



### AGNES LAM: GENDER ISSUES STILL MARGINALIZED

Agnes Lam suggests that women need to be more outspoken, while the gov't should formulate policies to improve gender equality

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### MACAU WINE AND DINE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

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### CHINA TO BOOST MILITARY BUDGET BY 10 PERCENT

China's official military budget will grow by about 10 percent in the coming year amid unease among Beijing's neighbors about its growing might

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA'S** Foreign Ministry says a Chinese cargo ship was carrying legitimate military items when it was stopped in Colombia on its way to Cuba. Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said yesterday that the items were part of "normal military trade" between China and Cuba and did not violate Chinese law or any of the country's international obligations. Reports in Colombia said the ship was carrying 100 tons of gunpowder, shell casings and detonators when it was stopped Saturday at a Colombian port.

**AUSTRALIA-CHINA**  
Australian authorities are clamping down on wealthy foreigners illegally buying real estate, ordering a Chinese billionaire to sell a Sydney mansion he recently bought for USD30 million. The billionaire, Hui Ka Yan, 56, is chairman of Hong Kong-listed real estate developer Evergrande Real Estate Group, which is based in Guangzhou, China. He is listed by Forbes as China's 15 wealthiest person with a fortune of \$6.4 billion.

**AUSTRALIA'S** highest court clears the way for a radio station to face penalties over a 2012 prank call to a London hospital that was caring for the Duchess of Cambridge. A nurse who transferred the call committed suicide after the broadcast. Two Australian DJs from radio station 2DayFM impersonated Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles when they phoned the hospital to ask about Kate's condition.

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# Report on tourism capacity to fly all the way to Beijing

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## Ung Vai Meng praised as he prepares for another 3-year term

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Jonathan Burgos  
and Kana Nishizawa

GAMING

# Analyst who called stock drop says worst yet to come

**T**HE worst is yet to come for Macau casinos after February gaming revenue plunged the most on record, according to one of the few analysts who correctly predicted the stocks would fall this year.

Gaming revenue will keep sliding through mid-year and dividends will be cut as the cost of new capacity eats into free-cash flow, leaving share valuations too expensive, said Jamie Zhou, an analyst at Macquarie Securities in Hong Kong. Zhou was one of just two analysts tracked by Bloomberg with sell ratings on Sands China Ltd. and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. when he started covering the shares in December.

The two largest casino operators by market value in Macau have since tumbled at least 20 percent as China's economic growth slowed to the weakest pace since 1990 and President Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign deterred VIP gamblers. While a gauge of Macau casinos rallied the most in two weeks on Tuesday as the revenue drop was smaller than some analysts predicted, Zhou is keeping his sell recommendation on the industry.

"Macau is in a tough spot," Zhou said in an e-mailed response to questions from Bloomberg News. "We believe dividends will be slashed across the board." The six main casino operators - Sands, Galaxy, Wynn Macau Ltd., SJM Holdings Ltd., MGM China Holdings Ltd. and Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. - lost USD89 billion in market value over the past year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. An index of the stocks added 1.7 percent Tuesday, paring its 12-month slump to 46 percent.

Gross gaming revenue in the world's biggest gambling hub fell 49 percent to 19.5 billion patacas (USD2.4 billion) last month, Macau's Gaming Ins-



Passengers wait for shuttle buses outside the ferry terminal

**Macau is in a tough spot. We believe dividends will be slashed across the board**

JAMIE ZHOU

pection and Coordination Bureau said.

Macau last year posted its first annual decline in gaming revenue. The industry may face another 8 percent drop this year, a Bloomberg survey showed, after last year's 2.6 percent fall. SJM Holdings slipped 3.7 percent in Hong Kong to lead declines among casino stocks. Wynn Macau dropped 2.8 percent, MGM China sank

2.6 percent, Galaxy fell 2.9 percent and Sands China lost 1.7 percent. Melco Crown added 0.8 percent.

Most analysts have remained bullish, with Zhou's sell ratings putting him at odds with peers. The average consensus on the six operators is 3.8 on a scale where 5 equates to a unanimous buy recommendation. That's in line with the score for the members of the Hang Seng Index, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Strategists are most bearish on Wynn Macau, with eight sell calls out of 28 recommendations. Zhou is now the only analyst advising investors to offload Galaxy shares.

Analysts are too optimistic about the outlook for shareholder payouts by casinos, he said. As well as the revenue decline, wage inflation will boost expenses and the cost of opening new venues will drain cash, said Zhou.

"We don't think the street has

fully grasped the negative operating leverage in their earnings forecasts," said Zhou, referring to other analysts. "While consensus have 5-7 percent forward dividend yields, we see only 2-4 percent at best."

Macau casino operators were some of Hong Kong's best stocks to own in the five years through 2013, with Galaxy rallying more than 6,400 percent, as more than eightfold growth in gaming spending over the decade through 2013 transformed the former Portuguese enclave into a gambling center larger than the Las Vegas Strip.

President Xi in December urged Macau to wean itself off its reliance on casinos and turn the city into a tourism and leisure center. His campaign against corruption has snared more than 100,000 "flies and tigers," or low- and high-level officials, according to official data.

"Macau gaming will take some

time to recover. They're still struggling to find the bottom," said Sandy Mehta, the Hong Kong-based chief executive officer of Value Investment Principals Ltd. "The crackdown on conspicuous consumption is the biggest headwind. It is great that the Chinese leadership is improving transparency and governance, but Macau will continue to feel the brunt of these measures."

Representatives for Sands China and Galaxy declined to comment on the companies' dividend plans. The four other casino operators didn't immediately respond to requests for comment from Bloomberg News made after regular office hours on Tuesday.

The slump in gaming stocks has made shares cheaper. The BI Macau China Gaming Market Competitive Peers Index traded yesterday at 16 times earnings, compared with its five-year average multiple of 20.3. Casinos slid last month to the lowest valuation relative to the Hang Seng Index since the middle of 2012.

For Macquarie's Zhou, they're still not a bargain. He has a 12-month target price of HK\$31 on Sands, 14 percent below Tuesday's close. He sees a 15 percent decline to HK\$18 for Wynn Macau, and a 17 percent drop to HK\$33.20 for Galaxy Entertainment.

The addition of more hotel rooms in Macau and capital spending commitments mean "industry level free cash flow will be negative for years to come," he said. Shares remain expensive, "particularly with further downside possible." **Bloomberg**

## The positive impacts of gaming slowdown

**T**HE decline in the city's gaming revenue is expected to last for at least another six months, according to analysts. However, economists and scholars argue that the decline might usher in

economic diversification, which will have a positive impact on other industries.

Chang Chak Io, vice president of the Macau Economic Association, told TDM that the current ga-

ming situation would actually bring potential diversification and development to other industries.

"If the need for employees is lessened, especially in regards to young adults choosing

jobs in this field, will we focus on gaming industry jobs? And will it cause young adults to consider working in other industries?" he questioned.

The vice-president of the Macau Gaming Indus-

try Workers Association, Leong Sun Iok, echoed Chang's remarks, saying that after July, new sectors may be impacted.

"After July, the adjustment period will probably come to an end. The main goal for the government is to combine job training and job matching to help

employees to develop skills and reduce their unemployment chances," he said.

The territory last month suffered a record 48.6 pct slump in gross gaming revenue year-on-year. The fall is expected to continue for at least another six months.

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ALEXIS TAM ANNOUNCES

# Report on tourism capacity to be completed 'within one week'

**T**HE Chief Executive (CE) has requested the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, to prepare a report on Macau's tourism capacity, which will be later submitted to the central government. Chui Sai On, who is now in Beijing to join the annual National People's Congress (NPC) meeting, told reporters yesterday that he will be meeting China's Minister of Tourism He Guangwey and representatives of the People's Bank of China.

"I have sent a notice to Secretary Alexis Tam, requesting that as soon as possible they make an analysis [of the city's tourism capacity], particularly in Macau's borders. They will be preparing a report that I will later submit to the central government," he stated, as quoted by Lusa news agency.

Alexis Tam said yesterday that he had already requested the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) to draft the report on Macau's tourism capacity, which should be completed within one week, according to a statement

XINHUA



issued by the Government Information Bureau (GCS). Mr Tam revealed that the final report will

likely be submitted to the central government before May.

Mr Tam previously stated that

there's a need to review the city's tourism capacity and to further discuss the individual visa scheme. Mr Chui also acknowledged that the scheme helped Macau's economy to recover after the SARS crisis, but that it is advisable to assess the city's infrastructure capacity as well as a possible impact on residents' quality of life.

Speaking to reporters last month, the Secretary had revealed that Macau's administration would be discussing with the central government measures "to control and optimize" the city's tourist influx.

The report, which MGTO will be drafting, looks into Macau's tourism capacity progress between 2003 and 2015. It will

also analyze the policy governing individual visa schemes. On the sidelines of a meeting with the Committee on Elderly Citizens' Affairs, Mr Tam told the media there's a need to review and optimize the individual visa scheme. He stressed that he's expecting MGTO's report to be completed in one week's time.

The Secretary recalled that Macau's tourism industry plays a crucial role in the city's economy, adding that "tourists are welcome [here], either to visit or acquire products the city offers." However, he stated it is also important to understand whether a growing number of tourists coming to town might affect residents' quality of life.

"We can think about it, and allow tourists to visit town at other times too, for instance over summer," he added.

Mr Tam acknowledged that Macau's tourism industry would likely be concerned over the impact of such a statement. Therefore, the government is planning to define new policies cautiously, taking into consideration any possible impact for local businesses. **CP**

## REVENUE SLUMP CORRESPONDS TO GOV'T FORECASTS

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** Chui Sai On has maintained that a continuous gaming revenue decline is in accordance with the government's forecasts and is not likely to affect its budget. "We will make adjustments to the economic sector, while certainly complying with the Basic Law," he said, hinting that an expenditure restraint policy is to be implemented, which might imply outlining a more cautious budget this year.

**T**HIS year's upcoming International Women's Day is themed "Make it happen: Celebrate women's achievements, call for greater equality". In order to achieve that in Macau, local scholar and civil group leader Agnes Lam suggested that women need to be more outspoken, while the government should formulate policies to improve gender equality.

Ms Lam stressed on the sidelines of a seminar held on Gender Politics at the University of Macau that there are still many issues on local women's status that are not being addressed in public.

The scholar argues that gender equality seems to be "a hot topic in the past few months," because of the debate around the domestic violence bill - a debate that is not "about the broader sense of gender equality," she said.

Several examples of gender issues that haven't been discussed much were listed by the academic, such as the right to abortion, insufficient days of maternity leave, as well as a lack of female management positions.

"Abortion is illegal here in Macau, but it's legal in mainland China, so people

# Agnes Lam: Gender issues still marginalized

can just go across the border to do abortions. Should we think about that? We don't have any public figures that are fighting for the autonomy of women; we don't even talk about if people should have the right to choose abortion or not," she indicated.

Another field that needs to

be looked into is the protection of women's labor rights, she said, as ten percent of women in Macau have to give up working due to family obligations. Moreover, women - as the city's major workforce - still hold a "not very satisfactory" ratio of management level positions.

"None of these have been discussed, basically," said the scholar. "If there is a policy that can take care of their concern or their needs, they can work or at least work part time," she added.

Lam also stressed that "gender issues or women's issues are always marginalized in Macau, especially in



## Lack of transparency on domestic violence

**T**HE Macau Anti-Domestic Violence Coalition Group was one of the organizations that yesterday expressed concerns with "the lack of transparency" regarding the Legislative Assembly (AL) First Standing Committee's debate of the Domestic Violence Prevention and Correction Law. They say that the committee, presided over by Kwan Tsui Hang, could be trying to reverse the legislation previously approved at the AL plenary meeting, where the domestic violence bill passed its first reading.

"We are really concerned because the debate is not open to the public and is not transparent. We fear that there could be a risk of backtracking,

which would mean a disregard of the law's purpose [regarding domestic violence as a public crime]. So we ask journalists to enquire about the Public Prosecutions Office, judges and police's opinion on this matter. We hope that the new versions of the law will be made public so we can keep debating [the issue]," said Melody Lu, the group's spokesperson.

Under the current proposed domestic violence legislation, the Penal Code will be amended with another clause added to one of its articles. This new clause will enable the public prosecutors to actively indict perpetrators who have assaulted a family member, resulting in a consequence that is "not mild."

the Chinese media." According to her research, there was only one domestic violence story published on a front page in the past fifteen years. And the main reason is that "women themselves don't speak out."

"Because women don't talk about their concerns in the public sphere, it's very hard for us to understand their needs, how should we bring their concerns into the political world?" she questioned, adding that merely three percent of local women in a survey said they had voiced out publicly about their issues.

The scholar, who also leads the "Macao Civic Power" group, further acknowledged that participating in

political affairs hasn't been easy for women either, and female politicians might often follow the "male agenda" rather than suggesting "gender-based" issues.

"The situation is improving a lot more. But still we don't have enough organizations or groups to engage women and so we lack some kind of collective force or collective voice to talk about women's issues," she emphasized.

Lam went on to suggest that women's associations in the city "traditionally focus more on the services for childcare, school and medical care." "They need to be more outspoken about other issues, new issues and hidden issues," she said. **BY**



## UM holds Open Day for prospective students

The University of Macau (UM) will hold an Open Day at their new campus on Sunday March 29, addressing prospective students. Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., UM'S facilities will be open to the public, and information on the university's educational programs will be made available. This will be the first Open Day to be held at the new Hengqin Island campus, which became fully operational last September. Participants will have the opportunity to visit various facilities, residential colleges and labs. The Open Day program also features talks and workshops, so that prospective students can learn more about UM's latest developments, such as its academic programs, achievements in teaching and research, residential college system, and two key state labs. Other planned activities include student performances, an international food festival, booth games, a lucky draw, and campus tours by students.

# Lawmaker urges gov't to launch construction quality probe

**LAWMAKER** José Pereira Coutinho is urging the government to launch an independent probe into the construction quality of the Seac Pai Van housing estate. He suggested that the government commission an examination of the building complex's structure to an independent entity, in order to find those accountable for the bad construction quality.

Last month, local media reported that plastic and paper bags were found inside the wall of a Seac Pai Van public housing apartment. Yesterday, TDM English News reported that residents found more plastic bags stuffed inside the walls of their flats at the Koi Nga building. The Koi Nga Mutual Help Association believes that one-third of the flats might share similar problems.

Other Seac Pai Van residents have complained about cracks in the walls and ceilings. However, the government and the Society of Civil and Structural Engineers have dismissed any security risks, TDM English News reported.



Besides a probe launched by Macau's anti-graft agency (CCAC), José Pereira Coutinho said that only an independent examination of the buildings' construction quality would shed some light on the matter.

Lawmaker Coutinho requested that the government find those accountable for the shoddy work.

Given all of the efforts to ensure Seac Pai Van's construction quality, with the government even requesting services from consultan-

cy companies, Coutinho questioned how these buildings remain defective.

He urged the government to reinforce supervision and inspection operations for similar construction in future.

"What kind of effective measures will the government implement to prevent similar cases in the future?" he asked.

Coutinho recalled that he had already questioned the government over Seac Pai Van's construction flaws back in 2013, when residents first complained about the buildings' poor construction quality. "Nearly two years ago when these issues related to the quality of construction materials first arose I enquired with the government," he stressed, adding that he requested the government to order an examination of the buildings' structure. The lawmaker had also wanted Macau's administration to commission a study to an independent entity.

The lawmaker said that several months after submitting his written enquiry, the Housing Bu-

reau's former president replied that, "The government pays great attention to the construction and quality of public housing, and steps up efforts to supervise and ensure [buildings'] construction quality." He added that the infrastructure department also requested the services of consultancy companies throughout the construction of the Seac Pai Van affordable housing complex. Furthermore, the former Housing Bureau's president said that quality control services were asked to test construction materials and approve construction works, depending on whether contractors met all requirements.

Last month, a group of proprietors from the Seac Pai Van public housing estate petitioned the Macau government to express their concerns over the buildings' construction quality. They fear it might end up being "another Sin Fong Garden" case.

The Sin Fong Garden building in Patane was once believed to be in danger of collapsing, and 141 families were evacuated in 2012. **CP**

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## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

# Ung Vai Meng praised as he prepares for another 3-year term



Ung Vai Meng

**T**HE incumbent president of the Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Ung Vai Meng, will retain his current position for the next three years, according to an announcement in the Official Gazette.

The IC president's reappointment has been well received by Alice Kok, the president of the Art for All Society, an association established in 2007 which aims to enhance the development of Macau's contemporary art scene.

The local-born full time artist praised Ung for his "recognized capability in the cultural sector."

"I hope there would be much more collaboration between IC and the private sector in the

next three years," she said.

"The bureau should continue to take the lead to strengthen communications with the private cultural sector and thus enhance the organ's overall transparency, and their efforts in the past few years are rather evident though," the AFA president added.

Macanese architect Carlos

Marreiros, also a former IC head, also expressed his satisfaction when he learnt about Ung's reappointment, saying that he was "the right man in the right place" and "an expert with managing skills". "He has been performing very well in all aspects, that is why he got reappointed," the architect asserted, adding, "He also has pas-

sion for art and this city."

Nevertheless, he also pointed out that there was room for improvement for the bureau

## Ung Vai Meng is the right man in the right place

CARLOS MARREIROS

in regard to its publishing and heritage preservation efforts despite its attempts to promote local art-related activities over the years.

"The books and pieces published by IC on the city's cultural identity should be strengthened," he said. Besides, he also noted that the bureau head needed to reinforce his team's efficiency to avoid the city's historic heritage sites being compromised in the face of land shortage and over-modernization in the territory.

Around three months ago, architect and urban planner Francisco Pinheiro slammed the bureau's lack of coordination and transparency in its management of the city's historical heritage, warning that large infrastructure had taken a toll on the historic environment.

Ung Vai Meng assumed the position of IC president on March 1, 2010. Prior to that, he worked for the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau as the head of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Recreation.

Before embarking on his career at the government in 1983, the 57-year-old was an avid painter with an exclusive penchant for sketching and watercolors, who had more than eight personal exhibitions held before showcasing his artistic works in the city. **Staff reporter**

### RECENT CHANGES IN IC'S VICE-PRESIDENCY

**POET, TRANSLATOR** and scholar Yao Jing Ming left the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), where he served as acting vice-president since 2012, in August last year. Chan Peng Fai is now the acting-vice president and Leung Hio Ming serves as vice-president. In

2014, Yao Jing Ming announced he would be leaving IC for personal reasons and told local media that he would be returning to his former post at the University of Macau. Under the pen name of Yao Feng, Yao Jing Ming launched in January his latest book.

## Thumbs up from Dennis Murrell

**A**CCORDING to Dennis Murrell, an Australian painter who has known Ung Vai Meng for many years since he first arrived in town in 1989, Ung was already a well-known artist by then. The Australian told the times that he was very pleased to hear that Ung was to serve for another three years, as he recalled the days when he helped Ung set up the Macau Museum

of Art in 1999. The 68-year-old artist appreciates Ung's initiatives of establishing public libraries across the city, as well as his determination to foster local art talents. He also hopes that the current IC head can 'continue to work' in the sector in the future, since "projects would never be finished" with too many changes of personnel for the top position.

## STATISTICS

## Macau's population increases by 4.7 pct

**M**ACAU'S total population reached 636,200 at the end of 2014, representing an increase of 4.7 percent year-on-year (an increase of 28,700). The female population accounted for 50.6 percent of the total, figures released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

A total of 7,360 live births were delivered last year, an increase of 789 year-on-year,

which DSEC stressed as being the highest number since 1989. The gender ratio of the newborns stood at 109.7, corresponding to 109.7 male babies per 100 female babies. Mortality cases totaled 1,939, which accounts for 19 more newborn deaths in 2014 than the previous year. Neoplasms (679), diseases of the circulatory system (467) and diseases of the respiratory system (325) are

the top three underlying causes of death.

DSEC said in a statement that the number of Chinese immigrants surged in 2014. By the end of last year, there were 5,889 Chinese immigrants, up significantly by 2,551 year-on-year. Individuals granted right of abode totaled 2,278, a decrease of 213. A total of 1,409 illegal Chinese immigrants were repatriated to the mainland.

## Sou Chio Fai stays on as GAES coordinator

Sou Chio Fai will continue to serve as coordinator of the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES), according to a notice published yesterday in the government's Official Gazette. A notice from the office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture added that Mr Sou Chio Fai's contract has been renewed for another two years, due to his "management abilities and adequate professional experience when performing his duties."

## Record month at the airport



In the month of February, the Macau International Airport (MIA) recorded a continuous growth of passenger traffic volume and aircraft movements. According to a press release issued by MIA, passenger volume surpassed 480,000 and the daily average passenger intake was over 17,000, while the aircraft movements were recorded at over 4,000. This represents a 14% increase and a 6% increase in passenger and aircraft movements respectively, compared to the same period last year. Southeast Asia routes continue to perform well, with 170,000 passengers recorded, while the Taiwan market recorded 120,000 passengers. The two markets presented 22% and 13% increases respectively.

## Several places left for IACM art workshop

The "Play with Light and Shadow: Children's Creative Workshop" art workshop, organized by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), has several places still open for registration after the first round of applications. Interested parties can still apply for the workshop, designed for children aged from five to seven and eight to ten, before March 10. The workshop welcomes both Cantonese-speaking and English-speaking children, as it includes courses taught in both languages. Since 1999, IACM has been organizing art courses for local children, aiming to stimulate their creativity through different mixed media.





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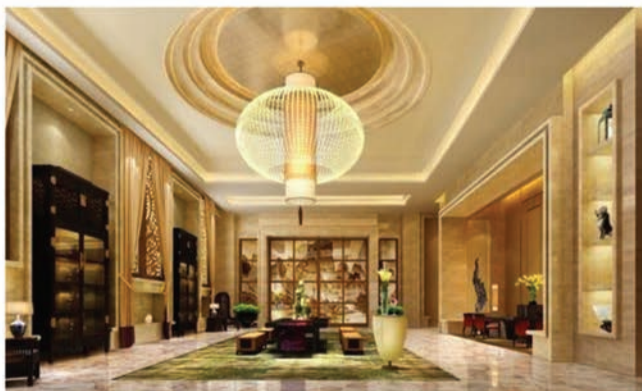
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Catarina Pinto

# Macau Wine and Dine Festival kicks off as sector grows

**T**HE third edition of the Macau Wine and Dine Festival kicked off yesterday at The Venetian Macao's outdoor lagoon area. The festival sees an increased number of exhibitors as the Chinese community's interest and appreciation of wine grows, said Filipe Cunha Santos, president of the Wine Society of Macau, who is hosting the event.

Until Sunday, 38 booths placed along the Venetian's outdoor lagoon area showcase what local and foreign companies have to offer. Wines from Portugal, France, Italy and the United States are available, paired with international delicacies.

"We have been holding the event for three years now, and obviously it has grown over that time, not only in the number of attendees but also regarding the number of booths. This year, for instance, we have several exhibitors from Hong Kong, apart from our own local exhibitors," said Mr Santos.

Mr Santos added that the festival's concept focuses on a "business to consumer" principle, rather than a "business to business" principle.

He recalled that the Chinese community used to prefer spirits or liquors, but the trend has shifted: "They are more interested in wines, and [are] even pro-



ducing their own wine in China. There's a trend. And they will keep appreciating wine."

Hong Kong company Cottage Vineyards is one of the exhibitors. Their sales & marketing director Ada Leung told The Times that Chinese nationals are indeed "starting to learn more about wine [...] there's a growing interest, especially with events like these happening. This is the trend. People will be drinking and appreciating wine together [with gastronomy]."

Cottage Vineyards has partici-

pated in the event since its first year and has been doing business in Macau since 2008. "We saw an opportunity here, it's a growing market and there were a lot of changes occurring, so we wanted to be part of it," she stressed.

Ms Leung revealed that throughout the five-day festival, her company will also be organizing seminars, and has invited an Austrian wine producer to share her experience with biodynamic wines, which are produced using organic farming methods.

Christian Saahs, Austrian winemaker and owner of the first biodynamic wine estate in Europe, has been invited to a wine dinner to be held on Saturday at Dynasty 8. She will also be giving a Biodynamic Wine Masterclass on Saturday between 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Conrad Macao.

A representative of VinoMac, another exhibitor at the event, said that a growing number of consumers from Japan and China are interested in their wines, which come mainly from Portugal, but also from Spain, Argentina and Chile.

Eurovinhos' booth, which sells mainly wines from Portugal's Alentejo region, has seen an increase in the number of attendees joining the event over the past years as well, a member of the company noted.

The Wine and Dine Festival, sponsored by The Venetian Macao, is the largest local wine event. It is supported by the Macau Financial Services Bureau, as well as the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Macau Govern-

ment Tourist Office (MGTO), among other organizations.

Mr Santos, the Wine Society of Macau's president, recalled that behind the government's support of the festival lies an effort to, "diversify Macau's tourism [offerings]."

The senior vice president & director of Venetian & Plaza Operations, Sands China, Ciaran Carruthers, also stressed that, "sponsoring the Wine and Dine Festival is one of the ways we help bring a variety of leisure choices to Macau for both locals and visitors. It's also an important part of our multi-tiered entertainment strategy, which helps diversify Macau's tourism offerings and strengthens Macau's position as a world center for tourism and leisure."

Last year, the festival reached its expected attendance of 20,000 admissions.

For its third edition, the Wine Society of Macau hopes to see a 15 percent increase in the number of attendees as the event features more booths, delicacies and family-oriented elements.

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Kevin Chan  
Business Writer, Hong Kong

# New Malaysia Airlines CEO a “battle hardened” veteran

WHEN the owners of embattled Malaysia Airlines went looking for a new CEO to lead its restructuring, they chose a German turnaround specialist known as “The Terminator” to take on what’s been dubbed the toughest job in aviation.

Christoph Mueller, 52, comes to the post fresh from a stint reviving Ireland’s Aer Lingus. He’ll be the first foreigner to head the Malaysian state-owned company. Analysts say he’s an industry veteran “battle-hardened” from his work carrying out corporate restructurings at other state-owned airlines, including failed Belgian carrier Sabena.

Mueller will be facing his biggest challenge yet at Malaysia Airlines. The company was pushed to the brink of bankruptcy by the disappearance of Flight 370 on March 8 with 239 people on board and the shooting down mere months later of Flight 17 over Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers and crew.

Khazanah, the sovereign investment fund that owns Malaysia Airlines, declined an interview request for Mueller, who started his job on Sunday. But clues about his management philosophy can be found in a video interview he gave to Cambridge University’s business school last year.

“The first year of a restructuring is really like a war situation,” Mueller told his interviewer, exuding a polite, polished and firm manner that is in stark contrast with the brash charisma of the bosses at his former and present discount rivals: Michael O’Leary of Ryanair and AirAsia’s Tony Fernandes.

Mueller was dubbed “The Terminator” in Ireland because his German accent made for easy comparisons to Arnold Schwarzenegger in assassin robot

AP PHOTO



Malaysia Airlines crew walk into a check in area at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia

mode as he outlined his plans to remorselessly fix Aer Lingus.

At his new job, Mueller will have work cut out for him. He has to trim a bloated workforce and money-losing routes while also fending off political interference at the state-owned company and battling cutthroat competition from budget carrier rivals. But that’s not unlike situations he’s faced before.

“I would say it probably is among the toughest” jobs in the industry, said John Strickland of JLS Consulting who believes Mueller’s status as an outsider will give him an edge in shaking up the company.

“He’s worked in a number of organizations, a number of airlines and he’s managed airlines that have had very diverse problems,” said Strickland. “He’s

coming in fresh. He’s someone battle-hardened in the airline industry. He’s not a political appointee.”

Mueller joined Aer Lingus five years ago, when passenger demand on lucrative trans Atlantic routes had plummeted in the wake of the global financial crisis while rising costs hobbled its competitiveness against European low-cost rival Ryanair. It also faced a yawning pension gap and multiple takeover attempts by Ryanair, which is now its biggest shareholder.

Mueller’s transformation of Aer Lingus gave him the chance to show that he’s got the mettle to perform major surgery on a previously state-owned airline without crashing it. His departure leaves the Irish carrier on a high note: it’s become an at-

tractive takeover target for both Ryanair and British Airways parent IAG.

Mueller started his career at Lufthansa, but went on to jobs in areas of the aviation industry typically scorned by executives at big carriers, including in the low-profile air cargo and competitive air charter businesses.

At Belgium’s former national airline Sabena, Mueller struggled to save a company that was hemorrhaging cash and burdened with powerful unions that resisted job cuts. But his task was abruptly cut short by the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, which dealt a fatal blow that forced it into liquidation.

In his Cambridge interview, Mueller expanded on his war analogy, saying that staff attrition may be high because

workers aren’t used to the urgent tempo of typical turnarounds waged around the clock. Managers may need, for example, to “show up on Sunday morning at 4 o’clock at the baggage room, and really talk to people what their concerns are all about.”

He stressed the importance of town hall meetings with frontline workers and hinted that he usually ends up making sweeping changes to senior management because those responsible for existing problems tend to avoid taking responsibility.

“My experience is it’s very difficult to create a winning team from existing management,” he said. “There’s nowhere more obfuscation than in the boardroom at the beginning of a turnaround.” AP

## corporate bits

### A NOSTALGIC NIGHT OF CLASSIC CANTOPOP AT THE VENETIAN



A group of renowned singers from the PolyGram music label will take to the stage at the Cotai Arena in a night of nostalgia with PolyGram Forever Live In Macao March 14, 2015. Tickets go on sale Friday March 5.

The star-studded concert will feature some of PolyGram’s most well known singers including Priscilla Chan Wai-han, Hacksen Lee Hak-kan, Vivian Chow Wai-man, Albert Au Shui

-keung, Daniel Chan Hiu-tung and Karen Tong Bo-yu. According to the organizers, “The legends will bring back wonderful memories for their collective legion of fans when they revive some of their greatest hits”.

The PolyGram Forever Live Concert series started in 2013 to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the label and has since toured Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Foshan.

### JACK WILLS LAUNCHES SPRING 2015 MENSWEAR

Spring 2015 marks the debut collection of Richard Nicoll in his new role as Creative Director for British brand, Jack Wills.

The label, which was founded in Salcombe, Devon in 1999, has a Macau outlet located in The Venetian.

According to the brand, “Under Nicoll’s precision and polish, the range has been broadened and a cohesive, considered collection has emerged, with the introduction of more versatile and timeless options for menswear and womenswear”.

For this menswear collection, Richard studied British Youth sub cultural periods from the 1960’s Youth Quake, through to 90’s Brit pop.



“Jack Wills is not just about creating wardrobing for young adults, it’s for anybody with a youthful spirit,” says Richard of his ethos for the brand. “The clothing can be worn by a wide variety of ages. Mixed together, they create an irreverent image of British youth culture and a celebration of the individual in the gang.”

### SHOWDOWN AT SANDS FIGHTERS MAKE GRAND ARRIVAL AT VENETIAN MACAO



With the Showdown at Sands coming to the Cotai Arena Saturday, five of the boxers fighting in the multi-bout event gave fans in Macau something to get excited about as they made their arrival at the main lobby of The Venetian Macao yesterday

evening, where they were welcomed by Sands China Ltd. executives. In attendance were headliners Zou Shiming and Amnat Ruenroeng, along with Ik Yang, Hong Kong sensation Rex Tso and local fighter Ng Kuok Kun, among others.



### Mozambique's flagship airline carries more passengers in 2014

**M**OZAMBICAN flagship airline Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique (LAM) in 2014 recorded an increase of 10 percent in passenger numbers, during which the national flag transported 788,000 people, the airline's spokesman said Tuesday in Maputo.

Senior management of the company gathered at a seminar to assess the degree of achievement of the company's Strategic Plan for the 2014/2018 period, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

Spokesman Carlos Siteo stressed that the company last year added a Boeing 737-700 aircraft to its fleet with capacity to carry 132 passengers, had signed a purchase agreement for three Boeing aircraft and started flights on the new Maputo/Nacala/Maputo route.

"At the end of last year we also started flights at reduced prices, under the Letzgô name, serving the cities of Maputo, Beira, Nampula, Tete and Quelimane," added Siteo.

In terms of increasing the fleet Siteo said the first two Boeing aircraft would be delivered in June and July of 2016, with the third plane due to arrive in Mozambique in June 2017.

The chief executive of LAM, Lacumba Aiuba, said the company would be audited in April by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), in June by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and in August by the International Organization for Standardization. The EASA audit is essential for the air carrier to be taken of the European Union blacklist, he said. **MDT/Macauhub**

## National Bank of Angola to design new coins



**T**HE National Bank of Angola (BNA) will take on the design new 50 and 100 kwanza coins alluding to the 40 years of national independence, to replace notes of equal value, after a failed public

competition for their design, the bank announced.

In a statement issued Monday, the central bank reported that "none of the proposals considered met the requirements for the theme" in the

### The new coins allude to the 40 years of independence

competition to design the two new coins, which took place throughout the month of January.

For this reason, the bank said it reserves "the right to develop a proposed design," for one of the sides used on these coins.

The contest was open to all residents in Angola and provided for the selection of visual motifs for both sides of the new coins, and was organised by the National Union of Artists, as well as involving the Ministry of Culture and the BNA.

The Angolan central bank is preparing to introduce coins with a face value of 50 and 100 kwanzas by November this year, which marks the 40th anniversary of Angola's independence.

At the end of 2015 Angola will have seven different coins and five banknotes. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



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# Prince William meets elephant on final day of tour

Louise Watt, Beijing

**BRITAIN'S** Prince William highlighted his interest in wildlife conservation on the final stop of his China tour yesterday, feeding baskets of carrots to an elephant in the country's southwest.

The second in line to the British throne visited an elephant sanctuary, where he met Ran Ran, a 13-year-old female elephant who was discovered in 2005 with a leg wound caused by an iron clamp trap. Handed carrots by the animal's keeper, William passed them to Ran Ran, who reached for more with her trunk even while her mouth was crammed full.

The visit to Yunnan province, a tropical region bordering Myanmar and Laos that has been the focus of government efforts to stop poaching and reduce conflicts between people and elephants that eat their crops, was organized for William to learn how Asian elephants are



surviving in the wild.

There are about 250 wild Asian elephants in China, all in Yunnan, according to the province's forestry administration.

The prince, who is patron and president of British charities that campaign against the illegal trade in ivory, also met villagers in Xishuangbanna prefecture to hear how they are adapting to living in close proximity to wild

elephants.

William, who regularly speaks out against wildlife trafficking, was expected to bring up the plight of African elephants, tens of thousands of which have been slaughtered in recent years to meet a surging appetite for ivory in Asia, primarily China.

Last week, China banned ivory imports for one year in the hope that it would help reduce the de-

mand for African tusks and protect wild elephants. There is still no ban on the ivory trade within the country, and conservationists say legal sales provide cover for a thriving black market.

China's illicit trade in ivory began to explode in 2008, when Beijing was permitted to purchase 62 tons of ivory under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species.

The purchase was presented as a way to keep China's traditional artisan ivory carving industry alive.

After legal pieces started showing up in shops, it soon became a status symbol in China. Carved ivory has historically been highly prized in China, and its scarcity has turned it into an investment choice akin to gold and silver.

William told President Xi Jinping on Monday that he hopes China can become a world leader in the field of wildlife conservation, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency. During their meeting, Xi explained China's policies and work protecting elephants and other wild animals and told the prince that he hopes to strengthen international cooperation in this field.

William arrived in China on Sunday after a four-day trip to Japan. In Beijing, he met Chinese political leaders as well as young people from disadvantaged backgrounds — another issue close to his heart.

He crossed over into the business world in Shanghai and met entrepreneurs while launching a festival to promote British creativity and innovation.

William was scheduled to fly back to Britain last night. **AP**

Erica Kinetz, Shanghai

**CHINA** played down U.S. concerns that proposed anti-terror legislation would give the Chinese government sweeping power to police electronic communications and marginalize foreign companies fighting for a share of China's USD465 billion technology market, saying yesterday that the law is purely designed to address domestic security issues.

Fu Ying, spokeswoman for China's legislature, said the legislation is in line with the kind of access to electronic communications that Western governments, including the U.S. and Britain, have sought. She said such access would be aimed at preventing and investigating terrorism and would come with strict restrictions.

"It will not affect the legitimate rights of Internet operators," Fu said at a news conference in Beijing.

Four U.S. Cabinet members, including Secretary of State John Kerry, and the U.S. trade representative wrote to their Chinese counterparts in February, expressing "serious concerns" about the draft anti-terror law and rules for technology procurement at Chinese banks, a U.S.

## Gov't plays down US concerns over anti-terror legislation



Fu Ying, spokeswoman for the National People's Congress, arrives for a press conference in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. It is unusual to have four Cabinet officials weigh in on a China trade issue and underscores the seriousness of the concern in Washington, he said.

China's moves to strengthen cybersecurity come in the wake of revelations of widespread U.S. government surveillance, and have raised questions about the extent to which government surveillance will interfere with the ability of private companies to effectively globalize.

Some say China is seeking to go no farther than the U.S. in the name of national security. "We just did what the Americans have already done," said Shen Dingli, director of Fudan University's Center for American Studies. "You could choose to leave, leaving the opportunity of making money from 1.3 billion people. We have substitutes."

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Tuesday that China hopes the U.S. will regard the new anti-terror legislation "in a calm and objective way."

According to the latest publicly available draft of the law, which is expected to be discussed at the National People's Congress this week, network operators and service providers doing business in China would have to build in "backdoors" for government surveillance, hand over encryption keys to Chinese authorities and store user data within China.

Ted Moran, the Marcus Wallenberg professor of international business and finance at Georgetown University, said U.S. laws do all of that and more, giving the U.S. government the reach to pursue user data stored in other countries.

"There's all kinds of hypocrisy going on here," Moran said.

He said there is more legal and congressional oversight enshrined in U.S. law, though its effectiveness is a matter of debate. The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, for example, requires telecom carriers to allow law enforcement

agencies to conduct electronic surveillance pursuant to a court order, he said. The U.S. Patriot Act, however, allows surveillance orders to be issued by a special, secret court, he said.

Business groups worry that the language in China's anti-terror law is so broad that it could undermine the ability of U.S. companies to send encrypted emails or operate the kind of private corporate networks commonly used to secure communications.

"In addressing law enforcement and security objectives, governments should consider the impact on

**“We just did what the Americans have already done**

SHEN DINGLI  
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR  
AMERICAN STUDIES,  
FUDAN UNIVERSITY

economic security and growth, global commerce and users' privacy and security," said Jacob Parker, chief representative of the U.S.-China Business Council in Shanghai.

The anti-terror law comes on the heels of new regulations that require Chinese banks to have 75 percent of their IT infrastructure certified as "secure and controllable" by the Chinese government by 2019.

While those rules are expected to take effect March 15, details of what companies would have to do to comply with the vetting process are not public. People familiar with the regulations say companies would have to use local encryption algorithms, undergo intrusive security audits, and disclose source code and other proprietary information to the Chinese government — steps few Western companies would be willing to take.

"The rules aren't about security — they are about protectionism and favoring Chinese companies," U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman said in a statement last week. "The administration is aggressively working to have China walk back from these troubling regulations." **AP**



Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**C**HINA'S official military budget will grow by about 10 percent in the coming year, a legislative spokeswoman said yesterday, amid unease among Beijing's neighbors about its growing might and territorial ambitions.

The increase to about USD145 billion in spending would mark the fifth year in a row of double-digit increases despite the country's slowing economic growth, which fell to 7.4 percent last year from 7.7 percent the previous year.

The spending reflects China's growing power and desire to assert itself in the region and globally. However, Beijing says the bigger budgets are only aimed at modernizing and improving conditions for the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army, the world's largest standing military.

"China has a tougher road to travel than other large nations in terms of national defense modernization. We can only rely on ourselves for research and development of most of our military technology," legislative spokeswoman Fu Ying said.

"Meanwhile, we need to ceaselessly improve conditions for our soldiers," Fu said.

Fu told a news conference that China's military posture remains strictly defensive and that it has never used "gunboats" to advance its trade interests.

Despite such assurances, neighboring countries have increased their own military spending in part to counter China's rise.

In the past several years, Chinese and Japanese ships have frequently confronted each other near a set of contested East China Sea islands. China and India also have a disputed border high in the Himalayas.

China also has disputes with several neighbors over territory in the South China Sea, where U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said last week that Beijing is expanding outposts as part of an "aggressive" effort to assert sovereignty.

Japan increased its defense budget by 2.8 percent this year to a record USD42 billion, the third consecutive year of increases following 11 years of declines prior to hawkish Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's rise to power in 2012. Planes and naval vessels to counter China's growing capabilities top the Japanese military's shopping list.

Even more dramatically, India, the world's biggest arms importer in recent years, increased its spending this year by 11 percent to \$40 billion,

# Official says Beijing to boost military budget by 10 percent



Chinese military officers arrive at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

with big increases for its navy and air force. New Delhi has expressed concern not only about the disputed land border, but also about the Chinese navy's growing presence in the Indian Ocean.

China's official military spending is still less than a third of the U.S. defense budget, a proposed \$534 billion this year along with \$51 billion for the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. But it comes against a background of anticipated flat or falling American spending on its armed forces in coming years.

The Pentagon and global arms bodies estimate China's actual military spending may be anywhere from 40 to 50 percent more because the official budget doesn't include the costs of high-tech weapons imports, research and development, and other key programs.

Neighboring countries have come to expect Chinese defense increases, said Alexander Neill, a senior fellow for Asia-Pacific security for the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"There's the expectation that it's not likely to plateau in the

next few years, but will generally sit around that level commensurate with the PLA's reform and modernization goals," Neill said.

China's low inflation could make this year's increase close to or bigger in real terms than rises in recent years, when rapid price increases eroded the military's buying power.

The planned increase of about 10 percent — to be confirmed today at the opening of the National People's Congress's annual session — is in line with the overall increase in government spending planned for 2015, NPC spokeswoman Fu said.

Last year's increase was 12.2 percent.

China's neighbors may gain a degree of reassurance from the dip in the growth rate, said Ni Lexiong, a military expert at Shanghai's University of Political Science and Law.

Growth of less than 10 percent would likely "be not enough" to meet the PLA's modernization goals, Ni said.

China is seeking to improve conditions for the military amid rising labor costs and competition with the private sector for top graduates in

science and technology.

The need for ever-more sophisticated weaponry is also increasing the costs, with the addition of an aircraft carrier combat wing, the roll-out of two prototype stealth fighters and cruise missiles that fly faster than the speed of sound.

The PLA's traditional mandate had been to guard China's borders and prepare for contingencies involving Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing has pledged to take control of, by force if necessary.

However, newer missions, including U.N. peacekeeping operations, are taking China's military much further afield. China is also poised to pass an anti-terrorism law that could authorize the sending of military forces overseas to take part in anti-terror missions if granted permission by the host nation.

China's forces, under the control of the Communist Party, are seen as being hampered by political interference, and top commanders have lately come under scrutiny as part of a nationwide crackdown on corruption.

Already, President Xi Jinping

has overseen the arrests of two top generals, including the military's retired No. 2 officer, Xu Caihou. This week, officials announced that 14 other top officers are under investigation or have been convicted of crimes such as selling ranks, embezzling funds or taking kickbacks on housing contracts.

While harming morale among some officers, the anti-graft drive could bring benefits to the military through a reduction of waste and losses from corruption, said Shanghai expert Ni.

"We don't know the exact figures, but a great deal of money will be saved and spent wisely on the development of the military, which is of great significance," Ni said. AP

## USD145b

The rise in spending marks the fifth year in a row of double-digit increases



## INDONESIA

# Authorities move Australians ahead of expected executions



Indonesian police armored vehicles carrying two Australian prisoners arrive at Wijaya Pura port in Cilacap, Central Java

Ninie Karmini, Jakarta

**TWO** convicted Australian drug smugglers arrived yesterday at an Indonesian island prison where they will be executed by firing squad along with seven other foreigners amid a diplomatic squabble with some of their governments. An Indo-

nesian is also scheduled to be executed.

The preparations at the execution site at Nusakambangan Island's maximum-security prison facilities have been completed, said Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo. But authorities have not given a date for the executions, although

they appear imminent.

Besides the two Australians, a Nigerian national born in Spain and a Filipino woman were also to be transferred to the island prison off Indonesia's main island of Java. In addition, two other Nigerians and four men from Brazil, France, Ghana and Indonesia are also scheduled to

be executed. It was not immediately known how many have been transferred to the island.

The planned executions have soured of relations between Indonesia and other countries involved, especially Australia and Brazil. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo received phone calls from some foreign leaders

asking that the executions be canceled, but has rejected their requests. He has vowed not to grant mercy to drug offenders because Indonesia is suffering a "drug emergency."

Australia has repeatedly pleaded for clemency for its two citizens, Andrew Chan, 31 and Myuran Sukumaran, 33, who were arrested in April 2005 while trying to smuggle more than 8 kilograms of heroin from Bali to Australia.

Chan and Sukumaran were removed from the Kerobokan Penitentiary on Bali island — where they have spent the last decade — in two police armored vehicles in a pre-dawn operation involving scores of riot police. They were taken to Nusakambangan Island by flight and then a boat. Australian media camped there reported their arrival.

Prison authorities had earlier turned away Chan's older brother, Michael Chan, who attempted a visit. Television footage showed Michael Chan walking away from the prison with his brother's Indonesian girlfriend, who was in tears.

Prison governor Sudjonggo, who goes by a single name, told reporters Chan and Sukumaran did not appear worried as they left the prison. Sukumaran took several pencils in a plastic bag, clothes, a bible and a drawing book, he said.

"Right now millions of Australians are feeling sick in their guts at the prospect of execution for these two," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told reporters. **AP**

**WORKERS** in sharp new uniforms open the doors and turn on the lights about an hour before sunrise at their chain store on the corner of one of Pyongyang's main streets, right smack in the middle of a showpiece area of the capital.

But unlike much of the neighborhood around it, this shop isn't a showpiece. It hasn't been profiled by the state media or been paid any visits by the leader. It's a real business — and a quiet but telling example of an ongoing shift in the North Korean economy as officials play catch-up with grassroots entrepreneurship that has been building for nearly two decades.

Business with a hint of capitalism isn't new in North Korea — it's how the common people have survived amid the breakdown in the government's ability to provide for them following the devastating famine and economic collapse of the 1990s. What's new is that, in a very real nod to the marketplace, this chain

## NORTH KOREA

## In shifting economy, shops aim to please Pyongyang consumers



A shop employee opens a door to the Changjon Street branch of the Hwanggumbol shop before 6am, at the start of business in Pyongyang

of state-owned stores is now fine-tuning their business strategy to actually give consumers what they need.

And their managers have no qualms about saying so.

The new chain stores — called Hwanggumbol, or "golden fields" — are open from 6:00 a.m. to midnight, unusually long

hours in North Korea. They aim to provide a wide range of goods, with a stable supply, reasonable prices and reliable quality — none of which is taken for granted, even in the relative prosperity of Pyongyang.

"We thought that if we're selling the things that people need in everyday life, and our opening hou-

rs are longer than other shops, our prices are reasonable and we provide guaranteed quality, then people would like it," director Ryang Sung Jin recently said in an interview with AP Television News. "That's why we started this business."

From the street there isn't much to see, just a little sign with the chain's name and an electronic tickertape display flickering above the doorway. Inside, women wearing light blue jackets and black trousers greet customers and take orders — as is typical in North Korea, you choose the item you want in one place, pay for it in another and then go retrieve it with the receipt.

The shops serve a comparatively privileged demographic in North Korea; outside the capital,

life is much harder and goods more scarce. But they are also the result of broader policy changes cautiously rolled out since 2012, shortly after leader Kim Jong Un assumed power with promises to boost the nation's living standards.

Officially, there has been no economic reform. The avowedly socialist North Korean government calls the changes "our-style economic management methods."

North Korea's stance of developing the economy in tandem with pouring resources into the defense sector — including nuclear weapons — ensures the continuation of sanctions that curtail international investment.

But conversations with North Korean economists over the past five years

show a gradual warming of attitudes and policies toward business.

Operating like a typical for-profit business still remains a challenge.

Commercial advertising is rare. Hwanggumbol shops have only a small display of their logo outside their doors, but it's repeated on staff uniforms, above shelves and on freezer units throughout the shops — going a little bit further than what is normal in North Korean retail.

The shops sell local and imported food and drinks, clothes, daily necessities like soap and shower gel, Tupperware-style plastic boxes, stationery and some consumer electronics. A bag of sweet buns goes for about 80 cents; a big bottle of cola costs about 40 cents.

Director Ryang said he wants to expand into a wide array of services, from laundry to train-ticket booking. There are five branches so far around Pyongyang. The company hopes to increase that to 30. **AP**





In this Dec. 22, 2012 file photo, protesters gather outside the Indian Presidential Palace during a protest against the brutal gang rape of a 23-year-old woman on a moving bus in New Delhi

Muneza Naqvi, New Delhi

INDIA

**W**HEN a rapist and killer said the woman brutally attacked on a New Delhi bus was responsible for what had happened to her, it sounded shocking around the world. But not in India.

Here, blaming women for rape is what hundreds of millions of men are taught to believe.

And the code for women in this country is simple: Dress modestly, don't go out at night, don't go to bars and clubs, don't go out alone. If you break the code, you will be blamed for the consequences.

When one of the four men sentenced to death for the high-profile gang rape of the woman in 2012 was quoted in a new documentary as saying "a girl is far more responsible for rape than a boy," he was repeating something community and religious leaders in this nation of 1.2 billion routinely say.

"A decent girl won't roam around at 9 o'clock at night. (...) Housework and housekeeping is for girls, not roaming in discos and bars at night doing wrong things, wearing wrong clothes," Mukesh Singh said in the documentary, "India's Daughter," meant to be shown on Sunday, International Women's Day, in India and several other countries.

But how different were the convicted rapist's words from comments that Manohar Lal Khattar, the top elected official of Haryana state made last year?

"If a girl is dressed decently, a boy will not look at her in the wrong way," Khattar told

reporters, "Freedom has to be limited. These short clothes are Western influences. Our country's tradition asks girls to dress decently."

The convicted rapist has learnt only what he hears leaders in his community say, said Jagmati Sangwan, a women's rights activist who heads the All India Democratic Women's Association.

## ■ Blaming women for rape is what hundreds of millions of men are taught to believe

"This man is just following the example our leaders are setting for our young men," she said.

In 2009 when a rightwing Hindu group attacked women in a pub in the southern state of Karnataka, then-Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa said that he wanted to "end the culture of boys and girls roaming around in malls holding hands."

Women leaders are not immune.

When a female journalist was shot dead in 2008 while driving home from work well past midnight, New Delhi's top official at the time, Sheila Dixit, make clear she partly blamed the victim.

"All by herself till 3 a.m. at night in a city where people believe...you know...you should not be so adventurous," she told reporters.

It's a view that Sangwan hears all too often.

"It's a heinous view to hold, but it's the view of our religious leaders, our community leaders, our legislators," she said.

The country's women aren't surprised either.

"A lot of Indian men think this way. They don't have any empathy or they are brought up in such a way that they don't feel anything for women. They feel that women are only for sex and to be thrown away," said Bhavleen Singh, an 18-year-old student at Delhi University.

Mukesh Singh, who was driving the bus for much of the time that the 23-year-old woman was being attacked, told the documentary film maker that the victim should have remained silent and allowed the rape, and that they would have spared her life.

The documentary, which includes a 2013 jailhouse in-

terview with Singh, set off government alarm bells after transcripts were released this week. On Tuesday, India's Information and Broadcasting Ministry ordered television channels not to air the film.

It remains unclear whether the government will be able to block the film but the legal wrangling will most likely delay its screening in India.

The brutality, and perhaps the fact that the gang rape occurred on a moving bus in a posh New Delhi neighborhood, galvanized this country of 1.2 billion, where sexual violence is rampant.

The woman and a male friend were returning home from seeing a movie at an upscale mall when they were tricked by the attackers into getting on the bus, which the men had taken out for a joyride. The attackers beat the victim's friend and took turns raping her. They penetrated her with a rod, leaving severe internal injuries that led to her death two weeks later.

Four men were convicted of rape and murder in an unusually fast trial for India's chaotic justice system. A fifth man died in prison, and another attacker who was a juvenile at the time was sentenced to three years in a detention center.

The four adults who went to

trial confessed to the attack but later retracted their confessions, saying they'd been tortured into admitting their involvement. Legal appeals against their death sentences are pending in the Supreme Court.

In response to the 2012 attack and the widespread public protests it provoked, India's government rushed through legislation doubling prison terms for rapists to 20 years and criminalizing voyeurism, stalking and the trafficking of women.

But while laws can change quickly, mindsets do not. India's Parliament held a stormy debate yesterday on whether the film should be screened. Some legislators questioned how the filmmaker, who is British, had gotten into the prison to do the interview. Many, though, were uncomfortable with having India's problems aired publicly — particularly by a foreign filmmaker.

But several lawmakers, many of them women, disagreed.

"What the man spoke reflects views of many men in India," Anu Aga, a prominent businesswoman and legislator said in Parliament.

"Every time a rape happens, the victim is blamed to have provoked the men. Let's be aware of the view and not pretend all is well," she said. **AP**



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## ISRAEL-USA

# Netanyahu says he gave 'practical alternative' to Iran deal

Daniel Estrin, Jerusalem

**I**SRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday his speech to the U.S. Congress offered a "practical alternative" to a possible Iranian nuclear deal and that lawmakers now "understand better" why the deal is bad.

Netanyahu's assertion came after President Barack Obama said the Israeli leader had offered no viable alternative to preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

"There was nothing new" in the speech, Obama said. He said Netanyahu made almost the same speech when he warned against the interim deal reached with Iran, but that the interim deal has resulted in a freeze and rolling back of Iran's nuclear program.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves as he speaks before a joint meeting of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington

In a statement released after he landed in Israel, Netanyahu said the alternative deal he presented in Congress would make it harder for Iran to get the nuclear bomb.

"I proposed a practical alternative that through tougher restrictions would extend the breakout time, by years, that it would take Iran to reach a nuclear weapon if it decides to breach the agreement," the Israeli prime minister said.

He said his proposal would also maintain restrictions until Tehran stops "its sponsorship of terrorism around the world, its aggression against its neighbors and its calls for Israel's destruction."

He said he received "very encouraging" responses from Democrats and Republicans to his speech. "I received the im-

pression that they understand better why this deal is bad and what the right alternative to this deal is," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu's contentious speech to Congress on Tuesday took place despite objections by the White House, aggravating his already-strained relations with Obama.

The West fears Iran could build an atomic bomb with its nuclear program. Iran says its program is for peaceful purposes such as energy production and medical research.

Iran and the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany reached an interim accord in November 2013. Now, negotiators hope to reach a rough draft of a deal on Iran's disputed nuclear program by the end of March and a final agreement by June 30. **AP**

## UKRAINE

## Coal mine blast in east kills 1, traps over 30



A miner stands outside after an explosion at the Zasyadko coal mine in Donetsk

Nataliya Vasilyeva, Donetsk

**A**N explosion ripped through a coal mine before dawn yesterday in war-torn eastern Ukraine, killing one miner and trapping over 30 others underground, rebel and government officials said.

The explosion took place at the Zasyadko mine in Donetsk, an eastern city under the control of separatist rebels, but rebel authorities said it was not caused by shelling.

Eastern Ukraine has been wracked by fighting

between government forces and Russian-backed rebels for almost a year, during which more than 6,000 people have been killed.

The speaker of Ukraine's parliament, Volodymyr Groysman, said yesterday he could confirm only one death, pedaling back on an earlier claim that 32 miners had died. It was unclear what his source for the information was, since rebel authorities do not answer to the government in Kiev. The blast occurred at a

depth of more than 1,000 meters as 230 workers were in the mine, separatist authorities in Donetsk said in a statement, adding that the explosion was caused by a mixture of gas and air — a common cause of industrial mining accidents.

Rescue operations are continuing and at least 157 workers have been evacuated from the mine, Donetsk rebel officials said.

There was no immediate way to reconcile the different numbers for miners working and missing at the time of the blast.

"For now, I can say only that 32 people are below ground. One person has died," Ivan Prikhodko, administrative head of the Kiev district, where the affected mine is located, told Donetsk News Agency. "Until rescuers get to them, speaking about how many people have died would be unethical, to say the least."

A rescue services representative at the mine, Yuliana Bedilo, also said only one death had been confirmed.

"Fourteen people have been sent to medical treatment centers in Donetsk," rebel authorities said in their statement. A chief doctor at a city clinic, Emil Fistal, was quoted as saying six miners were in grave condition. **AP**

## USA

## In Ferguson, scathing report brings pressure for change

Eric Tucker, Washington

**A**Justice Department report says blacks in Ferguson, Missouri, are disproportionately subject to excessive police force, baseless traffic stops and citations for infractions as petty as walking down the middle of street.

City officials said Tuesday they were reviewing the report, which they expected to be released late yesterday.

With scathing findings of a months-long investigation being released, attention now turns to Ferguson as the city confronts how to fix racial biases that the federal government says are rooted in the police department, court system and jail.

The full report could serve as a roadmap for significant changes by the department, which commanded international attention after one of its officers shot and killed an unarmed black man, 18-year-old Michael Brown, last summer. The white police officer who shot Brown was not indicted by a grand jury, a decision that prompted violent street protests.

Similar federal investigations of troubled police departments have led to the appointment of independent monitors and mandated overhauls in the most fundamental of police practices. The Justice Department maintains the right to sue a police department if officials balk at making changes, though many investigations resolve the issue with both sides negotiating a blueprint for change known as a consent decree.

"It's quite evident that change is



In this Nov. 25, 2014 file photo, police officers watch protesters as smoke fills the streets in Ferguson, Mo. after a grand jury's decision in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown

coming down the pike. This is encouraging," said John Gaskin III, a St. Louis community activist. "It's so unfortunate that Michael Brown had to be killed. But in spite of that, I feel justice is coming."

Brown's killing set off weeks of protests and initiated a national dialogue about police use of force and their relations with minority communities. A separate report being issued soon is expected to clear the officer who shot Brown, Darren Wilson, from facing federal civil rights charges. A state grand jury already declined to indict Wilson, who has since resigned.

The report is based on interviews with police leaders and residents, a review of more than 35,000 pages of police records and analysis of data on stops, searches and arrests. **AP**



## what's ON



'TRANSCEND'  
- WORKS BY SYLVIYE LEI AND LAI SIO KIT  
TIME: 12pm - 7pm  
(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)  
UNTIL: March 7, 2015  
VENUE: AFA MACAU  
(Estrada da Areia Preta, 3rd Floor, Edifício da  
Fabrica de Baterias N.E. National, Macau)  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

VOICE IN THE MURK BY PAPA OSMUBAL  
TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)  
UNTIL: March 14, 2015  
VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre  
Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

POSTER DESIGN EXHIBITION  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE MACAU HANDOVER  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)  
UNTIL: March 15, 2015  
VENUE: The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau,  
Avenida Xian Xing Hai, NAPE  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8504 1800

GRAND TAIPA NATURAL PARK  
PARK AND SCULPTURE ZONE: 24 hours  
GRASS-SKIING FIELD: 2:30pm-5:30pm (Tuesdays  
to Fridays); 10:30am-5:30pm (Weekends and public  
holidays)  
VENUE: Rampa do Observatório, Taipa  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

PENGUINS UNDERCOVER ICE WORLD  
WITH THE DREAMWORKS GANG  
TIME: 11am-8pm  
UNTIL: March 8, 2015  
VENUE: Cotai Expo  
ADMISSION: MOP120  
ENQUIRIES: 2882 8818

WATER AURORA  
TIME: 24 hours daily  
VENUE: MGM Macau, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## Offbeat

## HONEY, WE SHRANK THE SUV - AND EUROPE LOVES IT

In Europe, SUV now stands for: Shrinking Utility Vehicle. An array of ever-smaller sport utility vehicles and SUV car-like crossovers is going on display this week at the Geneva International Motor Show. Automakers are piling into the segment as one of the best hopes for growth in a still-weak European market.

Consumers like the higher seating, easier entry and perceived greater freight-carrying capacity. Auto makers like the fact that they can build an SUV body on the same mechanical platforms and modules they use for compact cars, saving money on development costs.

The key in Europe has turned out to be putting the vehicles on platforms originally built for compact or small mid-sized cars. They're generally less than 4.5 meters long, or smaller than a Honda Civic, which measures 4.54 meters.

Compact SUVs have gained in popularity globally, but they're really getting attention now in Europe. The smaller size helps with narrow streets and tight parking in European cities that made full-size SUVs less practical for many people, and a little politically incorrect as well for the more environmentally-conscious. The recently lower price of gasoline will not hurt, although gas remains painfully expensive in Europe compared with the United States due to high taxes.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Criminal Minds S8
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

05 MAR - 11 MAR

## STAND BY ME DORAEMON\_

ROOM 1  
(2D) 3.55, 5.50 pm  
(3D) 7.45 pm  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)  
Duration: 95min

## FROM VEGAS TO MACAU 2\_

ROOM 1  
2.00, 9.45 pm  
Director: Jing Wong  
Starring: Nick Cheung, Yun-Fat Chow, Daniel Garcia  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 90min



## CHAPPIE\_

ROOM 2  
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
Director: Neil Blomkamp  
Starring: Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 120min



## LUCKY STAR\_

ROOM 3  
2.30, 4.15, 6.00, 9.30 pm  
Director: Ching Long  
Starring: Eric Tsang, Wong Cho-lam, Ella Chen  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 86min

## PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR\_

ROOM 2  
2.00, 3.45, 7.45 pm  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)  
Duration: 127min

## MACAU TOWER

05 MAR - 18 MAR

## CHAPPIE\_

2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm  
Director: Neil Blomkamp  
Starring: Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Hugh Jackman  
Language: Cantonese (English and Chinese)  
Duration: 120min

## this day in history



## 1956 US COURT VICTORY FOR BLACK STUDENTS

The United States Supreme Court has upheld a ban on racial segregation in state schools, colleges and universities.

The University of North Carolina was appealing against an earlier ruling, in 1954, which ordered college officials to admit three black students to what was previously an all-white institution.

Until recently, black and white students have been educated in separate schools under the principle of "separate but equal" but the Supreme Court has now ruled this doctrine "has no place in the field of public education".

The BBC's Panorama program has been to the southern US state of Virginia, where racial segregation in schools is still rigidly enforced. In other states, schools and colleges have begun to accept black and white pupils.

In the Virginian state capital, Richmond, officials are looking at ways of getting round the new ruling. They are considering subsidizing white pupils so they can go to racially segregated private schools - or even abolishing state or what are known as public schools in America.

The state governor, Thomas Stanley, said: "The feeling of the people of Virginia is rather unanimous - that it was unfortunate that this decision should have been handed down.

"I would say from the letters, telephone calls and telegrams this office has received, a very large proportion of Virginians would want to continue segregation of the races because we believe we can provide a better system of education by doing that."

Dr Tinsley, president of the Richmond branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, has welcomed the court's ruling as long overdue.

Dr Tinsley, who is a dentist, has branded the policy of segregation as "ridiculous, unreligious and unconstitutional".

He said segregation laws in Virginia meant black and white people could not sit down together in a hall where an entry fee had to be paid. Blacks are also forced to sit at the back in buses.

Asked how black people felt at this treatment, he said: "We are plenty angry." Not all whites object to the ban. Dr Marion, Director of the Council of Human Relations, rejected claims black students were educationally inferior to their white counterparts. He said segregation had imposed a "second-class citizenship" on the black population.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

An 1896 Supreme Court decision first established the "separate but equal" principle. It permitted separate trains or carriages for white and black passengers as long as they were equal in nature.

In 1954 the US Supreme Court declared racial segregation in schools and colleges unlawful. Its decision launched the legal movement to desegregate American society.

The 1956 decision upheld the earlier ruling - but racial segregation was still a major problem in many southern states. In 1957 troops were sent into Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce the ban.

In 1964 the Civil Rights Law prohibited racial discrimination in education, employment or in public places.

However, the move to desegregate schools received a setback in 1974 when a Supreme Court decision banned plans to mix schools across city-suburban boundaries. It has meant central city schools have become increasingly attended by non-white students.

A Harvard University study in August 2002 found schools across the US were once again becoming more racially segregated.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
A burst of creative energy sweeps you up and carries you away. It's all good fun, and you should find that you end up somewhere weird and cool and awesome. Get busy and make something beautiful!

Taurus April 20-May 20
This isn't a good time to climb up on soapboxes. People are watching out for any signs of pomposity, and may have even brought some rotten tomatoes to hurl at unsuspecting pedagogues.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You're full of spunky energy and ready for little arguments all day long - so get out there and mix it up! You may find yourself moving seamlessly between fighting and flirting.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Listen to your instincts today - you need to be ready to act on a moment's notice when things start to click. It may look impulsive from the outside, but you're just in tune with the universe.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You either have a run-in with a celebrity or get recognized by someone you don't know - your great energy is mixed up with the world in a new way that's creating ripples of social sweetness.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You may feel that too much is going on today - and you're half right. It's certainly a busy day, but part of the problem is that your energy is just not up to multitasking for the time being.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You are newly hopeful about something small that had seemed out of reach just a few weeks ago. Keep moving toward it as if you had never given up on it and things should get back in sync soon.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your boss (or teacher, maybe) is a real pain today - so much so that you could find it easier to just skip! The good news is that this is a short-lived phase, but it is going to pop up again if you don't handle it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
A minor upgrade brings a big smile to your face early today - and could signify greater things ahead! Just keep on moving and make sure that you're open to change. It keeps getting better.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Work and business are harder to handle than usual - so you should probably focus on other, softer aspects of life. If you can make art or just let yourself drift, that would be perfect.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Don't be too surprised if you stumble into a power struggle today - even somewhere that seems immune to them. You don't have to participate, but you are sure to have feelings about the results.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
It's not the best time for you to try to influence your peers - they're all lost in their own worlds. It may be a good time for you to hunker down and handle your own issues first and foremost.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

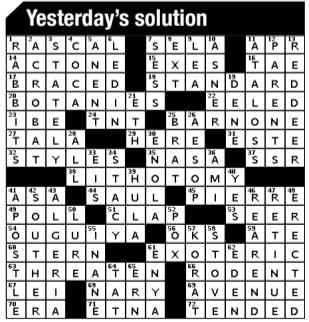
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Invitation request; 5- Marrow host; 9- Snack in a shell; 13- Oops!; 14- Spoil; 15- Gung-ho; 16- Actress Kedrova; 17- Wynonna's mom; 18- Alcoholic drink of fermented honey; 19- Very; 21- Some MIT grads; 22- Warner \_\_\_; 23- Points to; 25- Extinct bird; 27- Vigorous exercises; 31- Sickness at the stomach; 35- Boring, so to speak; 36- Ladies of Sp.; 38- Copper and zinc alloy; 39- Cartoon Chihuahua; 40- Saturn's largest moon; 42- Mil. officers; 43- Cave; 46- List from which to choose; 47- Square; 48- Ancient fortress in Israel; 50- Absence of light; 52- Grounded fleet; 54- Just \_\_\_; 55- On the peak of; 58- Digit of the foot; 60- Adequate; 64- Denier's words; 65- Communion table; 67- Queue after Q; 68- Ripped; 69- Tusks; 70- Slaughter of baseball; 71- Smelting waste; 72- Hawaiian goose; 73- Cumberbund;

DOWN: 1- Dominion; 2- Switchblade; 3- Meadow mouse; 4- Ancient Egyptian king; 5- Feather scarf; 6- Thin woodwind instrument; 7- Identified; 8- Prolific inventor; 9- Embroidery frame; 10- Affirm; 11- Later; 12- Probability; 14- Writer of aphorisms; 20- Bro or sis; 24- Theatrical backdrop; 26- Apply lightly; 27- President Garfield's middle name; 28- Actress Verdugo; 29- Tirades; 30- Satisfied; 32- Medicinal ointment; 33- Adlai's running mate; 34- Orgs.; 37- Capital city of Yemen; 41- Room for infants; 44- Grating; 45- Begley and Bradley; 47- Curtain calls; 49- Achieve; 51- He's a doll; 53- Find the answer; 55- Aardvark's prey; 56- Implement; 57- Other, in Oaxaca; 59- Thames town; 61- Annapolis inst.; 62- Old Pontiacs; 63- Silence; 66- Exist;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Unique Roof Top Apartment Central Macau 639 sq ft / HKD 5.988M HKD 9,370sq ft Government Offices Viewings Ref: 14095414

Chun Fok Village, Wai Heng Kok, High Floor Unit Taipa 993sq ft/ HKD 7.850M HKD 7,905sq ft OLD TAIPA VILLAGE Ref: 15015431

La Bahia Studio Apartment Macau Studio Apartment 5 Stars Condo HKD 16,500 / 434 sq ft Ref: 15020470

The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Luxury Residence HKD 36,000 / 2,488 sq ft Ref: 15015429

Plum Court Ocean Gardens, Taipa 2 Bedrooms Apartment Viewing by Appointment HKD 20,000 / 1,290 sq ft Ref: 15020467

Tou Un Taipa 1 Bedroom Apartment Great Location HKD 12,500 / 686 sq ft Ref: 14050418

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AD



ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Goulart leads Evergrande past Western Sydney

**R**ICARDO Goulart's hat trick led Chinese side Guangzhou Evergrande to a 3-2 win over titleholder Western Sydney in the Asian Champions League yesterday.

Goulart scored in the 19th minute, and put the visitors ahead for good with his second of the night in the 59th, one minute after Iacopo La Rocca equalized with a header.

Goulart made it 3-1 five minutes later, and Romeo Castalen pulled one back in injury time. In Seoul, Kim Jin-kyu scored after an hour as FC Seoul beat Kashima Antlers 1-0 in the other Group H match.



Lee Woong-hee, left, of South Korea's FC Seoul kicks the ball as Hiroyuki Takasaki of Japan's Kashima Antlers looks on during their Group H soccer match in the Asian Champions League

Brandon Borrello scored just two minutes in at Saitama Stadium as Brisbane Roar beat Urawa Reds 1-0 to hand the Japanese side its second straight loss in Group G.

Yosuke Kashiwagi lost possession on the edge of the area and Thomas Broich fed Borrello, who beat Urawa goalkeeper Shusaku Nishikawa with an angled drive.

At Beijing Workers' Stadium,

Dejan Damjanovic scored midway through the second half as Chinese qualifiers Beijing Guoan stayed undefeated in Group G with a 1-0 win over South Korean side Suwon Bluewings.

In Tashkent, Uzbek club Lokomotiv claimed its first

point in the tournament after a 1-1 draw with Iranian champion Foolad Khuzestan.

Oleg Zoteev scored in the seventh minute for tournament debutante Lokomotiv but Mehrdad Jamaati equalized for the visitors 12 minutes before halftime. **AP**

# Rights groups criticize Azerbaijan ahead of European Games

**W**ITH the opening of the inaugural European Games in Baku 100 days away, human rights groups yesterday called on host nation Azerbaijan to release political prisoners held on "trumped up" charges.

Amnesty International released a report citing "the mounting persecution of government critics, detained under false charges."

Human Rights Watch criticized "bogus criminal charges, including narcotics and weapons possession, tax evasion, hooliganism, incitement, and even treason."

The European Games run June 12-28, and are widely seen as trying to soften the authoritarian image of Azerbaijan under President Ilham Aliyev.

"At least 22 prisoners of conscience are currently languishing in prison or in detention in Azerbaijan awaiting trial following trumped up charges ranging from fraud and embezzlement to abuse of drugs and even treason," Amnesty International said.

Aliyev's wife, Mehriban Aliyeva, was attending a gala event in Rome on yesterday to mark the 100-day countdown. Human Rights Watch also urged political leaders across Europe not to endorse the multi-sport event.

"European leaders should convey to Baku that they will not send high-level delegations to the opening ceremony unless those wrongly imprisoned are released and the crackdown on dissent ends," the rights group said in a statement.

More than 6,000 athletes from across Europe will be competing in 20 sports, including some which offer qualifying spots for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

"No one should be fooled by the glitz and glamor of the international show Azerbaijan is putting on to portray a squeaky-clean international reputation and attract foreign business," Amnesty regional director John Dalhuisen said in a statement.

The Baku organizing committee did not reply immediately to a request for comment. The European Games is among a series of sports projects in Azerbaijan.

The national stadium, which stages the opening ceremony of the games, will also host four matches at UEFA's 2020 European Championship.

Baku bid for the 2016 and 2020 Olympics but failed to make the short list of finalists. The Azerbaijan Olympic body, led by President Aliyev, is considering a possible bid for the 2024 Olympics. **AP**

AD

**ALBERGUE SCM** SANTA CASA DA MISERICORDIA DE MACAU  
澳門仁慈堂婆仔屋

TRADITIONAL & CREATIVE RABBIT LANTERN  
an Exhibition by Carlos Marreiros and Friends  
**澳門特色兔仔燈籠**  
馬若龍和朋友們的創意彩燈展  
LANTERNAS DO COELHINHO  
TRADICIONAIS E CRIATIVAS  
Uma Exposição de Carlos Marreiros e Amigos

**OPENING CEREMONY:**  
5 March 2015 (Thursday) 18:30

**DURATION OF THE EXHIBITION:**  
5 March 2015 until 12 April 2015

**OPENING HOURS:**  
Everyday from 12:00 to 20:00  
Except Monday from 15:00 to 20:00

**EXHIBITION VENUE:**  
Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery

**FREE ADMISSION**

**ALBERGUE SCM**  
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**ALBERGUE SCM** SANTA CASA DA MISERICORDIA DE MACAU  
澳門仁慈堂婆仔屋

**乙未元宵晚會**  
CELEBRATION OF THE MOON LANTERN FESTIVAL  
CELEBRAÇÃO DO FESTIVAL DAS LANTERNAS

**INVITATION**

To celebrate the Moon Lantern Festival, Albergue SCM cordially invites you to join the party of "Celebration of the Moon Lantern Festival" on 5 March 2015 (Thursday) from 6:30pm to 9:30pm, at Albergue SCM Patio.

**Program**  
Chinese Calligraphy: "Fai-Chun" (Chinese New Year couplets) Writing  
Festive Food and Drinks  
Live Music Performance  
Traditional Rabbit Lanterns to Children (Availability Limited)  
Lantern Riddle Solving

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Ihithisham Kamardeen, Perth

**D**AVID Warner posted a career-high 178 and Mitchell Johnson took four wickets as four-time champion Australia set World Cup records with its innings total and 275-run winning margin in a ruthless victory over tournament newcomer Afghanistan yesterday.

Coming off a one-wicket loss to New Zealand and with a match against 1996 champion Sri Lanka in Sydney on Sunday, the Australians were always going to use the match at the WACA ground in Perth as a chance to regain momentum.

Warner and Steve Smith (95) shared a record second-wicket stand of 260 runs off just 209 balls to set Australia on course for its mammoth 417-6, surpassing India's 413-5 against Bermuda in 2007 as the highest total ever at a World Cup.

Afghanistan was dismissed for 142 in 37.3 overs in reply, with Johnson snaring 4-22 on his home turf. It was the biggest World Cup win in terms of runs, surpassing India's 257-run victory over Bermuda at Trinidad in 2007, and South Africa's win over West Indies in Canberra last week for the biggest winning margin in tournament history.

It was the seventh-highest innings total ever in a one-day international, and Australia's second-best of all time after its 434 in a loss to South Africa in 2006.

Warner smashed 5 sixes and 19 boundaries off 132 balls to get the innings away to a rapid start after Afghanistan won the toss and chose to bowl first.

Afghanistan, fresh from its maiden World Cup win — a one-wicket victory over Scotland — was virtually out of the contest after Australia batted.

AP PHOTO



Australia's David Warner celebrates after scoring 150 runs during their Cricket World Cup Pool A match against Afghanistan

## CRICKET

## Warner's 178 helps Australia to record World Cup win

Nawroz Mangal top scored with 33 runs, including successive sixes off medium pacer Mitchell Marsh, before an acrobatic slips catch by Aaron Finch cut short the innings. Nawroz shared 48 runs for the fourth wicket with Samiullah Shenwari (17).

Johnson c put behind the disappointment of being hit around Eden Park for 68 runs in six overs by New Zealand last week with his destructive spells of sheer pace against

Afghanistan. Fellow pacemen Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood claimed two wickets each.

Warner and Smith came together with the total at 14 after Finch was dismissed in the third over. They dominated the attack until Warner was eventually caught when skipper Mohamed Nabi held onto a skier. It was Warner's fourth century in 57 ODIs, and his first in the World Cup.

Glenn Maxwell belted 88

off just 39 balls, hitting seven sixes and six boundaries with ingenious shot-making that confounded the Afghan bowlers.

Dawlat Zadran and Shapoor Zadran took two wickets each for Afghanistan, but at a cost of 101 and 89 runs, respectively.

The day began with Australia dropping long-time all-rounder Shane Watson to make room for James Faulkner, who had recovered from

a side strain.

Rod Marsh, the Australian chairman of selectors, said dropping Watson was a tough call.

"But it's one we thought we had to make because in Shane's last 10 one-day games, he's got 220 runs at an average of 22," Marsh said. "Unfortunately he's been getting starts but he hasn't been going on with it. We had to fit James (Faulkner) in and someone had to go." AP

## Blatter seeks relegation for teams with racist fans

Alex Duff and Tariq Panja

**F**IFA President Sepp Blatter said he wants clubs with racist fans to be docked points or be relegated, three days after a black player in Peru walked off the field amid persistent abuse.

Blatter told delegates of South American soccer confederation Conmebol in Asuncion, Paraguay, yesterday that lighter sanctions such as fines or the partial closure of stadiums aren't working as a de-

AP PHOTO



President of FIFA Sepp Blatter speaks to the media

terrent.

"The rules we have, we don't apply them in all the parts of the world," Blatter said. "The time has come to dock points or relegate teams."

Blatter made similar comments at a dinner hosted by the English Football Association in 2013.

Luis Tejada, a striker for Peruvian club Juan Aurich, kicked the ball into the stands and left the field after 70 minutes of a match at Cienfuegos. He said on his website he'd been tar-

geted with abuse since the warm-up.

"We're not making any progress and it's the same as ever," Tejada, who is from Panama, said. "For how long?"

In another incident last month, some fans of English Premier League team Chelsea prevented a black man from entering a train on the Paris metro.

The London club said the fans' behavior before a Champions League match at Paris Saint Germain was "abhorrent." Bloomberg



opinion

**HK Observer**  
 Robert Carroll



**FROM THE IVORY TOWER**

Considering he's one of the highest paid officials in the world, you would think he could spell his job title correctly. Who? Our gaffe-prone financial (sic) secretary who opened a Facebook page recently with his title misspelt last week. And that wasn't the only gaffe in the past few days. What was he thinking when he told people not to buy flats if they couldn't afford them?

Do we need to pay someone millions of dollars a year to state the obvious, while they remain insensitive to the misery of the many young professionals who are unable to buy a flat and move out of their cramped parents' houses to start families? It is also insensitive to the majority of university students who despair of ever having a home of their own. Hasn't he seen enough of what these young people are capable of during the Occupy protests to not add more fuel to the fire? If you're going to make that kind of remark, don't do it unless you can smooth the passage by stressing that vigorous measures will soon resolve the problem.

There was yet another flash of brilliance in his proposal to allow food trucks to operate in Hong Kong before checking with his officials if it was legal. Yes they are; if they don't move. Kind of defeats the purpose, though, doesn't it? "We will change the law," I can hear him say. Can't you just hear the great cheers in the legislative council when that bill gets suggested before the pan-democrats, who are never in the mood for cooperation unless it involves more movement on political reform? Anyway, why not allow more street food in general? It's highly popular and in demand among both cash-strapped and pressed-for-time locals and tourists alike. No, that might mean taking business away from the tycoon-owned fast food chains in tycoon-owned shopping malls, and less rent earned in them too. The official excuse is public health and hygiene concerns, but Singapore has hot and humid weather year-round - and is therefore more prone to bacterial food contamination - and has had licensed clean hawkker stalls for decades.

Where did the food truck inspiration come from? Surely from a government-sponsored or academic study? Nope, Tsang got the idea from a rather mediocre movie. Reminds me of another famous gaffe of his, when he said he was not an out-of-touch privileged, pampered civil servant, but a member of the middle class. The proof: he drinks coffee and watches foreign films. That's the view from the ivory tower anyway.

Getting to more important matters under Tsang's watch: while his budget speech gained some praise for tax relief and other measures, where was the vision? While warning about potential economic slowdown and again harking on about the need to save for the rainy days when health care will mushroom and government revenue falls, where are the big ideas that will help bring Hong Kong forward to the next stage of economic development? Where are the big initiatives to encourage more high-tech startups? What has happened to the then-Chief Executive Donald Tsang's six-industry plan to diversify the economy by encouraging cultural and creative industries, medical services, education services, innovation and technology, testing and certification services, and environmental industries? One bright spot is that the West Kowloon Cultural Centre has been - albeit haltingly - on track for years, but what about medical and education hub proposals? Why were more private hospitals not built to cater for the extensive demand by mainlanders, when we have solved the problem of mainlanders giving birth to obtain residence, crowding out locals from maternity wards? Why is the high mainland demand for Hong Kong education not being met? We have captive markets in both cases and we are not exploiting them. Innovation and technology: too little, too late, but there may still be time to play catchup there. In the certification industry, we had a regional lead and lost it - now it's probably too late to regain the lost ground.

Perhaps I have it all wrong and Tsang has better vision; after all, he can probably see quite far from his ivory tower.

**THE BUZZ** MILLIONS OF YOUNG RISK HEARING LOSS FROM LOUD MUSIC, UN SAYS

The World Health Organization says millions of young people around the world are at risk of hearing loss from loud music. The U.N. agency said Friday that a review of data from middle- and high-income countries shows almost half of all 12 to 35-year-olds listen to unsafe levels of music on their personal audio devices or cellphones.

And about 40 percent of teens and young

adults are exposed to damaging levels of sound at nightclubs, bars and sporting events. WHO says volumes above 85 decibels for eight hours or 100 decibels for 15 minutes are unsafe. The Geneva-based agency recommends that young people take listening breaks, use apps to limit the volume on their smartphone and consider using personal audio players for no more than one hour a day.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	25-45 Good	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

**Venture capitalist testifies in US sex-bias suit**

**Sudhin Thanawala, San Francisco**

A prominent Silicon Valley venture capitalist who helped direct early investments in Google and Amazon said Tuesday during testimony in a high-profile sex discrimination lawsuit that his firm is not run by men and has many female senior partners.

John Doerr took the stand in San Francisco Superior Court in the lawsuit against venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers - a case that has sparked debate over the treatment of women in the high-tech and venture capital fields.

The plaintiff, Ellen Pao, says she was denied a promotion at the company because she is a woman and was fired in 2012 after she complained. Her attorney, Alan Exelrod, has argued Kleiner Perkins had a male-dominated culture where his client received a book of erotic poetry from a male senior partner and experienced retaliation by a male colleague after she broke off an affair with him.

Asked about the book of poetry during three hours of morning testimony, Doerr said Pao did not tell him the nature of the book during a 2007 meeting and did not seem upset by it. She was emphatic that her affair with the male colleague was in



Ellen Pao leaves the Civic Center Courthouse

the past and not a problem, he said.

Doerr - a billionaire and partner at the firm, which also counts former Vice President Al Gore among its partners - said he did not recall telling an investigator that women were at a disadvantage at Kleiner Perkins because of the sheer number of men who dominate the venture capital industry and that the firm was run by men. The investigator had looked into Pao's complaint alleging gender discrimination and a complaint filed by a female employee who claimed she was sexually harassed and alleged that Doerr had made that statement.

Pao initially worked as Doerr's chief of staff, writing his letters and speeches, among other duties, before becoming a junior partner with full-time investment duties. The firm has denied wrongdoing and says Pao, 45, didn't get along with her colleagues - a requirement for the junior partner posi-

tion - and performed poorly in that role.

Exelrod presented a job review by Doerr that praised Pao's communication skills, though it said she needed to improve her interpersonal skills and not be dismissive of peers who don't meet her expectations. Doerr was expected to continue testifying in the afternoon.

Venture capital firms, which provide much of the startup funds for tech companies, have a reputation as being even more insular and male-dominated than the companies they help launch.

Women hold 15 to 20 percent of the technology jobs at tech giants Google, Apple, Facebook and Yahoo, according to disclosures by the companies.

Venture capital firms are even more slanted toward men. A study released last year by Babson College in Massachusetts found that women filled just 6 percent of the partner-level positions at 139 venture capital firms in 2013, down from 10 percent in 1999.

Pao is seeking USD16 million in damages. The firm is seeking to limit any possible damages by arguing that Pao is well-compensated in her current position as interim CEO of the popular social media company Reddit and hasn't suffered financially since leaving Kleiner after filing her lawsuit. AP

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**MYANMAR** Police formed a human chain across a road leading to Myanmar's biggest city yesterday, telling hundreds of student protesters that authorities would "take action" unless they dispersed. The standoff in front of a monastery in Letpadan, 140km from Yangon, entered its third day, with no sign either side was ready to back down. Students - determined to march to Yangon to push demands for education reform - responded defiantly shouted "This is our cause! We will win!"



**JAPAN** The world's oldest person says 117 years doesn't seem like such a long time. Misao Okawa, the daughter of a kimono maker, made the comment yesterday, at a celebration a day before her 117th birthday. Appropriately, she was wearing a pink kimono decorated with cherry blossom prints. Okawa, born in Osaka on March 5, 1898, was recognized as the world's oldest person by Guinness World Records in 2013.

**NEPAL** A Turkish Airlines jet landing in dense fog in the Nepalese capital yesterday skidded off a slippery runway but there were no serious injuries, officials said.

**JAPAN** Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Paul Allen and his research team have found a massive Japanese World War II battleship off the Philippines near where it sank more than 70 years ago, his representatives say. The apparent discovery of the wreckage of the Musashi, one of the largest battleships in history, comes as the world marks the 70th anniversary of the war's end.

**UKRAINE** An explosion ripped through a coal mine before dawn in war-torn eastern Ukraine, killing at least one miner and trapping more than 30 others underground, rebel and government officials said. More on p15

**RUSSIAN** President Vladimir Putin says that the killing of a key opposition figure is a "disgrace" to Russia. It was Putin's first public remark on the subject.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Kin Cheung



A worker takes rest at the construction site of the Galaxy Macau casino resort