



RADIO TAXI STARTS WITH 50 CARS

P7



GRIM BANGLADESH LEATHER TRADE
Heavily polluting tanneries supply leather to companies that make shoes and handbags for many Western brands

P12 FEATURE



FERRARI BACK ON TOP
Vettel broke Ferrari's F1 drought with a victory at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix

P19

MON.27
Mar 2017

T. 13°/ 21° C
H. 55/ 85%

facebook.com/mdtimes
+ 11,000

N° 2771
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

Share Data Plan+

Monthly rental as low as \$138/
share data between
Mainland China, HK & Macau

Plus, over 4 million FREE Wi-Fi Hotspots

Note: CTM reserves the right to make the final decision in case of any dispute.



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



US Gunfire erupted inside a crowded nightclub early yesterday, killing one person and wounding more than a dozen others. There was no indication the shooting at the Cameo club was terrorism related, police said. Authorities also didn't immediately have any suspects in the 1:30 a.m. shooting on a busy weekend night.

PHILIPPINES

At least four people were killed and 23 others wounded in a grenade attack in the southern Philippines that appears to be unrelated to terrorism, officials said yesterday. [More on p13](#)

AP PHOTO



SINGAPORE Amos Yee, 18, a blogger from Singapore who was jailed for his online posts blasting his government, was granted asylum to remain in the United States, an immigration judge ruled.

[More on backpage](#)

With articles republished from



FINANCIAL TIMES

Technology Remaking China

F1

China-backed Lam chosen as HK's leader

P11

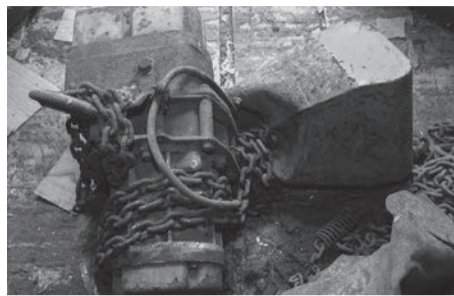
BLOOMBERG



GAMING

Small-scale casino investor might be backed by Chinese government

P2



Cultural Affairs Bureau recovers valuable items

Cooperating with other public departments, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has recovered several valuable items from the Lai Chi Vun shipyards area. The items include old adverts of the shipyards and tools used to build the boats. Two lots of the shipyards were already demolished due to safety concerns. As recently as the 1950s, the coastal villages were thriving in Macau. Historical accounts indicate that at that time there were around 10,000 fishermen and over 30 shipyards in Macau, many of them in Lai Chi Vun.



Health Bureau inspects Beijing Imperial Palace

The Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement that it had issued requests to the management of the Beijing Imperial Palace site in Taipa, which was shut down in July 2016, following an inspection. According to the same statement, the inspection revealed garbage bags and areas with stagnant water were found on the outskirts of the hotel. Further investigation revealed that the refuse had been left by building security. The SSM requested that the security company properly dispose of garbage bags, as well as take action to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. The topic was raised in a spoken enquiry by lawmaker Chan Hong at the Legislative Assembly last week.

'Musical Yoga' concert to be held in April

The Macau Orchestra (OM) will present the concert "Weekend Music Party - Musical Yoga" on April 22 at 4 p.m. at the Dom Pedro V Theatre. The Cultural Affairs Bureau, which is supporting the event, said in a statement that the concert will fuse classical music with yoga. The concert will feature relaxing classical pieces such as the lively and simple "Canon in D Major" by Pachelbel, the graceful and tranquil "The Swan" by Saint-Saëns and Grieg's fluid "Morning Mood", which is reminiscent of an early morning in Morocco. The OM's next concert in this series will be "Weekend Music Party - Memory of Youth", which will be held on June 24 at the Dom Pedro V Theatre.

GAMING

Small-scale casino investor might be backed by Chinese government

Daniel Beitler

AN Australian company with only AUD6 million (MOP36.6 million) in net assets appears to be the favorite candidate of officials in the country's Gold Coast area to build an AUD3 billion integrated resort.

The Queensland local government is consulting local communities over the possibility of a second casino on the Gold Coast, but appears to favor ASF Group, which is suspected of being financially backed by the Chinese government.

"ASF says it has wealthy shareholders in China [but] the Australian Stock Exchange-listed company is a minnow," noted a report by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, which broke the story on its nightly current affairs program, 7.30. "Its half-yearly report records revenue of AUD430,000."

The report speculated that the Chinese government might be a source of funding for ASF, through state-owned company China State Construction Engineering Corporation.

"It is unusual for such a skinny [undercapitalized] company to come forward for an investment like this," Ben Lee, managing partner at IGamiX Management & Consulting, told the Times.

"They [ASF Group] must have put forward the idea [to authorities] that they are backed by the Chinese government."

The mysterious deal has other unaddressed issues, including a lack of clarity on how many poker machines will be installed and who will operate the casino.

In an interview with 7.30, ASF Group director Louis Chien was evasive when pressed for answers, responding that "projects of this size and scale are very complex and therefore they have very complex commercial structures."

ASF Group claims on its website that it is a "new driving force in strategic invest-



Ben Lee

ment between China and Australia."

"We facilitate two-way cross-border investment between Australia and China. So in essence, we are an investment incubator," Chien said in the television report.

"We're a tourist city: tourist-built, tourist-driven. This is the next tourist infrastructure for the city. Why don't we just get on with it?"

ASF is in talks with Queensland authorities to build a casino and residential project, called the Broadwater Marine Project, adjacent to the Sheraton Mirage.

The report said ASF has been negotiating with Crown Resorts for more than a year, but has yet to reach an agreement.

Chinese companies, especially those backed by the government, have embarked on an overseas investment program which includes mergers and acquisitions of non-Chinese corporations. In terms of worldwide investment, these companies have been targeting sectors such as technology, media and telecommunications, agriculture, energy and mi-

neral resources.

The investment has sparked concerns over the strategic influence of the Chinese government in other countries, especially in transportation infrastructure and financial institutions.

It is unusual for such a skinny company to come forward for an investment like this.

BEN LEE
IGAMIX MANAGING PARTNER

However, Lee believes the concerns may be unfounded. "Typically, anything that is considered a 'national interest' can be blocked," he said, referring in particular to two separate bids last year for stakes in an Australian electricity distribution network

and a collection of cattle ranches comprising an area larger than South Korea.

"All it takes is an act of [the Australian] parliament to nationalize these industries," he said, adding that "while they [the investors] might be compensated, not necessarily at the price they want."

According to the Chinese government, direct investment in Australia from China grew by more than 50 percent year-on-year in 2016 to AUD4.8 billion. Much of this came with the backing or indirect financing of the Chinese government, and targets key sectors such as real estate and transportation. However, aside from property and transportation, the Chinese have also expressed interest in ports and farms - and now casinos.

While gambling is officially illegal in China, the government operates two lotteries and has, in principle, approved the idea of Hainan Province as a "testing ground for China's lottery and gambling industry", with the potential for casino development.

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 Seguí
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:

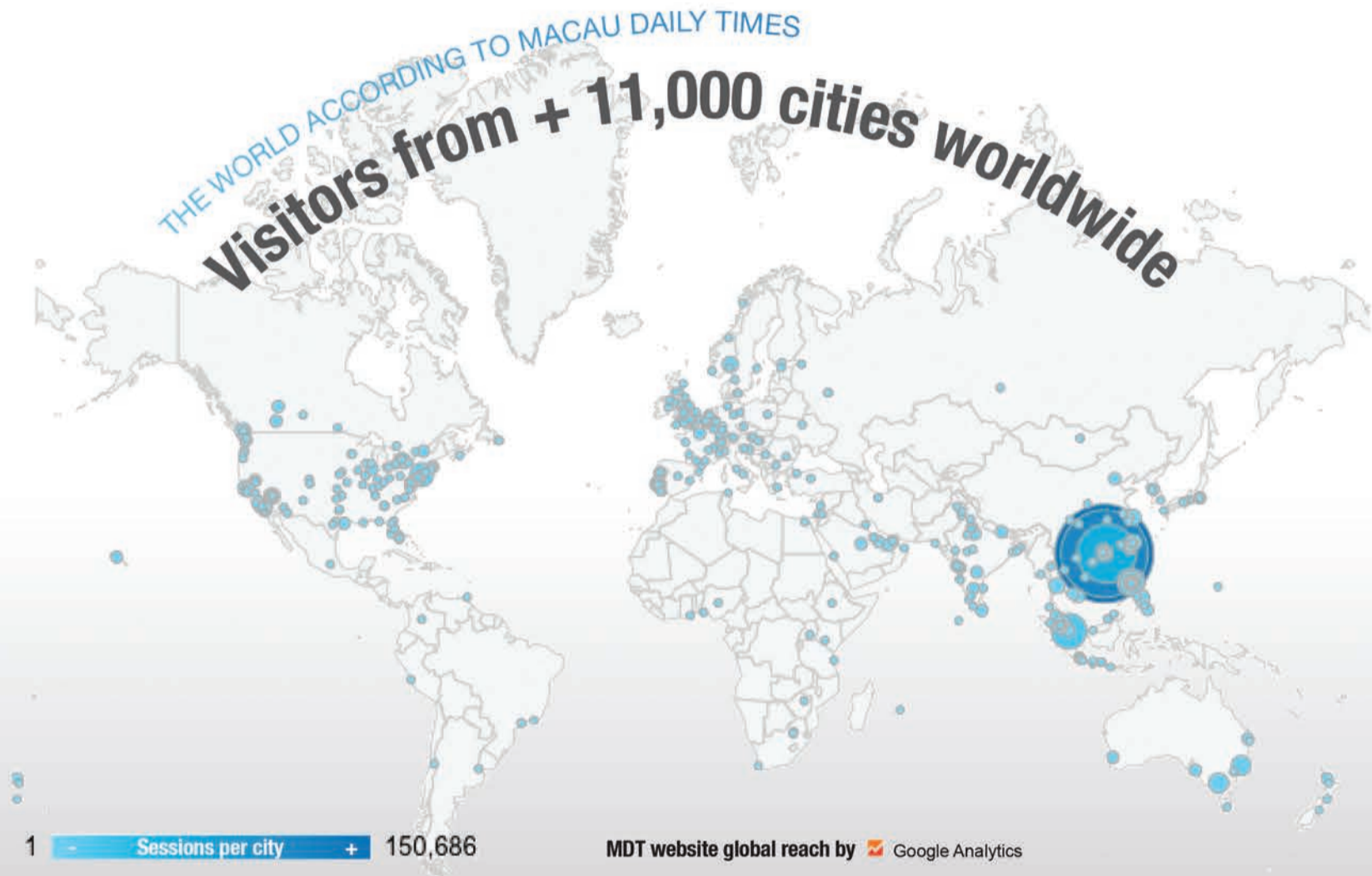
general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

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

 **52,872,473 page views in 2016**

160,000 in 24 hours

 **+ 11,000 likes**



www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

facebook.com/mdtimes

advertising@macaudailytimes.com



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

 **MacauDaily** 澳門每日時報®
Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

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

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

ALBERGUE SCM

婆仔屋文創空間

Seminar "Wood Structures and Prefabricated Technologies"

Prof. Marco Imperadori, Ph.D
Professor of the Politecnico di Milano

Date & Time

19:00, March 29th, 2017 (Wednesday)

Language

English

Venue

Grand Hall, Inspiration Building,
IFT - Institute for Tourism Studies,
Colina de Mong-Há, Macau

CPD Hours

2.5 Hours

Payment Method & Registration Fee

Albergue SCM: Non-Members - MOP500.00

Architects Association of Macau (AAM) Members - MOP300.00

- Avenida do Coronel Mesquita No. 2F, Macau

The Macau Institution of Engineers (AEM) Members - MOP300.00

- Rua do Campo 103 2°

To guarantee your seat, please apply and pay by cash directly (no refund) in advance with the respective office before deadline, please see the detail as facebook.com/creativealbergue.scm. First-come, first-served! Registration deadline: March 25th 2017 (Saturday until 1.00pm)

ALBERGUE SCM

ADDRESS: CALÇADA DA IGREJA DE SÃO LÁZARO No. 8, MACAU

INFO: facebook.com/creativealbergue.scm

TEL: 853 - 2852 2550/ 2852 3205

FAX: 853 - 2852 2719

EMAIL: creativealbergue@gmail.com

Organizer

Co-organizer

Managed by



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

Uber launches service for people with disabilities, special needs

Renato Marques

WORLDWIDE ride-hailing company Uber is launching "Uber-Assist" in Macau today, a new function of its well-known mobile app.

Designed to provide additional assistance to seniors and people with disabilities, Uber-Assist pairs passengers with "specialized" driver-partners. According to Uber Macau general manager Trasy Lou Walsh, these drivers have received special intensive training in meeting the needs of these passengers.

"The program serves several kinds of people, like those facing difficulty in walking or the visually impaired, people with disabilities, listening difficulties, the elderly and pregnant ladies," Walsh said during a meeting with the media.

To create "UberAssist," the company partnered with social service organization Caritas Macau, which is also the charity outreach arm of the Diocese of Macau. The institution helped Uber design its specialized training course.

Macau has joined the list of countries and territories that offer this kind of service, which was already available in the neighboring SAR of Hong Kong.

Walsh said the idea of bringing this program to Macau was "based on a census report from 2011 that stated there were over 12,000 disabled people in Macau."

"Through various associations, we [heard] that it is very hard to get them out of their homes and around Macau. We really hope to help them to achieve this," she continued.

Walsh explained that the service in Macau will operate differently from its Hong Kong counterpart, with a specific button to be added to the ride-sharing app instead of requiring a promotional code.

"UberAssist" will charge the same rates as Uber X, which is among the cheaper Uber ser-



Uber drivers with Trasy Walsh (center)

vices. 100 out of the region's 3,000 registered Uber drivers will participate in the program when it launches, but Uber Macau claims it will be able to increase the number of "Uber-Assist" drivers if needed.

"We would like to see if 100 drivers would be sufficient to take care of the disabled people in Macau. That's what we are trying to find out. If we realize that the demand is really high, we probably have to train more drivers," said Walsh, adding that the service will undergo a trial period of three to six months in order to collect passenger feedback and other data.

Macau joins the list of countries and territories that offer the service

To improve data collection, the company will provide free rides to several associations representing people with different needs and disabilities.

"We are also offering a number of free rides to several as-

sociations in order for them to try the service and provide us feedback and opinions on how to improve," Walsh said.

When questioned by the Times on how to match passengers' needs with the appropriate driver, Walsh responded that all drivers are fully trained and possess the same skill set.

Furthermore, she said, the Uber service requires a return call to the passenger to confirm the ride and pick-up point, during which "the passenger and driver can communicate those needs."

"During training, Caritas helped a lot by providing us a map of locations that makes it easier

for drivers to pick up passengers; for example, those with visual challenges or in wheelchairs," she said.

She added that the training course included instructions "on how to fold different types of wheelchairs, how to help disabled people into the car [and] simple sign language to communicate with people with listening difficulties, as well as how to pick up people with visual disabilities."

Walsh said the training course has been ongoing since last June and that each driver must participate in a minimum of 10 training sessions to qualify as an "UberAssist" driver.

Uber hopes gov't to get 'less inflexible' with new service

UBER representatives hope their new "UberAssist" service will encourage the government to support Uber in the territory, said Uber Macau general manager Trasy Lou Walsh.

Walsh added that Uber Macau has not yet approached the government to explain the service as it is only in its trial period, but that it hopes the government will understand its importance.

"We hope this will lead the government to think that with the help of technology, we can help the people in Macau; not just the residents and tourists, but also people with disabilities," Walsh said at the event, which was also attended by the representative of an association that supports visually impaired people and two UberAssist drivers.

Wong Sio Ieng, an Uber passenger with a visual impairment, shared that she had used Uber many times with the help of her son. She hopes that the new service will make it easier for her to secure rides when she needs them.

The drivers in attendance said that they were happy to be part of the program, as they both have elderly relatives or people with disabilities in their families. Both said they had experienced passengers' gratitude firsthand, and agreed that the service can be a "win-win" situation for Uber as well as people that need easier ways to travel around Macau.

15 arrested in identity theft scam

A group of 15 people were arrested in an identity theft scam, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported, accused of forging applications in order to obtain more than MOP8 million in illicit loans. Among the arrested persons is a bank manager, who allegedly falsified the loan applications and signed the paper work. For this, he reportedly received tens of thousands of patacas. Meanwhile, some of the others arrested were casino workers, who assumed the identity of business owners to apply for the loans. The scheme was put to an end when the bank became suspicious and investigated the missing funds, which totaled around MOP8.8 million. The PJ said that the investigation is ongoing and that other members of the group may still be apprehended.

'Green Exchange' to launch this Friday

The "Green Exchange," an online environmental project matching platform, officially launches on March 31. The platform was jointly set up by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the Guangdong Association of Environmental Protection Industry and several other associations in an effort to boost the development of the region's green economy. A statement released by IPIM noted that the "Green Exchange" would create more business opportunities and drive the technology transfer among Macau, the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region and other countries and regions. In particular, the platform would enable exchanges of advanced environmental technology with the EU. The launch will take place at 5:45 p.m. at the Macau International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition 2017.

Creative Macau to hold photo exhibition

A photography exhibition by freelance photographer Ieong Man Pan, titled "99999", is slated to launch this Thursday at Creative Macau. Ieong stated that the exhibition - which includes gambling chips, among its subjects - would reveal the strong culture of materialism in Macau. "It is about Macau, as the idea came from my observation after gambling [was] legalized. The series reflects the current state of Macau in my eyes," said the photographer, as cited in a press release issued by Creative Macau. Ieong is currently building an online photo database of Macau, which will allow individuals and organizations to obtain high-quality photographs of the region, as well as learn more about local photographers. The exhibition will run until April 29.

BUSINESS MODEL IS 'QUITE DIFFERENT' FROM RADIO TAXI

COMMENTING ON the new Radio Taxi service, which has a number of vehicles designated for use by people with disabilities, Walsh said, "They are already running, but the numbers are really not sufficient to meet the market and it is also quite diffi-

cult for them to hire the drivers." She added that Uber's "business model is quite different", explaining that Uber does not have yet vehicles specially prepared for disabled people, but that they can offer a superior alternative thanks to Uber's many skilled drivers.

Lynzy Valles

REAL ESTATE

Company lures locals to Japanese, Thai properties

WITH the substantial depreciation of the Japanese yen, foreign investors have flocked to Japanese properties in droves.

As a result, Hong Kong based real estate company TY-Property is eyeing Macau investors to purchase units in the land of the rising sun.

During the weekend, the company held a two-day exhibition promoting property investments in Japan and Thailand.

Properties that were showcased during the exhibition were priced between HKD500,000 and HKD5 million.

During the sessions, speakers from the firm discussed both regions' economic status and how these affects property markets.

TY-Property, which also has office in Tokyo, first expressed an interest in serving investors from Macau last year, after having received numerous phone calls and emails from potential buyers.

According to Mak, local property investors are interested in acquiring units in Japan for investment purposes, particularly for usage with Airbnb.

Areas such as Minato-Ku, Chuo Ku, Roppongi and Ginza are especially favored, with investors seizing the opportunity to acquire Japanese properties at a lower financial outlay before the yen bounces back.

TY-Property also observed that due to the rapid increase in tourism in the Kansai area, there is always a strong demand for short-term rental properties in

the city. Investors have therefore spotted opportunities to provide guesthouses, which allow more frequent lettings as their rental is more competitive than hotels.

Yesterday, the company reportedly closed almost 20 deals from local investors, which according to Mak, indicates high demand.

Since property investment in Macau could be problematic due to the staggering price of residential and commercial units in the region, some locals prefer to invest abroad.

"Macau's property market is crazy. People cannot invest here so they invest in Japan [...] and most importantly, the property price in Japan is not high," Mak told the Times.

Investors could purchase a unit ranging from 25 sqm to 30 sqm for HKD1 million in the heart of Tokyo, with a net yield of 4 to 5 percent.

When asked whether the company is also targeting investors from the mainland, Mak admitted that attracting mainland clients remains a challenge, as mainland clients still cannot transfer significant amounts of money out of China.

However, the company plans to someday hold a similar property



Ivone Mak

exhibition in the mainland.

Meanwhile, around 10 percent of TY-Property's sales are from Macau residents.

Although the property firm currently has no branches in Macau, they plan to establish one in the region due to high demand.

Mak remarked that locals need further encouragement to invest abroad, unlike in Hong Kong, where residents are keen on in-

vesting in both properties and stocks.

"Macau has a big market here but we need to take more time because [...] Macau people want to look, study and they take more time to know about the [investment]," Mak observed.

TY-Property saw a slight increase in demand after Japan legalized gambling, as well as the announcement of the upco-

ming 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Meanwhile, while property acquired in Japan is often used as an investment, investors in the Thai property market tend to designate units for personal use.

Many investors see the market price in Thailand as attractive. A 35 sqm condominium or residential unit costs around HKD1 million, with a yield of around 5 to 9 percent on average.

Macau's property market is crazy. People cannot invest here so they invest in Japan.

IVONE MAK
SALES MANAGER

Despite the region's political crisis, property experts noted that housing prices are still rising, along with the demand for rental.

Mak foresees a higher number of local investors in the Japanese property market due to the low yen. According to her, it is a good time for interested investors to explore Japan as a market for investments.

TY-Property also provides services such as interior design and management arrangement for property selection.

The company plans to host a property exhibition every month in Macau.

Greater Bay Area to drive economic development, say experts

INDUSTRIAL experts and officials believe that the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area" will drive economic development in southern China.

According to the annual government work report in 2017, China will draw up a plan for the development of a city cluster in the Greater Bay Area, give full play to the distinctive strengths of Hong Kong and Macau, and elevate their positions and roles in the country's economic development and opening up.

Recently addressed in the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), the idea of building a Greater Bay Area is not new. It is an updated version of previous regional development initiatives, such as the Pearl River Delta and the Pan-Pearl River Delta. The "delta initiative"



The HK-Zhuhai-Macau bridge is nearing completion

focuses on driving mainland development, while the "bay area initiative" stresses external links and grabbing a commanding position in the global industry chain, said Sun Bushu, vice head of a city study institute in southern China.

"The Greater Bay Area covers less than one percent of the country's land area and its population accounts for less than five percent of the total. However, it [has] created 13 percent of the nation's GDP in 2015," said Wu Sikang, an official with the Shenzhen

municipal government.

The Greater Bay Area will include Hong Kong, Macau and nine cities in south China's Guangdong Province, namely Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Dongguan, Hui-zhou, Zhongshan, Foshan, Zhaoqing and Jiangmen.

The "bay area initiative" is based on natural geographical conditions and has taken a leading role in economic reform. It features an open economic structure, highly effective resource allocation and advanced international communication network.

The world's top "bay area initiatives," such as Bay Area near San Francisco, feature developed service industries, major global financial centers and transportation junctions, said Guo Wanda, executive vice president with the China Development Institute. MDT/Xinhua

Live poultry dealers claim 'zero subsidies' received

THE Macau Live Poultry Dealer Association, an association to protect the interests of live poultry dealers, claims that they have not been contacted by the government in relation to promised subsidies.

The government had promised subsidies to affected traders after the ban on the live poultry trade was continued for public safety, due to an outbreak in avian influenza in mainland China.

"It's been almost two months already and they still haven't made up their mind in terms of any policy-making decisions," said association member Leong Meng Lap, according to a TDM report.

"Why don't they first give us some subsidy? It's not too much to ask for, is it? At least for our families' sake, for our children's sake - a few hundred households, including mine, are affected."

The live poultry trade was suspended for three days earlier this year, beginning January 26. The suspension was renewed last week and will persist until authorities identify the cause of the influenza outbreak.

The association said that although they received subsidies during the initial suspension, they have since received "zero subsidies."

The problem is compounded, its members say, as Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan has indicated the ban may become permanent.

The workers' association also complained that the government was misleading the public by saying that residents now prefer to buy frozen poultry over live chicken.

"All of us live poultry dealers strongly oppose this lie. We are furious and it's ridiculous," said Leong.

TRANSPORTATION

Special taxis to launch operations with 50 cars



THE new Radio Taxi Service Company will officially launch on April 1 with an eight-year license. The new service has been running on a trial basis.

The first phase of the new service launch will deploy 50 special taxis, including 10 large six-or seven-seater taxis and five taxis intended for people with mobility restrictions.

According to the Transport Bureau (DSAT), the service may be booked via phone call, mobile application or online.

During the months of preparation, DSAT reportedly inspected the vehicles as well as the training session, which was conducted for the drivers to ensure efficient operation of the service.

Apart from the normal rules established by the government for the radio taxis, the new taxis are said to include free Wi-Fi access for passengers, among other services.

The DSAT said these taxis would charge a meter-based fare. A call fee of MOP5 will be added to the base fare, unless the booking is made at least an hour in advance.

Riders may pay by cash, Macau Pass or the "Quick Pass" system of Bank of China or Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

The Macau government also stated that they will monitor the service, particularly the number of vehicles in operation and the phone call pick-up ratio, according to the concession contract, which states fines and penalties that can lead to the concession's termination.

The DSAT also noted that there are currently 14 pick-up areas for radio taxis. More areas are expected to be established soon. An additional 50 taxis have been granted to the company, which will progressively be added to the program within a year. **RM**

Cinematheque Passion to be inaugurated this week

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has issued a statement confirming that an inauguration ceremony will be held on Thursday (March 30) for the newly-revamped Cinematheque Passion, which will open to the public the following day.



The ceremony will feature the screening of three short films by local Macau directors Tracy Choi, Chao Koi Wang and António Faria, with "Cinematheque" as the overarching theme.

The cinema house, located at Travessa da Paixão No. 13, is a three-storey multifunctional building that offers film screenings, local video storage, and a lending library for film journals and books. Local film materials and videos, periodicals and magazines are available for residents in the film information room on the first floor.

Operated by CUT Ltd., Cinematheque Passion will promote film culture in the city, particularly Macau films. Locals and tourists will be able to use the facility and enjoy local and international films.

Each month, the cinema house will host different

thematic film festivals or programs, such as the "Director-in-Focus" program. According to the IC statement, two or three international films will also premiere in Macau every month.

For two weekends each month, local shorts or feature-length films will be screened at the Cinematheque under the "Discover Macau: Local Indies Revisited" program.

"For the first month, April, we will be focusing on local talent and showcasing works from Macau over the last 20 years. These include short films, which are very popular in Macau, and feature-length films," Albert Chu, chairman of the CUT association – affiliated with CUT Ltd. – told the Times in an interview earlier this month.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands Macao Chef Part of Winning Team in International Snow Sculpture Contest in Japan

Macao comes out ahead among 11 teams from around the world

Sands Macao Chef Patrick Li Hing Cheung was part of the winning Macao team that took first place in The 44th International Snow Sculpture Contest 2017, held Feb. 5-9 as part of The 68th Sapporo Snow Festival in Japan.

Competing against 10 other teams from around the world, the Macao team took the top spot, comprised of Chef Li and teammates Perry Yuen Kam Hung and Tam Kuong Wu, all three of whom are members of the Macau Culinary Association.

Over the course of four days, Chef Li and his teammates carved without the assistance of any electrical tools, working for approximately 12 hours a day. Their completed sculpture, "Crane Dance in Spring," edged out last year's winner Latvia to take first place in the friendly competition.

The idea behind their sculpture is described as follows: "The crane is a symbol of peace and longevity, signifying the arrival of spring with everything in bloom and all trade will be thriving! In the Chinese New Year, the Macao team creates this snow sculpture to wish 'Peace on Earth' to everyone."



Macao's entry of "Crane Dance in Spring" is the winner of The 44th International Snow Sculpture Contest in Japan. Sands Macao Chef Patrick Li Hing Cheung was one of the carvers on the winning team.

"I am so proud of this accomplishment," said Li, who is the head chef at Sands Macao's 888 Las Vegas Buffet, and has been with the company for 13 years. "Our team worked really hard and we're so pleased with the result. It's such an honour to have represented Macao in this international competition and we're so happy to have made our city proud by coming in first place."

Beginning his career at the age of 19, Chef Li has over 40 years of culinary expertise and is the winner of several ice sculpture awards in Hong Kong and Japan. He worked in some of the world's leading luxury hotels and catering groups in Hong Kong before joining Sands Macao in 2004 as part of the property's pre-opening team.

Sands China Ltd. President Dr. Wilfred Wong said: "The company is very pleased that Chef Li and his teammates worked together to win this victory for Macao. Sands Macao and its guests are lucky to have him and we wish him continued success in his career at Sands China."

Back in November, the Macao Government Tourism Office invited a team of snow carvers from the Macau Culinary Association to represent Macao again in this year's competition, having done so the previous year as well, where the Macao team was the contest's runner-up.

The Sapporo Snow Festival is one of Japan's largest winter events, attracting about 2 million visitors from Japan and abroad each year. Teams competing in this year's snow sculpture contest represented Australia, Daejeon Metropolitan City (Korea), Finland, Hawaii (USA), Indonesia, Latvia, Macao, Poland, Portland (USA), Singapore, and Thailand. For more information about the festival and competition, and to view this year's snow sculptures, visit www.snowfes.com/english/contest.html.

MGTO invited the team to enter the International Snow Sculpture Contest in order to promote Macao and attract more Japanese and other international visitors to the city. Japan is the second largest international visitor source market for Macao. Last year, Japanese visitor arrivals topped 300,000 in Macao, a year-on-year increase of 6.5 per cent.



Sands China Ltd. executives, including President Dr. Wilfred Wong (center right) congratulate Sands Macao Chef Patrick Li Hing Cheung (center left) for representing the winning Macao team in this year's International Snow Sculpture Contest in Sapporo, Japan.

Sandrine Rastello

IN his first year as chief executive of online gambling company Amaya Inc., Rafi Ashkenazi has made careful moves. Now his appetite for risk is growing.

Promoted after founder David Baazov stepped down amid insider trading charges and poor earnings performance, Ashkenazi has focused on paying down debt, installing a new management team and lessening the company's exposure to the unstable online-poker business. His pragmatic style of management has helped him regain investors' confidence, with the stock up 31 percent since he took the helm as interim CEO last March.

This summer, the world's largest online-poker company will have money to spend after finishing paying for its USD4.9 billion purchase of sites PokerStars and Full Tilt, a deal struck in 2014 under Baazov. That means the Pointe-Claire, Quebec, company will be on the hunt for deals.

"We are very open to acquisitions generally," Ashkenazi, 42, said in an interview at an Amaya office outside Toronto. He's now recruiting someone to focus on M&A, with the "highest priority" on sports betting.

Unlike his predecessor Baazov, the creative force behind Amaya who made bold wagers on deals, Ashkenazi is an engineer by trade who got hands-on experience in stints as chief operating officer at gaming companies like Playtech Plc and Rational Group Ltd., the PokerStars owner Amaya acquired.

Now, with Baazov no longer attempting to take the company private, Ashkenazi is firmly in control. He has hired people to head the casino and sports division and is close to choosing a new chief financial officer. He's even going to propose changing Amaya's name, he said, without disclosing the new moniker.

"I'm far more driven by ma-

PokerStars owner Amaya eyes acquisitions after trying period



Rafi Ashkenazi

naging actively risks," he said. "I always plan for the worst and I always try to be ahead of the curve."

One risk is poker. The business has been in decline since the U.S. outlawed online-gaming companies and professional card players started elbowing out amateurs. The market peaked at \$3.3 billion in 2010 and now accounts for 6.2 percent of all global interactive gambling, down from 17 percent in 2006, according to consulting firm H2 Gambling Capital.

Acquisitions could boost Ashkenazi's efforts to diversify beyond poker to faster-growing businesses. The game made up 70 percent of the company's total revenue in the fourth quarter compared with 78 percent a year earlier, while the share of online casino games and sports book rose to 26 percent from 17 percent.

"Amaya has done well to persuade their poker players to

try their casino product," said Warwick Bartlett, chief executive officer of Global Betting & Gaming Consultants, based in the Isle of Man. "The sportsbook has been less successful and faces a competitive market where the majors have established significant volume and price efficiency."

Even with a healthier balance sheet, it may still be too early for Ashkenazi to go on an acquisition spree. Amaya's long-term outstanding debt at the end of 2016 was \$2.5 billion, and its net debt to earnings ratio stood at 4.4, meaning "any sizable acquisition would likely require equity," Maher Yaghi, an analyst at Desjardins Capital Markets, wrote in a note last week.

There is also the matter of reconciling past missteps in its sports business, which Ashkenazi said included launching a web platform before it was ready, focusing marketing efforts on consumers who were new to

sports betting instead of established sporting gamblers, and choosing to debut in the competitive U.K. market. Now Zeno Ossko, the managing director of its BetStars online sports-betting division, is "changing it," he said.

"2017 will also be to a large extent the continuing transitional year for us, but probably from the second half of this year, I can be much more focused on finding ways to grow the company, not necessarily organically," Ashkenazi said.

In his short time as CEO, Ashkenazi has already found himself at the M&A betting table. Amaya considered a merger with William Hill Plc in a deal that would have created the world's largest online gaming business.

Amaya is hoping as many as seven U.S. states legalize online wagering, a jump from three now

The companies ended talks after U.K. activist investor Parvus Asset Management opposed the union. But Ashkenazi said he hasn't ruled out the possibility of playing the hand again.

"You can never say that anything is dead," Ashkenazi said. "Sometimes companies need time to reflect before they reengage in discussions." He added that he believes William Hill is a "great company with a great

brand" and it would be a "very good merger." A William Hill spokesman declined to comment.

Beyond M&A, Amaya is hoping as many as seven U.S. states legalize online wagering, a jump from three now. Further out, Ashkenazi's "big diamond" is California. The company is also fighting an \$870 million fine in Kentucky for allegedly violating the state's anti-gambling laws.

On the federal U.S. front, forces are still aligned against online wagering. Las Vegas Sands Corp. CEO Sheldon Adelson opposes it, and Republican senators and congressmen may again sponsor legislation banning it. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said during his confirmation hearing that he was against the reinterpretation of the Wire Act that allowed online bets.

Amaya is also preparing to pull out of Australia in the wake of legislation making foreign online poker companies illegal. In essence, only operators holding a license in Australia can offer their products to Australians. To make up for that loss and boost poker growth in coming years, the company is entering new international markets, paring down the perks of professional players to bring casual players back, and targeting new audiences such as video-game players.

Still, Ashkenazi feels he's moved away from the company's most trying times.

"The changes that we went through in 2016 were quite dramatic," Ashkenazi said. "Now I can focus myself on the future of the company." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM MACAU PARTICIPATES IN EARTH HOUR



MGM Macau, together with 17 properties under MGM Resorts International in the United States, participated in the global observance of Earth Hour on March 25 by switching off its non-essential lighting for an hour to raise awareness of climate change.

This included MGM Macau's exterior lighting such as its illuminated signboard, façade floodlights and LED screen at the North-East casino entrance.

All treatment rooms at Tria Spa were also powered off and illuminated with ambience candles.

According to a statement issued by MGM Resorts International, the gaming operator – which includes MGM Macau – has saved more than 140 million kilowatt hours of energy in the past five years, which is equivalent to 73,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

The observance of Earth Hour is part of MGM's Go Green Campaign, an internal two-week event promoting environmental protection, which runs from March 20 to April 3. The campaign will also include a "Go Green Fair," with fun games, prizes and environmental program information for employees to get involved in; a marine conversation talk educating employees on the importance of responsible waste and recycling habits to protect marine life; a tree planting and maintenance exercise; and a beach cleaning activity.

Wynn Palace has been named the Best Luxury Hotel in Macau at the 10th Annual TTG China Travel Awards 2017, an event which recognizes the best of the travel industry in Greater China.

Among Wynn Palace's features are 1,706 furnished rooms, suites and villas, large-scale floral displays, an extensive art collection, versatile meeting facilities and the Spa at Wynn Palace.

Wynn Palace is also home to renowned luxury retailers and assorted gourmet dining outlets.

Each facet of the integrated resort promises visitors an indulgent escape, delivered with Wynn's signature attention to detail and dedicated service, said Wynn Palace in a press release.

Organized by TTG China,

WYNN PALACE NAMED MACAU'S BEST LUXURY HOTEL



the TTG China Travel Awards is modeled after the annual flagship TTG Travel Awards. The TTG Travel Awards honors the best in Asia Pacific

travel and tourism organizations, and offers the most coveted and influential awards in the region's travel industry since its inception in 1989.

PROPERTY WANTED FOR SALE OR RENT

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



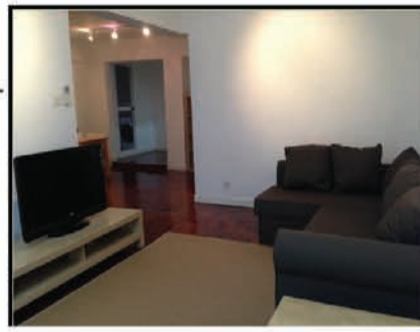
www.JMLProperty.com

For Rent



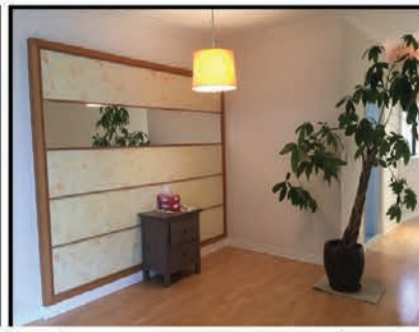
House, Hac Sa Beach, Coloane

(Ref: 17010632)
6,000sq. ft. HKD60,000
Houses are rare in Macau but here's 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.



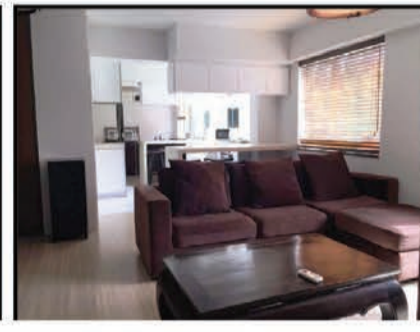
Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 16090610)
627sq. ft. HKD 9,500
One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



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. 2 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 Coati Strip. Car Park available @ 2500 per month.



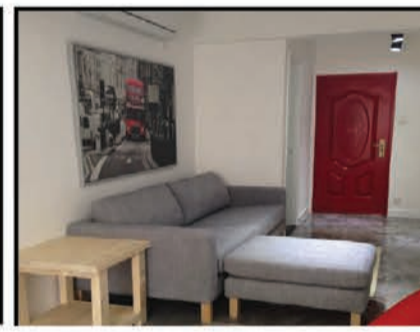
Camellia Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 17020639)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 13,800
Lovely three bedroom apartment with green mountain views. All bedrooms are doubles, one with en suite shower room. Good layout with spacious living/dining area and small balcony. Modern kitchen with plenty of storage and large enough for second dining table. Simply furnished throughout with one car park included in the asking price.



Kingsville, Taipa (1 Unit)

(Ref: 17010631)
1,200q. 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

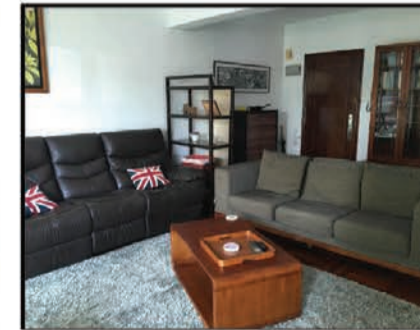
(Ref: 16095497)
1,503sq. ft. HKD 11.2M
Rate: HKD7,451sq ft
Very nice 3 bedroom + Maids room apartment in the Ocean Gardens complex, Taipa. This building continues to be one of the premier buildings in Taipa, and is much sought after by both locals and ex-pats. The apartment offers easy access to shops, 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.



Wan Yu Villa, D Unit, Macau

(Ref: 17035513)
1,800sq. ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 6,3882q ft
Beautifully furnished, bright and spacious 3 bedroom furnished apartment. Large open plan living/dining room with a long balcony off the living area. 3 double bedrooms, master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom.
Reverse cycle air con in both the living room and master bedroom. Western style kitchen with oven. Great location with supermarkets, restaurants, bars and ferry terminal within walking distance.

Contact Property Consultants Today.

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

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

Premier Li arrives in New Zealand for talks

CHINA'S premier has arrived in New Zealand for high-level talks at a time that both countries are pushing to expand free trade.

Premier Li Keqiang arrived at Wellington Airport yesterday, where he was greeted at the military terminal by New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English.

The premier stepped off his plane, gave a quick wave toward media and then stepped into a waiting car. His motorcade left for Premier House where he was attending a dinner.

As the motorcade left the airport, the premier was greeted by Chinese well-wishers wearing red shirts and holding banners and the flags of both China and New Zealand. Unlike on some previous visits by Chinese leaders, there weren't any visible protesters.

Li plans to be in the country until Wednesday. As well as a bilateral meeting with English, the premier is planning to visit a factory and view a photography exhibition.

The premier traveled to New Zealand after visiting Australia, where he warned against



Police stand near members of the Chinese community as they wait for the arrival of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

protectionism and said China wanted to expand its trading relationship.

New Zealand has also been pushing to expand free trade. Last week English announced a goal to have free trade agreements cover 90 percent of exports by 2030, up from just over 50 percent at the moment.

As part of that plan, New Zealand will spend tens of millions of dollars opening a new embassy in Ireland, a new high commission in Sri Lanka, and targeting barriers it considers are holding back trade.

The approach from China and

New Zealand stands in contrast to that of the U.S., where President Donald Trump has pulled out of a planned Pacific free-trade agreement and has expressed skepticism about other such agreements.

China and Australia represent New Zealand's largest export markets. China buys huge quantities of milk powder from New Zealand, which is used in high-end infant formula.

China and New Zealand signed a free-trade agreement in 2008. English said recently the agreement is working well but needs some fine-tuning. AP

Brazil hails victory as China, Chile and Egypt lift meat ban

BRAZIL'S under-fire meat industry received a major boost as China, Chile and Egypt began lifting restrictions on imports from the Latin American country.

Agriculture Minister Blairo Maggi announced China's "total reopening of the market for Brazilian meat" in a statement released Saturday by the ministry's press office. "This testifies categorically to the solidity and quality of the Brazilian sanitary system and is a victory for our exporting capacity," he wrote. Chile and Egypt also confirmed changes to their bans.

Operation Weak Flesh, the Brazilian police investigation into allegations that inspectors were bribed to approve the sale of tainted meat, dealt a body blow to the country's agricultural industry. Brazil accounts for about 20 percent of global beef exports and almost 40 percent of chicken exports. Twenty-five countries put some kind of restriction on Brazilian meat imports in the wake of the scandal.

The first available data from the Trade Ministry showed meat exports plunged 99.9 percent from the daily average to USD74,000.

China, including Hong Kong, is the biggest export market for Brazilian meat, buying about a third of the \$5.5 billion of beef shipped from Latin America's largest economy last year, according to the meat exporters' group Abiec. Hong Kong and Macau's restrictions on Brazilian meat remain in place.

According to the ministry of agriculture, China's ban on Brazilian products will be suspended from today, with the exception of meat processed in 21 plants still under investigation by Brazilian authorities. Fifty-seven Brazilian meat-processing plants will be able to send their goods to China as they did before March 19, when Chinese customs stopped accepting all Brazilian meat imports for inspection, in accordance with a government order.

MDT/Bloomberg

AD

BBAM BALL

CIRCUS

COMES TO TOWN

VENUE: STARWORLD HOTEL, GRAND BALLROOM

DATE: SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2017

DRINKS RECEPTION: 7:00PM

DINNER & DANCING: 8:00PM - 2:30AM FREE FLOW DRINKS

DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE RED NOSE OR CIRCUS DRESS

TICKETS: MOP/HKD 1,750 TABLES OF 6 OR 8 ARE AVAILABLE, OR MULTIPLES THEREOF

TICKET SALES & SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES:
E-MAIL: BBAM@BRITCHAMMACAO.ORG

CONTACT NUMBER: +853 8798 9697

Principal Media Sponsor
Times
www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

GENUINE STUNNING FAMOUS MARVELOUS

AP PHOTO



Carrie Lam declares her victory in the chief executive election of Hong Kong

at a news conference after the results were announced.

Lam said she would not immediately revive attempts to revamp the electoral system, a potential political flashpoint that could rekindle protests by pro-democracy supporters. She said she wanted to focus on other more pressing issues such as housing, education and health care.

My priority will be to heal the divide and to ease the frustrations and to unite our society to move forward.

CARRIE LAM

No surprise: Beijing's pick Lam chosen as Hong Kong's leader

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

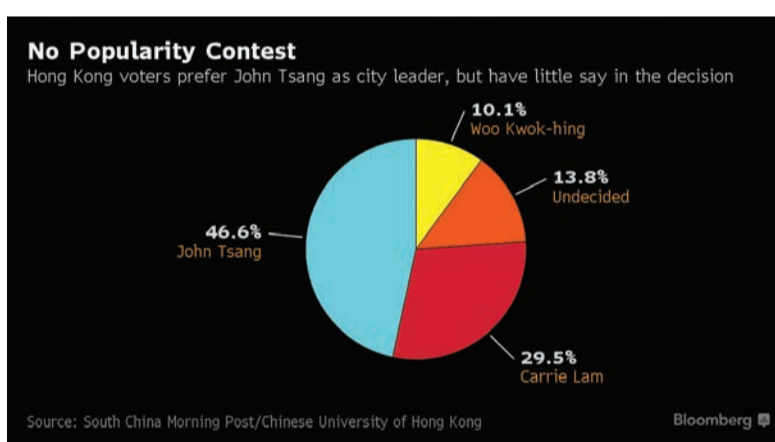
THE candidate favored by China's Communist leadership was chosen as Hong Kong's new leader yesterday, in the first such vote since huge pro-democracy protests erupted over the city's election system in 2014.

A committee dominated by pro-Beijing elites selected Carrie Lam, the Hong Kong government's former No. 2 official, as the financial hub's chief executive. Lam received 67 percent of the vote and will become Hong Kong's first female leader and its fourth since British colonial control ended in

1997.

China's leaders had lobbied behind the scenes for the 59-year-old Lam, so her victory came as no surprise. After the votes were counted, she bowed to the crowd and shook hands with the second-place finisher, former Finance Secretary John Tsang.

Some pro-democracy supporters in the official seating area yelled slogans and held up a yellow umbrella, the symbol of the 2014 protests, as the results were announced. The elite election committee was at the root of the protests as activists decried the lack of a direct choice by Hong Kong's 3.8 million registered voters.



Lam is an efficient and pragmatic administrator, but is unpopular with Hong Kongers because she's seen as a proxy for Beijing and out of touch with ordinary people. Tsang, in contrast, is highly popular because of his easygoing persona and deft use of social media. He has been nicknamed "Pringles" or "Uncle Chips" in Cantonese for his signature mustache that draws comparisons to the snack food mascot. His followers call themselves "small potatoes."

Lam received 777 of the 1,163 votes. Tsang got 365 votes, or 31 percent, while the third candidate, retired judge Woo Kwok-hing, had 21 votes.

As the next leader of the Asian financial center, Lam will inherit a city split by political divisions and saddled with sluggish economic growth. Many fear that Beijing is tightening control and undermining the "one country, two systems" framework that guarantees Hong Kong high autonomy. Those fears have been amplified by cases in recent

years such as five booksellers secretly detained on the mainland and a Chinese tycoon's mysterious disappearance.

Lam's ability to soothe tensions relies on how much public support she can gain.

"My priority will be to heal the divide and to ease the frustrations and to unite our society to move forward," she said

"There is a serious divide in Hong Kong, so why don't we start with the easier subjects and try to reach consensus" on how to tackle those other problems first, she said.

Lam will take office on July 1, succeeding current leader Leung Chun-ying, who cited family reasons when he ruled out a second term. Political analysts suspect Beijing asked Leung, a highly polarizing figure, to step aside for someone better liked.

Members of the Hong Kong's election committee include tycoons like Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong's richest person. They represent industry and trade groups such as finance, accounting, real estate and textiles. Most support China's Communist leaders and are expected to vote according to their wishes.

Hong Kong lawmakers, local councilors and delegates to China's rubber-stamp parliament also have votes, and some 326 seats, mostly in the education, legal, health and social welfare sectors, are held by pro-democracy supporters. AP

Lui Che-woo says Lam is 'more pragmatic'

I always say she's [Lam] more pragmatic," Lui Che-woo, the billionaire founder of Galaxy Entertainment Group, told reporters before voting. "She has a practical and realistic style. Hong Kong must rely on this kind of people."

Carrie Lam has held about 20 positions over 36 years, including a 2007-12 stint as development secretary when she persuaded villagers to relocate to make way for new projects. As Leung's top deputy, she was

known for championing China's policy goals without inspiring the same animosity from the opposition as her boss.

That reputation took a hit during a December trip to Beijing, when Lam - who was then mulling a run - announced plans to build a Hong Kong offshoot of China's Palace Museum. The surprise move prompted a backlash with lawmakers accusing her of failing to consult the public about the project or her choice of architect.

PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTERS AGAINST 'FAKE ELECTION'

AP PHOTO



HUNDREDS OF protesters - including some pro-Beijing demonstrators, waving national flags - were separated from the convention center by scores of police officers and barricades. One pro-democracy group unfurled a huge banner proclaiming "I want genuine universal suffrage" from Lion Rock, which overlooks Hong

Kong's Victoria Harbor. "It's a fake election," said protester Ng Chi-fai, 52, who was concerned that Lam would follow in Leung's footsteps. "I believe Hong Kong people will be upset by this and will be more united to oppose her." There were some scuffles with police officers during a protest against the chief executive election.



A Bangladeshi man walks across a canal with full of tannery waste which empties out into the Buriganga River at the highly polluted Hazaribagh tannery area in Dhaka

Report examines grim Bangladesh leather trade, links to West

Martha Mendoza, Julhas Alam

HAZARDOUS, heavily polluting tanneries, with workers as young as 14, supplied leather to companies that make shoes and handbags for a host of Western brands, a nonprofit group that investigates supply chains says.

The report by New York-based Transparentem, released to The Associated Press on Friday, didn't say leather from the tanneries ends up in American and European companies' products, only that the manufacturers of some of those goods receive it.

Some companies say they're certain the leather used to make their products was imported from outside Bangladesh, and the manufacturers concur. Still, in response to the report most brands had switched factories, banned Bangladesh leather or demanded improvements and audits.

The abuses alleged have long plagued Hazaribagh, a Dhaka neighborhood that's the hub of Bangladesh's leather industry with more than 150 tanneries. The air is noxious with an eye-stinging rotten-egg odor, and children play on small hills of rotting hide trimmings. The Buriganga River, a source of drinking water for 180,000 people, shimmers with poisons from tannery chemical runoff, as well as other human and industrial waste.

The USD1 billion-a-year industry was ordered to shut down and move more than 15 years ago, but deadlines have passed without consequence and fines go unpaid. Last week, Bangladesh's High Court told authorities to stop supplying gas, water and electricity to the tanneries. Rawhide supplies have also been ordered halted.

And yet they're still in business, fueled by consumer demand for ever-more-stylish but low-priced wallets and boots. Transparentem uses investigative journalism practices to tackle labor and environmental abuses, producing detailed reports that are privately shared with companies involved. The group gives companies time to respond before sharing its findings with investors, regulators,

advocacy organizations or journalists.

Its confidential Hazaribagh report and accompanying video, shared late last year with about a dozen U.S. and European brands and companies, showed workers at five different tanneries bent double under the weight of soaking wet cow hides, shuffling past heavy machinery delivering heavy loads. Workers are seen whipping handheld razors through leather, tossing off loose trimmings. Barrels of chemicals lean against walls. The floor is wet, and some workers are barefoot.

Bangladesh law prohibits workers under 18, but some appeared to be teenagers. The report says that in 2015, a mother confirmed her child working in a tannery was 14. Footage from 2016 showed the child was still working there. On the video, a 17-year-old told the videographer his age. And there's 2016 footage of two workers agreeing that 15-year-olds are onsite.

Transparentem is not publishing its findings but showed the video to an AP reporter before sharing the report. It said the discretion was needed to protect its investigators and the workers, and that the research is ongoing.

The nonprofit said its Hazaribagh team tracked leather first-hand and with corporate reports from two tanneries, Apex Tannery Ltd. and Bay Tannery Ltd., to Bangladeshshoemakers Apex Footwear and Bay Footwear. Apex Tannery also sent leather to South Korean leather dealer White Industries, said the report. From White, Transparentem tracked leather to Simone Accessories, a South Korean handbag maker.

Using customs records and business documents, they found those factories make shoes and purses for Clarks, Coach, Kate Spade, Macy's, Michael Kors, Sears, Steven Madden and Timberland. Also included were Germany-based Deichmann, a shoe and sportswear chain, and two U.S. firms — Harbor Footwear Group and Genesco — which design and market shoes in even more brands.

No one followed a piece of lea-

ther produced by a child to a particular purse or shoe.

E. Benjamin Skinner, founder and principal of Transparentem, said the group investigates endemic problems within an industry, and looked into Apex and Bay because they are among the largest.

"We tell brands and retailers what they may not, but should, know about those with whom they do business. This gives them the opportunity to use their influence with their suppliers to address questionable activity and advance positive action," Skinner said.

The American and European brands that responded to queries from the AP stated their commitments to prevent labor abuse in manufacturing. But some brands, the Bangladeshi companies involved and industry officials disputed the report's findings.

“We tell brands and retailers what they may not, but should, know about those with whom they do business.”

E. BENJAMIN SKINNER
FOUNDER OF TRANSPARENTEM

"That NGO went to our buyers too," said Shahin Ahmed, chairman of the Bangladesh Tanners' Association. "They showed them some video clips of child workers who are engaged in manufacturing some byproducts. [...] They are no way part of the main industry, I can challenge anybody."

Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear and a director at the Apex Tannery, calls Hazaribagh "an environmental disaster" and said they'll soon close their plant there. But he said the report is a "smear campaign," allegations of child labor are unsubstantiated, and Hazaribagh leather doesn't end up in

exported products.

Manzur said Apex Footwear and Apex Tannery are separate entities, although they have some owners in common and are associated businesses. He said Apex Footwear has two separate shoe-making factories, one for local markets and another, across the street, for exports. The Hazaribagh leather goes only to the local factory, he said.

Bay Footwear technical adviser Rezaur Rahman, speaking for Bay Group, which includes their tannery, called Transparentem's findings "absolutely baseless."

"We worked with the International Labor Organization and trade unions. I don't understand how and where they found child workers in the industry," Rahman said. "We don't have any child workers."

Coach — whose website says their produce is "handcrafted from the finest American and European hides and textiles" — said they get no more than 1.5 percent of their leather from Hazaribagh and Kate Spade said they get just 1 percent. Both said they're stopping any purchases from Hazaribagh.

Michael Kors and Harbor Footwear said they were a few steps removed from the Hazaribagh tanneries, hadn't knowingly sourced leather there, and would make sure not to.

Clarks and Deichmann said they are certain no Hazaribagh leather ended up in their products.

Deichmann said Apex Footwear only makes their shoes with imported leather or hides processed at Apex Gazipur tannery that they've audited.

A Clarks spokesman said the company "is only responsible for the sourcing of materials in our own products and cannot control the sourcing of others."

Sears, Timberland, Macy's, Genesco and Steven Madden all said that while they weren't getting leather from the tanneries, they saw an opportunity to use their companies' leverage at the related factories to bring improvements, with some using threats, others offering auditors and support.

Attorneys representing Apex Footwear and Macy's, Steven Madden and Genesco signed an agreement last month that says Apex will verify that all tannery workers are adults using protective gear, and that independent auditors would oversee longer-term improvements.

Steve Park, sales director at White Industry Co., said the South Korean company stopped using raw materials from Bangladesh late last year after U.S. clients such as Coach, Michael Kors and Kate Spade informed them about environmental problems and child labor issues. Now they use American, Brazilian and Pakistani suppliers, he said.

Scott Nova at the Worker Rights Consortium in Washington, D.C., said a brand or retailer that is serious about protecting worker rights, and about honoring its public commitments to do so, wou-

ld not do business with a factory that sources from suppliers that engage in dangerous and abusive practices.

"This principle applies, whether or not leather from the tanneries in question is being used in a brand's products," he said.

Global brands are drawn to manufacturing in Bangladesh by low wages, and leather shoes, belts and purses are top exports. But many Bangladeshi manufacturers depend on domestic tanneries for their leather, and 90 percent of those tanneries are in Hazaribagh.

Conditions in the neighborhood are deplorable. Chemicals and defecation run milky-white through open sewers, pouring untreated into the river, more of a waste pond than a waterway. Metal tarnishes quickly; electronics corrode.

Tannery workers live in small, hot, steel-walled rooms perched on precarious stilts above creeks of raw sewage and mounds of stinking scraps.

AP journalists were not allowed inside Apex and Bay's Hazaribagh tanneries, but workers walking out said no children were employed there now.

Reporters did find children working in smaller Hazaribagh tanneries not mentioned by Transparentem. The work is hazardous, with large equipment and little to none of the protective clothing, splash aprons, safety goggles and respirators mandatory at North American and European tanneries. The AP team watched as a man tasted liquid from a drum that processes leather to test for salt levels.

"We would hope to avoid the harm that can be caused by the liquid when the body and the limbs are exposed to it," said another Hazaribagh leather tanner, Mohammed Harun, 52. "There are some powders and chemicals that infect us when inhaled." He said they need boots, gloves and masks. "If the owners provide us with these things, it will improve the situation," he said.

A British Medical Journal study published this week found that Bangladeshi tannery workers as young as 8 frequently have untreated rashes and infections, as well as asthma and other lung problems. Pure Earth — a non-governmental organization that addresses industrial pollution — has put Hazaribagh on its Top 10 list of polluted places, along with Chernobyl. Similar problems exist at tannery clusters in the Philippines and India.

Human Rights Watch advocate Richard Pearhouse, who has reported on pollution and child labor at Hazaribagh tanneries, said none comply with national environmental laws or repeated court orders to move.

American shoppers can make a difference, he said.

"Consumers should be asking plenty of sharp questions on the shop floor about what retailers are doing to guarantee they are not sourcing leather from Hazaribagh's toxic tanneries," he said. **AP**

Jamey Keaten, Esther Htsuan

UN rights council approves fact finding mission in Myanmar

THE U.N.-backed Human Rights Council on Friday approved a resolution by consensus to “dispatch urgently” an international fact-finding mission to Myanmar to probe alleged abuses by military and security forces, particularly against the minority Rohingya Muslim community.

In a move bound to put pressure on State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi's government, the 47-member body threw its weight behind existing efforts to investigate alleged rights abuses such as torture, rape, arbitrary killings and forced displacement of the Rohingya in western Rakhine state. Zaw Htay, a presidential spokesman, said Myanmar “cannot accept” the council's decision.

“What the U.N. Human Rights Council did to us is totally not fair and not right under international practices,” Htay said by phone, citing a domestic investigation. “They should have waited and watched the correspondent country's investigation, and the result coming out from that,” and only then offer possible criticism of its work, he added.

This month, a commission chaired by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, created at the behest of Suu Kyi, presented interim recommendations to the government about long-term solutions to tensions between Rohingya and Rakhine Buddhists in Rakhine state. The recom-



Rohingya refugees gather to receive medicine at a clinic close to Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine state

mendations included allowing journalists free access to the western part of the country.

The Rohingya face severe discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar and were the targets of inter-communal violence in 2012 that killed hundreds and drove about 140,000 people — predominantly Rohingya — from their homes to camps for the internally displaced, where most remain.

The army launched counterinsurgency operations in Rohingya areas in northern Rakhine in October after the killing of nine border guards. U.N. human rights investigators and independent rights organizations charge that soldiers and police killed and raped civilians and burned down more than 1,000 homes during the operations.

The HRC resolution says the council's president will appoint

the independent, international fact-finding mission, which is to provide an oral update on its work in the council's autumn session followed by a written report a year from now. Some countries including China, India and Cuba dissociated themselves from the resolution, brought by Malta on behalf of the European Union.

continued and escalating violence” in parts of Myanmar. In an interview with The Associated Press last week, Lee said she had been told “the situation is currently worse than at any point in the past few years.”

Lee also said a domestic investigative panel focusing on Rakhine state was “flawed” and that Annan's commission didn't have an all-encompassing mandate.

In a statement Friday, Lee said she was “disappointed” that the commission of inquiry was not established, and added, “I trust the government of Myanmar will cooperate with this mission, including granting it full access as called for in the Human Rights Council resolution.”

The resolution was one of 42 voted on over two days as the Geneva-based council neared the end of its latest session. Other resolutions decried alleged crimes as diverse as violence that could devolve into genocide in South Sudan; “extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape” and other violence in North Korean prisons; and alleged war crimes and terrorist acts in Syria. **AP**

“The situation is currently worse than at any point in the past few years.”

YANGHEE LEE
UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

The U.N. human rights office's special rapporteur for Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, had urged the council to go further than a fact-finding mission by authorizing the creation of a full commission of inquiry to investigate the alleged crimes. A 25-page report from her office this month cited “con-

France looks to strengthen ties with Singapore



Francois Hollande (left) and Singapore President Tony Tan raise their glasses for a toast

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

FRENCH President Francois Hollande, on an official visit to Singapore, expressed a desire yesterday to strengthen France's partnership with the Southeast Asian city-state.

“France considers Singapore not only for an economic partner, but also as a friendly country,” Hollande said at a state banquet, where he gave a toast in French.

“In this geopolitical environment of isolation, nationalism and protectionism, we have to lead by example and make our bilateral partnership not only strong and dynamic, but to show the way for opening confidence in international trade,” added Hollande, making the first official visit by a French president to Singapore.

The two countries signed a Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership in 2012 to deepen cooperation

in areas such as trade and investment, defense and space technology.

Singapore's president, Tony Tan, said that France was a “special friend,” noting that it was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Singapore after its independence in 1965.

“At a time when the global political and economic environment is uncertain, many governments are facing pressures to turn inwards,” Tan said. “Against this backdrop, being able to work with reliable friends is more important than ever. France is such a friend of Singapore.” Some 15,000 French nationals and 1,800 French enterprises are based in the city-state.

Trade between the two countries is strong as well. Last year, their bilateral trade was valued at 16 billion Singapore dollars (\$11.4 billion). France was Singapore's second-biggest trading partner in the European Union.

In 2015, French foreign direct investment in Singapore was about 14.8 billion Singapore dollars (\$10.6 billion).

Hollande is set to meet with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and deliver a lecture today. He leaves for Malaysia tomorrow. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Four dead, 23 wounded in grenade attack

AT least four people were killed and 23 others wounded in a grenade attack in the southern Philippines that appears to be unrelated to terrorism, officials said yesterday.

Army Col. Cirilito Sobejana said the attacker was arrested following the late Saturday grenade blast in Busbus village near the domestic airport in Sulu province's Jolo town.

The motive for the attack wasn't immediately clear, but a military officer said the attacker, who was identified by police as Sedimar Rabbah, returned to the area to retaliate after being beaten by a group of men who accused him of stealing a cellphone. Police, however, were checking if he has links with Abu Sayyaf militants. Aside from kidnappings for ransom, bombings and killings by Abu Sayyaf extremists, predominantly Muslim Sulu has long been troubled by a large number of illegal guns and other weapons, many in the hands of warlords and other armed groups. Jungle-clad Sulu, about 950 kilometers south of Manila, is one of the country's poorest provinces, although it has rich resources and pristine beaches and islands. **AP**

中新广州知识城创新创业大会2016
SSGKC LaunchPad 2016
Presents
DCIC
Delta Creativity & Innovation Celebration




An Event by

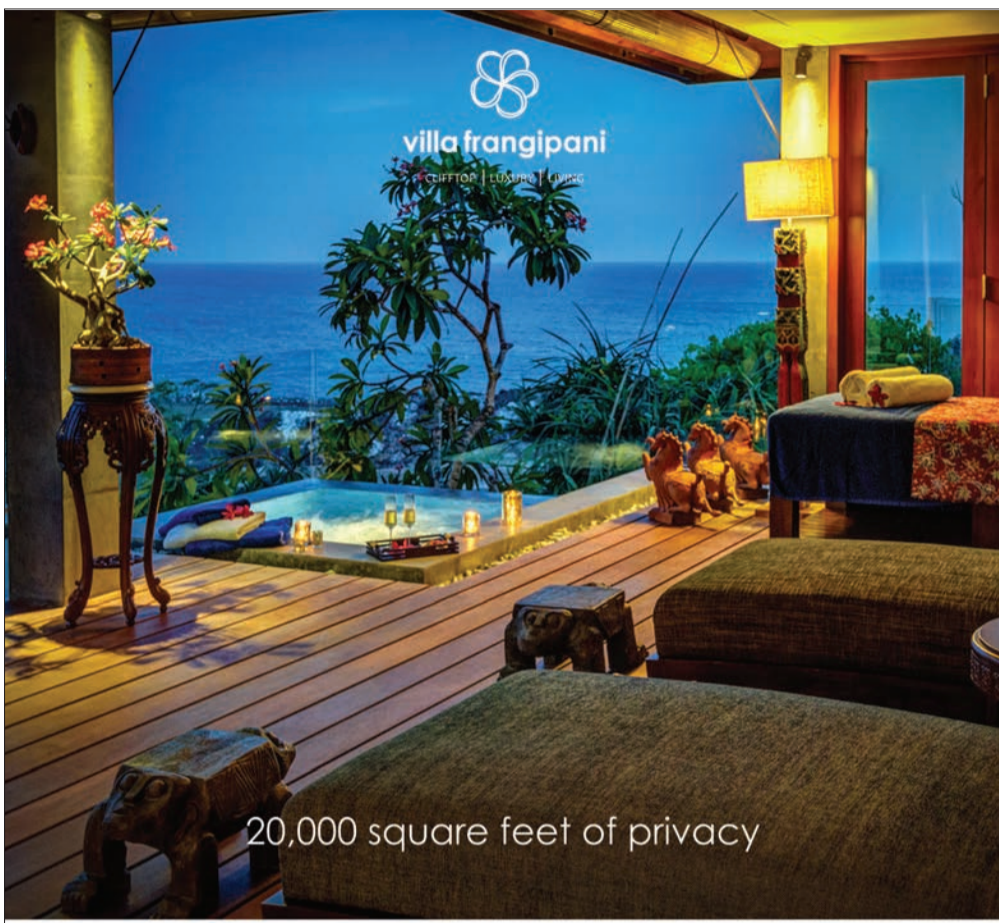



DCIC Presentation Registration Form
info@sanjiaoling.com

In Cooperation with



Official Partners

villa frangipani
CLIFFTOP | LUXURY | GOLF

20,000 square feet of privacy

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



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

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

...wish you could stay forever...

PRIVATE VILLAS OF BALI	VILLA TIRTA KENCANA • VILLA FRANGIPANI	info@privatevillasofbali.com www.privatevillasofbali.com skype ID: privatevillasofbali +62361 8468513
-------------------------------	--	---

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



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

Sylvie Corbert, Paris

ANALYSIS

Non merci: French voters reject corruption in politics

FRENCH voters just won't tolerate corruption in politics anymore — that appears to be the message from the swift downfall of the country's powerful security minister.

It's a notable shift from the past, when influence peddling seemed endemic and politicians untouchable, even when they were accused of shocking scandals.

The change is the result of an aggressive new financial prosecutor, an unprecedented anti-corruption drive by President Francois Hollande, and growing public frustration with a political establishment seen as intent on enriching itself even as ordinary people suffer.

Hollande on Thursday inaugurated the French anti-corruption agency, a public organization focusing on business activity — the latest move in government efforts to fight corruption.

Five years ago, Hollande campaigned on the promise to make the French Republic "exemplary." He probably didn't think he would have so much clean up to do in his own camp.

Former Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux last week became the fifth minister to quit the Socialist government over financial wrongdoing allegations. Prosecutors opened an investigation into a report that he hired his two daughters for some two dozen temporary parliamentary jobs, starting when they were 15 and 16 years old.

The case comes as France's electoral campaign is being affected by a string of corruption scandals ahead of the country's two-round presidential election on April 23 and May 7.

The conservative candidate Francois Fillon is the target an investigation into allegations that he gave his wife and two children government-funded jobs which they never did.



AP PHOTO
Outgoing French Interior Minister Bruno Le Roux arrives to welcome his successor Matthias Fekl, prior to a handover ceremony

Fillon suggested Thursday that Hollande would intervene in legal cases to try to discredit political rivals. Hollande vigorously denounced those allegations as false and insisted he has never intervened in any judicial procedure.

Fillon, once considered the presidential front-runner, has sunk in polls following the press' first revelations about the jobs in January.

Since then, allegations have come out that Fillon was also given suits worth more than 48,000 euros (USD52,000) over the past five years — including two suits worth 13,000 euros (\$14,000) last month. Judges are also investigating whether Fillon and his wife com-

mitted fraud and forgery in a cover-up attempt.

His supporters insist the principle of presumption of innocence should protect their candidate.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen and some members of her anti-EU, anti-immigrant National Front party are also targeted in several ongoing investigations.

Polls suggest that Le Pen and independent centrist Emmanuel Macron are the two top contenders in the election. The top two vote-getters on April 23 will compete in a presidential runoff on May 7.

For the first time in the country's history, the declarations of assets of all the presidential

candidates were published this week on the High Authority for the Transparency of Public Life's website.

Hollande's term was tarnished from the start with scandals — the biggest one concerning former budget minister Jerome Cahuzac.

Cahuzac acknowledged owning illegal foreign bank accounts for two decades in March 2013, after denying and publicly lying for months. He was sentenced last year to three years in prison. He has appealed the decision.

■ For the first time in the country's history, the declarations of assets of all the presidential candidates were published this week

Cahuzac's case prompted the creation of the new position of a national financial prosecutor three years ago to focus on complex cases of serious economic and financial crime.

The government also passed a law in 2013 to force ministers and parliamentarians to declare their assets and avoid any conflict of interest. The same year, another bill tightened France's

legal arsenal to fight tax fraud and evasion.

In addition to Le Roux and Cahuzac, three lower-profile ministers were forced to quit Hollande's government in the same circumstances, including junior minister for foreign trade Thomas Thevenoud who resigned in 2014 because he was named in an inquiry into tax fraud. He goes on trial next month.

"French people want exemplary attitude from their political leaders," said French Socialist environment minister Segolene Royal, who also noted the consequences of corruption on France's image abroad. "[We are] the country of human rights, a country of law. We need to watch our behavior."

Hollande's strong stance on fighting corruption and financial wrongdoing is a marked contrast with his predecessors' attitudes.

Former conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy is facing legal troubles. An investigation is underway over allegations that he received millions of euros in illegal financing from the late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's regime for his winning 2007 presidential campaign.

Prosecutors also want him and 13 others sent to trial for another campaign financing case involving his failed 2012 presidential bid. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Jacques Chirac, the French president from 1995-2007, was given in 2011 a two-year suspended sentence for embezzling public funds while he was mayor of Paris. **AP**

UK police still think Westminster attacker acted alone



AP PHOTO
People look at tributes in Parliament Square, London

BBRITISH police investigating an assault on Parliament that claimed four victims and wounded dozens say they still believe the assailant acted alone.

Police said late Saturday there is no information indicating that further attacks are planned.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said it may never be possible to fully determine the motives of attacker Khalid Masood, who was shot dead Wednesday after running over pedestrians with an SUV on London's

Westminster Bridge and fatally stabbing a policeman guarding Parliament.

"That understanding may have died with him," Basu said as police appealed for people who knew Masood or saw him to contact investigators. "Even if he acted alone in the preparation, we need to establish with absolute clarity why he did these unspeakable acts, to bring reassurance to Londoners."

The Islamic State group has claimed Masood was a "soldier" carrying out its

wishes for supporters to attack Western countries.

One man remains in custody in the case. He has not been charged or named. Nine people arrested after the assault have been released without being charged and one has been freed on bail.

A detailed police reconstruction has found the attack lasted 82 seconds before Masood was shot dead just after entering the grounds of Parliament.

The family of slain police officer Keith Palmer,

meanwhile, released a statement thanking those who tried to save his life.

"There was nothing more you could have done. You did your best and we are just grateful he was not alone," the statement said.

Masood, a 52-year-old Briton, had convictions for violent crimes and spent time in prison. He also worked in Saudi Arabia teaching English for two years and traveled there again in 2015, apparently on a religious pilgrimage. **AP**

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

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

THE STAMP FESTIVAL

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

UNTIL: April 7, 2017

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

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

THE VOICE OF DESIGN – WORKS EXHIBITION BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DESIGN OF MACAU POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: April 15, 2017

VENUE: IFT Café, Anim'Arte NAM VAN

ADMISSION: Free

4:35 - WORKS BY LEI CHEOK MEI

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: April 26, 2017

VENUE: Intersection of Av. do Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

11 ENDANGERED WILD ELEPHANTS RESCUED FROM MUD IN CAMBODIA



Eleven endangered wild elephants were rescued in Cambodia on Saturday, four days after getting stuck in a 3-meter-deep mud hole, officials said.

The animals were rescued in northeastern Monduliri province, home to about 250 wild elephants, said Wildlife Alliance official Botumroa Leun.

The chief of Monduliri's environment department, Keo Sopheak, who headed the rescue team, said the elephants apparently got stuck in the mud when they went to drink water at a 3-meter-deep hole that was left over from U.S. bombing during the Vietnam War.

After being rescued, the elephants were sent back to the jungle where they normally live, Keo Sopheak said.

He said if local villagers had not reported the incident, the elephants would have died from thirst and starvation. 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	Now Generation (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	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:05	2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Highlights
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

27 -29 MAR

POWER RANGERS

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Dean Israel

Starring: Bryan Cranston, Elizabeth Banks, Naomi Scott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

LIFE

ROOM 2

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

Director: Daniel Espinosa

Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Rebecca Ferguson, Ryan Reynolds

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min

KONG: SKULL ISLAND

ROOM 3

2:15, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



SILENCE

ROOM 3

6:45pm

Director: Martin Scorsese

Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

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



1977 HUNDREDS DEAD IN TENERIFE PLANE CRASH

At least 560 people have died after two jumbo jets collided on a runway in the holiday destination of Tenerife. It is thought to be the world's worst disaster involving aircraft on the ground.

A massive explosion followed by a ball of fire erupted at Los Rodeos airport, Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, in dense fog as both airliners were taxiing for take-off at 1800 local time.

The sound of the explosion was heard across the island. Early reports suggest a Boeing 747, belonging to Dutch national airline KLM, and a Pan American 747 travelling from Los Angeles to Las Palmas were involved in the accident.

No-one survived from the Dutch airliner which was carrying 249 passengers including crew, and was travelling from Schiphol airport, Amsterdam. The Pan-Am plane was a charter flight carrying 16 crew and 378 passengers and there were said to be about 60 survivors, the majority of whom were injured.

Eyewitnesses said the airport is now covered in dense black smoke following the explosions and emergency services are struggling to cope with the enormous numbers of casualties.

Rescue workers have been plunging into the burning wreckage to pull out survivors. The army is expected to move in to help the rescue operation.

Neither airline was originally due to be at the airport but both were diverted from the much bigger Las Palmas on nearby Gran Canaria island after a terrorist bomb blast near the departure lounge.

Experts say it is too early to suggest the cause of the crash but many believe it was in part due to the extra number of flights and pressure on resources at the small airport following several diversions from Las Palmas.

It will once again place security at Spanish airports under the spotlight, hard pressed by package tour flights. A crash of such magnitude before take-off has horrified industry insiders.

Previously the worst accident in aviation history was a Turkish airlines crash near Paris with the loss of 346 lives.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In total 583 people died in the blaze that followed the collision and the incident remains the world's worst aviation accident in history. The KLM jumbo preparing for take-off is understood to have clipped the Pan-Am plane which was taxiing across the runway.

Ultimately, the crash was blamed on the KLM pilot who had not checked if he was clear for take-off and sped down the foggy runway. The Pan-Am pilot was deemed to be blameless.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A rude or insensitive person could cause you some complications this morning, but at the same time they will help give you a fresh perspective on your life

Taurus April 20-May 20 There is nothing wrong with demanding proof before you buy into anyone's story. Your skepticism might make waves today, but in the end it will save everyone a lot of stress and regret.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Right now it's your emotional nature that is going to be your driving force in life, but that needs to start changing. You need to think more with your brain and less with your heart.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You will be doing yourself a service by taking your time today, especially in terms of any decisions you have to make. From what kind of coffee drink you want to order to what investment fund to buy into.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The past is coming back, not to haunt you -- but to thrill you! Whether it's an old flame returning to town to see what you're up to, an old photo you find that stirs up some hilarious memories.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Running around at a frantic pace is not going to help you get more stuff done -- it will only give you stress and increase your blood pressure! Today, you need to move away from multitasking.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Try to make exploring with people from other cultures your new hobby today -- different beliefs and customs can offer you some fresh new ideas and inspire you to find a way around a problem that's been plaguing you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Try to avoid making any impulse buys right now -- especially on big-ticket items. Throwing your money around without thinking it through, could chip away at the careful balance you've been working so hard to achieve.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Even without trying, you are going to be a source of inspiration for someone today -- and they won't be shy about letting you know it! You might feel embarrassed at first by the fawning attention.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Are you being too idealistic about a new person in your life? If there's someone in your social group everyone dislikes but you, then maybe you should give this person another, more objective review.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your pace may get you where you want to go faster, but it could also be leaving a few people behind. So slow down and spend more time with the people you care about.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Why do you have to take the rules of someone who is in authority today at face value? If you have an issue with what they are decreeing, then step up to this person and say so.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is 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 WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Jewish law; 7- I'm freezing!; 10- Singer Vikki; 14- Wild sheep of Asia; 15- "Rocky ..." (1982); 16- Dull pain; 17- Breastbones; 18- Mil. officers; 19- Must have; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Actor Lorenzo; 26- Hi-...; 27- "Inferno" writer; 28- Hebrew month; 29- Covering for the head; 30- Fall from grace; 31- City in W central Israel; 33- Airline to Oslo; 34- Court fig.; 37- St. crosser; 38- Riviera season; 39- Major-leaguer; 40- Comic Margaret; 41- French possessive; 42- Naught; 43- Portable lamp; 45- Vietnamese holiday; 46- Sigh of satisfaction; 47- Like ... of bricks; 48- Twice, a comforting comment; 51- Switch positions; 52- Sphere; 53- Pool where animals drink; 56- Hammett hound; 57- No-win situation?; 58- Leased; 62- Let's just leave ... that; 63- Popular ISP; 64- Main dish; 65- Capone foe; 66- Genetic material; 67- Marked down;

Friday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words. Includes a list of words: ASOP, ELEA, TABS, GOAL, GINSU, RIIS, TINTO, OATHS, ERAT, NEST, INO, UNLESS, SOSA, GAEL, SHALT, MULTIPLY, SHAME, REEL, SLOE, GAB, PATSY, ANN, TRIO, ACES, TONGS, SITUATED, TORTS, TIER, LAMB, APPALL, MAL, INST, CRAG, LOOIE, TOME, TILE, ADORN, AVON, AMES, ERST, LAGS.

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 and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact information.

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including details on size, price, and features.

JML Property logo and branding, including the text '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.



Innovation that excites



THE ALL-NEW QASHQAI HKD278,800

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





Vettel steers his car during the Australian Grand Prix

F1 Vettel breaks Ferrari's drought with victory at Aussie GP

John Pye, Melbourne

SEBASTIAN Vettel broke Ferrari's Formula One drought with a victory over the Mercedes team of Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas yesterday at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix.

Ferrari hadn't won an F1 GP since Vettel's victory in Singapore in 2015, and so his leap up onto the top of the podium at the finish in Australia signaled renewed confidence from him and perhaps an end to the domination Mercedes has forged in recent seasons.

"For now, we're just over the moon," four-time world champion Vettel said. "It's been a hard winter, and an incredible race today. We're here, we're

here to fight."

With regulations designed to make the 2017 F1 cars faster — including wider tires, greater aerodynamics, bigger fuel loads and increased downforce — Vettel proved Ferrari's extra pace in pre-season testing was genuine.

"It's good to know we have a great car but it's just the beginning [...] with new regulations, a new generation of cars," Vettel said. "Mercedes have a great engine and a great car the last couple of years — we're the ones who've had to catch up. Whatever happens this year, the race today doesn't hurt."

Vettel finished in 1 hour, 24 minutes and 11.672 seconds, almost 10 seconds clear of Hamilton, to give Ferrari its first win in Australia since Kimi Raikkonen

took the title in 2007. Raikkonen, in the second Ferrari, finished fourth this year.

For the second year running, Hamilton started on pole position at the Albert Park circuit and placed second. Last year, he lost to then Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg, who went on to edge him for the world championship before retiring. This time, Vettel took the lead when Hamilton pitted for new tires on lap 18 and then got stuck in traffic behind Red Bull driver Max Verstappen.

Vettel was able to pit much later and gradually build up his lead as Hamilton drove conservatively on older tires to ensure he finished the race.

"That's motor racing," Hamilton said of the hold-up, adding

it was his decision to pit and change tires. "A big congratulations to Ferrari. It's been a long time coming [...] and it shows we're going to have a race on our hands. That's good to the fans."

Mercedes won 19 of the 21 GPs last season, and Red Bull was well off the pace in Melbourne, with Verstappen placing fifth — almost 29 seconds behind Vettel — and local hope Daniel Ricciardo failing to finish.

In fact, the Australian driver almost didn't start. Ricciardo's day started badly and kept getting worse as he got a grid penalty, missed the start after a mechanical failure in the warmup, and then retired after 28 laps.

He was among seven drivers who retired during the race. For-

mer champion Fernando Alonso continued to struggle in his McLaren, retiring on the 50th of 57 laps, while 18-year-old Canadian rookie Lance Stroll got a grid penalty after needing an unscheduled gearbox change after a crash in practice and was wayward in his 40 laps on debut for Williams.

Haas didn't get a car across the finish, with Romain Grosjean out after 13 laps and Kevin Magnussen out after an eventful 46 laps.

■ Ferrari hadn't won an F1 GP since Vettel's victory in Singapore in 2015

Felipe Massa earned points for Williams with a sixth-place finish, while Force India teammates Sergio Perez and Esteban Ocon were 7th and 10th in their pink cars and finished either side of Toro Rosso drivers Carlos Sainz and Daniil Kvyat.

Ferrari leads the constructors' standings by four points from Mercedes, with F1 moving to Shanghai next month for the Chinese Grand Prix.

"Overall, I think not a disaster, first race weekend with the team," said Bottas, who joined Mercedes for 2017 as a replacement for Rosberg. "It's good to start with a podium this season and with a new team. Every position is important for the championship itself." AP

WHILE Cristiano Ronaldo kept moving up Europe's all-time scorers list on Saturday, a demoralizing loss to Bulgaria endangered the Netherlands' World Cup qualification.

With two goals in Portugal's 3-0 win over Hungary, Ronaldo moved into fourth place on the all-time scorers list for European nations.

Ronaldo's 70 in 137 appearances trail only Miroslav Klose (71), Sandor Kocsis (75) and Ferenc Puskas (84). Here is a look at World Cup qualifiers in Europe:

GROUP A

Teenager Matthijs de Ligt's dream debut for the Netherlands quickly turned into a nightmare as he handed Bulgaria an early goal. Just five minutes into the match De Ligt let a speculative ball fall over his shoulder before he collided with goalkeeper Jerroen Zoet, allowing Spas Delev to tap in.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Ronaldo hits 70 int'l goals, Dutch stunned

Delev made it 2-0 in the 20th when he curled a shot past De Ligt's attempted block and into the bottom corner of Zoet's goal.

Injuries had forced coach Danni Blind to make the risky choice of De Ligt who, at 17, became the youngest Netherlands debutant since Mauk Weber in 1931.

After the stunning loss, the manager took the blame.

"I blame myself," Blind told national broadcaster NOS, adding that, "It can't go on like this. Things have to change."

The Netherlands, which failed to qualify for the European Championship last year, looks likely to struggle to reach the World Cup in Russia.

France stayed on top of the group with 13 points

after beating Luxembourg 3-1 thanks to Olivier Giroud's double and a penalty by Antoine Griezmann.

Sweden is second with 10 points after thrashing Belarus 4-0. The Netherlands slid to fourth with seven points, behind Bulgaria with nine.

GROUP B

Ronaldo appears to have found his ideal partner up front for in Andre Silva.

The 21-year-old striker scored Portugal's opener in the 32nd before quickly getting Ronaldo on track.

Ronaldo struck both goals from outside the area, first slashing home a left-footer off Silva's pass, followed by a right-footed free kick from an angle to seal the win in Lisbon.

"We started off slowly, but the first goal gave our

confidence a boost and the other goals came naturally," Ronaldo told Portuguese television.

Portugal strengthened its hold on second place with 12 points, opening a gap over Hungary, which stayed with seven points in third.

Switzerland earned a fifth win in as many matches after beating Latvia 1-0 to remain on top of the group with 15 points.

Still stuck at the foot of the table, Andorra nevertheless savored the end to a losing streak that had lasted 58 competitive matches stretching over 11 years after drawing with Faroe Islands 0-0.

GROUP H

Romelu Lukaku saved Belgium's place at the top of Group H, snatching a



Ronaldo celebrates after scoring a goal against Hungary

1-1 draw in Brussels after being frustrated all night by an unyielding Greece defense. Lukaku chested down the ball and fired past goalkeeper Stefano Kapino with only two minutes of regular time remaining.

Greece finished the game with nine men, but surprised the favorites just 20

seconds into the second half when Costas Mitroglou caught defenders off guard and scored.

Belgium was left with 13 points to Greece's 11.

Bosnia closed to 10 points after a 5-0 rout of Gibraltar with zero points. Estonia and Cyprus have four points each after a 0-0 draw. AP

opinion

INSIGHT
Paulo Barbosa



THE MEAT WE EAT – KOBE'S EXCEPTION

One of the well-known advantages of living in Macau is that you can, within a relatively short travel period, find yourself in such disparate and enticing locations as Indonesia and Japan. That is how I recently found myself in Kobe, the most Westernized city in Japan.

Kobe is one of those destinations known among tourists for a single offering (other examples include Lisbon, dubbed by visitors as the capital of fado, and Bordeaux, famous for its wines). Kobe's main lure is its beef, profusely advertised in front of many restaurants located downtown. The posters invariably show slices of raw beef. The red meat has a marbling of fat throughout.

I walked for about an hour trying to find an appropriate place to taste this exquisite delicacy, avoiding the usual tourist pitfalls with English menus and inflated prices. And then I found restaurant Koushiya, where I was initially told that the place was full. When I was preparing to leave, the chef, a strong, middle-aged hearty man, said that he would find room for me if I waited 15 minutes. So I did, before a sympathetic waitress took me to what seemed like a monk's cell, sparsely decorated. Besides the table, only a softly-illuminated plant decorated the room, coming out of the penumbra. From inside the room, I could barely see the corridor outside the wooden door grilles.

The waitress took my order, which read like this in English: "Kobe beef – Thick cut rosu (sirloin)" at a price of 5,800 yen, equivalent to around MOP420. After I spent a while sipping a Japanese whiskey highball, she brought six pieces of raw and rosy meat beautifully cut in thick pieces. Sprinkled with seeds, the meat was served with some onion rings, cucumber, a mushroom and a small plate of wasabi.



Like in the photos, the meat looked too fatty for my tastebuds, which are used to a different type of beef – the best of which is perhaps Barrosã, a cattle breed from northeast Portugal.

After carefully grilling the meat, I was quickly proved wrong. The first bite felt like an explosion of flavors. The meat was tender and could be eaten almost raw.

Perhaps this treat is not the healthiest, which is why in Japan there are now new types of beef with less fat, like the Kampo Wagyu. Regardless of health concerns, Kobe beef is fabulous. After I finished the meal, I spent a long time avoiding eating or even drinking anything else, because the flavors were still tangling in my mouth.

But why is it so good? The animals are fed with a variety of herbs. They are even massaged and allowed to grow old, instead of being fattened and killed as fast as possible.

There is a superb documentary available on YouTube, named "Steak (R)evolution." In search of the world's best steak, director Franck Ribière speaks with some of the world's best meat producers and it becomes evident that the mass-produced meat usually sold in supermarkets is of low quality. This poor quality is notorious in Macau.

Given the challenge of having to feed millions of urbanites, mass production is inevitable, but it is good to know that delicacies like Kobe beef exist.

At least I tasted the real thing once.

THE BUZZ THE MINISTER SAYS DIJSSSELBLOEM RESIGNATION IS BEST FOR EU

Portugal's Economy Minister Manuel Caldeira Cabral said Jeroen Dijsselbloem, whose Dutch party lost elections this month, should quit as chairman of the European finance ministers' group after his comments about the duties of nations getting aid were deemed offensive. "It would be the best thing for Europe and the best thing he could do," Cabral said in a Bloomberg Television interview from the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual conference on the southern Chinese island of Hainan. "He just lost an election and I think he should not be trying to blame others for his own failures."

Dijsselbloem is under pressure to resign as leader of the euro area's finance ministers after a German newspaper cited him saying, "I can't spend all my money on women and drink and then at the end ask for your help." That remark inflamed tensions between stronger economies in the north and weaker nations including Greece, Ireland and Portugal. The Eurogroup chief has said he regrets causing offense, but doesn't intend to resign. "I don't think we can let the Eurogroup be divided in that way, and for that reason that person should be out," Cabral said.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	40-60 Moderate	😊
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Moderate	😊
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



BANGLADESH Two suspected militants were killed yesterday in an ongoing military raid on a building where armed militants were holed up in eastern Bangladesh, police and army officials said. Six people, including two policemen, were killed in explosions near that building a day earlier.

RUSSIA Thousands of people crowded into Moscow's Pushkin Square yesterday for an unsanctioned protest against the Russian government, the biggest gathering in a wave of nationwide protests that were the most extensive show of defiance in years.

IRAN said yesterday it has imposed sanctions on 15 American companies over their alleged support for Israel, terrorism and repression in the region.

ARAB SUMMIT Arab leaders are expected to reaffirm a Saudi-led peace plan that offers Israel full relations with dozens of Arab and Muslim states in exchange for its withdrawal from lands captured in 1967, at a summit this week. Known as the Arab Peace Initiative, the plan was first proposed in 2002.



BELARUS Police in Belarus' capital have arrested demonstrators who were demanding to know the whereabouts of friends and relatives detained in the breakup of a mass protest. The human rights organization Vesna said about 30 people were arrested yesterday. They were among about 100 people who tried to assemble on Minsk's central square.

GERMANY Exit polls indicate that Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party has emerged easily as the strongest party from an election in Germany's western Saarland state.

China blocks outspoken academic from returning to Australia

AN academic at an Australian university has been prevented by Chinese authorities from returning to Sydney because he's suspected of endangering national security, his lawyer said yesterday.

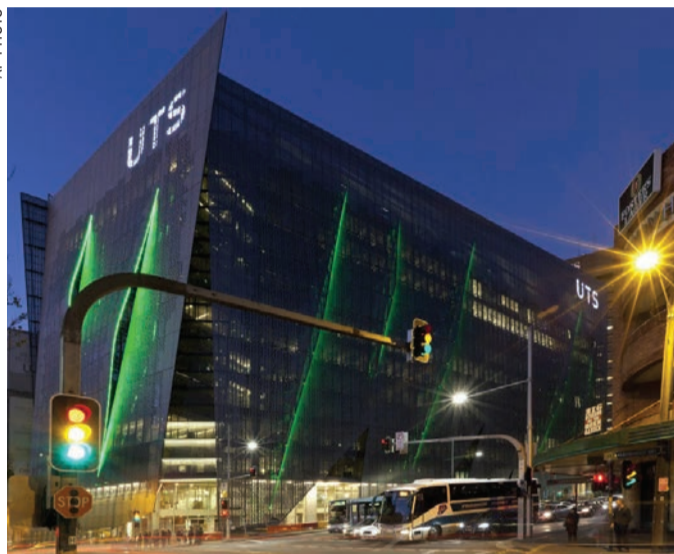
Border officials at an airport in the southern city of Guangzhou refused to let Feng Chongyi, an associate professor at the University of Technology Sydney, catch his flight home on Friday and Saturday, according to Feng's lawyer, Chen Jinxue.

"He has no way of leaving China right now," Chen said. Officials have not said why they suspect Feng of "endangering national security," Chen said, but it could be related to his research on human rights lawyers. Feng had been wrapping up a three-week trip researching that topic.

State security officials met with Feng at his hotel in Guangzhou and asked him during a two-hour conversation who he met with in China and in Australia in the course of his research, Chen said.

Chinese authorities have staged a wide-reaching crackdown on human rights lawyers across the country since July 2015, accusing such attorneys of being a threat to national security.

The chief justice said ear-



University of Technology Sydney

lier this month that convictions of a prominent defense attorney and his associates caught up in the crackdown were among the country's top legal achievements last year. Others have also been arrested and accused of subversion or endangering state security.

Rights groups and Western governments including the U.S. have urged China to release the activists and lawyers detained in the crackdown, while critics have said the campaign is aimed at silencing opponents of the ruling Communist Party. Feng had been studying the crackdown closely, Chen said.

China's Ministry of Public Security and authorities in

Guangzhou did not respond to repeated calls and faxed requests for comment.

Feng is a permanent resident in Australia but had entered China on his Chinese passport, Chen said. This implies that in this case, Chinese authorities regard Feng as a Chinese citizen and therefore not entitled to Australian consular support.

However, the academic is not being formally detained and has not been arrested, his lawyer said.

The incident comes as Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang wrapped up a five-day trip to Australia, where the two countries sought to boost trade ties. Li arrived in New Zealand yesterday (see page 10). MDT/AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Paulo Barbosa



The chief executive has a new view: The Court of First Instance's new facilities close to the Sai Van Lake are close to completion (right). Here is the view as seen from the road facing the Santa Sancha Palace.