

### BAMBOO, A STATEMENT ON LOCAL IDENTITY

P2 INTERVIEW



### CHAN PLEDGES TO REDUCE RED TAPE

Secretary Sonia Chan intends to revamp the public administration, announcing the closure of 6 departments

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### JACK MA IN TALKS TO BUY SCMP STAKE

Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma is in talks to buy a stake in the publisher of Hong Kong's South China Morning Post

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS

**JAPANESE** media are reporting an explosion in a public restroom at Tokyo's Yasukuni shrine, which honors Japan's war dead, including those executed as war criminals. No one was injured. [More on p12](#)

**AUSTRALIA-SYRIA** The Australian government remained committed to resettling 12,000 Syrian refugees, but security checks could take more than a year. [More on p12](#)

**AFGHANISTAN** Threatening letters from the Taliban, once tantamount to a death sentence, are now being forged and sold to Afghans who want to start a new life in Europe. The would-be migrants hope the letters will help them claim asylum, but European officials are catching on.



**GREECE** Six Iranian migrants have sewn their mouths shut during a protest near the village of Idomeni at the Greek-Macedonia border. They took the action yesterday as several hundred migrants, many from Iran and Morocco, protested for a fourth straight day at the border. Macedonia and other Balkan countries have toughened criteria for border crossings in the wake of the deadly Nov. 13 Paris attacks.

**ISRAELI** officials say that troops have shot and killed a Palestinian attacker who stabbed an Israeli man to death at a West Bank gas station. Yesterday's attack is the latest in a fresh burst of violence ahead of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

More on [backpage](#)

# Canidrome contract renewed for another year

P5



PHOTO@DAVID\_CAMERON VIA AP

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande are pictured paying their respects outside the Bataclan in Paris. Hollande and Cameron paid a visit to the Bataclan concert venue in central Paris yesterday, which saw the worst carnage of the Paris attacks that killed 130 people. [P15](#)

## Cameron and Hollande agree to increase counterterrorism cooperation

**Q&A** RITA MACHADO AND JOÃO Ó ARCHITECTS

# Bamboo, a statement on local identity

Renato Marques

AS part of the Macau Architecture Promenade (MAP) program organized by the Babel association, the pavilion named "Treeplets" was installed in the University of Macau's garden area, transforming the landscape. To learn more about the installation and the feedback obtained from the public, the Times spoke to its creators, local architects João Ó and Rita Machado.

**Macau Daily Times – How did this idea gain shape? What was the motivation behind it?**

**João Ó** – The motivation was certainly the competition launched by Babel that we found in early June following an open call for public installations in order to make use of public space in innovative ways. We saw that as a challenge because there was no clearly stated category. We found that the widened range of possibilities was perfect for us.

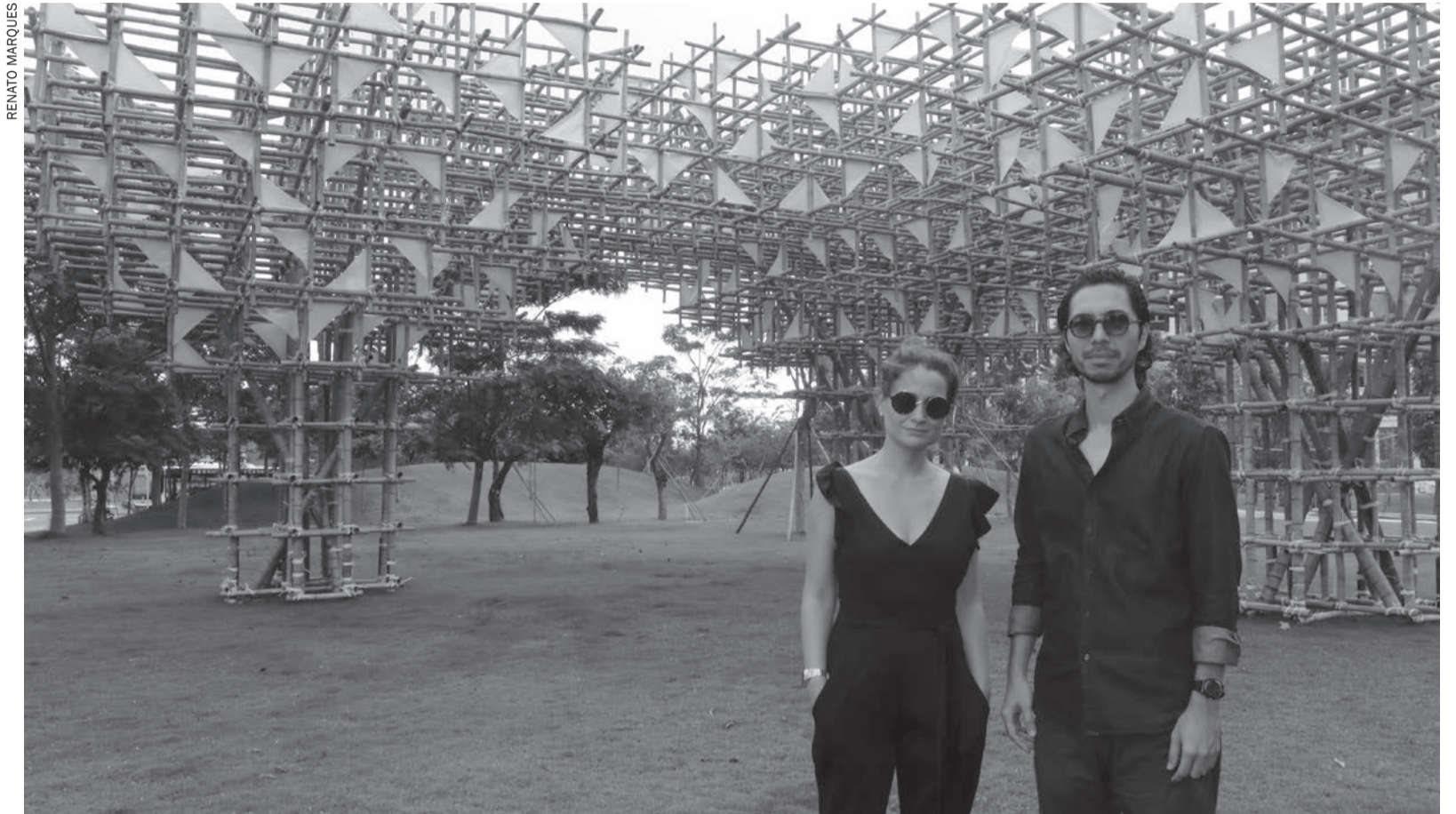
**MDT – How do you come up with this shape and structure?**

**JO** – Rita and I started in-depth research regarding Macau bamboo scaffolding for about a year and a half, and so our idea was to incorporate this research and this theme into the project. The material is very local and typical of all Southeast Asia and we wanted to bring that up.

**MDT – Bamboo has been commonly used in this region, mostly as a construction material. Is this project a way to call attention to its artistic capabilities?**

**JO** – Definitely yes! We want to utilize local materials in this temporary construction and make a statement to introduce the idea of a local identity because bamboo, despite its known capabilities, is still rarely used for art projects.

In terms of construction for example, we have the bamboo sheds that are built every year for local festivities during the months of April and May in front of the Á-Ma Temple, but the shapes are always quite classical and always the same, without



Rita Machado and João Ó

any kind of innovation. This is because it is seen as just a practical thing and there is no time to make artistic alterations. For that reason, we rapidly came up with a simple solution that is the "Treeplets". It uses the original grid from scaffolding, which is regular 60cm x 60cm mesh. In fact, we did not want to innovate on this technique; we wanted to reuse it to do something different while also using forms that resemble traditional structures

too, like the canopy. With the canopy, we applied a similar technique like the one found in ancient temples built without any nails.

**MDT – The feedback has been good, and overall, there was an extension of the exhibition period. How do you feel about that?**

**JO** – Well, it is true but we will still not stay for as long as we wanted; we were aiming for un-

til the end of the year. We have reached an agreement that would be just until the end of November, but still we are trying to renegotiate the terms to see if we can stay longer.

**MDT – Do these kind of structures have the potential to become permanent installations?**

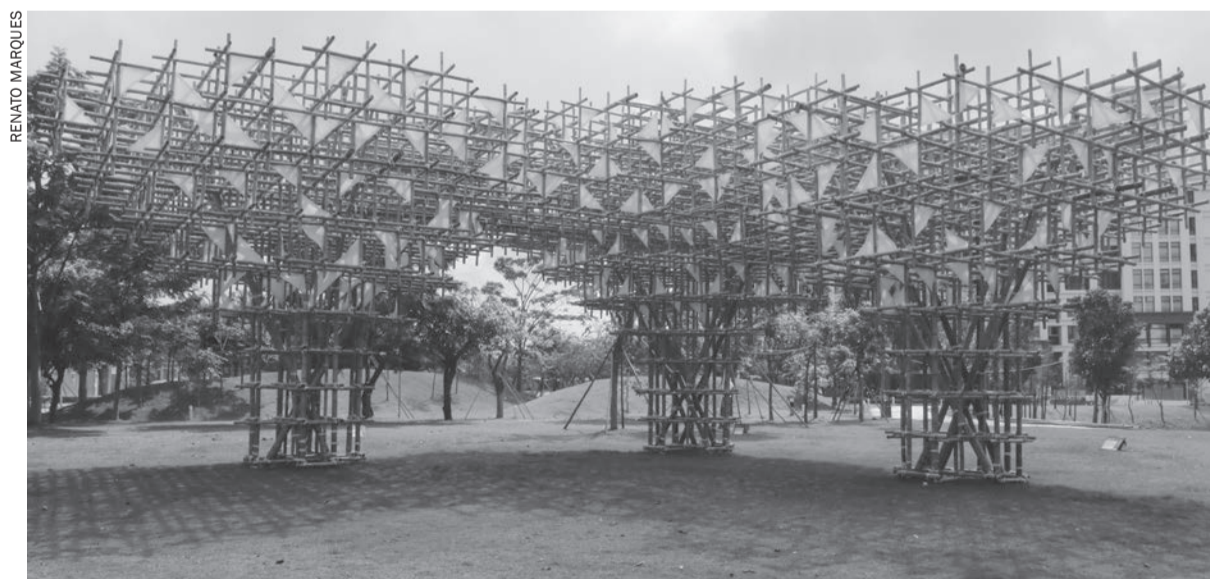
**Rita Machado** – Yes, it can stay here I think for about five or more years. But people are a

bit conservative and they have raised concerns regarding the security of the structure.

**JO** – It would be possible with maintenance every six months or so, but it could still be perfectly achievable. We understand this installation in many ways, it is public, it is like a sculpture, it is interactive because children like to climb it, it also provides shade and comfort to sit, to read, to eat, to chat, etc.

**MDT – Do you think that the fact that this structure is in this location [UM campus] can attract people to this new part of Macau to come and see it and enjoy this space and its leisure areas?**

**RM** – Actually we think there are a lot of people coming here, especially with children or young couples, but most of them live here. They are mostly students and teachers or other staff from the University but I think this can be a nice first step to bring people from Macau or the islands here. It takes time! This campus has only been open for a year so it's not that much.



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POLICY ADDRESS | SONIA CHAN

# Authorities strive to make administration less bureaucratic

**E**FFORTS to accelerate bureaucratic procedures within public services and across departments for the general public once again dominated Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan's Policy Address yesterday at the Legislative Assembly.

Accompanied by senior officials from her cabinet, Ms Chan presented her plan to revamp the public administration, announcing the closure of six departments. She also mentioned that extradition agreements with mainland China and Hong Kong are near completion.

The secretary pledged to kick off preliminary work next year in order to create electronic platforms connecting various agencies. Such a computerized technology-oriented initiative to cut down on redundant procedures first surfaced in 2004. Nonetheless, the plan's development has drawn lawmakers' doubts, with many claiming that little progress has been achieved so far.

"The highlight is to optimize cross-departmental procedures. We would further promote e-governance based on that," said Kou Peng Kuan, director of the Public Administration and Civil Service. He added that next year the authorities would focus on the digital reform of the centralized civil servant recruitment system, which would be accessible to applicants in terms of information announcements and applications. "This would serve as a foundation and template for other services," said the official.

The government will also roll out a new electronic system for licensing restaurants next month to save time on document delivery between departments and to keep track of applications.

Meanwhile, Chan continued to move forward on the public services reshuffle - a highlight from the 2005 action plan that involves 15 public departments, with six of them to be disbanded gradually.

The official hinted that the new prospective municipal body without political power would come in 2017 following a public consultation next year that decides the fate of the Civil

## Extradition agreements with mainland China and Hong Kong are near completion

and Municipal Affairs Bureau. In January the Sport Development Board and Cultural Affairs Bureau are due to take on the above bureau's function separately, while the Legal Affairs Bureau and Law Reform and International Law Bureau will also be merged with one another.

The authorities will also make all departments which are in direct contact with the public subject to a survey and assessment conducted by an independent body in order to rate management-level officials' performance.

The evaluation, together with experience calculation and self-competence, are crucial factors



Sonia Chan pictured yesterday at the AL

in "devising promotion routes for civil servants," said the officials.

The government's manpower expenditure is expected to rise 6.3 percent to MOP19.67 billion next year, which is around seven times the MOP2.87 billion spent in 1999, said lawmaker Chan Meng Kam.

Despite promises made earlier to downsize, the government is recruiting more people, Chan noted. The number of civil servants now surpasses the 30,000 threshold

The secretary explained that the rise in manpower in public

### CURRENT POLITICAL SYSTEM UNCHANGED

**IN RESPONSE** to lawmaker Au Kam San's inquiry over possible efforts to achieve democratic elections, the Secretary said it was "important to consolidate current political stability as the city is facing a new development." With the sixth legislative assembly two years away, the official said the authorities would manage to revise the electoral law after a public consultation next year.

services is a way to respond to the growing local population and tourist influx. According to her, the government plans to add 1,400 recruits, with half of them filling the void created by retirees.

Besides, she reiterated that the government's policy was to better make use of manpower instead of simply reducing surplus. "The horizontal-mobility mechanism allows excess staff to work at departments in need of human resources," said Chan.

The legislature will not be able to discuss the amendment of the

law targeting taxi operations this year as scheduled, Chan said, stating that it requires related agencies' consideration of possible fallouts from both the perspectives of investment and public transport. It was expected that the administrative work for the law's revision could be done during the first half of next year. At the same time, authorities intend to clear the pile of already-lapsed laws.

Drafts for three other laws governing public wet markets and vendors' operation inside are also expected to be completed next year, according to the officials.

### RESTRICTIONS ON CONSULTATIVE BODIES

**UNDER THE** new policy formulated by the Sonia Chan, all 572 members of the government's 46 advisory bodies are not allowed to continue their roles beyond a period of six years, with their individual presence limited to three bodies at most. According to the authorities, so far there are 32 members who juggle membership in at least three bodies, and one even belongs to seven committees.

### TOURISM

## Visitor arrivals up 9.2pct in October

**VISITOR** arrivals to Macau totaled 2,637,106 for October 2015, signaling a decrease of 0.6 percent year-on-year, but an increase of 9.2 percent from the previous month, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service.

The number of same-day tourists to the MSAR totaled 1,414,348, down by 3.8 percent year-on-

year, while overnight visitors rose by 3.3 percent to 1,222,758. The average length of stay increased by 0.1 days year-on-year to 1.1 days, while the average stay of same-day visitors remained unchanged at 0.2 days. Overnight tourists on average stayed 0.2 days longer, bringing the average to 2.2 days.

The number of visitors from mainland China lessened by 0.4 percent year-

on-year to 1,817,212. The majority of these visitors came from the provinces of Guangdong (780,784), Fujian (83,083), and Hunan (71,581).

Meanwhile, visitors from Japan (22,188), the Philippines (22,037) and Taiwan (83,462) increased by 1.4 percent, 4.2 percent and 5.6 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from Hong Kong (504,981)

and the Republic of Korea (42,680) declined by 0.7 percent and 5.4 percent.

Analyzed by mode of transport, visitor arrivals by land dropped marginally to 0.6 percent year-on-year to 1,506,687. Arrivals by sea plummeted 0.4 percent to 952,526. The number of visitors by air also declined; falling 2.1 percent year-on-year to 177,893.



BLOOMBERG

## Blood Donation Day registers 40 donors



The Macau Rotary Blood Donation Day took place on Sunday at the Edif Lok Yeong Fa Yuen leisure area. It resulted in the registration of a total of 40 blood donors and the collection of 34 units of blood. Organizers noted a stronger presence of young donors this year, many of them students. A large number of Caucasians was also present. This year's event was held in the peninsula's northern district, which, according to organizers, was a deliberate decision in order to reach out to new immigrants. In addition, a temporary blood donation station was installed near to the Fuhong Pou Choi Centre. The Rotary Blood Donation Day is jointly run by Macau's six Rotary Clubs in partnership with the Macau Blood Transfusion Center, and is now in its 14th year.

## CRIME

# Group caught pickpocketing in Senado Square

Renato Marques

A group of three men, all Mongolian nationals, were caught operating a pickpocketing scheme around the Senado Square area, the Public Security Police Force announced yesterday in a press conference.

The trio was caught in a surveillance operation on the afternoon of November 21 intended at curbing theft in tourist areas. Agents became suspicious after catching the group repeatedly entering and exiting one of the souvenir shops in the Senado Square area.

The group was caught in the act while trying to pickpocket a tourist inside a shop. The method used was easy to spot as one of the men tried to steal items from inside the tourists' bags while another alleged ring member would place a big bag in front as a camouflage and a third was in charge of keeping a lookout for any police or security guards.

RENATO MARQUES



Aspect of yesterday's police press conference

Although the attempt was frustrated and they came out empty handed, the act was promptly spotted and the men were put under arrest.

Among their belongings police found a mobile phone and three suspicious items of clothing.

As they could not unlock the mobile phone (proving its ownership) and also could not prove that the clothing was theirs, they were taken into custody.

As the police later confirmed, the items of clothing belonged to a retail shop also in the same area, worth around HKD1, 500, that had been shoplifted.

A further search at the suspects'

residence revealed a bag made of aluminum foil and duct tape that the police suspect had been used to take clothing items out of the shops without triggering the alarms.

The suspects told the police that they were unaware of the provenance of the bags and they also denied the charges of theft over the items found.

They were transferred to the public prosecutions office yesterday morning.

Separately, the Judiciary Police revealed details of two cases of people caught committing crimes while trying to make "easy money."

In the first case, a man went

to a pawnshop to pawn a watch, which he obtained HKD35,000 for. Later, a shop employee found out that both the logo and the watch mechanism were fakes and pressed charges. The person who pawned the watch was caught on the evening of November 21 while trying to leave the territory from the outer harbor ferry terminal.

The suspect revealed afterwards to the police that the watch was given to him by a friend who requested help to pawn it for a reward of HKD5,000.

In the second case, a woman filed a complaint to the Judiciary Police over a person who presented her with an investment scheme to earn easy money in which she promptly invested HKD60,000.

After delivering the funds, she become suspicious and wanted to know more about the method but failed to contact the person who had suggested the scheme to her, subsequently notifying the authorities of her loss.

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# Gov't responds to CAT questioning over domestic violence law



**T**HE United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) heard the responses of delegates of the Chinese, Hong Kong and Macau governments on November 18 at the Palace of Nations in Geneva, addressing the topic of discrimination towards LGBTI individuals.

Director of the Legal Reform and International Law Affairs Bureau, Chu Lam Lam, responded to the questions raised by CAT members about the removal of same-sex relationships from domestic violence legislation. Chu said that the removal was due to the fact that Macau law does not recognize same-sex marriage.

Chu affirmed that violent acts between same-sex couples could still be handled in alignment with general offenses against physical integrity.

However, according to Jason

Chao, who is attending the event as a Non-Governmental Organization delegate, the CAT Member and Nepalese lawmaker, Sapana Pradhan Malla, urged that Macau's domestic violence legislation should be extended to same-sex relationships.

She reportedly told Chao that the general offense of assault is not "gender law" and does not protect intimate relationships, and that these relationships should not be confused with marriage.

UNHRC jurisprudence (Edward Young v. Australia in 2003, and X v. Colombia in 2007) has established that rights and benefits granted to unmarried heterosexual couples shall also be granted to unmarried same-sex couples.

The replies of the delegates of the Chinese, Hong Kong and Macau governments come only days after the MSAR government rejected the CAT's suggestion to establish an independent human rights body in Macau. It is not yet clear whether the government's refusal is due to Macau's status as a territory or to Beijing's rejection of human rights as universal values.



# Canidrome contract renewed for another year

**I**N spite of the controversy surrounding its greyhound racing activities, the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co concession contract has been renewed. According to a notice published in the Official Gazette yesterday, the contract has been renewed for one year, less than what the Canidrome's executive director Angela Leong had asked for.

As the Times reported yesterday, Ms Leong said on Sunday that she expected the con-

tract to be renewed for "two or three years," promising to introduce cultural and sporting activities targeting Macau's youth.

The president of the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (also known as Anima) told Radio Macau that the renewal of the Canidrome contract is a poor decision. "I think that the government has proceeded according to its previous statements on this matter. For us, this is not the best way to solve this pro-

blem," Albano Martins said. However, he added that renewing the contract for one year "is better than what Angela Leong asked for, which is the renewal for three or four years in order to build housing for the youth, as if the land was owned by the Canidrome Co."

Anima previously submitted a petition with around 300,000 signatures from around the world to the government with the aim of persuading it to halt greyhound racing activities. **PB**

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# KPMG full smoking ban report released

**T**HE KPMG report that earlier this year suggested that a full smoking ban in casinos would negatively impact GDP and compromise social welfare has been officially released in full. The report, entitled "Impact of Proposed Changes in Smoking Policy in Casinos in Macau," has projected a 16 percent reduction in GDP and a 20 percent drop in total fiscal receipts if the smoking ban is enacted.

The international audit firm study was commissioned by the six gaming operators in Macau, who in turn presented the basic findings to the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly earlier this month.

It suggests that the economic impact of a full smoking ban could directly affect gaming, accommodation, food and beverage, and transportation industries. Meanwhile, the report also proposes that the indirect impacts could extend to the expenditure



of goods and services being diverted outside of Macau, along with a reduction in the income for employees in the SAR.

According to those responsible for the report, 34,000 surveys were conducted between May 19 and June

3, 2015, interviewing respondents who were directly employed by the six gaming operators, in order to investigate their views on the retention of smoking lounges.

The investigators surveyed around 40 percent of all casino employees, and found that

66 percent either supported the retention of smoking lounges or outright opposed the ban. Those surveyed consisted of both gaming staff (81 percent) and non-gaming staff (19 percent). The respondents also included smokers (23 percent) and non-smokers (77 percent).

A similar survey of casino customers revealed parallel findings, with 71 percent of all customers surveyed speaking in favor of retaining lounges or opposing the ban.

Furthermore, 32 percent of surveyed VIP customers revealed that they would consider travelling elsewhere for their gaming needs if the smoking ban was enacted. Of that proportion the most popular destinations were Singapore (32 percent), South Korea (26 percent), and the Philippines (19 percent).

The KPMG report also projected that, based on the information gathered in consumer surveys, a full smoking ban would reduce the average frequency of visits per year of VIP customers by 1.15 times, and the average length of stay per trip would be reduced by 0.56 days.

The spending behavior of mass customers would also be expected to change. **Staff reporter**

## STATISTICS Securities investments reach record high

The Monetary Authority of Macau has published the results of the Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey – a collection of information regarding Macau residents' investment in foreign-issued securities. As of June 30, 2015, the total investment of Macau residents in securities issued by non-local entities (excluding foreign exchange reserves) reached a record high of MOP 439 billion, up by 10 percent from the end of last year. The results from June show a 5.5 percent increase year-on-year. Analyzed by geography, the Asian region retains its prime position, holding the largest share of residents' external portfolio investments with 66 percent of the total. Investment in the North Atlantic and Caribbean region overtook Europe for the first time, with shares of 12.3 percent, while investment in Europe, North America, and Oceania constituted 10.4 percent, 8 percent and 2.7 percent, respectively. The record high in the North Atlantic and Caribbean saw the market value rise by 31.6 percent from the end of last year to MOP 54.2 billion, with its share in the total investment abroad rising to 12.3 percent. The Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda recorded 23 percent, 42.1 percent and 49.1 percent increases to their market value respectively. Investment in securities issued by mainland Chinese entities continued to occupy the top position, comprising 44.3 percent of local residents' portfolio investment and attaining a market value of MOP 194.6 billion – a slight increase of 0.9 percent from year-end 2014.

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## Pfizer, Allergan USD160b deal forms world's largest drugmaker



A vial of Botox, made by Allergan

**P**FIZER and Allergan are joining in the biggest buyout of the year, a USD160 billion stock deal that will create the world's largest drugmaker.

It's also the largest so-called inversion, where an American corporation combines with a company headquartered in a country with a lower corporate tax rate, saving potentially millions each year in U.S. taxes.

Pfizer, which makes the cholesterol fighter Lipitor, will keep its global operational headquarters in New York. But the drugmaker will combine with Botox-maker Allergan as a company that will be called Pfizer Plc. That company would have its legal domicile and principal executive offices in Ireland.

The combination will essentially be Pfizer "but with a lower tax rate," wrote Bernstein analyst Dr. Tim Anderson. He said he expects a tax rate of about 18 percent

after the deal, which compares to Pfizer's current rate of 25 percent.

Several U.S. drugmakers have performed inversions through acquisitions in the past several years, in part to escape higher U.S. corporate tax rates. The list of companies includes Allergan, which still runs much of its operation out of New Jersey, and the generic drugmaker Mylan.

Last year, Pfizer unsuccessfully tried to buy British drugmaker AstraZeneca Plc in a roughly \$118 billion deal that would have involved an inversion. Those talks eventually collapsed when the two sides couldn't agree on a price.

U.S. efforts to limit inversions have so far proven ineffectual.

Last year, the U.S. Treasury Department initiated new regulations designed to curb the financial benefits of inversions. The rules bar certain techniques that companies use to lower their tax bills and tighten ownership requirements.

Aside from a lower tax bill, the Allergan acquisition would give Pfizer brand-name medicines for eye conditions, infections and heart disease. They would join Pfizer's extensive portfolio of vaccines and drugs for cancer, pain, erectile dysfunction and other conditions.

The deal would enable Pfizer, the world's second-biggest drugmaker by revenue, to surpass Switzerland's Novartis AG and regain the industry's top spot. **AP**

# Alibaba's Jack Ma said to be in discussions to buy SCMP stake

**A**LIBABA Group Holding Ltd.'s founder Jack Ma is in talks to buy a stake in the publisher of Hong Kong's South China Morning Post, according to people familiar with the matter, in what could make him the latest Internet-industry tycoon to pursue the revival of a traditional newspaper.

Discussions are at an advanced stage, two of the people said, asking not to be identified because the negotiations are private. A signing ceremony will be announced soon, one of the people said. Financial details of the deal weren't available.

Once the world's most profitable newspaper, SCMP has followed the path of other mastheads with falling earnings and shrinking circulation as readers shift online. Control of the city's premier English-language broadsheet has been unchanged since Rupert Murdoch sold most of his stake to Malaysian billionaire Robert Kuok in 1993.

The SCMP and Alibaba declined to comment. When asked whether he's interested in buying the SCMP, Ma said in an interview this month that he's "watching a lot of companies right now." Attempts to reach Kuok's group that owns the SCMP were unsuccessful.

Alibaba's Ma would be following in the footsteps of Amazon.com Inc.'s Jeff Bezos - who bought the Washington Post in 2013 - among Internet



tycoons snapping up storied brands at a time printed media struggles to compete with Web-based competitors for advertising. Chris Hughes, one of the co-founders of Facebook Inc., bought a majority stake in the New Republic magazine in 2012.

SCMP Group Ltd., which has posted three years of profit declines, has been suspended from trading since February 2013 after the company failed to have at least 25 percent of

shares held by minority investors, the minimum proportion required for a company to trade its shares in Hong Kong.

While the 112-year old SCMP newspaper is its most visible asset, the group also has operations in businesses ranging from recruitment to magazines and contract printing.

The China Daily reported earlier this month that rumors were circulating that Alibaba was in talks to invest in the SCMP Group. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### MGM CHINA GIVES HOTEL TOUR AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT TALK TO UMAC STUDENTS



On November 18, organized by the Alumni and Development Office of University of Macau (UMAC), over 30 students with outstanding performance were invited to attend a guided hotel tour and career development talk at MGM Macau. Five of the students are the recipients of an "MGM Macau Elite Scholarship", a scholarship program that MGM has extended to UMAC students since 2011 to help nurture local youths and talents.

MGM Macau's Human Resources Learning and Talent

Development team made an introduction of the company before proceeding to the hotel tour. In addition, the five scholarship recipients presented a Thank You Card to MGM China, received by Ms. Chloe Wong, Assistant Director of Learning and Talent Development on behalf of the company. The guided hotel tour began with front-of-house areas which covered the hotel lobby, front desk and guest rooms, followed by back-of-house areas including the employee dining restaurant and wardrobe. During the tour, students observed the hotel operation, frontline services as well as internal operations. They paid close attention to the tour and expressed their interest in being a part of the industry.

#### THE VENETIAN MACAO HONORED TWICE AT WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS 2015



The Venetian Macao has been voted as both Macau's Leading Casino Resort and Macau's Leading Resort in the Asia region at the 22nd Annual World Travel Awards that were held recently in Hong

Kong. The accolades reflect The Venetian Macao's service excellence and highlight the integrated resort's success in the industry. This is the seventh year that the hotel has received awards from the World Travel Awards.

"We are thrilled to be honored by the World Travel Awards for the seventh year in a row," said Ciaran Carruthers, Senior Vice President, Property Operations, Sands China Ltd. "We are truly grateful to win these prestigious awards. It is an indication of the hard work of our dedicated staff members that they put in every single day to ensure our guests have the best possible experience while they are with us."

#### CEM COMPETITION-WINNING SCHOOLS COMPETE IN HK TREE



26 students and teachers from Sacred Heart Canossian College - Chinese Section, Escola Estrela do Mar, Yuet Wat College - Chinese Section, Escola Secundária Técnico-Profissional da Associação Geral dos Operários de Macau and Colégio Diocesano de São José 5 - English Section, who were the top three winning schools in the CEM Solar Model Car Race and Capacitance Model Car Race, were sponsored by CEM to re-

present Macau to compete in the Hong Kong Technology & Renewable Energy Events (HK TREE 2015) in Hong Kong on 31 October.

More than 275 teams comprising nearly 1,500 students participated in the event. For the students representing Macau it was a great experience. Not only did they feel honored to be representing the territory, but also were enthusiastic about sharing their knowledge and creativity with the HK students.

## ANALYSIS

## Who's blocking the yuan's emergence?

Christopher Balding

IN its ongoing quest for glory and global influence, China appears to have won a notable victory. The International Monetary Fund is set to anoint the renminbi - the "people's currency," also known by the name of its biggest unit, the yuan - as one of the world's reserve currencies along with the dollar, pound, euro and yen. For those who fear (or hope) that China will eventually transform the postwar economic order, this appears to be the first step toward dethroning the dollar.

The IMF's decision, however, is mere political theater. The yuan will now be included among the basket of currencies that make up its so-called Special Drawing Rights. As the IMF itself notes, "the SDR is neither a currency, nor a claim on the IMF." Holders simply have the right to claim the equivalent value in one or more of the SDR's component currencies. Central banks and investors won't suddenly be required or even explicitly encouraged to use the yuan.

Indeed, all that's changed is that it's now clear that the IMF isn't blocking the yuan from becoming a true global reserve currency: China is.

To the contrary, the IMF appears to be doing everything it can to help China. SDR currencies are meant to be "freely usable," which the IMF defines as "widely used to make payments for international transactions" and "widely traded in the principal exchange markets." The yuan's champions note that the currency has grown from being used in less than one percent of international payments in September 2013 to 2.5 percent in October - among the top five globally.

This simple metric, however, enormously overstates the yuan's influence. Globally, it's still barely used more than the Canadian and Australian dollars. No one's ever suggested including the loonie in the SDR.

True, China is the world's second-largest economy and its biggest trading nation. Yet at the same time, more than 70 percent of payments made in yuan still go through Hong Kong, primarily due to its strategic location as a shipping and trading hub for the mainland. All but 2 percent of yuan-denominated letters of credit are issued to Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and Taiwan to facilitate trade with China. Even in Asia, the yuan



A shopkeeper checks the authenticity of a 100 yuan note in Beijing

isn't accepted as collateral for derivatives trading and similar financial transactions. Instead it's used almost exclusively for trade in physical goods where China is one of the counterparties.

■ **It's now clear that the IMF isn't blocking the yuan from becoming a true global reserve currency: China is**

Nor is the currency widely traded in financial markets. Hong Kong, the largest center of yuan deposits outside of China, holds less than 900 billion renminbi, or about USD140 billion. That's \$40 billion less than Coca-Cola's market cap (and barely a fifth the value of Apple's). The entirety of yuan deposits held outside of China still amounts to less than the market ca-

pitalization of the Thai stock market.

This isn't the result of prejudice against China, but deliberate policy. Take the oft-cited statistic that 2 percent of global reserves are already held in renminbi. Virtually all yuan reserves are held under swap agreements with the People's Bank of China, rather than as physical currency. That means China's central bank maintains control over the currency and its pricing and can refuse transactions if needed, as it did last week when it ordered banks to halt renminbi lending offshore. While other central banks have significant latitude to engage in onshore renminbi purchases, they face restrictions on using the currency outside China.

Earlier this year, the government allowed clearing banks outside China to engage in repurchase agreements where they provide an asset to the PBOC to borrow yuan. As BNP Paribas has noted, however, offshore renminbi transactions must still go through state-owned Chinese clearing banks, which surrenders "precious data and the control of a transaction." All this hardly meets the definition of a "freely used" international currency.

Bulls say that including the yuan in the SDR will give a boost to reformers, who will open up the Chinese financial system over time. The problem is that there's little evidence to support such optimism. Over the past two years, renminbi usage in financial markets outside China has been flat. According to Barclays, the amount of offshore yuan-denominated debt has shrunk since the middle of last year, while deposits in Hong Kong

haven't changed much since January 2014.

The irony is that there is, in fact, enormous demand for more yuan among international investors and central banks. Goldman Sachs has estimated that \$1 trillion in international reserves would flow into Chinese debt markets if the government truly opened them up.

Yet as economist Barry Eichengreen has noted, when it comes to reserve currencies, investors care most about "size, stability, and liquidity." China's firm grip on the yuan undercuts all three: It limits the pool of renminbi available and subjects the currency's movements to the whim of Chinese policymakers.

Investors everywhere are prepared to tolerate some currency and asset price volatility. What they fear are haphazard policy responses, kneejerk regulation, and opaque institutions - all of which are hallmarks of Chinese financial regulation. As long as central banks and investors have to worry about whether they can buy and sell renminbi as and when they need, the IMF's stamp of approval isn't going to make the currency any more attractive. **Bloomberg**

“When it comes to reserve currencies, investors care most about 'size, stability, and liquidity.' China's firm grip on the yuan undercuts all three.

BARRY EICHENGREEN  
ECONOMIST

David Tweed

SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Beijing says distant reefs need its protection

**C**HINA refuted claims it is militarizing the disputed South China Sea, saying it needs to build facilities on artificial islands and reefs to protect them.

“As the islands and reefs are far from China’s mainland it is necessary to maintain and build necessary military facilities,” Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said at a briefing in Kuala Lumpur after an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit. “This is necessitated by China’s national defense purpose and to protect those islands and reefs.”

“One should never link such military facilities with efforts to militarize the islands and reefs and militarize the South China Sea,” Liu said.

China has engaged in a reclamation program that’s dumped millions of tons of sand and coral onto islands and reefs where it claims sovereignty. Its actions have been focused on the Spratly islands within waters that carry about 30 percent of global trade. China is building as many as three airstrips there, prompting concern in the U.S. that its actions will provide it with military bases and risk hindering the free movement of shipping.

Liu’s comments reflect an effort by China to cast its South China Sea activities in a non-confrontational light. Officials have also said that facilities on the islands such as lighthouses will help ships from other countries navigate the waters and assist in search and rescue operations.

The South China Sea was a topic at both Asean in Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Manila that preceded it, as the U.S. seeks to preserve its influence in Asia and China to gain it. China is looking to translate its economic clout into greater military sway, with the South China Sea becoming the focal point of the broader geopolitical shifts in the region.

“These comments will be seen as another volley in



what’s become an extended tennis match of claim and counter claim in the region,” said Hugh White, a professor

“These comments will be seen as another volley in what’s become an extended tennis match of claim and counter claim in the region.”

HUGH WHITE  
PROFESSOR  
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
CANBERRA

of strategic studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. “China is pushing its hold not just because it wants the islands but because it wants to demonstrate it can get them against America’s opposition.”

“These islands have become crucial pieces in the game over who’s the primary power in Asia,” White said, adding distance from a country’s mainland is not necessarily a factor in ascertaining sovereignty.

Tensions between the U.S. and China rose last month after the U.S. conducted a freedom of navigation operation by sailing the USS Lassen, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, within 12 nautical miles of an island China has built on a previously semi-submerged reef. China’s claim to more than 80 percent of the waters clashes with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Speaking at APEC, Obama

called for bold steps to reduce tensions in the area and urged countries to use international forums to settle their disputes. “We’re not claimants ourselves but we fully support a process in which through international laws and international norms these issues are resolved,” Obama said.

Liu said that freedom of navigation and overflight wasn’t a problem in the South China Sea, and called on countries from outside the region not to destabilize the situation.

Speaking at a closing briefing for the Asean meeting, host and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak urged progress on a code of conduct for the waters - something that has been under discussion for more than a year without tangible progress. He also said some nations had “great concern” about China’s reclamation but added countries meeting in Malaysia - including China - agreed to preserve the free-

dom of navigation in the area.

A sideline meeting of Asean foreign ministers expressed concern about “ongoing developments” in the South China Sea without mentioning China by name, and said all parties should show restraint.

Liu said that there are more than 100 islands, reefs, atolls and shoals in the Nansha islands, using the Chinese name for the Spratlys, and nearly 50 only emerge at low tide. Of the features, 42 have been illegally occupied by three of China’s neighbors. One had occupied 29 features, another eight, and the third neighbor occupied five, he said without naming the countries.

Taiwan, which he described as a Chinese “province,” controls the largest island - Taiping, also known as Itu Aba - and China has seven, Liu said.

“It is a consistent position of the Chinese government to firmly oppose the militarization of the South China Sea,” Liu said. “So we call on all countries not to link their construction on islands and reefs with militarization,” he said, urging countries that have “illegally” occupied China’s islands to demilitarize those facilities.

Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Sunday his country supported the U.S. freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, but added Japan’s self-defense forces wouldn’t participate in the patrols.

At a weekend meeting in Sydney with her Japanese counterpart, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop reiterated Australia doesn’t take sides on the sea disputes but urges “all claimants to settle any disputes pursuant to international law and in accordance with a rules-based international order.” **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

# Record turnout in District Council poll

**T**HE results of Hong Kong’s fifth District Council election were unveiled yesterday.

The South China Morning Post reported that a pair of pro-democracy heavyweights were marginally unseated in a District Council poll generating a record turnout rate of 47 per cent and the emergence of fresh faces, some of them inspired by the Occupy protests. Losses by Albert Ho and Frederick Fung didn’t

significantly alter proportion of seats held by pro-democracy and pro-government camps, as the latter continued to enjoy a numerical edge despite a drop in the number of seats compared to the last election, the paper noted.

Hong Kong’s largest political organization, the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), was the biggest winner in the election, grabbing

119 seats out of the total 431 among the 18 districts across Hong Kong, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Of the 431 seats, 68 were uncontested, while 867 candidates vied for the remaining 363 seats. The DAB fielded 171 candidates for the election and had a success rate of 70 percent.

But some newly elected politicians illustrated the continuing support behind last year’s Occupy protests, the

SCMP added. Two of at least four successfully elected “Umbrella soldiers” remarkably defeated pro-establishment heavyweights such as lawmaker Christopher Chung Shu-kun, of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, and Kowloon City district council chairman Lau Wai-wing.

“The election results show that we have to listen to the voices of the young people,” Business and Professionals Alliance lawmaker Priscilla Leung Mei-fun told the SCMP, winning 2,314 votes and beating 24-year-old Yau Wai-ching, another “Umbrella soldier” of Youngspiration, by less than 300 votes.

## JAPAN

# Blast at controversial war shrine injures no one

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

**A**N explosion yesterday damaged a public restroom at a controversial shrine in Tokyo that honors Japanese war dead, with police suspecting foul play. No one was injured.

The Yasukuni shrine, which honors 2.5 million Japanese war dead, including executed war criminals, has been the target of criticism from China and South Korea, which suffered from Japan's World War II atrocities and aggression.

Tokyo police said in a statement that they received a call about an explosion and smoke at Yasukuni. They said they suspected a "guerrilla" attack, im-

plying some kind of subversive activity, but declined to elaborate.

Firefighters were also called to the scene and found the ceiling and walls of the restroom had been damaged, said an official at the Tokyo Fire Department, who spoke on condition of anonymity. But the fire was out by the time they arrived.

It was unclear what caused the explosion, but a timing device and wirings were found near the spot of the explosion, according to Kyodo News service. Police will be reviewing footage on security cameras for clues, TBS TV news said. Footage on TV Asahi showed a bomb squad in protective gear entering the shrine premises.



Firefighters and police officers inspect around the south gate of the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo

The person in charge of media at Yasukuni was not immediately available for comment.

The shrine is a focal point for lingering tensions with Japan's neighbors over the country's aggression before and during World War II. Some Japanese lawmakers have insisted on making official visits in the name of patriotism, while other lawmakers say such visits glori-

fy Japan's historical mistakes.

Emperor Akihito has not visited Yasukuni. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has also avoided making official visits over the last two years.

While views on the shrine have divided the Japanese public, it holds emotional significance for some because during the war soldiers promised each other they would reunite at Ya-

sukuni if they died.

The shrine has a grandiose gate, giant cherry trees and a museum that pays homage to those who died in Japan's wars, including kamikaze pilots.

Many families and tourists visit Yasukuni. Yesterday was a national holiday, and shrine officials said the grounds remained open for the rest of the day. **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

## Gov't says checks on Syrian refugees could take a year

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**T**HE Australian government remained committed to resettling 12,000 Syrian refugees, but security checks could take more than a year, officials said yesterday.

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced in September that the 12,000 refugees would be resettled from Middle Eastern refugee camps as quickly as possible. Abbott was replaced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull less than a week later. The first families began arriving in Australia this month.

Government lawmaker Cory Bernardi said yesterday that Cabinet should rethink that commitment in light of the threat militants could pose as refugees in Australia. He said the recent coordinated attacks in Paris had highlighted the dangers.

But Cabinet ministers including Treasurer Scott Morrison and Counterterrorism Minister Michael Keenan stood by the decision.

"These would have to be — arguably — the most screened group of people you could think of," Morrison told Sydney radio 2GB.

"Taking 12,000 people from Syria was the right thing to do several months ago and it's still the right thing to do today," Keenan told reporters.

Peter Shergold, coordinator-general for refugee resettlement in New South Wales, Australia's most populous



state, said the careful screening would hold up the resettlement process.

"I'm working on the basis that the vast majority will come next year and it will probably be over 12 or 18 months, not six months," Shergold told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Debate over the Syrian refugees was rekindled as an opinion poll showed yesterday that 44 percent of respondents thought Australia should take fewer than 12,000 refugees from Syria. Another 27 percent said 12,000 was about right and 22 percent said Australia should accept a larger number.

The poll by Sydney-based market researcher Newspoll and published in The Australian newspaper was based on a weekend survey of 1,573 voters nationwide. It had a 3 percentage point margin of error.

The Syrian refugee intake is on top of Australia's usual annual intake of 13,750 refugees from around the world. **AP**

## BANGLADESH

## Country on high alert after 2 opposition leaders executed

**B**ANGLADESH was on high alert yesterday after executing two opposition leaders for war crimes during the country's 1971 independence war, despite threats of violence by their supporters and international concerns that the legal proceedings were flawed.

A reporter was shot and wounded Sunday after covering the funeral of one of the men, though it was not clear who was responsible.

Yesterday, paramilitary border guards and thousands of other security officials were patrolling cities including the capital, Dhaka, in an effort to prevent any violence as the South Asian country's main Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, called for a nationwide strike.

The party is protesting the hanging Sunday of its general secretary, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, and Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury.

Mujahid had been found guilty on charges of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction during the South



Bangladeshi activists campaigning for capital punishment for war criminals march in a rally, as they celebrate the execution of two opposition leaders in Dhaka

Asian nation's independence war against Pakistan, while Chowdhury was convicted on charges of torture, rape and genocide.

Authorities did not expect many to follow the call to strike, given that Jamaat-e-Islami has only about 3 percent of the country's vote. Nevertheless, authorities were being cautious after a spate of killings claimed by Islamist extremists this year, including the murders of four secular bloggers, a publisher and two foreigners since February.

While there has been concern over the legal process that led to the executions, most leading Bangladeshi newspapers and

TV stations supported the hangings.

The leading English-language Daily Star in one story detailed the atrocities for which Chowdhury was convicted. A second story narrated how minority Hindus had been brutally attacked and killed and their homes torched under Chowdhury's leadership.

Two top Bangla-language dailies, Samakal and Prothom Alo, also published reports demonstrating support for the trials and executions.

In a statement late Sunday, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said the men's trials had been flawed, and that "Pakistan is deeply disturbed" by the executions. **AP**

Esther Htusan, Yangon

MYANMAR

# Searchers pull bodies from rubble after landslide

**S**OLDIERS, police and volunteers pulled body after body from the rubble in northern Myanmar yesterday, as the death toll from a landslide near several jade mines reached at least 113, a local official said, with more than 100 others missing.

The collapse early Saturday in Kachin state's mining community of Hpakant was the worst such disaster in recent memory.

**Officials said yesterday the accident occurred at about 3 am, burying more than 70 makeshift huts where miners slept**

The corpses were taken to a nearby morgue, where friends and relatives broke down as they identified the victims. Some were buried at a local cemetery and others were cremated. But there were stacks of unidentified bodies wrapped in blue plastic tarps.

Kachin is home to some of the world's highest-quality jade, and the industry generated an estimated USD31 billion last year, with most of the wealth going to individuals and com-



In this photo taken on Saturday and released by the Eleven Media Group, Myanmar Red Cross workers and people carry victims at a landslide-affected area at Phakant jade mine, Kachin State

panies tied to Myanmar's former military rulers, according to Global Witness, a group that investigates misuse of resource revenues.

Hpakant, 950 kilometers northeast of Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, is the industry's epicenter.

But it remains desperately

poor, with bumpy dirt roads, constant electricity blackouts and sky-high heroin addiction rates.

The accident occurred at a 60-meter-high mountain of earth and waste discarded by several mines.

Earlier, officials said the dead were mostly men who were pi-

cking through the waste and tailings in search of pieces of jade to sell. But officials said yesterday the accident occurred at about 3 a.m., burying more than 70 makeshift huts where the miners slept.

Nilar Myint, a local township administrator, said that by yesterday the death toll had rea-

ched 113, with more than 100 others missing.

Bodies continued to be pulled from the debris yesterday.

"It's not ending. It's still on going. Local people in town are getting angry, because there are just too many bodies," she said.

After Myanmar's former military rulers handed over power to a nominally civilian government five years ago, resulting in the lifting of many Western sanctions, the already rapid pace of mining turned frenetic. No scrap of ground, no part of daily life in Hpakant has been left untouched by the fleets of giant yellow trucks and backhoes that have sliced apart mountains and denuded once-plush landscape.

In the last year, dozens of small-scale miners have been maimed or killed picking through tailing dumps.

"Large companies, many of them owned by families of former generals, army companies, cronies and drug lords, are making tens or hundreds of millions of dollars a year through their plunder of Hpakant," said Mike Davis of Global Witness.

"Their legacy to local people is a dystopian wasteland in which scores of people at a time are buried alive in landslides," he said. AP

AUSTRALIA

# MH370 hunt moves to where British pilot believes it crashed

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**T**HE deep sea hunt for a missing Malaysian airliner has shifted to a remote part of the Indian Ocean where a British pilot has calculated that the Boeing 777 made a controlled ditching last year with 239 people aboard, officials said yesterday.

The patch of deep ocean southwest of Australia that Capt. Simon Hardy has determined is the most likely resting place of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 will be searched through December, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is coordinating the search on Malaysia's behalf, said in a statement.

But Australian authorities are not being guided by the experienced Boeing 777 pilot's analysis. Martin Dolan, the bureau's chief commissioner, said the search was moving farther south within a 120,000-square-kilometer priority area because the southern hemisphere spring had made the extreme conditions in the southern ocean calmer.

"We're aware that we're in the area that Capt. Hardy specifies, but we're in that area because it was next in our search sequence, and we've been moving progressively south because the weather is improving," Dolan said.

Hardy's theory of whe-

re Flight 370 went after it inexplicably flew far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing on March 8, 2014, has been widely published in recent months. He used mathematical analysis and a flight simulator to plot the course he believed the airliner took when it vanished in one of aviation's most baffling mysteries.

"I am fairly confident that the wreckage will be found within the next four to eight weeks," Hardy told The Australian newspaper.

Experts directing the search have discussed Hardy's theory with him. Hardy could not be immediately contacted for

comment yesterday.

"There are many theories from members of the public and various independent experts and all are considered," the bureau said in its statement, which described Hardy's analysis as credible.

But searchers do not accept a key aspect of Hardy's conclusion: that whoever was flying the plane made a controlled landing at sea, which allowed it to sink largely intact.

The only confirmed wreckage of Flight 370 to be recovered was a wing flap found on a remote Indian Ocean island in July.

Dolan said authorities still believe that the final satellite transmission



In this March 22, 2014, file photo, Flight Lt. Jason Nichols on board a Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion, takes notes as they search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean

from one of the jet's engines indicated that it was out of fuel, meaning the plane would have plummeted into the ocean out of control and disintegrated.

Australia and Malaysia have split the cost of the search of the vast expanse of seabed that began in October last year based on satellite analysis of the jet's flight for more than

six hours after it went off course. The search, taking place more than 1,800 kilometers off the Australian coast, has so far covered 70,000 square kilometers.

Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang pledged an additional USD14.5 million over the weekend to fund the continuing search. China lost 153 citizens in the disaster. AP

## ARGENTINA

## ‘Kirchner era’ ends with opposition win

Peter Prengaman, Buenos Aires

**P**RESIDENT-ELECT Mauricio Macri's promises to revitalize Argentina's sagging economy with free-market reforms and improve strained relations with the United States resonated with voters, carrying him to a historic win that ended 12 years of often-conflictive rule by President Cristina Fernandez and her late husband.

But when the business-friendly opposition candidate takes office Dec. 10, he will inherit a country with around 30 percent inflation, near-zero economic growth and entrenched government social spending that private economists warn is not sustainable. He also lacks majorities in either chamber of Congress to pass his deep reforms.

“Macri will begin his mandate in a difficult political position,” wrote Daniel Kerner from the Eurasia Group, a political risk consultancy. “He will have to make difficult economic adjustments and face serious political constraints.”

With 98 percent of the vote counted from Sunday's election, Macri had 51.5 percent support compared to 48.5 percent for ruling party candidate Daniel Scioli, Fernandez's hand-chosen successor. Scioli conceded defeat and Macri claimed victory.

“Today is a historic day,” Macri crowed while his supporters celebrated. “It's the changing of an era.”

The era he hopes to end is that



Opposition presidential candidate Mauricio Macri waves to supporters

of Fernandez and her late husband and predecessor Nestor Kirchner who rewrote Argentina's social contract and dominated the nation's political scene with a mix of patronage, charisma and withering attacks on opponents. Fernandez battled international creditors, had strained relations with Washington and allied her country with late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his successor Nicolas Maduro.

During the election campaign, Macri vowed he would listen more and talk less than Fernandez.

Addressing thousands of supporters late Sunday, Macri said his presidency would not be about “revenge” or “settling

scores,” but rather helping the country progress.

“I feel so happy because today we put an end to the mafia” of ruling party rule, said Felisa Sanchez, a Macri supporter waving an Argentine flag. “They claimed to be Robin Hood helping the poor with social welfare plans when the poor are really helped with jobs and education.”

But fulfilling his campaign promise to reform Argentina's economy may prove difficult.

Macri, 56, has pledged to lift unpopular controls on the purchase of U.S. dollars and thus eliminate a booming black market for currency exchange. Doing that would likely lead to

a sharp devaluation of the Argentine peso. With foreign reserves around USD26 billion, low for such a large economy, the government would desperately need an immediate infusion of dollars.

That could come from many different places, but ultimately would require structural changes to a largely protectionist economy, solving a debt spat and developing warmer relations with the United States and other nations.

He has also vowed to jumpstart the economy by lifting many tariffs, lowering taxes and attracting foreign investment. He promised to solve a long-standing New York court fight with creditors in the U.S.

■ Macri had 51.5 pct support compared to 48.5 pct for ruling party candidate Daniel Scioli, Fernandez's hand-chosen successor

who Fernandez called “vultures” and has refused to negotiate with, which kept Argentina on the margins of international credit markets.

Many of these moves could face resistance in a hostile congress and Macri's own background will feed into Argentina's political polarization after more than a decade of left-leaning government.

He hails from one of the country's richest families and rose to prominence as president of the popular Boca Juniors soccer club. On the campaign trail, he sometimes talked about being kidnapped in the early 1990s, an experience he said helped him understand the needs of others and he credits with pushing him into politics.

Later, as mayor of Buenos Aires, he was known for a technocratic manner that stressed efficiency over style. AP

## USA

## Shooting at New Orleans playground wounds 16

Janet McConnaughey, New Orleans

**H**UNDREDS of people were gathered at a New Orleans playground for a music video shoot when two groups in the crowd opened fire on each other, wounding 16 people in the shocking Sunday evening (early yesterday, Macau time) violence, police said.

Police were on their way to break up a big crowd at Bunny Friend Playground when gunfire erupted at the park in the city's 9th Ward, the police said in a statement



Officials remove a man from the scene following a shooting in New Orleans' 9th Ward

Sunday.

Police said 10 people were taken to the hospital in ambulances while another six were taken in private vehicles. Photos of the scene showed emergency workers wheeling some of the wounded to ambulances on gurneys while other people who appeared to be in pain lay on the ground.

Investigators don't know how serious the wounds are, or what started the shooting, police spokesman Tyler Gamble said. Large stadium lights lit up the park Sunday as police continued to work the crime scene. Witnesses told police that the gunmen ran off after the shooting was over.

The park was crowded with hundreds of people, the police said. Some had walked there after a neighborhood parade had

finished earlier that evening and others were watching or taking part in the music video, Gamble said.

Gamble says the video was being made without a permit to use the park.

Police Superintendent Michael Harrison told

WDSU-TV that the shooting might have been gang-related. Police had been helping with the parade that had been taking place about a block away from the park, and were able to quickly get to the park, Harrison told the TV station. AP

## MAYOR WANTS WITNESSES TO COME FORWARD

**THE MAYOR** of New Orleans is calling on people who were in a park where a shootout erupted and wounded 16 people to come forward with information. Mayor Mitch Landrieu said late Sunday in comments aired by WWL-TV that people need to come forward with information so that police can do their job. Landrieu was speaking alongside police chief Mi-

chael Harrison at the park where the gunfire erupted earlier. Landrieu said the shooting is not something that can be tolerated in the city. No one was killed in the Sunday evening shooting that happened as hundreds of people had gathered at a local park. Police say two groups of people in the crowd opened fire on each other before running away.

Lorne Cook and Sylvie Corbet,  
Brussels

PARIS ATTACKS

# Belgian police arrest 16, one fugitive still at large

**B**ELGIAN police carried out raids throughout the tense capital, detaining 16 people as the city remained locked down under high alert yesterday. In Paris, British Prime Minister David Cameron said he will ask for parliamentary approval for the U.K. to join airstrikes against Islamic State extremists in Syria.

Raids across Brussels capped a tense day with hundreds of troops patrolling and authorities hunting for one or more suspected extremists, including Salah Abdeslam, a fugitive since being named a suspect in the Nov. 13 Paris attacks.

The Belgian government chose to keep the capital on the highest state of alert into the start of the workweek after what it described as a “serious and imminent” threat, preventing a return to normal in the city that is also home to the European Union’s main institutions.

Federal prosecutor Eric Van Der Sypt said 19 raids were carried out Sunday in Molenbeek, home to many of the Paris attackers, and other boroughs of Brussels, and three raids were carried out in Charleroi. Abdeslam was not among those arrested. Van Der Sypt said no firearms or explosives were found.

Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon told the RTL network that Abdeslam “must have a lot of support on our territory. That’s why all these searches being conducted at the moment are important.”

Police fired two shots at a car that approached them as they searched a snack bar in Molenbeek, Van Der Sypt said.



Belgian Army soldiers patrol near Christmas huts in front of the old Brussels’ stock exchange

The vehicle escaped but was stopped later in Brussels, and a wounded person inside was arrested. It was not immediately known if the person was linked to the investigation into the Paris attacks.

Several of the Paris attackers had lived in Brussels, including

Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the plot’s orchestrator who was killed Wednesday in a standoff with French police. Police issued a new appeal to identify the third attacker who was killed in the assault at the national stadium. They posted a photo of the man on Twitter, asking

the public for information that would help identify him.

France has intensified its aerial bombing in Syria and Le Drian said the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, which has been sent to the Mediterranean to help combat IS militants in Syria, would be “ope-

**BRUSSELS ENTERS THIRD DAY OF LOCKDOWN**

**THE BELGIAN** capital Brussels has entered its third day of lockdown, with schools and underground transport shut and more than 1,000 security personnel deployed across the country. Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon said yesterday that “investigations will continue until we’ve fixed this problem.” Security was extra tight in the European quarter of Brussels, especially around the EU institutions where ministerial meetings were going ahead as planned. NATO, the world’s biggest military alliance, has also adjusted operations at its headquarters in northeastern Brussels. A NATO official said yesterday some alliance staff members have been asked to work from home, and that external visits and visiting groups scheduled for the day had been canceled. Brussels remains at maximum alert over information about an “imminent threat,” possibly a series of coordinated attacks at different locations similar to those in Paris on Nov. 13.

rational” from yesterday and “ready to act.”

France has extended a state of emergency, which allows police raids, searches and house arrest without permission from a judge, for three months. On Saturday, it also extended a ban on demonstrations and other gatherings through Nov. 30, when a U.N. climate conference with more than 100 heads of state is scheduled to start.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and wounded hundreds more; the suicide bombings in Beirut that killed 43 people and injured more than 200; and the downing of the Russian jetliner carrying 224 people in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. All happened within the past month.

Cameron and French President Francois Hollande, meeting in Paris, paid a quiet visit to the Bataclan concert venue, which saw the worst of the carnage in Paris.

Britain has been carrying out airstrikes in Iraq, but Cameron has long wished for an expanded mandate to include targets in Syria. **AP**

## Cameron pledges to outline strategy against IS this week



Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron, left, and France’s President Francois Hollande issue a joint statement to the media at the Elysee Palace in Paris

**BRITISH** Prime Minister David Cameron will begin to lay out his case this week for the Royal Air Force to start hitting Islamic State targets in Syria, something he has been eager to do but feared being blocked by Parliament.

Speaking in Paris yesterday after meeting French President Francois Hollande, Cameron said the two leaders agreed to increase counterterrorism cooperation. He called for greater European Union-wide efforts to share intelligence to stop extremists and offered the use of the air base at Akrotiri on Cyprus for actions in

Syria against the Islamic State group.

“The United Kingdom will do all in our power to support our friend and ally France to defeat this evil death cult,” he said.

Cameron lost a vote in Parliament two years ago to allow attacks on Syria, and has been reluctant to even suggest another until he could be certain to win. The RAF is already participating in airstrikes in Iraq.

The mood in Parliament since then has changed. The previous vote was also directed at Bashar Assad’s government to deter the use of chemical weapons — not Islamic State group militants.

The attacks in Paris, the bombing of a Russian jetliner and the shootings of British tourists in Tunisia has brought the threat of the Islamic State group close to home. The vote in the U.N. Security Council calling for action against the group may also sway the undecided.

Labour’s spokeswoman on defense issues, Angela Eagle, told the BBC yesterday that even the party’s leader, Jeremy Corbyn — who is known for his anti-war stance in general — may vote in favor.

“My understanding is he is not a pacifist and that means that it is conceivable,” Eagle said.

But any measure is problematic because many lawmakers fear revisiting the chaotic situation that occurred in the Iraq war, in which 179 U.K. troops died. The stain of that conflagration weighs heavily on Labour lawmakers, many of whom blame their party’s former Prime Minister Tony Blair for dragging the country into war on false claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and without a firm plan for Iraq’s future.

Britain’s arsenal includes the Brimstone missile, whose technology enables it to ensure accuracy against moving targets, such as gun trucks used by Islamic State group militants. British officials say this could reduce civilian casualties.

Cameron is also pledging to bolster support for the military with 12 billion pounds (USD18.2 billion) more in spending to help fund nine new Boeing P-8 maritime patrol aircraft and two new rapid-reaction “strike brigades.” The 5,000-strong brigades would be able to deploy rapidly across long distances. **AP**

## what's ON



## 15TH MACAU FOOD FESTIVAL

TIME: 5pm-11pm (Mondays to Thursdays)  
3pm to 12midnight (Fridays to Sundays)

UNTIL: November 29, 2015

VENUE: Sai Van Lake Square

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRES: (853) 2857 5756

TIME & ROUTES OF FREE SHUTTLE BUS  
(3 ROUTES):

5pm-11:30pm (Mondays to Thursdays)

3pm-12:30midnight (Fridays to Sundays)

Return service to Sai Van Lake Square and

next to Hotel Sintra, OCBC Wing

Hang Bank (32, Est. Marginal do Hipodromo),

opposite Altira Macau Hotel in Taipa

ARTIFACTS OF EXCELLENCE – SEAL CARVINGS BY  
LUO SHUZHONG FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: February 28, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

HISTORICAL PAINTINGS OF MACAU  
IN THE 19TH CENTURY

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS  
- EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF  
TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Museum of Taipa and Coloane History

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Adult); MOP2 (Student or

Group); Free (Under 12 or above 65)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

## Offbeat

IRISH DAD WHOSE SELFIE VIDEO WAS  
A YOUTUBE HIT BACK IN VEGAS

The clueless Irish dad whose accidental selfie video of his Las Vegas vacation was watched by millions was back in Sin City to get a do over.

This time, it's a two-way Go Pro camera and the full VIP treatment paid for by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

The first video has more than 7 million views since Evan Griffin edited together clips of his father, Joseph Griffin, pointing out Las Vegas Strip landmarks while the camera was focused squarely on himself. Evan Griffin also added the Benny Hill theme song before posting it on YouTube on Nov. 13.

The latest video posted by tourism officials shows the two-day father-son trip last week. The new clips include dad jokes, a Mirage hotel suite and VIP activities.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Publicity
14:55	Debate on Administration and Justice Policy Report for 2016 (Live)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Non-Daily Port. News
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
03:45	Champions League: Porto - Dynamo Kiev (Live)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

19 Nov - 25 Nov



## THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2

ROOM 1  
(2D) 2.15, 4.45, 9.45 pm  
(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Francis Lawrence

Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson,  
Liam Hemsworth

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 137min

## RETURN OF THE CUCKOO

ROOM 2  
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Patrick Kong

Starring: Chi Lam Cheung, Chairmaine Sheh

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 86min



## LOST IN HONG KONG

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Zheng Xu

Starring: Zheng Xu, Wei Zhao, Bei-Er Bao, Juan Du

Language: Mandarin/Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 114min

## OUR TIMES

ROOM 3

7.00 pm

Director: Ding Sheng

Starring: Andy Lau, Liu Ye, Wu Ruofu, Wang Qianyuan

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 134min

## MACAU TOWER

05 Nov - 25 Nov

## 007 - SPECTRE

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Sam Mendes

Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 148min

## this day in history



## 1991 GIANT OF ROCK DIES

Freddie Mercury has died aged 45, just one day after he publicly announced he was HIV positive.

The lead singer for rock group Queen died quietly at his home in west London of bronchio-pneumonia, brought on by Aids, his publicist said.

The flamboyant star is thought to have had the disease for two years, but he continued to make music and the decline in his health was only rarely glimpsed.

Mercury was born Farookh Bulsara in Zanzibar in 1946 and spent most of his childhood in India before his family settled in England in 1964. That year he enrolled in art school.

Freddie Mercury, Roger Taylor, Brian May and Mike Grose formed Queen in 1970.

Regarded by fans and critics alike as a consummate showman, Mercury was openly bisexual and enjoyed a colourful rock-star lifestyle.

Tributes from all over the world have been pouring in for the man who stole the show at Live Aid and wrote ground-breaking hits like Bohemian Rhapsody - which was number one in the UK for nine weeks.

Music critic Paul Gambaccini praised Mercury for his huge contribution to hard rock music.

"He gave a form which was pretty staid and sour, a great personality," he said.

The director of an Aids education charity, Dr Patrick Dixon, told the BBC that Mercury's greatest gift to his fans was admitting he was suffering from the disease.

"His hope was no doubt that through his openness many people throughout the world would see that Aids is a real illness - that it's killing people every day," said Dr Dixon.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A Freddie Mercury tribute concert for Aids awareness was held five months after his death at Wembley Stadium, London, and was attended by 72,000 people.

Dozens of stars appeared at the event which was broadcast to 70 countries and raised about £20m for Aids charities.

His enormous contribution to music and his early death quickly cemented his reputation as a rock legend.

In August 2002 voters in a BBC poll voted him among their top 100 British heroes.



YOUR STARS

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Your first course of action should be identifying the real problem. Going over your budget is one thing, but going over your spending is quite another. Start keeping track of every penny.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
If you can't tell your problems to your friends, who can you tell them to? Even though the issue is taboo, it's time to start talking. Your dividend will be compassion.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Misunderstandings affect more than just your relationships. They go straight to your way of making a living. Your entire career could be rocked by the slightest slip of the tongue, so be extra cautious.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You're in tune with others, but don't spoil it by trying to use it to your advantage. Keep your good energy by not wondering how you can slip making a buck into every conversation.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Research is worthless, considering the future is completely up in the air. But your instinct is still right on the money. Listen to it before doing any investing or spending.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Don't waste your energy being annoyed with others. It's irrelevant if they're slow as molasses or leaving you in the dust -- as is their opinion of you. You can't make any money, even with the right cast of characters.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
You're purposely spreading yourself too thin to distract yourself from your problems. If you want the slightest hope of digging yourself out of this hole, concentrate on a thing at a time, no matter how painful or ugly.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Just how do you keep up the romance? It's one of your many hidden talents, so keep it a mystery. Continue loving what you do, with or without the money.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You're getting a wake up call that's both good and bad. You're losing things way more important than money. That's the bad part. The good is that you're finally able to put things in perspective.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Your investments may be tanking but you're still feeling good. That's impressive. Make sure you communicate your sunny outlook to others, if only for its educational value.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Not caring isn't an option, no matter how dire your own circumstances are. If compassion doesn't come naturally, make it a conscious decision. Don't even let dividends or paybacks enter your line of thinking.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
It's a high energy day, whether the energy is based on positive thinking or anxiety. You'll be doing something for yourself if you do something physical. Bouncing off the walls isn't exactly treating yourself well.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

**Easy**

9	7							2
2			1	5	9			
		8		2	4			
6					3			9
3			8				1	
4	1							5
		2	6	3				
		3	5	7				4
6						7		5

**Easy+**

		7	4					2
9						7		3
	3			9	4			
1	5						7	6
8			9					2
3	2							5
		8	1			2		
2	7							6
4			6	7				

**Medium**

		8	3			9	7	
9					6			
	7	2					4	
	5	4				2	1	
8			3					5
4	1		8		3			
	5			9	6			
		4						9
9	1			5	2			

**Hard**

6	1							
		8		5				
3			9					
						2		8
8						5		
	1		6				4	
			2				3	
5								7

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-6	-2	cloudy/light snow
Harbin	-19	-10	clear
Tianjin	-5	-2	cloudy/overcast
Urumqi	-5	1	clear
Xi'an	2	7	drizzle/overcast
Lhasa	-2	16	clear
Chengdu	13	15	drizzle
Chongqing	12	18	drizzle
Kunming	6	21	clear
Nanjing	6	11	drizzle/moderate rain
Shanghai	12	15	drizzle
Wuhan	2	7	drizzle/moderate rain
Hangzhou	12	15	drizzle
Taipei	21	23	drizzle/overcast
Guangzhou	19	28	clear
Hong Kong	23	27	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-5	0	light snow/sleet
Frankfurt	-2	4	sleet/cloudy
Paris	1	6	cloudy/drizzle
London	5	7	drizzle
New York	-1	6	clear

CROSSWORDS

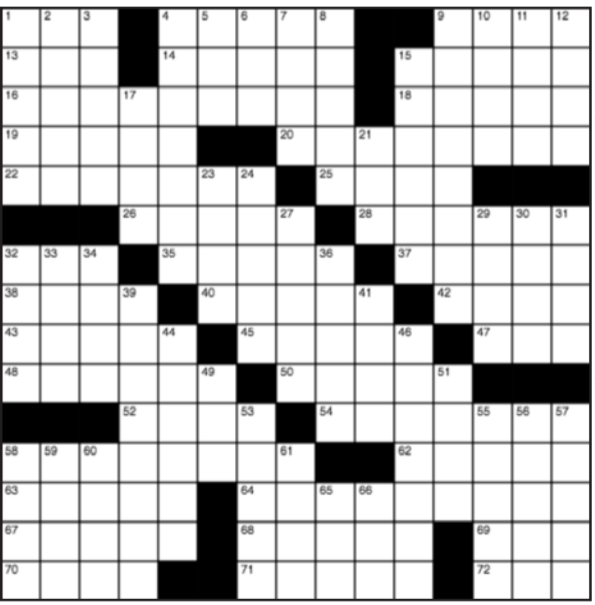
**ACROSS:** 1- Aussie hopper; 4- They've got something coming; 9- Heels; 13- Aliens, for short; 14- Army leader?; 15- Jazzy Chick; 16- Abbreviated; 18- Native Alaskan; 19- Conger catcher; 20- Ball game; 22- Sea cucumber; 25- Bites; 26- Hound's trail; 28- Outback resident; 32- Delicious; 35- Door handles; 37- Kama \_\_\_; 38- Each; 40- Overact; 42- Takes to court; 43- Capital city of Yemen; 45- Put into law; 47- Summer hrs.; 48- Intense dislike; 50- Blew it; 52- Geographical expanse; 54- Good spirit; 58- Large handkerchief; 62- Actress Massey; 63- Expect; 64- Protein building block; 67- Unfettered; 68- Island in the East China Sea; 69- \_\_\_ polloi; 70- Ultimatum word; 71- Kett and James; 72- Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live";

**DOWN:** 1- Adjust to zero; 2- Alternate; 3- \_\_\_ Mio; 4- Frame for hanging hats; 5- Able was I \_\_\_ I saw Elba; 6- B & B; 7- Cambodian currency; 8- Family car; 9- Gigantic statue; 10- Ancient Athens's Temple of \_\_\_; 11- \_\_\_ ex machina; 12- Fill to surfeit; 15- Wrist; 17- Workout count; 21- Spy org.; 23- Hawaiian goose; 24- Garden figure; 27- Steak order; 29- Collar fastener; 30- Angers; 31- Sunrise direction; 32- Potato preparation; 33- Movie-rating org.; 34- \_\_\_ Blanc; 36- Gawk; 39- Heaven; 41- Beige cousin; 44- Add fizz; 46- Tiresome; 49- Thieves' place; 51- Boxer Oscar \_\_\_ Hoya; 53- Make \_\_\_ for oneself; 55- Variety of coffee; 56- Pungent bulb; 57- Gymnast Comaneci; 58- Bundle; 59- Mil. truant; 60- Greek temple; 61- Amo, amas, \_\_\_; 65- Addams family cousin; 66- Code-cracking org.

**Yesterday's solution**

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BEDREST ASSERTS
BLOTTER RETREAT
LINEAGE MIRACLE
SSE AATHS ASTIAN
DELTAEYED
CAPERYARDSISP
HEAROF SAGAVIA
ATLASES TERNARY
SNITDEBSETTEE
MANDUCATIRENE
DEERCRANE
ATRASKIN AFL
LEOTARD STEELIE
DEMODDED TAURINE
ONENESS EERIEEST
    
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IACM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



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Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications.



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**opinion**

**Extra Time**

Tales Azzoni, AP Sports Writer

**BENITEZ HANGING ON AT REAL MADRID; ZINEDINE ZIDANE NEXT?**

Real Madrid fans vividly showed their dissatisfaction, frantically waving white "goodbye" handkerchiefs and loudly jeering.

It was a clear message to coach Rafa Benitez: It's time for you to go.

Benitez's situation is becoming increasingly unbearable since a 4-0 loss to Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Saturday, and another setback could mean the end of the line.

Madrid president Florentino Perez also has been targeted by the club's demanding fans, but ultimately it will be Benitez who gets the blame for the team's recent struggles.

In the local media, there is already widespread talk about Benitez's replacement — Zinedine Zidane.

The name of the former France great, who is coaching Madrid's "B" team in the third division, is certain to surface every time Madrid fails. Not that he is in a hurry to get promoted.

"I'm coaching Castilla now. Benitez is the coach of the first team and things are fine like that," the 43-year-old Zidane told Spanish media. "I still have a long way to go."

Some fans have also called for the return of Italian coach Carlos Ancelotti, who helped Madrid win its 10th European title two seasons ago. And there have been some reports that Fabio Capello, who is currently unemployed, could be the next in line.

For Benitez to have any chance of keeping his job, he needs to find a way to get Madrid back on track.

"We are all responsible and now we have to show unity in order to win the next game and give the fans something to be happy about, which is something we failed to do (against Barcelona)," the 55-year-old Benitez said. "We need to get over this result and focus on the next match as soon as possible."

Things were just fine for the coach until two weeks ago, when Madrid lost for the first time in a Spanish league match at Sevilla. Madrid had been leading the league and was winning games with ease despite a series of injuries to its regular starters.

It advanced to the knockout stage of the Champions League with two rounds to go, and is likely to finish first in its group ahead of Paris Saint-Germain.

Benitez defends himself by pointing to the team's numbers this season.

Madrid's only bad result prior to the consecutive losses was a home draw against Malaga, when goalkeeper Carlos Kameni was the man of the match after stopping everything Madrid's strikers threw at him.

Madrid had won four of its first five league games, outscoring opponents 14-1. It drew at Atletico Madrid 1-1, then won the next three matches by at least two goals.

Among the key players injured early in the season were Keylor Navas, Sergio Ramos, James Rodriguez, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema. The game against Barcelona marked only the second time that Benitez had all of his players available.

Many said Benitez lost control of the squad and that players were not fully behind him. Last week, the coach was forced to publicly deny rumors that some of the top players, including Cristiano Ronaldo, organized a meeting to demand changes in the team's tactics.

"We're always completely behind the coach," left back Marcelo said after Saturday's loss. "We're going to get ourselves out of this situation. We're not going to lose our heads, we're going to train hard and look at where we went wrong."

Madrid's next game is tomorrow (Thursday, 3:45am) at Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League.

The points will not mean much because Madrid is already through to the next round, but the game certainly will still be crucial for Benitez.

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Hazard solving slump mystery key to Chelsea recovering form**

Rob Harris, London

Wednesday, 3:45am  
Maccabi Tel Aviv v Chelsea  
H 12, D 5.1, A 1.36

**I**F one player epitomizes Chelsea's slump it's surely Eden Hazard.

The playmaker was feted as the Premier League's finest talent as last season ended with Chelsea winning the title and England's top two individual awards were presented to the 24-year-old Belgian.

As Chelsea has struggled since August — starting its title defense by collecting 14 points from a possible 39 and sitting second in Champions League Group G — so has Hazard.

"I didn't start the season well. I tried to find out why, but I don't know," Hazard said ahead of today's match at Maccabi Tel Aviv.

"Sometimes you don't know. You have to keep going. I gave everything in training, on the pitch when I played. I hope I can get a lot of form and try to help the team win games."

Chelsea, which can qualify for the knockout phase with victory in Israel if leader Porto beats Dynamo Kiev, ended a run of three league losses on Saturday by beating Norwich 1-0.

Hazard thrived in a central role playing behind Diego Costa rather than being on the left flank — the result of a conversation with under-pressure manager Jose Mourinho.

"I said to him, 'Maybe we have to try to change something. If I can play number 10?'" Hazard recalled.

At a time when Chelsea is struggling to score, Hazard's only goals this season have come while on international duty with four for Belgium.

Hazard accrued 19 goals for Chelsea in winning the player of the year awards for 2014-15. Far from that being a launch-pad to try to challenge Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo for elite global status, Hazard's career has stalled.

Mourinho isn't being blamed for his or Chelsea's loss in form.

"I don't have a problem with him," Hazard said. "He is the best manager. He is the best manager for Chelsea and we hope we can win a lot of trophies together. Maybe not this season because it will be difficult, but next season and on."



Eden Hazard

Top of the Israeli league but bottom in Europe, the Tel Aviv side can still qualify for the Europa League by finishing third in Group G — just. But it is yet to collect a single point and sits five behind Dynamo Kiev with two games remaining. Domestically, Maccabi is thriving at least: winning six of its last seven league games.

**BUENO PUSHES FOR A PLACE**

With Porto winning eight in nine in the league, Alberto Bueno is being kept out of the team.

The Spanish striker arrived at the Portuguese club in the summer transfer window from Rayo Vallecano, where he excelled with 17 goals last season. But Porto's solid run and the top form of Vincent Aboubakar and Yacine Brahimi in Porto's attack has shut Bueno out of the main competitions so far.

Only when coach Julen Lopetegui made six changes to his usual team for the Portuguese Cup game against lowly Angren-

se did Bueno open his account for Porto: scoring both goals in a 2-0 win.

"FC Porto has a great team and we have to wait for our chance," the 27-year-old Bueno said. "I'm happy but I want to play more."

He'll be hoping that comes against Dynamo Kiev when a place in the round of 16 can be secured by Porto, which leads Chelsea by three points.

**DYNAMO AWAITS FATE**

Not only could Dynamo's qualifying hopes be ended by a loss in Portugal, but the club also faces a heavy UEFA punishment.

UEFA is expected to rule imminently on racist attacks which marred Dynamo's 0-0 draw at home to Chelsea last month. Possible punishments include playing home European games in an empty stadium or a points deduction.

On the field, things are better for Dynamo, which has won its last three Ukrainian league games without conceding a single goal. **AP / Oddschecker.com**

opinion

**Rear Window**

Severo Portela



**BLUE IN THE FACE**

It is that time in the year - busy, busy - with the Chief Executive's annual Policy Presentation in the Legislative Assembly as well as the disclosing of the (2016) Budget, both best known by the Portuguese acronym of LAG.

Macau goes into LAG mode and mood...so self-absorbed that it has no time to think how it looks from the outside. One does not need to go further than 40 miles, or 65 kilometers, roughly, through the Pearl River Delta to twin sister Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, as Macau was feverish with its load of problems, in Hong Kong, billionaire Joseph Lau was splashing big cash, hence making global news around the world. Recall that the Macau Court of First Instance sentenced Lau to a prison term back in March 2014 of five years and three months on grounds of bribery and money laundering in the acquisition as chairman of "Chinese Estates" of a land plot facing Macau International Airport, and a stone's throw from the gambling strip of Cotai, to be developed as a luxury project named La Scala. Lau, who did not attend the trial, appealed the decision...and as Hong Kong and Macau do not have an extradition treaty or anything similar, he is free as long as he does not travel here.

And he does spend lavishly. On November 11th the HK billionaire bought a USD 48.5 million large, rather, huge, blue diamond, known in the trade as The Blue Moon. Indeed, he has been busy this year. Lau, a USD9.8 billion Forbes billionaire, bought a Roy Lichtenstein and Picassos' "Buste de Femme".

In any case, the Macau government invalidated the land concession earlier granted to the developer Moon Ocean, later absorbed by Chinese Estates, while disgraced ex-secretary Ao Man Long was in office. To put an end to the notorious La Scala brief, the Chief Executive hinted that the plot will be used for public housing.

And this is the new way he addresses the big issues worrying civil society: he puts up a solution, like the rental cap, and lets the idea lose momentum in the Legislative Assembly; or he designates a prime plot to be developed into social flats and calmly waits for the outcome. Truly, the panorama of undeveloped plots could be burned elsewhere: in the courts. It is becoming harder by the day to sell the idea that the government is to blame for the idle land concessions. The important thing is that the CE is seen trying to find a solution, in spite of admitting shortcomings and delays of all sorts, rather like spinning a non-apologetic apology.

Chui Sai On has perfected his own way of smoothly handling matters of governance. He concedes to the team of Secretaries the task of introducing false dichotomies, like for example to smoke and not to smoke, and in the end he is the one to sponsor a third option without mentioning the language excesses with respect to science.

Dare to prove scientifically that smoking lounges do not affect third parties in casinos? Discourage the experience...the alternative would be to install an Art Gallery in the space of a smoking lounge.

One final note to alert the MDT readership to the excellent piece fellow columnist Paulo Barbosa wrote about the ongoing revision of the basic laws. I would say the movement is not revisionist tout court but more of an exegesis. Macau is in no better shape than its twin sister in political structure: in China there is a once-in-a-decade generational leadership transition, while in Macau we have the same generation coming from the inside of the leadership (executive) in such way we could say this is always the same government. Or a non-judicial jurisdiction.

**THE BUZZ** PROSECUTORS SAY JEWEL HEIST WAS LARGEST IN BRITISH HISTORY

A prosecutor said yesterday that an Easter weekend break-in to a vault in London's Hatton Garden diamond district was the largest burglary in English legal history, with a haul estimated at 14 million pounds (USD21 million).

Prosecutor Philip Evans said a "very substantial quantity of gold, jewelry, precious stones, cash and other items" were stolen from the basement vault over the holiday weekend.

He said the gang used sophisticated methods and meticulous planning to drill into the wall of the vault before ransacking 73 safe-deposit boxes.

Four men said to be ringleaders have already pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary. Four others are on trial at Woolwich Crown Court accused of involvement in the high-profile theft.

**How to fly free forever: Put USD170 million on your AmEx**



A member of staff at Christie's auction house looks at a painting by Italian artist Amedeo Modigliani entitled "Reclining Nude"

Ken Sweet, New York

**C**HINESE billionaire Liu Yiqian, who doesn't exactly struggle to afford a plane ticket, can now likely fly free, in first class, with his whole family, anywhere in the world, for the rest of his life.

All because he bought a painting.

Liu was the winning bidder for Amedeo Modigliani's "Reclining Nude" at a Christie's auction this month — offering USD170.4 million — and when the sale closes he'll be putting it on his American Express card.

Liu, a high-profile collector of Chinese antiquities and art, has used his AmEx in the past when he's won art auctions. He put a \$36 million tea cup from the Ming Dynasty on his

AmEx last year, according to reports, and put other artifacts on his card this year. He and his wife said they plan on using their American Express card to pay for the Modigliani, according to news reports after the sale.

American Express will not confirm Liu Yiqian's Modigliani purchase, or say if it would be the biggest ever on their cards, citing privacy reasons. But it can be done.

"In theory, it's possible to put a (\$170 million purchase) on an American Express card," said American Express spokeswoman Elizabeth Crosta. "It is based on our relationship with that individual card member and these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, based on our know-

ledge of their spending patterns."

Liu has an American Express Centurion Card, also known as the AmEx "black card," an invitation-only card that is given only to AmEx's biggest spending clients. The card has no official credit limit — and it earns points, just like most of the cards non-billionaires carry around.

Each AmEx card issued in each country accrues points differently. But using a baseline of one point per dollar, what American Express uses for its U.S. Platinum and Centurion Cards, Liu will earn 170,400,000 Membership Reward points for his painting purchase, which doesn't include tax or the fees Christie's charges. He has likely earned tens of millions of points for his earlier fine art buys, like the expensive tea cup.

Liu and his wife, in an interview with The New York Times, said they plan to use the points to allow their family to travel for the rest of their lives.

That shouldn't be a problem, according to Zach Honig, editor-in-chief of the travel rewards site ThePointsGuy.com.

"He's probably reached that goal with that single painting," Honig says. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SAUDI ARABIA** A relative of the Palestinian poet sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia for apostasy says his defense lawyers plan to appeal. Fayadh was arrested in January 2014. Al-Watan reported that he was charged with blasphemy, spreading atheism and having long hair, along with other charges. New York-based Human Rights Watch said yesterday that Fayadh has denied the charges, which stem from a published book of his poetry and from a complaint lodged by a man who accused Fayadh of making blasphemous statements during a heated discussion at a cafe.



**MALI** began a three-day mourning period with flags flying at half-staff yesterday for victims of the assault on a luxury hotel full of foreigners, a day after a dueling claim of responsibility emerged. The Islamic extremist group, Al-Mourabitoun, that first claimed responsibility for Friday's assault issued a new audio recording identifying the two gunmen, according to a Mauritanian news site that often receives messages from Malian extremists.

**KENYA's** president yesterday declared corruption a national security threat and he presented a raft of measures to fight the graft that is endemic in East Africa's largest economy.

**IRAN** Russia's President Vladimir Putin was in Tehran yesterday for talks with Iranian leaders expected to focus on the Syrian crisis and an international peace plan intended to end the conflict. The visit comes as Russia, the US, France and others are talking about possible joint action against the Islamic State group. Putin's trip also comes on the heels of agreement on an incomplete peace plan that calls for talks between Syrian President Bashar Assad and his foes.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Joshua Paul



Baby panda. A three-month-old female giant panda cub is photographed last week at the Giant Panda Conservation Center at the National Zoo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.