saw its market share drop from its second-quarter level, according to the CLSA data.

While Studio City has attracted most of the spotlight with its Batman ride and figure-eight Ferris wheel, Melco's top-performing property remains its 500-table City of Dreams in Macau. Studio City has about half that many gambling tables. The operator also owns two other smaller casino properties in Macau. **MDT/Bloomberg**

A 'BIG AND COMPLICATED FAMILY'

LAWRENCE HO's father is gambling legend Stanley Ho, the 95-year-old chairman of rival SJM Holdings. In rare, candid comments about his father, the younger Ho said he has "no idea" whether there is a succession plan in place for his father's "big and complicated family." The elder Ho has 17 children from relationships with four women.

One of his daughters, Pansy Ho, is a major shareholder in MGM China Holdings, another Macau operator. The younger Ho said he has no involvement in the operations at SJM - and has no plans to participate in the future. "I'm not interested in that," he said. "Because, look, what I have built on my own is so much more exciting."

ART

MAM announces 'Solitude' as photography theme



THE Macao Museum of Art (MAM) has announced the theme of this year's Macao Arts Window: "Solitude - Photography by Hong Vong Hoi." The inauguration ceremony for the exhibition, which is open to the public, will be held today at 6:30 p.m. on the third floor of MAM.

Born in 1977, Hong Vong Hoi is passionate about photography and literary creation. He has received numerous awards for writing and poetry, including an "Excellence Award" in the fiction category, and was a runner-up in the modern poetry category in the "Macao Literary Awards".

According to a state-

ment from MAM, the author hopes to explore and reflect on the deeper meaning of solitude through his artwork.

"Many people fear solitude, but solitude does not necessarily bear a negative [consequence]," the statement reads, as a summation of the exhibition. "Everyone will inevitably face solitude and thus, the ability to enjoy and appreciate its beauty and freedom elevates one's quality of living and style."

MAM has been organizing the "Macao Arts Window" since 2012, with the aim of encouraging creativity and developing the city's contemporary art scene.

This year's exhibition will run from tomorrow to January 15, 2017. The admission fee is MOP5, but is free on Sundays and public holidays. The exhibition is closed on Mondays.

Japan reopens debate on legislation to legalize casinos

Andy Sharp, Takashi Hirokawa

JAPANESE lawmakers reopened debate yesterday on a bill to legalize casinos, opening the possibility the legislation will be passed as soon as next month.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe needs the support of his Buddhist-backed junior coalition partner Komeito, whose lawmakers are more cautious on casinos because of ethical issues. The party said yesterday it has yet to make a decision on whether to support the bill. The session was boycotted by opposition lawmakers opposed to the legislation.

Hiroyuki Hosoda, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's general council and head of a crossparty group of pro-casino lawmakers, told parliament that the building of integrated casino resorts would help stimulate regional economies through tourism. "It's fundamental that the profits from casino facilities are returned to society," he said.

While betting on horse, boat and bicycle races is allowed in Japan, casinos remain banned. International gaming companies have been mulling billions of dollars in in-



Pedestrians are reflected in mirrors at the entrance to a shopping complex in Tokyo

vestment as Tokyo gears to host the 2020 Olympic Games, promising to increase the number of tourists coming to the country. Japan has potential to transform into one of the biggest Asian gambling hubs with annual casino revenue of as

More than 5 million Japanese, about 5pct of the population, are addicted to gambling

much as USD40 billion, according to CLSA Ltd.

The crossparty group had submitted a bill to the parliament in April 2015, but other legislation was given priority and discussion was postponed. The focus now will be on whether the bill passes before the current parliament session ends on Dec. 14. Should the legislation pass, a further bill setting rules for operating resorts would have to be approved before any building could start.

The Kyodo news wire reported Tuesday that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party will look to pass the bill in a lower house plenary session on Dec. 6. It would then go to the upper chamber. The legislation stipulates the government's ethical obligations, and requires the government to set out policies such as the management of entry for Japanese people.

More than 5 million Japanese, about 5 percent of the population, are addicted to gambling, the Asahi newspaper reported in August 2014, citing a study by a health ministry panel. About 8.7 percent of adult male Japanese are habitual gamblers, along with 1.8 percent of females, according to the study. **Bloomberg**

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Zhou Si Min (center) poses with airport officials

MIA welcomes six millionth traveler

Lynzy Valles

MACAU International Airport (MIA) celebrated a record-breaking milestone yesterday when it welcomed its six millionth traveler from mainland China.

The local airport has brought in a number of passengers equal to ten times the city's population.

The lucky visitor, Zhou Si Min, is an art professor based in Beijing who regularly visits Macau to lecture at the Macao Polytechnic Institute.

Zhou received a Monopoly MIA Limited Edition and an Air Macau round-trip ticket departing Macau.

At a meeting with journalists yes-

terday, Eric Fong, the director of the Marketing Department of the Macau International Airport Company Limited (CAM,) said the North extension project of the Passenger Terminal Building is scheduled for completion in the second half of 2017.

When the project is concluded, the airport will be able to accommodate between 7.5 and 7.8 million passengers annually.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Fong said they would focus on developing long-haul charter services and on offering more flights to South and North East Asia.

"We already talked to our management company [and are] trying to optimize the aircraft, the landing and

all [other] arrangements," he told the press.

When questioned whether tourists flying to and from Taiwan would be affected by the halting of operations of Taiwanese carrier Trans-Asia Airways in November, Fong said that Far Eastern Air Transport is set to commence flights from MIA today.

According to information released by the airport yesterday, three new routes were launched in 2016 linking Macau with Guiyang (mainland China), Fukuoka (Japan) and the Indonesian city of Manado.

From January to October this year, overall passenger volume increased by 14 percent year-on-year. The volume of passengers from mainland China increased by 2 percent, while that of Taiwan and Southeast Asia rose 18 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Passenger travel with conventional and low-cost airlines surged 18 percent and 7 percent, respectively.

TOURISM

Group tours down despite National Day

VISITORS on package tours totaled 677,000 in October 2016, according to information released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), down by 19 percent year-on-year and up by 11.8 percent month-to-month, despite the National Day holidays at the start of the month.

Package tour visitors from mainland China (542,000) and Taiwan (39,000) dropped by 22.7 percent and 2 percent year-on-year, respectively. Meanwhile, visitors from South Korea (32,000) recorded an increase of 37.8 percent.

Outbound residents using travel agencies totaled 106,000 in October, down by 12.4 percent year-on-year but up 7.1 percent month-to-month.

The number of outbound residents on package tours decreased by 21.7 percent year-on-year to around 40,000, of which residents travelling to mainland China (29,000) and Taiwan (3,100) dropped by 24.2

percent and 3.4 percent, respectively. The number of visitors travelling to South Korea (3,100) rose by 16.8 percent.

The number of guests at hotels and guesthouses in October increased substantially by more than 20 percent year-on-year to over one million, of which those from mainland China (695,000) and Hong Kong (154,000) went up by 18.6 percent and 31.9 percent respectively.

The average length of stay of guests fell by 0.1 nights year-on-year to 1.4 nights, while the average occupancy rate stood at 83.5 percent in October, up by 2.5 percentage points year-on-year.

For the first ten months of 2016, the total number of visitors on package tours reached 6,093,000, down by 27 percent year-on-year.

However, the number of guests of hotels and guesthouses during the same ten-month period increased by 13.5 percent year-on-year to 9,652,000.

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Today, 1st December, 2016, 69 scholarships, ranging up to MOP 746,600, will be awarded to undergraduate students of the University of Saint Joseph. The USJ scholarships aim to encourage and support students with outstanding academy performance or with low household income.

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GATHERING OF THE MACANESE COMMUNITIES

AJM calls on young Macanese in diaspora to have a more active role

Renato Marques

THE Macanese Youth Association (AJM in the Portuguese acronym) urges Macanese youth living abroad to take a more active role in leading local Associations (Casas de Macau) in their own cities and countries.

That was the main message of Association president Duarte Alves during his speech, which took place before the screening of "Macanese Vibe" at an event yesterday evening at the Stanley Ho Auditorium of the Consulate of Portugal in Macau.

Alves encouraged his audience, which comprised mostly youngsters in the region, to participate in 'Encontro' (Gathering of the Macanese Communities) of which this session was a part.

Alves also remarked that the Macanese people must assume a more relevant position and role in the future of the MSAR, saying, "The MSAR needs the Macanese identity and our culture to differentiate herself from the remaining [parts] of the P.R. China."

"Our key strengths are that we know how to speak Portuguese, we know how to speak Chinese – not only Cantonese but also Mandarin – as well as a grounded firsthand knowledge of the Portuguese and the Western cultures, and also the Chinese culture... We are, in fact, the platform, and I believe that our community can have a very important role in the development of Macau as a platform and a link between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries."

The president of the Stan-

ding Committee of the Council of the Macanese Communities (CCM), José Luís Sales Marques revealed in his own speech that the session, usually dedicated to Macau's youth, would be an important component that will become a permanent part of the program.

"From now on this should always be part of the 'Encontro'. One day you will take care of the 'Encontro', take care of the CCM and will take care of the 'Casas de Macau' and right away you will be an important part of the decision-making."

The event presented several video testimonies from young Macanese living around the world about their thoughts on being Macanese. The Times spoke with some participants on the sidelines of the event.

One young woman, Lara, moved from the Philippines to Du-



April



Lara

bai, where she now works as a flight attendant. Related to the Macanese people through her stepfather, who settled in Vancouver, Canada, Lara said that she is a true fan of 'Encontro'.

"Every time I come to 'Encontro' I absolutely love it. Seems like the same people keep coming because we feel so much connection here and then there are new people as well and it is nice to meet them," Lara said.

"This is my second or third time here and I love it, and I will keep coming. No matter how busy I am, I will always make my way here. It's a pleasure to be here."

Arriving from Toronto, Canada was April, who said, "It is a great idea to bring together all Macau club members in a way

to reconnect these people with Macanese culture and Macanese heritage."

A first-timer at the event, April explains that only "one or two years ago" she started to discover her Macanese heritage, saying "it is actually very good for me to be here in Macau to experience everything and to see everything firsthand, since I didn't have much of a background before."

In her opinion the region is "filled with a lot of culture and history, which is what I really like to see," she said.

"I was surprised by how everything looks small. I never thought that Macau was that small. If you want to go anywhere I can actually just walk there and [it] won't take too long."

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ELECTRIC car maker Lucid Motors said it will build a manufacturing plant in Arizona that will begin production in 2018 as it looks to compete in the fast-growing market for luxury electric vehicles.

The company said it chose the Casa Grande location from dozens of other spots around the country.

Construction of the factory will begin next year in a move expected to bring an initial 400 jobs. The company projects the plant will have 2,000 workers by 2022.

Lucid, which recently changed its name from Atieva, has been around for a decade, focusing its early years on making batteries. Its staff includes former Tesla employees, including its chief technology officer.

The decision came amid rising demand for electric cars from traditional automakers and Silicon Valley startups such as Lucid.

Tesla Motors is building a sprawling battery factory near Reno, Nevada, after receiving a generous USD1.3 billion incentive package from the Nevada Legislature.

Faraday Future, another electric car maker, is building a factory near Las Vegas after getting \$335 million from the state, although the project has

MOTORS

Electric car factory planned in Arizona to have 2000 workers



Workers at General Motors' Lordstown Assembly plant in Lordstown

been stalled amid questions about its funding source.

Automotive jobs took on a prominent role in the recent presidential race as Donald Trump repeatedly blasted trade agreements that shifted manufacturing from the Rust Belt to other countries

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey has

made job creation and a business-friendly climate top priorities of his administration. He previously made a trip to California to lure the Lucid factory.

"It's a real sign that the state is attractive, that California companies and companies from around the country see Arizona as a great place to do

business," Ducey said.

Lucid is receiving government assistance from the Arizona Commerce Authority that could total in the millions.

The future for startup electric vehicle makers is far from a sure thing, especially for companies that have yet to manufacture a single car, said Sam Abuelsamid, a senior analyst for the market research firm Navigant who has studied Lucid and met with company executives.

He cites a litany of challenges.

Tesla has struggled to turn a profit despite huge demand for its Model X and more affordable Model 3. Vehicle reliability is a major concern for any new car maker, especially in a marketplace where traditional automakers are manufacturing their own electric vehicles. And battery technology is highly expensive.

"We'll see if Lucid can do it any better than Tesla has," Abuelsamid said. "The car's

not going to be in production until quite a ways out. I wouldn't call it entirely paperwork at this point because they do have real, developed prototypes but it's certainly not ready for prime time yet."

He also noted how startups are at the mercy of investors who can become skittish about handing over cash. He cited the Faraday plant in Nevada where construction work was suspended recently at the factory site. Abuelsamid said the Chinese entrepreneur backing that company was also an early investor in Lucid.

A news conference announcing the move Tuesday featured business and political leaders along with top company officials. The company showed off two prototypes for its planned car.

"We're very excited to be bringing new jobs and our innovative technology to Casa Grande," said Brian Barron, Lucid's director of global manufacturing. **AP**

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corporate bits

WYNN AND MGM LAUNCH JOINT SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE



Wynn Resorts (Macau) and MGM China will launch a joint shuttle bus route connecting passengers to the Border Gate, Wynn Macau and MGM Macau in order to streamline both properties' shuttle services.

According to a Wynn Resorts press release, "this initiative is a response to the transport integration arrangement of the Macau SAR government."

The new joint shuttle bus route will be available from December 1, 2016, operating between 9 a.m. and midnight daily. Service frequency will be adjusted based on demand in order to minimize traffic congestion.

During peak hours (i.e. 11 a.m. to evening), shuttle buses will run every 10 to 15 minutes.

The new shuttle bus service operated by the two companies will stop at three locations: Border Gate, Wynn Macau and MGM Macau. The number of old shuttle buses traveling these routes will gradually be reduced.

Lufthansa offers humility, higher pay to pacify pilot conflict

Richard Weiss

DEUTSCHE Lufthansa AG sought to defuse an escalating pilots strike by offering an improved wage deal as well as a show of humility.

The German airline proposed a 4.4 percent raise plus a bonus that will exceed 20,000 euros (USD21,200) per pilot on average, dropping a demand for employee concessions on benefits. In a move away from more unbending rhetoric of the past week, it also admitted to some fault from years of negotiations.

"We need a new togetherness," Bettina Volkens, the company's human resources chief, said Wednesday at a protest march organized by the Vereinigung Cockpit union at Frankfurt airport. "For both parties, so much trust has been destroyed in the past years, and both sides have made mistakes. We want a deal. We want a strong Lufthansa."

Lufthansa is willing to increase pilots' wages 2.4 percent for 2016 and 2 percent in 2017, in



The Lufthansa pilots Union Cockpit is on strike in Germany

addition to the bonus retroactive to 2012, and will seek arbitration on those terms without a link to other issues, executives said. The carrier previously offered the raise only if pilots would accept changes to pensions and other perks. The union has demanded a 20 percent pay boost for the period from 2012, when the last contract expired, through 2017.

Pilots gathered at the airport, Lufthansa's main hub, to mark the last day of a week-long series of walkouts that led to 4,500 flight can-

cellations, sparked hostility from other employees and put the carrier's earnings targets at risk. The works council representing ground crews, who reached a pay and pensions accord a year ago, held a counter-demonstration nearby that met the marching pilots with chants, whistles and calls for them to agree to arbitration amid concerns the better-paid group is jeopardizing jobs.

"This is not about pilot-bashing, but our people are angry, and rightfully so," Ruediger Fell, a ground-crew works

council leader in Frankfurt, said in an interview. "The raise demanded by our pilots is what our workers earn in a month, and the company will try to make up for that spending elsewhere."

The strike is part of a long-running conflict over wages, working conditions and the role of low-cost unit Eurowings as Chief Executive Officer Carsten Spohr reorganizes Lufthansa to face discount competitors in its home region and expansion by long-haul carriers based in the Persian Gulf. The latest round of walkouts began on Nov. 23 and, while it was slated to end yesterday, the company scrapped 40 flights today because planes are in the wrong locations.

This month's strikes will cost as much as 100 million euros, according to Mark Simpson and Jack Diskin, analysts at Goodbody Stockbrokers. That could put Lufthansa's full-year goal to match 2015's 1.82 billion-euro operating profit into question. **Bloomberg**

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Accident leaves 22 coal miners trapped in northeastern China



RESCUERS in northeastern China searched yesterday for 22 miners trapped underground in the latest accident to befall China's mining industry.

State media reported that Tuesday night's accident occurred at a mine in the city of Qitaihe in northeastern Heilongjiang province, a coal-mining region bordering Siberia. The cause of the accident was not immediately reported.

The director of the local coal production safety bureau, who gave his name as Liu, told The Associated Press that officials were trying to confirm exactly how many miners were trapped.

China is the world's top producer and consumer of coal. It announced plans earlier this year to shutter more than 1,000 underperforming mines, though hundreds of new coal plants are also under construction.

An Oct. 31 explosion at a mine in the southwestern region of Chongqing killed 33 people,

just weeks after a gas explosion in another mine in adjacent Guizhou province killed seven people.

China's work safety administration reported 931 coal mine accident deaths in 2014, down from the thousands of deaths reported annually in previous years, though government figures are often questioned for their accuracy. Official numbers for 2015 or 2016 were not immediately available.

Government officials are trying to balance the vast energy demands of the country with the world's largest population and the commitment China made to reduce carbon emissions as part of its ratification earlier this year of the Paris climate change agreement. With coal prices rising as winter approaches, China announced in October that "efficient coal producers" would be allowed to bypass an annual cap of 260 production days. **AP**

Six more detained over platform collapse that killed 74

SIX more people were detained by Chinese authorities over the deaths of 74 workers in the collapse of a platform in a cooling tower at a power plant, one of the worst work safety disasters in China in recent years. A total of 15 people have been reported by state media to be under detention after the collapse last week in eastern China's Jiangxi province. The official Xinhua News Agency said the latest detentions Tuesday included two people accused of "selling shoddy products," but did not detail what those products were.

The board chairman of the engineering firm building the plant was already detained, as well as top engineers on the project.

Laborers were building a circular cooling tower when the interior scaffolding collapsed, causing a large amount of steel,



concrete and wooden planks to cave in.

The incident prompted calls from government officials for stepped-up inspections and a renewed emphasis on worker safety. Chinese President Xi Jinping said local governments should learn from the accident and hold accountable anyone responsible.

No formal charges have been announced against the 15 people detained.

A TAIWAN-BORN BACK IN THE US GOVERNMENT

Elaine Chao's record suggests skepticism on new safety regs

Joan Lowy & Jonathan Lemire, New York

ELAINE Chao's record as secretary of labor suggests she'd have a light hand when it comes to safety regulation as head of the Transportation Department and would seek to shift responsibility from the federal government to states where possible.

President-elect Donald Trump announced yesterday [Macau time] that Chao was his choice for the Cabinet post. "Secretary Chao's extensive record of strong leadership and her expertise are invaluable assets in our mission to rebuild our infrastructure in a fiscally responsible manner," Trump said in a statement released by his campaign.

Chao said Trump "has outlined a clear vision to transform our country's infrastructure, accelerate economic growth and productivity, and create good paying jobs across the country."

Chao, 63, was labor secretary under President George W. Bush and the first Asian-American woman to serve in a president's Cabinet. She also is the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, which might be of some help if Trump is to fulfill his promise of generating USD1 trillion in infrastructure spending.

Chao's record suggests she'd be skeptical of new safety regulations and may attempt to roll back existing regulations. Under Chao, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration at Labor didn't issue a single significant new safety regulation for four years, and the department's mine safety inspectors were cut and inspections reduced, said Thomas McGarity, a University of Texas law professor and author of "Freedom to Harm," a book about the Labor Department that includes Chao's tenure there.

Among the pressing issues facing the next transportation secretary will be how to boost the nation's aging infrastructure so that it can accommodate population growth and not become a drag on the economy, modernizing the nation's air traffic control system, ensuring that new transportation technologies are adopted in a safe manner and responding to a surge in traffic fatalities.



Former Labor Secretary Elaine Chao

Whether it's integrating drones into the national airspace, deploying self-driving cars or "some other new technology, she's not going to be especially inclined to second-guess the industry when they say that this will be safe," McGarity said.

As labor secretary, Chao's job was to protect the nation's workforce, including setting safety standards and addressing issues related to wages and retirement. She updated overtime regulations for "white-collar" workers and rules intended to force unions to disclose more details on their financial condition to members.

Chao is "a strong advocate of letting the markets function as they will, not intervening into private sector arrangements,"

Chao came to the US from Taiwan with her family at age 8. Her family settled in New York, where her father became a wealthy shipping magnate

McGarity said.

Mitch Bainwol, president of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, applauded Trump's selection of Chao as "a superb choice."

"Big issues await," he said. "The traditional regulatory approach is increasingly challenged to keep pace with the rapid rate of innovation in our sector."

More recently, Chao had been on the board of directors for Bloomberg Philanthropies, run by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. She resigned last year after learning the organization planned to expand an environmental initiative to shutter coal-fired power plants. Almost 90 percent of Kentucky's electricity comes from coal, and her ties to the organization were used against McConnell in his Senate race.

Chao came to the United States from Taiwan with her family at age 8. Her family settled in New York, where her father, James Si-Cheng Chao, became a wealthy shipping magnate.

Chao received her undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke College and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard. She went on to become head of the Peace Corps and deputy secretary at the Transportation Department. She was head of the United Way of America and worked at the Heritage Foundation, a Washington think tank, before becoming labor secretary. **AP**

Stephen Wright, Jakarta

Indonesia protests awaken fears for minority Chinese

THE capital of Muslim-majority Indonesia is on edge ahead of what is expected to be a second massive protest by conservative Muslims against its Christian governor and no group more so than its Chinese minority.

They have reason to be concerned. The movement against the governor, who is being prosecuted for allegedly insulting the Quran, has overflowed with racial slurs against his Chinese ancestry, an unnerving sign in a country with a history of lashing out violently against the ethnic minority that makes up 1 percent of its 250 million people.

The first major protest against Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama on Nov. 4 drew more than 100,000 people to Jakarta's streets. Some held up banners calling for Ahok to be killed or decrying Chinese influence. It ended in violence, with one death and dozens injured after hard-liners attacked police. A separate mob tried to invade the apartment complex where Ahok lives in the north of the city and vandalized property in the area, which is home to many Chinese.

Hard-line organizers of the protest, who were unsatisfied by a police decision earlier this month to formally name Ahok as a suspect in the blasphemy case instead of arresting him, are promising another giant rally tomorrow. After police pressure, they have agreed to concentrate the rally around a national monument in central Jakarta and insist it will be peaceful.

The furor over Ahok, sparked by his criticism of detractors who argued the Quran prohibits Muslims from having a non-Muslim leader, has highlighted religious and racial fault lines in Indonesia, the world's most populous nation, and the growing challenge from proponents of Shariah law to its secular system of government.

For Chinese Indonesians, the controversy has awakened painful memories of the mass protests that ousted late dictator Suharto during the 1998 Asian financial crisis. Boiling resentment against immigrant Chinese



A woman walks past a shop at the Chinatown in Jakarta

tycoons who profited from ties to Suharto and his famously corrupt family spilled over into mob attacks on Chinese property and people, killing many. Nearly two decades later, Jakarta's Chinatown is still scarred by the burned out shells of buildings torched in the chaos.

"Certainly as Chinese descendants, we are still traumatized by the riots in 1998," said Clement Alexander, a grocery store owner in a narrow lane of the bustling Petak Sembilan market in Chinatown. "We heard that horrible event may happen again if the government fails to control the protests. It's scared us, but we cannot do anything except pray," he said.

"For rich ethnic Chinese, they could flee to Singapore or to other countries, but for lower-class people like me it is rather difficult, we just survive and depend on the government for protection."

When Ahok in 2012 became the first Chinese to be elected

deputy governor of Jakarta, and the first Christian in half a century, it was seen as a sign of the pluralistic tolerance fostered by the moderate form of Islam practiced in Indonesia.

But his rise to governor in 2014 to replace political ally Joko "Jokowi" Widodo after his election as president was unpalatable to hard-liners. With the support of moderates that hope to gain from Ahok's fall, they have elevated their agenda to the national stage, and revealed that intolerant interpretations of Islam adapted from the Middle East have made greater inroads than believed.

Ahok is running for a second term as governor in elections due in February but since the blasphemy accusations erupted in September, his sky-high popularity in opinion polls has melted away. A pro-tolerance rally in Jakarta on Nov. 19 attracted less than 10,000 people. A military-organized event in the city yesterday meant to

showcase respect for all of Indonesia's six officially recognized religions was mainly populated by soldiers, schoolchildren and police, who had no choice about attending.

For Chinese Indonesians, the controversy has awakened painful memories of the mass protests that ousted late dictator Suharto during the 1998 Asian financial crisis

For the Nov. 4 protest, the normally clogged streets of Jakarta were nearly emptied of cars, embassies closed, countries such as Australia issued advisories against travel to the city and many businesses shuttered for the day, particularly in Chinatown.

"We are afraid the riots in 1998 would be repeated. But I don't want to talk about that horrible event," said Jhony Tan, owner of a store selling Buddhist worship paraphernalia.

"I hope the government can handle this issue, so there's no negative impact to any other community, especially to ethnic Chinese here. If they fail, Indonesia will be ruined," he said. "I'm sure the majority of Indonesian people are willing to see that this problem has nothing to do with us."

Christianto Wibisono, an ethnic Chinese businessman and former government adviser whose home was burned in the 1998 riots, said that despite communal tensions, he is hopeful the government will maintain calm during tomorrow's protest and beyond.

The government's approach needs to sap the momentum of a vocal and highly motivated minority but faces challenges: the moderate, silent majority is intimidated by the hard-liners' tactics and months of campaigning for the Jakarta gubernatorial election as well as Ahok's blasphemy trial will keep divisive issues in the spotlight.

"Now is really the crucial test for Indonesia to maintain the country's secular philosophy rather than be run over by Shariah groups. That would affect the whole world, if Indonesia became like the Middle East," he said. "We should not import Middle East extremism. We should export our moderate Islamic philosophy and pluralism." AP

Malaysia deports 74 telecom fraud suspects to China

MALAYSIA deported 74 telecom fraud suspects — including 21 from Taiwan — to China, in the latest instance of Southeast Asian countries deferring to China's claim to sovereignty over the self-governing island.

The suspects arrived in the central city of Wuhan on Tuesday night on a chartered plane escorted by police, China's official



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (left), poses with Chinese President Xi Jinping

Xinhua News Agency reported.

China regards Taiwan as a part of its territory and pressures its allies and smaller neighbors to abide by that position. Taiwan says it should be allowed to prosecute its nationals suspected of committing crimes abroad, but its lack of diplomatic relations with most countries complicates such legal arguments.

Taiwan's Central News Agency said Taiwanese officials protested the deportations to Malaysia, saying they "hurt the longstanding friendship" between the two sides.

"We are demanding that China send the Taiwanese suspects back to Taiwan, where they will face justice," the Taiwanese foreign ministry said, according to the agency.

Cambodia and Kenya are

among the countries that have recently sent dozens of Taiwanese suspects to mainland China over Taiwan's objections.

China contends that Taiwan gives light treatment to accused swindlers, encouraging others to try their luck at online scams that can potentially lead to massive payouts.

The 74 suspects are accused of carrying out more than 500 fraud cases over the phone and internet involving more than USD8 million, according to Xinhua. AP



Members of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions carry an effigy of President Park Geun-Hye as they march after a rally calling for her resignation in Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Opposition struggles for clear impeachment plan

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH Korean President Park Geun-hye's conditional resignation offer appears to be causing cracks in what previously had been a strong push for her impeachment, with opponents now struggling to set a date for a vote to strip her of power.

Park offered to leave office if parliament arranges a safe transfer of power, triggering an immediate backlash from opposition parties, which called the overture a stalling tactic to help the president navigate through a huge political scandal involving her shadowy confidante.

Leaders of the country's three main opposition parties met yesterday and agreed to stick with their plan to try to vote on an impeachment motion as early as tomorrow. But they also said they'd meet again if that plan does not work, meaning they're bracing for the possibility that tomorrow's vote might not take place.

Much of their hesitation to pick a clear date is due to the fact that there are not enough opposition lawmakers to pass an impeachment through parliament, and they would need help from dissenters in Park's ruling Saenuri Party.

The three opposition parties and anti-Park independent

lawmakers have a total of 172 seats in the 300-seat National Assembly. A passage of an impeachment motion requires at least 200 votes in favor. About 40 ruling party lawmakers have expressed their willingness to vote to oust Park.

But after Park's resignation offer Tuesday, made in an address to the nation, anti-Park lawmakers gathered and agreed it would be best for Park to resign in April, after the installation of a neutral Cabinet that can help ensure a stable power transfer until a new president is elected, according to the office of Hwang Young-cheul, one of the lawmakers who attended the meeting.

They said they would still take part in a possible impeachment vote on Dec. 9 if details for an April resignation aren't worked out through negotiations, Hwang's office said.

Opposition parties have previously said a vote on Park's impeachment would take place either on Friday or Dec. 9, because parliamentary plenary sessions are already scheduled on those days.

"It's true that some cracks have taken place at anti-Park forces in the Saenuri Party after her speech," said an official at the main opposition Democratic Party, formerly known by its Korean-language name, Minjoo.

The official, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, said opposition parties are using unofficial, backroom channels to see if they can still secure enough Saenuri lawmakers who would align with their impeachment drive.

If impeached, Park's presidential powers would be sus-

pending until the Constitutional Court makes a ruling on her fate. The court would have 180 days to deliberate.

Park, in her Tuesday speech, continued to deny accusations by prosecutors that she colluded in the criminal activities of her longtime friend Choi Soon-sil, who, despite having no official role in government, allegedly had a say in policy decisions and exploited her presidential ties to bully companies into giving large sums of money to businesses and foundations that Choi controlled.

Prosecutors have indicted Choi, two ex-presidential officials and a music video director known as a Choi associate for extortion, leaking confidential documents and other charges.

The scandal has sparked mass protests every Saturday in Seoul. About 30,000 anti-Park demonstrators gathered in the city's downtown area on yesterday, according to protest organizers.

Park, who has immunity from prosecution while in office, has refused to meet with prosecutors. She has, however, agreed to undergo questioning by a special prosecutor.

Yesterday, she picked a special prosecutor among the two candidates recommended by opposition parties. The special prosecutor has 120 days to lead an independent investigation into the scandal.

"I will only focus on truth as I investigate," Park Young-soo, the special prosecutor, told reporters. "I will not be distracted by the circumstances and thoroughly investigate [the case] based on law and principle."

Park Geun-hye is the daughter of late dictator Park Chung-hee, whose 18-year rule ended after he was gunned down by his own intelligence chief in 1979.

Adding to Park's woes, one of her former aides was hospitalized with self-inflicted wounds while under investigation for alleged bribery. A Busan police official who did not want to be named, citing office rules, said Hyun Ki-hwan, who served as senior presidential secretary for political affairs from July 2015 to June this year, cut his left wrist with a box cutter in a Busan hotel room, but was not in a life-threatening situation. **AP**

Vietnam grants amnesty to more than 4,000 prisoners

VIETNAM has granted amnesty to more than 4,000 prisoners, including one sentenced to five years in jail for a national security-related crime.

Giang Son, deputy chairman of the President's

Office, told reporters at a joint press conference yesterday that 4,384 inmates were granted amnesty under two directives signed by President Tran Dai Quang.

"The amnesty once again reflects the policy of

leniency of our party and State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the humane tradition of our nation," Son said.

They will be released from their prisons starting today. One of the prisoners is Bui Xuan

Kim who was jailed for national security-related crime, according to Senior Lt. Police General Nguyen Van Thanh.

Kim has served three years of his sentence for organizing people to flee to neighboring

Cambodia.

International human rights groups, the U.S. government and some other Western governments have urged Vietnamese government to release all prisoners of conscience jailed for peacefully ex-

pressing their views, but Hanoi says only those who broke the law are locked up.

Fourteen foreigners will also be released, according to Vice Foreign Minister Ha Kim Ngoc. They include nine from China, three from Laos and one each from South Korea and Australia. **AP**

NEPAL

Government proposes constitution amendment to meet ethnic demands

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu,

NEPAL'S government proposed amending its new constitution to carve out a new state to meet the demands of an ethnic group whose protests for bigger federal state last year left more than 50 people dead.

The government registered the bill in parliament that proposes a second state in southern Nepal where there is large presence of Madhesi ethnic community.

Hridesh Tripathi of the Terai Madhes Democratic Party said yesterday it was welcome progress but still inadequate.

"It is one step forward and a good progress but it is still not enough. This new proposal does not cover the districts



Nepal's ethnic Newar community members play the flute in a parade to celebrate their New Year in Kathmandu

we have been demanding to be included in Madhesi state," Tripathi said, adding an alliance of Madhesi parties would meet to

decide if it was going to accept and support the government initiative.

The Madhesi ethnic groups

are unhappy with the constitution that was adopted last year in parliament. They were dissatisfied with the territory assign-

ned to them in the new federal states in the constitution.

Protests that lasted for months last year left more than 50 people killed and paralyzed southern Nepal. Border points with India were blocked, causing severe shortages of fuel, medicine and other supplies in Nepal.

A new government that took over power in August promised the Madhesi groups they would look into their demands, and Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal also got their support in a parliament vote for his position.

The Madhesi community says they have always been discriminated against, and do not get equal opportunities in government, employment, education and other rights.

Police reported small protests yesterday in southwest Nepal opposing the government plans, but there were no reports of violence.

The proposal will be debated in parliament next week. The government needs the support of two-third of parliament to approve the change. The main opposition Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) has not said yet if it will support the bill, and passing it would be difficult without their support. **AP**

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Supporters of Brazil's soccer team Chapecoense attend Mass at the city's Cathedral in Chapeco

Mauricio Savarese
& Stephen Wade, Chapeco

BRAZIL

Thousands squeeze into church, stadium to mourn tragic crash

THOUSANDS squeezed into Chapeco's cathedral and even more packed a stadium to mourn the death of 71 people in a plane crash, 19 of them members of the Chapecoense club who had been on the brink of soccer greatness.

"To lose [almost] all of them in such a tragic way, totally destroyed our city and each one of us," Carla Vilembri said yesterday [Macau time], standing outside Santo Antonio Cathedral. She was dressed like so many others — in the club's green and white jerseys.

Chapecoense's fantasy season ended on a muddy Colombian mountainside late Monday when a chartered aircraft crashed south of Medellin. Only six of the 77 passengers and crew survived, three of them players.

Colombian aviation authorities have lowered the death toll from the charter plane crash to 71 from 75, saying that four fewer people were aboard the aircraft than originally reported.

The club was having the best season in its 43-year history, heading to the first of two matches in the final of the Copa Sudamericana, the continent's No. 2 club tournament.

Distraught residents of this southern Brazilian city of 200,000 people, an agribusiness center near the Argentina border, wandered the streets around the stadium — known as Arena Conda — in stunned silence.

"The city is very quiet," businessman Cecilio Hans said. "People will only believe once

■ **Distraught residents of this southern Brazilian city of 200,000 people wandered the streets around the stadium — known as Arena Conda — in stunned silence**

the bodies start to arrive."

On social media, haunting last photos showed the smiling players boarding the flight to Colombia for their match with Atletico Nacional.

In one photo, the team celebrated a last-minute save by goalkeeper Danilo only a week ago against the Argentine club San Lorenzo. The save guaranteed Chapecoense a spot in the final — and ultimately cost Danilo his life in the crash.

"I can't still believe it," Alan Heinz said inside the stadium, his body pressed against the

fence that separates fans from the field. This time the field was filled by a religious service and prayers for the dead.

"I was preparing for the best day of my life, and now I don't know what my life will be after this," he said.

As recently as 2009, the club known as Chape was playing in Brazil's fourth division, but it won promotion to the top league in 2014 for the first time since the 1970s.

Victories over San Lorenzo and Independente — two of Argentina's fiercest squads — as well as the Colombian club Junior took the team to the Copa Sudamericana finals, the equivalent of the UEFA Europa League tournament.

Few of the players had an international profile, and none had any appearances with Brazil's glitzy national team. Most had played all over Brazil and Latin America. Only a few had ever reached Europe, like Cleber Santana, who played for Atletico Madrid in 2007-10.

Chape strikers Bruno Rangel and Kempes, both 34, were among the top scorers in the Brazilian league, with 10 and nine goals, respectively.

The only players to survive were goalkeeper Jakson Follmann, defender Helio Zampier, commonly known as Neto, and

defender-midfielder Alan Ruschel.

Coach Caio Junior is credited with Chape's quick rise, joining the club this year after guiding teams in the Middle East. Born Luiz Carlos Saroli, he coached numerous Brazilian teams, including Palmeiras, Flamengo and Botafogo.

He was among the dead. His son, Matheus Saroli, escaped because he didn't make the flight, saying in a Facebook post that he couldn't board "because I forgot my passport."

An Argentine player on the club, Alejandro Martinuccio, also missed the flight, because of an injury during a game, he told Argentina's La Red radio.

"I feel deep sadness. The only thing I can ask is prayers for the companions who were on the flight," he said.

Also among the dead were 20 sports journalists, including Mario Sergio Pontes de Paiva, a former player who worked as a commentator for Fox Sports. He played briefly for Brazil's national team in the early 1980s and had a long career as a midfielder and coach with many Brazilian clubs. He last coached Brazilian club Internacional in 2009 and Ceara in 2010.

"This is a very, very sad day for football," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

"At this difficult time our thoughts are with the victims, their families and friends."

Brazilian President Michel Temer declared three days of official mourning, while soccer great Pele called it a "tragic loss." Brazilian champion Palmeiras asked the country's football confederation for permission to wear Chapecoense's jersey in its last match of the season.

Around the world, the sport paused to remember the victims.

Barcelona and Real Madrid held a minute of silence before their practice sessions during the day, and France's top two leagues observed a minute's silence at Tuesday night's games.

Medellin-based Atletico Nacional said it was asking the South American soccer confederation to give the Copa Sudamericana title to Chape as a tribute to the players who died.

Some of Brazil's top clubs said they wanted to lend players to Chape for the 2017 season. They also said the team should not be relegated to the second division as it recovers from the disaster.

"The dream is not over. We will fight back when it's time," said Chape's acting club president, Gelson Della Costa.

"Now it's time to take care of the families," he said. **AP**

what's ON



2016 MACAU OPEN BADMINTON

TIME: 12:30pm-8:30pm (Nov 1-2)
12:30pm-9:30pm (Dec 3)
12:30pm-5:30pm (Dec 4)

VENUE: Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion / Rua de Ferreira do Amaral

ADMISSION: MOP150 (One Day Ticket; November 29-December 2); MOP400 (One Day Ticket; December 3-4)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6698 9877

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

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

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AD LIB- RECENT WORKS BY KONSTANTIN BESSMERTNY

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

UNTIL: May 28, 2017

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

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

KUNG FU PANDA ACADEMY

TIME: 11:30am-1pm & 2pm-15:30pm

UNTIL: February 5, 2017

VENUE: Level 4, Tian Shan Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Sands Cotai Centra

ADMISSION: MOP200 per child (complimentary entry for one adult and MOP100 for each additional adult)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8113 0000

URBAN HIKES – AN EXCHANGE EXHIBITION BY TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND MACAU ARTISTS

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

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

TOWN EXPECTING NO HOLIDAY LIGHTS NOW HAS A GLIMMER OF HOPE

A New Hampshire town that said it wouldn't be decorated with holiday lights this season because of code issues with a utility now has a glimmer of hope.

The Portsmouth Herald reports (bit.ly/2gtW08r) that Exeter town officials have been talking to Unitil and are looking to get an electrician to install a needed meter and utility pole panel so they can set up their lighted garlands.

Unitil installed some new poles this summer that changed the overall electric layout of downtown. Scott Wade of Unitil had told officials that the garlands get close to energized electrical lines; they can't be within 40 inches.

Unitil has offered to do some line work, and the local fire and public works departments are pitching in to get holiday lights up.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:55	Debate on Social Affairs and Culture Policy Report for 2017 (Live)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	The Toque 12 S2
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

01 DEC - 07 DEC

CRAYON SHINCHAN MOVIE 2016_

ROOM 1

2.15, 6.00, 9.45 pm

Director: Wataru Takahashi

Language: Cantonese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 104min

YOUR NAME

ROOM 1

4.00, 7.45 pm

Director: Makoto Shinkai

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 115min

FANTASTIC BEASTS & WHERE TO FIND THEM_

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: David Yates

Starring: Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min



THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15 pm

Director: Derek Cianfrance

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Rachel Weisz

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 133min

SHUT IN_

ROOM 3

9.30 pm

Director: Farren Blackburn

Starring: Charlie Heaton, Naomi Watts, Jacob Tremblay

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 91min

MACAU TOWER

01 DEC - 07 DEC

UNDERWORLD BLOOD WARS_

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Anna Foerster

Starring: Kate Beckinsale, Theo James, Lara Pulver

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 91min



this day in history



1990 TUNNEL LINKS UK AND EUROPE

Construction workers have drilled through the final wall of rock to join the two halves of the Channel Tunnel and link Britain to France.

The momentous breakthrough links the UK to Europe for the first time since the Ice Age, about 8,000 years ago.

To a throng of cheers, construction workers celebrated with champagne - the only time alcohol has been allowed underground on the work site.

French worker, Philippe Cozette, and his British counterpart, Graham Fagg, waved flags and shook hands as the first men able to walk between the two countries.

Only moments earlier at 1100 GMT, a half-metre wall of rock separated Britain from mainland Europe.

The men continued drilling until a hole was created big enough to allow vehicles through.

The first Britons walked through the tunnel to have their passports stamped in France.

There were similar scenes on the other side as a French party which drove into Folkestone, Kent, headed straight over to customs and immigration officers.

Transport secretary Malcolm Rifkind was among the first through.

Speaking to the BBC, he said: "The physical contact that has been achieved between Britain and France today is symptomatic of many changes that we have been experiencing in the last 20 years.

"It is all happening and it is continuing to happen at an accelerating pace."

Downing Street called the event a "tribute to private enterprise".

The Channel Tunnel venture is expected to lead to the construction of a high speed train link across Kent, to match one France has already built.

Work on the Channel Tunnel began in 1986 and it is due to be completed by 1993.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Channel Tunnel was first formally proposed in 1963 although the concept had long been under discussion.

Its cost ballooned to £12bn - more than double original estimates and construction finished a year late in 1994.

Original expectations of public enthusiasm for the project proved over-optimistic and Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator, unveiled a loss of £925m in 1995 - one of the biggest in UK corporate history.

A fire in the tunnel which led to freight traffic being suspended for more than six months in 1996 added to its woes.

It eventually caught on as a mode of transport and Eurotunnel announced its first net profits in 1999.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your drive and motivation are everything right now...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Try not to worry all that much about your emotional state...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Watch out for new rules - especially those that come from people you know and trust!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Things are looking up, most likely - but if this seems wrong to you, then that means it's time for a quick adjustment...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your confidence and righteousness may rub others the wrong way today, so try to wrap them up in a big blanket of humility.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your romantic energy is heightened today, so if you're single, get out there!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your past is not as distant as you would like - someone or something comes back to haunt you today.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your plans are great - but you need to take action on them! Start today, even if it's just something small.

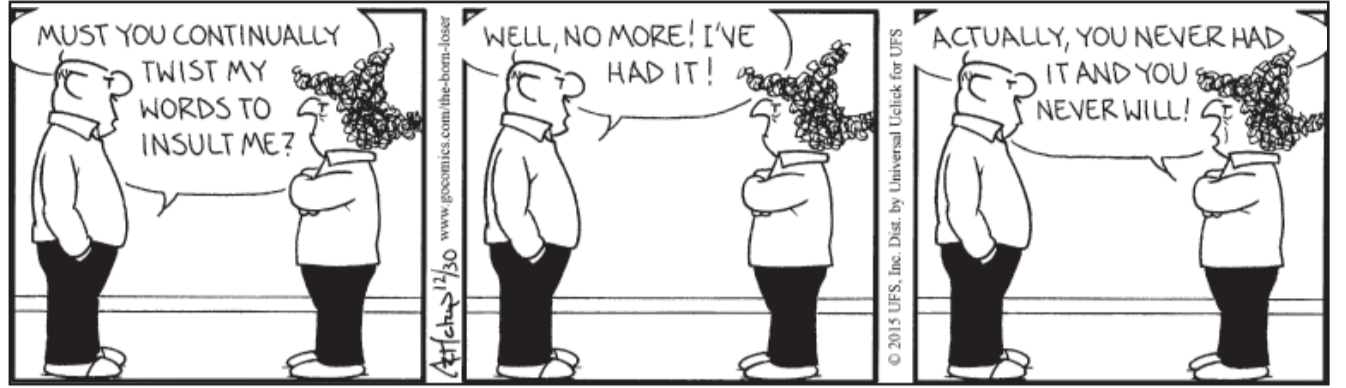
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are always true to your values - even when you can feel them start to change, as they are today.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can work all night if you must - but the odds are that you don't really need to.

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

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

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World cities, including columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cal. pages; 4- Gee whiz!; 8- Frenzied woman; 14- Miss. neighbor; 15- Car; 16- Comic Boosler; 17- Religious sch.; 18- Western Indians; 19- Go ballistic; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- French summers; 24- Toothed wheels; 25- Queue after Q; 28- Bristly; 30- By and large; 33- Parrot fever; 36- Come Back, Little ___; 40- Gidget portrayer Sandra; 41- Proficient; 42- Aquarius; 45- Loss of memory; 46- Less cluttered; 51- D.C. advisory grp.; 52- Pilot; 55- Lymph ___; 56- Given to gossiping; 59- Noble; 62- King of the Huns; 63- The Mustangs' sch.; 64- Black Sea port; 65- Like some orders; 66- Fond du ___, Wis.; 67- Maiden; 68- Flat sound; 69- Ending for legal or Japan;

DOWN: 1- Hoi polloi; 2- Soap ingredient; 3- Young salmon; 4- London jail; 5- Power problems; 6- Tend a fire; 7- Old Testament book; 8- Singer Etheridge; 9- Bunches; 10- Not difficult; 11- TV's 'Science Guy'; 12- Black cuckoo; 13- PD investigator; 21- General on Chinese menus; 22- Orifice of a volcano; 25- Trick; 26- Fall prey to a banana peel, say; 27- Experiment; 29- Fights; 31- Without ___ in the world; 32- Slender bar; 34- Standards of perfection; 35- Leaves in a bag; 36- Stately aquatic bird; 37- Poor actors; 38- Sicilian volcano; 39- Fuzzy buzzer; 43- Eyeglass having two portions; 44- Registers; 47- Director Lee; 48- Dishevel; 49- Plant swellings; 50- To lower; 53- 'The Wild Swans at Coole' poet; 54- Kett and James; 56- A pitcher may take one; 57- Seine tributary; 58- Guitarist Lofgren; 59- Coal scuttle; 60- Writer LeShan; 61- Sleep stage;



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Doug Ferguson, Nassau

THIS might be one time that Tiger Woods doesn't measure success on the golf course by the score on his card.

He measured it with three words yesterday: "I'm playing again."

There were times during his 15 months away from golf that Woods wasn't entirely sure that would be the case. He said that when he was at the Hero World Challenge last year, he needed help just to climb out of bed. At an outdoor party at Albany Golf Club, he would mingle for a few minutes and then sit on a stone bench.

He spent more time looking back than looking forward, saying at one point that anything else he achieved in golf would be "gravy."

And now he can't wait to get started tomorrow [Macau time].

The 15-month break to heal following back surgeries is the longest he has been away from golf. Woods was a mixture of optimism and reality about his return. He talked about having all the shots he needs to compete against a field that includes 17 players from the top 40 and Woods, the tournament host who is at a career-low No. 898. He is playing, so he said he wants to win. The outlook is no different.

He also noted that Bubba Watson won last year at 25-under par, and it probably will take something around that to win.

"I know that's a tall order since I've been away from the game for so long and I've made a lot of different changes in my game," he said. "Physically and also equipment, practice schedules, training, all that has evolved. The mindset of competing hasn't. That is to go out there and try to beat these guys."

He still is working with swing coach Chris Como, whom he brought on two years ago. Now that Nike is out of the equipment business, Woods is using a TaylorMade driver and fairway

GOLF

Tiger Woods counts it a success that he's playing golf again



Tiger Woods speaks at a press conference for the Hero World Challenge golf tournament in Nassau

metals, a Bridgestone golf ball and his old Scotty Cameron putter that he used to win all but one of his 14 majors.

But it starts with playing.

"Put it this way: It's a lot better situation this year than last," Woods said. "I just couldn't get out of bed. I needed help. It was a tough, tough time. You asked me then, 'Could I play?' No. I can't even get out of bed. How am I supposed to swing a club at 120 miles an hour? That's just two different worlds."

The Hero World Challenge,

which he started in 1999 to benefit the Tiger Woods Foundation, is effectively a holiday tournament for golf's elite that has no cut and pays \$1 million to the winner. It feels so much bigger this year because of Woods.

Over the last year, he played five holes to open his new golf course, Bluejack National, outside Houston. And he took three swings with a wedge on the par-3 10th hole at Congressional during a day to promote the Quicken Loans National. All

three went in the water.

Everyone is curious to see how he plays. That includes Woods.

His biggest concern is how far his shots will go because he hasn't played with any adrenaline since the final round of the Wyndham Championship on Aug. 23, 2015. He doesn't know how his game will stack up against players he watched at Hazeltine when he was an assistant captain at the Ryder Cup.

His previous long break from golf was eight months when

he had reconstructive surgery on his left knee after winning the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, the last of his 14 major titles. He won his opening match in the Match Play Championship and won two tournaments later at Bay Hill.

That was a knee. This is a back.

He was 33, not a month away from turning 41. And that was long before any chaos in his personal life.

Asked what he would expect to feel at Albany Golf Club, Woods said, "I'll let you know then, because I don't know right now."

"Yeah, there's nerves, of course, because I care. I care about what I do out there," he said. "I want to win, and I want to place the ball in the correct spots, give myself the best angles and bury these putts. Trying to figure that out, yeah, there's nerves."

Woods often talks about the "process" when he's changing his swing. This was a different kind of process. It starts with hitting golf balls at home, then playing a practice round at home, and then bringing that game out to a tournament, competing and eventually getting into contention.

"Right now, I haven't even competed yet, so I'm at the beginning stages of that," he said.

Jack Nicklaus spoke yesterday at the HSBC Business Forum in Florida and talked about how golf wasn't nearly as important to him as competing. That's something to which Woods can relate. What he said he missed was the competition, whether on tour or at home with friends.

"But the bigger the stage," Woods said, "the more fun for me." AP

RUGBY

Six Nations introducing bonus points next year

THE Six Nations is introducing bonus points next year on a trial basis.

The tournament finally comes into line with other major events in rewarding attacking play; the Rugby Championship has used bonus points since 1996, and the Rugby World Cup since 2003.

Until now, Six Nations winners earned two points, draws earned one each,

and there was nothing for losers.

Next year, winners earn four points, a draw earns two, and teams receive bonus points for scoring four tries or more, or losing within a seven-point margin.

Also, a team which wins all five of its matches for a grand slam is awarded three extra points. That's to prevent a situation like in 2002, when in a bo-

nus-points situation, England would have finished with the same points as France, which achieved a grand slam.

Six Nations chief executive John Feehan said in a statement they wanted to retain the chance of a dramatic final weekend to the championship with better play overall.

"We are conscious that we must reward try-scoring and an attacking

style of play that will deliver more tries and greater rewards for fans and players alike," Feehan said.

England won this year with a round to spare, its first championship since 2011.

But if bonus points applied, England would have won in 2013 instead of Wales. Wales beat England 30-3 in the final round to win the title on



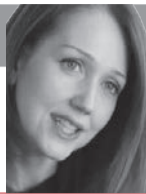
England won each of their five games in last season's championship

points difference, but in a bonus-points system, Wales' failure to earn any during the championship would have cost it. England's win over Scotland would have earned it a four-try bonus point, and been the difference. The tournament opens on Feb. 4 with Scotland vs. Ireland, and England vs. France. Italy plays Wales the next day. AP

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



MACAU SAR NOIR

I was at Macau Ferry terminal. An amiable young man in a uniform loomed up and asked: 'Will you take part in a survey?'

I answered: 'How long will it take? I'm on the next ferry - the high seas await.'

'One minute.'

'Ok then.'

The questions were straightforward, ranging from my home country (he even knew Scotland), duration of stay in Macau and what I had spent money on. A minute was indeed all it took. At the end, as a reward for my good-spiritedness towards Macau's self-improvement, I was given a pen.

Bro, I thought. A pen? Really? In 2016. You even did the survey on a tablet. Just as I was on the verge of suggesting alternative rewards for future survey respondents (say, a wrapped square of sea salt dark chocolate or a tiny vial of rum - we're all sailors here) I realized something: a pen was brilliant.

I recently moderated a talk at the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, with the Bangkok-based but Macau-loving author Lawrence Osborne.

One of his books is set in Macau, and called 'The Ballad of a Small Player'. It's the tale of 'Lord Doyle', an English Lord - or is he? - who takes on Macau's casinos, and Lady Luck, the dame of chance who smiles upon him. Or does she? Osborne's been called the Graham Greene of Asia. As importantly, his book introduced me to the gambler's refreshment known as naughty lemonade.

A friend in Macau, when I'd arrived reading 'The Ballad of a Small Player' for both research and pleasure, said: 'huh, I didn't know there were books set here.'

I had put this to Osborne. Did he think much fiction featured Macau as a backdrop? No, not that he knew of. What about Asia, more widely, I asked. A new prize called the World Readers Award, for fiction set in, or with characters from, Asia presented its first trophy this year, to an Indonesian author. A good idea? - I asked Osborne. Or wanton positive geographical discrimination? After all, a good story is a story.

The consensus at the festival talk was that more fiction, more writing in general and more awards should be set in Asia.

And so, that pen. Was the research department trying to encourage penmanship and Macau's literary reputation?

There seems so much potential. How about romantic fiction - Love Over an Egg Tart?

Or is the pen the harbinger to a new SAR cultural policy, which includes approaching established authors and offering an incentive for a Macau angle? Paula Hawkins might write a new page-turner - 'The Girl on the Ferry', not the train. Or the two sisters who write under the pseudonym Claude Izner might do 'Murder on the Eiffel Tower in Macau'.

Or literary association? Could it include speaking to the estate of famous French writers like Zola or Guy de Maupassant, and procuring permission to re-write and reset their famous novels in The Parisian Macau?

On the same principle, why not apply to the estate of George Orwell? 'Down and Out in The Parisian Macau and London'. Or 'Up and In'?

And theatre. Shakespeare. 'The Merchant of The Venetian'?

Let's not forget TV scripts. A whole episode of 'House of Cards' set in Macau? And what about 'The Bridge East'? A SAR noir sequel to the hit Scandi noir series.

It would promote cultural tourism and attract more non-Chinese visitors - a perfect fit with the city's bid to broaden its profile.

Incidentally, I drafted this column using the pen, so it's getting someone writing more about Macau. There was no naughty lemonade taken.

THE BUZZ **FOES OF NICARAGUA CANAL SAY POLICE TRYING TO DISRUPT PROTEST**

Opponents of a Chinese company's planned interoceanic canal across Nicaragua charged that police have set up roadblocks and are harassing demonstrators heading to today's protest in the nation's capital.

The National Council in Defense of the Land, Lake and Sovereignty said that police had threatened drivers, seized vehicles and roughed up opponents.

Canal spokesman Telemaco Talavera denied that. "There is no police harassment of farmers," he told local media. "If they are marching, it is because they believe there will be a canal. They have the right to dissent."

Sceptics have doubted whether the canal concession, granted in 2014 to a Chinese company, will ever be built. It has barely broken ground.

Owner of former Revel casino sues New Jersey over licensing

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City (N.J.)

The owner of New Jersey's former Revel casino is channeling his inner Donald Trump, hoping to follow the President-elect as an Atlantic City casino mogul.

Glenn Straub is parroting Trump, of whom he has often spoken admiringly, in vowing to "Make Atlantic City great again." And he's showing a Trump-like love of litigation as he sues New Jersey gambling regulators to try to get out of having to obtain a casino license for his soon-to-reopen resort.

Straub says he will be nothing more than a landlord renting space to a casino operator, and doesn't need a costly casino license.

He filed a lawsuit Monday against the state Casino Control Commission, asking a judge to force the commission to agree that he doesn't need a full-blown casino license.

"Mr. Straub has spent a lot of time, effort and money in trying to make Atlantic City great again," his lawyer, David Stefankiewicz said. "He remains ready, willing and able to open the casino."

The lawyer said the commission is putting Straub through needless red tape, as Atlantic City's casino indus-



1990 file photo, Donald Trump stands next to a genie lamp as the lights of his Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort mark its grand opening in Atlantic City

try continues to crumble.

"Instead of creating roadblock after roadblock, the agency should be doing everything in its power to facilitate getting this casino opened," the attorney said. "Doing business here should not be this hard."

The commission had not yet received the lawsuit and had no immediate comment on it yesterday.

Straub has two matters pending before the agency: a petition asking for a ruling that he does not need a full casino license, and an application for a license, should the petition not be approved.

He has said for months that he should not have to obtain the same level of licensing that other casino owners have

because he intends to be a hands-off owner. His lawsuit says Straub "intends to be the lessor of portions of [...] Revel for use as a casino/hotel and have no involvement in the casino/hotel's operation other than as a lessor."

Stefankiewicz said Straub plans to do what thousands of other property owners do.

"Does it matter what the nature of the business being conducted is?" he asked. "Does a mall owner control the business of its tenants like Macy's or Dick's or GAP or Annie's or any other tenant occupied space? Surely, being a lessor of a property where, among other things, a casino is being operated does not mean the lessor controls or is involved in the tenant's business in any way."

Straub has hired a management team to run the property, which is being rebranded under the name Ten. It plans a spring 2017 opening, assuming the necessary licenses and approvals are obtained before then.

Revel, which cost USD2.4 billion to build, shut down in September 2014 after little over two years without having come close to turning a profit. Straub bought it from bankruptcy court for \$82 million, or about 5 cents on the dollar in April 2015. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	65-85 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA Rowdy protesters demonstrating against Australia's treatment of asylum seekers disrupt Parliament, some gluing their hands to a railing before security officers finally wrested them out.

AUSTRALIA A theme park says it will reopen more than six weeks after four people died in a ride malfunction. Dreamworld on Queensland state's Gold Coast will reopen to the public with several of its rides operating on Dec. 10, the park owner Ardent Leisure Group told the Australian Securities Exchange.



NEW ZEALAND Disney's animated movie "Moana" debuted to critical acclaim and box office success over the Thanksgiving weekend, but some people in the South Pacific dislike how it depicts their culture. Of particular concern is the movie's portrayal of the demigod Maui, who is shown as enormous and egotistical, albeit with a good heart.

VATICAN Pope Francis has met with director Martin Scorsese, whose new film, "Silence," about Jesuit missionaries in 17th-century Japan, was screened this week in Rome. The Vatican says that during the pontiff's "very cordial" meeting with Scorsese, Francis mentioned he had read the novel on which the film is based. Francis is a Jesuit who joined the order with the idea of becoming a missionary in Japan, which never materialized.

CUBA Fidel Castro's ashes have begun a four-day journey from Havana to their final resting place in Santiago, Cuba.

BRAZIL Police in Brasilia have clashed with protesters during a demonstration outside Congress while lawmakers considered legislation that has angered some Brazilians. Police fired tear gas trying to drive off protesters, who overturned cars and smashed windows. Thousands of people joined the demonstration as senators planned to vote on a bill to cap government spending.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Neil Squires/PA via AP



Cool sight. A general view as dawn breaks after one of England's coldest nights of the autumn so far this year, at Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, England, this week.