



RESIDENTS LOSE MOP4.9M IN ONLINE SCAM

The victims met a woman on a mobile chat application, who lured them in with a falsified story

P2 CRIME



PROFILE: CHOW TAI FOOK'S HEIR

P9



MISSILE TEST SPARKS UN TALKS

The US, Japan and South Korea requested urgent diplomatic talks at the UN over North Korea's latest ballistic missile launch

P11, 12

TUE. 14

Feb 2017

T. 13°/ 20° C
H. 50/ 90%

facebook.com/mdtimes
+ 11,000

MOP 7.50
HKD 9.50



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



TAIWAN Officials and media reports blame a cold spell for the deaths of more than 150 people, most of them elderly and sick, over the past several days. More on p10

AP PHOTO



SOUTH KOREA

Prosecutors again summon Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong for questioning over bribery allegations, less than a month after a Seoul court rejected their request for his arrest. Samsung is suspected of providing tens of millions of dollars in money and favors to President Park Geun-hye and her jailed friend Choi Soon-sil.

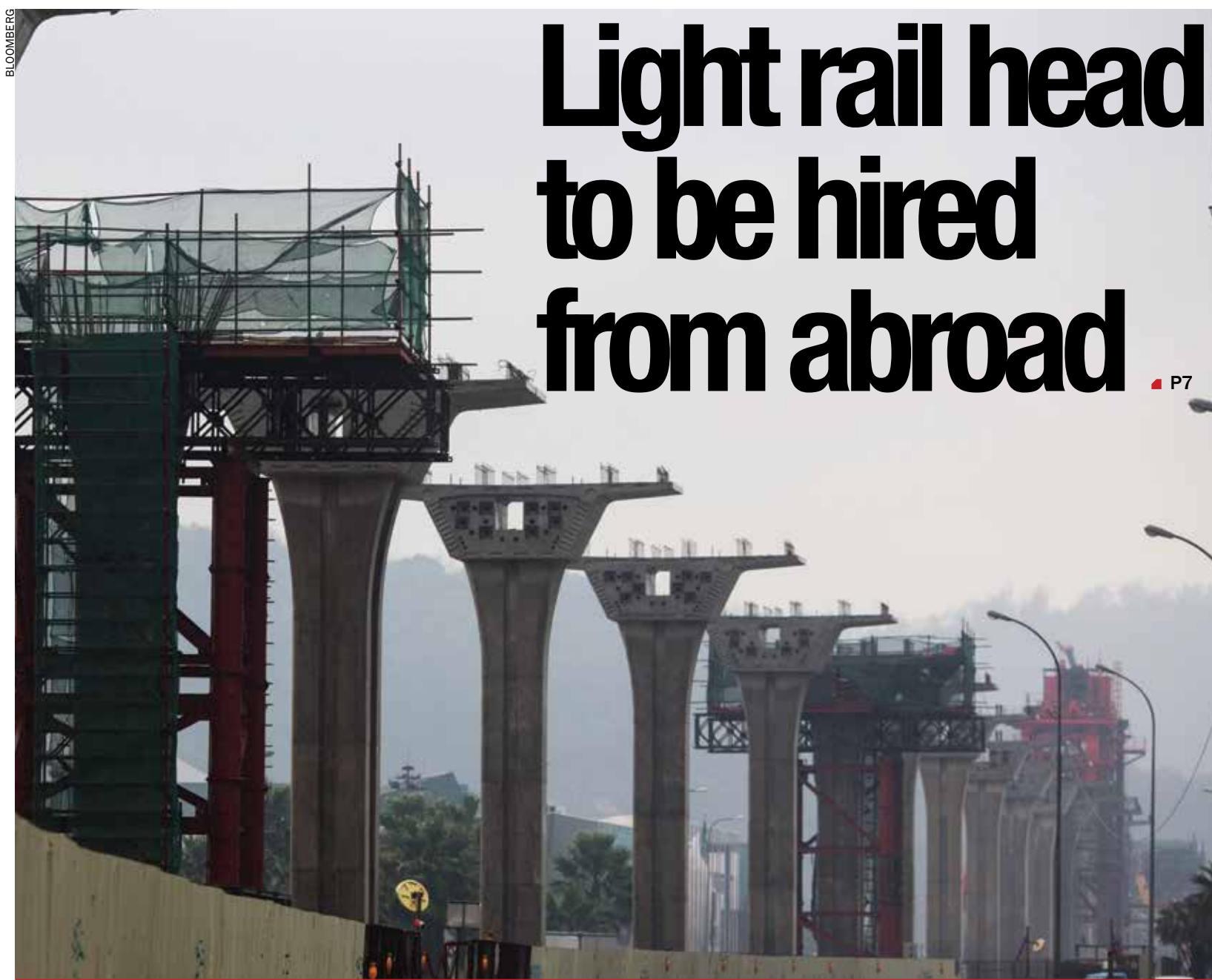
AP PHOTO



JAPAN-US Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he stressed common goals, not differences, during his weekend meetings with U.S. President Donald Trump, whom he called a "good listener." Abe returned yesterday from the meetings in Washington and a round of golf with Trump at one of his courses in Florida.

JAPAN's economy expanded at a steadily slowing pace in 2016, though a modest recovery in exports helped offset sluggish spending by households and businesses.

More on backpage



Light rail head to be hired from abroad

P7



GAMING OPERATORS UNITED

Most casino employees want to keep smoking lounges, UM study claims

P5

CRIME

28 residents lost MOP4.9 million in online scam

Julie Zhu

TWENTY eight residents have lost more than MOP4.9 million in an online scam. In a press conference yesterday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said that the residents had all met a woman on a mobile chat application, who lured them in with a falsified story.

According to the PJ, the events were first reported by one of the victims, who claimed to have met the alleged female suspect after she proclaimed herself to be a manager at a wedding design company.

The suspect claimed she could help people obtain 10 percent discount coupons for hotels located in the NAPE area.

These fake coupons were said to be eligible for use when booking feasts.

One victim gave the woman a total of more than MOP80,000 in two separate installments.

The woman then told the victim that she would settle the banquet payment after the banquet was finished.

Upon hearing this, the victim then booked banquets from one of the hotels the suspect supposedly said she could obtain a discount.

However, after the banquets were finished, the victim could not contact the suspect, having been told by the hotel that no such coupons ever existed.

In the past two days, the PJ received 27 similar complaints. All cases involved money scams with amounts ranging from MOP70,000 to MOP770,000.

According to the PJ, the woman has already left Macau. The PJ further stated that the victims handed over the money to the suspect by cash or cheque.

In a separate case, a mainland woman lost RMB1.2 million after having believed a self-proclaimed VIP room operator and businessman who allegedly worked in the diamond industry, the PJ said yesterday.

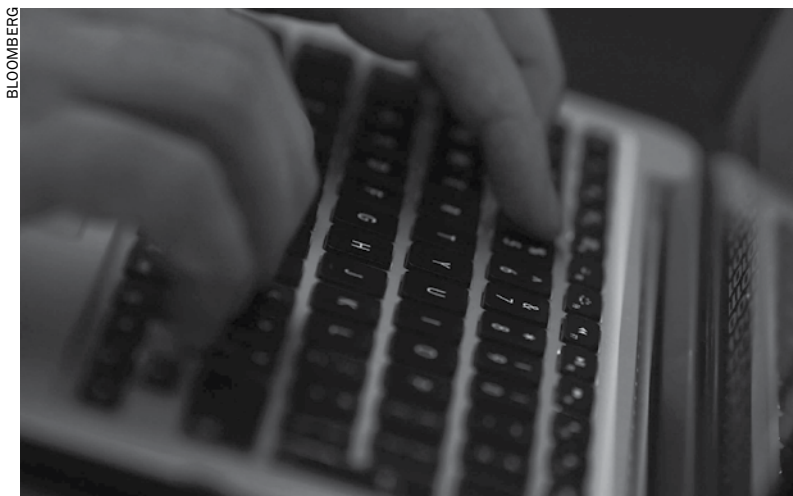
The story dates all the way back to November 2015, when the female victim got to know the man through an online chatting application.

The suspect is a male mainland resident who, in January of this year, met the victim face-to-face in Macau.

Following their meeting, the suspect took the victim to several of Macau's VIP rooms in casinos.

After the visits, the victim was convinced by what the man told her in relation to his business, especially as he paid for all of her food and accommodation expenses.

As a consequence, she became interested in investing in



the suspect's business after he told her that she could double or triple what she invested.

Later in January, the victim gave the suspect RMB800,000 in cash to invest in his diamond business, although no receipt was ever signed by or given to the victim.

A few days later, the victim transferred an additional MOP400,000 to the suspect's bank account.

After the last money transfer, the victim questioned the suspect about the money's usage. At that point, she started to suspect that she might be a victim of fraud.

Victim trusted 'Malaysian police officer'

A male Macau resident has lost around MOP20,000 after trusting a "Malaysian police officer" who might have never existed, Judiciary Police (PJ) told the media yesterday.

On January 27, the victim made contact with a self-proclaimed male resident of the US through an

online chatting application.

On February 1, the "American" told the victim he was coming to Macau on a flight with a layover in Malaysia.

On February 3, the suspect said he had arrived in Malaysia, but had been arrested because he was carrying USD84,000 in

cash.

The victim then received a phone call from a "Malaysian police officer" who told him that he could pay HKD4,800 to help this "American".

The victim did what the "policeman" told him to do, and even kept receiving several calls, also from said "police", telling

him that more money should be delivered in order to process the legal affairs concerning the so-called American.

After settling the last payment on February 5, the victim realized that he might have been victim of a fraud, whereby he decided to report the situation to the police.

Industrial repositioning under debate

THE government has started to debate ideas and exchange views in a push to reposition Macau's industrial sector, following the government's first five-year plan which states the need for a study on the "industrial reconversion and valorization."

To that effect, the Macau Economic Services Bureau (DSE) held several meetings with the Industrial Association of Macau (AIM) to debate the current situation of the development of the local industrial sector, the DSE

advised in a statement.

According to the statement, the DSE also sent a questionnaire seeking the opinion of all companies licensed under the sector, which will help to collect data on the repositioning of Macau's industry.

Opinions were also shared face-to-face last week, when the director of DSE, Tai Kin Ip, visited AIM's president António Chui Yuk Lum and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Fong Son Kin.

According to Tai, the industrial sector is currently facing challenges

such as a lack of human resources and land.

Tai also mentioned that the preamble of the study suggests the reconversion of the traditional industries to high value-added ones, including the pharmaceutical, jewelry and the manufacturing of gaming related and electronic entertainment products.

Chui said he hoped to create a closer link with the DSE to progress with the policies and measures of repositioning in order to benefit the "Made in Macau" brand.

Overseas association to focus on China strategy

THE Association of Returned Overseas Chinese Macau has listed as one of its working strategies the closer connection of Macau to China's One Belt One Road initiative, according to the president of the association, Liu Yiliang, who unveiled the information during an association dinner with local media last Friday.

In 2016, the association invited overseas Chinese leaders

from more than 10 countries and regions to come to Macau, where they discussed the promotion of economy and trade communication and cooperation among overseas Chinese businessmen and enterprises with Macau and Mainland commercial industries.

Moreover, the association organizes forums, seminars, workshops and outbound visits to unify overseas Chinese in contributing to the

aforementioned Chinese strategy.

Last year, more than 50 companies from Indonesia visited Macau to participate in the city's Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair, as remarked by Liu.

The Association of Returned Overseas Chinese Macau was established in June, 1986. It has now become an organization with overseas Chinese members coming from around 60 countries. **JZ**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

+ 4 Million page views
PER MONTH

Thank You!

+11,000 like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



Times

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS: Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitter, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS: Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS: JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES: Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY: Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS: Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Academic hopes to see young people interested in Patuá

Renato Marques

THE University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Associate Professor Alan Baxter will be lecturing for the first Macau Creole Portuguese (Patuá) course opened to the public. In response to a question about the course, which will start on February 22, Baxter told the Times that he is hoping to see more young people involved and interested in Patuá. "I would like to see some young people interested in the language. That would be fantastic!" he said.

According to information from Baxter, the course is to be run under the University's Lifelong Education Program, which currently has approximately 12 enrolled students from various age groups, a number which the academic finds "quite interesting" due to the limited time given to promoting the course, especially as it was during the Chinese New Year season.



Alan Baxter

Baxter clarified the misconception that the course was a Patuá language-learning course, explaining: "It's a course about Patuá, but it's not so much to teach Patuá – although of course, this will happen as a byproduct for certain individuals."

"The idea of putting the course together was actually a good

opportunity of a way to have actual people from the Macanese community involved, participating and contributing with whatever they know according to the experience or contact they've had. At the same time, it gives the opportunity for those interested in the question of the language to participate," the

professor said. He anticipates that people will receive from the course "a deeper knowledge of the social-linguistic aspects of Patuá in the past, its development and bits and pieces of its grammar and its vocabulary."

He added that the course "may lead people actually to want to do more and I think that's a fundamental issue. I would like to see continuity."

Expanding on the idea of continuity, Baxter highlighted the need to have people that "want to do more" as he thinks that "learning more than the language is important to strengthen its position as a part of Macau's social-cultural heritage."

The lecturer acknowledged that he does not have much information on the background of enrolled students, but he did remark on the need to appeal to younger individuals as, "we have seen through other forms that more and more younger people are getting interested in Patuá and I also feel that there is more interest in the language."

Faulty loans soar

New small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) lending approved by Macau banks expanded in the second half of 2016, according to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMM). In the second half of 2016, new SME credit limit approved by local banks totaled MOP13.6 billion, an increase of 36.8 percent from the first half of 2016 but down 34.1 percent from the same period in 2015. The AMM statistics indicate that as of end-December, the outstanding value of total SME loans was MOP69.8 billion, an increase of 3 percent from end-June 2016, or 4.5 percent from a year earlier. The outstanding balance of delinquent SME loans rose by 88.7 percent at the end of December (to MOP578.1 million) when compared with six months before. Compared to a year ago, the balance grew by 57.9 percent.

More bus shifts added to MT4, 3 and 3A lines

From yesterday, the frequency of services along bus routes MT4, 3 and 3A has increased in the morning. The decision was made after a discussion between the Transport Bureau and related bus companies. Due to the increase in services, line MT4 now has four additional shifts from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and one additional shift between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Line 3, which departs from the Border Gate, now has one more shift between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Line 3A has seven more shifts between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.

AD



villa frangipani
CLIFFTOP | LUXURY | LIVING

20,000 square feet of privacy

At Villa Frangipani impeccable service means knowing when you want to enjoy a private moment.

Whether that is in the Private Spa, your suite, the garden bale, or any other area, our Villa Staff anticipate your needs at all times.

Please visit www.privatevillasofbali.com to get an idea of what we offer.

...wish you could stay forever...

PRIVATE VILLAS
OF BALI

VILLA TIRTA KENCANA • VILLA FRANGIPANI

info@privatevillasofbali.com
www.privatevillasofbali.com
skype ID: privatevillasofbali
+62361 8468513

Duterte announces order to combat illegal gambling



Rodrigo Duterte

PHILIPPINE president Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the country's law enforcement agencies to intensify the fight against illegal gambling.

The Executive Order, issued this month, came after the controversial illegal online operations of Macau's gambling tycoon Jack Lam.

Lam, the head of Jimei International, who operates Fontana Leisure Park and Casino in Clark, Pampanga, was supposedly given a gambling license by Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), however he illegally expanded operations in Clark Freeport.

Since the government failed to regulate the industry, Duterte announced in December that he was ordering the closure

of all online gaming operations.

The new executive order requires the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and relevant agencies to combat against prohibited gaming activities across the country.

Media outlet Manila Bulletin explained that the order also imposed certain restrictions on online gaming operations in the economic zones of Cagayan, Aurora and Bataan.

The Executive Order No. 13 includes the restriction of the operation of online gaming operators outside economic zones where they obtained the licenses, and sharing or transfer of such licenses to another party.

"The State condemns the existence of illegal gambling activities as a widespread social menace and source of corruption, as it has become an influential factor in an individual's disregard for the value of dignified work, perseverance and thrift," the order read, as quoted by the media outlet.

Meanwhile the president clarified jurisdiction and authority of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) and other agencies in the regulation and licensing of gambling and online gaming facilities.

Duterte pointed out that confusion on the jurisdiction and scope of authority of gambling operators has contributed to the increasing illegal gaming activities in the Philippines.

The order also stated that an online gambling license shall "not be assigned, shared, leased, transferred, sold or encumbered to any other party." Thus operators that wish to operate outside the government's jurisdiction must apply for a separate license with the appropriate authority.

ARTS

Cultural Centre to present theatrical play



THE Macao Cultural Centre is slated to present "Departures," a two-act drama hitting the stage on April 1 and 2 at the Centre's Small Auditorium.

Exploring two distinct urban experiences, the performance is the final stage of Twin Cities, a cultural exchange project that brought the artists to conceive a new play with the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre (SDAC).

SDAC is one of China's most prestigious theatrical institutions.

Under the auspices of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the performance has Macau as its background. The first piece describes how three sisters struggle to find new paths for their lives after their mother's death.

The second story takes the audience to Shanghai and into the heart of a woman who is returning to her hometown following an 18-year absence, described the IC in a statement.

Aside from the performance, CCM will host a pre-performance talk on April 1 where Tian Shui, SDAC's chief director of the play, will share insights into the cultural exchange's creative process.

Past exchange programmes promoted by CCM included projects such as the monologue series "Embraces," choreographer exchange "Dance to New York," the Korean exchange "Physically Speaking" and the "Denmark Site Specific Exchange" with Kitt Johnson.

The IC noted that these projects are part of a continuous strategy to lead and inspire its artists to pursue a dynamic of interaction with other cultures.

The 100-minute performance, performed in Cantonese and Mandarin, is set to commence on the first weekend of April at the Small Auditorium. Tickets are available at CCM's box office and Macau Ticketing outlets.

AD

KTRANZ

TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Languages
 ENGLISH, CHINESE,
 PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
 KOREAN, SPANISH,
 FRENCH, ARABIC,
 RUSSIAN

Services
 TRANSLATIONS,
 PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
 DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms Amy Yang
 Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
 Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



優悅牙科護理中心
ICQ Oral Health Center

I Care for Quality

ICQ dental team is a group of dental specialists with internationally recognized qualifications. We provide all range of dental services:

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral examination and radiology investigation - Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry - Children Dentistry - Orthodontic Treatment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral and Dental implant Surgery - Endodontic Treatment - Periodontal Treatment - Emergency Treatment |
|---|---|

We are committed to deliver high quality dental services with personalized care. We ensure the highest level of infection control.

Website: www.icqoral.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/icqoral

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT: OFFICE HOUR: 10:00AM-19:00PM
 CLOSE ON SUN, TUE AND PUBLIC HOLIDAY

RM1907, 19/F, AIA Tower, Nos. 251A-301, AVENIDA COMMERCIAL DE MACAU, MACAU SAR
 TEL: (853)28373266 FAX: (853)28356483 EMAIL: info@icqoral.com [WWW.ICQORAL.COM](http://www.icqoral.com)

New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.



Residence Cleaning

Glass Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning

Pest Control



Call : 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

Daniel Beittler

TOBACCO CONTROL BILL | UM STUDY

Gaming operators emphasize majority of employees want to keep smoking lounges

SENIOR representatives of Macau's six gaming operators have jointly presented the findings of a study on employee sentiment toward smoking lounges.

The results of the study, titled "Research Findings on Smoking Lounges in Macau Casinos", were presented during a press conference at the Macau Tower. At the conference, two statistics in particular were repeatedly emphasized by the gaming operators.

Firstly, about 60 percent of those surveyed said that they support solutions which allow smoking lounges, and secondly, close to 90 percent of employees working in gaming areas reported an improvement in air quality in their work environments following anti-smoking measures taken by the concessionaires over the past few years.

A University of Macau (UM) study formed the basis of the findings. Led by Dr. Desmond Lam, an associate professor in hospitality and gaming management at the UM, the research included interviews with over 14,300 employees of the six resort operators working in both gaming (73 percent) and non-gaming areas (27 percent).

When the respondents were asked their opinion on whether smoking areas in casinos should exist, 60 percent of respondents said that they supported solutions that allow smoking lounges.

Respondents were presented with three options, two of which included some form of permissible smoking within integrated resorts.

While 40 percent of respondents opted for a full smoking ban in all parts of integrated resorts, 60 percent opted for either the existence of smoking lounges (47 percent) or for both smoking lounges and VIP smoking areas (13 percent). The third option was described by Lam as "the status quo."

"We asked respondents 'Which of the following proposals do you support the most?', and we gave them three options. The first option is the full smoking ban; the second is to allow smoking in smoking lounges but ban it in all other areas; and the third option is to allow smoking in VIP gaming areas and in smoking lounges, but not in the mass[-market] areas," explained Lam.

"What we found was that 40 percent of our respondents picked option one, against 60 percent that picked the other two options. Forty-seven percent of [the respondents] want to permit smoking in only smoking lounges, while 13 percent would prefer the status quo [the third option]."

For gaming staff, those closest to the harmful effects of passive smoking, the results were

even narrower.

"For the gaming staff, 45 percent said they would prefer a full smoking ban, whereas 55 percent preferred [one of] the two other options, with 44 percent saying they wanted only smoking lounges," said the UM scholar.

It is not inaccurate to say then, that 60 percent were in favor of smoking solutions. However, the inclusion of a third option broadly similar to the second may introduce a degree of misrepresentation. This was a point raised yesterday during the press conference when journalists questioned the independence of a study commissioned by the six gaming operators.

"From my experience with the operators throughout this whole process, they have been professional. So I can only say: trust my judgment, I am bound by my code of conduct. I'm an academic, a scholar, and I'm responsible for my field," answered Lam in response to the speculation.

"My team wants to be independent and [we think] this represents the voices of the respondents," he added. "So the facts are here."

The UM study also highlighted that about 87 percent of employees working in gaming areas had noted that the air quality in their work environ-

ment had improved since casinos started to implement anti-smoking measures.

Employees' current encounters with smoking lounges, which the study found overwhelmingly positive, had formed the basis for the affirmative feedback on proposals

■ **Sixty percent of those surveyed said that they support solutions allowing smoking lounges**

for limited smoking areas in casinos.

Meanwhile, standing as the nominated representative of the six concessionaires, Dr Ambrose So, the chairman of the board of directors for SJM voiced his support for retaining the existing smoking lounges.

"We [the operators] do not find any conflict between tobacco control and the installation of smoking lounges, as both serve the purpose of pro-

viding a smoke-free environment," he said.

"We believe the air quality of casinos could be further improved with the introduction of more advanced specifications and stringent procedures for the smoking lounges," added So, "and we hope that, upon [government] approval, a certain grace period will be granted to us for upgrading the existing smoking lounge facilities."

He said that a plan with detailed specifications of the upgrade was submitted to the government in 2016, but the upgrades were still 12-18 months away from completion.

Yesterday's press conference also featured a speech from Professor Lee Shun Cheng of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, who commented on the results of various indoor air quality tests conducted at 33 casino properties in the MSAR. The findings of a study concluded that all tested areas within the sample met Macau's indoor air quality standards.

A statement issued jointly by the six operators yesterday affirmed their commitment to the government's tobacco control bill, recognizing that "the health and well-being of their [operators'] employees and customers are of paramount importance."

However, they also stand uni-

ted against the implementation of a full smoking ban across all areas of integrated resorts, holding that such a prohibition would damage the development of Macau's gaming sector and hamper its regional competitiveness.

A gaming floor smoking ban came into force in Macau on October 6, 2014. The legislation was followed a few months later by a declaration from Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, who announced his intention to push for a full smoking prohibition within the entire premises of integrated resorts.

A study released in November 2015 by international audit firm KPMG found that the economic impact of a full smoking ban could directly affect many business sectors in Macau tied to the gaming industry. The impact, the KPMG report concluded, could extend to the expenditure of goods and services being diverted outside of Macau along with a reduction in income for employees in the MSAR.

Moreover, the study, which was also commissioned by the six gaming operators, projected that a full smoking ban could lead to a GDP contraction of as much as 16 percent and a drop in total fiscal receipts of 20 percent.



University of Macau scholar Desmond Lam



Innovation
that excites



THE ALL-NEW QASHQAI

HKD278,800

- Bold, athletic and commanding all round
- All-aluminum MR20DD direct-injection engine
- Advanced XTRONIC CVT-M-7
- Adaptive Shift Control (ASC)
- Versatile storage
- Born in Europe
- 5-Star safety



Light rail chief to be hired from abroad



Ng Keng Chung

Renato Marques

A Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) representative acknowledged that at the moment there are no local people with the needed skills to run the Macau Light Rail Rapid Transit (LRT) project. "The model of the LRT is a novelty for Macau and in regards to the implementation of the project, Macau lacks seasoned professionals to manage the LRT project. Consequently we are thinking about hiring someone from outside with experience in operating light rail projects," said GIT's deputy director, Ng Keng Chung yesterday during a press conference held at the Transport Bureau (DSAT).

GIT organized a meeting with local journalists to present the law draft that will serve as a basis for the operations of the future LRT Company which entered public consultation yesterday.

The bill proposes that the LRT be funded by a publicly-owned company. "The government will create a company which is integrally publicly owned to be able to run the LRT. We are not going to include any funding from abroad or from private entities," Ng Keng Chung explained.

According to Ng, the basis of the decision for creating a publicly owned company was the fact that "outsourcing" a private company with the needed experience to run the transport system "could lack in flexibility on the management of the LRT." The government felt that its power to supervise in case of a formal concession "could be compromised," since the company will run autonomously and will be responsible for expenditure and income.

When questioned on the constitution of such a company and when it would be created, Ng did not reply in concrete terms, instead noting that the bill currently under public con-

sultation only defines the guidelines of each party, namely the government and managing company. "For the time being, that's what we are doing. We haven't yet stepped to the creation of the company," he added.

Ng also noted that although it was assumed that no people with the required skills to run the LRT are in Macau at the moment, the government hopes to have local people with capacity to manage the LRT system in a short period of time. Thus, the need to train local staff could be one of the conditions stated clearly in the contract with the management company.

The government will "delegate competences on this company to run the daily operations of the LRT," Ng said, adding that the government will also inspect whether or not the company is fulfilling its duties.

In response to a question on when such a law could be delivered to the Legislative Assem-

bly (AL) to be discussed and approved, Ng said: "We expect that with the collection of these opinions we should be able to perfect and improve this first draft into the final law draft to be presented to the AL. Presumably we expect to finish the writing of this law draft within this year."

As for the document that is now in public consultation for 60 days until April 13, Cheang noted that experiences from the interior of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Portugal inform its main focus to "grant the security of the operations and a good quality of service," establishing the duties and responsibilities of the operating company.

In terms of security, responsibilities for accidents and compensation to passengers over damage caused was targeted in the draft document, which sets a base line of MOP200 million for the indemnity insurance to be hired by the company.

The document also establishes a list of duties, responsibilities and penalties for passengers including the payment of fees from MOP2,000 to 10,000 and, in some cases, an additional penalty between 5 and 15 years of imprisonment for crimes related to security violations, the launching of projectiles against the trains and the stopping of operations, among others.

Also discussed were the operations and constructions in the surroundings of the LRT facilities. Special "protection areas" were created that disallow any works in the air or soil in the surrounding areas of the LRT without prior consent from the authorities, namely the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT).

The consultation plan establishes residents must be able to access the consultation document via an "opinion box", in addition to phone, Internet or post. As Ng said, public clarification sessions are also planned to take place from March.



Association encourages children to cherish food

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau supported the Rotaract Club of Macau in organizing an event which took place last Saturday. The event hoped to raise the public's awareness of food wastage. The event, held at the Jardim de Luís de Camões, targeted children aged between 9 and 12 years. The organizers hope to teach younger generations to acknowledge the value of the world, as well as to learn to cherish food. They have also established a volunteer training application system for eligible children to apply and participate in volunteering training and farming experiences.

DSAT offers free car emission tests

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) is planning to provide a free car emission test service to the public on the first three Saturdays of March. The test will take place in DSAT vehicle examination centers located at Areia Preta and Cotai, which will be available to test cars and motorbikes respectively. A department head from DSAT, Chan Io Fai, said that the free service is a support program under the city's environment protection project. In July, new and tightened regulations regarding car emissions will come into effect. Chan said that DSAT is taking action to support the Environment Protection Bureau.

UM webpage likely to have been hacked

The webpage of the University of Macau (UM) is likely to have been hacked, according to a report by Macau Concealers. The possible incident was reported to the media by UM students on Sunday. On the English version of the registration page, sentences such as "hacked by sa3d hack3d", "long live to peshmarga" could be found once users clicked over a specific option. Several reports show that hacker "sa3d hack3d", has hacked scores of websites across many countries since February.

corporate bits

MGM MACAU LAUNCHES NEW GASTRONOMY CONCEPTS



MGM Macau has added two new concept restaurants to its gastronomic lineup with the opening of North and South. Located at Square Eight, which has undergone a UDS7 million reconceptualization, North and South offer distinct flavors from the northern and southern regions of China.

With contrasting décor and dif-

ferent menus, both aim to entice diners with open kitchens that bring to life fragrances, flavors and authenticity, according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

Diners can also appreciate artwork including creations by local artist Victor Marreiros and calligrapher Mok Wa-Kei, which add color and character to the

walls of each space.

North features cuisine from northern and central China, offering extensive choices ranging from cold appetizers, steamed buns, congees, noodles, pancakes, dumplings and specialty dishes. Along with popular meat dishes, North also offers a selection of live seafood, which may be prepared in a variety of ways.

South specializes in dishes from Hong Kong and Guangdong. The Cantonese café concept restaurant is open 24 hours a day.

With a roasted goose station and a semi-open wok kitchen, diners can watch chefs cook their favorite treats of stir-fried noodles, rice and vegetables.

The menu includes braised dishes such as tender beef brisket, dim sum, congees and hearty soups.

The Longines Masters of Hong Kong culminated on Sunday afternoon with the outstanding victory of Christian Ahlmann on Caribis Z during the Longines Grand Prix in presence of Longines Ambassador of Elegance Aaron Kwok. The Asian stage is the last leg of the series which began in Los Angeles in October 2016 and continued in Paris in December 2016. Longines is the title partner and official timekeeper of this intercontinental event which gathers some of the world's best riders and horses. In addition to presenting the Official Watch of the event, a new model of The Longines Equestrian Collection, Longines also offered the public an historic exhibition in tribute to the 60th anniversary of its Flagship collection.

Christian Ahlmann on Caribis Z won the Longines Grand Prix of the Longines Masters of Hong

LONGINES MASTERS ENDED IN HONG KONG WITH TREMENDOUS FINAL STAGE



Kong on Sunday afternoon. The German rider passed Ludger Beerbaum on Casello and Max Kühner on Cornet Kalua, respectively ranked second and third during this high level-showjumping competition. Longines Ambassador of Elegance Aaron Kwok was present to enjoy the performance of the riders and to present a Longines watch to the winner.

The Longines Grand Prix is the climax of each stage of the Longines Masters from Los Angeles to Hong Kong through Paris. This high-level competition allows riders to compete for the prizes of the series, 2.25 million euros for three consecutive victories in the same season, or 1 million euros for three consecutive victories from one season to the next.

IN 2014, billionaire Jack Ma, founder of online retail giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., declared his ambition to make China's hospitals better, drugs cheaper and people healthier.

Others in China's tech universe were becoming equally bullish on health care, and that year alone, investment in the internet health sector surged about sevenfold to USD1.4 billion. Since then, billionaire Robin Li's search engine Baidu Inc. has built a mobile application for physicians to give online consults, while Tencent Holdings Ltd. has invested in various startups. Ma pushed his plans forward via Alibaba Health Information Technology Ltd., attempting to bring hospital services online and build an internet pharmacy hub.

Three years on, most Chinese technology companies, from bigger players to small startups, are struggling to make money off those ventures. Ali Health's fledgling drug tracking and online pharmacy businesses were crippled by sudden regulatory changes, and its Hong Kong-listed shares are more than 70 percent below their 2015 peak.

Investment in China's digital health industry dropped 10 percent in the last quarter of 2016, extending a 41 percent decline in the previous three months, according to researcher VC Beat. At least 26 startups in the field have shut down, according to ITJuzi, a Beijing-based database tracking internet companies.

China's tech tycoons see their health-care dreams hit by reality



Alibaba Chairman Jack Ma

"A lot of people started realizing in 2016 that many projects were losing money and had no hopes of making any," said Wang Yipei, a former investment manager at Fosun Group's venture capital arm, who now is working at a public hospital in Beijing.

Billionaires like Jack Ma have good reason to see potential in China's health-care sector: Millions are developing chronic conditions like diabetes and cancer as they age, and they are more willing to pay for expensive treatments. Connecting patients, drugstores and doctors via the internet seemed like a lucrative model.

"Today's water, air and food safety, will definitely lead to many diseases facing our families in ten years," Alibaba's Ma said at a forum in 2014 pointing to the opportunities that lay ahead for those who could help provide solutions.

Ali Health had envisioned a future where any Chinese patient could see a renowned doctor on its online consultation platform, take the prescription to its e-pharmacy, and have the drugs delivered through a traceable network all the way to the patient's doorstep.

Instead, regulators last year ended pilot programs that allowed a few e-commerce websites, inclu-

ding Alibaba's Tmall, to sell over-the-counter drugs. Ali Health had planned to draw a service fee from such online sales.

The drug watchdog last year also abruptly scrapped the enforcement of a drug-tracking system it had contracted Ali Health to develop and operate, crippling the company's main revenue stream. Regulators have also shown no signs of permitting online sales of prescription drugs, a move that investors have long hoped for.

Baidu's chairman, Robin Li, told a Shanghai conference in November that a dearth of medical data made it difficult for his company to develop the artificial intelligence algorithms it was working on.

"China's entire health-care database hasn't been brought online," said Unicorn Studio's Liu. "For places that have data, they won't share it with you. Without data, how can you talk about online health care?"

In a statement last week, Baidu said that it will close some of its medical businesses and merge the rest into its AI and search units, narrowing its health ambitions to focus on the medical AI project, which analyzes medical data to assist in web consults. Baidu has

previously sought to compete in overcrowded fields such as online doctors appointments.

China's government, meanwhile, has taken some steps to support the online health-care market to help lessen the burden on its overburdened public system. It has allowed doctors to practice at multiple places and boosted private health insurance with tax breaks.

Despite the challenges, many entrepreneurs are reluctant to give up on online health. In recent months, Ali Health acquired a brick-and-mortar drug-store chain that was also qualified to act as an e-pharmacy. Parent Alibaba said an important source of health revenue will come from online sales of non-prescription drugs, and that more than 3,000 corporations, focused on everything from drugs to nutritional supplements, have signed up on its product tracking platform since June.

"A lot of companies have paid a hefty price and flopped, but that doesn't mean there are no opportunities," said Eric Yu, a Beijing-based director at Matrix Partners. "Work in accordance with policy and help add value to existing service providers, and you'll find plenty of opportunities." **Bloomberg**

AD

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  <p>CASA DE PORTUGAL EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會</p> | <p>Escola de Artes e Ofícios</p> <p>School of Arts and Crafts</p> | | |
| <p>ATELIER LIVRE</p>  | | | |
| <p>OPEN WORKSHOP</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="115 2389 598 2626"> <p>monitor: Cristina Vinhas</p> <p>horário/schedule: de Terça a Sábado from Tuesday to Saturday 11h00 - 13h00 14h30 - 19h30</p> </td> <td data-bbox="598 2389 976 2626"> <p>preço/price: à hora/per hour: 30 MOP sócios/members 70 MOP não sócios/ non members</p> <p>mensalidade/monthly: 500 MOP sócios/members 900 MOP não sócios/non members</p> <p>patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>local/venue: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n.º 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8º andar B, Macau número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants: 10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina). 10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).</p> <p>Horário válido até dia 28 de Fevereiro./Schedule valid until February 28th.</p> <p>morada/address: Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, nº 28, R.A.E. de Macau tel: (853) 28 726 828 fax: (853) 28 726 818</p> <p>www.casadeportugal.org portugal@macau.ctm.net</p> | | <p>monitor: Cristina Vinhas</p> <p>horário/schedule: de Terça a Sábado from Tuesday to Saturday 11h00 - 13h00 14h30 - 19h30</p> | <p>preço/price: à hora/per hour: 30 MOP sócios/members 70 MOP não sócios/ non members</p> <p>mensalidade/monthly: 500 MOP sócios/members 900 MOP não sócios/non members</p> <p>patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau</p> |
| <p>monitor: Cristina Vinhas</p> <p>horário/schedule: de Terça a Sábado from Tuesday to Saturday 11h00 - 13h00 14h30 - 19h30</p> | <p>preço/price: à hora/per hour: 30 MOP sócios/members 70 MOP não sócios/ non members</p> <p>mensalidade/monthly: 500 MOP sócios/members 900 MOP não sócios/non members</p> <p>patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau</p> | | |

Bank of France warns voters on cost of Euro exit

BANK of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau cautioned French voters about the costs of withdrawing from the euro, noting that local interest rates are already rising on concerns about this year's presidential election.

National Front leader Marine Le Pen, who wants to take France out of the single European currency, is on track to place first in the initial round of voting in France's 2017 election, though she is unlikely to win the run-off and attain office, polls show. Even so, with the National Front closer than ever to power, the premium the French government pays to borrow over Germany has increased to its highest level in more than four years.

"The recent increase in French rates - which I believe is temporary - corresponds to a certain worry about the exit from the euro," Villeroy de Galhau said yesterday on France Inter radio.

Le Pen has the support of about 26 percent of the electorate for the first round of



voting in April, compared with 20.5 percent for independent Emmanuel Macron and 17.5 percent for Republican Francois Fillon, according to the latest Ifop daily rolling poll. Both Macron and Fillon would defeat Le Pen in the second round vote, all polls show.

The National Front candidate has been hammering home her message on euro exit. Speaking Sunday she said that the single currency was a political instrument that limits French sovereignty.

"I can't implement my promises of intelligent protectionism and industrial policy with the single currency," Le Pen said. "It's a brake on the economy, it's an obstacle to the recovery. The euro isn't a

currency, it's a political tool."

Villeroy, by contrast, estimates that leaving the euro would increase the cost of debt service for the French government by about 30 billion euros (USD32 billion) a year.

"That might seem a bit abstract to listeners, but 30 billion euros, to be very concrete, is equivalent to France's annual defense budget," he said.

France would also have a harder time defending itself on the global economic stage, he added.

The euro "is an arm in global competition in the uncertain world we live in," he said. "If we were alone, we would be unequipped to face financial market speculation." **Bloomberg**

CHOW TAI FOOK GROUP

With patriarch ill, spotlight turns to Cheng family's next king



Adrian Cheng

Prudence Ho, Daniela Wei

ONE of Hong Kong's four richest dynasties is preparing for a leadership transition that may test the adage that family fortunes don't last beyond three generations.

Adrian Cheng, the Harvard-educated heir apparent of New World Development Co. and Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd., is in focus after his 69-year-old father, Henry, recently went on leave because of an unspecified illness. The companies declined to comment on media reports that the senior Cheng had a stroke.

When the 36-year-old scion ultimately takes over from his father, he will be in charge of a conglomerate that controls one of the city's biggest property developers, runs the Carlyle Hotel in New York City and operates a chain of jewelry stores that generates about 80 percent more revenue than Tiffany & Co. globally. Today, the family controls four listed companies with a total market value of more than USD25 billion, as well as some that are

closely held.

Yet challenges abound for Cheng. If he were to take over now, he would be facing declining margins in the family's main property-development business and slumping demand for high-end jewelry. He'd also face the challenges of retaining decades of connections his elders built up and rebuilding investor trust after past family missteps raised concerns about corporate governance.

"He needs to prove himself," said Joseph P.H. Fan, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong who has researched family-run businesses for two decades. "He doesn't need to be a know-it-all in business operations because the professional teams will do it for him, but he needs to prove he's capable of bringing everyone together."

Despite his youth, the grandson of the late magnate Cheng Yu-tung has been groomed for years and already juggles more than a dozen titles, including vice chairman of New World Development and executive director at Chow Tai Fook.

The Cheng clan isn't alone in preparing for succession, which is increasingly looming large at some of the biggest businesses in Hong Kong, where the landscape is dominated by a handful of tycoons.

That's as those moguls, many of whom were Chinese refugees who fled Japanese invaders in the 1940s, approach retirement age. Henderson Land Development Co.'s billionaire chairman Lee Shau Kee turned 89 last month, an anniversary that Hong Kong's richest man, CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd.'s Li Ka-shing, will hit in July.

As to the Cheng family's next leader, below are some of the biggest challenges he faces:

PROPERTY, JEWELRY DOWNTURNS

Hong Kong may boast the world's most-expensive housing market, but that's not necessarily benefiting New World. Higher land costs are likely to squeeze developers' profit margins, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co. The brokerage estimates projects using land bought last year will probably yield margins of 22 percent

when they are completed, versus returns of 32 percent on real estate bought in 2011.

To cope with the tougher environment in Hong Kong, New World in recent years has been looking to increase its proportion of property in China's first-tier cities by disposing of projects in smaller cities -- a move that Macquarie Group Ltd. analyst Raymond Liu in December applauded as likely to "unlock value."

The family controls four listed companies with a total market value of more than USD25 billion

At Chow Tai Fook, profits have fallen for two and a half years to their lowest levels since 2011 as an anti-corruption drive in China sapped demand for luxury products and as tourism in Hong Kong waned. In December, retail sales in the city dropped for their 22nd straight month, dragged down by a slump in demand for jewelry, watches and valuable gifts.

Though Cheng declined to comment for this story, he said in an interview last year that he would step up Chow Tai Fook's focus on attracting millennials by introducing more fashionable jewelry designs and pushing his brands globally.

"In the next 10 years, Chinese brands, Chinese originality, Chinese creativity will be part of the world's realm," Cheng said in November. "People will be going back and talking about what's cool in China, instead of what's cool in the U.S."

Cheng, who is an art enthu-

siast and has a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, has opened shopping centers merged with galleries and a mall targeting children.

DWINDLING CONNECTIONS

At his grandfather's funeral last year, pallbearers included current and former heads of Hong Kong and Macau, as well as the only two people in the city richer than the deceased: Li Ka-shing and Lee Shau Kee.

The proceeding helped illustrate how connected his grandfather was. For Adrian Cheng to succeed, it will be crucial for him to retain relationships within the family and stakeholders because "Hong Kong has barely known this guy," said Chinese University's Fan. Family firms lose almost 60 percent of their value each time leadership is transferred from one generation to the next, as they fail to pass on intangible assets such as relationships and trust, according to Fan.

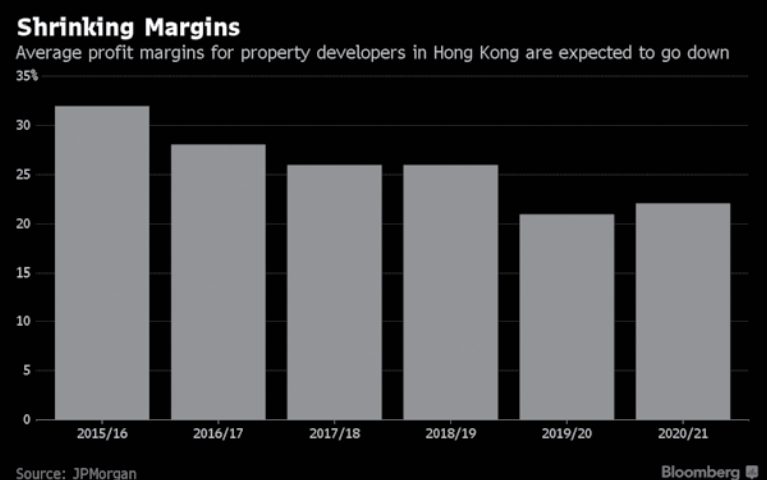
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Shares of the Cheng family's New World Development have, on average, traded at 45 percent of the company's book value in the past five years, the worst performer based on that measure in Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Behind the discount are governance concerns. When Henry Cheng first took over the family business in the late '80s, he kicked off a series of acquisitions, including the purchase of the Ramada hotel chain and Wing On (Holdings) Ltd. That drove up the family empire's debts so high that the founder stepped back in and sold some assets.

Though past stumbles have soured investors' perceptions about the group, the younger Cheng is in a position to reverse those perceptions, according to Raymond Cheng, Hong Kong-based analyst at CIMB Securities Ltd., who isn't related to the family behind New World.

"Even if Henry were to take a long leave, I don't see a problem elevating Adrian's role," the analyst said. "It wouldn't be bad news for him to fully take over." **Bloomberg**



SEVERAL Chinese cities have shut down their poultry markets in the wake of a bird flu outbreak that has killed at least two dozen people this year across China.

Live poultry sales have now been suspended in Changsha, the capital of central China's Hunan province, as well as markets across the eastern province of Zhejiang, the official Xinhua News Agency reported over the weekend, as authorities deal with dozens of new cases of H7N9 bird flu.

Nearly 300 markets and slaughterhouses were shut down in the southwestern Chinese city of Suining, where authorities are also cracking down on unauthorized poultry businesses.

Xinhua reported that 21 people in Jiangsu province died in January after contracting H7N9. Hunan authorities have reported at least five deaths this year, and an infant girl has died in southwestern Yunnan province.

A major H7N9 bird flu outbreak in humans first struck China in March 2013, killing more than 40 people and devastating the poultry industry. H7N9 is considered less virulent than the H5N1 strain, blamed by the World Health Organization for hundreds of deaths worldwide over the last decade.

Most people infected with H7N9 are believed to contract it by touching infected poultry or entering contaminated areas, according to a WHO alert published last month. Experts do not believe the virus can be spread widely between humans, the WHO said.

In Guangzhou, China's third-largest city, more than 30 percent of the live poultry markets were found to be contaminated with H7N9, state media reported Saturday. Authorities in Guangzhou have announced temporary three-day suspensions of the poultry trade to try to contain the virus. **AP**

Several cities close poultry markets amid bird flu fears



TAIWAN

Cold spell linked to over 150 deaths in five days

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWANESE officials and media reports are blaming a cold spell for the deaths of more than 150 people, most of them elderly and sick, over the past several days.

Temperatures fell as low as 6.7 degrees Celsius last Thursday evening along the coast north of the capital, Taipei.

Taiwan's Liberty Times newspaper and United Daily News said the deaths of 154 people since then were likely related to the cold. Reports say below-normal temperatures around much of the island from Thursday night



through Sunday may have triggered deadly heart attacks and strokes as well as the deaths of elderly people with the flu.

Temperatures in Taipei average 16 C in January, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau.

Because of the relatively mild norms, most households in Taiwan lack central heating, another suspected factor in the recent deaths.

Emergency calls in Taipei rose as temperatures fell to their lowest point, said

Wang Yao-chen, emergency relief chief with the city of Taipei. The city's caseload went up more than 40 on Friday and 10 people died, Wang said.

"As for whether there's a connection with the cold, it's quite possible that it made people with heart problems, high blood pressure and diabetes feel more discomfort," Wang said.

Although hospitals and emergency personnel are still evaluating exact causes of deaths reported since Thursday, elderly people without indoor heat were particularly in danger, according to the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control.

"We do predict some increase in the number of cases from severe complications," said the Centers' deputy director, Luo Yi-chun. "We'd like to advise older people to stay warm, especially at night, when the change in temperature is so large." **AP**

Cristiane to move to Chinese club Changchun Zhuoyue in June



BRAZIL forward Cristiane is heading to China, the latest big-name player to move to the country as it tries to increase its profile in world soccer.

Changchun Dazhong Zhuoyue general manager Liu You says the 31-year-old Cristiane will join the northeastern Chinese club from Paris Saint-Germain on June 30. He says terms of the deal are confidential. Chinese media reported

that the club said Cristiane would become the highest paid female soccer player in the world, without disclosing details.

The club, based in the capital of Jilin province, was third in the Chinese Women's Super League last year.

China recently has been spending heavily to bring in international stars in the men's game and build up its soccer infrastructure. **AP**

Beijing calls for restraint on North Korea as UN prepares to meet

CHINA'S foreign ministry opposed North Korea's ballistic missile test and called on all sides to avoid escalating tensions ahead of an emergency United Nations Security Council meeting today (see more on page 12).

"We will take a constructive and responsible part in the relevant discussion," China foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters in Beijing yesterday. "Every party should exercise restraint and jointly safeguard the regional peace and stability."

Earlier in the day, Japan urged China to take action against North Korea after the missile test, the first provocation from Kim Jong Un's regime since U.S. President Donald Trump took office.

Prior to taking office, Trump vowed to stop North Korea from acquiring the capability to strike the U.S. with a ballistic missile carrying a nuclear weapon. In a joint briefing with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Florida after the latest test, Trump said the U.S. stands by Japan "100 percent."

Trump's administration is pushing forward with plans to deploy a missile-defense system known as Thaad in South Korea, a move opposed by China, North Korea's primary ally since they fought together in the 1950s against American-backed forces. Beijing accounts for more than



70 percent of its neighbor's trade, and also provides food and energy aid.

North Korea's ability to put a miniaturized nuclear weapon on a missile has risen after the test on Sunday, Japan's Suga said.

"As a permanent member of the Security Council and chair of the six-party talks, and as a country that accounts for 90 percent of North Korea's trade, China's role is extremely important," Suga said yesterday. "As the government, we'll continue to push Chi-

na for constructive involvement at various levels."

North Korea's nuclear program could be one area for the U.S. and China to find common ground early in Trump's administration, according to policy recommendations released last week from a bipartisan group of 18 China specialists commissioned by Asia Society and the University of California at San Diego. Trump moved to ease tensions last week when he agreed to honor the One-China policy in a call with

President Xi Jinping.

Cooperation on North Korea "would be a significant way to help restore a sense of common cause in U.S.-China relations as the Trump administration gets started," said Susan Shirk, a co-chair of the report who served in the State Department during the Clinton administration. "But even if we get there, and China applies greater pressure on Pyongyang, there is no guarantee that Kim will agree to negotiate away his nuclear and missile pro-

grams."

North Korea fired at least 25 projectiles last year, according to the UN, which bans it from pursuing ballistic missile technology because it could be used to deliver nuclear warheads. Pyongyang also detonated two nuclear devices in 2016.

Kim said on Jan. 1 that his country was in the "last stage" of preparations to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile, leading Trump to write on Twitter, "It won't happen!" Trump didn't give specifics of how he'd stop Kim's missile development.

The UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution in late November that tightened sanctions on North Korea, including cutting the country's coal exports, after the regime conducted its fifth nuclear test in September. Australia, which co-sponsored the resolution, will consider further sanctions, it said in a statement.

North Korea would probably develop its ballistic missile technology enough to pair with its nuclear weapons to reach the U.S. during Trump's tenure, according to Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations. Either the U.S. gets the Chinese to help increase pressure on North Korea through sanctions, or Trump will have "a truly consequential decision," he said on CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS" on Sunday.

"Trump is going to have to face a truly fateful decision about whether we're prepared to live with that, a North Korea that has that capability against us, or we are going to use military force one way or another to destroy their nuclear-missile capability," Haass said. **AP**

Exiled Tibetan leader hopes Trump to support China dialogue

THE prime minister of the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile said yesterday that he has high expectations for President Donald Trump to support dialogue between the Tibetans and Beijing, as Trump's predecessors have.

Lobsang Sangay told foreign journalists in Tokyo that "it matters" what the United States does and says, and that Tibetans should "remain hopeful" that the U.S. can serve as an intermediary.

Previous U.S. administrations have acknowledged the "one China" policy but supported dialogue between the exiled Tibetans and Beijing under the Dalai Lama's "middle way" approach, which



Tibetan government-in-exile Prime Minister Lobsang Sangay speaks during a press conference in Tokyo, yesterday

calls for seeking regional autonomy under Chinese rule.

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

Lama, the Tibetans' spiritual leader, since 2010. The Dalai Lama and his followers have been living in exile in Dharamsala, India, since they fled Tibet after a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese

rule.

China maintains that Tibet has been part of its territory for more than seven centuries, while many Tibetans say they were effectively an independent country for most of that time.

Lobsang Sangay, in Tokyo for meetings with Japanese officials, also urged Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to share his insights about how to establish good relations with Trump. Abe was due back from the U.S. yesterday after holding talks and playing golf with Trump over the weekend.

Abe is the only global leader to have met with Trump twice since he was elected. **AP**

Chinese auto sales weaken in January as sales tax rises



AN industry group says China's auto sales shrank in January as the government increased a sales tax following a cut earlier that helped to shore up demand.

The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said yesterday sales in the world's biggest auto market shrank 1.1 percent in January compared with a year

earlier to 2.2 million. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 0.2 percent to 2.5 million.

China's auto sales rose 15 percent last year after Beijing cut the 10 percent sales tax on small-engine vehicles by half. The government restored part of the reduction in January, raising it from 5 percent to 7.5 percent.

UN Security Council meeting sought over North Korea missile test



A man watches a TV news program showing a photo of North Korea's "Pukguk-song-2" missile launch in Seoul

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

THE United States, Japan and South Korea have requested urgent diplomatic talks at the United Nations yesterday over North Korea's latest ballistic missile launch, with Seoul condemning what it called "serious military and security threats" and predicting more such tests.

A spokesman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations said Sunday night that the meeting is expected to take place Monday. The spokesman spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The U.N. Mission for Ukraine, which holds the rotating Security Council presidency, later confirmed that closed consultations on North Korea will take place today [Macau time].

The banned missile test, which was conducted early Sunday, is seen as an implicit challenge to President Donald Trump, who has vowed a tough line on Pyongyang but has yet to release a strategy for dealing with a country whose nuclear ambitions have bedeviled U.S. leaders for decades.

North Korean state media said leader Kim Jong Un was at the site to observe the launch and expressed pleasure at the North's expansion of its strategic strike capabilities.

"These are serious military and security threats," Jeong Joon-hee, spokesman at the Ministry of Unification, told reporters. "Pyongyang has no intention of backing away from its goal to become a

The banned missile test is seen as an implicit challenge to President Donald Trump, who has vowed a tough line on Pyongyang

country with nuclear weapons."

A report on the launch carried yesterday by the North's Korean Central News Agency said Kim watched from an observation post and gave the order to fire the "Pukguk-song-2," which it said was a "Korean style new type strategic weapon system."

It is believed to have flown about 500 kilometers (310 miles) before splashing down into the ocean in international waters.

The report said the test proved "the reliability and security" of a new mobile launching system, the solid fuel that was used and the guidance and control features of the ballistic missile. Solid fuel can give missiles longer range and make detecting them before launch more difficult because they can be readied faster than liquid fuel missiles.

The report also said the test verified control and guidance capabilities and said the missile can be

"tipped with a nuclear warhead."

It suggested the launch conducted in a "lofted" style, which puts the missile into a high trajectory rather than a lower one that gives it more range, in order take "the security of the neighboring countries into consideration."

It added that Kim "expressed great satisfaction over the possession of another powerful nuclear attack means."

"Now our rocket industry has radically turned into high thrust solid fuel-powered engine from liquid fuel rocket engine and rapidly developed into a development- and creation-oriented industry, not just copying samples," he said. "Thanks to the development of the new strategic weapon system, our People's Army is capable of performing its strategic duties most accurately and rapidly in any space: under waters or on the land."

North Korea had warned it was ready to test its first intercontinental ballistic missile. The U.S. Strategic Command, however, said it detected and tracked what it assessed to be a medium- or intermediate-range missile. The reports of the launch came as Trump was hosting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and just days before the North is to mark the birthday of leader Kim Jong Un's late father, Kim Jong Il.

Appearing with Trump at a news conference at Trump's south Florida estate, Abe condemned the missile launch as "absolutely intolerable." He read a brief statement calling on the North to comply fully with relevant U.N. Security

Council resolutions. He said Trump had assured him of U.S. support and that Trump's presence showed the president's determination and commitment.

Trump followed Abe with even fewer words, saying in part: "I just want everybody to understand and fully know that the United States of America stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent."

Stephen Miller, Trump's chief policy adviser, said Trump and Abe had displayed "an important show of solidarity" between their nations.

"The message we're sending to the world right now is a message of strength and solidarity; we stand with Japan and we stand with our allies in the region to address the North Korean menace," Miller said during an interview Sunday with ABC's "This Week."

China, facing criticism that it is not doing enough to pressure North Korea to drop its nuclear program, said yesterday that the root cause of North Korean missile launches is friction with the United States and South Korea. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China opposed the launch, which violated U.N. Security Council resolutions that call for an end to North Korea's nuclear and missile tests.

The firing of the missile is a major challenge for the Trump administration, said George Lopez, an expert in economic sanctions and nuclear disarmament and a professor emeritus of peace studies at the University of Notre Dame.

"The Sunday test of an interme-

diated-range ballistic missile by the North Korean regime is in clear violation of past United Nations Security Council resolutions and recent warning from the U.S.," Lopez said. "As such, it is a significant challenge to the Trump Administration because it has yet to develop its policies toward the region, toward North Korea, or its role in the UN and its use of economic sanctions. So we may learn a lot about Mr. Trump's crisis diplomacy in the coming days."

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missile was fired from around Banghyon, North Pyongan Province, which is where South Korean officials have said the North test-launched its powerful mid-range Musudan missile on Oct. 15 and 20.

The missile splashed down into the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, according to the U.S. Strategic Command. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters it did not hit Japanese territorial seas.

The North conducted two nuclear tests and a slew of rocket launches last year in continued efforts to expand its nuclear weapons and missile programs. Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's address that the country had reached the final stages of readiness to test an ICBM, which would be a major step forward in its efforts to build a credible nuclear threat to the United States.

Though Pyongyang has been relatively quiet about the transfer of power to the Trump administration, its state media has repeatedly called for Washington to abandon its "hostile policy" and vowed to continue its nuclear and missile development programs until the U.S. changes its diplomatic approach.

Just days ago, it also reaffirmed its plan to conduct more space launches, which it staunchly defends but which have been criticized because they involve dual-use technology that can be transferred to improve missiles.

"Our country has clearly expressed its standpoint, that we will continue to build up our capacity for self-defense, with nuclear forces and a pre-emptive strike capability as the main points, as long as our enemies continue sanctions to suppress us," Pyongyang student Kim Guk Bom said Sunday. "We will defend the peace and security of our country at any cost, with our own effort, and we will contribute to global peace and stability."

South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, who is also the acting president, said his country would punish North Korea for the missile launch. The Foreign Ministry said South Korea would continue to work with allies, including the United States, Japan and the European Union, to ensure a thorough implementation of sanctions against the North and make the country realize that it will "never be able to survive" without discarding all of its nuclear and missile programs. **AP**

Kathy Gannon, Peshawar

IN a scathing indictment of Pakistan's treatment of Afghan refugees, a human rights group charged yesterday that the country is forcing hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees back to their homeland, which is still beset by war and crushing poverty. It also said that a USD400 stipend the United Nations refugee agency gives to refugees who return to Afghanistan is tantamount to a bribe to convince reluctant Afghans to leave Pakistan.

"The exodus amounts to the world's largest unlawful mass forced return of refugees in recent times," the Human Rights Watch report says.

Both the U.N. and Pakistan denied the allegations. In an interview, Indrika Ratwatte, Pakistan's country representative for the U.N. refugee agency, said there was police harassment and arrests of Afghan refugees in mid-2016, particularly in the border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it was ended and refugees who returned, went home voluntarily.

"There were incidences of pressure and harassment especially in KP but they were addressed," said Ratwatte. "But does it amount to forced return. No. it doesn't."

Still, the report was harsh in its criticism of the U.N. agency for not condemning what it insisted is Pakistan's forced return of the refugees.

Meanwhile, Pakistan cited security concerns for seeking Afghan refugees' return to their homeland, particularly after several brutal attacks by militants in Pakistan's northwest, which the government linked to insurgents hiding out in neighboring Afghanistan. The worst attack was in December 2014 against an army public school in which 150 people were killed, most of them children.

At its peak in the 1980s Pakistan sheltered an estimated 5 million Afghan refugees as Afghan guerrilla fighters battled invading Russian troops aided

Rights group says Pakistan forcing Afghan refugees home



Afghan refugee families wait for their turn to be registered, outside the government registration office in Peshawar

by the United States and other western countries. Today there are still 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, says Ratwatte, some of them for 37 years. Pakistan currently hosts the world's largest protracted refugee population, he said. There are hundreds of thousands of unregistered Afghan refugees living in the country as well.

Attacking the U.N. refugee agency's \$400 stipend to returning refugees, Gerry Simpson, one of the authors of the HRW report told The Associated Press in an email interview: "What is now needed is not more money to incentivize return to harm, but more money to help Pakistan protect Afghan refugees in Pakistan."

Yet last year, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani told re-

fugees in Pakistan to come home, promising them shelter and opportunities. About 380,000 registered Afghan refugees returned to their homeland along with an estimated 250,000 unregistered refugees who were living in Pakistan without legal documents, Ratwatte said.

Tens of thousands of returning refugees were settled in a makeshift camp on a barren piece of land in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, which Afghan elders in Pakistan described as desolate and dangerous.

"They want us to come back to the desert?" asked Amanullah Nusrat, principal of a school for Afghan refugee children in Peshawar, not far from the border with Afghanistan. "The Afghan gover-

nement is asking refugees to come back but how? There is no shelter, no water, no security."

Nusrat's school, Hazrat Maryam School, is a grimy white single story cement building where about 500 Afghan refugee children sit on the floor in crowded classrooms. Before last year's exodus there were 800 students, said Nusrat. The others returned to Afghanistan, pushed out by the Pakistan authorities, he said.

Afghan refugees are hostage to the fluctuating relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan and a sharp deterioration in their relationship last year caused Pakistan to launch a heavy handed push for refugees to return to Afghanistan, said Nusrat sitting in the school's courtyard sur-

rounded by half a dozen tribal elders.

Most of Nusrat's students were from Afghan provinces that border Pakistan. Some students had never seen their homeland, and others had returned with their families only to move back to Pakistan because the security made it impossible to stay, they said.

Zarina, who gave only one name, is a teacher who is originally from Kabul. She said that despite the Taliban's ouster nearly 15 years ago, it is still dangerous for women, citing a rise in domestic violence in her homeland. She also lamented the increasing presence of the Taliban and the emergence of new militant groups in Afghanistan such as the Islamic State group affiliate, headquartered in eastern Nangarhar province.

"Whenever one group ends fighting, then another group comes up," she said.

Waqar Maroof Khan, the Pakistan government's point man on refugees, said the refugees who returned did so voluntarily. Pakistan has also extended the deadline for refugees to return to Dec. 31, 2017. But Human Rights Watch said it should be extended to the end of 2019.

"We want them to go back in dignity and honor," he said.

Yet Fazle Mulla Tarakai, an Afghan elder originally from Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province, said last year Pakistan used loudspeakers on mosques in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to tell refugees to go home and to warn Pakistanis that anyone found helping the refugees would be fined.

"In some areas police entered forcibly and refugees left without anything," said Tarakai. **AP**

Malaysian ship with aid for Rohingya arriving in Bangladesh



Myanmar protesters hold banners outside Thilawa port where a Malaysian ship arrived in Yangon last week

A Malaysian aid ship was heading to a Bangladeshi port yesterday bringing relief goods for some of the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who've fled Myanmar.

Shaheenul Islam, the military's public relations spokesman, said the ship anchored near Sonadia island off the coastal district

of Cox's Bazar then had to be sent to Chittagong because the island had no unloading jetty facilities.

"There has been a change after the ship anchored near Cox's Bazar town. Now it is heading back to Chittagong seaport where the port authorities will arrange everything," Islam said. "This is purely an issue of how the

goods would be unloaded, no other issues are involved."

"There will be an official handing over ceremony tomorrow morning and then the goods will be sent to Teknaf," he said.

Ali Hossain, chief government administrator in Cox's Bazar, said they had received a list of goods to be unloaded from the ship, but the plan was changed as Malaysian authorities wanted better handling infrastructure.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya are camping in

Teknaf officially and in unregistered camps.

The ship is carrying around 2,300 tons of food, medicine and other supplies.

Rohingya Muslims have long faced discrimination in majority-Buddhist Myanmar.

More than 300,000 have been living in Bangladesh for decades, while about 66,000 more have crossed the border since October amid renewed persecution and targeted attacks by soldiers and majority Buddhists in Myanmar's Rakhine state. **AP**

TRUMP'S AMERICA

Rural voters await economic recovery

Claire Galofaro,
Prairie Du Chien (Wis.)

WHY did so many working-class Americans switch their presidential votes from Democrat to Republican and pin their hopes on Donald Trump? It's this simple: They hope he can make their lives better.

Trump even won Wisconsin, a state once considered so reliably Democratic that Hillary Clinton didn't even make campaign stops there after she became her party's nominee.

Some 50 counties stretching 300 miles through the Midwestern states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois broke with tradition to choose Trump. That includes Crawford County, Wisconsin, which cast the majority of its votes for a Republican president for the first time in 30 years.

The list of grievances these supporters want Trump to remedy is long and exacting, including stagnant wages and soaring health care costs. But they also harbor a hard-to-define feeling that things haven't improved, at least not for people like them.

If they don't see positive changes, Trump may struggle to hold onto their support.

Here are the voices of some of the voters in rural Crawford County who helped alter America's course.

Lydia Holt tugs 13 envelopes

from a cabinet above the stove, each one labeled with a different debt: the house payment, the student loans, the vacuum cleaner she bought on credit.

Holt and her husband tuck money into these envelopes with each paycheck to whittle away at what they owe. They both earn about USD10 an hour — she is a lawyer's assistant, he works at an auto parts store. With two kids, there are usually some envelopes they just can't fill. At this rate, they'll be paying these same bills for 87 years.

In 2012, Holt voted for Barack Obama because he promised change, but she feels it never arrived. So last year, she chose a billionaire businessman who vowed to help Americans like her win again.

"I'm hoping that our country starts to be run like a business, that's my main thing," she says. "I'm tired of personally living in debt. I'm tired of our country being in debt."

She is enthusiastic that Trump started quickly doing some of the things he said he would, because she worries that by the time her sons grow up there will be nothing left for them.

Robbo Coleman leans over the bar he tends and holds up an ink pen, wrapped in plastic stamped "Made in China."

"I don't see why we can't make pens in Prairie du Chien or in Louisville, Kentucky, or in Alabama or wherever," says Coleman. "Trump brought something to the table that I haven't

heard or seen before. And if it doesn't turn out, then, hey, at least we tried."

Coleman doesn't love Trump's moves to build a wall or ban certain immigrants. All Americans descended from immigrants, he says, including his own relatives who migrated from Germany. But he's frustrated that other politicians stopped listening to working people like him.

"We've got to give him some time," he says of Trump. "He's not Houdini."

Marlene Kramer gets to work before the sun comes up and spends her days sitting at a sewing machine, stitching sports uniforms for \$10.50 an hour.

Kramer, who voted twice for Obama, used to watch Trump on the "Celebrity Apprentice" television show. "I said to myself, 'Ugh, I can't stand him.'"

When he announced his candidacy, she thought it was a joke. "Then my husband said to me, 'Just think, everything he touches seems to turn to money.'" And she changed her mind.

Kramer is looking to Trump to make health insurance less expensive. She said she's glad that Obama's health care law helped millions get insurance, but it didn't help her. Facing premiums over \$1,000 a month, the Kramers chose to pay the penalty of \$2,000 to opt out of having insurance.

Now she's hoping she and her husband don't get sick before Trump replaces the law, ho-



A cardboard cutout of President Donald Trump sits in a window as pedestrians notice it from below in McGregor, Iowa

pefully with something better. "We needed to go in another direction," she says.

Bernard Moravits hoses mud and cow dung off his boots, and then drives into town to talk to a banker about keeping his farm afloat. The price of milk and agricultural goods has plummeted, and it's hard to keep things running.

Change is what he looked to Obama for and now expects from Trump. Moravits wants the president to reduce red tape and renegotiate trade deals to benefit American farmers.

"I think he's a shrewd businessman," he says. "He's been broke several times. He keeps

bouncing back, and he knows how big business works."

Moravits has several choice words for Trump's move to build his "stupid" wall on the Mexico border. The farmer employs Hispanic workers whom he trusts to do a dirty, difficult job that he says white people aren't willing to do.

Moravits isn't sure Trump is going to "Make America Great Again" for farmers. But he feels he had to take the gamble.

"He might have us in a war in two weeks," he says. "We'll come back here in six months, drink a 30-pack of Busch Light and talk, because no one knows now what's gonna happen. **AP**

CANADA-US

Pro-refugee Trudeau set to bite his tongue on visit to Washington



Justin Trudeau PM, Canada

MORE than two decades ago, with Donald Trump already atop a real-estate empire, a young

Justin Trudeau set out to explore the world.

He toured Europe and Africa with friends, hiding

their beer from customs agents before boarding the Trans-Siberian railway to China. On the train, he sketched, read "War and Peace" and gazed at the remnants of the Soviet Union. It was a defining trip, he'd later write, that left him praising both diversity and compromise.

Both values will be tested today. The now-45-year-old Canadian prime minister - hailed by Joe Biden as one of the last champions of liberalism - heads to Washington for his first meeting with Trump, 70, whose bellicose statements and immigration restrictions re-

veal a deep gulf between the two leaders. They will meet privately at the Oval Office, attend a roundtable with women executives and a hold a joint press conference at 2 p.m.

But U.S. liberals hoping for Trudeau to emerge as Trump's foil shouldn't hold their breath. He's already bit his tongue and focused almost exclusively on an economic relationship that accounts for three-quarters of Canada's exports. The White House visit will test just how far Trudeau can go to woo the president and preserve trade without selling out his core values.

"We both got elected on commitments to strengthen the middle class, and support those working hard to join it," Trudeau said last week. "And that's exactly what we're going to be focused on."

He has little choice. Nearly two-thirds of all Canadian trade is with the U.S., the highest ratio of Group of 20 nations and quadruple all but Mexico. Almost all of Canada's oil goes to the U.S. and most of the country's manufacturing is geared toward meeting U.S. demand. Americans hold CAD2.3 trillion (USD1.8 trillion) in Canadian assets, almost exactly the same amount held by Canadians in the U.S.

A Deutsche Bank AG report this month that looked at the potential impact of Trump policies on all the U.S.'s major partners found Canada would be among the hardest hit, forcing the

country to cede about \$70 billion in trade to the U.S.

Till now, Trudeau's strategy has been to avoid becoming what his ambassador to the U.S. called "collateral damage" in a trade war they consider to be largely aimed at Mexico.

Three senior emissaries - Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan - laid the groundwork for Trudeau's visit with their own trips last week to preach Canadian trade. Freeland has coined the lawmaker-by-lawmaker approach "granular diplomacy" and the trio, along with two other ministers, will join Trudeau at the White House to hammer home their message.

Trudeau and his team will also meet House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in the afternoon. **Bloomberg**



HAPPY HOUR

EVERYDAY 11PM-2AM

DRINKS BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

飲品買1送1

D2 CLUB
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edif. New Orleans 111
澳門新奧爾良大廈 澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良 111
Tel: (853) 2872 3777



C&C LAWYERS
C&C 律師事務所

合伙人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha • 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues • 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata • 趙魯 Zhao Lu ••

聯營律師 ASSOCIATES:

馬傑安 João N. Marques
高文軒 Adelino Correia
羅碧齡 Zelina Rodrigues
馬德龍 Nuno L. Martins
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha
杜慧盈 Rita Andorinho
馬潔冰 Maria J. Marques
陶義德 António I. Azeredo

白賴怡 Iclia Berenguel
沈玲鳳 Mariana A. Esteves
蘇明恩 Maria A. Giestas
黃嘉華 Carlos S. Ferreira
黃保毅 Wong Pou Ngai, Karen
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
蕭桃 Luo Tao, Elina
巴基雅 Vera Bastos
曹樂晴 Cao Lemeng, Rui

吳永誠 Rui Velez de Moura

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

楊越華 leong Ut Wa
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
王洋玲 Emma Wong
陳祖恩 Joana Chan
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan

• 私人公證員 Notary Public • 中國委託公證人, China Appointed Attesting Officer

www.ccadvog.com
TEL: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623



Help, please save me! Thermomix will save you!



Save Money

Save on your grocery bills by swapping expensive pre-packaged items for 'whole' foods and pantry staples. Plus, Thermomix has an advanced heating system that cooks with minimized energy consumption, so you can enjoy savings on your household bills!

Save Time

Thermomix gives you more time to enjoy life! Thermomix reduces preparation time by finely chopping ingredients in seconds. Its versatility means that while Thermomix gently cooks and stirs your food, you're left free for other things.

Save Space

Less is more. Thermomix brings together 12 different functions in one compact unit. The ergonomic design means anyone can master it, from young children just starting out to experienced cooks. With Thermomix you won't only taste the difference, you'll feel it too. Please contact us for a free demo:

**"Final Clear Out Stroke special price for the Thermomix.
The original price is HKD 12,800 and now only HKD 8,000.
This is the last and best chance for you to have your Thermomix."**

Tong Jia de Ramirez
Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.

what's ON

VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Dom Pedro V Theatre Lobby

ADMISSION: MOP40

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

CONCERT

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

LANGUAGE: Mandarin

ENQUIRIES: (853) (853) 2856 8832

TRANSCIENCE: DAREDEVILS AND TOWERING WEBS

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2017

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space, 10 Rua dos

Clerigos, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

EXHIBITION ON CHINESE PAINTINGS OF BEIJING SCENERY

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 19, 2017

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

MUSEUM ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE STAMP FESTIVAL

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5:00 pm), closed on public holidays

UNTIL: April 7, 2017

VENUE: Communication Museum of Macau / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

LOCAL GINGER – CENOZOIC GRAFFITI ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: February 20, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery in the Anim'Arte NAM VAN

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

MUSEUM ENDS SHIA LABEOUF PROJECT, CITING SAFETY CONCERNS



The Museum of the Moving Image announced last week it has closed a performance art project involving Shia LaBeouf, citing "serious public safety hazards."

The project involved the actor and others chanting "He will not divide us" in front of a camera outside the museum since Donald Trump's first day as president three weeks ago. It was scheduled to last for four years.

The public was invited by LaBeouf and two collaborators to participate and the performances were live streamed around the clock.

But the museum said in a statement that the installation had become "a flashpoint for violence and was disrupted from its original intent." Museum officials added that they were proud the museum had launched the "engaging and thought-provoking digital art installation."

Last month, LaBeouf was arrested after an altercation. And a 21-year-old was arrested last week on assault charges after a participant said the man threw eggs on him and ran.

Police officers were assigned to the location 24 hours a day and, at one point, police filed a report after threats were made through the city's 311 non-emergency line that people were going to be shot.

TV canal macau



| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:50 | RTPi Live |
| 17:10 | Criminal Minds S.8 |
| 18:40 | TDM Sport (Repeated) |
| 19:40 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Interview |
| 21:40 | Once Upon A Time S2 |
| 22:20 | Precious Pearl |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live |
| 03:45 | Champions League: Benfica - Borussia Dortmund (Live) |

cinema



CINETEATRO

14 FEB

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Paul W. S. Anderson

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose

Language: English

Duration: 103min

LOVE CONTRACTUALLY

ROOM 1

7:30pm

Director: Liu Guonan

Starring: Sammi Cheng, Joseph Chang

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 98min

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Chad Stahelski

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Ruby Rose

Language: English (Chinese)



LA LA LAND

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Chris McKay

Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 104min

H2 HZ, I LOVE YOU

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Wei Te-Sheng

Starring: Van Fan, Chic Tanaka, Min-Hsiung

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese & English)

Duration: 104min

MACAU TOWER

28 JAN - 15 FEB

JOURNEY TO THE WEST: THE DEMONS STRIKE BACK

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

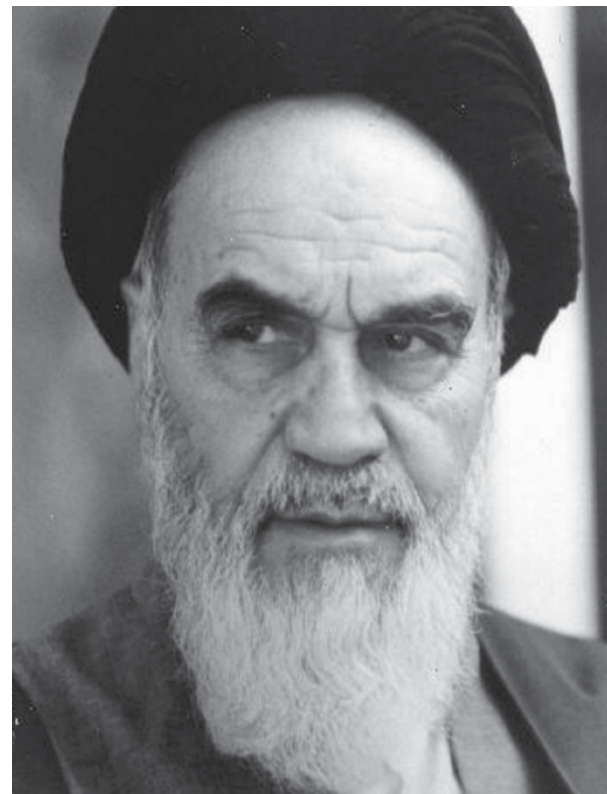
Director: Hark Tsui

Starring: Bei-Er Bao, Mengke Bateer, Kenny Lin

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 109min

this day in history



1989 AYATOLLAH SENTENCES AUTHOR TO DEATH

Iranian Muslim leader Ayatollah Khomeini has issued a death threat against British author Salman Rushdie and his publishers over the book *Satanic Verses*.

Scotland Yard is providing the author with specialist protection and advice and all 11,000 staff at publishers Viking have received internal memos about the potential danger.

Security has been increased at offices, bookshops and distribution depots.

Mr Rushdie's editorial director has said a promotional tour of America may have to be cancelled.

The Ayatollah - as Imam, or chief spiritual guide, of Shia Muslims across the world - broadcast a fatwa (edict) on Tehran Radio to eliminate the writer and declared the rest of the day should be one of mourning.

His message said: "I inform the proud Muslim people of the world that the author of the *Satanic Verses* book, which is against Islam, the Prophet and the Koran, and all those involved in its publication who are aware of its content are sentenced to death."

Mr Rushdie, 42, responded hours later. "I am very sad it should have happened," he said. "It is not true this book is a blasphemy against Islam."

"I doubt very much Khomeini or anyone else in Iran has read this book or anything more than selected extracts taken out of context."

He explained the *Satanic Verses* attempts to investigate conflicts between religious and secular viewpoints.

Published last September, the *Satanic Verses* has sold 100,000 hardback copies in the UK and US and was runner up for the Booker and Whitbread literary awards.

Already banned in five countries, the first demonstrations against the book took place in Bradford, West Yorkshire, where a copy was publicly burned.

Politicians in Westminster have expressed outrage at the threat and have called on the government to complain formally to Iran.

The Iranian Prime Minister Hussain Mousavi has sanctioned Hezbollah groups to "take the necessary action" against the author.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Protests against the *Satanic Verses* took place across the world and several individuals were assaulted in connection with it. Salman Rushdie spent the next nine years living in 30 secret locations across the UK.

He denied reports that police protection cost up to £11m a year.

In September 1998, the new Iranian President Mohammed Khatami publicly declared the state would not support the fatwa.

Mr Rushdie was able to make more public appearances, including a cameo in the film *Bridget Jones' Diary*.

However Islamic hardliners continue to uphold the death sentence and one Iranian foundation has put a USD2.8m bounty on the author's life. Technically a fatwa cannot be revoked and only dies with the person it is directed against.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You have a calling, and signs are emerging around you that reinforce that fact. People are giving you feedback that is genuine –they're not just praising you for the heck of it!

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Why are you being so modest? As today moves forward, it's essential for you to reach down inside and wake up your snoozing ego - you have some ideas that people should know about.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

No one has better instincts than you, as you will so handily prove today when you whip off the mask of someone who's all talk and no action - be generous when you reveal their true identity.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You have so many wonderful things in your life already, so avoid taking on any more responsibilities today - many of the opportunities being dangled in front of you are not doable.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Few things feel as good as a renewed sense of confidence, and you're enjoying a strong energy in that area today. Things are picking up in your romantic life.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

A quick note or phone call (full of your usual charm, of course) should calm any stormy waters and lay the groundwork for future commitments - that could lead to an infusion of cash your bank account.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Let your mood guide you. If you want to make some headway on a side project, this is the perfect opportunity. Or, if you just want to vegetate with your favorite mindless TV for a while, feel guilt-free!

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The sun is shining just a bit more brightly today and your heart is just a bit lighter. Do you feel the tide turning? Hope is a powerful thing, and you've been able to hold on to enough of it to make a real difference.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your relationships are going through a shift right now - you will find yourself drawn to certain people more than others. This is natural, so don't feel guilty if you suddenly want to spend more time with a new person.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

While you're in editing mode, look for areas in your life where you can trim back - and not just monetarily. Spread out your attentions and make an effort to catch up with someone outside of your main circle of friends.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You've been doing a wonderful job of walking the line between helping people find their own answers and telling them what the answers are. Everyone must arrive at conclusions on their own schedule.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Despite what the calendar says, you've still got plenty of time to reach the goal you've given yourself. Do not give up just because you think you won't make it! Most of what you need to do is already done.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

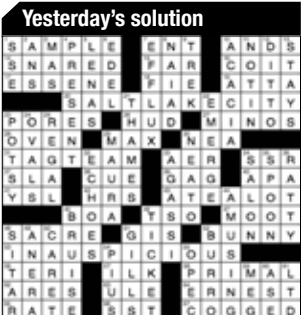
Hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 | | 6 | | | 5 | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | 7 | 6 |
| | | | | 7 | 1 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 1 | | 3 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 8 | 6 | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Not now; 5- Maker of Pong; 10- Gift tag word; 14- Portrayal by an actor; 15- Miscalculation; 16- The ___ Ranger rode a horse called Silver; 17- Dies ___; 18- Mrs. Gorbachev; 19- Olive genus; 20- White-headed raptor; 22- Not hollow; 23- Must've been something ___; 24- Dirty Harry's org.; 26- "The X-Files" extras; 29- Give up; 31- Westerns; 35- Chart; 37- Woe ___; 39- To Live and Die ___; 40- Title bestowed upon the wife of a raja; 41- Foundation; 42- Shootout; 43- First place?; 44- Till stack; 45- Curt; 46- Mother of Calcutta; 48- Final Four org.; 50- Pothook shape; 51- Env. notation; 53- Grasp; 55- Rough files; 58- Person who promotes disorder; 63- Over-50 org.; 64- Laughing; 65- On the main; 66- Russian range; 67- "Fear of Flying" author Jong; 68- Borscht ingredient; 69- ___-majestÃ©; 70- Division of the United Kingdom; 71- Able was ____;

DOWN: 1- Chicago paper, for short; 2- Israeli dance; 3- Airline to Ben-Gurion; 4- ___ say more?; 5- Add fizz; 6- Writer of tragedy; 7- Nutmeg coat; 8- Thorny flowers; 9- Tax-deferred nest egg; 10- Rising ocean water; 11- Drum sound; 12- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 13- Anthropologist Margaret; 21- "From ___ accordin g to his abilitiesâ€"; 22- Hot tub; 25- Adversaries; 26- Marsh bird; 27- Commerce; 28- More rational; 30- City on the Ruhr; 32- Accustom; 33- Like non-oyster months; 34- Shops want to achieve high ones!; 36- Tropical fruit; 38- Mishap; 41- Gravy ___; 45- After-bath powder; 47- Ave. crossers; 49- Main arteries; 52- Monetary unit of Nigeria; 54- Abu ___; 55- Actor Julia; 56- River in central Switzerland; 57- Ladies of Spain: Abbr.; 59- Metal fastener; 60- Aha!; 61- Fortuneteller; 62- London gallery; 64- Remote button;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

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

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



FOR SALE

www.JMLProperty.com

FOR RENT

More info, please contact us
Info@JMLproperty.Com
(853) 2835 2699 Office

Nova Taipa Tower 29
Car Park, Taipa
0 sq ft / HKD 1.3M
HKD 0sq ft
No M260. Close to Lift
Ref: 16105502

Taipa Warehouse, Pac On
Taipa
1,652 sq ft / HKD 6.99M
HKD 4,231 sq ft
Storage Space & Cargo Lifts
Ref: 16095501

Nova City Penthouse
Taipa
1,984 sq ft / HKD 15.54M
HKD 7,832sq ft
European Style
Ref: 16105508

Nam Long (J Unit)
Old Taipa
750 sq ft / HKD 4.3M
HKD 5,733sq ft
Stylishly Furnished Throughout
Ref: 16095499

Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's
Macau
1 Bedroom Apartment
Well equipped kitchen
HKD 9,500 / 627 sq ft
Ref: 16090610

Hellene Gardens, Lot 4,
D Unit, Coloane
3 Bedroom Apartment
Car Park Included
HKD 12,800 / 1,663 sq ft
Ref: 16100623

Manhattan - B unit
Taipa
3 Bedroom Apartment
Spacious and Furnished
HKD 22,000 / 1,680 sq ft
Ref: 16120630

House, Hac Sa Beach
Coloane
House with Open Views
Terrace Overlooking Mountains
HKD 60,000 / 6,000 sq ft
Ref: 17010632



WARNING! Advertising with Macau Daily Times may be highly addictive.



52,872,473 page views in 2016

160,000 in 24 hours



+ 11,000 likes



www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

facebook.com/mdtimes



The top countries of origin for visitors to the MDT website are Macau, greater China and the East Asia region. But the USA, Australia, Great Britain and other European countries are also in the top 10. The Times website has a true worldwide reach welcoming visits from more than 11,000 cities.

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®
Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

FOOTBALL

THE knockout stage of the Champions League begins this week with Barcelona looking to extend its successful record against Paris Saint-Germain, and defending champion Real Madrid trying to confirm its favoritism over Napoli.

Borussia Dortmund and its record-breaking attack takes on Portuguese champion Benfica, while Arsenal faces Bayern Munich trying to avoid its seventh-straight elimination in the Round of 16.

Bayern, which won the title four years ago, is going for its fourth-consecutive semifinal appearance.

Five-time champion Barcelona eliminated PSG in the quarter-finals in 2013 and 2015, and lost only one of the last six games against the French club in the European competition, in the group stage in 2014.

"No team is unbeatable, but of course for me they are the favorites," PSG striker Lucas said. "They are the best team in the world, you have to respect them."

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN-BARCELONA

It's not just about Paris Saint-Germain stopping Lionel Messi today [Wed, 3:45am]. Barcelona also has to find a way to contain Edinson Cavani.

Cavani has scored nine goals in his last six games, and 33 in all competitions this season, which is one more than Messi has. Cavani is well on track to shatter his career-best mark of 38, set with former club Napoli.

Messi and Cavani enter the duel at Parc des Princes as the Champion League's top scorers — Messi with 10 and Cavani with six.

Barcelona has also been able to rely on Messi's teammates Neymar and Luis Suarez, but PSG remains highly dependent on Cavani. Only Brazilian winger Lucas has hit double figures this season aside from Cavani.

REAL MADRID-NAPOLI

Real Madrid and Napoli will both defend unbeaten streaks at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium tomorrow.

Madrid hasn't lost at home in 11 Champions League matches, while Napoli is on an 18-match unbeaten streak in all competitions, one short of the club record.

The Spanish club has won nine matches and drawn twice since the home loss to Schalke in March 2015. Napoli, playing in the last 16 only for the second time in club history, has won 12 games during its streak.

Some 10,000 Napoli fans are traveling to the match, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport. In addition to the 4,000 Napoli supporters who bought tickets for the visitors' section, many more have found tickets for other areas of the Bernabeu — some even by buying Madrid membership cards.

Among the Napoli fans expected in Madrid is its most famous

former player, Diego Maradona, who has said he plans to attend the game.

BAYERN MUNICH-ARSENAL

Germany is waiting for Bayern Munich to show the same dominance it displayed at the start of the season or under previous coach Pep Guardiola.

There is a sense that the freedom afforded to the players by Carlo Ancelotti has allowed complacency to creep in, evident in five labored performances since the winter break.

Only two very late goals secured a win over relegation-threatened Ingolstadt at the weekend, affording

Ancelotti some breathing space. But the Italian knows more lackluster performances against Arsenal could lead to Bayern's first exit in the Round of 16 since Inter Milan prevailed on away goals in 2011.

Arsenal won 2-0 in Munich at this stage in 2013, but it was still eliminated on away goals after a 3-1 loss in the first leg.

The English club was knocked out by Bayern in the last 16 two other times — in 2005 and 2014.

BENFICA-DORTMUND

Borussia Dortmund thrived in the group stage and set the competition's all-time scoring record with 21 goals in six games, but the squad is under pressure following disappointing recent performances in Germany.

"We're finding it really hard [...] to show this sharpness in these games away from the big stage, away from the spotlight," Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel said following the Bundesliga loss to bottom club Darmstadt on Saturday, a result that left the team 15 points behind leader Bayern Munich.

Runner-up in the Champions League in 2012-13, Dortmund is trying to make it past the last 16 for the first time since 2013-14.

Benfica is playing in the knockout stage for the second straight season, a first for the club. It was eliminated by Bayern Munich in last year's quarterfinals. **AP**



SKIING

Aerni turns tables on Hirscher to win combined at ski worlds

IN a total turnaround, Luca Aerni won the combined event at world ski championships yesterday after being 30th fastest in downhill.

The Swiss skier was first to use the slalom course and took advantage of the clean surface to finish 0.01 seconds ahead of defending champion Marcel Hirscher of Austria.

"I didn't expect this," said the 23-year-old Aerni, who has had five winless seasons of World Cup racing. "Of course, if I start 31 (in slalom) I have no chance."

Hirscher, the best slalom skier in the lineup who started two racers after Aerni in bright sunshine, looked

stunned after seeing his time at the finish area.

Two years ago at the worlds in Colorado, Hirscher won when he too was 30th in downhill and got first run at a softening slalom course.

"This is maybe a good decision to start first," Hirscher said. "I exactly knew the conditions would play into our hands."

The home Swiss team also took bronze, with Mauro Caviezel finishing 0.06 behind his teammate, and placed all four of its racers in the top seven.

In a race clearly weighted toward early starters in the slalom run, medals went to the skiers who clocked the

three fastest times in the second leg. Caviezel was 1.3 seconds slower than Hirscher in the slalom, but still managed to finish third after being 14th fastest in the downhill.

"This slope is a joke. They didn't prepare the slalom slope," Alexis Pinturault of France, a pre-race favorite who raced slalom before Caviezel yet finished 10th, told Eurosport.

Hirscher chose to cite the "fascinating" combination of strong sunshine and altitude in St. Moritz, where the men start slalom at 2,220 meters.

"We're on a south (facing) hill," the top-ranked skier said. "From 7 (a.m.) to 5

o'clock (p.m.) this is pure sunshine on the hill and it is not easy."

Aerni gave Switzerland its third title from six races in St. Moritz, including Beat Feuz winning the marquee downhill on Sunday.

Swiss men have gone 2-for-3 at the worlds after winning only one of 27 World Cup events this season. That lone victory came in combined, yet it was such a fluke success at snowy Wengen by Niels Hintermann that he was not selected for yesterday's race.

Aerni has a career-best finish of fifth in World Cup racing, and a seventh place is his best result this season.



Switzerland's Luca Aerni competes during the second run of a men's combined event, at the alpine ski World Championships in St. Moritz

Switzerland has a track record of surprise winners in combined. The 2014 Olympic champion was Sandro Viletta, who is not competing in St. Moritz.

First-run leader Romed Baumann of Austria had a 2.61 advantage over Aerni after the downhill, but he dropped out of the top 10, more than a second behind.

The slalom began at 1 p.m. (1200 GMT) on a clear and sunny yet cold day, and the early starters carved ruts into the snow through gates

set by a Swiss team coach.

Downhill specialist Kjetil Jansrud of Norway was tied for sixth in the morning, but did not race the slalom. Jansrud, who took silvers in super-G last Wednesday and combined at the 2015 worlds, has been feeling the effects of a cold.

The best placings yesterday by downhill racers were Aleksander Aamodt Kilde of Norway and Dominik Paris of Italy in a tie for fourth. They trailed Aerni by 0.40 seconds. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Daniel Beitler



THE MACAU CONSTRAINT

The idea that censorship – particularly state-sponsored censorship – inhibits creative expression and innovation is not a new one. It's one I have always taken to be true without ever questioning why it should be.

I suppose that concerned citizens are naturally uneasy about the idea of agents of censorship regulating the dissemination of ideas within society.

This is because agents of censorship only serve those in positions of power. The influential and powerful among us are the only ones who can both afford the expense of such administrative systems and have enough on the line to warrant them.

And since institutions of power such as governments and the mob have no incentive to be genuinely critical of their own conduct, outspoken criticism is left to a particular group of people seeking to highlight injustices and hypocrisy.

These are society's creative types, who offer social commentary to provide a counterweight to the propaganda of governments and other powerful institutions. Regulating what creative types can produce, or creating an environment that discourages speaking out (read: self-censorship), should in theory come at the expense of creative output.

This is what I had always held to be true, which is why I was initially surprised that a government like Macau's, with its inch-deep commitment to freedom of expression, would be so keen to promote the cultural and creative industries.

How can a system that is not free profess to want an industry so incompatible with its values and the values of the mother country?

However, I have yet to find a compelling argument that censorship does inhibit creativity. It may be the case but, equally, it might be possible that in some circumstances restrictions on free speech promote creativity.

To some this may be an absurd proposition, but consider the example of overseas Chinese and Iranian communities living in Western societies.

The disproportionately large volume of literature published in their name is not only because of the creative freedom they enjoy as expatriates in France or the United States.

Though they would be unable to publish these works in their home countries, the censorship (and other actions) of their former governments provides both the subject matter and the impetus for these creative works.

Even within authoritative systems, creative dissidents find opportunity to dream up transformative and iconic works. Take for example Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, whose critical films have led to his arrest and whose 2011 documentary, "This Is Not a Film", was smuggled out of Iran to the Cannes Film Festival in a flash drive hidden inside a cake. Oh, the creativity!

But if censorship can produce its own sort of creativity, maybe this was the MSAR government's plan all along. Could the government's oscillation between its oft-stated mantra of "according to the Basic Law" and its actions suggesting otherwise be part of an elaborate master plan? Could this master plan be edging us closer to the day of the blossoming of Macau's cultural scene?

A group of writers in 1960s France may have held a similar opinion. They also believed that forms of censorship or constraints promoted creativity. Named the Oulipo group (from the French: Ouvroir de littérature potentielle), the writers argued that self-imposed constraints could inspire them to produce superior works.

The very principle is contrary to what we might expect: that greater freedom and a lack of censorship is conducive to creative production.

Nevertheless, one member of the group, French novelist Georges Perec, composed a 300-page novel entirely omitting the letter "e". Titled "A Void", one of the novel's major themes tackles the mystery of the disappearance of that letter.

This is known as a lipogram; writing where the author has systematically omitted one or more letters of the Romanized alphabet. Another example of a lipogram is called the Prisoner's Constraint. This excludes the use of letters with ascenders or descenders, like b, d, f, g, h, and j, which all have "legs".

Funnily enough, the lipogram has another name: The Macau Constraint. Incroyable!

THE BUZZ BE MY VALENTINE: FILIPINOS IN GERMANY ARE MOST GENEROUS LONG-DISTANCE LOVERS

Filipinos in Germany may be far from home, but their loved ones are near to their hearts on Valentine's Day.

Money transfer company WorldRemit analyzed internal data of who sends money to its top 10 recipient countries. It said yesterday that Filipinos in Germany were the most generous, sending home on average USD32.5 more than usual before or after Valentine's Day week last year.

Following closely were Filipinos in Norway who sent \$24 more, and New Zealand, who remitted \$12.5 more.

Central bank statistics show Filipinos in the U.S. send the most home, followed by those in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. According to World Bank, migrants' remittances to the Philippines in 2015 reached \$28.48 billion, the third highest next to India and China.



SOURCE: DSMG

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

WORLD BRIEFS



AUSTRALIA Several homes are destroyed and two firefighters injured by huge wildfires that tore across Australia's most populous state over the weekend. More than 2,500 firefighters fought nearly 100 fires as temperatures climbed to 47 degrees Celsius.

PAKISTAN In a scathing indictment of Pakistan's treatment of Afghan refugees, a human rights group charges that the country is forcing hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees back to their homeland, which is still beset by war and crushing poverty. [More on p13](#)



TURKMENISTAN's president won re-election in a widely anticipated landslide victory. Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov (pictured) garnered nearly 97.7 percent of the vote in the gas-rich Central Asian nation, the Election Commission said.

PORTUGAL A former interior minister, Miguel Macedo, and other senior government officials are standing trial in a major case centered on residence permits granted to investors from outside the European Union. The officials are charged with corruption, influence-peddling and misconduct in public office in the trial which began yesterday and is expected to last several months.

THE EUROPEAN UNION expects British economic growth to slow as the country negotiates its exit over the next couple of years, but forecasts an improvement for the bloc as a whole despite a range of uncertainties. In its Winter Economic Forecast released yesterday, the 28-nation EU said it predicts British economic growth will slump to 1.5 percent this year and 1.2 percent in 2018.

Mama Beyonce shines, Adele flubs in Grammy's

AP PHOTO



Beyonce took home two Grammys for best music video and best urban contemporary



Adele, who won five awards, accepts the prize for album of the year for "25" an another

Kristin M. Hall

IN Beyonce's first performance since announcing her pregnancy with twins, she shined head to toe in golden hues. Meanwhile Adele got a rare do-over on national television when she flubbed her performance, and Beyonce's daughter Blue Ivy stole the show with her adorable mini-Prince outfit. Here's more on the top moments at the night's Grammy Awards:

MOTHER BEYONCE

In a highly anticipated performance, the first since she announced she was pregnant with twins, Beyonce celebrated her femininity and motherhood. Clad head to toe in gold with bands around her neck, a crown and veil, she invoked images of both a goddess and the Virgin Mary and often cradled her swelling belly with her hands.

Although she skipped the elaborate choreography often seen in her shows, the performance was visually arresting with ghostly images of women and children dancing around her. Introduced by her mother, Tina Knowles, Beyonce looked down lovingly at her husband Jay Z and daughter Blue Ivy seated in the front row of Staples Center.

Yet in the end, she lost out to Adele, the musical sales leader in 2016, in the top awards of the night, but took

home two Grammys for best music video and best urban contemporary album for "Lemonade."

ADELE, TAKE TWO

What everyone loves about Adele, despite her great vocal skills, is that she's still nervous and makes mistakes on big stages. Last year at the Grammys, her performance was marred by a technical problem, but this time, she flubbed one of her performances and asked for a do-over.

After a flawless opening performance of her super hit "Hello," the British singer came out a second time to honor the late George Michael. But early into her somber, orchestral performance of "Fastlove," she stopped singing, cursed and asked the band to start over, a rare occurrence on a live awards show. She explained, "I can't mess this up for him."

CARPOOL GRAMMYS

Late night TV host James Corden has made his career lip-synching with musicians in his car, so he brought a prop car into the Staples Center with him.

Earlier, Corden inserted some Steve Martin-esque antics by falling through the stairs in his entrance and rapping his intro with one shoe, namedropping President Donald Trump as well as several musicians up for awards. Corden seemed adept at improvisation, even coming out in his

boxers in response to Twenty One Pilots stripping down to their undies.

Later on, Corden brought out a cardboard car and gathered a group of musicians from the front rows to sing with Neil Diamond to "Sweet Caroline." Among Jennifer Lopez, Jason Derulo, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Keith Urban and John Legend, few of the artists seemed to remember the lyrics to the song. But the skit was saved by Blue Ivy who jumped in the scene at the end.

POLITICAL TALK

The artists on the red carpet and during the show expressed themselves about the divisive political climate in both dress, song and speeches. Transgender actress Laverne Cox asked people to Google Gavin Grimm, a transgender student whose case against so-called bathroom bills will be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. Tribe Called Quest with Anderson .Paak sang "We the People" and ended with a line of rappers with their hands held in the air in fists shouting, "Resist." Paris Jackson, the 18-year-old daughter of pop icon Michael Jackson, called for support of the protestors against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Jennifer Lopez was more subtle, but clear when she called for action. "There is no time for despair, no place for self pity, no need for silence, and no room for fear," Lopez said. **AP**