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Interview with Jay Chun, the organizer of the Macau Gaming Entertainment Show, ahead of its fifth edition

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### HK JOCKEY CLUB LOOKS OVERSEAS

The Hong Kong Jockey Club, which has been called an "ATM for the government" is facing trouble

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**IRAQ** The Islamic State group blew up a historic landmark in Mosul — the city's famed 12th century al-Nuri mosque with its iconic leaning minaret known as al-Hadba, from where the IS leader proclaimed the militant group's self-styled caliphate nearly three years ago. The explosion destroyed yet another piece of priceless Iraqi cultural heritage as U.S.-led coalition forces and Iraqi troops close in on IS. More on p14

**THAILAND**'s military-installed parliament yesterday passed a bill that allows the ruling junta to continue to impose its policies after it holds elections and officially relinquishes power.

**INDONESIA** Police announced yesterday they have arrested 41 suspected militants following last month's twin suicide bombings in the capital that killed three policemen.

**RUSSIA** A Moscow court has sentenced an ally of the Russian opposition leader to five days in jail for organizing a webcast of massive anti-government protests earlier this month.

AP PHOTO



**AFGHANISTAN** A suicide car bomb exploded yesterday at a bank in Afghanistan's Helmand province as Afghan troops and government workers waited to collect their pay, killing at least 29 people. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. More on p13

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## REPORTS

# Gov't hired graduate through 'special channel'

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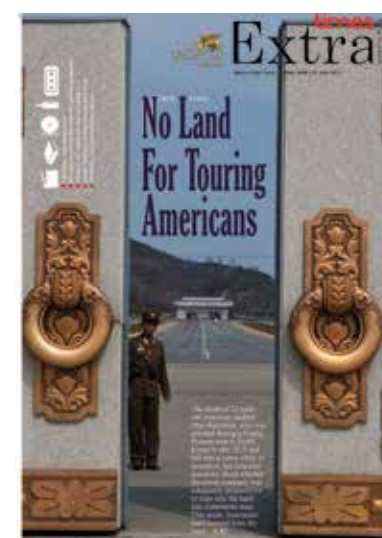
RENATO MARQUES



## LOCAL DESIGNERS

# Pop-ups are more advantageous than physical stores

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Extra  
times  
weekend Guide  
INSIDE



# MGS is getting 'mature,' 2017 edition aims to be record-breaking

Renato Marques

**T**HE Macau Gaming Entertainment Show (MGS) is preparing for its fifth edition, having recently been awarded the status of being a "UFI Approved Event" by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry.

The event's organizers say that it is the fastest growing trade exhibition in the global gaming industry and is "getting pretty mature now as we have a very regular [number] of participants attending this meeting."

Jay Chun, the chairman of Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association (MGEMA), in an interview with the Times, said that growth is expected on the number of "the exhibitors, suppliers and also of visitors."

The aim of the event is "to help the industry to continue growing," said Chun, explaining that the event is not restricted to gaming sector suppliers but that "all local suppliers [and service providers] who can in any way offer products and services to the integrated resorts, are very welcome."

Providing examples, Chun cited the sectors related to "souvenirs and furniture," although he mentioned that "gaming equipment has always been the core part of the exhibition." He also



Jay Chun

mentioned that there has been a noticeable increase in the "creativity" sector that has contributed greatly, providing ideas and input, which could be incorporated into gaming equipment.

Regarding last year's edition, Chun said, "it was the most challenging one because we were facing the issue of the revenues going down and people become conservative to spend money [when this happens]," noting in

the same way that "now that the revenues are growing, we don't expect too much growth but at least we are certain to be able to see the results with more purchasing happening [when compared] with last year." He added that "now that the market is getting stable I think people are willing to spend [invest] more."

Despite Chun mentioning the "less will to invest," the 2016 edition marked another year of grow-

th for the MGS exhibition, which had over 170 exhibitors and around 14,000 B2B visitors arriving from over 60 countries. More records are expected to be broken this November.

Remarking on the market stability, Chun noted that "mass market represents already over 50 percent and I think when it reaches about 70 percent the market will achieve [full] stability."

Chun notes that MGS is more

beneficial, when compared to similar exhibitions, as it is a "platform for local manufacturers and suppliers". He adds that, "MGS is an opportunity for local manufacturers to showcase their products and services and go out to the world while participants from all parts of the world will come here to see this." Chun continued, "this is happening, we see suppliers go abroad and selling not just to local integrated resorts but to other parts of the world."

## Gaming equipment has always been the core part of the exhibition.

JAY CHUN

Noting the "soon to happen" nature of expansion of the gaming industry in markets such as in Japan or Brazil, Chun said "at least if there are more casinos opening, there are more opportunities happening for Macau equipment manufacturers although, of course, we know that in terms of operation site, there will be a lot of competition on the market." Chun added, "it helps as if the market is bigger as that's always positive for the industry" that is currently worth about USD20 billion annually.

In a month of major events in the region, the fifth edition of the MGS will take place at The Venetian Macao from November 14 to 16.

# EIU forecasts average growth of 7.8 percent

**M**ACAU'S economy is expected to grow at an average real rate of 7.8 percent this year and 2018, boosted by the recovery in services exports, particularly those related to gambling, according to the latest Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report.

The EIU, disaggregating the average growth of Macau's economy for the two years under review, expects a real rate of 10.3 percent for 2017 and a real rate of 5.3 percent for 2018.

Macau experienced a severe economic contrac-

tion in 2015, with gross domestic product falling by 21.5 percent, which was followed by a negative but more moderate drop of 2.1 percent the next year.

On the basis of predicted economic growth, the EIU expects an increase in household consumption, but gave no exact figures.

One of the areas where household consumption is expected to increase will be in housing, where prices have risen again after falling after the economic downturn.

Public consumption is

also likely to register a similar trend, in this case due to higher tax revenues, with EIU analysts saying that Macau will continue to see significant budget surpluses, equivalent to 7.1 percent of GDP on average.

The document said that it would be practically impossible for the taxes levied on gaming revenues to be revised downwards over the next two years, noting that through direct taxes (35 percent) and indirect taxes, casino companies would pay around 40 percent in Macau, which

is higher than in Las Vegas, for example.

The EIU notes that Macau's economy remains very vulnerable to shocks as it is focused on a single sector, the gambling sector, and recalls central government officials' statements about diversification.

Due to the anti-corruption campaign in China, as well as increased competition from casinos opened in various parts of Asia, the document now obtained by MacaHub predicts that gaming revenues should continue to grow, but are



not expected to return to the previous high levels.

Gross fixed capital formation, or investment, is expected to contract 8 percent this year before

growing by a modest 0.5 percent in 2018, as major hotel developments are in the final stages, with no new projects in the pipeline. **MDT/MacaHub**

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY\_Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS\_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

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

Advertisement\_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

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## COURTS

Bangsil vs Wynn  
hearing postponed

Daniel Beittler

**T**HE hearing yesterday for a lawsuit by a Philippine gaming regulator against Wynn Macau has been postponed until January 30, 2018.

Rogelio Yusi Bangsil Jr, a former executive at Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor), a state-owned gaming company and casino regulator, is suing Wynn Macau over an unlawful and "wrongful" disclosure of his personal data.

The former gaming regulator was named in a report commissioned by a U.S. law firm in 2011, regarding an alleged improper relationship between Japanese billionaire Kazuo Okada and Philippine gaming officials.

The report had relied on personal information transferred from Wynn Macau to a party outside of the MSAR, and Bangsil claims that the leaked information tarnished his professional integrity and damaged his career.

According to a court document dated November 3, 2016 and reviewed by the Times last

month, the hearing had been scheduled for yesterday (June 22).

A representative of the Court of First Instance said yesterday that the hearing had been cancelled, but was not able to disclose the reason for the cancellation.

The Times was informed that the hearing has been postponed until next year on account of Bangsil's lawyer having fallen unwell and being unable to attend the session.

According to the Macau Courts website, the relevant case number is no longer assigned to the Bangsil vs Wynn Macau hearing.

In an interview with the Times last month, Bangsil said that he was seeking an apology from the company as well as unspecified financial compensation.

The report wasn't the only incident that may have tarnished Bangsil's career. In 2012, Philippine legislators called for Bangsil's dismissal based on his alleged failure to spot a cheating scam at Pagcor-run casinos that cost the government USD3.7 million.

Reports: Graduate hired  
through 'special channel'

**A** mainland student, who graduated from the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM), was reportedly hired by the local government. The student's employment by a local public department has triggered controversies online.

Last Tuesday, many local Chinese press agencies reported on IPM's graduation ceremony of 650 students this week.

Macao Daily News said that a mainland student, surnamed Li, who studied Chinese-Portu-

guese translation at IPM, had been hired by a Macau governmental department.

"Li, [...] through the school's recommendation, already passed the interview that concerns the special recruitment channel of the Macau governmental department," the report reads, adding that Li's expected monthly salary is over MOP40,000.

However, according to a report by Macau Concealers, IPM claimed that it does not have a system in place to recommend students to enter governmental

departments through special recruitment channels.

IPM also stated that it respects the students' freedom of speech, noting that students applying for interviews is their personal choice, and that the school has no right to represent students by making further comments.

The student also refused a Macau Concealers' interview.

The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) has not replied to media inquiries as yet. **JZ**

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THE PARISIAN MACAO



# Air Macau recruits Airbus 320 captains in Brazil

**A**IR Macau officials are in São Paulo for a "South America Roadshow" to recruit captains for Airbus A320 aircraft, the airline said in a statement.

"Air Macau hopes to select high-quality Airbus A320 captains in São Paulo, Brazil. This region has more high-quality professionals that can fulfill the development of the Air Macau fleet," the statement said.

The interviews with potential captains will take place on June 28 and 29, followed by simulator tests in the first week of July.

According to Air Macau recruiting in Brazil is due to the fact that pilots from Portuguese-speaking countries and their families integrate easily into life in Macau, as it operates as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Air Macau also recalls that Brazil is the largest economy in Latin America, has the largest number of civil aviation professionals in the subcontinent, and is also part of the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), which allows candidates from

PAULO BARBOSA



neighboring countries in the region to take part in the screening process in São Paulo.

The airline said in the statement that there was no pre-determined number of pilots to hire, and that as many as necessary would be taken on to meet current needs and cover the company's expansion plans.

"Air Macau is also considering more roadshows to take place in other places depending on pilot resources available," the statement said.

Air Macau, which started operating

in November 1995, employs 170 pilots of 32 different nationalities and has a fleet of 17 aircraft, all from European manufacturer company Airbus, four A319, three A320 and 10 A321s.

The company currently flies to Beijing, Tianjin, Chengdu, Nanjing, Shanghai, Xiamen, Hangzhou, Nanning, Hefei, Ningbo, Chongqing, Guiyang, Taiyuan, Shenyang, Zhengzhou, Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, Seoul, Bangkok, Da Nang, Hanoi, Kaohsiung and Taipei. **MDT/Macauhub**

## EDUCATION

# IFT joins Cornell for executive training course

**M**ACAUS Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), together with Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration, organized an "executive development program" concerning financial management in the hospitality sector on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Titled "Hospital Financial Management: Operations Decision-Making," the program focused on the application of financial management concepts useful to analyzing hospitality operations. Around 25 professionals from local hotels and mega resorts attended the course, according to a statement issued by the IFT.

According to the education institution, the program emphasized "communicating and interpreting financial data from a general manager's perspective."

The program's keynote speaker was Professor Michael Flannery from the Executive Education Faculty at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration. Flannery has managed hotels and restaurants and his consul-

ting engagements include a variety of businesses related to the hospitality industry around the world.

According to the IFT's statement, Flannery has given numerous development seminars in hospitality financial management, internal control, and operational issues affecting hotel real estate.

The institution said that the program helped participants to gain the ability and confidence to use financial-analysis tools to increase the profitability of certain operations.

IFT has been ranked by the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017 as the second-best higher education institution in Asia in the field of hospitality and leisure management and the 18th best higher education institution in this same field in the world.

By organizing seminars and workshops, the IFT seeks to share the most updated information and research findings on the sector with the industry.

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Vincent Cheang



Leo Wong

# Local designers agree that pop-ups are more advantageous than physical stores

Renato Marques

**L**OCAL designers Leo Wong (Soul) and Vincent Cheang (Worker Playground) are taking part in a new installment of the “Brand Story – Macau Original Fashion Exhibition” initiative. The Macao Fashion Gallery (MFG) has been in charge of the project since last April, when it kicked off with Macau-based brands Macon and Jade.L.

The initiative, promoted by the government through the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM), aims to showcase local brands in the fashion industry, boosting their brand names and attracting business.

Interviewed by the Times, Leo and Vincent agreed that the system of publicizing a brand through “pop-up shops” and “event related” promotions has definite advantages over physical stores for the time being.

“Now I’m focusing on events... and on getting more ideas,” said Cheang, who heads the already well-established “Worker Playground” brand.

Cheang originally started the brand back in 2012 and had a physical store at Av. do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida in Macau’s central district. At this moment, he believes that having a physical shop is overrated, since “to think on how many pieces you sell is not the most important thing. The most important thing is how to build up your brand image and let everybody know about it.”

Targeting an audience that

he called “Kidadults,” Cheang aims to attract people by the revival of “vintage and legendary pieces, like the baseball jacket and the biker’s jacket.” This business and production style would focus on small batches and special editions tailored to “niche markets,” with the main goal being to “just enough to sell,” as the main efforts are directed at “brand building.”

**The most important thing is how to build up your brand image and let everybody know about it.**

VINCENT CHEANG

Cheang noted that the sales in the stores have been brushed aside over the events, explaining two major successful cooperation experiences (with the Macau Grand Prix and with “Hush” rock music festival).

“The Grand Prix [alone], just four days, is much better [in terms of sales] than opening a shop for a whole year [or more],” Cheang said. “All the items were already sold out even before the grand prix [day]. During this event people are crazy about stuff [related to the event] and it was a crazy time in the factory and all, pushing them to produce more as we had nothing to sell.”

As for the idea of partnering with the “Hush” Festival, Cheang reported that they created a summer collection in collaboration with the event. “And again [the sales] of just two days were much better than the whole summer [in the shops],” he remarked.

Cheang’s plan is to continue cultivating more collaborations. Pop-up events are already in the plans of the “Worker Playground” brand; Cheang also said that through his biker’s jacket collection, he has already managed to take the brand to Beijing where the community is also very keen to see and possibly purchase these kinds of items.

Unveiling a little about the next project, a collaboration between Worker Playground and the US-based Shark Sports watches, Cheang shared that the idea for the collaboration came directly from the promotion of the brand during the Grand Prix.

“The director of the company just messaged me on Facebook saying he saw my designs and proposing some collaboration. So my team will collaborate in designing a crossover for a racing line of watches,” an idea that Cheang had presented to the Sports Bureau (ID) where it was rejected. He concluded, “that’s not a problem. I’ll do it by myself.”

Another fashion designer, Leo Wong, also agrees with the idea that a physical store is a “heavy burden.” Wong was the face behind “Soul,” a brand targeting women between 18 and 40 years old with a style that presents as

its main feature an asymmetric cut highlighting the uniqueness of the brand.

Wong managed to start the brand by receiving a grant through the government subsidy program for Fashion Design and Sample Making from 2016. The designer acknowledged that the grant is “a great help” and one of the reasons for Macau-born designers to return to the region after more than 20 years of living, studying and working in neighboring Hong Kong.

“When I established another business in Macau back in 2016 [in uniforms] I realized there was much support from the government to local designers so that gave me some trust [to move forward with my brand],” Wong said. “I believe in Macau it is easier than in other regions,” he continued, naming the current opportunity to exhibit and to sell directly at the MFG as one of those advantages.

“Besides the space granted [free of charge] and the sales, we also have the support of the staff here that help us to collect data on the buyers and visitors [of the collection] in order to help us to target our market and study it better,” Wong remarked, saying: “Outside is more difficult in terms of man-power and capital.”

Choosing the online over the physical store, Wong also mentioned that he has just started an online sale with the mainland-based portal taobao.com to get the brand some visibility outside Macau and “hopefully also to boost the sales” that are already “getting better and better.”

## Mainland waives taxes for 27 products

Under the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), 27 products will be charged zero taxes when exported to the mainland from Macau, as revealed by the Gongbei Customs District yesterday, according to a report by TDM. The list of products includes seasonings, wine and diamonds, with a few of the items originally manufactured in Macau. The tax-free policy will come into effect on June 1. According to Deng Weiguang, head of the Origin Management Office of Gongbei Customs, many of these 27 products are related to Portuguese-speaking Countries. The new policy is expected to attract companies from the Portuguese-speaking countries to invest in Macau.

## 36 poultry sellers accepted IACM support

Thirty-six local live poultry sellers, equal to 60 percent of those in Macau, have accepted the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau’s (IACM) financial support proposal. According to a report by Macao Daily News, some of them have been moving their equipment away from their vendor spots. One of the sellers claimed that most of his peers can only get between MOP200,000 and MOP300,000 for their equipment. Chow Wah Shing, vice-president of the Macau Live Poultry Vendors Association, considers the handling of Macau’s poultry sales by IACM as unreasonable. He has already delivered a letter to the related government department asking for another discussion between the government and the poultry sellers.

## 58 arrested for cross-region illegal football betting

The Macau and Zhongshan police authorities arrested a total of 58 people who had organized an illegal online football betting scheme involving people from both mainland China and Macau, as announced by the Zhongshan Public Security Bureau on Wednesday. One of the leaders of the criminal group is a Macau resident. The group started establishing online casinos back in 2010. Gambling options mainly consisted of football betting and lotteries. Until the end of last April, the group’s online betting system had accumulated approximately RMB200 million in bets. From its operations, the group obtained RMB800,000 in profits. Six suspects were arrested in Macau. In total, the Zhongshan public security bureau deployed more than 400 police officers to locate the suspects.



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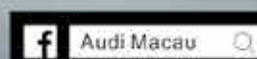
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## 27 election lists approved by CAEAL

**T**HE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) has confirmed that as of June 21 it has approved 27 applications from respective nomination committees, out of a total of 31 submissions.

Of those applications approved, 21 included lists for the direct election process and six for the indirect election process, the Chairman of the Commission Tong Hio Fong said, according to a statement from the Government Information Bureau.

Campaign teams wishing to contest the 2017 Legislative Assembly Election on September 17 were required to submit their applications to form nomination committees by June 20.

According to the statement, Tong said that there were a number of reasons why the adjudications on four applications were still pending. He said that either the election team had submitted applications containing fewer than the required 300 voter signatories, or a team's proposed logo was similar to an existing registered trademark.

The Commission will now notify the teams concerned and advise them to submit the necessary supplementary material within five days, starting from the date of notice.

Once application processing has been completed, Tong said that the CAEAL will announce a list of all of the approved nomination committees.

Moreover, the Commission noted that it has identified a total of 103 individuals signing the nomination papers of more than one nomination committee, contrary to the electoral rules. This is a significant increase from the two cases of double signatories reported by the CAEAL on May 17.

It was also decided by the Commission on Wednesday, that they will return the same kind of translucent curtains used in the 2013 Legislative Assembly election, which will "enable polling station staff [...] to guard against irregularities in voting, while at the same time ensuring sufficient privacy."

## GREEN HOTEL AWARDS

# DSPA announces a 'platinum award' next year

Renato Marques

**T**HE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the "Green Hotel Awards" yesterday awarding the 2016 winners.

In a ceremony that took place at the World Trade Center, the director of the DSPA, Raymond Tam, mentioned the achievements obtained during the last 10 years in

his opening speech. "Ten years ago there were eight hotels awarded, today we are awarding 47," Tam announced. Next year will feature a brand-new "platinum award" which aims to continue to stimulate the industry to "go beyond" the current targets.

This year, the DSPA acknowledged in particular the achievement in the fields of energy reduction (of over 3,000kWh), reduction of water consumption (300

cubic meters decrease), waste reduction (30 percent per room), growth on collected recyclable materials (over 170,000 tons) and reduction on food wastes.

Tam also noted the progress that has been achieved on waste reduction as an industry, claiming that the hotel industry had reduced waste by "over 30 percent," while "significant results were also obtained relating to energy and water savings as well as an increase in the number of environmental protection training activities."

The top awardees that received the "Gold Award" of the "Green Hotel" were seven hotels: Conrad Macao, Banyan Tree Macao, Sheraton Grand Macao, The St Regis Macao, Studio City, Holiday Inn Macao (Cotai Central) and Pousada de Mong-Há, that received the golden certificate valid for the period of three years (2017 to 2019).

Tam mentioned that the collection of food waste and use of electric vehicles should be an environmental protec-



Raymond Tam (right) granting an award

tion focus.

"On the works regarding the food waste I think we still can do more. The same applies for the electric vehicles," Tam stated, and added that beside the food waste, the focus should be on the collection and treatment of residues "from the beddings. The top of the residues collected from the hotels are related to the beddings." Tam has previously mentioned that the bureau will work together with the industry in order to improve on the treatment of this kind of waste.

## MGTO closes eight restaurants in Soho, five more to be closed

**O**n the sidelines of the "Green Hotel Awards," held yesterday at the World Trade Center, the director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Helena de Senna Fernandes, clarified that all eight restaurants that were closed by order of MGTO in the Soho space, in City of Dreams Macao, were due to a lack of licensing.

Senna Fernandes explained that the establishments opened in 2014 were without the proper licenses and "after acknowledging that we started the sanctioning process that resulted in the closure of the spaces." Senna Fernandes explained that "documents that were missing in the processes of licensing had to do with works in the casino area, which have affected both Crown tower and Hard Rock Hotel."

She also noted that currently there are another five sanctioning processes that are still running and "when concluded will all lead to the closure of the establishments."

The MGTO director explained that "both processes [of licensing and sanctioning usually] run at the same time, ending usually either with the granting of the license for operation or in the cases that this is not possible, with the order of closure."

Senna Fernandes has acknowledged that a similar situation has happened before in spaces like Broadway Macau in Galaxy but "currently it is all legal and all establishments have a proper license".

## PLAN TO CURB HIGH-POLLUTING SCOOTERS EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

**ON THE** sidelines of the "Green Hotel Awards," the director of the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), Raymond Tam, remarked on the results of the plan announced by the government in February this year to reduce the large number of high-polluting scooters and motorcycles on the roads in the region. "The

outcome of this plan is better than expected," he said. "We predict to collect about 30 percent and according to the latest figures from yesterday [June 21], there were a total of 5,100 motorcycles collected already... which represents an increase of 5 percent more [than the 30 percent expected], and we expect that there will be more."

## corporate bits

### SHERATON AND ST. REGIS HONOR GRADUATES FROM CITY U



Sheraton Grand Macao and St. Regis hosted an official graduation ceremony for the first time yesterday, honoring students from the City University of Macau who graduated from the hospitality development program. The program, which commenced in 2013 and is a partnership between Sheraton Grand and the City University

of Macau, is designed to give students the opportunity to receive on-the-job training in hospitality while pursuing their degrees at school.

According to a press release issued by Sheraton and St. Regis, 95 percent of the graduates will continue to work for the two hotels. Several graduates also received

promotions, including Toby Chan and Doris Lou, who were promoted to assistant managers in the housekeeping department, and Peter Cheong, who became supervisor of the guest service center.

Cheong was invited to speak on behalf of the students at the graduation ceremony where he stated, "we can find many opportunities in Macau, but we must not forget who helped shape us into the professionals that we are today. [...] We will continue to work hard and play an important role in shaping the future of Macau's hotel industry for the better."

The graduation ceremony recognized 41 graduates. There are currently 141 students from 38 different high schools enrolled in the development program, with more expected to join this summer.

### PULLMAN TO OPEN FIRST HOTEL IN CENTRAL TOKYO



Pullman Hotels and Resorts is set to open a hotel in the area of Tamachi, Tokyo, in the fall of 2018.

According to a press release issued by Pullman, the

hotel features 143 rooms and includes meeting facilities and restaurants. The hotel connects the international style of Pullman with a delicate touch of Japanese

art and culture.

The hotel is directly connected to the Tamachi train station's east exit, operated by Japanese rail (JR), and is a three-minute walk from the Toei Mita line. The hotel is 30 minutes away from Haneda international airport and is one stop from JR Shinagawa station to Osaka and Kyoto via bullet train.

Patrick Basset, chief operating officer for upper Southeast and Northeast Asia, AccorHotels, stated "Japan keeps attracting more international travelers, [...] the increasing inbound market is a continuous positive trend which will be amplified with the upcoming 2020 Summer Olympic Games."

Pullman is under AccorHotels, and there are 12 hotels in its network across Japan.



## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

## The Rental Process For Tenants - Part 2

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

In the last article we discussed how to find a property. This week we look at what you must do to make it yours; The process is broken into 3 sections:

**Fees:**

If you have used an agent to find the property and accompany you on viewings, you will have an agency fee to pay prior moving in to the apartment.

In most cases the agency fee is the equivalent of one month's rent. Some agencies charge more, and you may find 'discount' agents eager to close a deal that will consider a lower fee. Most credible full service agents will charge the one month fee.

In some cases you may need to contribute to a small building management fee to get the communal areas cleaned and maintained. In the larger buildings with a dedicated building management team, this is usually covered in the rent and paid by the owner. However in older buildings, it may simply be a case of sharing the payment for someone to sweep the stairs.

**Deposits:**

two month's security deposit is

normal when renting an apartment. To secure and confirm an apartment, you would usually pay one month's deposit immediately. The second half of the deposit can be paid later to make up the two months security deposit. You will also be required to pay the current months rent in advance. For some owners this means a whole month, and for others the remaining part of the month (from the move in date to the end of the month). Combined with the fee outlined above, securing an apartment will require the equivalent of 4 months' rent. You will not be handed the keys of the apartment or allowed access until all of these fees are paid and the correct documentation process is completed.

A point to note is that if you return the apartment in the same condition in which you entered, the two-month security deposit should be returned to you.

**Documentation:**

There are three types of documentation in these transactions. Firstly the documentation you need to provide as a tenant, secondly the documentation you need to sign and thirdly the documents you require for reference.

**Documentation to Provide:**

- Copy of your passport or Macau ID
- A copy of your employment contract or letter confirming employment
- A copy of your blue card or blue card receipt
- Sometimes references are requested

**Documentation to Sign:**

- Three copies of the tenancy agreement
- Schedules and attachments to the agreement or contract
- Documentation to obtain and keep:
- Security deposit receipt
- Copies of invoices that you have paid
- Receipts for any monies handed over to an agent or landlord directly.

Next week join us to take a look at Part 3 "The Process of Moving In".

For further information please call me on +853 2835 2699, E-Mail Juliet@JMLProperty.com or visit our website Wwww.JMLProperty.com, or Facebook Wwww.Facebook.Com/JML-RealEstate.

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## GAMING

# US court rejects MGM lawsuit as company competes with tribes

**M**GM Resorts International lost another round Wednesday in a court fight aimed at giving it leverage against Native American tribes in Connecticut as they compete for casino customers.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan agreed that a Connecticut judge was right to dismiss MGM's lawsuit against the state.

MGM Resorts claimed it was placed at a competitive disadvantage after Connecticut created a special registration pathway for the state's two federally recognized tribes to build casinos on non-tribal land.

The appeals court called MGM's fears speculative, noting that the developer of casinos and other commercial gambling enterprises has no specific plans to develop a casino in Connecticut. It also said it agreed with the lower court, which concluded that legis-

lation that helps construction plans by tribes does not prevent other bidders from entering Connecticut's casino market.

In a statement, MGM Resorts legal counsel Uri Clinton said company officials remained "undeterred in our goal of having the opportunity to compete in Connecticut."

The 2nd Circuit said the dispute might be ripe for court review once the company can show that the harm it alleged was "sufficiently imminent." Until then, it said, any disadvantage MGM might suffer in future contract negotiations was "purely speculative."

Clinton said that moment may be near after the tribes that run Connecticut's two casinos won approval from state legislators this month to open a third casino. Democratic Gov. Daniel P. Malloy has said he plans to sign the bill, clearing the way for the state's

first casino on non-tribal land. MGM's lawsuit had sought to block that legislation, claiming it was unconstitutional.

The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, which own the Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun casinos in southeastern Connecticut, are planning to convert a former movie theater complex in East Windsor, Connecticut, into a USD300 million casino. The casino would be near a \$950 million MGM Resorts casino that's slated to open late next year in Springfield, Massachusetts.

MGM also has expressed interest in building another casino in southwestern Connecticut.

In a statement, officials for both tribes said they were pleased with the ruling and looked forward to developing an exciting new casino and contributing to the state's economy through jobs and tax revenues. **AP**

## ASIA RECOVERY

# Swiss watch exports jump most in four years

**S**WISS watch exports had their biggest monthly increase in more than four years as a revival in Chinese demand more than offset a continuing slump in the U.S.

Shipments rose 9 percent to 1.7 billion francs (USD1.8 billion) in May, the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry said in a statement yesterday. Exports to China rallied 34 percent, the third month of growth exceeding 30 percent, and exports to Hong Kong increased 18 percent.

The gain adds to evidence that the worst may be behind an industry that has struggled with a slump in China and a drop in tourism to Europe. The rebound in Asia is outweighing weak demand in the U.S., where a 1.1 percent decline was the 15th drop in 21 months. Last month, Swatch Group AG Chief Executive Officer Nick Hayek and LVMH's watch chief Jean-Claude Biver predicted global exports will rise this year.



"The May data should be taken positively near-term, but we question whether trends are sustainable in particular given they are mainly driven by the high-end segment," wrote Thomas Chauvet, an analyst at Citigroup. Shares of Swatch, which makes Omega timepieces, and Richemont, the owner of the Cartier brand, both rose as much as 1.6 percent in Zurich. **Bloomberg**

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# Hong Kong Jockey Club looks overseas as bets show decline

Bruce Einhorn, Daniela Wei

**B**EFORE Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule, Communist leader Deng Xiaoping had a reassuring message for those worried about the departure of the British from the capitalist enclave. Don't fret, the architect of the handover said: "Horses will still run, stocks will still sizzle, dancers will still dance."

The dancing has continued, the stock market isn't far off its record high, and the horses indeed still run. Yet 20 years after the handover to China, one of the city's most-venerable institutions, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, which has been called an "ATM for the government" for its huge contributions to the city's tax coffers and charity efforts, is facing trouble.

Disinterest among many young people and an upcoming bridge link to the glittering casinos of Macau threaten the future of the money-spinning gambling monopoly. Already the amount bet on racing fell 1.7 percent in the latest season for which numbers are available, ending mid-July 2016, from the previous year. While it's still a lot of money — that HKD106.1 billion (USD13.6 billion) was almost 30 percent more than the total of the most-common type of betting on thoroughbreds in all of the US — gambling on horse racing has grown an anemic 1 percent a year on average for two decades.

"The pressure is on them to remain relevant," said David Dodwell, chief executive officer of Strategic Access Ltd., a Hong Kong-based public policy consultancy. "An awful lot of the welfare infrastructure that has been built over the decades in Hong Kong is attributable to it."

Finding new sources of cash from allowing simultaneous betting in places like London and New York, as well as increasing the appeal to younger people at home, are critical to keeping a major funding engine of the Hong Kong government racing ahead. The Jockey Club is also expanding into China, a move that could position it well should betting on horses, halted after the 1949 revolution, someday return.

The Jockey Club accounted for about 7 percent of Hong Kong tax revenue last year — equivalent to a third of the city's education budget and 35 percent of its social welfare spending. It donated HKD3.9 billion to schools, hospitals and other charities, making it the largest donor in Asia and the sixth largest worldwide, according to the World Charity Index. The



People look at a newspaper during the first racing day of the season at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Tuen Mun betting retail outlet

government is also relying on the club rather than the legislature to fund a controversial museum project.

"It has become a kind of ATM for the government," said Tanya Chan, a Legislative Council member and government critic. "The government knows very well where to go if they want a substantial sum of money."

■ **The Jockey Club accounted for about 7 percent of Hong Kong tax revenue last year — equivalent to a third of the city's education budget**

The Club's voting members and stewards read like a Who's Who List of Hong Kong's richest and most powerful, including billionaires who control virtually all of the city's significant property, retail, entertainment,

utilities and infrastructure building, along with other business luminaries: Li Ka-shing, Lee Shau Kee, Henry Cheng, Stanley Ho, Allan Zeman and Canning Fok.

Major powerhouses of politics are there, too: Former Chief Justice Andrew Li; former Finance Secretary and Chief Secretary Henry Tang; former head of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Joseph Yam, who yesterday was appointed to the city's Executive Council, or cabinet; and former Legislative Council President Rita Fan.

"For a long time, it has been a place where entrepreneurs and officials can mix together and have the same status," said Eddie Chu, another LegCo member and government critic. "The Jockey Club maintains its power not by horse racing but by its network of powerful people gathering together."

With two race tracks, more than 100 off-track betting outlets, soccer-wagering services and a lottery, the club can be generous because generations of Hong Kongers grew up spending their money and time at the track.

"My friends and I were crazy about horse gambling 20 years ago," said Tony Yu, 40, a construction company manager who used to spend several hundred Hong Kong dollars on tickets

and beers at the track, especially on payday. Those days are long past. "Who do you see reading the horse-racing page in the newspaper and going to the Jockey Club to buy tickets? Old-timers!"

The club also faces competition from across the Pearl River Delta, where Macau's casinos "are now aggressively targeting Hong Kong," Jockey Club CEO Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges wrote in the most recent annual report. With the expected completion later this year of a bridge linking the two cities for the first time, traveling to Sands China Ltd.'s Venetian and Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd.'s City of Dreams will be even easier. The bridge "will undoubtedly exacerbate the problem" already facing the club, Engelbrecht-Bresges wrote.

The Jockey Club has found ways to keep the money flowing. One solution has been to expand the number of races per season. Back in the mid-1990s, there were 75 days in a season, with 595 races; now there are 88 in the season, with 807 races. The club also moved into soccer in 2003. Such wagering accounted for HKD86.8 billion in bets in the most recent fiscal year, up 11 percent from the previous year.

While mainland China doesn't yet allow betting on horses, the Jockey Club is establishing a

foothold there. It plans to open a new training facility across the border in Guangdong province next year. Twice the size of the Jockey Club's facility in Hong Kong's New Territories, the site will be able to host about 660 horses.

Worldwide, the club has broadened its reach through what's known as commingling, or allowing people overseas to bet on Hong Kong's horses. In the 2013-14 season, the Jockey Club began taking bets from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Macau. It has also expanded its reach to South Africa, Ireland, Canada and parts of the U.S., where Hong Kong's Happy Valley races are available via simulcast on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. New York time through TVG Network's online betting site and cable channel, one of several operators in the U.S. with Jockey Club deals.

Last November, the Jockey Club announced an expansion to the U.K. that enables customers of Ladbrokes Coral Group Plc and another betting shop operator to bet on Hong Kong races. The Jockey Club announced a similar agreement last year with Canadian race-track owner and online betting services provider Woodbine Entertainment Group.

Hong Kong is attractive for global gamblers, according to Ken Kirchner, former executive director of the Pennsylvania Racing Commission and president of consulting firm FalKirk International. Bettors can wager on unusual options such as a triple trio, three consecutive trifectas, and get huge payouts because Hong Kong's gambling pool is large, he said.

"They're run under strict regulation and authority, so you feel like you're betting into a very honest product," Kirchner said.

Hong Kong offers more data on horses than other venues, including the only consistent publishing of veterinary reports, said Ron Luniewski, president of Xpressbet, a Washington, Pa.-based company that provides online betting.

"That's a big deal. I give them a lot of credit for that," he said. "In a lot of ways, Hong Kong racing is the gold standard globally."

Commingling now accounts for about 6 percent of the Jockey Club's betting income, according to Richard Cheung, head of marketing, and is forecast to top 10 percent by the end of the decade.

"Hong Kong is a very small place," Cheung said. "To seek growth we must go elsewhere." As it expands globally, the Jockey Club will still have a challenge winning back people like Yu, the construction manager.

"Now I seldom bet because there are so many other options," he said. "I earn more money than before, so I can afford to invest money in the stock market." **Bloomberg**



## TAIWAN

# Foxconn founder says United States expansion might top USD10 billion

**T**HE chairman of Taiwanese electronics giant Foxconn said yesterday it may spend more than USD10 billion to set up manufacturing in the United States, and will announce investment plans by early August for at least three states.

Terry Gou gave no new information about where Foxconn will locate a U.S. display panel factory he said in January would cost up to \$7 billion to build. That announcement triggered a flurry of lobbying by state leaders hoping to attract the investment, which he said might generate as many as 50,000 jobs.

Foxconn is the biggest contract manufacturer of smartphones and other devices for Apple, Sony, BlackBerry and other brands. Its success has made Gou Taiwan's richest businessman. The company raised its profile with its purchase in March 2016 of struggling Japanese electronics brand Sharp for \$3.5 billion.



Terry Gou, Foxconn Technology Group Chairman

The company plans to develop operations in the U.S. that combine hardware manufacturing and software development in technologies including artificial intelligence and automation, Gou said at a meeting with shareholders. Asked later at a news conference how much Foxconn might invest during the five-year plan, he said it might exceed \$10 billion.

Foxconn has been in touch

with the White House and expects to conclude negotiations by the end of July or early August, Gou said. He said the first investment agreement should cover at least three states, with at least three others to be added later.

The display panel factory, if built, would be a political trophy for U.S. President Donald Trump, who has promised to revive American manufacturing in the Midwest.

Gou mentioned Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Texas as manufacturing states with which Foxconn hopes to work but gave no indication whether any of them might be in the investment agreement. Gou said in January that Pennsylvania was the leading candidate for the panel factory, which would work with Sharp.

Details for each state were not settled, but overall, "we will provide at least tens of thousands of job opportunities," said Gou at the news conference.

Expansion into the United States would reduce Foxconn's reliance on China, where it has the bulk of its operations and employs about 1 million people.

**■ The company plans to develop operations in the US [...] in technologies including artificial intelligence and automation**

Also yesterday, Gou said there is "still a chance" Foxconn might be able to buy Toshiba Corp.'s memory chip business despite the Japanese company's

choice of another bidder as its preferred buyer.

Toshiba said earlier this week it picked a bid totaling about 2 trillion yen (\$18 billion) by a U.S.-Japan consortium. Toshiba is selling the lucrative operation due to losses at its U.S. nuclear power unit, Westinghouse Electric Co.

"It is not a done deal yet. I believe there is still a chance for Foxconn," Gou said.

He noted that Toshiba's choice of the U.S.-Japanese consortium faced opposition, including from Japanese banks.

Western Digital of the United States also opposes the choice. It owns SanDisk chip operations that have a joint venture with Toshiba in Japan and says the company has no right to transfer that venture without the American partner's consent.

Western Digital said it filed a request for arbitration last week. Toshiba has accused Western Digital of interfering with its sales efforts. **AP**



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A vendor takes stock of imported food at a mall in Beijing

## AP NEWSBREAK

# US, EU urge China to limit food import control

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**F**OOD exporters including the United States and European Union are stepping up pressure on China to scale back plans for intensive inspections of imports that they say would hamper access to its fast-growing market.

The group, which also includes Japan and Australia, sent a joint letter to Chinese regulators asking them to suspend a proposed requirement, due to take effect Oct. 1, for each food shipment to have an inspection certificate from a foreign government. They say that would disrupt trade and ask Beijing to follow global practice by applying the requirement only to higher-risk foods.

The dispute, about which governments have said little in public, adds to complaints Beijing is reducing market access for goods ranging from medical technology

to farm-related biotech in violation of its free-trade commitments.

The letter, dated June 12 and seen by The Associated Press, was sent by an unusually broad group including the 28-nation European Union, the United States, Japan, Australia, Argentina and Israel and four other countries. It is addressed to the director of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, known as AQSIQ, and the Chinese commerce minister. A foreign official who asked not to be identified further due to the sensitivity of the issue confirmed the letter was sent to Chinese regulators.

The letter says the rules would affect billions of dollars' worth of meat, fruit, dairy and other products and thousands of suppliers who look to China as a growing export market. Foreign suppliers complain Beijing already uses

safety rules in ways that hamper access for beef and other goods in violation of its market-opening commitments.

AQSIQ did not reply to a request for comment or questions sent by fax about how regulations might be changed in response to foreign appeals.

The depth of U.S. concern about the impact on American farmers and food processors is reflected in Washington's decision to take part in the group at a time when President Donald Trump has downplayed trade disputes with Beijing to gain Chinese support in dealing with North Korea.

The EU role highlights the broad scope of foreign anxiety. Action by the EU requires unanimous agreement by its members, which means nations including Greece and Hungary that want to attract Chinese investment consider the threat serious enough to risk a possible backlash. Eastern

European countries with little manufacturing pay for Chinese goods by selling ham, apples and other food to China.

Chinese food imports in the first four months of this year rose 17 percent over a year earlier to USD39.4 billion.

Foreign governments have been lobbying Beijing since last year to scale back the proposed regulations. European officials complained they appeared to be intended to shield Chinese suppliers from competition and allow Beijing to block imports from individual countries if it chose.

China submitted its proposed regulations to the World Trade Organization as an official notice to other governments, which have 60 days to comment on them. They were posted this week on a WTO website.

In a possible concession to foreign appeals, the regulations on the WTO website say inspection certificates would be required to say food items were made by a supplier supervised by government regulators and were fit for human consumption. That appeared to be a significant change from an earlier proposal to require inspectors to confirm that food complies with China's quality standards, a provision to which foreign governments objected.

The latest version still says each "batch of food" would require a certificate, a step foreign officials previously complained would

**The letter says the rules would affect billions of dollars' worth of meat, fruit, dairy and thousands of suppliers**

waste resources that should be focused on high-risk products such as dairy.

The June 12 letter appeals to Chinese regulators to alter the proposed rules to allow imports from foreign suppliers that are approved by government inspectors without requiring a separate certificate for each shipment.

The rules would apply to items from meat and dried fruit to cocoa and spices, according to the document.

Foreign officials earlier expressed concern they might extend to such products as coffee, wine, pasta and chocolate, but it was unclear whether the list submitted to the WTO included such processed foods.

China contends the inspection requirement is supported by the Codex Alimentarius, the "Food Code" of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization. The Codex sets quality standards but other nations say it recommends certificates only for risky products.

The EU and other governments arranged for the president of the Codex council, Awilo Ochieng Pernet, a Swiss lawyer, to attend an April 6 seminar with Chinese officials in Beijing to explain its standards.

The proposed rules follow an avalanche of scandals over Chinese suppliers caught selling tainted milk and other shoddy or counterfeit food products.

Western officials say the proposed food rules appear meant to shift responsibility away from AQSIQ, which Chinese consumers often blame for safety failures.

Beijing already is at odds with the U.S. and Europe over low-priced exports of steel and aluminum they say are hurting foreign competitors.

In the Trump administration's first trade complaint, a group for American aluminum producers asked March 9 for higher import duties on Chinese-made aluminum foil to counter what it said were improper subsidies. **AP**

## Beijing to levy 100pct tax on overseas football transfers

**C**HINA will effectively double the cost for its clubs to buy foreign football players in a move aimed at slowing the influx of pricey overseas stars and encouraging homegrown talent.

China's Football Asso-

ciation announced that any club that pays more than USD6.63 million for a player transfer must pay the same amount to a CFA youth development fund. The tax will be in place until the end of the Chinese lea-

gue's summer transfer window on July 14.

Transfers for Chinese players valued at over \$3 million will also be taxed at 100 percent.

Flush with cash from corporate backers, Chinese

Super League clubs have shaken up international football in recent years by offering astronomical transfer fees and wages for players from European teams.

The new policy could potentially derail mooted deals from Chinese clubs to acquire English Premier League stars such as Wayne Rooney and Diego Costa. Cristiano Ronaldo's agent said in December that the Portuguese forward turned down an overture from a Chinese club for a transfer worth hundreds of millions of euros.

In recent weeks the CFA



has also proposed a new rule that would require teams to play an under-23 Chinese player for every foreign player on the field.

After decades of dismal

national team results, President Xi Jinping has pinpointed improving Chinese football as a top priority to boost national self-confidence and prestige. **AP**

### GERMANY MULLS LETTING CHINA UNDER-20S PLAY LEAGUE SOCCER

**T**HE GERMAN soccer federation is mulling a proposal to allow China's under-20 team to play friendly matches in the fourth tier of its league system. Because the Southwest Regional League is comprised of 19 clubs, each currently has two match-days free that can be used for friendly games. The one-off action would allow China's under-20 team to prepare for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Clubs would

receive about 15,000 euros (USD16,700) in compensation for two home games against the Chinese side, if the plan is approved. The Chinese are planning on a base near Heidelberg in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Southwest Regional League members are meeting on July 11, when a decision will likely be made in consultation with the German soccer federation, Wiedemann said.



## AFGHANISTAN

# Taliban claims deadly Helmand blast, at least 29 dead

**T**HE Taliban claimed responsibility for a powerful suicide car bomb that killed at least 29 people, mostly civilians, yesterday in southern Helmand province.

In an email, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, said the Taliban carried out the attack but he denied that any civilians died, saying only Afghan National Security personnel died as they went to the bank to collect their salaries ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al Fitr.

Most of the casualties in the explosion near the Kabul Bank in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah were civilians, according to Hayatullah Hayat, the provincial governor in Helmand. The bombing also wounded at least 60 people, he said.

Helmand has been at the center of bitter battles between the Taliban and Afghan security forces, aided by NATO troops.

The insurgents, believed to control nearly 80 percent of the province's countryside, have increasingly been pressing a push



Afghans carry the bodies of men after a suicide car bombing in Helmand province southern of Kabul yesterday

onto Lashkar Gah and its environs in efforts to take the city.

In recent weeks, the Taliban have overrun Helmand's key Sangin district, where both British and U.S. troops had fought for years to keep them at bay.

The attacker struck as scores of people, including many Afghan soldiers and civil servants, were waiting near the Kabul Bank to collect their salaries ahead of

the Eid-al-Fitr holiday, which follows the holy month of Ramadan, expected to end later this weekend.

Esmatullah, an Afghan border policeman, who was at the scene of the explosion said the noise from the blast was deafening. He said many are missing in the ensuing chaos as witnesses, survivors and ambulances struggled to ferry first the most seriously wounded to hospital.

here and then there was the explosion."

President Ashraf Ghani called the attack deplorable, and assailed the attackers as "enemies of humanity." He said the relentless assaults that have been carried out throughout the country are particularly offensive during the holy month of Ramadan, when the faithful seek forgiveness for their wrongdoing.

"These brutal terrorist attacks [...] prove that they [insurgents] have no respect for any religion or faith. They are enemies of humanity," Ghani said in a statement.

Afghan has faced a series of large-scale attacks as the Taliban stepped up their war against the Kabul government after launching this year's summer offensive. Also, the emerging Islamic State group affiliate in Afghanistan has tried to increase its footprint in the country with attacks in cities and bigger urban areas.

The worst attack occurred in the Afghan capital of Kabul on May 31, shortly after Ramadan began, when a truck bomb exploded in the heart of the city, killing 150 people. It was the worst attack since the Taliban ouster in 2001.

Pakistan also condemned the suicide bombing, saying that "we firmly stand with our Afghan brothers in this hour of grief and anguish." AP

## AUSTRALIA

# Canberra lifts suspension of airstrikes against IS in Syria

**A**USTRALIA said yesterday it had lifted a suspension of its airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Syria that was imposed amid tensions with Russia after a U.S. fighter jet shot down a Syrian warplane this week.

The Defense Department revealed earlier this week that the six Australian F/A-18F Super Hornets based in the United Arab Emirates had been suspended from Syrian operations after Russia warned the U.S.-led coalition not to fly over Syrian army positions west of the Euphrates River.

"This was a precautionary measure to allow the coalition to assess the operational risk," a



A Russian combat fighter bomber Su-34 unloads its bombs over a target in Syria (Aug 2016)

department statement said. "The suspension has since been lifted."

The department has not specified how long the suspension lasted. It did not say if Australian airstrikes had resumed or when or if they would.

Australian Defense Force Chief Mark

Binskin said on Wednesday the operations were halted while the Australians examined what was happening in what he had described as a "complex piece of airspace" over Syria.

Defense Minister Marise Payne said Australian "force protection is upper-

most in our minds" in deciding when to resume missions over Syria.

Binskin said the jet fighters had been occupied recently supporting Iraqi security forces in retaking the city of Mosul, so the suspension had little effect on their operations. AP

## THAILAND

# Line messaging digital theme park to open in Bangkok

**T**HE text-messaging service Line plans to inaugurate an indoor digital theme park in Thailand's capital, seeking to squeeze maximum advantage from its popularity in the country, its second biggest market after Japan.

Line Village Bangkok will begin operating today as a retail store, selling dolls and similar merchandise, but later this year will expand to a three-story amusement complex with virtual reality rides. Line stores already exist in Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan, but the Thai location will be the first with an indoor park.

Kampanart Wonghongkul, the project's chief executive, said he hopes the 500 million baht (USD14.7 million) theme park will attract more than 12 million visitors a year. Tourism is a major revenue earner in Thailand, bringing in \$71.4 billion last year.

Much of Line's appeal comes from its stickers that can be attached to messages, especially the company's anthropomorphic animal figures, such as Brown the bear and Cony the rabbit. Line Village is located in Siam Square, for decades a hangout for young Thais enthralled with fashion and



the culture of cute — there is already a Hello Kitty cafe located there.

Since its launch in 2011, Japan-based, Korean-owned Line has amassed more 200 million users worldwide. Thailand has around 44 million cellphone users and 94 percent of them have the Line application installed on their phones, Kampanart said.

Sakdipat Thanee, a 27-year-old lawyer, was one of several shoppers invited for a special store preview yesterday.

"I think it's hard to find Line merchandise in Thailand," he said. "You can only buy them from abroad or ask someone to bring them in. For people who love Line characters like me, having a Line store here means that I can easily shop here. I can meet Brown and Cony much more easily." AP



UK

# May to outline post-Brexit citizens' rights plan at summit

Ian Wishart &amp; Robert Hutton

**PRIME** Minister Theresa May's first European Union summit since her disastrous election could mark the scene of the first big row of the Brexit negotiations as she outlines how the U.K. proposes to treat the bloc's citizens after it leaves.

May will run her fellow leaders through the principles of her approach toward EU nationals over dinner in Brussels yesterday before publishing a detailed plan on Monday. While this week's opening round of Brexit negotiations was considered by the two sides to be generally constructive, diplomats said May's plan for expats may lay bare the divisions between them.

Citizens' rights have "been an important issue; we've wanted it to be one of the early issues that was considered in the negotiations. That is now the case, that work is starting," May told reporters as she entered the summit, sidestepping the question of whether she would offer to compromise.

The U.K.'s stance on the rights of an estimated 4.5 million European and British nationals living in each others' countries is expected to fall short of the EU's expectations, officials in Brussels said. Failure to find common ground quickly would jeopardize Britain's ability to strike a Brexit deal by the time it leaves the bloc in March 2019 and would likely at the very least delay when EU governments



Theresa May

would be willing to discuss the trade accord May wants.

While both U.K. and EU officials say they want to end the uncertainty for the millions of people involved, there are obstacles. They include what the rights are, which citizens get to enjoy them and whether Europe's top court will have the power to enforce them. May must find a middle way between satisfying EU governments without running into opposition from euroskeptics at home.

"It's an early test," said Jonathan Portes, professor of economics and public policy at King's College London. "If we can't get a sellable deal on this issue, which is less problematic than others, then we

might be in trouble."

May on Wednesday unveiled a two-year program of government that contained eight new laws to help the U.K. unravel itself from EU membership after 44 years. In the Belgian capital she will face the likes of German Chancellor Angela Merkel having lost the confidence of her Conservative Party after failing to win the popular mandate for the hard Brexit she promised.

The prime minister needs to mend fences after claiming EU officials were trying to sabotage her election campaign. In an effort to show Britain is still working with its continental partners, she'll pledge assistance with discouraging African refugees from attempting to get to

Europe, trying to persuade them to turn back during the journey.

While she'll attend discussions on topics including counter-terrorism, defense cooperation and migration at the two-day summit, she will be asked to leave immediately after she's addressed leaders on Brexit at the end of the dinner. She won't receive any feedback and will be warned that any attempt to negotiate on the U.K.'s withdrawal will be given short shrift and could undermine the goodwill built up by officials this week, diplomats said.

## UK's stance on the rights of 4.5m European and British nationals living in each others' countries is expected to fall short of EU expectations

"It's important for the U.K. just to inform where they stand, what kind of relationship they want," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told reporters in Brussels yesterday. "Then it's up to both of us - the U.K. and European Union - to deliver a pragmatic result."

Once May leaves, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, will give his assessment of the start of talks, and the 27 leaders will discuss their next steps.

The EU is demanding that European nationals who move to Britain before it leaves the bloc keep the same rights as they currently have throughout the continent. This could give them higher protection than those enjoyed by British citizens, something that the U.K. is likely to say is unacceptable, EU officials said.

Central to this is the right to bring a non-EU spouse to the U.K., which, when Home Secretary, May made more difficult for Britons. European citizens face far fewer hurdles and the EU is demanding that this continues.

"I am not going to say we are going to make concessions," Barnier said Tuesday. "I have a mandate to defend the EU, which the U.K. has decided to leave."

Then there is the matter of whether the European Court of Justice should have a role if disputes emerge over how citizens are being treated after Brexit. May has identified ending the court's say in British law among her Brexit red lines.

The EU also wants the rights to apply to people who may not have the paperwork to prove they have been residents and to make March 2019 the cut-off date for people to claim the privileges.

While officials welcomed the calm start to negotiations on Monday, EU diplomats are expressing pessimism that the U.K. will agree a deal before it leaves the bloc. One senior official close to the talks predicted the collapse of negotiations at some point because of what he described as the U.K.'s incapacity to be realistic. **Bloomberg**

IRAQ

# IS militants destroy 12th century mosque in Mosul

**THE** Islamic State group blew up a historic landmark in Mosul — the city's famed 12th century al-Nuri mosque with its iconic leaning minaret known as al-Hadba, from where the IS leader proclaimed the militant group's self-styled caliphate nearly three years ago.

The explosion destroyed another piece of priceless Iraqi cultural heritage but also sent a strong message to U.S.-led coalition forces and Iraqi troops closing in on the last stronghold of IS, in Mosul's Old City neighborhood.

Iraq's Ministry of Defen-

se said the militants detonated explosives planted inside the structures yesterday [Macau time]. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi tweeted that the destruction was an admission by the militants that they are losing the fight for Iraq's second-largest city.

"Daesh's bombing of the al-Hadba minaret and the al-Nuri Mosque is a formal declaration of their defeat," al-Abadi said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

"It is a shock, a real big shock," Amir al-Jumaili, a professor at the Archaeology College in Mosul told

The Associated Press.

The al-Nuri mosque, which is also known as Mosul's Great Mosque, is where IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made a rare public appearance, declaring a so-called Islamic caliphate in the summer of 2014, shortly after Mosul was overrun by the militants. The minaret that leaned like Italy's Tower of Pisa had stood for more than 840 years.

The IS blew up the mosque during the celebrations of Laylat al Qadr, the holiest night of the year for Muslims. The "Night of Power" commemorates the night the Quran was

revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which is now underway.

An IS statement posted online shortly after the Ministry of Defense reported the mosque's destruction blamed an airstrike by the United States for the loss of the mosque and minaret.

The U.S.-led coalition rejected the IS claim. Spokesman, U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon told the Associated Press coalition planes "did not conduct strikes in that area at that time."

IS fighters initially at-



This image provided by U.S. CENTCOM shows the al-Nuri mosque destroyed by the Islamic State group, in Mosul

tempted to destroy the minaret in July 2014. The militants said the structure contradicted their fundamentalist interpretation of Islam, but Mosul residents converged

on the area and formed a human chain to protect it. IS has demolished dozens of historic and archaeological sites in and around Mosul, saying they promoted idolatry. **AP**



## DEMOGRAPHICS

# UN says world population will reach 9.8 billion in 2050

**I**NDIA'S population is expected to surpass China's in about seven years and Nigeria is projected to overtake the United States and become the third most populous country in the world shortly before 2050, a U.N. report said yesterday [Macau time].

The report by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Population Division forecasts that the current world population of nearly 7.6 billion will increase to 8.6 billion by 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100.

It said roughly 83 million people are added to the world's population every year and the upward trend is expected to continue even with a continuing decline in fertility rates, which have fallen steadily since the 1960s.

John Wilmoth, director of the Population Division, said at a news conference that the report includes information on the populations of 233 countries or areas of the world.



India's population is expected to surpass China's in about seven years

"The population in Africa is notable for its rapid rate of growth, and it is anticipated that over half of global population growth between now and 2050 will take place in that region," he said. "At the other extreme, it is expected that the population of Europe will, in fact, decline somewhat in the coming decades."

The U.N. agency forecasts that from now through 2050 half the world's population growth will be concentrated in just nine countries — India, Nigeria, Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, United States, Uganda and Indonesia. Those nations are listed in the order of their "expected contribution

to total growth," the report said.

During the same period, it added, the populations of 26 African countries are expected to at least double.

Nigeria, currently the world's seventh largest country, has the fastest growing population of the 10 most populous countries worldwide, and the report projects it will surpass the U.S. shortly before mid-century.

The new projections also forecast that China, which currently has 1.4 billion inhabitants, will be replaced as the world's most populous country around 2024 by India, which now has 1.3 billion inhabitants.

The report, titled "The World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision," said fertility has been declining in nearly all regions in recent years.

Between 2010 and 2015, Wilmoth said, "the world's women had 2 1/2 births per woman over a lifetime — but this number varies widely around the world."

"Europe has the lowest fertility level, estimated at 1.6 births per woman in the most recent period, while Africa has the highest fertility, with around 4.7 births per woman," he said.

The report said birth rates in the 47 least developed countries remain relatively high, with population growth around 2.4 percent a year. While this rate is expected to slow significantly in the coming decades, the U.N. said the combined population of the 47 countries is projected to increase by 33 percent from roughly 1 billion now to 1.9 billion in 2050.

More and more countries now have fertility rates below the level of roughly 2.1 births per woman needed to replace the current generation, the report said. During the 2010-2015 period, fertility was below the replacement level in 83 countries comprising 46 percent of the world's population, it said.

The 10 most populous countries with low fertility levels are China, United States, Brazil, Russia, Japan, Vietnam, Germany, Iran, Thailand and United Kingdom, the report said.

A quarter of Europe's population is already aged 60 or over, and that share is projected to reach 35 percent in 2050 then remain around that level for the rest of the century, the report said. AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Revenge Sr 2
17:40	Castle S6 - Final (Repeated)
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated) (PT)
19:40	Soap Opera (PT)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Pó di sangui
01:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:55	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:40	Comedy
11:15	Blaze Riders
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
14:50	Soap Opera
18:35	Miscellaneous
18:55	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:10	Drama (PT)
22:00	Comedy
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:35	Young Adult
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:30	Documentary Serie
19:45	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary Serie
23:00	TDM News
23:50	Champions League Highlights
00:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live

Offbeat

EMPTY NYC TRANSIT BUS ROLLS DOWN STREET, HITS CHURCH, CARS

An empty New York City transit bus rolled backward down a hilly Brooklyn block and smashed into a church and parked vehicles during a crash caught on video.

One person on the street received minor injuries when the bus got loose yesterday [Macau time] in the Bushwick neighborhood.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokeswoman Amanda Kwan says the brake was not engaged.

Bennie Garcia told the Daily News (nydn.us/2rREaW8) that he was in bed when he heard a “massive bang” and the driver yelling for help. He saw his neighbor who’d been doing a car repair lying on his back and bleeding from his nose.

The union that represents transit workers says it was the driver’s third day on the job and she was very upset.

cinema



CINETEATRO

22-25 JUN

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1  
2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm  
Director: Michael bay  
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel  
Language: English  
Duration: 148min



RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA

ROOM 2  
2:30, 4:30, 9:45pm  
Director: Takanori Tsujimoto  
Starring: Orion Acaba, Erin Cahill, Darin De Paul  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 93min



A FAMILY MAN

ROOM 3  
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm  
Director: Mark Williams  
Starring: Alison Brie, Gerard Butler, Willem Dafoe  
Language: English  
Duration: 118min

MACAU TOWER

22 JUN - 5 JUL



TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1  
2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm  
Director: Michael bay  
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel  
Language: English  
Duration: 148min

this day in history



1972 CHANCELLOR ORDERS POUND FLOTATION

The Chancellor, Anthony Barber, has announced his decision to temporarily float the pound.

The news comes only a day after the bank lending rate was increased by 1% - and four days after an interview on the BBC’s Panorama programme in which he denied Britain was in danger of devaluation.

Labour MPs will see his decision to float the pound - rather than trade within a broad band linked to other currencies - as a first step towards devaluation.

Mr Barber told MPs the trade balance had deteriorated in the past couple of months and it had become necessary to shore up sterling by using the Bank of England’s reserves.

He told MPs he was determined not to “allow ourselves to slide into a situation where we would have to borrow substantial sums”.

“One of our underlying causes of this situation has undoubtedly been the concern about inflation... To curb inflation remains our first priority,” he added.

The immediate crisis was sparked by heavy selling of the pound on the markets, which began on 16 June.

Investors’ unease about high inflation in Britain has been exacerbated by recent highly publicised pay settlements for coal miners and railway workers, taking the average public sector wage increase to 9%. The Government has also become locked in two disputes over its industrial relations act, further damaging its image abroad.

The Chancellor accused his shadow Denis Healey of adding to pressure on the pound by speculating about a possible devaluation in a speech on Monday evening. In it, Mr Healey said there would be a devaluation by July or August.

Amid Conservative jeers, leader of the opposition Harold Wilson denied his shadow chancellor’s remarks had anything to do with the pressure on the pound.

Labour front benchers also claimed the decision to float was in direct contradiction of the Government’s agreement to keep the pound’s exchange rate within a narrow band as a first step towards economic and monetary union with the other Common Market countries.

Mr Barber insisted the flotation would be temporary. The foreign exchange market will be closed today (Friday) and Monday in order to prepare for the new arrangements.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Chancellor went to Luxembourg on 26 June to explain his decision to float the pound to the finance ministers of the six Common Market countries.

He assured them the pound would return to operating within fixed trading bands in time for Britain to join its European partners in 1973.

Britain did join the Common Market, but the economy went from bad to worse. Mr Barber imposed a 90 day price freeze from 6 November.

1973 saw more industrial action and petrol rationing as a result of a Middle East oil embargo.

Prime Minister Edward Heath was finally forced to call a snap election in February 1974 - which he lost to Harold Wilson.



YOUR STARS

**Aries**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
You're right in the middle of the madness, and you couldn't be happier. When the stars are on your side, you love being the center of attention and it shows.

**Gemini**  
**May 21-Jun. 21**  
Your ideas are easily turned into actions today. It doesn't take very much effort to make a small change, and you have more than enough initiative to make at least one of the things on your wish list come to fruition.

**Leo**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
Sure you have strong opinions, but that doesn't mean you aren't willing to listen at least to the voice of reason. No matter who you're talking to, you're always up for hearing the other side of the story

**Libra**  
**Sep.23-Oct. 22**  
An important relationship needs some extra TLC right now, and it's in your best interests to drop whatever you're doing and tend to it. If anything, it'll make the days more bearable.

**Sagittarius**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
Forget about work -- it's time to play. Because baby, life is for your enjoyment! Of course, some responsibilities you probably can't get out of, but there's no reason you can't have fun while you're at it.

**Aquarius**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
You're utterly amazed at almost everything you see. Colors and shapes seem different than they ever have before, and you have a unique perspective on everyday things.

**Taurus**  
**April 20-May 20**  
Take a break from your regular routine and be of service to someone else who needs a helping hand. You've been paying so much attention to your own little world that you may have completely ignored someone.

**Cancer**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
There's absolutely nothing wrong with singing your own praises today, especially if you have the right audience. Selling yourself is all part of the game you're playing, and there's really nothing to try and hide.

**Virgo**  
**Aug. 23-Sept. 22**  
You may get offers from people who want to help, but you'll work best on your own right now. Set up your office or your workspace away from outside distractions so that you can concentrate on the task at hand.

**Scorpio**  
**Oct. 23 - Nov. 21**  
Your health and well-being should be your top priority, especially with all this indulgence going on. This is the time to get back into a regular exercise routine and watch what you eat.

**Capricorn**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
You may have to face the fact that all good things must come to an end, but you don't have to let these endings ruin your day. Use change as a chance to transform and grow.

**Pisces**  
**Feb.19-Mar. 20**  
Shake off those doldrums. The sooner you get up and face the day full on, the more accomplished you'll feel. Take care of the most pressing things first and foremost.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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		3	1	8			2	

Easy+

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Medium

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

Hard

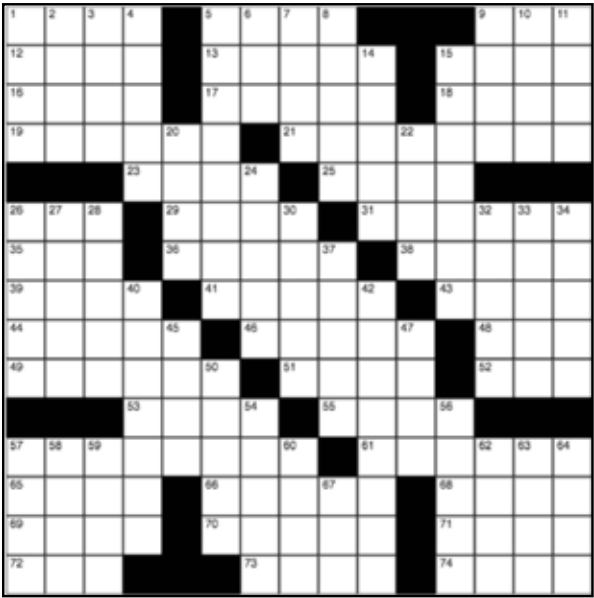
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	8			2				
7								4

CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1- "Animal House" house; 5- Home furnishings chain; 9- "Today" rival, briefly; 12- \_\_\_ Ness monster; 13- Yielded; 15- Get-out-of-jail money; 16- Novel ending?; 17- Maternally related; 18- \_\_\_ dancing is popular with cowboys!; 19- Like toxic rainfall; 21- Assisting the memory; 23- Razor brand; 25- Iowa State city; 26- Prone; 29- Trial; 31- Talks back to; 35- Line of seats; 36- Vows; 38- Numbers game; 39- Mtn. stat; 41- Reason for a raise; 43- Handle roughly; 44- Broadcaster; 46- Actor's parts; 48- Cereal box abbr.; 49- Actress Loren; 51- Unit of language; 52- Sun, delivery; 53- SDI concern; 55- Sp. ladies; 57- Archie Bunker's is in the Smithsonian; 61- Greek island in the Aegean Sea; 65- Sharon of "Boston Public"; 66- Scale; 68- Public disturbance; 69- Vogue rival; 70- In base 8; 71- Skin disorder; 72- CBS logo; 73- Fabled loser; 74- Flexible tube;

**DOWN:** 1- Type of market; 2- Univ. recruiting group; 3- Broadway opener; 4- Bara of the silents; 5- Frozen dessert; 6- Barbie's boyfriend; 7- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 8- MetLife competitor; 9- Profit; 10- Story of something small?; 11- Actor Baldwin; 14- Considers; 15- Bloom; 20- Sock \_\_\_ mel; 22- Kind of ticket; 24- Fall flower; 26- Bailiwicks; 27- Salk's conquest; 28- Pipsqueak; 30- Hurl; 32- Constellation components; 33- Practice piece; 34- Word with panel or energy; 37- Grain stores; 40- Means of conveyance; 42- Awful; 45- Having wealth; 47- Neb. neighbor; 50- Bahamanian island; 54- Yielding milk; 56- Singer McLachlan; 57- On the sheltered side; 58- Depend (on); 59- Boy or man; 60- Meter maid of song; 62- Puerto \_\_\_; 63- Charged particles; 64- To \_\_\_ (perfectly); 67- Damage;

Yesterday's solution									
STARE	ACTAS	TAT							
SENOR	FAIRY	GER							
TANYA	ISLAM	TOE							
	SURE	PEONS							
OVERUSE	ACTRESS								
SENORA	CDROM								
CNOTE	RHEUMATIC								
AUK	DUELS	IRR							
REIMBURSE	CANOE								
	ALLAT	ALIGNS							
OILWELL	USELESS								
ROARS	LISA								
ATM	SWAIN	NICER							
LAI	EATAT	STOMA							
BBA	DRAMA	EARTH							



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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

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S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

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Ref: 17040648

**St Pauls Ruins**  
**Central Macau**  
716 sq ft / HKD 5,558sq ft  
**HKD 3.98M**  
**Modern Apartment**  
Ref: 17035511

**Soi Cheung, Taipa Village**  
Taipa  
**1 Bedroom Apartment**  
**Private Terrace**  
HKD 13,800 / 700 sq ft  
Ref: 15090530

**Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens**  
**Taipa**  
1,503 sq ft / HKD 7,172 sq ft  
**HKD 10.78M**  
**Ocean Gardens complex**  
Ref: 16095497

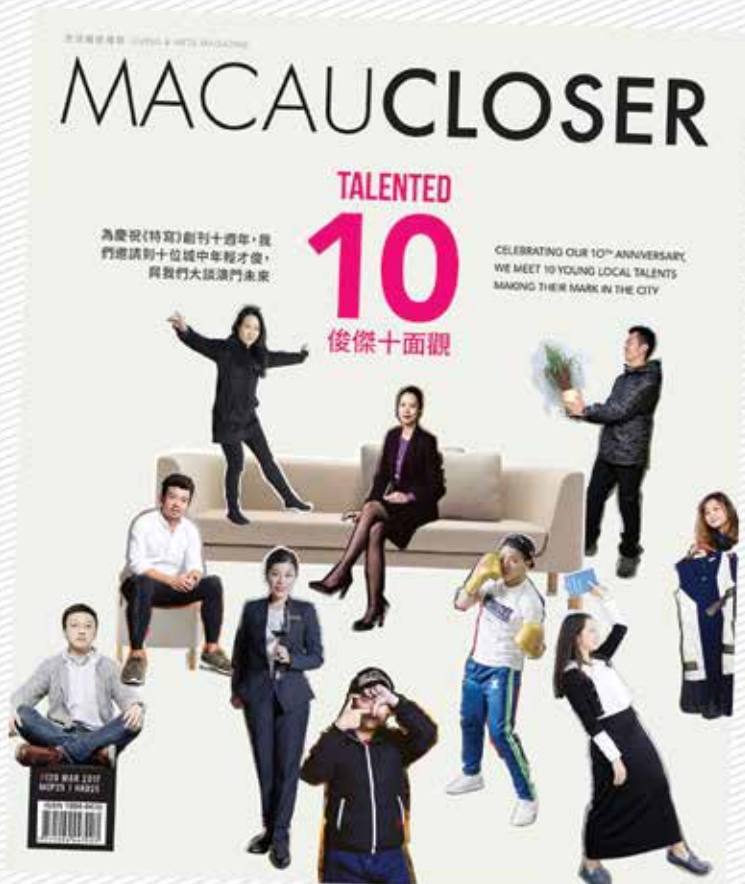
**Pacifica Gardens, L Unit**  
Taipa  
**3 Bedroom Apartment**  
**Partly Furnished**  
HKD 15,500 / 1,317 sq ft  
Ref: 17050649





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## MOTORSPORT

# Return of 'Great Montreal Raft Race' put the fun back in F1

Jimmy Golen, Montreal

**I**T'S time to put the fun back in F1. Formula One's new owners are hoping to dial down some of the intensity of the high-power and high-pressure racing circuit this season, swapping the paddock for paddling at the Canadian Grand Prix this month with the return of the Great Montreal Raft Race.

Just hours before strapping rock star drivers into multi-million-dollar cars traveling at more than 200 mph, team crews — and executives — traded their firesuits for life preservers in a beer-soaked beach party on the erstwhile Olympic rowing venue next to the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

There were no protests, no post-race inspections, no constructor points.

Just a few dozen team members — from mechanics to principals — soaked but smiling as they paddled their hastily assembled crafts across the murky lagoon with nothing at stake except bragging rights.

"We take Formula One very seriously; that doesn't mean we should take ourselves seriously," said Sean Bratches, F1's managing director of commercial operations.

"We let our hair down a little bit — or let our hair get wet today," he said after toweling off and taking a swig from a beer bottle to wash the taste of the lagoon from his mouth. "And it was quite enjoyable."

Since taking over Formula One this year, new owner Liberty Media has said it wants to liven up race week with a more American

AP PHOTO



In this image from video, competitors take part in the raft race at the Formula 1 Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal earlier this month

— meaning fun — approach to the events. (Executives were also careful to stress that they want to maintain the cachet that makes the races popular with its European base.)

So when the traveling circuit returned to Canada this month, so did the raft race.

A staple of the Canadian Grand Prix until the late 1990s, the raft race fizzled out when the demands on the mechanics increased and they became too busy to design and build their own crafts. Before it was discontinued, the "rafts" grew increasingly complicated; in 1990, for example, Ferrari brought in a one-man craft with an outboard engine.

To eliminate the technological arms race and maintain the focus on fun, this year's competitors were each given a couple of woo-

den pallets for the structure and some empty plastic water jugs for flotation. (There also was no shortage of beer.)

They had 45 minutes.

"Please build with the spirit of the event in mind," teams were told. "Utilization of that secret America's Cup project file you have tucked away on your laptop will be frowned upon."

They were required to have seven people on the boat and encouraged to include the team principal among them. (Haas worked around this by having a life-sized cardboard cutout of principal Guenther Steiner, in full yacht club attire, at the stern.) Toro Rosso wore silly wigs, Renault had jaunty sailor's caps, a third group went with a pirate theme.

Formula One management also floated a team, as did the media

relations department. Crews were given rope to hold the craft together, a megaphone for taunting opponents and paddles.

Other than the mandatory life vests, and the goal of paddling up and back across the canal, there didn't seem to be many rules. Tennis balls were lobbed back and forth like inert cannonballs; a fire hose sprayed teams that got too far in front or otherwise looked too comfortable.

"There may be something you think is a shark in the water," they were warned by the announcer, who also served as the DJ and gave updates during the race. "Please don't get too violent with it. It is a bloke in a black suit."

Micah Desforges, who waved the checkered flag, was part of the Tribu event-planning team that was hired by Red Bull.

"Everyone is in a good mood, and we'll try to get some funky stuff happening," he said. "It's good to get the community together, have a good vibe, good event. Get the pressure down, and that's what it's all about."

McLaren easily won the race — good for a chuckle, since the team has struggled all season in Formula One itself. That didn't stop them from celebrating with the traditional champagne spray from a makeshift podium.

**We take Formula One very seriously; that doesn't mean we should take ourselves seriously.**

SEAN BRATCHES  
F1 EXECUTIVE

"It's a good message for Formula One: To all work together to make Formula One great," said Ross Brawn, the circuit's managing director for motorsports. "It's a serious business; we know that. But evenings like this make it all worthwhile as well."

Bratches said the raft race was a natural, because it had a history and the lagoon was already there next to the track. He said he'd like to see other fun events added during the season, "taking advantage of unique circumstances like rowing lakes that somebody else might have."

"This is just a Montreal thing. But I think there's other creative things where we can engage one another and really extend the community," he said. "It's a great community of people at Formula One, and this was a fantastic event." **AP**

## RUGBY

## Ireland makes six changes for test against Japan



Ireland and Japan players vie for the ball on a throw-in during a test in Shizuoka, southwest of Tokyo, last Saturday

**I**RELAND coach Joe Schmidt made six changes to his starting lineup to face Japan in tomorrow's rugby test, the final of the visitor's three-match summer tour.

Kieran Treadwell and James Tracy come in for their first starts. Treadwell won his first cap off the bench during last week's 50-22 win over Japan.

Josh van der Flier returns at openside flanker while Luke Marshall and Jacob Stockdale return at outside center and on the left wing, respectively.

Keith Earls returns to the right side and Andrew Conway takes over the fullback posi-

tion vacated by the injured Simon Zebo.

Meanwhile, lock Luke Thompson has been recalled by Japan head coach Jamie Joseph.

Wing Akihito Yamada, back from injury, and flanker Shokei Kin were also added to the squad for the test against their 2019 World Cup pool rivals.

Wing Shota Emi, flanker Hendrik Tui and center Timothy Lafaele are out with injuries, while William Tupou is unavailable after he was given a three-match ban for a dangerous play during the loss to Ireland last weekend. **AP**

## TEAMS

**JAPAN:** Ryuji Noguchi, Akihito Yamada, Kotaro Matsushima, Yu Tamura, Kenki Fukuoka, Jumpei Ogura, Yutaka Nagare, Amanaki Lelei Mafi, Shuhei Matsuhashi, Michael Leitch, Uwe Helu, Luke Thompson, Takuma Asahara, Yusuke Niwai, Shintaro Ishihara. Reserves: Shota Horie, Keita Inagaki, Takayuki Watanabe, Kotaro Yatabe, Yoshitaka Tokunaga, Fumiaki Tanaka, Rikiya Matsuda, Ryohei Yamanaka.

**IRELAND:** Andrew Conway, Keith Earls, Garry Ringrose, Luke Marshall, Jacob Stockdale, Paddy Jackson, Kieran Marmion, Cian Healy, James Tracy, John Ryan, Kieran Treadwell, Devin Toner, Rhys Ruddock (captain), Josh van der Flier, Jack Conan. Reserves: Niall Scannell, Dave Kilcoyne, Andrew Porter, James Ryan, Sean Reidy, John Cooney, Rory Scannell, Tiernan O'Halloran.



opinion

**Kapok**  
Eric Sautedé



HALF-FULL, I SAY!

Most things in life are about perspective. Even a supposedly clear-cut situation can be seen with very different eyes.

Back in 2008, then American senator Barack Obama remarked in Philadelphia that he had been deemed by commentators as “either ‘too black’ or ‘not black enough’”.

In my home country, France, the recent absolute majority won in the legislature by Emmanuel Macron’s former political movement — after being elected President he had to resign from “On the Move!” — was construed as either “massive” (with 308 seats out of 577, it is one of the biggest since the founding of the Fifth Republic in 1958, whereas the movement was created only in April 2016) or “disappointing” (given the abstention rate of 57.4 percent the highest ever, and the somewhat under-performance when considering pre-ballot predictions).

Clearly, the glass can be seen as either half-full or half-empty, and this is usually determined by initial expectations and never-ending commentaries.

The same could be said of the just announced new leadership in Hong Kong.

On Wednesday, Carrie Lam, the soon-to-be sworn-in Chief executive, unravelled 21 members of her cabinet that will start working after July 1. Doubters regarding her promise to herald a “new style of governance” have stressed the elements of continuity: the top three principal officials will stay the same — that is Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung, Secretary for Justice Rimsy Yuen and Financial Secretary Paul Chan — and most of the positions will be filled by promoting under-secretaries, senior civil servants or deputy-commissioners, while another three will remain in their positions — Lau Kong-wah as Home Affairs chief, Wong Kam-sing as environmental chief and Nicholas Yang as innovation chief. Critics are thus talking about musical chairs at best, and rumours are rife: did the Liaison Office veto some names or did some people plainly and simply refuse?

Yet, the very fact that one — only one, killjoys would say — of these senior officials has been drawn from the pan-democratic camp is truly ground-breaking, although it was somewhat to be expected. By recruiting Democratic Party co-founder and former lawmaker Law Chi-kwong as the new secretary for labour and welfare, Mrs Lam is indeed on the side of innovation; something that would never have crossed the mind of CY Leung. Would it have, it most probably would never have been accepted by the pan-Dems, as “689” (one of Mr Leung’s most amiable nicknames) had come to embody everything that was wrong in Hong Kong’s political past, present and future. Donald Tsang, the Chief Executive from 2005 to 2012, might have, and actually was advised to do so, but either lacked the courage or the proper credentials to follow suit; his long years of service in the British colonial administration led him to be more Catholic than the Pope!

Mrs Lam must find ways of mending the severely damaged relations between state and society in Hong Kong, and recruiting Mr Law is but a first step. The same could be said of the nomination on Thursday of Ronny Tong, a former pro-democracy lawmaker from the Civic Party and a co-founder of the Article 23 Concern Group, to the Executive Council, the consultative body that meets every Tuesday to “[assist] the Chief Executive in policy-making”. Pessimist observers will argue that Mr Tong has become too “moderate”, just like his think-tank “Path of Democracy”, but if not him, who else?

Now, could we ever imagine the same for Macao? Of course not, as this is a process in which pressure is coming from above AND below. Far from validating the common-sense aphorism that “high expectations lead to great disappointments,” Macao is actually creating a proverb of its own: “no expectations at all prompt absolute cynicism”! In the end, this can only be conducive to a rude awakening, unless of course legislative elections become meaningful...

THE PROSECUTOR: CHAMPS-ELYSEES  
BUZZ ATTACKER PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE TO IS

A French prosecutor says a man who was killed when he drove a car packed with arms and explosives into a police convoy had pledged allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State group.

Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins said yesterday the attacker had a huge cache of weapons both at home and in the vehicle used in Monday’s rampage.

Molins says evidence from the investigation shows the suspect wanted to join IS forces in Syria and Iraq.

The driver in the latest attack on one of the French capital’s busiest shopping and tourist districts set off a fiery blast when he drove his car into police patrolling the Champs-Elysee. Police officials earlier identified the suspect as 31-year-old Adam Djaziri.

NBC says ‘Downton Abbey’ movie production to start in 2018

Annabelle Liang,  
Singapore

A “Downton Abbey” movie is in the works, with production likely to begin in 2018, an NBCUniversal executive said yesterday.

Michael Edelstein, president at NBCUniversal International Studios, said it hopes to assemble 20 cast members from the popular TV series.

“There’s a movie in the works. It’s been in the works for some time,” Edelstein said in Singapore at a red-carpet event for “Downton Abbey: The Exhibition,” which features costumes, locations and never-before-seen footage from the TV show. The exhibition opened in the city-state last week and ends July 31.

“We are working on getting the script right and then we’ve got to figure out how to get the [cast] together. Because as you know, people go on and do other things. But we’re hopeful to make a movie sometime next year,” Edelstein said.

Cast members at the exhibition said they were not aware of the movie. “Oh, well, you’ve got confirmation before us. We have no idea if that’s happening,” said Sophie



The cast and producers of Downton Abbey on the red carpet at the launch of an exhibition about the television series at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore

McShera, who played assistant cook Daisy Mason. “But we would all love to be part of the film if it was to happen, for sure.”

Laura Carmichael, who played Lady Edith Crawley in the series, quipped: “Well, tell my agent, because we’re still waiting to know. We’re hoping that will happen soon.”

Emmy-winning writer and creator Julian Fellowes also said he hoped a film would be made. “I think we’ve got a film in us. I hope it happens,” he said.

“Downton Abbey,” which concluded in 2015, portrays the lives of the aristocratic Crawley family in England and their servants amid the backdrop of

such historical events as the sinking of the Titanic and World War I. It has become one of the most popular TV shows in the world, airing in at least 150 countries.

Fans lined the red carpet at Singapore’s Marina Bay Sands to catch a glimpse of the stars. Student Jessica Nobleza, 15, held up a sign that read, “You helped us pass history.”

“When I got into the show, it was kind of exam period. And season one and two involves World War I, and how it affected the whole era,” she explained.

The “Downton Abbey” exhibition is to travel to the U.S. and Australia at a later date. AP

times square by rodrigo



Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**TURKEY-US** Turkish officials said yesterday that U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has written to his Turkish counterpart, reassuring him that arms provided to Syrian Kurdish fighters would be taken back once Islamic State militants are ousted from their main stronghold in Syria, the city of Raqqa.



**SOUTH AFRICA** President Jacob Zuma yesterday sparred with opposition lawmakers in a parliamentary debate over presidential scandals and an economy in recession, laughing dismissively at criticism and declaring of his job performance: “I’m fit and I’m doing it very well.”

**PORTUGAL** Official reports into Portugal’s deadliest natural disaster in decades have described freak conditions that drove the wildfire that killed 64 people, while Portuguese authorities said yesterday they have contained a second fire that raged for five days close by.



**EU** European Union leaders are gathering to weigh measures to tackle terrorism, closer defense ties and migration. Ahead of the two-day meeting in Brussels, summit chairman Donald Tusk trumpeted the resurgence of the EU, even as Britain launched talks this week on leaving. More on p14

**COLOMBIA** Leftist rebels say they will free two Dutch journalists kidnapped while reporting in a restive region of northeastern Colombia. The National Liberation Army said that they are in good health.