



### MACAU 'TAKING ITS FIRST STEPS' IN GREEN ROOFS

Interview with the author of several books on plants and landscape architecture, António de Paula Saraiva

P2



### ARSON MAY HAVE CAUSED LISBOA PALACE FIRE

A blaze at the construction site of the Grand Lisboa Palace in Cotai may have been caused by arson

P3



### EXPERT SAYS REGIONAL INTEGRATION INEVITABLE

P5 ANALYSIS

**MON.20**  
Mar 2017

T. 18°/ 22° C  
H. 75/ 99%

facebook.com/mdtimes  
+ 11,000

N.º 2766  
**MOP 7.50**  
**HKD 9.50**

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

# Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



**NORTH KOREA** has conducted a ground test of a new type of high-thrust rocket engine that leader Kim Jong Un is calling a revolutionary breakthrough for the country's space program, the North's state media said yesterday. Kim called the test "a great event of historic significance" for the country's indigenous rocket industry, the KCNA report said.



**PHILIPPINES** President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday that he would not be intimidated by an impeachment complaint and threats of an international lawsuit for his anti-drug crackdown and added that he'd rather have criminals dead even in the "thousands or billions" if they threaten law enforcers than see his men killed.

More on backpage

# Tillerson meets Xi, lauds China-US contacts

P10



With articles republished from

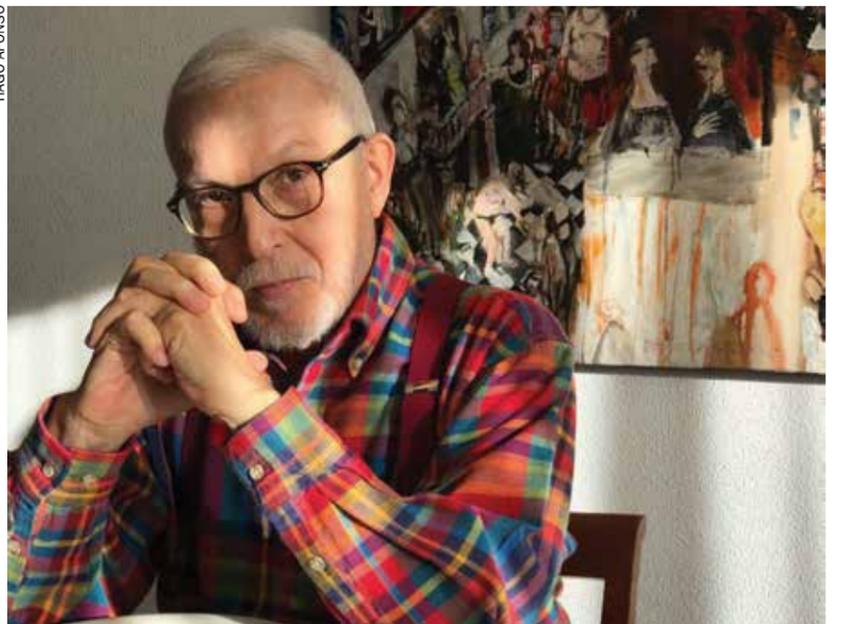


**FINANCIAL TIMES**  
The Pope's internal critics

F1

## Rui Afonso, modernizer of local public administration, dies in Lisbon

P3



TIAGO AFONSO

Renato Marques

**A**UTHOR and co-author of several books on plants and landscape architecture, António de Paula Saraiva, launched a book with a new perspective about the taller brothers and sisters of the living kingdom on Saturday.

“Trees and Large Shrubs in Macau” is a book about tree species (published in Portuguese, English and Chinese) aimed at a broad spectrum of the population. In the author’s opinion, the book is intended to be a useful source of knowledge about the plants that surround us and their importance.

The book features 236 different trees and scrubs species, illustrated by photographs and drawings by artist Catarina França e Mafalda Paiva. Saraiva worked since 1985 in Leal Senado as head of Garden Department and Green Zones Department, and also in the Forest Department of the Islands Municipality.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – This is an uncommon topic. Why did you decide to make a book on it?**

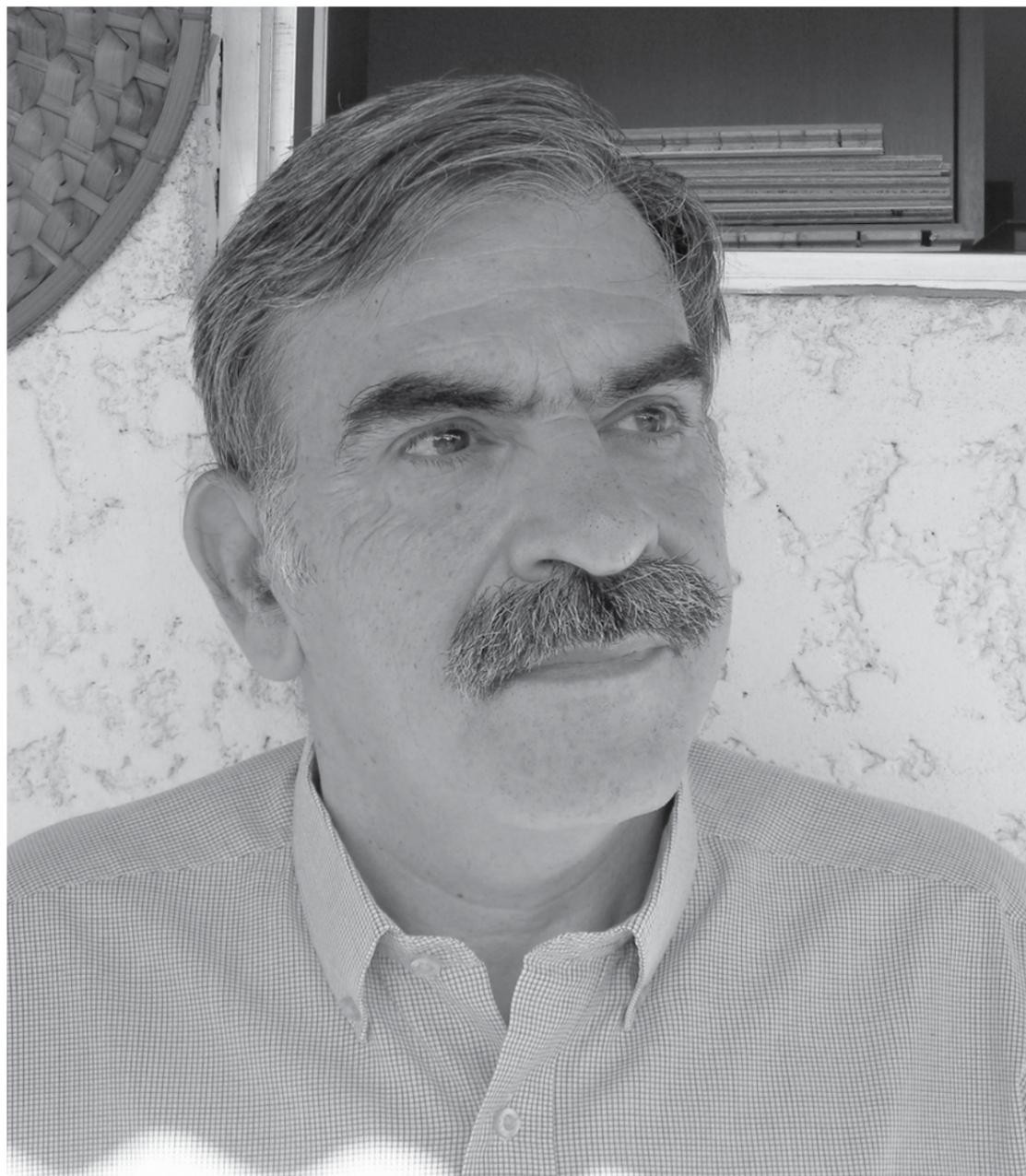
**António de Paula Saraiva (APS) –** Well, the fact that it isn’t so common means, in my perspective, that we need to have more books on this topic. Unfortunately, nowadays, the study of botany and plants do not have the prominence that they had in the 1700’s, 1800’s and until the early 1900’s, when having a good knowledge about this field was a characteristic of highly educated people.

**MDT – What are the special characteristics of Macau in this field?**

**APS –** For people coming mainly from Europe, like myself, there are two characteristics that I can consider special features of not just Macau but of this part of the world. The first has to do with the aerial roots of the trees which allow plants to live in conditions that at first would seem to be impossible. In Macau, we have, for example, large plants living on their own on rooftops. As an example I recall the tree that is living on the overhead canopy of the old Hotel Estoril, which is made exclusively of cement. The fact is that tree has made it to survive there and is already around 2 me-

**Q&A** ANTÓNIO DE PAULA SARAIVA  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, AGRONOMIST

## Macau ‘still taking its first steps’ in green roofs



ters tall. The other [special characteristic] is related to the plants that manage to live over the trees trunks, like the ones we have at [the patio of] Albergue [SCM]. There, we can find two huge Camphor trees with their trunks “dressed” by other plants “like a sweater.” These are plants that can live on only a little bit of water and some decaying bark. These “special” features are mentioned in my book to a good extent, although they are not deeply studied as I have no means for that. But I think they do deserve to be studied.

**MDT – Who do you think can benefit directly from the knowledge you are sharing in your book? Do you think schools can use it to teach the basics of botany in the region?**

**APS –** I tried to write the book in a very simple way. Contrary to other literary genres where ambiguity is somehow cultivated, in scientific works these kind things should be clear and simple. Yes, I do think that students can benefit from it as I think there is a deficiency in our education system

that means we know too little about nature. This seems to be an incongruity with the approaches taken to topics like ecology, global warming, and when we say we favor organic foods but in reality we know nothing and we cannot take any concrete measure [as we lack in knowledge about it].

**MDT – In the past we have seen plants re-entering the cities as part of major buildings. How do you interpret this trend?**

**APS –** Fortunately, this has

been happening. Macau is still taking its first steps but it is a process that is ongoing and will continue to grow. I approve of this trend. France, for example, recently ruled [two years ago] that roof tops on new buildings [built in commercial zones] must have a garden or be partially covered by plants.

These “green roofs” have an insulating effect, helping reduce the amount of energy needed to heat a building in winter and cool it in summer. They also become eventually a leisure area for the building users and a place where fauna and flora can coexist. Birds can get food, making the city more “alive” and showing less cement.

**There is a deficiency in our education system that means we know too little about nature.**

ANTÓNIO DE PAULA SARAIVA

**MDT – Should this “green trend” be a rule here?**

**APS –** We know that in Macau the government is not very daring about controlling construction. This is a reality. But yes, I think it would be a wise and commendable measure.

**MDT – Is there any special thing that you really wanted to include? Why?**

**APS –** Yes, there is. I included in Chapter 6 some concerns about the maintenance of trees. In this chapter I added a short but important paragraph titled “Away from Logic”. In this paragraph, I try to approach something that deserves not only attention but also deep study. It is related to the trees living in very small tree pits, or even no tree pits. These trees challenge the accepted theory that roots need water (that’s an indisputable fact) and it’s unknown how trees manage to survive and apparently live in reasonable health in those conditions. It is still a mystery.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

+ 4 Million page views  
PER MONTH

Thank You!

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



Times

DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR\_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Alban Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, 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 army@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 Telephone: +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

OBITUARY | RUI AFONSO

# Modernizer of local public administration dies in Lisbon

Paulo Barbosa

**F**ORMER lawmaker Rui Afonso has passed away on Friday in Lisbon aged 70, the victim of a prolonged disease. His funeral service was held Saturday. Afonso is seen as a key figure in the modernization of Macau's public administration.

A lawyer in Portugal since 1976, Afonso started practicing in Macau in 1985. He was a legal adviser to the Secretary of Administration and Justice (1983-1984), and director of the Administration and Public Servants Service (1984-1985). Between 1984 and 1997, he was a lawmaker.

The president of the Macau Lawyers Association, Jorge Neto Valente, stresses Afonso's role in the modernization of public services in Macau. "Together with Adelina de Sá Carvalho, he kicked off the modernization of the public administration in Macau, and he did that during a convulsed time," Neto Valente told the Times yesterday.

Lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia, who had worked with Rui Afonso since 1989, stressed the late lawyer's "key role in reforming the public administration" regarding human resources and fine-tuning the services' legal framework. "Some organic laws were changed. And there was the need to bring more people from the Chinese community to have a role in those services, besides those who belonged to the cultural and economic elite."

Almeida Correia recalls that around that time Afonso played a role in setting up and recruiting people to a program of studies in Portugal - which became known as PEP in the Portuguese acronym - whereby members from the Chinese community were enrolled in courses in Portugal before returning to work



in the local public administration.

Neto Valente, also a lawmaker at the time, remembers Afonso's 13 years as a directly-appointed lawmaker at the Legislative Assembly. "In the plenary we were always together," he recalls. "He was an active lawmaker, never ceasing to take a stance on issues [that were debated]. He was a left-wing man with social concerns." According to the Lawyers Association head, Afonso "was free and independent." Neto Valente describes Afonso as someone who had "finesse": "He thought well and had his own ideas. He knew how to read law and how to arrive at conclusions."

As a lawmaker, Rui Afonso supported the idea of having the Legislative Assembly operating in autonomous facilities, instead of the Government Palace at Praia Grande. "He thought that the separation of [executive and legisla-

tive] powers was needed to avoid promiscuity between the government and lawmakers," Almeida Correia reflected.

He added to MDT that Afonso had also held a role in reforming the legal status of the Portuguese in Macau and the judicial system in the territory. "During the 90s, appeals of decisions made by the secretaries were trialed in Lisbon. That was unfeasible [after the handover]."

In his legal practice, Rui Afonso

Advogados, he also had a role in "mediating between the Chinese and Portuguese counterparts" involved in large-scale infrastructure works that were constructed before the handover, such as the airport.

**He was a free and independent man.**

NETO VALENTE

Sérgio de Almeida Correia notes that, although Rui Afonso spent lengthy periods in Portugal in his later years, he always kept his legal practice active in the MSAR.

Affability and loyalty were the two characteristics Almeida Correia said he associated with Rui Afonso. "He had strong social concerns. There are countless cases that were solved here at the legal practice free of charge. Either because [these] people were poor or because they worked for the public administration, had a low income and were facing disciplinary procedures, or simply because they were Portuguese. [...] That shows his character. He was not in the law field to exploit people. Things had to be straight. 'We walk the streets everyday,' he used to say."

## NEWSPAPER AGAINST 'INFORMATION CONTROL'

**AN APOLOGIST** of freedom of speech, Rui Afonso was involved in the foundation of a newspaper named "Futuro de Macau." Sérgio de Almeida Correia recalls: "Information was controlled in Macau. Every time a newspaper that was more critical of the government

sprung up, the government wanted to buy a share in the newspaper through intermediaries. [...] Rui Afonso thought it was needed to have a free and independent voice in Macau. He founded 'Futuro de Macau,' together with Manuela António.

# Arson most probable cause for Grand Lisboa Palace fire

**T**HE fire that broke out around 7 p.m. on Friday at the construction site of the Grand Lisboa Palace in Cotai may have been caused by arson.

These are the preliminary conclusions from the Fire Services (CB) who attended the call for the blaze in Cotai.

A total of 52 men su-

ported by 14 firefighting vehicles and a 68-meter long ladder arrived at the scene a few minutes after the alarm, but it took them more than 2 hours to control the flames.

According to a CB spokesperson, the fire had started at a storage room located on the 14th floor of the building where several

flammable construction materials were kept. The incident led to the evacuation of over 500 workers operating within the building at that time, but there were no reports of injuries.

CB complained to the media about the lack of fire hydrants on site as well as other difficulties in fighting the fire.

Authorities suspect that the blaze might have been intentionally caused and the case was handed to the Judiciary Police (PJ) for further investigations.

This is the third time in the last two years that the development of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) in Cotai has caught fire, this most recent incident being the most severe. For now, it is unclear whether the blaze caused severe enough damage to delay the completion of the development, which is set to open its doors in the first half of 2018. **RM**



## 'Women's Sports Festival' attracts over 6,000

The "2017 Women's Sports Festival" arrived at a closure after several events that joined women of two different age groups, Group A (18 to 40-year-old) and Group B (41 to 60-year-old). In this year's event, each participant team (81 in total) competed in two different tournaments for the titles of each of the age group categories. The organizers invited groups from Beijing, Guam, Hengqin, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, Shanghai, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand to participate in the games.

## Dragon Boat Race opens registration

The 2017 edition of the Macao International Dragon Boat Race will open applications from March 21 at 7 p.m. The organizers inform that, in order to apply, teams must present the participants' list, registration forms and other documents between March 22 and April 20. The technical meeting and lucky draw will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 5 (Friday) at the Nautical Center of Praia Grande. The event is set to be held on May 27, 28 and 30.

## Rodrigo Brum to represent Portugal at Forum Macau

The group of Portuguese-speaking countries have decided on a individual to represent the bloc at the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese Speaking Countries (Macau Forum). Portugal's Rodrigo Brum has been named to assume office as deputy secretary-general, TDM reported citing sources in Lisbon. With this appointment, Brum returns to the territory after having served in the 1990's as Chief of Office of the deputy Secretary for Economy and Finance of the final Macau government under Portuguese administration. Brum will replace incumbent Manuel Vicente, from Mozambique.



**Os Azeitonas** *Celebrações de Abril 2017*  
concerto . 黃昏演唱會 . music concert



**19/04/2017** **Grande Auditório do Centro Cultural de Macau**  
**20h** **綜合劇院**  
**Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium**  
**150 MOP**

Bilhetes à venda a partir do dia 20 de Março. | 從3月20日發售門票。 | Tickets on sale from March 20.

Venda de bilhetes na KONG SENG/門票於廣星售票網發/For sale at KONG SENG ticketing network  
WWW.MACAUTICKET.COM . Linha Directa de Informações/查詢熱線/Information Hotline: +853 2855 5555

organização 主辦單位 organization **CASA DE PORTUGAL** EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會  
apoio 支持及贊助單位 support **BNU** Banco Nacional Ultramarino 大西洋銀行  
apoio institucional 機構支持 Institutional support **CONSELHO GERAL DE PORTUGAL EM MACAU E HONG KONG** 葡萄牙駐澳門及香港總領事館

patrocínio 贊助 sponsor **澳門基金會** FUNDAÇÃO MACAU  
文化局 INSTITUTO CULTURAL 場租優惠 Apoio ao aluguer Concessionary Rate

**仁德** **CENTRO MÉDICO PEDDER**  
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆



*We bring high quality of medical service to Macau*

**General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong, Dr. Kwong Man  
**Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun  
**Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao  
**Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong  
**Paediatrics** : Dr. Leung Ping Maurice, Dr. Zhang Zhiqin  
**Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan lo  
**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin  
**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan  
**ENT** : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang  
**Cardiology** : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin  
**Gastroentero-Hepatology** : Dr. Zhan De Juan  
**General Medicine** : Dr. Ng Kam Hong  
**Anaesthesiology** : Dr. Ning Siu Kei Eric, Dr. Chan Wai Han  
**Dietitian** : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau  
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

**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

**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:

- Oral examination and radiology investigation
- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Children Dentistry
- Orthodontic Treatment
- 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

**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

Daniel Beitler

'GREATER BAY AREA'

# HK political scientist says Guangdong integration inevitable

**P**OLITICAL observer and academic Sonny Lo presented a seminar last week at the Rui Cunha Foundation, at the invitation of the Macau Association of Portuguese and English Press.

During the presentation, Lo explained his perspective on the "City Cluster Plan", or "Greater Bay Area" of Guangdong Province, in response to Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's endorsement of the proposal at the annual session of the National People's Congress.

The plan seeks to transform the Pearl River estuary into a cluster of cities under a strategic plan for integrated development, playing to the relative strengths of the individual cities there today.

Lo said that the plan ultimately represents "deeper economic integration" between Macau, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and the nearby border cities such as Shenzhen and Zhuhai, and suggested that such economic integration was not only inevitable, but would one day include Taiwan.

He argued that the idea initially surfaced as early as 1996 in Shenzhen, but the notion of close economic integration with the mainland was not well-received in Hong Kong. Now, the Chinese premier has revisited the economic objective, in the hope of expediting the process, "which has implications for Hong Kong, Macau, Guangdong and Taiwan between now and 2047 and 2049 for Hong Kong and Macau respectively."

Lo is the president of the Hong Kong Political Science Association and holds positions at several universities in the Asia-Pacific region. He is a political scientist who specializes in the fields of cross-border crime, policing and politics of the greater China area.

The veteran Hong Kong observer assured guests that, des-



Sonny Lo

**Integration will be far more profound and [at a pace] much faster than before.**

SONNY LO

pite this economic and municipality integration, both SARs would need to retain their "uniqueness" - specifying that Hong

Kong should stay a financial center and Macau should continue to develop as a tourism hub, though he recommended that Macau diversify away from its reliance on gaming revenues.

He also mentioned the differences between the two SARs, in terms of the relative strength of their localism movements and attitudes toward the mainland. In particular, he referenced the political activism rife in Hong Kong.

"Beijing and the Hong Kong government could not have anticipated that closer economic integration would bring about

social conflicts and political tensions, such as the rise of localism," he said. "In a sense, localism in Hong Kong is an ideology resistant to mainlandization and deeper economic integration."

"The mainland has said that it wants Hong Kong people to focus less on politics and more on economic development. The reality is that Hong Kong has already been politicized because of internal politics, including pro-democracy movements and political fragment forces. So, politics in Hong Kong are beyond its [Beijing's] control, and there are still many people

[there] resisting this economic integration," he added.

On the other hand, Macau has seen less resistance to mainland influence, which according to Lo is because of a "stronger Chinese identity and a weaker sense of localism."

However, "political reform in Hong Kong and Macau will have to be more realistic," he warned. "[That means] more consultation, more harmony and [fewer] political arguments in Hong Kong... This is and will be difficult given the very divided society in Hong Kong."

The academic also offered some comments about the future of Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan under Beijing's "One Country, Two Systems" policy. While he said it was impossible to know whether the policy would be scrapped by the mid-21st century, he promised that the integration of the greater China area would be expedited in the years ahead.

"Economic integration will be far more profound and [at a pace] much faster than before. Hong Kong and Macau [leading up to 2047 and 2049 respectively] will be in positions ready to be integrated further into the mainland - the new economic region of southern China with Guangdong as the locomotive," he said.

Meanwhile, "Taiwan's integration is only a matter of time. Despite the current frosty relationship between Beijing and Taipei, the deeper economic integration of Taiwan into the southern region of China will be a matter of time."

## CE floats development possibilities

**C**HIEF Executive Chui Sai On outlined on Friday four possible routes for the further integration of Macau in China's development strategy, and expressed a promise to "make better use of the supporting measures for Macau laid down by the Central Government," according to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau (GCS).

The proposals stem from an in-depth study on the "City Cluster Plan" initiative for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Grea-

ter Bay Area, as outlined by Premier Li Keqiang in his latest government work report.

The first proposal covers how Macau's unique advantages may be best utilized to transform Macau into a world center of tourism and leisure, as well as a commercial and trade cooperation platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The other three proposals address the need for improvement in living conditions in Macau, including housing, transport and cross-border infras-

tructure; the development of young people and the promotion of a "patriotic spirit among them"; and the intensification of public administration and legal reform, to enhance and promote effective governance.

Chui's comments were made during a briefing session in which the city's top official explained some of the new policies set out in the recently concluded sessions of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

"Getting a better understanding of the aspirations set out in the 'Two Sessions' [NPC and CPPCC] - together with concerted social efforts - would help to maintain Macau's stability and prosperity, and contribute to the pursuit of further economic development," said Chui, as cited in the GCS statement.

Chui also shared his personal understanding of the key themes at the "Two Sessions", including the requirement that all government officials should act in accordance with the Constitution and,



Chui Sai On

in the cases of Macau and Hong Kong, with their respective Basic Laws.

According to the GCS statement, there should be "steadfast protection of national sovereignty, security and interests" and "further use should be made of Macau's unique

advantages."

The Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR, Wang Zhimin, added that people from different sectors in the territory should continue to uphold a patriotic spirit toward the country. **DB**

## PROPERTY WANTED FOR SALE OR RENT

Email us your property details and asking price or call us at: +853 2835 2699

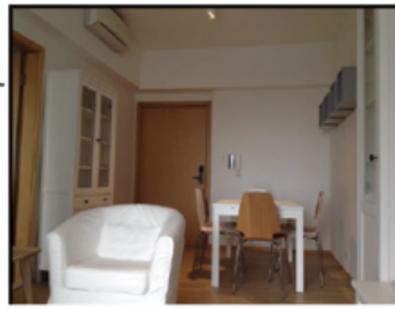


### For Rent



#### House, Hac Sa Beach, Coloane

(Ref: 17010632)  
6,000sq. ft. HKD60,000  
Houses are rare in Macau but here is an opportunity to rent one. The owner recently upgraded the property by opening up the kitchen and installing new cabinets, oven, hob and extractor fan. The kitchen is now part of the dining/entrance area which is now much brighter and spacious. Off the kitchen is a good size maids quarters private bedroom and separate shower room plus a walk in storage area where the large fridge/freezer has been positioned.



#### Nova Park, Taipa

(Ref: 15090537)  
1,314sq. ft. HKD 15,200

Two bedroom apartment in Taipa's newest complex, both bedrooms are doubles. Master bedroom has an en suite and has been newly furnished. Second bedroom left unfurnished can be furnished to the tenants request (bed, desk wardrobe etc). Living / dining furnished by IKEA furniture with a small balcony over looking Central Park. Galley style well fitted modern kitchen.



#### Poplar Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 17020640)  
1,693sq. ft. HKD 14,800

Super three bedroom two shower room apartment in the well known complex of Ocean Gardens. Most unusual in Macau all three bedrooms are carpeted, making the property most luxurious. Lovely views from the back of the apartment over the Taipa mountain, while at the front the view is Macaus Friendship bridge. Good size oblong living room, with a dedicated dining



#### Houston Court-Coloane Village

(Ref: 15110549)  
740sq. ft. HKD 11,800

Situated in the heart of the village. The apartment has a modern open plan kitchen, dining & living area, good size master bedroom with built in storage, separate walk in shower room, second bedroom has built in cabinets could be a large office or small double bedroom. Simply furnished the apartment was renovated in October which included: painting throughout / service of air conditioners / new lights installed / new kitchen cabinets / modernised shower room.



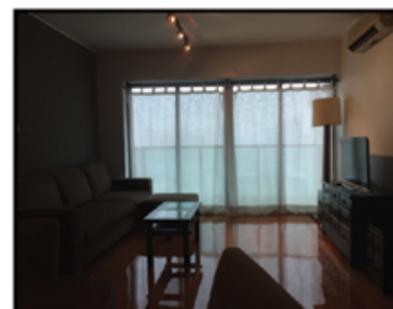
#### One Grantai Tower 3 N unit

(Ref: 17020637)  
2,167sq. ft. HKD 18,000  
Luxury unfurnished apartment with 3 bedrooms + maids room. Large open planned living/dining area with balcony showing beautiful green view. Fully fitted large kitchen. 3 bathrooms with 2 being en suite. Master bedroom has a balcony and a large en suite with walking shower and bath. Great Location with easy reach of all Macau's major transport links, schools, hospital and the Cotai Strip. Car Park available @ 2500 per month.



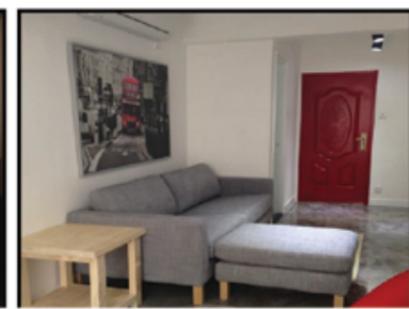
#### The Carat

(Ref: 17030641)  
679.79sq. ft. HKD 11,000  
Nice studio apartment edging on the bays of Macau. The Carat is sculpted in the bustling Dynasty District, captures the sensational two shores and three bridges. This unprecedented waterfront hotel styled residence at the city centre is a rare jewel, at its best. At the top of The Carat, enjoy a splash of water in the 60-foot indoor swimming pool or power run in the gym room, be indulged at the Sky Club overlooking the breathtaking view of sunrise or sunset above the horizon.



#### Kingsville, Taipa (1 Unit)

(Ref: 17010631)  
1,200sq. ft. HKD 16,800  
Popular building in Central Taipa this apartment is fantastic with great views across Taipa village, West facing. The apartment has two double bedrooms, one bedroom with en suite the second double bedroom shares a separate shower room with the third single bedroom. Lovely spacious living dining room with good size balcony. Recently redecorated; painted throughout, caulking of bathrooms, new mattress and bed frame in master bedroom, large two metre sliding door wardrobe, polished floors, air conditioners serviced



#### Edf. Nam Long - J Unit

(Ref: 17010634)  
750sq. ft. HKD 12,800  
Unique fully furnished 2 bedroom apartment located in Old Taipa Village.  
Fully renovated modern fit out to a high standard with traditional balcony. Modern bathroom and shower. Fully fitted open style kitchen with oven. Separate utility room with washer / dryer. Walking distance to Cotai Strip. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate such a rare and unique apartment.

### For Sale



#### Roof Top Apartment, Macau

(Ref: 15055441)  
799sq. ft. HKD4,6342M  
Rate: HKD5,800sq ft  
Loft style apartment with concrete floor which includes a good size double bedroom, great size separate bathroom, open plan fitted kitchen, lovely bright & spacious dining area with floor to ceiling windows and cosy living area with small picture window of the view. The wooden staircase leads to the second floor open area which could be great to use as a second bedroom, or office, yoga studio or entertainment area. The roof top terrace is wonderful; a great place to entertain friends and family with its open view across the roof tops of the Chief Executives office and beautifully manicured gardens towards Taipa. This property is unique with a view that unlike most in Macau will not change for many years to come.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



#### Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 16095497)  
1,503sq. ft. HKD 11.2M  
Rate: HKD7,451sq ft  
Very nice 3 bedroom + Maids room apartment in the Ocean Gardens complex, Taipa. This building continues to be one of the premier buildings in Taipa, and is much sought after by both locals and ex-pats. The apartment offers easy access to shops, taxis and the Cotai strip in a popular complex where property is in high demand. The building has a supermarket as well as multiple shops, and a well presented modern lobby area. The current tenants are leaving the apartment during the month of October, and viewings are available from November onward. An accompanying Car Park is also for sale, and may be purchased together with the property.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



#### St Pauls Ruins- Central Macau

(Ref: 17035511)  
716sq. ft. HKD 4.403M  
Rate: HKD 6,150sq ft  
Modern one bedroom apartment situated on the steps of the Ruins of St Pauls. Beautifully fitted out with stylish modern fixtures and fittings.

Once an office for JML now converted to a lovely apartment. Great size living & dining area with galley style kitchen including kitchen & flat ware.

Small bedroom with King size bed and wall of clothes cabinets, mirrored sliding door style. Cute balcony overlooking the Ruins, plenty of room for dinner or drinks, possible even a small BBQ. Second floor easy walk up, only two apartments per floors.



#### Hellene Gardens, Lot IV, Unit B, Carnation Court, Coloane

(Ref: 17025509)  
1,663sq. ft. HKD 9.2M  
Rate: HKD 5,532q ft  
Located in the clean, beautiful environment of Coloane, this rarely available 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment has incredible sea views from the living room and master bedroom and green mountain views from all other rooms. Fully furnished with modern bathrooms and kitchen, new balcony construction with high quality heavy storm doors. Three bedrooms all have custom bamboo window blinds. Modern appliances include large stainless steel refrigerator, Siemens dishwasher

#### Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet  
(English Speaker)  
T: (853) 6680 9804  
Juliet@JMLProperty.com

Lorraine  
(English Speaker)  
T: (853) 6610 2371  
Lorraine@JMLProperty.com

# Live poultry imports ban in place until outbreak identified



**L**IVE poultry imports to Macau remain suspended until local authorities discover the cause of an influenza outbreak across the border.

President of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau José Tavares told the press that, due to a mechanism in place, they still need to find the cause of the outbreak in cooperation with mainland authorities before reaching a consensus.

"We also have to consider ways to enhance quarantine in the future before we resume live poultry supply," he noted.

Tavares also revealed that money is yet to be paid to the city's wholesale market over the latest

culling, as cited in a TDM report. The current ban on poultry imports is the government's effort to reduce the risk of introducing bird flu in the territory.

The suspension of live poultry imports, which commenced in early February, is the longest period of suspension in recent years.

In mainland China, the continued outbreak of avian influenza has caused at least 161 deaths since October 2016.

This is the second time in 2017 that Macau has suspended its live poultry trade in response to a bird flu report. On January 26, Macau suspended the live poultry trade for three days.

# The Venetian Opens indoor ice sculpture exhibition

**T**HE Venetian Macao launched its annual indoor Ice World on Thursday for visitors to experience a frozen -8 degree wonderland this spring and summer.

The launch ceremony of the Kung Fu Panda Adventure Ice World with the DreamWorks All-Stars saw children performing Kung Fu under the cartoon Kung Fu Panda at The Venetian's Cotai Expo.

The fifth edition of Ice World is organized by Sands Resorts Macao in collaboration with Heilongjiang Provincial Ice Fun World Culture Communication Co. Ltd., and supported by the Macau Government Tourism Office.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dave Horton, global chief marketing officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp and Sands China Ltd, said: "We work hard to bring our visitors of all ages a wide variety of exciting and diverse entertainment options at Sands Resorts Macau."

He said Ice World is one of the region's biggest family-oriented events.

Some 6,000 multi-colored



ice blocks were used to create the sculptures, which include characters from Kung Fu Panda, Madagascar, Shrek, The Croods, How To Train Your Dragon and Trolls.

It took 40 craftsmen from Harbin 300 hours to complete the sculptures, which will be displayed across seven zones.

Guests can also attend other DreamWorks Experience activities, including "Po's Kung

Fu Feast - Character Breakfast with the DreamWorks All-Stars" and the "DreamWorks Experience All-Star Parade." The parade will be held on Level 2 of the Shoppes at Cotai Central every day at 4 p.m.

The Kung Fu Panda Adventure Ice World with the DreamWorks All-Stars will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The event ends on July 9. LV

53m pageviews per year  
www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



# Times App

## New look more features

advertising@macaudailytimes.com



Times App on App Store & Google Play



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "



### The all-new Maserati Levante. The Maserati of SUVs.

The practicality and versatility of an SUV or the power and panache of a Maserati? Now you can enjoy both, courtesy of the new Levante. Featuring potent 3.0 V6 diesel (Variable Geometry Turbo) engine, Q4 intelligent all-wheel drive system, an 8-speed ZF transmission and sophisticated air suspension, the Levante is every inch a refined SUV. Meanwhile, its exclusive Italian styling, luxurious interior and unique exhaust note affirm its Maserati DNA. So that's one less difficult decision to make.



**Xin Kang Shun Motors Limited.**  
(Official Macau Sales Agent)

Rua dos Pescadores, 424,Edf. Hantec R/C, O/P, Macau  
Tel: +853 2876 2787

**AUTO ITALIA (HONG KONG) LTD**

Kowloon Bay Showroom: G/F, First Group Centre, 14 Wang Tai Road, Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong  
Wanchai Showroom: Units A-C, G/F, Neich Tower, 128 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong  
Tel: +852 2627 8900 | sales@maserati.com.hk

www.maserati.hk

Join us on Facebook



ANALYSIS

## How China Evergrande's borrowing time (and time again)

Christopher Langner

IT'S becoming a tradition. China Evergrande Group has started the year three times since 2014 by asking bondholders to loosen restrictions on raising more debt and spending on acquisitions. It then goes on a borrowing and buying spree. The result has been a series of credit downgrades that has China's most indebted developer on the verge of the C category, associated with imminent default.

The Guangzhou-based company is offering notes payable in 2020 and 2022, Bloomberg News reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the matter. The move comes only three days after Evergrande got holders of its outstanding offshore bonds to relax constraints on how much debt the company can assume.

Among other things, Evergrande was allowed to increase the amount of permitted investments to 25 percent of assets from 20 percent. Other rules were eased that freed some subsidiaries to take on more debt individually. Evergrande had 999.9 billion yuan (USD144.9 billion) of assets as of June 30, so the company in effect just obtained a blank check to increase its permitted investments by \$7.2 billion.

When the Hong Kong-listed developer asked bondholders to agree to the changes, it justified them by saying it was trying to do a share offering in China that would increase equity, which should be a welcome prospect for creditors.

The company made similar requests at the beginning of both 2014 and 2016. Subsequently, Evergrande went on to increase its leverage to astronomical levels. Its total debt to common equity ratio went from 224 percent at the end of 2013 before the first "consent solicitation," as such requests are known, to 809 percent at the end of June.

Even that measure doesn't fully reflect Evergrande's leverage, as I have noted before. The company has issued preferred shares and perpetuities, which are treated as equity but have more debt-like characteristics. If those are factored in, the developer owes \$91 for every \$9 of stock on the balance sheet - a leverage ratio of more than 10 times.

As Evergrande's leverage has climbed, S&P Global Ratings has moved the company from a BB score to B- with a negative outlook. Given the increase in debt ratios, the likelihood of a downgrade to the C category now looks high. **Bloomberg**

## Cathay plans 30 percent staff cost cuts under reform pressure

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd. set a target to save 30 percent in employee costs at its Hong Kong head office as part of the biggest revamp in two decades, amid mounting competition that caused the carrier to post its first annual loss in eight years.

The savings will come from changes to middle to senior management that will be announced by June, Asia's biggest international carrier said in an emailed statement Friday. A transition to the new structure will occur over the summer, Cathay said.

"It is clear that there is a need for an organizational structure that will allow the Cathay Pacific Group to succeed," the airline said. "We need a leaner, simpler structure that is driven by real insights into our customers and their needs, one that will allow us to respond quickly to change."

The statement sheds more light on a "critical review" Cathay announced five months ago. The airline has been discounting its premium offerings in a bid to fill seats as it competes against airlines such as China Eastern Airlines Corp., weighing on passenger yields. It has kicked off a three-year "transformation program" to revive earnings, and has said changes would "start at the top." The marquee carrier expects the operating environment in 2017 to remain challenging.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for them to look at what is happening now, not just the numbers but look at the structural issues and make a clean break from the old days," Shukor Yusof, founder of En-



dau Analytics, an aviation consulting firm in Malaysia, said by phone. "This year is going to be the threshold for them, and if they don't do anything by the end of this year, they're going find themselves a lot deeper in trouble."

Shares of Cathay rose 1.4 percent to HKD11.28 in Hong Kong on Friday, narrowing losses in the past 12 months to 18 percent. The city's Hang Seng Index has gained 19 percent over the same period. Swire Group is the parent of Cathay, while Air China Ltd. holds almost 30 percent.

The Hong Kong carrier recorded a net loss of HKD575 million (USD74 million) for 2016, it said March 15. Losses from fuel hedging totaled HKD8.46 billion, and the airline said it expects further such losses in 2017 though the

amount should be smaller.

Cathay Pacific Group employed more than 33,700 people worldwide, including about 23,400 for the main airline, according to the interim report for the half year ended June 2016.

Increases in staff expenses are harder for Cathay to contain because of unions' involvement, said Will Horton, an analyst at CAPA Centre for Aviation in Hong Kong.

"Staff costs saw increases due to wage growth at unions for frontline staff. That is a trickier cost element to control," Horton said in an email. "Stating the 30 percent figure seems to be a clear message Cathay's restructuring starts at the top and all employees are in this together if they are to secure Cathay's future. That means pilots then need to come to the table, too." **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### GRAND HYATT TO OFFER PERSONALIZED AFTERNOON TEA



The Lobby Lounge of the Grand Hyatt Macau will present a new afternoon tea experience, incorporating various dessert stations that grant guests

greater choice and allow them to personalize their own menus.

The wide range of confectionary will be presented at the Pâtisserie, where guests are in-

vited to choose Chinaware from a choice of four: burnt orange, a subtle turquoise, pure white with a beautiful engraved floral pattern, or white with a bronze art deco pattern.

This also allows guests to mix and match their desserts to their selected color plates, further adding to the fun and creativity of the customized afternoon tea experience, according to a statement from the Grand Hyatt Macau.

A waffle machines offers guests the opportunity to get creative and personalize their own hot waffle. They can then choose from a selection of seasonal fruit, Hokkaido soft ice cream and other decorative toppings.

The "Afternoon Tea and Me" is available from March 15 onwards, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. daily.

#### THE PARISIAN MACAO TO STAGE UNCONVENTIONAL BIBAP PERFORMANCE



A multi-disciplinary entertainment show will be held at The Parisian Macao from

April 7 to 23, blending the promotion of Korean food culture, an indulgence in

comedy and the mix of martial arts, street dance and hip-hop.

The unconventional collaboration, titled "BIBAP", is the story of a cooking competition between two master chefs - Green Chef and Red Chef - at "BIBAP restaurant".

Revolving around the Korean national dish of spicy rice, vegetables and beef called bibimbap, the show is a non-verbal performance incorporating music, beat box, singing and breakdancing, according to a statement from organizer, Sands China.

The show debuted in 2009 and has now been performed in many countries around the world.

Tickets went on sale on Friday at Cotai Ticketing box offices.



U.S. State Secretary, Rex Tillerson (second from left) attends talks with China's President Xi Jinping

# Tillerson urges China-US cooperation on N. Korea

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Saturday pushed for closer China-U.S. cooperation on dealing with North Korea's nuclear program in his first face-to-face talks with top Chinese diplomats.

Tillerson's visit to Beijing followed his remarks in South Korea on Friday in which he warned that pre-emptive military action against North Korea might be necessary if the threat from its weapons program reaches a level "that we believe requires action."

China, the North's biggest source of diplomatic support and economic assistance, hasn't responded directly to his remarks, although Beijing has called repeatedly for all sides to take steps to reduce tensions.

Tillerson stressed the need for a "results oriented" relationship with China in comments following his meeting Saturday with Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

"We renewed our determination to work together to convince North Korea to choose a better path and a different future for its people," Tillerson said.

He said Wang agreed on the

need for a "course correction" with Pyongyang. Bringing North Korea "to a different place" is a matter to be approached with "a sense of urgency," Tillerson said.

Wang restated Beijing's calls for dialogue between the U.S. and North Korea and called Tillerson's visit an important step toward a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart, Donald Trump, expected next month.

Tillerson met later with Yang Jiechi, Xi's top foreign policy adviser. As North Korea's most important source of diplomatic support and economic assistance, China has grown increasingly concerned about the possibility of conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

Wang warned last week that North Korea on one side, and the U.S. and South Korea on the other, were like "two accelerating trains" headed at each other, with neither side willing to give way.

He floated a proposal that North Korea could suspend its nuclear and missile activities in exchange for a halt in joint U.S.-South Korea military drills. That was swiftly shot

down by the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, who said Washington has to see "some sort of positive action" from North Korea before it can take leader Kim Jong Un seriously.

While China has agreed reluctantly to U.N. Security Council resolutions sanctioning North Korea, it is adamantly opposed to measures that might bring about a collapse of the North Korean regime and send waves of refugees into northeastern China while South Korean and American forces take up

positions on its border.

That's left Beijing with few options other than to call for renewed dialogue under the Beijing-sponsored six-nation format that broke down in 2009.

In a further sign of its frustration with Pyongyang, China last month banned imports of North Korean coal for the rest of the year, potentially depriving Kim's regime of a key source of foreign currency.

On Friday, Tillerson signaled a tougher strategy toward North Korea that leaves open the possibility of pre-emptive military action.

"Let me be very clear: The policy of strategic patience has ended," he said after visiting the heavily militarized border between the rival Koreas. "We are exploring a new range of diplomatic, security and economic measures. All options are on the table."

Past U.S. administrations have considered military force because of North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles to deliver them, but rarely has that option been expressed so explicitly as by Tillerson.

North Korea has accelerated its weapons development, violating multiple Security Council resolutions without being deterred by sanctions. The North conducted two nuclear test ex-

plosions and 24 ballistic missile tests last year. Experts say it could have a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the U.S. within a few years.

China has stridently opposed the deployment of a U.S. missile defense system to South Korea, saying its X-band radar can peer deep into China to monitor flights and rocket launches. The U.S. says it's a system focused purely on North Korea and poses no threat to the security of other nations.

Tillerson's visit to Beijing is the final stop on his three-nation swing through Northeast Asia, which began in Japan. State Department officials have described it as a "listening tour" as the administration seeks to coordinate with its Asian partners on a coherent North Korea policy.

Though it didn't come up in his public remarks, Tillerson was expected to discuss with China its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, including its building of islands atop coral reefs, complete with airstrips and military installations.

During his confirmation hearings in January, Tillerson compared China's island-building and deployment of military assets to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, and suggested that China's access to its newly built islands should be blocked.

## Secretary of State meets with Xi Jinping

THE United States is looking forward to the first meeting between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said yesterday, on the final day of a swing through Asia dominated by concerns over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

In talks with Xi in Beijing, Tillerson said Trump places a "very high value" on communications with the Chinese president.

Trump looks forward to "the opportunity of a visit in the future," Tillerson said, in an apparent reference to unconfirmed reports of plans for the two leaders to meet in Florida next month.

While few details of his talks have been released, Tillerson appeared to strike a cordial tone during his meetings in Beijing, in contrast to Trump's tough talk on Chinese economic competition during his presidential campaign.

Xi told Tillerson that China considered his meetings Saturday with Foreign Minister Wang Yi and top diplomat Yang Jiechi to have been productive and constructive.

"Both [Trump] and I believe that we need to make joint efforts to advance China-U.S. cooperation and we believe that we can make sure the relationship will move ahead in a constructive fashion in the new era," Xi said. AP

**SAUDI ARABIA'S** King Salman met with China's premier on Friday, a day after the two nations signed a memorandum of understanding on investment cooperation valued at USD65 billion.

The landmark agreement aims to boost joint efforts in fields including energy, investment, finance, culture and aerospace, part of Saudi Arabia's drive to develop a growth strategy less dependent on oil.

Beijing meanwhile is rolling out a massive trade and investment initiative across Central Asia and the Middle East called "One Belt, One Road" that sees the desert kingdom as a re-

## China, Saudi Arabia sign USD65b in cooperation deals

gional linchpin.

Despite the eye-catching sum noted in the memo, the actual value of such commitments is usually much smaller once projects begin.

Saudi Arabia has been China's biggest supplier of imported crude oil before being overtaken by Russia last year, and the kingdom's state-owned oil producer, Aramco, is a partner with state-owned China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. The two operate a refinery in Fujian province along with other Chinese projects.

The signing of the agreement, which involves 35 separate projects, followed talks last week between Salman and President Xi Jinping, during which the Chinese leader said results of their burgeoning cooperation had already "surpassed our expectations."

Security ties between the two have also grown significantly, with the Saudi air force deploying Chinese unmanned attack drones and the two militaries holding joint counter-terrorism exercises in western China. Chinese navy vessels have

also visited the Saudi port of Jeddah as part of increasingly active maneuvers in the Gulf of Aden.

However, China is also a close partner of Saudi Arabia's arch rival Iran, and has backed the government of President Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian conflict, while Saudi Arabia has insisted on Assad's ouster and has supported the Syrian opposition, including Islamic militant groups.

The 81-year-old Salman's visit is part of a monthlong swing through Asia. Accompanied by a 1,500-strong re-



Saudi Arabia's King Salman (left) pictured during a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

tinue of businessmen, princes and support staff in close to a dozen aircraft, he has already visited Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

He was to travel next to

the Maldives, but postponed that visit because of the spread of swine flu in the Indian Ocean island nation, according to the president's office. AP

Robert Olsen

**D**ON'T bet against Hong Kong's billionaire property tycoons, even if the city's incoming chief executive takes a tough stance on reining in soaring home prices.

After a short-lived dip as the city's government ratcheted up real estate curbs in November, property stocks have bounced back and so has the wealth of billionaires including Li Ka-shing and Lee Shau Kee.

More than seven years into Hong Kong's campaign to tame runaway home prices, real estate moguls account for nine of the 10 wealthiest people in the city, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Hong Kong's property market has defied any attempts to cool prices, despite a raft of measures to bring them down. As the city's election draws close, the two leading candidates have both singled out unaffordable housing as an issue, signaling that new measures may be rolled out to address rising prices. A committee of about 1,200 business and political elites will be voting later this month on who will become the next chief executive.

Housing costs have dogged current chief Leung Chun-ying over the course of his five years in power. Carrie Lam, the former chief secretary and one of the leading candidates to succeed Leung, has pledged to form a taskforce to increase the city's land supply and create a new class of subsidized housing for first-time buyers and middle

# Hong Kong's richest men prove resilient against property curbs



Li Ka-shing

class residents. Her main rival, former Financial Secretary John Tsang, says that he'll provide public housing for 60 percent of the population from its current level of 45.6 percent and build affordable homes for the middle class as well.

Still, Hong Kong's property billionaires have weathered policy shocks well. The initial losses of more than USD4.4 billion that hit eight of the ten richest people in Hong Kong after the city's leaders announced

a stamp duty hike in November have since been all but erased. Cheung Kong Property Holdings Ltd.'s Chairman Li, the city's wealthiest person, and Henderson Land Development Ltd.'s Lee were among the billionaires who saw their fortunes return to virtually the same level on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index after earlier declines.

Over the past four years that data is available, a period that has seen periodic bouts of policy tightening, the city's property

billionaires have seen their collective fortunes rise 19 percent as the Hang Seng Properties Index has surged at 10 times the pace of the broader index. Even aggressive forays from mainland competitors haven't dented the fortunes of Hong Kong's richest.

Perversely, even after the curbs in November, developers continued to see brisk sales for new apartments in Hong Kong as they've been able to entice buyers with discounts and rebates, while sales of homes by in-

dividuals have dried up. Sellout crowds at new apartment openings have become the norm, giving developers power to increase prices.

**■ Even after the curbs in November, developers continued to see brisk sales for new apartments in Hong Kong**

"The rich are inconvenienced by it, but it's the middle class that are hurt the most," said Peter Churchouse, the managing director of Portwood Capital and author of The Churchouse newsletter, referring to the latest property curbs. "It makes selling in the secondary market extremely difficult because buyers have to pay the tax up front, whereas the payments are deferred in the pre-sales market." **Bloomberg**

## Beijing plans first structure on disputed South China Sea shoal

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**C**HINA plans to build the first permanent structure on a South China Sea shoal at the heart of a territorial dispute with the Philippines, in a move likely to renew concerns over Beijing's robust assertions of its claims in the strategically crucial waterbody.

The top official in Sansha City that has administered China's island claims since 2012 was quoted by the official Hainan Daily newspaper as saying that preparations were underway to build an environmental monitoring station on Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

The preparatory work on the stations and others on five other islands in the strategically vital waterway was among the govern-

ment's top priorities for 2017, Sansha Communist Party Secretary Xiao Jie was quoted as saying in an interview published in the paper's Monday edition seen online Friday in Beijing. No other details were.

Beijing seized tiny, uninhabited Scarborough in 2012 after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels. Taiwan also includes the island within its South China Sea claims that largely overlap with those of China.

The other stations mentioned by Xiao would be situated on features in the Paracel island group that China has controlled since seizing parts of it away from Vietnam in 1974.

China's construction and land reclamation work in the South China Sea have drawn strong criticism from the U.S. and others,

who accuse Beijing of further militarizing the region and altering geography to bolster its claims. China says the seven man-made islands in the disputed Spratly group, which it has equipped with airstrips and military installations, are mainly for civilian purposes and to boost safety for fishing and maritime trade.

Prior to the announcement, South China Sea tensions had eased somewhat since Beijing erupted in fury last year after a Hague-based arbitration tribunal ruled on a case filed by the Philippines. The verdict invalidated China's sweeping territorial claims and determining that China violated the rights of Filipinos to fish at Scarborough Shoal.

China has since allowed Filipino fishermen to return to the shoal following Philippine President Rodri-

go Duterte's calls for closer ties between the countries, but it does not recognize the tribunal's ruling as valid and insists it has historical claims to almost the entire South China Sea, through which an estimated USD5 trillion in global trade passes each year.

Scarborough has no proper land mass and any structure on it would likely have to be built on stilts. The shoal forms a triangle-shaped lagoon of rocks and reefs running for 46 kilometers, with its highest point just 1.8 meters above water at high tide. Known in Chinese as Huangyan Island, it lies about 200 kilometers (120 miles) west of the main Philippine island of Luzon, and about 600 kilometers (370 miles) southeast of China.

U.S. diplomats have said privately that reclamation

work on the shoal would be seen as crossing a red line because of its proximity to the main Philippine islands and the threat it could pose to U.S. and Filipino military assets.

During his Senate confirmation hearing for secretary of state, Rex Tillerson compared China's island-building and military deployments to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, and suggested China's access to the islands should not be allowed. The U.S. says China has reclaimed more than 1,295 hectares (3,200 acres) of land in the area.

The topic is likely to be high on the agenda when Tillerson visits Beijing for talks with top officials on Saturday and Sunday.

Meanwhile, Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang was visiting the Philippines, just days after Duterte said Monday that he had told the military to assert Philippine ownership of a large ocean region off the country's northeastern coast where Chinese survey ships were spotted last year, in a

discovery that alarmed Philippine defense officials.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei have long contested ownership of the South China Sea, which straddles one of the world's busiest sea lanes and is believed to sit atop vast deposits of oil and gas.

Also this week, the commander in chief of China's navy, Vice Adm. Shen Jinlong, noted improving relations in a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart, Rear Adm. Pham Hoai Nam, in Beijing.

China and Vietnam have had long-running territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Tensions spiked in 2014 after China parked an oil rig near Vietnam's central coast, sparking mass protests in Vietnam.

The two navies and their countries should "together play a positive role in maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea," Shen was quoted as saying by China's defense ministry. **AP**



Christian Burmese refugees play before the start of their lessons in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

# Trump's planned reduction in refugees may hit Myanmar worst

Martha Mendoza and  
Meghan Hoyer, Kuala Lumpur

**T**IN, her husband and five children have cleared years of refugee hurdles to come to the U.S.: blood tests, interviews, DNA and fingerprints, background checks. She has her one must-bring possession within reach, a well-worn Bible, and keeps their phone charged for the U.S. Embassy to call.

But the odds of that happening dropped precipitously.

President Donald Trump's 16-page travel ban "to keep the bad dudes out" bars new visas for people from six Muslim-majority countries and shuts down America's refugee program through mid-July. His executive order had been set to take effect Thursday last week, but a federal judge put it on hold hours before it was to take effect.

The order also includes a 55 percent reduction in refugee visas overall, from a planned 110,000 to 50,000 this year. This means, in some of the most desperate places in the world, 60,000 refugee visas are not going to be issued after all.

Who are the 60,000 people who may have lost their

chance to resettle in the U.S. by September? An Associated Press analysis of 10 years of refugee data suggests that their most common country of origin is not any of the six nations in the travel ban, but Myanmar, also known as Burma. Thousands, like Tin and her family, are Christians who were persecuted in their native country.

They expected to resettle before September in the U.S., a place they consider home. More than 160,000 Burmese have resettled in the U.S. in the past decade, more than any other group. They account for nearly 25 percent of new U.S. refugees since 2007.

"America is really our fatherland in terms of religion," said Tin, 38. "They sent their missionaries to our country and taught us to be Christians. And now we had to escape. All we want is to be safe."

Christians face religious and political discrimination in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar. Its nascent democracy is heavily influenced by a military that ruled for half a century and remains at war with several ethnic groups, some of which are majority Christian.

Tin and her community fled

Chin state, where Human Rights Watch says more than 90 percent of the residents were adhering to the tenets the American Baptist Church by 2009, pitting them against a military campaign to elevate Buddhism over all other religions.

Tin and others said that when they gathered for family prayers, people threw rocks at them. Soldiers busted into church services. They hid their precious Bibles for fear of attack.

School teacher Sang, 29, a Burmese refugee who learned English as a theology student, meticulously read through a copy of Trump's executive order last week and then looked up, nodding.

He said that while he agreed with the need to keep terrorists out of the U.S., "We are not terrorists, we are Christians. We will never be a problem in the United States. We will get educations, we will work hard. We only seek safety."

Tin and Sang are among more than 100,000 Christian Burmese refugees forced to flee in recent years. They live out of suitcases in abject poverty in Malaysia. Their kids can't go to school, and they risk deportation or detention

if they try to report a crime.

And it's not just Christians. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims have also been forced to escape the country of 51 million, where soldiers torched homes, raped women and killed them in a crackdown that began in October.

## ■ Burmese settlers account for nearly 25 percent of new U.S. refugees since 2007

Trump's "Executive Order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," says lowering the cap is necessary to U.S. interests. But the swift reduction in refugee visas interrupts work underway by federal law enforcement agencies and nonprofits around the world to vet 110,000 people in 2017, the highest number in decades. It was an attempt to put a small dent in the record 65 million refugees, asylum

seekers and internally displaced persons worldwide.

Nearly 38,000 have been admitted so far. Another 72,000 were preparing to arrive before the fiscal year ends in September. Instead, under Trump's order just 12,000 more will be allowed in. Exceptions can be made if the secretaries of State and Homeland Security agree.

"The safety and security of the American people is our highest priority," said a State Department official who provided a statement on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk on the record about it.

The U.S. defines refugees as people of "special humanitarian concern" who have been persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

An AP analysis found that nearly half the refugees who have arrived in fiscal year 2017 came from the seven majority Muslim countries named in an earlier executive order. Refugees from Syria, in particular, have arrived in greater numbers in the past twelve months. Burma's share has dropped from 26 percent of all spots in 2015 to just 8 percent of the refugee case-load so far this fiscal year.

The AP also found refugees from Bhutan and Afghanistan make up a smaller proportion admitted in 2017 than in previous years.

About 210,000 refugees, largely Vietnamese and Cambodians, came to the U.S. in 1980, the most in any year. Refugee arrivals dropped to less than 30,000 after 9/11 prompted strict new immigration rules. But they have increased fairly steadily since 2004, and overall refugee admissions reached 85,000 last year.

The journeys of Burmese refugees begin in some of the poorest places on Earth: remote villages in strife-ridden regions. They pay smugglers upward of USD500 for the harrowing two-week journey. Some end up in Thailand, where an estimated 100,000 live in refugee camps, known locally as "temporary shelters." Thai officials did not allow AP to visit.

In Malaysia there are about 130,000 Burmese refugees awaiting resettlement. They live in Kuala Lumpur's poorest neighborhoods, their makeshift plywood walls dividing ordinary two-bedroom apartment into a half dozen stifling family units, a stark contrast to city's glimmering skyscrapers. They can stay for years, their belongings packed in baggage, so they can be near the United Nations and U.S. Embassy if called to get stamps on documents or meet with officials. **AP**

### Japan holds first civilian missile evacuation drill

THE Japanese government held its first-ever drill Friday to protect citizens in case a ballistic missile is launched toward Japan.

More than 100 residents and schoolchildren of the coastal city of Oga in northern Japan participated in the drill. Loudspeakers warned them of a possible missile threat and urged them to seek shelter indoors because missile parts might fall.

The drill assumed a scenario of a hypothetical country firing a missile that falls into Japanese territorial waters off the coast of Akita prefecture. It came amid increasing missile threats from North Korea.

Earlier this month, North Korea fired four missiles, of which

three landed in the 200-nautical mile offshore area where Tokyo has sovereign rights to explore and exploit resources.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters "it is imperative to raise the public's awareness" about how they should respond in case of a missile threat.

The drill began with a government alert issued at 9:30 a.m. warning of a possible missile launch. Municipal officials then used loudspeakers and emails to urge residents to seek cover at designated evacuation centers.

During the drill, schoolchildren and others who were outside sought shelter inside a school building or a community center. AP

## US, Asia-Pacific allies rolling out F-35 fighter

THE U.S. and its Asia-Pacific allies are rolling out their new stealth fighter jet, a cutting-edge plane that costs about USD100 million each.

The U.S. Air Force this week hosted allies and partners in Hawaii for a symposium on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which can sneak undetected behind enemy radar.

Brig. Gen. Craig Wills, the strategic plans director at Pacific Air Forces, said the U.S. wanted to share its experiences with the F-35 and F-22, another stealth fighter, with allies and partners so they wouldn't have to learn everything on their own.

The Air Force will use the F-35 to replace the A-10 and the F-16, and say it represents a "quantum leap" in air combat capability over these older planes.

"The idea with fifth generation is that we want to be able to operate in areas where others cannot, in places where our fourth generation airplanes can't fly," Wills said.

The U.S. Marine Corps in January



deployed 10 of the planes to a base in Japan. The U.S. Air Force plans to station the jet in Alaska within three years.

Australia and Japan have already taken delivery of some of planes that they are using for pilot training in Arizona. South Korea is scheduled to get the plane next year.

Loren Thompson, a defense analyst at the Lexington Institute, an Arlington, Virginia-based think tank, said the F-35 can make a "huge difference" in places like North Korea, where it could defeat air defenses and take out threats before they could react.

"The F-35 could fly all the way from South Korea to the North Korean capital without anyone from

North Korea knowing it was on its way," he said.

The Air Force currently has 103 planes in its possession, including one fully operational fighter wing at Hill Air Force Base in Utah.

Other than Alaska, Wills said the Air Force hasn't decided where in the Pacific it will station additional planes. Alaska's Eielson Air Force Base is expected to get two squadrons.

The Air Force currently bases F-22 jets in Hawaii and Alaska. Wills said the F-22 was designed to face down other fighter jets in the air, but also have an ability to hit ground targets. The F-35 was designed to strike ground targets and for air-to-air combat. MDT/AP

AD



### Networking Evening at Banyan Tree Macau Thursday 30th March Banyan Room 2, 1/F



6.30pm to 8.30pm

A selection of canapés will be served accompanied by wine, beers and soft drinks.

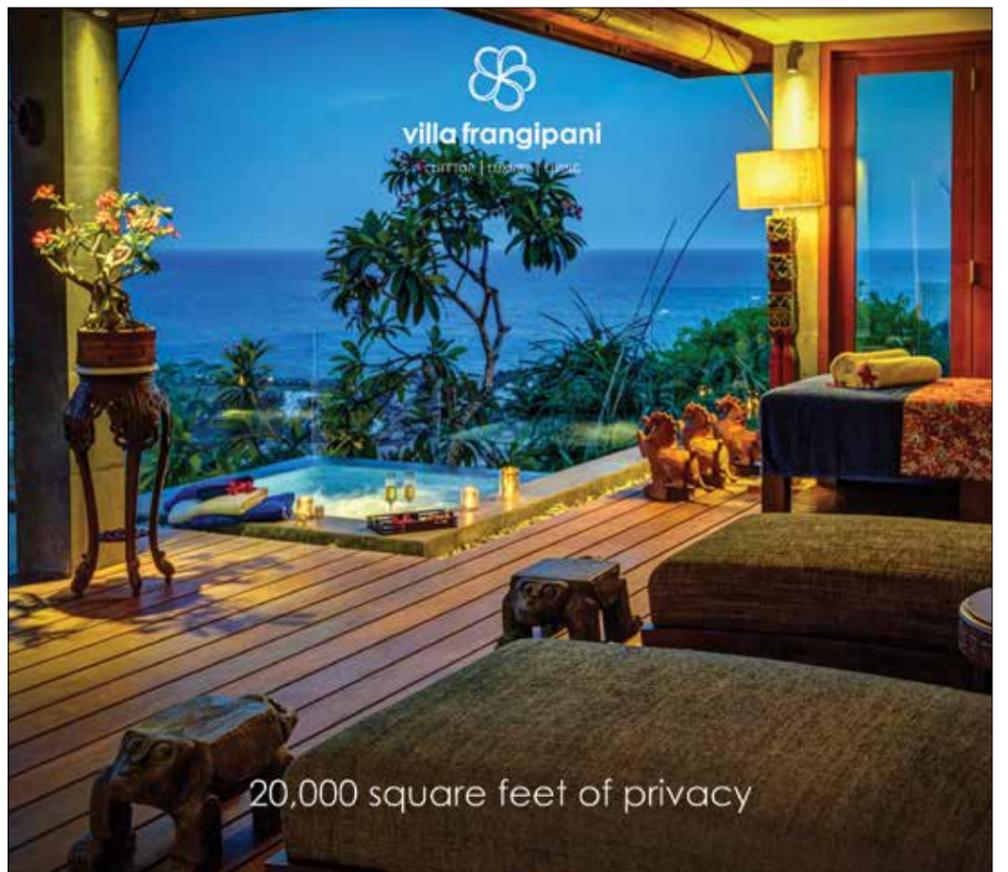
BBAM Members – MOP/HKD 200 - Non-Members – MOP/HKD 300

Event co-sponsored by



Please RSVP to [bbam@britchammacao.org](mailto:bbam@britchammacao.org)

or through our website [www.britchammacao.org](http://www.britchammacao.org) (Events/Upcoming Events)



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](http://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](mailto:info@privatevillasofbali.com)  
[www.privatevillasofbali.com](http://www.privatevillasofbali.com)  
skype ID: privatevillasofbali  
+62361 8468513

**SCOTLAND** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon accused U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May of being intransigent on the timing of a referendum on Scottish independence, and said it would “not be reasonable” to make Scots wait more than three years from now for a potential vote.

“By that point Scotland will have been taken out” of the European Union, Scottish National Party leader Sturgeon said on ITV’s “Peston on Sunday” television show.

For her, a fair compromise would be to set a vote “a bit after” after her own deadline of early 2019, when the U.K. could leave the bloc. She was asked by interviewer Robert Peston if a 2021 referendum was reasonable. Sturgeon’s team want to press on with the legal process after she called for a vote as early as the fall of 2018.

If May is “talking, you know, in the spring of 2019, a bit later perhaps than I was suggesting then there may be some room for discussion around that,” Sturgeon said.

May has pledged to fire the starting gun on two years of Brexit talks with the EU by the end of March. Sturgeon argues that Scots should have a say before those negotiations end, and Scotland is left out in the cold.

She said last week that Britain needs to unite to make a success of its divorce from the

## BRITAIN

# Sturgeon says 2021 Scots independence vote is unacceptable

EU, and “now is not the time” for a Scottish breakaway campaign. Sturgeon will introduce a motion into the Scottish Parliament this week to apply to the legislature in London for a referendum on independence.

Ruth Davidson, leader of the Scottish branch of May’s Conservative Party, accused of Sturgeon of being “hell-bent on the separation of this country” during an interview on BBC Television’s “Andrew Marr Show” on Sunday.

Support for independence is at 44 percent among Scottish voters, one percentage point less than the result for leaving the U.K. in a 2014 referendum, the Sunday Times reported, citing a poll by Panelbase. The survey showed 51 percent of Scots didn’t want another vote in the next few years while 32 percent back a referendum in the next year or two.

There has been a hardening of position from May. She repeated her opposition to a vote in a speech to her Conservative Party’s spring forum

BLOOMBERG



Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's first minister and leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP)

in Cardiff on Friday, accusing the SNP of having “tunnel vision” and of using concerns over Brexit as a pretext for pushing for a vote.

“It would be bad for Scotland, bad for the United Kingdom, and bad for us all,”

May told Tory delegates. “It is essential that we get the right deal, and that all of our efforts and energies as a country are focused on that outcome.”

The SNP is expected to win the vote in the Scottish Parliament with support from

the Greens. May will then risk the credibility of the union if she refuses a referendum, Sturgeon said at her own party’s conference in Aberdeen on Saturday, a day after May addressed Tories.

MDT/Bloomberg

## PERU

## Death toll rises to 72 in rains, flooding, mudslides

Franklin Briceno, Lima

**T**HE intense rains, overflowing rivers, mudslides and flooding being experienced in the country are the worst seen in two decades, Peruvian authorities said Saturday, affecting more than half the nation as the death toll since the beginning of the year hit 72.

The highly unusual rains follow a series of storms that have struck hard along Peru’s northern coast, with voracious waters inundating hospitals and leaving some small villages isolated. The storms are being caused by a warming of the surface waters in the Pacific Ocean and are expected to continue for another two weeks.

Peru’s government said that 374 people were killed in 1998 during a similar period of massive rains and flooding caused



A group of people hold onto a rope as they wade through flood waters to safety in Lima

by rains blamed on the El Nino climate pattern.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Fernando Zavala updated the number of dead from the latest flooding to 72.

The rains have overwhelmed the drainage system in the cities along Peru’s Pacific coast and the health ministry has started fumigating around the pools of water that have formed in the streets to kill mosquitoes that carry diseases like dengue.

Lima has been without water service since the beginning of the week. The government has deployed the armed forces to help police control public order in the 811 cities that have

declared an emergency. “The prices for lemons have gone up, as well as for potatoes and cooking oil,” said Sara Arevalo, a mother of five who was shopping at a market in northern Lima. The government has acknowledged that prices have shot up some 5 percent because of the flooding.

In the Lambayeque region, 22 inmates at a juvenile detention center took advantage of the rains to escape. And in the city of Trujillo, rains flooded a cemetery with the waters carrying bones through the streets.

Even Peru’s capital city of Lima, where a desert climate seldom leads to rain, police on Friday had to help hundreds of residents in an outskirt neighborhood cross a flooded road by sending them one-by-one along a rope through choppy waters. The muddy current channeled down the street after a major river overflowed. Some residents left their homes with just a single plastic bag carrying their belongings.

The presidents of Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela offered to send help to Peru. AP

declared an emergency. “The prices for lemons have gone up, as well as for potatoes and cooking oil,” said Sara Arevalo, a mother of five who was shopping at a market in northern Lima. The government has acknowledged that prices have shot up some 5 percent because of the flooding.

declared an emergency. “The prices for lemons have gone up, as well as for potatoes and cooking oil,” said Sara Arevalo, a mother of five who was shopping at a market in northern Lima. The government has acknowledged that prices have shot up some 5 percent because of the flooding.

## GERMANY

## Merkel’s rival eschews Trump-style campaigning

**M**A RTIN Schulz, the Social Democrat who’s shaping up as Chancellor Angela Merkel’s biggest electoral threat yet, said he’ll avoid campaign tactics associated with U.S. President Donald Trump and vowed to oppose forces that want to tear the European Union apart.

Almost two months after the former European Parliament president emerged as Merkel’s main challenger in the September election, Schulz pledged to campaign for equal pay for men and women and warned against nationalist parties in a party convention speech yesterday. He’s looking to sustain early momentum in the polls that’s lifted the Social Democrats to virtual parity with Merkel’s Christian Democrat-led bloc, which has governed

Germany for almost 12 years.

SPD delegates in Berlin are voting on formally backing Schulz’s candidacy for chancellor and naming him party head. Combining the role of candidate and chairman is seen as a hedge against bickering among the party’s factions, potentially clearing the way for Schulz to focus on campaign themes beyond appealing to the SPD’s base and voters left behind in Germany’s booming economy.

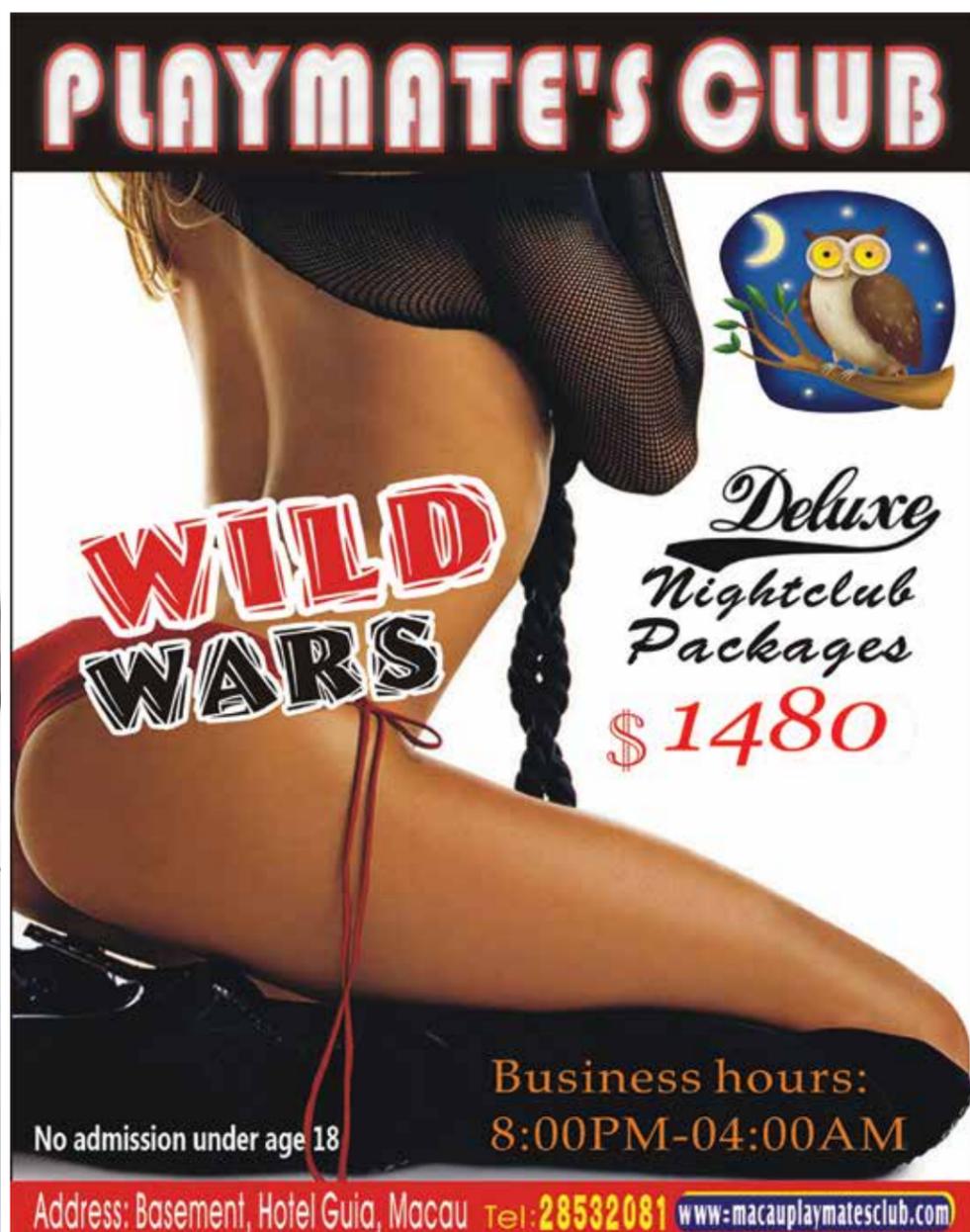
“If there’s one lesson from Donald Trump’s election campaign, it’s that contempt, working with fake news and blanket condemnation of entire groups of people have no place in Germany,” Schulz said to applause from the 600 party members. “You won’t see me engaging in the vilification of political competitors.” Bloomberg



**TOPLESS CLUB**  
 open 7 days/week  
 營業時間 夜晚11點 - 清晨  
 11 PM - MORNING

**D2 CLUB**  
 www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edf. New Orleans III  
 澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良館 III  
 Tel: (853) 2872 3777



**PLAYMATE'S CLUB**

**WILD WARS**

*Deluxe*  
 Nightclub  
 Packages  
**\$1480**

Business hours:  
 8:00PM-04:00AM

No admission under age 18

Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: **28532081** [www-macauplaymatesclub.com](http://www-macauplaymatesclub.com)

# 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



## MONKEY KING

TIME: 8pm daily

UNTIL: March 31, 2017

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780,

MOP1080, MOP1580

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

BETWEEN GAZE AND HALLUCINATION - BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOÃO MIGUEL BARROS

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: March 25, 2017

VENUE: Creative Macau, G Floor, Macao Cultural

Centre, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

## Offbeat

## 'MOST INTERESTING MAN' JUDGES BEARD CONTEST; GIRL'S DAD WINS



Bryan Sturge, of Barre, Vt., shows off his beard

A man who helped pitch Dos Equis beer as the Most Interesting Man in the World turned his attention from his favorite beer to his favorite beard by judging a competition called Vermont Beardies.

Actor Jonathan Goldsmith, who lives in Manchester and sports a closely cropped white beard that he maintains with a lice comb given to him by a veterinarian, was one of four judges who chose the contest's winner in Burlington on Saturday.

This year's honors went to Bryan Sturge, of Barre, who hasn't cut his beard in almost two years.

The event benefits Make-a-Wish Vermont, which helps grant wishes to children living with life-threatening conditions. Organizers said Saturday night that they'd raised nearly \$30,000.

The competition was judged in three categories: urban beard, freestyle and backwoods. Each contestant also had to tell an interesting story about his beard. Out of the more than 100 original entrants, the top 30 were invited to the in-person finals.

Sturge entered the backwoods competition as a tribute to his 11-year-old daughter Zoey, who died of cancer in 2013 before her Make-a-Wish request to go to Disney World and swim with the dolphins could be granted.

When Zoey was sick, Sturge promised Zoey he wouldn't shave until she got better. After she died, he shaved a couple times but always regrew his beard. He said he entered the contest to give back to Make-a-Wish so that other children could be granted wishes that Zoey never got to experience.

Goldsmith, who spent nine years as the pitchman with the gravelly voice for Dos Equis, said there are a few things he's looking for in a winning beard.

"The character of the beard, how it brings forth something indigenous to the individual, something personal," Goldsmith said.

While the premise of the contest is humorous, the reason for it can be heart-wrenching.

"It's a promise that we made," Sturge said. "It's love. It's a memory. It's how she last saw me, with a beard. She didn't want me to shave it because of our promise. I offered to shave for her so she could see me without it. She said, 'No, that's not the deal.'" AP

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Criminal Minds S.9
17:50	Fifties Club (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sport
22:10	Fifties Club
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## Cinema



## CINETEATRO

16 MAR - 21 MAR

## KONG: SKULL ISLAND

ROOM 1

(2D): 2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

(3D): 7:15pm

Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts

Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## SILENCE

ROOM 2

2:30, 5:30, 9:30pm

Director: Martin Scorsese

Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

## THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS

ROOM 3

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

Director: Colm McCarthy

Starring: Gemma Arterton, Glenn Close, Sennia Nanua

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min

## LA LA LAND

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

## MACAU TOWER

15 MAR - 29 MAR



## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Bill Condon

Starring: Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 129min

## this day in history



## 2003 US LAUNCHES MISSILES AGAINST SADDAM

American missiles have hit the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, signalling the start of the US-led campaign to topple Saddam Hussein.

President George Bush delivered a live television address shortly after the bombings began, vowing to "disarm Iraq and to free its people".

The attack was ordered two hours after a final 48-hour deadline expired for Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq.

US sources say five key members of the Iraqi regime, including the Iraqi leader himself, were targeted in the first attacks.

The Iraqis say some non-military targets have been hit and a number of civilians wounded in Doura, a southern suburb of the capital.

The air strikes began at 0534 local time (0234 GMT). A short time later, Iraqi TV broadcast what it said was a live speech by Saddam Hussein. In it he said: "I don't need to remind you what you should do to defend our country. 'Let the unbelievers go to hell, you will be victorious, Iraqi people.'"

President Bush played down hopes of an early victory. In his broadcast to the American people he warned the campaign "could be longer and more difficult than some predict". He continued: "This will not be a campaign of half measures and we will accept no outcome but victory."

"The dangers to our country and the world will be overcome. We will pass through this time of peril and carry on the work of peace. We will defend our freedom. We will bring freedom to others."

At 2200 GMT British Prime Minister Tony Blair made a live televised address to the nation.

He confirmed British troops were in action in Iraq. He said their purpose was to remove Saddam Hussein and disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

The attack has drawn international condemnation and brought demonstrators onto the streets in several countries.

Attempts to get a United Nations Security Council resolution backing a military campaign in Iraq were abandoned earlier in the week when it became clear the US still faced an uphill battle to get the majority it needed.

The French had been pushing for more time to allow Iraq to disarm and today President Jacques Chirac of France expressed regret at the launch of hostilities without UN backing.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the military action was entirely unjustified, while China said the strike violated the United Nations charter. Anti-war demonstrations have taken place in cities in Greece, Egypt, Australia and Indonesia.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Pentagon called the US air strike against Baghdad a "target of opportunity" - a chance to attack leadership targets in the hope of killing senior Iraqi commanders. It was not the launch of full-scale hostilities.

The attack was carried out by F-117 Stealth fighters, but cruise missiles were also fired from four US navy warships and two submarines.

The following day (21 March) the US and British launched a massive aerial assault on Baghdad in what the US called its "shock and awe" strategy. At the same time, ground forces were advancing into southern Iraq.

Iraqi forces resisted the American-led coalition troops until 9 April when a giant statue of the Iraqi leader was toppled by demonstrators in Baghdad but the man himself escaped into hiding.

On 15 April a first meeting was held to talk about a new regime in Iraq.

The US formally handed over power to the Iraqis on 28 June 2004. Saddam Hussein was captured in December 2003, tried by an Iraqi court, sentenced to death and hanged on 30 December 2006.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Chatting merrily away with everyone from folks in line at the grocery to strangers on the bus? Dashing around with new friends, having fun? Bet you are. The good news is that your audience is enjoying this.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Honing your courtship skills is an important task for you today - the methods you use to get to know another person are an important factor in the quality of the relationship.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Oh, this is going to be fun. The world (your best pal, in particular) is feeling free - ready to let go, let loose, chat and laugh - and you've got plenty of interesting invitations to extend and accept.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You've had your suspicions for some time, and now you've got more. What you're wondering about isn't a bad thing, however - you have the feeling that someone in a position of authority is planning something.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Definitely think before you speak. That ordinarily charming way you have with words will be even more lethal now, so you should definitely be careful where you fling those casual comments.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Woke up in the mood to spend some money, on either your home or your family? Well, whether you're redecorating, adding a room or a wing, or just planning a surprise for a dear one, you'll want to do it up right.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're so darned happy, you're bubbling over. It's a wonderful feeling - but if it's because you're in love, go easy on the rest of the world. You know how irritating it is to hear about the love of someone's life?

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You've been far too good for far too long. Isn't it time to stop being quite so neurotic about your wallet and have just a little bit of fun? Sure it is. Start tonight. Call the dearest of the dears and suggest going out.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're never tough to talk into playtime, are you? And you've been good for a while - extra good, in fact. You're probably thinking about treating yourself to something extra special

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Bet you've thought of nothing for a while but taking one entire day, ditching all electronic devices, and spending some quality time alone at your place - with maybe just one person for company.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone who's recently been introduced to you by a friend may turn out to play a major part in your life, in fact - starting as soon as now. You might even end up traveling with them.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Making someone's day has always been one of your favorite things to do - and you'll have your chance to do it again now. A certain person who really needs a break, a smile and a great big hug will come your way.



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

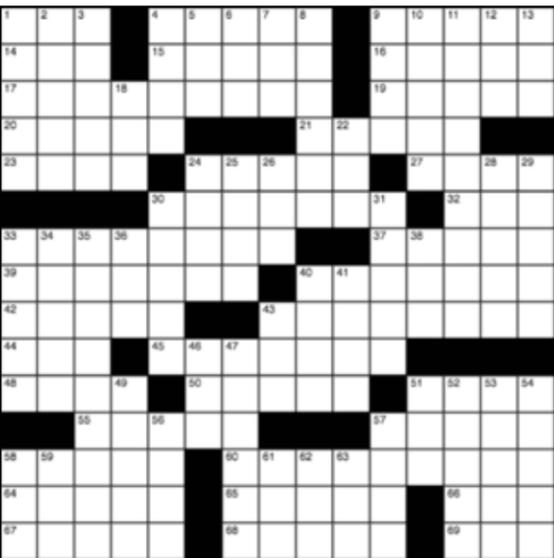
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Barbell abbr.; 4- Port of old Rome; 9- Move rhythmically; 14- Female sheep; 15- Group of 12; 16- Fit to be tied; 17- Assemblage of machines; 19- Lush; 20- Loosen; 21- Killer whales; 23- File; 24- Big name in insurance; 27- Gather, harvest; 30- Deluge; 32- Live; 33- Artillery; 37- Eight singers; 39- Flies; 40- Omen; 42- Hiding place; 43- Seventh day of the week; 44- Small island; 45- Chooses; 48- Potpourri; 50- Numbers game; 51- Small amounts; 55- Distinguishing characteristic; 57- Dubuque native; 58- Madame de \_\_\_; 60- Resembling an easily broken metamorphic rock; 64- From head \_\_\_; 65- Musical drama; 66- New Zealand parrot; 67- Singer Della; 68- 1980 Dom DeLuise film; 69- Antiquity, in antiquity;

DOWN: 1- Madagascar monkey; 2- African sir; 3- Religious offshoots; 4- "Garfield" drooler; 5- Male child; 6- Chinese philosopher Mo-\_\_\_; 7- Suffix with cloth; 8- Whatever person; 9- Frisbee, e.g.; 10- Bellowing; 11- Nauseous; 12- Short change?; 13- Wide shoe width; 18- With it; 22- Campaigned for office; 24- Bang-up; 25- Slips; 26- Attempt, a score in rugby; 28- Stadium used for sports or musical events; 29- Small-minded; 30- Carryalls; 31- Doughnut-shaped surface; 33- Chocolate tree; 34- Benefit; 35- Wink; 36- Slangy denial; 38- Geom. point; 40- Agreement; 41- Conductor Klemperer; 43- Wimbledon unit; 46- Ivy Leaguer; 47- Many; 49- Cream-filled cookies; 51- Morse "E"; 52- Came to; 53- Swiss city on the Rhine; 54- Slammin' Sammy; 56- Sheltered, at sea; 57- Golfer Aoki; 58- Orch. section; 59- Foot digit; 61- No. cruncher; 62- Worked (up); 63- Apr. addressee;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



FOR SALE www.JMLProperty.com
FOR RENT More info, please contact us Info@JMLproperty.com (853) 2835 2699 Office

Real estate listings for various properties including Roof Top Apartment, Old Taipa, St Pauls Ruins, Cattleya Court, Camellia Court, Jou Fai Kuok, Houston Court, and Edf. Nam Long.

JML property logo and text: 卓雅物業 Since 1994

# St. Patrick's Day Parade returns after last year's debut



**THE MACAU** St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Saturday for the second consecutive year in the territory, following a collaborative effort between the Hong Kong and Macau Irish Festival and the Irish Consulate General for the two SARs.

The parade marked the culmination of a variety of events held in the city over the last month to celebrate the Irish national holiday and to promote awareness of Irish culture in Macau and Hong Kong. It was held on Avenida da Praia, near the Taipa Houses-Museum.

On Friday evening, the iconic ruins of St. Paul's were once again "greened" as part of the Global Greening for St Patrick's Day, which this year involved 267 sites in 44 countries, according to organizers. Among these sites was a segment of the Great Wall of China.

A treasure hunt activity across Taipa village was held on Friday morning involving the participation of more than 80 children from local schools.

Moreover, the weekend activities were accompanied by a variety of events held across Macau with Irish musicians and dancers, including at Duffy's Irish Pub, The Roadhouse, Prem1er and the Irish Pub.

"We have been working with the Irish Festival Organizers to showcase the very best of Irish crafts, design and animation in Macau," said Consul General Peter Ryan, according to a statement from the organizers.

"The highlight of the Festival will be the Parade and we are very excited about the event which will showcase the very best of Irish music and dance as well as local musicians and dancers – the perfect blend of East and West, reflecting Macau," the Consul General informed prior to Saturday's parade.



**E**XHAUSTED beyond anything he'd felt in the ring, Gennady Golovkin could barely lift his collection of title belts.

Danny Jacobs thought they should have been in his possession.

Golovkin outlasted Jacobs in a superb 12-round defense of his middleweight titles Saturday night. Both fighters are knockout artists, yet this one went the distance — the first time GGG has not had a KO in 24 fights, and his first time going 12 rounds. The Kazakh won 115-112 on two judges' cards and 114-113 on the other. The AP had it 114-113 for Golovkin.

"I give Gennady a 7 1/2 or an 8 out of 10," said his trainer, Abel Sanchez. "Daniel's athleticism was very strong tonight. Gennady's accuracy was not quite as pin-point."

In by far the toughest fight of his stellar career, Golovkin often was stymied by Jacobs changing to a left-handed style. But a series of hard rights throughout the bout were enough — barely — to bring his record to 37-0.

"Daniel did a very good job," Golovkin said. "Daniel is my favorite fighter. I can't destroy him."

He didn't, unlike so many other opponents who felt the fury of GGG.

"I thought I won it by at least two rounds, minimum," said Jacobs, nicknamed Miracle Man after he overcame bone cancer in 2011-12 to win 10 straight fights. "I did feel like I had to win the 12th round to make sure."

He won it on two of the three cards, but it wasn't enough, perhaps because he was knocked down in the fourth round, which went to Golovkin 10-8 on all three cards.

Still, with Madison Square Garden reverberating from chants of "Triple G" or "JACOBS," no one could be sure of the outcome right until the final punch.

**BOXING**

# GGG outlasts Jacobs in close unanimous decision



Gennady Golovkin (right) of Kazakhstan fights Daniel Jacobs during the seventh round of a middleweight boxing match

"This is boxing, I need the decision," the 34-year-old Golovkin said. "I wasn't thinking that I needed the 12th round to win the fight. This was my first test at 12 rounds. I needed a quality fight, not just the 12th round."

Jacobs is 32-2 and lost his WBA crown to GGG in the HBO pay-per-view card.

Golovkin, a world champion since 2010, is 5-0 at the Garden, which he calls a "second home." But Jacobs, from Brooklyn and, oddly, a representative of the competing arena the Barclays Center, tested him more than anyone has.

Golovkin keeps his WBC and WBO crowns — the IBF belt was not at stake because Jacobs skipped that organiza-

tion's fight-day weigh-in. On the horizon for GGG could be that elusive meeting with Canelo Alvarez if the Mexican wins his fight in May against Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.

"Of course I am ready to fight Canelo. Of course I want that fight," Golovkin said. "I am like an animal for that fight."

But there's another option, GGG admitted.

"I will give Danny Jacobs a chance for a rematch."

Earlier, Thailand's Srisaket Sor Rungvisai stunned previously unbeaten Roman "Chocolatito" Gonzalez, knocking down the Nicaraguan in the first round, bloodying his face with an unintentional head-butt in the third, then winning a majority decision

for the WBC super flyweight championship.

Both men went to the hospital for observation after the vicious fight.

Even though Sor Rungvisai was docked a point in the sixth round for another head-butt — there were several in the brutal bout — he never backed off. He relentlessly attacked the cut over the right eye of Gonzalez, who clearly was hampered by the blood streaming down his face. The challenger carried the fight in the eyes' of the judges through the latter rounds.

In only his second fight outside Asia, Sor Rungvisai improved to 42-4-1 with 38 knockouts. Gonzalez, considered one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in the sport, is

46-1.

One judge had the fight even at 113-113. The other two gave the Thai the nod 114-112 in the action-packed bout.

A sellout crowd of 19,939 vigorously booed the decision.

The AP had it 115-113 for Gonzalez, who has held some sort of world title since 2008.

Gonzalez went down from a hard right to the body in the opening round, but he then took charge — even after his face turned to a bloody mask in the middle rounds. However, Sor Rungvisai landed enough punches and moved well enough to keep in it.

And then, despite being outpunched decisively, with Gonzalez landing 441 to 284, the Thai got the surprise decision. **MDT/AP**

**SKIING**

# Frenzel wins Nordic combined World Cup, closes in on title

**E**RIC Frenzel took a big step toward an unprecedented fifth straight Nordic combined World Cup overall title on Saturday with his second successive victory while closest rival Johannes Rydzek finished third.

Olympic champion Frenzel placed seventh

in the ski jump for a six-second advantage over Rydzek. But Rydzek, who claimed gold at the worlds last month, fell as he tried to overtake his rival in the 10K cross-country race, dealing a blow to his hopes of a first overall title.

"It was a normal race accident and there was

nothing unfair about it," German coach Hermann Weinbuch said.

Frenzel claimed his ninth World Cup win of the season in 28 minutes, 14 seconds — 3.4 ahead of Austria's Wilhelm Denifl and 7.1 ahead of Rydzek.

"It was an unbelievably tough race," Frenzel said

of his 40th career victory. "We both wanted to save energy for the decisive stage."

Frenzel holds a 54-point lead over his German teammate going into the last event. Even if Rydzek wins on Sunday, fourth place would be enough for Frenzel. **AP**



Eric Frenzel (center)

opinion

**Rear Window**

Severo Portela



**LA LA LAND**

We perceive as good and sound the idea that 2017 will be the year best remembered both in Macau and Hong Kong for setbacks and erosion in the judicial system, or alternatively in the perception that common people feed on things related to the Law rather than for their respective electoral cycles. At least we could point to the idea of togetherness!

Perhaps it is that singular "gestalt" eventually propelled by the March "two sessions" in Beijing, or perhaps it is just the logical outcome of the strategy to contain the umbrella or localist drive in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It does not matter, indeed. The hard fact is the call of Hong Kong delegates to the "two meetings" to review the Basic Law in order, we presume, to curb or to reduce the number of foreign judges.

It is very hard to ignore the fact that the jailing of the seven police officers considered guilty of an atrocious attack on a protester led to a campaign of anger at the Briton who passed the sentence. Understandably, we have to weigh and consider the future of the local system (Common Law), not only because of the criteria used to select judges but because of the very idea of a Privy Council surviving any judiciary entropy.

China's preemptive ruling on the irregular oath-taking cases allegedly reddened Hong Kong Courts... but one would say it was a true constitutional and sovereign matter. Will a pre-compliance indicator be not used again?

We sail now across the Pearl River Delta, and there is the sister SAR with its own judicial pains. Macau may no longer be candidly concerned and sympathetic towards Hong Kong for judicial distresses. Ho Iat Seng voiced the pre-court news: the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress said the new Land Law does not breach the Basic Law. Will Macau courts be blinded and ignore the preemptive interpretation of the Basic Law? Macau lawyers will adapt to the new situation, but the ruling would be hard on Gabriel Tong as the future Chief Executive-designated legislator. Bye-bye Nam Van Lake.

The trial of Ho Chio Meng has all the ingredients to spill to all corners! No wonder, we are talking about the Prosecutor General at the time of the infamous case of disgraced Secretary for Transportation and Public Works, Ao Man Long. He is paying now a heavy sentence for corruption, but at the time, some commentators speculated that the investigation could have gone wider and deeper, instead of choosing antics within a closed circle offering fast results. We do repeat the investigation could have...; perhaps the mere hypothetical was... Ho Chio Meng.

Today, answering to an alleged set of 1,500 crimes, we do repeat 1,500 crimes, Ho must be facing a Back to the Future possibility. Forget the petty contracts, the procurement, the alleged womanizing, the agarwood - we bet this one will be very tough to contain, and probably will be let go - amongst others, there is Ho Chio Meng's lawyer. Leong Weng Pun pulled out of the case.

Now to final notes to highlight the new force operating under the Public Security Police, the much needed Tourist Police, and the opening of the new Centre for Chinese History and Culture at the UM. And of course about the "La La Land" movie from which we borrow the title to this column.

It is possible to establish a parallel narrative whose transformative powers can change the landscape in South Guangdong through the integration of Macau and Hong Kong and the PRD into a cluster of cities.

THE **BZZZ** 1ST CASINO IN CAPE VERDE OPENS

Casino Royal, the first gaming venue in Cape Verde opened on Thursday on the island of Sal. The project is attached to the Hilton Hotel and cost 5 million euros, the Cape Verdean press reported.

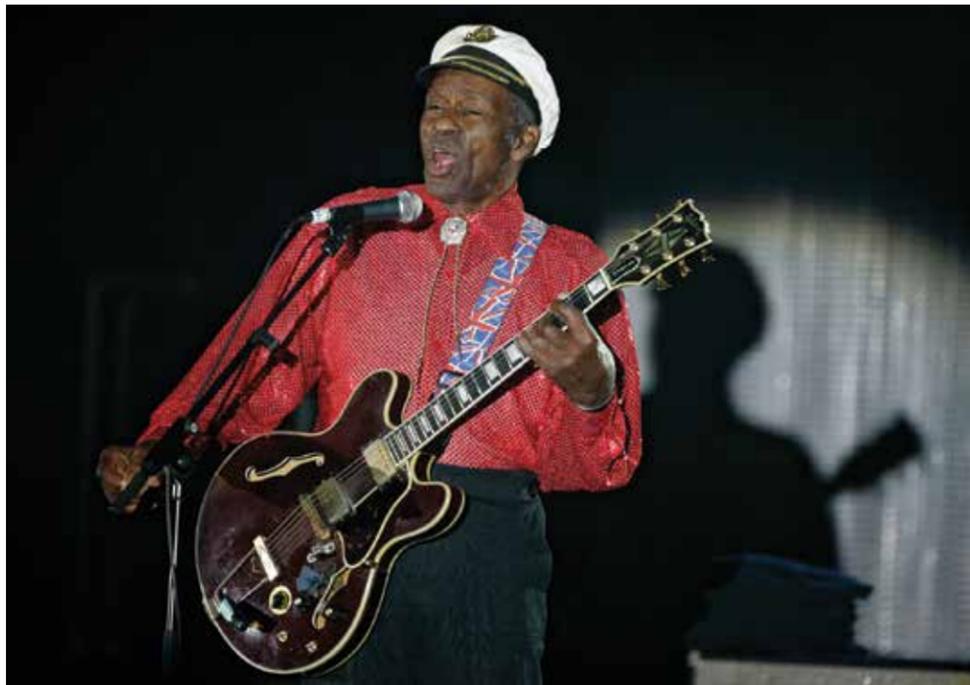
The casino had been operating on an experimental basis since December 2016 and has 117 slot machines and 11 gaming tables. It is located on Avenida dos Hotéis in Santa Maria, Sal, the most popular island for tourists on the archipelago.

The Cabo Verde General Gaming Inspectorate (IGJ) said on its website that the concession period of the Casino Royal is 25 years, with a period of exclusivity of seven years in this gaming zone, starting from Thursday, the date of the official opening.

Since 2012 Cabo Verde has had five betting and gaming areas, spread over the islands of Santiago, Sal, São Vicente, Boavista and Maio, with the latter three available for concession.

OBITUARY

**Rock 'n' roll legend  
Chuck Berry dies at 90**



**CHUCK** Berry, rock 'n' roll's founding guitar hero and storyteller who defined the music's joy and rebellion in such classics as "Johnny B. Goode," "Sweet Little Sixteen" and "Roll Over Beethoven," died Saturday at his home west of St. Louis. He was 90.

Emergency responders summoned to Berry's residence by his caretaker about 12:40 p.m. found him unresponsive, police in Missouri's St. Charles County said in a statement. Attempts to revive Berry failed, and he was pronounced dead shortly before 1:30 p.m., police said.

Berry's core repertoire was some three dozen songs, his influence incalculable, from the Beatles and the Rolling Stones to virtually any group from garage band to arena act that called itself rock 'n' roll.

While Elvis Presley gave rock its libidinous, hip-shaking image, Berry was the auteur, setting the template for a new sound and way of life.

"Chuck Berry was a rock and roll original. A gifted guitar player, an amazing live performer, and a skilled songwriter whose music and lyrics captured the essence of 1950s teenage life," The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame said in a statement.

Well before the rise of Bob Dylan, Berry wedded social commentary to the beat and rush of popular music.

Berry, in his late 20s before his first major hit, cra-

fted lyrics that spoke to the teenagers of the day and remained fresh decades later. "Sweet Little Sixteen" captured rock 'n' roll fandom, an early and innocent ode to the young girls later known as "groupies." "School Day" told of the sing-song trials of the classroom ("American history and practical math; you're studying hard, hoping to pass...") and the liberation of rock 'n' roll once the day's final bell rang.

"Roll Over Beethoven" was an anthem to rock's history-making power, while "Rock and Roll Music" was a guidebook for all bands that followed ("It's got a back beat, you can't lose it"). "Back in the U.S.A." was a black man's straight-faced tribute to his country at a time there was no guarantee Berry would be served at the drive-ins and corner cafes he was celebrating.

"Everything I wrote about wasn't about me, but about the people listening," he once said.

"Johnny B. Goode," the tale of a guitar-playing country boy whose mother tells him he'll be a star, was Berry's signature song, the archetypal narrative for would-be rockers and among the most ecstatic recordings in the music's history. Berry can hardly contain himself as the words hurry out ("Deep down Louisiana close to New Orleans/Way back up in the woods among the evergreens")

and the downpour of guitar, drums and keyboards amplifies every call of "Go, Johnny Go!"

When NASA launched the unmanned Voyager I in 1977, an album was stored on the craft that would explain music on Earth to extraterrestrials. The one rock song included was "Johnny B. Goode."

Charles Edward Anderson Berry was born in St. Louis on Oct. 18, 1926. As a child he practiced a bent-leg stride that enabled him to slip under tables, a prelude to the duck walk of his adult years. His mother, like Johnny B. Goode's, told him he would make it, and make it big.

A fan of blues, swing and boogie woogie, Berry studied the very mechanics of music and how it was transmitted. As a teenager, he loved to take radios apart and put them back together. Using a Nick Manoloff guitar chord book, he learned how to play the hits of the time. He was fascinated by chord progressions and rhythms, discovering that many songs borrowed heavily from the Gershwins' "I Got Rhythm."

On his 90th birthday last year, Berry disclosed that he would release his first new album in 38 years in 2017, titled simply: "Chuck." The announcement said it would be comprised primarily of new, original songs written, recorded and produced by him. **MDT/AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	35-55 Good	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate	
Ambient	40-60 Moderate	

SOURCE: D5/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**MYANMAR** Four men accused of involvement in the murder of a top legal adviser to Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party appeared in a Yangon court on Friday to hear the charges against them. Three of the suspects are former army officers, fueling speculation the military was involved with the crime — an accusation it denies.

**JAPAN** The government held its first-ever drill Friday to protect citizens in case a ballistic missile is launched toward Japan. More than 100 residents were warned by loudspeakers of a possible missile threat and urged to seek shelter indoors because missile parts might fall. *More on p13*



**RUSSIA** About 4,000 people have demonstrated in St. Petersburg to protest the handover of the city's landmark St. Isaac's Cathedral to the control of the Russian Orthodox Church, which they see as a leader of social conservatism.

**MALDIVES** The Maldives' government said Friday that Saudi Arabia's king has postponed an official visit because of the spread of swine flu in the archipelago nation.



**ITALY**'s president, whose brother was murdered by Cosa Nostra, traveled on Sunday to an organized crime stronghold to honor hundreds of Italians slain by the country's crime clans over the past decades. President Sergio Mattarella also praised the judges, prosecutors, police officers, union leaders, businessmen and politicians who courageously combated or denounced organized crime.

**PERU** The intense rains, overflowing rivers, mudslides and flooding being experienced in the country are the worst seen in two decades, Peruvian authorities said Saturday, affecting more than half the nation as the death toll since the beginning of the year hit 72. *More on p14*