



MIXED MARTIAL ARTS RETURN TO TOWN

Chairman of ONE Championship, Chatri Sityodtong, said the audience will see the most exciting card to date

P2



THREE LOCAL CASES OF DENGUE FEVER

P3



LAVISH CASINO BET COMES UP SHORT

The fate of 13 Holdings USD1.6 billion wager is anything but assured - and that's causing a headache for its big-name investors

P4

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Cyber-heist money channeled via Macau

P10-11 FEATURE

WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

INDONESIA yesterday deported more than 140 Chinese and Taiwanese to China, where they are wanted for impersonating police and scamming businessmen and politicians out of several hundred million dollars. More on p9



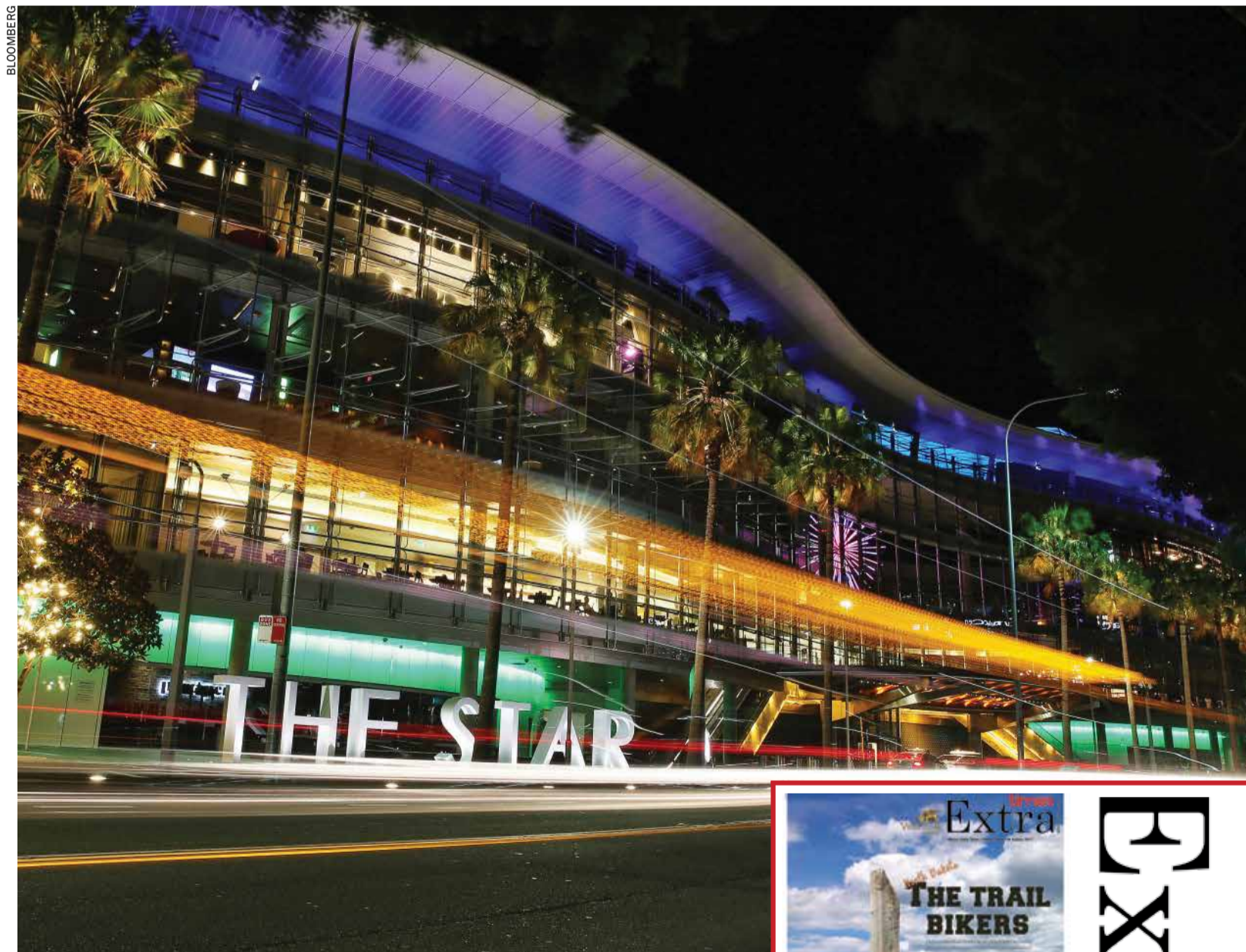
AP PHOTO

JAPAN's Dozens of firefighters battled a fire Thursday at Tokyo's world-famous Tsukiji fish market, an area packed with tiny seafood vendors, sushi restaurants and tourists.

NORTH KOREA's flurry of missile launches — 20 of them just in the past year — is a new and alarming fact of life for Japan and its other neighbors. More on p13

INDIA Venturing outdoors may become deadly across wide swaths of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh by the end of the century as climate change drives heat and humidity to new extremes, according to a new study.

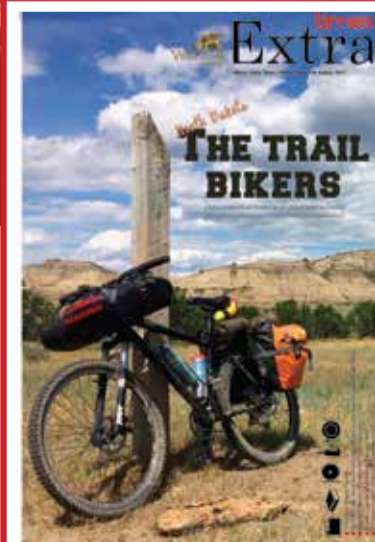
More on backpage



BLOOMBERG

Sydney casino war battle lines redrawn

P7



Extra

times

Extra

weekend Guide

INSIDE

editorial

Paulo Coutinho



DECLARATION OF BULLSHIT

PARDON my French, but the latest draft of the so-called electoral law, already enforced, is bullshit.

First, it won't prevent me, or any media, from stating my opinion on candidates (to the universal suffrage) or predicting the outcome of the upcoming election for a tiny wing of the Legislative Assembly (AL) in our midget democracy. Anything otherwise would violate my rights of expression under the Basic Law, the general law, and the press law.

But that's not the fundamental problem. We have to look into the root of this rotten system.

From the moment the Basic Law disallowed political parties from being formed, the system became flawed. Why? Parties by their very nature are active all the time, only observing the rules of promotional equality during an electoral campaign.

This regrettable state of affairs is aggravated under the current electoral rules because, apparently, candidates can only advertise their ideas and platforms during the campaign and will be penalized for doing so from the moment they announced and formalized this week their bids to run for the meagre 14 seats (of 33) of the legislative chambers.

It's absurd; and apparently nobody in the government cares to think about correcting this abnormality. On the contrary: they want total control.

It is a shame that our all-mighty administration wants and dares to control the ballot of this mere perspiration of democracy and, therefore, the consequent legislature. They should be seated waiting for the popular verdict. Even more so because their positions are unchallenged and the establishment is well shielded by the "indirectly-elected" and the appointed members of the AL. Yet they show a great deal of anxiety over a few seats in a "parliament" where the universally-elected legislators have no power whatsoever to decide over the destiny of the city. Why the anxiety, then?!

I suspect the anxiety derives directly from the fear that the election may become overly popular, so much that it would threaten the status quo. Wrong assumption. While this opaque system persists, there will be no massive turnout to the voting booths. Nobody believes it will matter. Nobody believes their vote could matter.

However irrelevant the election may be, and just because, I'll be declaring my vote closer to the polls.

Will I be arrested for stating my opinion?!



Kairat Akhmetov (left), Chatri Sityodtong (center) and Adriano Moraes



Bibiano Fernandes (left), Chatri Sityodtong (center) and Andrew Leone

Mixed martial arts event to be held tomorrow

Lynzy Valles

ONE Championship is back in Macau for the second time to present the event "ONE: Kings & Conquerors" tomorrow at The Venetian Macao.

The upcoming mixed martial arts event is said to be its most exciting card to date. ONE Bantamweight World Champion Bibiano Fernandes – the longest-reigning champion in ONE Championship history – will take on top contender Andrew Leone.

Chairman and CEO of ONE Championship Chatri Sityodtong said the audience would see an exciting fight this weekend.

"They are unbelievable fighters, literally [from] the best martial arts [championships] in the planet. I believe that fans will have a very good time. This is absolutely exciting stuff," he said on the sidelines of the press conference held yesterday.

As this is the mixed martial arts organization's second time hosting a fight in the gambling hub, Sityodtong described Macau as "one of the iconic entertainment capitals of Asia."

"It was always [going to] be one of the places that we'd come. [...] The sky is the limit here. Macau has taken a hit in recent times in terms of gambling activities and tourism

[and] hopefully with ONE Championship coming back again and again, hopefully we'd be able to revive the tourism," he told the press.

Fernandes, 27, pledged that he would not rest on his laurels and would instead seek to continually improve his techniques.

The Brazilian fighter added that he is looking forward to facing Leone.

"I am never the best. I always have something to improve. The moment I think I am the best in the world is the moment I fall. The moment I think I can do better for myself, I set out to be a positive person and always seek to improve," he stated.

"I am excited to defend my title once more against a worthy challenger. I look forward to facing [...] Andrew Leone in the cage."

New Yorker Leone will face Fernandes tomorrow night – his first bout in almost 18 months.

"I am undefeated in the ONE Championship cage, and I plan to keep my record like that. It is all about winning fights, not losing fights. After I win the world title, I plan on defending it many times, and staying in ONE until the end of my career," said Fernandes.

A new division champion will also be crowned in tomorrow's co-headliner. Flyweight World Cham-

pion Kairat Akhmetov will take on fellow Interim Flyweight World Champion Adriano Moraes.

29-year-old Akhmetov is in high spirits over the upcoming show, which he said will be "huge."

"I have worked hard. The most important thing for both of us is being in perfect condition, and avoiding injuries or sickness so that we can show a real war to the public," he said.

Akhmetov had previously sustained a back injury while training in New Mexico, which nearly ended his career.

Coming back from the edge of retirement, the Kazakhstan fighter said, "I am hungry and longing for a fight. I feel great. I have been looking forward to it for a long time."

The Interim Flyweight World Champion said the match is not just about a championship, as he considered the fight a "big dream."

"It is just a big fight, because I have never in my career fought against the same guy twice. This is the first time. For me, it is more exciting for this to happen. The loss has given me too much in terms of learning and growth," he said.

Moraes also described his opponent as an undefeated fighter, "a wrestler who has a good ground game and skills but with

his back on the floor."

Tomorrow's event also marks Jomary Torres' debut at the Cotai Arena.

Philippines-born atomweight prospect Torres, who is competing outside her home turf for the first time, said that she would do anything to beat her opponent Rika Ishige, a Thai WMMA pioneer.

"Even if this is my first time fighting at ONE, I'll do my best to win. [...] I'm quite nervous but I will do my best for the Philippines," she said.

Sityodtong pledged that his organization would present only Asia's best fighters.

According to him, the organization aims to showcase "the beauty of the [fighters'] art, personalities and life stories."

The championship recorded a solid TV viewership and social media following during the first half of the year. Sityodtong has remarked that the numbers are growing even faster than planned.

"I believe next year it [will be] multiple billion. Why is that? Because Asia is massive. There are billions of people here," he stressed.

"We're really focusing on unleashing heroes [and] I think the numbers will improve and the number of events will go up, and the quality will be bigger and better."

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CTM alerts citizens over fraudulent e-mails

CUSTOMERS from local telecommunications company, CTM, reported receiving emails about a service upgrade which requested for personal information. CTM confirmed that these emails were fraudulent and were not sent by the company.

According to a press release from CTM, the company has taken immediate actions to identify the sender and block the emails from dissemination. All of the fraudulent emails were sent from the same IP address. The matter has also been reported to the Judiciary Police.

The subject of the said email states, "to avoid email service interruption, macau.ctm.net servicer upgrade." CTM

stated that it will continue to monitor any suspicious emails. CTM urges customers to refrain from disclosing personal information through telephone or internet, to avoid clicking on the hyperlink in the suspicious email, and to refrain from browsing on any unknown website.

CTM further added that the company would not normally ask customers to provide personal information such as their ID number, user ID, password and account number over telephone or email. The telecom company urged customers to stay alert to any deceptive emails and phone calls, adding that any suspicious email should be ignored and deleted immediately.

HEALTH

Three local cases of dengue fever confirmed

THE Health Bureau (SSM) announced yesterday that three cases of dengue fever had been contracted in Macau.

The SSM and Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) held a joint press conference yesterday to alert citizens of the spread of dengue and educate the public on preventive measures.

The patients were a 68-year-old husband and his 58-year-old wife, as well as a 60-year-old man. All three lived in the same building at Rua da Praia do Manduco.

The patients were admitted to Kiang Wu Hospital at the end of July and were diagnosed with dengue fever. Their conditions are now stable.

At the press conference, SSM director Lei Chin Ion



confirmed that the patients had all been infected in the same area of Macau.

SSM has carried out measures to chemically eliminate mosquitoes, but Lei encouraged citizens to actively prevent stagnant water from accumulating, as the government can only do so much to kill mosquitoes.

"The government has made efforts to inform the local community in

the area to be aware of the dengue fever infection and to adopt anti-mosquito measures," Lei stated. "Mosquitoes with dengue breed in stagnant water that can be found in old tires or lunchboxes thrown in the trash. The heat and heavy rain this year adds to the ideal environment for mosquitoes to breed," he added.

IACM's Department of Environment, Hygiene

and Licensing Chief, Fong Vai Seng, said that the government's extensive anti-dengue efforts include joint efforts to kill mosquitoes at 180 locations in Macau – including parks and public areas – and campaigns to raise public awareness of the breakout of dengue fever in Macau.

Fong added that IACM had held one such activity on May 20 at Iao Hon Park, featuring games and lucky draws for citizens to participate.

IACM will also hold talks for citizens to spread awareness of dengue fever, and urged citizens to carry out their own preventive measures.

SSM noted that there have been six suspected cases of dengue fever this year in Macau, three of which have been confirmed.

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Lavish casino bet comes up short for Wall Street investors

Daniela Wei, Robert Olsen

IT'S due to feature USD1,500-a-night French Baroque suites with marble Roman baths for eight, and 30 custom red Rolls Royces to squire around its guests - all part of what's promised to be the world's most luxurious casino and hotel aimed at China's ultra rich.

Yet The 13 Hotel stands empty in a sleepy corner of Macau while its owners seek more cash and the necessary permits to operate - not to mention an elusive license to open a casino. After missing a crucial creditor's deadline this week, the red tower standing a short drive from the Cotai Strip remains blocked by construction materials, with no plans to open until late this year.

The fate of 13 Holdings Ltd.'s \$1.6 billion wager is anything but assured - and that's causing a headache for its big-name investors, including Janus Capital Group Inc., Fidelity International Ltd., Omega Advisors Inc., the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and Steve Cohen's SAC Capital Advisors, who all took sizable stakes in the company after the project was announced in November 2012. While some benefited from a negotiated price of HKD0.68 a share through a placement, all have watched the stock price dive 92 percent from its 2013 high to just barely above penny-stock status.

"Some of the original investors had already taken haircuts to exit the project, and they were the fortunate ones," said Ben Lee, a Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX. "The project needs more equity, as they are already up to their leverage ceiling, and future fundraising will only continue to dilute the shareholding."

Ontario Teachers sold its stake in February; a spokesman declined to comment on the investment. Cohen's SAC had bought an 8.8 percent stake in the company in January 2013; Point72 Asset Management, which took over SAC's assets in 2014, declined to comment on the holding. Spokesmen for Janus and Fidelity also declined to comment. Omega's founder Leon Cooperman also declined to discuss the company's 17 percent holding except to reply in an email that it's "a very small position for the firm."

A spokeswoman for 13 Holdings confirmed it's still seeking operating licenses, is in the final stages of completing the hotel, and planned to open by the end of the year. She declined to comment on the company's financial situation, debt obligations or likelihood of being able to open a casino.

Back in 2013, Wall Street investors saw one of their own at the



helm: the flamboyant and wild-suit-wearing former co-head of Asian investment banking at Merrill Lynch some 25 years ago, Stephen Hung, who'd married a Mexican former model with a resemblance to Audrey Hepburn and frequent appearances on Hong Kong's social scene - often dressed in striking red, and riding in a hot pink Rolls Royce with the license plate "Deborah."

Hung at first named the company Louis XIII Holdings Ltd., evoking the French king's ornate splendor, and talked about recreating the Palace of Versailles on Macau's Cotai Strip, featuring 200 "villa" rooms with private elevators, Baroque-style furniture, velvet-canopied beds and 24-hour butler service. The top-level VIP suite would cost more than HKD1 million a night. At big gala dinners for potential investors, Hung spoke of cashing in on Macau's status as the biggest gambling hub in the world, able to draw billions of dollars from China's wealthy.

"It was very glamorous, gave a good impression about the future hotel, about the future of the company, as Stephen Hung is a very stylish, outstanding person," said Dickie Wong, executive director of research at Kingston Securities Ltd., who attended such a dinner and noted Hung's impeccably matched clothes and that he travels in a Rolls Royce. "He gives the impression that he can build a very luxurious hotel because he has the idea, and he has the clientele base."

Investors also counted on 13 Holdings' majority ownership of Paul Y. Engineering Group Ltd.,

which built Hong Kong's Mid-Levels escalator and Cross-Harbour Tunnel, along with hotels and office towers including Cheung Kong Center, generating HKD7 billion revenue annually.

But 13 Holdings is now facing a far more challenging environment. China's crackdown on corruption scared away Macau's VIPs and sent casino revenue into a slump starting in 2014. As its cash trouble became apparent earlier this year, 13 Holdings announced it would sell its 52 percent stake in Paul Y. Engineering to a business partner for just HKD300 million, a roughly 35 percent discount on the book value, according to the company - to raise money to buy furniture and fixtures and pay other expenses for the hotel.

Some of the original investors had already taken haircuts to exit the project, and they were the fortunate ones.

BEN LEE
IGAMIX MANAGING PARTNER

"This hotel was exceptional in that it was positioned in the ultra-stratospheric segment," said IGamiX's Lee. "That market segment has long disappeared in the

aftermath of the anti-ostentation campaign, and it's a wonder they never revised their business plan and structure when they still had the opportunity to do so."

Despite several share placements to raise money as well as a number of loans, 13 Holdings faces a funding shortfall of about \$400 million, according to people familiar with the matter.

The bulk of assets, including the 30 custom Rolls Royce Phantoms acquired in 2014 for \$20 million in the largest single commission in Rolls Royce history, have been pledged to creditors, who've extended about HKD4.5 billion. Some HKD3 billion of that is said to be owed to China's Bank of Communications Co., which had given the hotel until July 31 to open as a condition of the loan. BoCom declined to comment on the lending. 13 Holdings has yet to update investors on negotiations with another lender to extend a July 12 maturity on a separate HKD300 million loan. The hotel was originally due to open in 2016.

Meanwhile, Hung, whose title is executive director and joint chairman, has received HK\$51.7 million in payments over last five years from 13 Holdings, which also paid HKD2 billion for the land the hotel is built on to a company owned by his son. Hung wasn't available for an interview, according to the company.

More than four years after the project began pulling in investors, 13 Holdings has yet to attain a gaming license. A tentative partnership with Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. that would have enabled 13 Holdings to operate

gaming tables, has fallen through amid tightening restrictions in the gaming hub, according to people familiar with the matter. A Melco spokeswoman said the company, one of six current casino operators in Macau, is currently focused on its own operations.

Already, casino hotels have been cutting rates as more supply becomes available, and VIP gamblers typically prefer to stay where they can play, said Margaret Huang, a Bloomberg Intelligence gaming and hotels analyst.

"If the property operates as a standalone hotel, it may be difficult to justify room rates to match its high-end focus," she said. "Without a casino, it would be nearly impossible to have gamblers book rooms separately with them."

Macau's government tourism office, which is responsible for issuing hotel-related licenses, said 13 Holdings' license applications "are still being processed" and that it hasn't received an application for inspection from The 13 Hotel, which should be made when the hotel is ready to open.

With Macau's government encouraging entertainment operators to shift away from a focus on VIP gambling to develop the city more broadly with non-gaming attractions, S&P Global Ratings analyst Sophie Lin said it's now "more difficult, if not impossible, for new casinos to obtain" approval to operate. The ratings agency predicts "a material deceleration of the VIP gaming revenue growth in the second half of 2017," she said - despite an ongoing rebound in Macau's overall casino revenue.

After 13 Holdings latest earnings report, a company controlled by Charles Chan purchased Paul Y. Engineering, the company's main revenue-generating asset. Nicknamed the King of Shell Companies by the Hong Kong media, Chan had previously been the majority shareholder of 13 Holdings' predecessor and continues to control a 16 percent stake. Chan's ITC Properties Group Ltd. declined to comment on the transaction.

Shares have slumped 58 percent to a low of HKD0.78 in the two weeks after the company announced the asset sale as investors digested the news. 13 Holdings dropped as much as about 4 percent Wednesday in Hong Kong.

Those in the industry are watching whether Chan will take over 13 Holdings as well, said IGamiX's Lee. Another option would be to sell to an existing gambling operator with a license in Macau. Or simply open, enlist a casino partner and hope for revenue, Lee said.

"People might have been very bullish because in the past, some of the Macau gaming companies also started from scratch in the beginning and became large," said Kingston Securities' Wong. "There's nothing you can do for long-term investors who invested a couple of years ago. They can only wait and see." **Bloomberg**

AL PLENARY

Iao Hon hygiene situation draws lawmakers' attention

Julie Zhu

HYGIENE issues concerning the Iao Hon district were discussed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, with the government noting that it does not have a detailed schedule for the area's renovation.

Lawmaker Zheng Anting pointed out that the environmental conditions of the Iao Hon area has seriously affected the health and safety of the neighborhood.

Zheng questioned the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, about practical and feasible measures which his department will take to resolve Iao Hon's hygiene problems, and the government's schedule for renovating the area.

Replying to Zheng, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) representative, Lo Chi Kin, said that the bureau regularly conducts cleaning activi-



ties at the Iao Hon area, and that it has distributed publicity materials in many languages to improve the neighborhood's awareness of hygiene.

Lo said that IACM will conduct remediation works at Macau's markets and streets for the rest of the year, and added that the Health Bureau (SSM) has confirmed that trash piles

have been found in several locations.

Zheng criticized Lo's response for failing to set a concrete timeline and demonstrating a complacent attitude, which he denounced as portraying the problems as though they were already resolved.

Zheng said he wanted to know whether the Iao Hon area cou-

ld be renovated, and if there were plans in place.

"I don't have a timetable, and we are also not making such [a] plan," replied Raimundo.

During the lawmakers' inquiry session, Mak Soi Kun noted that "if you [the government] do not establish laws for mandatory building inspection, you [the government] can't solve this problem. It [raises] an issue: you do not know about the renovation time [at Iao Hon]. However, if you don't solve these problems in a short time, it becomes ironic, [because] Macau is so rich."

Leong Veng Chai said that Iao Hon's hygiene situation "will need a bit longer until it can be solved" and proposed that multiple government departments cooperate to clean up the Iao Hon area.

Si Ka Lon added that Macau must pass proper legislation on urban renewal, lest the city face lengthy renovation works.

Ho Ion Sang also noted that in recent years, Macau has

"[lacked] substantive results regarding the renovation of Macau's old areas, which leads everyone to be 'mentally unbalanced'."

Chan Iek Lap questioned whether IACM can contact the neighborhood directly to improve their community's hygiene.

"Macau has already recorded three cases of dengue fever infection [...] It will not be a surprise if there is a dengue fever outbreak at any time. We should consider improving our citizens' obligations and paying [more] attention to the environment," said Chan.

Kou Hoi In, Ma Chi Seng, Au Kam San, and Ng Kuok Cheong spoke out on the renovation of old areas and the hygiene situation at Iao Hon.

In his reply to all lawmakers' inquiries, Raimundo said that "the topic [of renovation] is not easy to solve, because if it were, it would have been solved a long time ago."

The Secretary said that he visited the Mercado de S. Lourenço area and claimed, "even I did not like what I saw."

However, Raimundo continued, the government should not be the main party responsible for solving the area's hygiene problems.

"[The issues] should be discussed by the building's owners," said Raimundo.

Beijing rejects reclamation of 85 km² sea area

A Policy Research Department representative stated during yesterday's AL plenary meeting that the "related ministry had made it clear that [Macau] better not consider the reclamation of the 85-square-kilometer sea area."

The information was revealed by the department's representative, Chief Advisor Mi Jian, in reply to lawmaker Si Ka Lon, who had asked if Macau would seek permission from the central government to reclaim more sea for the construction of "a new Macau."

The department's representative told Si that "the society has already agreed that Macau's future development must be on sea."

"[I will] make an explanation: although the central government granted the Macau administration rights over 85 square kilometers of sea area, that does not mean it can all be used for land expansion. [...] It [the related ministry] said repeatedly, on

many occasions, that if the Macau government designs convincing plans [regarding the sea area], then the central government will absolutely support them," explained Mi.

Currently, Macau is still subject to a moratorium on fishing. Mi noted that the department is conducting a basic investigation on the 85 km² sea area, and that preliminary research results might be ready when the moratorium ends. According to Mi, the department will draft more specific plans for Macau's future development, taking the area into consideration.

In total, there are three areas of investigation: the first concerning the waters near the Macau Peninsula; the second concerning the 85 km² sea area and its vicinity; and the third concerning the 300 km² sea area near the neighboring 85 km² region.

Regarding the first investigation into the Macau peninsula, Mi said that the department is hoping for

feasible plans soon, and that the investigation has benefited from positive feedback.

"We are conducting these three studies because the central government said that even though [the sea area Macau intends to use] exceeds 85 km², [the central government] will support Macau, as long as [Macau] presents [good] reasons," said Mi.

Mi also pointed out that it is difficult for the department to conduct the investigation and create a plan to develop the sea area. This is due to its limitations in terms of natural conditions Macau's existing facilities in the vicinity, reclamation material restrictions, and the State's sea policies.

"The central government is very strict regarding sea reclamations," said Mi. Mi gave the example of a recent project in Hainan that involved an investment of RMB108.8 billion, which was put on hold because of China's restrictive sea policy. **JZ**



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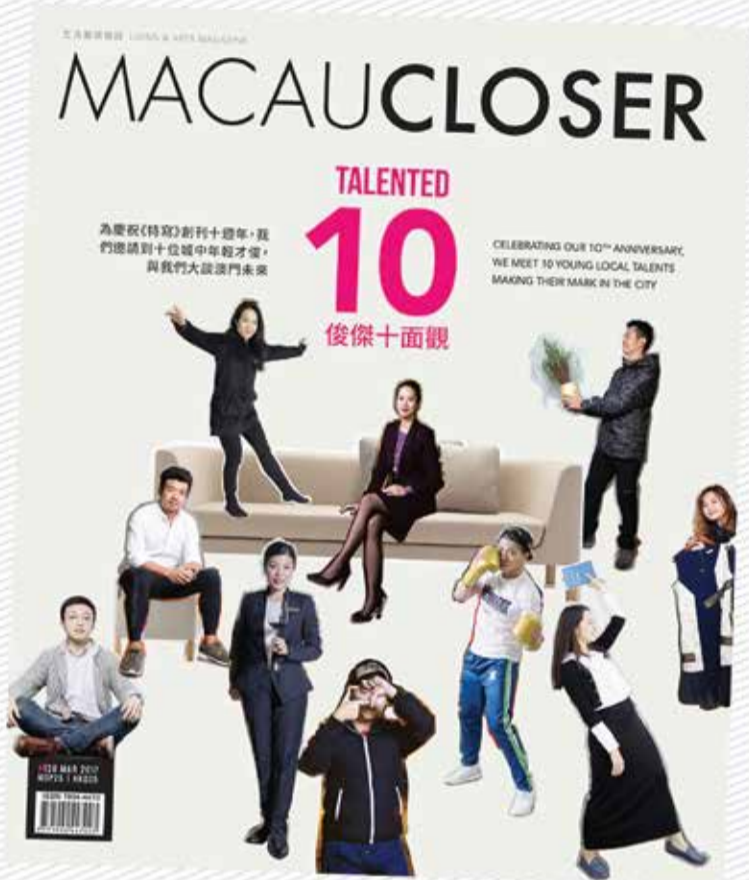
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Sydney casino war battle lines redrawn amid China crackdown

Angus Whitley

ON the shores of Sydney harbor, Crown Resorts Ltd. and Star Entertainment Group Ltd. are creating the most opulent gambling resorts Australia has ever seen, in a AUD3 billion (USD2.4 billion) battle of rooftop pools, private gaming rooms and fine dining.

In the city's first casino war, billionaire James Packer's Crown is racing to build a AUD2 billion six-star hotel and casino by 2021 on prime real estate on the banks of a protected inlet west of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Star, which loses its monopoly in 2019, is pushing on with AUD1 billion of upgrades just a few hundred meters across the water.

Packer originally won support for the new casino at Barangaroo with a pledge to attract mega-rich Chinese high rollers. But the crackdown on promoting gambling in mainland China has moved the battle lines, and now Crown looks set on a collision course to compete with Star for less wealthy blackjack, poker and baccarat players.

The prize for Australia's leading casino operators is clear: record flows of Chinese tourists and a local population that loses more money gambling per head than any country in the world. The risks are equally apparent, as Crown's new site potentially draws customers from its Melbourne base, and Star faces competition for the first time in Sydney.

"They are both kind of targeting the same customer," said Sudhir Kale, the Gold Coast, Australia-based founder of GamePlan Consultants who's worked on projects for casino operators including Crown. "Barangaroo is going to basically get into the grind market of Star, the table-game players."

The contribution to Crown and Star from overseas high-stakes gamblers came into focus in October last year when Chinese authorities arrested a group of Crown workers. A Shanghai court in June convicted 19 current and former staff of illegally promoting gambling on the mainland and handed out jail terms of as long as 10 months.

Since the crackdown, Crown has closed almost all its regional marketing offices in Asia that funneled big-stakes players to Australia and sold out of a Macau casino venture. According to Citigroup Inc., Crown's share of international high-roller revenue in Australia has plummeted from more than 70 percent



Star CEO Matt Bekier

in 2010 to 39 percent.

"Their business from Asia has been severely damaged," said Roy Wheatley, CEO of gambling consultancy Global Consulting & Development Pty, which has offices in Australia, Singapore and Japan. "The majority of their revenue is from local play and this will be the case in Sydney."

Investors will learn the scale of the fallout when Crown announces full-year results on Friday, while Star reports on Aug. 23.

A representative for Crown in Melbourne didn't reply to emails and a call seeking comment on whether the China crackdown would see the company lean more on lower-stakes customers than offshore high rollers. The company has previously said its Sydney project would be successful partly because it would also be attractive to local gamers.

Sydney also faces competition as resorts springing up across Asia try to attract business from China. In Japan, companies are vying for a slice of a potential \$25 billion market after lawmakers legalized casinos last December. Other operators are expanding gaming to online and phone betting, with an eye to attracting Chinese players. The Philippines and Vietnam now allow phone betting that's

banned in Macau, and provide favorable tax structures and policies for gaming.

For Star Chief Executive Officer Matt Bekier, tourists and repeat business from locals are a more reliable market than international high-stakes gamblers. Worldwide, there are probably only 1,500 ultra-big hitters comfortable betting at least \$5 million at a time, he said.

"I don't think we can build a business hoping to attract a couple of these large players every now and then, hoping to win,"

Bekier said in an interview.

The looming battle with Crown kick-started refurbishments in Sydney, as well as renovations and developments along the eastern seaboard costing up to an additional AUD2.85 billion.

Almost 1,000 kilometers north of Sydney, Star is building a gaming, hotel and retail resort in the Queensland state capital, Brisbane, with Hong Kong's Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Ltd. and Far East Consortium International Ltd. Star is also upgrading and expanding its casino

and hotel on the state's Gold Coast.

Star's developments are scheduled to be completed by about 2022, after which the proportion of its revenue from tourists could climb to at least 10 percent from less than 3 percent now, Bekier said. International high rollers generate less than 30 percent of Star's revenue and 16 percent of earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization, the company said last year.

The company, which once relied on China for almost all its high-roller income, now aims to generate half of it from other Asian nations.

Crown announced its plans for the new Sydney resort in 2012, promising 350 hotel rooms and suites. Also on offer: three bars, five restaurants and an infinity pool on the roof. Unlike Star, the resort won't run slot machines, making classic table games the key battle ground in the fight for customers.

Minimum bets at Crown's new Sydney casino will be AUD30 for baccarat, AUD20 for blackjack and AUD25 for roulette. More accessible to a wider pool of players because of the lower stakes, such tables can also be more profitable than high-roller operations. Casino owners typically lavish those VIPs with expensive extras such as private jets, access to luxury yachts or other exclusive experiences.

Crown's new resort in Sydney will draw business away from its flagship casino in Melbourne because it's easier for overseas gamblers to fly into the city, said GamePlan's Kale.

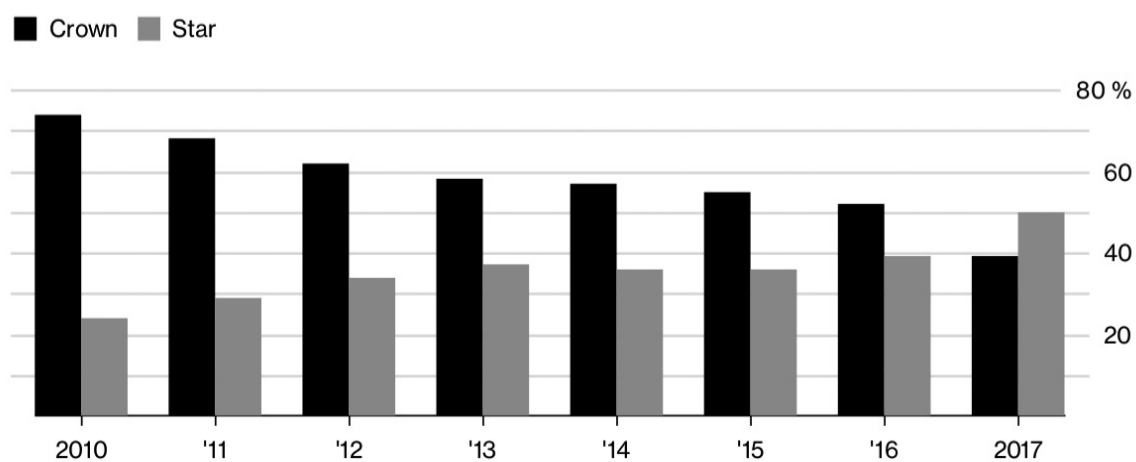
Once there, gamblers can play at both resorts, meaning Star could benefit from customers that Crown is losing from Melbourne, according to Bekier.

But he acknowledges it will be a two-way street, and at least some of his customers in Sydney will cross the water to the new Crown complex.

"There's obviously going to be a novelty aspect," he said. "The challenge for us will be to make sure that it remains an exploration." **Bloomberg**

Losing the High-Roller Crown

Market share of VIP revenue in Australia



Source: Citigroup Estimates

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The most important questions to ask... when you are a landlord renting out a property

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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If you have not seen the earlier articles on this subject, here is a brief introduction to the series. Of course you can find the articles online on the Macau Daily Times website.

Renting out a property can be both stressful and risky, especially if you are unfortunate enough to encounter a bad tenant.

The trouble is, even though you own the property you are also very busy during the day and want to minimize the issues with this and any other apartment.

If you are looking for an Agency to lease out your property and a Property Administrator to take care of it whilst it rented, it is important to do your homework and look for an established and professional company with strong systems.

The list below is in no particular order, and is intended as a starting point to help identify which questions to ask. This week we look at questions 11-15.

What tax should I pay?

There are two types of tax to pay in Macau.

Land Tax is the standard yearly tax on the land upon which the property is built. This tax is shared by all owners of the properties that stand on that land, and tends to be relatively inexpensive. Property tax is the other type of tax, and this itself takes on two forms; It is charged when you are a resident of the property, and is calculated by the government according to the size and

type of the property.

However, if the property is rented, the property tax reverts to a straightforward 10 percent tax on the rental income.

Who will liaise with the tenant?

This depends on whether you have a Property Administration or Property Management company to look after your property for you.

If you have engaged a company, they will handle all liaison with the tenant. If not, the tenant will usually contact the owner directly.

In some cases the tenant will contact the agent who must then contact the owner.

However, whilst this seems to be convenient for the owner, it often means that the owner ends up spending more money than necessary as the agent fails to understand the nature of the problem, and cuts corners to solve it in the quickest way possible instead of protecting the owners interests.

Who will look after the apartment?

The starting point for who takes care of what is reasonably clear under Macau Law.

The tenant is responsible for returning the apartment in the same condition in which the apartment was handed over with some fair allowance for wear and tear.

The landlord's task is to look take responsibility for the infrastructure such

as plumbing, walls, electrical systems and so forth.

As part of the initial negotiation it is a good idea to make this as clear as possible amongst both parties to avoid arguments and conflicts further into the contract.

Who will check the tenant's background?

Tenants backgrounds should always be checked.

In some cases the agent conducts a background check. However, you should be wary if the agent is representing the tenant. This kind of mistake happens all the time in Macau, an owner thinks he is saving money by not paying an agency fee.

In reality, he now has no-one looking after his interests, and the downside of this mistake is a huge cost to the owner either through lost revenue or delinquent payments from tenants.

Can the tenant provide references?

Tenants should always provide references, and in extreme cases tenants may be asked to provide a guarantor as well.

Whilst there is no such thing as a bad reference (any reference that was unfavorable would not be shown by the tenant), a reference gives the tenant something to live up to, and if you are unable to obtain a reference from previous landlords this would also be a red flag of course.

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PokerStars LIVE Macau advertisement for Saturday SuperStack. Features stacks of chips with a spade symbol, the text 'SATURDAY SUPER STACK', and details about the tournament: 'PokerStars LIVE Macau hosts the Saturday SuperStack with a HK\$100,000 guaranteed prize pool. With a buy-in of HK\$3,000, you start with a huge 15K starting chip stack. Don't miss out on the biggest tournament of the week. Every Saturday from 5th July to 19th August.' Location: Level 2, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai. Website: POKER STARS LIVE MACAU.

Warship helps search for missing US Navy sailor

CHINA'S Defense Ministry says a Chinese warship is assisting the U.S. Navy in its search for a sailor who is missing and may have gone overboard during operations in the South China Sea.

The ministry said in a statement yesterday that the People's Liberation Army Navy's guided-missile frigate Liuzhou is coordinating with the U.S. in the search for the sailor "in the spirit of humanitarianism."

The U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet says the destroyer USS Stethem reported a man overboard around 9 a.m. Tuesday. Multiple searches of the destroyer were con-

ducted but the sailor hasn't been found.

China, which claims virtually all of the South China Sea, accused the U.S. in July of trespassing in its waters when the Stethem sailed within 12 nautical miles (32 kilometers) of Triton Island in the Paracel Group.

The operation was aimed at affirming the right to passage and challenging what the U.S. considers China's excessive territorial claims in the area. China sent ships to intercept the destroyer.

China has strongly objected to repeated freedom of navigation missions by the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea.



Suspected scammers from China and Taiwan sit on the floor prior to deportation at The Regional Police headquarters in Jakarta

Indonesia deports Chinese, Taiwanese scam suspects to PRC

INDONESIA yesterday deported more than 140 Chinese and Taiwanese to China, where they are wanted for impersonating police and scamming businessmen and politicians out of sev-

eral hundred million dollars. The 121 Chinese and 22 Taiwanese were handed over to Chinese police and left from Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport on two flights, immigration office spokesman

Agung Sampurno said.

"They are part of trans-national organized crime who came to Indonesia as tourists," Sampurno said.

Indonesian police caught the mostly male suspects in a weekend raid of houses in

Jakarta, Surabaya and the resort island of Bali. Two suffered gunshot wounds to their legs while attempting to escape. The arrests followed a tip from Chinese police.

National police spokesman Rikwanto said the scammers had operated from Indonesia since late last year to avoid being tracked down at home and the scam had earned about \$450 million.

Rikwanto, who goes by a single name, said the suspects had incriminating information about their targets and posing as Chinese law enforcement officers promised a clean slate in exchange for money.

He said several Indonesians who helped arrange travel and accommodation were arrested in Bali though no Indonesians were victims of the scam.

In 2015, Indonesian authorities arrested and deported more than 400 Taiwanese and Chinese citizens in several major cities for involvement in similar crimes.

Taiwan, which the mainland Chinese government regards as a rebel province, is not recognized by Indonesia as a country but the two have significant commercial and economic ties. **AP**

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Alan Katz, Wenxin Fan

FOR someone supposed to be laundering millions of dollars in stolen funds, with investigators from three countries scrambling to track the money, Ding Zhize was a surprisingly unhurried man. He'd brought a dozen or so high rollers from China to play in the glitzy VIP room in Metro Manila's Solaire casino. The game was baccarat. It was late February 2016—still high season for Asian casinos, thanks to the Lunar New Year holiday—and Ding had been here for days. As red-shirted dealers laid down hand after hand, gamblers smoked Double Happiness cigarettes and helped themselves to an endless supply of mineral water, lemon tea, and Hennessy XO cognac. The chips they played in a steady stream were valid only in that room. The most valuable ones were rectangular plaques worth USD20,000.

Ding, his partner, Gao Shuhua, and the gamblers in tow were probably betting on both the house's hand and the players' hands, trying to strike a balance between gains and losses. After all, the important thing for anyone looking to launder money through a casino isn't to win. It's to exchange millions of dollars for chips you can swap for cool, untraceable cash at the end of the night.

It wasn't the first time the Chinese duo of Ding and Gao had managed a transaction like this. Running illegal gambling operations, including recruiting people for foreign gaming junkets, was their main business, according to previously unreported court documents in China obtained by Bloomberg Markets as well as interviews with family members and former business partners. By the time Ding, Gao, and their players had their casino accounts frozen in March 2016, they'd managed to make tens of millions of dollars disappear, according to a Philippine Senate committee that investigated the theft.

The money was part of the largest cyber-heist in history. In early February, \$81 million had been stolen from Bangladesh's central bank by hackers who issued bogus instructions via Swift, the global interbank payment system, according to reports by the Philippine Senate committee, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and the Bangladesh Ministry of Finance. The cyber thieves messaged the New York Fed, where Bangladesh Bank had funds on deposit, directing it to send funds to a handful of bank accounts mostly in the Philippines set up using fake names.

Just a few days after the theft, Bangladesh Bank officials asked their Philippine counterparts for help. Yet the gamblers were allowed to play on for weeks, according to reports by the casino's parent company, Bloomberry Resorts Corp., and the Philippine Senate Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations. Even after the remaining funds were frozen, no charges were filed

Baccarat binge helped launder th

against Ding, Gao, or the players with them, so Philippine police didn't make any arrests, says Sergio Osmeña III, a former senator who last year was a member of the inquiry panel. "They waited until it was too late," he says.

What Ding and Gao did with the loot remains unknown. That's the point, of course: You want to conceal the money's criminal origins and then stir it into the rivers of legitimate cash that course around the world every day: \$60-odd million here, a few million there. It adds up. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP says money laundering may total \$2 trillion a year worldwide—an amount roughly equivalent to the market for online shopping.

Like the money, Ding and Gao left the Philippines without a trace. (Osmeña says customs authorities have no record of the duo's departure.) Gone too, it seemed, was any chance that Bangladesh, the Philippines, or the U.S. would find the funds.

■ By the time Ding, Gao, and their players had their casino accounts frozen, they'd managed to make tens of millions of dollars disappear

But if Ding and Gao thought they'd gotten away scot-free, they were mistaken. The story didn't end in the floral-scented VIP room of the Solaire. It just moved on—to China and then maybe even North Korea, home to Lazarus, one of the world's most active state-sponsored hacking collectives.

As big as it was, the heist could have been a lot bigger. The hackers originally intended to funnel \$951 million of Bangladesh Bank's money into phony accounts, according to various investigations. Via Swift, they fired off a series of messages to the New York Fed to do just that. The theft of the full amount was only averted because, after the initial payments had been made, several transactions were flagged "for sanction compliance review," according to an April 14, 2016, letter from the Fed to U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, a New York Democrat. (In the wake of the Bangladesh theft, Swift took measures to prevent such intrusions. "We are fully committed to helping customers in the fight against cyber-attacks,"



USD81 million was stolen from Bangladesh's central bank

Patrick Kerkels, the Swift general counsel, said in an emailed response to questions. Swift's security program, he said, "has demonstrably helped to detect and even prevent successful frauds.")

Since then, Philippine authorities have recovered almost a fifth of the stolen money and returned it to Bangladesh, but most of the rest, after flowing through a series of accounts, a money-transfer company, and into local casinos, disappeared into the muggy Manila air.

Some or all of it may have found its way to North Korea. The FBI is examining the totalitarian state's link to the hack, according to two officials with direct knowledge of the investigation.

What's required in the case of a theft like the one from Bangladesh Bank is a mix of hacking wizardry to divert the money and some old-school laundering to clean it and cover the trail

In addition, security companies, including Symantec Corp. and BAE Systems Plc, say Lazarus hackers working for the rogue state were probably behind the attack. They cite similarities between the methods used in the Bangladesh attack and those in other cases, such as the hack of Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. in 2014, which U.S. officials attributed to North Korea. Cyber-security experts say Lazarus was also behind the WannaCry ransomware attack in May that infected hundreds of thousands of computers around the world.

All but cut off from the world and hamstrung by sanctions imposed by the United Nations, the U.S., South Korea, and Japan, North Korea needs convertible currencies to finance imports, among other things. It uses a shifting array of agents, shipping companies, and brokers to bring in illicit cash, says Juan Zarate, a former deputy U.S. national security adviser and author of Treasury's War: The Unleashing of a New Era of Financial Warfare.

Stealing money from a central bank would be another way of doing it. "It's a clear fact that these menacing groups are continuously

preparing or attempting attacks on the financial sector," South Korea's government-funded Financial Security Institute said about Lazarus and related hacking rings in July. What's required in the case of a theft like the one from Bangladesh Bank is a mix of hacking wizardry to divert the money and some old-school laundering to clean it and cover the trail. Ding and Gao were certainly not specialists in the former, according to descriptions of them in court records and from family members and acquaintances. Gao's wife, Yan Wenli, says he's computer illiterate. Ding is such a tech novice, he needed help setting up a WeChat account he used to post selfies while out on hikes, says a former business partner, who declined to be named.

Walk along the zig-zag lanes of Chendai, a Chinese town on the Taiwan Strait, and you'll see a lot of Dings on business signs. They're a prominent family, part of a Muslim community that settled along this stretch of the coast centuries ago when the region was the main port of entry for foreign traders. While some of the Ding clan built business empires here—manufacturing athletic shoes, for instance—Ding Zhize made a name for himself 600 kilometers down the coast in Macau's casinos.

Now 45, Ding set up an investment company in 2007 as Macau was becoming the world's biggest gambling center by revenue. Neighbors and a former business partner say he also arranged for gamblers from mainland China to go on casino trips, which would be illegal under Chinese law. In addition, these people say, Ding specialized in arranging off-table bets, private wagers from anonymous gamblers using bookmakers. These often dwarf bets by gamblers physically present at casinos, according to a paper published in the British Journal of Criminology in February.

While it's unclear exactly how much Ding earned from his operations, his spending soared. By 2008 he'd invested \$1 million in a real estate company near his hometown and hired Asian pop stars to promote a spa there called Bali.

Ding and his wife eventually shut down those businesses. Afterward, they bought a Macau high-rise now valued at \$1 million. About a half-hour drive from there, the couple owns a four-story mansion surrounded by a koi pond, bonsai trees, and at least seven security cameras. The lot alone is worth \$5 million, local real estate agents estimate. The Dings' wealth can also be measured by what they've lost. A police report itemizes more than \$600,000 in items stolen in a burglary at their home a few years ago, including two Swiss watches, HKD200,000 (\$25,600) in cash, and a kilo of gold.

Gao, a buzz-cut 53-year-old, is from a dusty Beijing suburb that supplies the capital with watermelons and pears. He's one of the richest men in town, people in his neighborhood say. From there, he ran an illegal casino as far back as 2004, according to Chinese police reports and court documents. That summer, according to an account in Chinese court documents, thugs working for Gao beat up a group of men whom they mistook for another gang that had robbed them. The victims turned out to include cops, and Gao found himself serving an 18-month prison sentence.

Upon his release in 2006, Gao apparently traveled to Macau and the Philippines, where he'd invested as much as \$2 million in businesses that ran casino VIP rooms, according to court records. One of those companies was Eastern Hawaii Leisure Co., which would wind up with more than a quarter of the stolen funds from Bangladesh, according to the Philippine Senate report. When Chinese authorities arrested Gao again in 2012, they found he ran one of the biggest gambling networks in the country—one that spanned 29 provinces and had made him more than \$8 million. He was sentenced to an additional four years in prison, according to a copy of the verdict obtained by Bloomberg Markets.

Gao appealed the sentence, and a court cut it by a year, suggesting in its ruling that he'd assisted the police investigation in some unspecified way. He was officially released on medical parole in 2015, court documents show. It's not clear how much time Gao spent in prison, because corporate records in Macau show him forming a company there in 2014.

Ding and Gao's familiarity with Macau would have been useful to North Korean hackers, says Steve Vickers, a former head of the Hong Kong Police Force's Criminal Intelligence Bureau who now runs an eponymous risk consulting company. That, he says, is because Macau was traditionally one of the few locations where the Pyongyang government has managed to maintain covert bank accounts and interact with the

The world's biggest cyber-heist



Of the money transferred out of RCBC, USD31 million was reportedly delivered in cash to Wong

global financial system. (Priscilla Fong, a spokeswoman for Macau's Financial Intelligence Office, declined to comment on this case or to respond to questions about the region's links to North Korea.)

About 90 percent of North Korea's trade is with China, and Chinese junket operators are well equipped to use the formal banking sector and informal financial networks created by the Chinese traders and small businessmen who've crisscrossed the world for 1,000 years, says Andrew Klebanow, a senior partner at Global Market Advisors LLC in Las Vegas. "These networks evolved and continue to this day, allowing money to move into and out of China," he says. Often money doesn't even need to cross borders, Klebanow says. As with other informal networks, a deposit in the Philippines might be credited to an account in Macau or China, even though the money stays in Manila.

Months before Ding, Gao, and their baccarat players showed up in Manila, several bank accounts that would later receive the Bangladeshi funds appeared on the books at the Jupiter Street branch of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. in Metro Manila, according to testimony at the Senate hearings. At the hearings, Kim Wong, president of Eastern Hawaii Leisure, which operates a number of VIP rooms in Manila-area casinos, including the Solaire, testified that he'd set up the RCBC accounts along with Ding's business partner, Gao, and the Jupiter branch manager at the time, Maia Deguito.

For her part, Deguito said she'd been acting on instructions from RCBC bosses. That assertion netted her a libel claim by Lorenzo Tan, the former chief executive

officer of RCBC, who also sued Deguito's lawyer. "Based on our investigation, Ms. Deguito acted alone with the help of some of her co-workers and subordinates at the Jupiter Branch which she headed," RCBC said in an emailed statement. "Her actions were inimical to her job and against RCBC's policies, which resulted in her termination and the filing of cases against her." The bank said it's confident the Philippine Department of Justice investigation will find that senior executives had no knowledge of Deguito's actions.

According to the Senate committee report, Ding, Gao, and Deguito ginned up the accounts using fake names, fake addresses, and fake declarations that Deguito had met the account holders in person and confirmed their identities. Assuming the Senate report got the facts right—there was contradictory testimony—the stage was set for laundering what the hackers hoped would be almost \$1 billion. "If you have a bank employee who is in connivance with creating these nonexistent people in the first place, it's easy to launder," says Vincent Salido, head of investigations at the Philippine government's Anti-Money Laundering Council, which is leading the local investigation into the theft.

All the accounts created at the RCBC branch lay dormant until Friday, Feb. 5, 2016. The Swift attack began the day before, the last day of the workweek in Bangladesh. Sums ranging from \$6,000,039.12 to \$30,000,039.12 went zipping from the New York Fed through Citibank, Wells Fargo, and the Bank of New York-Mellon to a series of accounts at the branch, which sits below a bridal shop. Some even passed through the account of a real person who later told the Senate panel

that his signature had been forged. After four such transfers (and a fifth to an account in Sri Lanka), the Fed stopped the routing, triggering a manual review that in turn ended up blocking any transactions beyond the \$81 million that had already flowed through the system.

■ The usual path would have taken the laundered funds from the Philippines to Macau and from there, directly or indirectly, to North Korea

The following Monday was Chinese New Year. Banks in the Philippines were closed, so four stop-payment requests from Bangladesh Bank to RCBC went unheeded. The next morning, almost all the money in the four fake accounts was transferred through a variety of accounts, obscuring, at least initially, the money's provenance. It then went on to a payment company called Philrem Service Corp. At about 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, after getting a call from the Anti-Money Laundering Council, RCBC finally placed a hold on the remaining funds: \$68,305.

Of the money transferred out of RCBC, about \$29 million was wired by Philrem to Bloomberg Resorts and credited to Ding,

mainly for gambling at the Solaire VIP room; \$21 million was wired to Eastern Hawaii Leisure and used primarily in the VIP rooms of other casinos. An additional \$31 million, according to testimony from Philrem Chairman Michael Bautista, was delivered in cash to Wong, Eastern Hawaii's president, mostly through an intermediary named Xu Weikang, who was working for Ding and Gao. In his Senate testimony, Wong disputed the amount. He claimed that Philrem had kept about \$17 million, and only \$13.5 million had been delivered in cash. Bautista, who's also the subject of a complaint by the Anti-Money Laundering Council, has repeatedly denied keeping the cash. His lawyer, Howard Calleja, didn't respond to multiple requests for comment. When reached by Bloomberg Markets, Xu, a debt-ridden businessman from Zhejiang, China, said he was a victim of identity theft. Silverio Benny Tan, Bloomberg's lawyer, declined to comment on the matter, citing a court case over funds the casino froze from Ding's group.

In an interview last year with Philippine Dragon Media Network, a Chinese-language website, Wong said Gao and Ding had tricked him. He said Gao, a business partner of his since 2007, told him the money had come from a land sale to the Chinese government to make way for a new airport in Beijing. Wong said Gao introduced him to Ding, who claimed he got the money by selling shares in Macau casinos, which he intended to invest in the Philippines. Wong declined to be interviewed for this article.

For her part, Deguito, the fired bank manager who claimed she'd been acting on instructions from RCBC bosses, said she hadn't meant to do anything wrong. Her lawyer, Ferdinand Topacio, declines to comment on the details of his client's actions or statement. He notes there are three criminal cases pending against Deguito in Philippine courts that include allegations of anti-money-laundering violations, perjury, and falsification of documents. Referring to varying accounts of what happened from Deguito, Wong, and Bautista, Osmeña, the former senator, says, "I couldn't take seriously what they were all saying."

The FBI and the Bangladeshi government have recently turned their attention to pursuing the Chinese connection in the case, Topacio says. He met twice with FBI agents between May and July. At those meetings, he says, the agents pressed for details about Ding and Gao, as well as about ethnic Chinese doing business in the Philippines such as Wong. Topacio says FBI agents and Bangladeshi law enforcement officials told him the usual path would have taken the laundered funds from the Philippines to Macau and

from there, directly or indirectly, to North Korea. While the officials didn't give any indication that they'd been able to track the funds, they did say their suspicions were backed by the fact that the money was sent to middlemen—Ding and Gao—with direct connections to Macau.

Philippine authorities are still investigating Ding and Gao as well as all aspects of the case, says Salido of the Anti-Money Laundering Council. In April, the country's justice department indicted Deguito and the owners of Philrem but dropped the case against Wong, citing a lack of evidence, Salido says. Wong has returned \$15 million to the authorities, which was then transferred back to Bangladesh Bank.

What galls Salido, among other things, he says, is that he never did manage to interview the elusive Ding and Gao.

Chinese authorities apparently had better luck. Ding's former business partner says police from Xiamen, a city near Ding's hometown, arrested him in March 2017. In Chendai, standing next to a Lexus sedan, Ding's sister-in-law, who declined to give her name, confirmed the arrest but refused to say more. (The Xiamen City Public Security Bureau declined to comment for this article.)

It does appear that, for whatever reason, Ding's finances have suffered. In May 2015 he and his brother, Ding Xiaoming, registered an investment company called Ninin, the same name Ding had used for a series of entities in Hong Kong, Macau, and mainland China. Held under Xiaoming's name, the company was supposed to have 100 million yuan (\$15 million) in registered capital. If Ninin was expecting an influx of money, it never arrived. Xiaoming dissolved it in July, corporate registry records show.

As for Gao, his wife says the whole affair has brought nothing but grief. Gao, a devoted gambler, had met Ding at a card table, Yan says. She wouldn't say when or where. "He knew too many people," she says. The family compound includes an L-shaped house, parcels of farmland, and a carved stone pagoda set in a big garden five miles north of that planned Beijing airport. Sitting inside, Yan vehemently slaps down all the speculation about her husband. "He has never opened any account or received the money in question," she says, between drags on her cigarette.

In August 2016, Yan says, police, again from Xiamen, came to the compound and took Gao away to a detention center in Ding's home region. When she asked what she could do to get him out, one of the cops said, "Don't bother calling a lawyer."

Katz is the legal enforcement team leader for Europe. Fan writes about China from Shanghai.

With assistance from Simon Lee, Daniela Wei, Rachel Chang, Michael Riley, Peter Martin, and Norman P. Aquino. Bloomberg

AP PHOTO



Turkey and China pledge security cooperation as ties warm

Gerry Shih, Beijing

TURKEY'S top diplomat vowed yesterday to root out militants plotting against China, signaling closer cooperation against suspected Uighur militants hailing from China's far west who have long been a sore point in bilateral relations.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters during a visit to Beijing that his government would treat threats to China's security as threats to itself and would not allow any "anti-China activity inside Turkey or territory controlled by Turkey."

Cavusoglu's tough comments, which came after a meeting and warm handshakes with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, were seen as referring to China's Uighur ethnic minority, a Turkic people who share cultural and linguistic ties with Anatolian Turks.

Turkey and China have in recent years pledged to cooperate on security and counter-terrorism efforts, though experts say such ties are also balanced by mutual suspicion. Relations between Ankara and Beijing have been strained by Turkey's campaign to remove Syrian President Bashar al-Assad — a China ally — and its sheltering of Uighur refugees.

Human rights groups have long accused China of oppressing its roughly 10 million Uighurs with severe restrictions on language, culture and religion and inflaming a cycle of resentment and radicalization. Hundreds have died in Xinjiang in violent clashes in recent years and China now keeps the region, with a land area comparable to Iran, under a constant lockdown with massive policing and surveillance efforts that activists say are rife with abuse.

Thousands of Uighurs have fled China in recent years to seek asylum in Turkey, with many traveling on to Syria to join Islamic militant groups or simply to escape persecution and find a new home. In response, China has pressed allies including Russia and Syria to share intelligence about Uighur militants fighting in Syria and help avert their return to strike at China.

Hundreds of Uighurs, if not far more, are believed to have joined the al-Qaida-affiliated Nusra Front while others have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group or sided with smaller militant factions in the Syrian conflict.

Cavusoglu endorsed China's efforts yesterday, adding that Turkey "fully appreciated all the actions China has taken" in combating the Islamic State

group as well as reaching a political settlement in the Syrian War.

Wang, meanwhile, said that "deepening our collaboration on anti-terror and security is the most central part" of the two countries' relationship.

With President Xi Jinping keen to play a leadership role in global affairs, China has swiftly expanded its presence in the Middle East and offered itself as a mediator in the region's conflicts. But it has not shied from calling for help, either.

At Beijing's request, Egyptian police in recent weeks rounded up scores of Muslim Chinese students studying in at Al-Azhar University and deported them to China, sparking panic among Chinese living in Cairo who belong to the Uighur, Hui and Kazakh ethnic minorities.

The World Uyghur Congress, an overseas Uighur advocacy group, said it hoped China and Turkey's vows of cooperation in the name of security would not infringe on Uighur refugees' lawful rights.

"The Turkish foreign minister's comments have surprised and concerned us," said Dilxat Raxit, a spokesman for the group. "China's goal is to use economic pressure to restrict Uighurs' political rights but we remain hopeful that the Turkish people will continue to

stand with Uighurs and give us their support."

Turkish President Tayyip Recep Erdogan had positioned himself as a champion of Turkic peoples and in 2009 accused Beijing of committing "genocide" toward Uighurs, attracting a flurry of headlines and infuriating Beijing. The two governments clashed again in 2015 when Turkey offered asylum to Uighur refugees detained in Thailand whom China had demanded back.

Since then, however, the China-Turkey relationship has warmed amid a broader political realignment. China, Russia and Turkey have strengthened their partnership while Erdogan has pulled away from the orbit of European governments amid disputes over human rights and other issues.

China has expressed openness toward Turkey joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security alliance comprised of Russia and several central Asian states that is seen as a counterweight to NATO.

Turkey and Russia have also backed several major Chinese initiatives — including Xi Jinping's Belt-and-Road project to develop infrastructure spanning the Eurasian continent — that were initially shunned by Western powers. **AP**

Beijing welcomes US assurances to North Korea; calls for talks

CHINA'S foreign minister yesterday welcomed comments by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson offering reassurance to North Korea that Washington isn't seeking regime change there.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a briefing that Beijing "attaches great importance" to Tillerson's remarks on North Korea. Tillerson said Tuesday that the United States does not seek a collapse of the North Korean regime or an accelerated reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

Wang said China hopes all sides could "meet each other half way to find a fundamental plan to resolve the security concerns of the parties through equal dialogue."

But Tillerson also said the U.S. does not think productive talks would result if North Korea comes with the intention of maintaining its nuclear weapons.

Tillerson also continued to push for Chinese help in keeping pressure on North Korea because of their special economic relationship. He said the North Korean problem is not China's fault, but China must help create conditions for productive talks.

China is the North's biggest trading partner and food and fuel aid source. Chinese companies also have a virtual monopoly on investment in North Korea's economy, particularly natural resources.

U.S. President Donald Trump has grown increasingly frustrated by what he says is China's reluctance to rein in North Korea. "I am very disappointed in China. Our foolish past leaders have allowed them to make hundreds of billions of dollars a year in trade," Trump tweeted recently, "yet ... they do NOTHING for us with North Korea, just talk."

"We will no longer allow this to continue," he added. "China could easily solve this problem!"

China says it shouldn't be held responsible for resolving the North Korean nuclear standoff alone and has said other countries are shirking their responsibilities in the effort to reduce tensions. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Akira Fukatsu, a 65-year-old retiree, sits in front of a replica cannon in Verry Park in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo

KOREAN CRISIS

North missile tests spook neighbors, but 'what to do?'

Mari Yamaguchi, Kim Tong-Hyung and Emily Wang, Yokosuka

NORTH Korea's flurry of missile launches — 20 of them just in the past year — is a new and alarming fact of life for Japan and its other neighbors.

But Pyongyang's recent demonstrations of its capacity to launch intercontinental ballistic missiles, while worrying, are drawing shrugs from many in the region who reckon there's not much anyone can do about them.

"We have no idea when and where (a missile) would strike. Honestly, I don't think there is any way to prepare for it," Akira Fukatsu, a 65-year-old retiree, said as he sat drinking a beer on a bench in a park overlooking a U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo. "We're simply unlucky if one strikes here."

Many Japanese, South Koreans and Chinese appear to share that sense of resignation over North Korea's apparent newfound capacity to launch missiles capable of reaching much of the continental United States.

The July 4 firing of a Hwa-

song-14 ICBM, its first test, and another last weekend suggest that major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago are within range of North Korean weapons. Such missiles could be armed with nuclear, biological or chemical warheads, although many experts say North Korea hasn't fully mastered miniaturizing nuclear warheads and might not have the technology to ensure a warhead would survive re-entry into the atmosphere from space or even hit an intended target.

Attitudes in Japan, South Korea and China toward the threat vary, but likely reflect a sangfroid partly born of living with the legacy of the Cold War and ever present risks of huge earthquakes and other natural disasters.

JAPAN

Many Japanese have mixed feelings about the latest developments, viewing them as a sign that by focusing on ICBM development, North Korea's aggression is directed toward the U.S. rather than Japan, even if test launches have been splashing down off Japan's coast.

"Japan was within range of North Korean missiles even

before their range extended recently," said Tetsuharu Nagashima, an official in charge of emergency response in Yokosuka, which is home to some of the 50,000 American troops stationed in U.S. ally Japan, as well as a Japanese naval base.

Instructions on the local government website tell people to take refuge in strong buildings or underground shopping arcades in case of attack, and to hit the ground and cover their heads if no such shelter is nearby.

Unlike some communities that have held drills and drawn up contingency plans, Nagashima said Yokosuka had no plan to conduct evacuation drills.

Misaki Honna, the mother of a 10-month-old girl, said suggestions that Yokosuka might be targeted because of the U.S. and Japanese military presence were troubling.

"But even if we flee, we wouldn't know where to go. If a missile strikes, there's almost nothing you can do about it," she said.

Eiko Miyauchi, 83, endured U.S. fire-bombings during World War II. As a child, she was evacuated from the coast and took shelter in an underground

bunker as bombs rained down.

"I lived through the war, and I can't imagine anything being as scary as that one," she said.

SOUTH KOREA

Living just across the Demilitarized Zone from North Korea, South Koreans are famously laid back about its displays of military might.

But while life continues as usual and there's no visible panic on the streets, at least some South Koreans are starting to question whether North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles may have become bigger problems than anyone wants to admit.

"South Koreans have been too relaxed," said Yang Seung-jun, noting that missile launches show North Korea could attack the South at any time. "It's our choice to laugh it off and say 'North Korea can't do that,' or the 'United Nations will sanction them'... But war never happens when we expect it to," he said.

Some South Koreans who spoke to The Associated Press in the capital Seoul expressed frustration over decades of failed efforts by Seoul and Washington to dissuade Pyongyang from

pursuing its nuclear ambitions.

Park Sun-hee, the mother of three, the youngest an 8-year-old boy, said she doesn't fret over every missile launch. It's obviously difficult to be in perpetual panic over the same belligerent neighbor who has been there for decades, especially while living in one of Asia's most competitive societies.

Still, she does worry about the future.

"I am thinking about moving to another country," Park said. "I already lived half my life now, but I have children who still need to grow, and I wonder whether this country will be safe for them."

Some South Korean experts fear that development of a fully functional ICBM by the North might undermine their country's alliance with the U.S., citing concerns that Washington may hesitate to defend the South if hostilities break out between the rival Koreas, which have never signed a peace treaty after the 1950-53 Korean War.

Others, like Yang, think newly elected liberal President Moon Jae-in should be tougher on Pyongyang.

In the meantime, many are just busy heading to foreign getaways and the beaches for their summer holidays. Like Moon, who took the week off for his summer vacation, they have sun and surf on their minds.

CHINA

China's relatively blase response to North Korea's missile tests reflects the belief that they do not pose a grave threat to Beijing, even if Beijing dislikes Pyongyang's defiance.

Alissa Chen, a teacher, said she thought it unlikely a North Korean missile would strike China. "But we can't rule out this possibility, after all, with the North Koreans it's hard to figure them out so it's difficult to say," Chen said. "But I have always thought they shouldn't act too rashly."

Beijing tends to object more vehemently to North Korean nuclear tests that have at times rocked buildings in northeastern China and raised worries over radioactive fallout and other unintended consequences, though President Xi Jinping's government appears unwilling to expend much effort or political capital to address North Korea's actions.

"There are heavy industrial cities in the northeast, that is our concern," said Li Shuangsheng, a retiree walking past a subway exit in downtown Beijing.

Li Jiahua, a medical company employee in Beijing, said he was confident China's own growing military muscle and its historical alliance with the fellow communist state would deter threats from Pyongyang.

"I'm not worried about this. China is now so strong and the foreign policy China has pursued has been to unite our neighbors," Li said. **AP**

USA

No lie, says Sanders: Trump got praise from Mexico, Scouts

Laurie Kellman, Washington

FAKE news or fib? Two phone calls described by President Donald Trump that didn't actually happen represent the latest chapter in a long-running series of disputes revolving around the president's rocky relationship with facts.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders yesterday [Macau time] found herself explaining that compliments Trump had described receiving in phone calls from the Mexican president and the Boy Scouts did happen — just not on the phone.

"I wouldn't say it was a lie. That's a pretty bold accusation," she told reporters. "The conversations took place, they just simply didn't take place over a phone call. [...] He had them in person."

The noncalls weren't earth-shattering news. But they fit a pattern that also involves weightier issues and that has raised larger questions about Trump's credibility six months into his presidency.

After Donald Trump Jr. put out a statement, later shown to be misleading, about his meeting with a Russian lawyer in 2016, the president's outside lawyer was categorical that the president had no role in drafting the statement. But when The Washington Post later reported that the president had dictated the statement for his son, Sanders acknowledged that Trump had "weighed in" on his son's statement "as any father would based on the limited information that he had."



White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders (left) and senior policy adviser Stephen Miller during the daily briefing at the White House

Polls, history and other research leave open the question of how impressions of Trump's truthfulness affect his job approval, which hovers around a third of Americans.

Trump won the presidential election despite having promoted false claims such as the notion that President Barack Obama was born outside the U.S. (he was born in Hawaii) and that Hillary Clinton had started the rumor (she didn't).

The campaign featured another instance when Trump said someone told him something that the person then denied. Candidate Trump last summer claimed the NFL had complained to him that the presidential debate schedule competed with football games. The NFL denied that.

A Quinnipiac poll released Wednesday found that

for all of the economic and other progress Trump claims, just 33 percent of Americans approve of the job he's doing, similar to the results of a survey conducted in June by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Only 34 percent of the Quinnipiac poll respondents say that Trump is "honest."

"We've been through so much of this," said Ethan Porter, an assistant professor of media and public affairs at George Washington University, who co-authored a study released last month into whether false information and corrections change people's attitudes toward candidates. In Trump's case, he said, "People probably learned to discount additional instances" of falsehoods, adding: "It's already baked in the cake where you sort of know

what you're getting with Donald Trump at this point."

Sanders was responding to questions about a statement from the Mexican government denying what Trump described as a recent phone call with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. Trump said earlier this week that Pena Nieto had called him to praise his immigration policies.

"Even the president of Mexico called me. They said their southern border, very few people are coming because they know they're not going to get through our border, which is the ultimate compliment," Trump said Monday.

Sanders said Trump had been "referencing a conversation that they had had at the G-20 summit where they specifically talked about the issues that he referenced."

Mexico's Foreign Relations

Department said Pena Nieto remarked to Trump during a July 7 meeting at the G-20 summit in Germany that deportations of Mexicans from the United States had fallen 31 percent between January and June, as compared with 2016. Pena Nieto said 47 percent fewer Central American migrants had entered Mexico in that period.

The conversations took place, they just simply didn't take place over a phone call.

SARAH SANDERS
WHITE HOUSE

Meanwhile, the Boy Scouts denied that the head of the youth organization called Trump to shower praise on his politically aggressive speech to its national jamboree in West Virginia. President Randall Stephenson and Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh later apologized to members of the scouting community who were offended by Trump's political rhetoric.

Trump told The Wall Street Journal in an interview last week, "I got a call from the head of the Boy Scouts saying it was the greatest speech that was ever made to them, and they were very thankful." Politico published the transcript of the interview Tuesday.

Sanders said the president was making reference to "multiple members of the Boy Scout leadership" who "congratulated him, praised him and offered quite powerful compliments following his speech." AP

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BRAZIL

President dodges bribery charge, but risks remain

WITH his job on the line, President Michel Temer eked out a victory in a congressional vote over a bribery charge against him that has fueled angst and anger across Latin America's largest nation.

But there are more legal woes ahead and clear chinks in his governing coalition, so Temer will have little time to celebrate.

Members of Congress' lower house, the Chamber of Deputies, voted 263-227 against suspending the president and sending him for trial before Brazil's highest court.

The result effectively suspended the bribery charge, which was filed by Attorney General Ricardo Janot in June. However, Janot is expected to charge Temer with obstruction of justice by the end of this month, which would prompt another vote that even Temer's most stalwart supporters would rather not have to go through as elections loom next year.

In a troubling sign for Temer, the 263 votes cast in support of him fell far short of the crucial 308, or 60 percent of the 513-member body, that he needs to pass an overhaul of the pension system. It is an unpopular



President Michel Temer gives a statement at Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia

proposal supported by the business class, which has helped keep an otherwise deeply unpopular leader in power.

"This is far from over," said Rafael Salies, a risk consultant with the Rio de Janeiro-based Southern Pulse. "August may still have many surprises in store for him."

The vote on the bribery charge came after a full day of procedural wrangling by the opposition, maneuvers intended to stall and force legislators to vote in the evening, when many Brazilians were home and able to watch the proceedings being broadcast live. The moves may have worked.

While Temer's opponents made

impassioned speeches about the need for him to go, many supporters said nothing beyond the minimum to procedurally cast their vote. The measure was before the chamber because by Brazilian law a sitting president cannot be tried without the approval of the lower house, which is considered the conduit for the voice of the people.

Throughout the day, there was shouting and even periodic pushing between lawmakers.

"Temer is a crook and he needs to sort out his situation with the Justice Department," said Elvino Bohn Gass, a member of the Workers' Party, one of the main opposition parties. "Brazil should not be governed by a gang of thugs."

"Brazil can't change presidents three times in one year," said Sergio Moraes, making a common argument among Temer supporters that it was worth keeping him for the sake of stability. "He will be investigated later."

A year ago, Temer, then vice president, took office after Dilma Rousseff was impeached and removed as president for improperly handling government finances.

Since becoming president, his administration has been rocked by repeated scandals while still managing to move unpopular legislation forward, such as a loosening of labor rules and the proposals to trim pension benefits.

All the while, his popularity has plunged. The latest national poll said just 5 percent of Brazilians approve of Temer while the vast majority said he should be tried for the bribery allegation.

Thanking the lower chamber for the "eloquent decision," Temer said yesterday [Macau time] it was time for his government to return its focus to reforms.

"I won't rest until Dec. 31, 2018," he said, referring to the end of his term.

The bribery allegation stunned even Brazilians inured to graft. AP

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FRIDAY

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeat)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:50 RTPi Live
- 18:50 Now Generation (Repeated)
- 19:40 Soap Opera (PT)
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
- 21:00 Miscellaneous
- 21:15 Miscellaneous
- 22:10 Now Generation
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 One Championship: Heroes Of The World 2016
- 02:00 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
- 02:30 RTPi Live

SATURDAY

- 10:40 Comedy
- 11:10 Blaze Riders
- 11:35 Chefs
- 12:30 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
- 15:00 Miscellaneous
- 16:20 Soap Opera (PT)
- 19:20 Miscellaneous
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
- 21:00 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 21:10 Drama (PT)
- 22:10 Comedy - Final
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Miscellaneous
- 00:35 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
- 01:10 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
- 19:35 Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
- 19:40 Soap Opera
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
- 21:00 Time Travel
- 22:00 Vidago Palace
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:50 Europe 30
- 00:15 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
- 00:50 RTPi Live

Offbeat

GERMAN COURT RULES AGAINST 'SPAGHETTI MONSTER CHURCH'

A German court has ruled that local authorities are entitled to prevent a group calling itself the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster from advertising its "noodle Masses" at the entrance to an eastern town.



Screenshot of a "Certificate of Ordination" of a "Pastafarian Minister" taken from the "church" website yesterday

It's standard practice in Germany for small signs at the entrance to towns to announce there's a Lutheran or Catholic church and detail when it holds services. The "Spaghetti Monster" group, an organization that criticizes religion as intolerant, wanted permission to do the same in Templin, northeast of Berlin.

News agency dpa reported that the Brandenburg state court ruled this week the group can't claim the rights of a religious or philosophical community. Judges said its criticism of others' beliefs doesn't constitute a philosophy.

The group says that it's a humanist organization and plans to appeal.

cinema

CINETEATRO

3 Aug - 9 Aug

DORAEMON THE MOVIE 2017

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:15PM
Director: Atsushi Takahashi
Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 101min



WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 1
9:15pm
Director: Matt Reeves
Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 140min



THE EMOJI MOVIE

ROOM 2
2:15, 5:45, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Tony Leondis
Starring: T.J. Miller, James Corden, Anna Faris
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 86min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 2
4:00pm
Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin
Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 90min



47 METERS DOWN

ROOM 3
2:15, 6:00, 9:45pm
Director: Johannes Roberts
Starring: Mandy Moore, Claire Holt, Mathew Modine
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 89min



CARS 3

ROOM 3
4:00, 7:45pm
Director: Brian Fee
Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 102min

this day in history

MISSING CALL FBI

THE FBI IS SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ON JUNE 21, 1964. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE GOODMAN, CHANEY, AND SCHWERNER, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ANDREW GOODMAN	JAMES EARL CHANEY	MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER
RACE: White	Negro	White
SEX: Male	Male	Male
DOB: November 23, 1943	May 30, 1943	November 6, 1939
POB: New York City	Meridian, Mississippi	New York City
AGE: 20 years	21 years	24 years
HEIGHT: 5'10"	5'7"	5'9" to 5'10"

1964 THREE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FOUND DEAD

The bodies of three civil rights workers missing for six weeks have been found buried in a partially constructed dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation found the three young men - two white and one black man - about six miles from the town in a wooded area near where they were last seen on the night of 21 June.

They were Michael Schwerner, aged 24, Andrew Goodman, 20, both from New York and James Chaney, 22, from Meridian, Mississippi. All were members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) dedicated to non-violent direct action against racial discrimination.

As soon as the men were reported missing, the case was made top priority and codenamed Miburn (Mississippi burning). FBI agents headed by Major Case Inspector Joseph Sullivan were sent down to Mississippi to investigate the matter.

After a tip-off they found the mens' burnt-out car two days after their disappearance.

The bodies have been taken to Jackson, Mississippi, for further examination into the cause of death. It is believed all three had been shot and the finger of blame is pointing at the Ku Klux Klan white supremacist group.

The three young men had left the CORE office in Meridian six weeks ago to investigate the destruction of a black congregation church in Longdale, Neshoba County because it was used as the site for a "freedom school".

The school was set up by Mr Schwerner as part of a wider civil rights campaign in Mississippi teaching black children, among other things, black history and the philosophy of the civil rights movement.

The Mount Zion Church was burned down on 16 June by members of the KKK searching for Mr Schwerner.

His wife, Rita, made an emotional statement to newspapers today.

She said: "My husband, Michael Schwerner, did not die in vain. If he and Andrew Goodman had been negroes, the world would have taken little notice of their deaths."

"After all, the slaying of a negro in Mississippi is not news. It is only because my husband and Andrew Goodman were white that the national alarm had been sounded."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 13 October 1964 James Jordan, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, told FBI agents he had witnessed the murder and was willing to testify. A total of 19 men were arrested and charged.

On 24 February 1967 Judge William Cox dismissed 17 of the 19 indictments but he was overruled by the Supreme Court and the so-called Mississippi Burning trial took place in October 1967.

It emerged that the three young men had been arrested by Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price on 21 June, then released from Neshoba jail in the middle of the night and attacked and killed by the KKK as they drove out of town.

Among those convicted were Deputy Sheriff Price, who got six years in jail. Ku Klux Klan leader Sam Bowers and KKK member Wayne Roberts were sentenced to 10 years each.

A film based on the FBI investigation was made in 1988 called Mississippi Burning.

In June 2005 Edgar Ray Killen, 80, was convicted of recruiting the killers. Killen was sentenced to 60 years in jail for the three manslaughters.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 The folks you're associating with have been absolutely enjoying your company and truly learning from you.

Taurus April 20-May 20 As usual, you have a specific plan and a definite goal in mind. You'll be especially focused on making this idea become a reality, and you'll be convinced it can actually happen.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 A family member who tried to spring a surprise on you yesterday will be treated to at least the same shock today - coming right back at them.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A certain someone you love is much too far away for your taste. Since you can't perform miracles, there's only one thing to do: Pick up the phone and do some serious damage to your long-distance bill.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've never been good at buckling down and doing what the powers that be command you to do. In fact, you're ordinarily much better at being contrary - but now you seem to be on the same side.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Don't even take the chance that you won't catch the phone on the fourth ring. Answer it after three rings, at the very most. Even if you catch their name on the caller ID, just wait. You'll definitely want to hear this.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 In the mood to play around? Definitely not. Thinking about getting serious with someone you're thinking might just be toying with you? Definitely - because you just can't believe it's true.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You can't put your finger on it - not exactly - but you can tell something is going on you didn't know about. You won't mind unless whoever was supposed to be on your side suddenly seems to have defected.

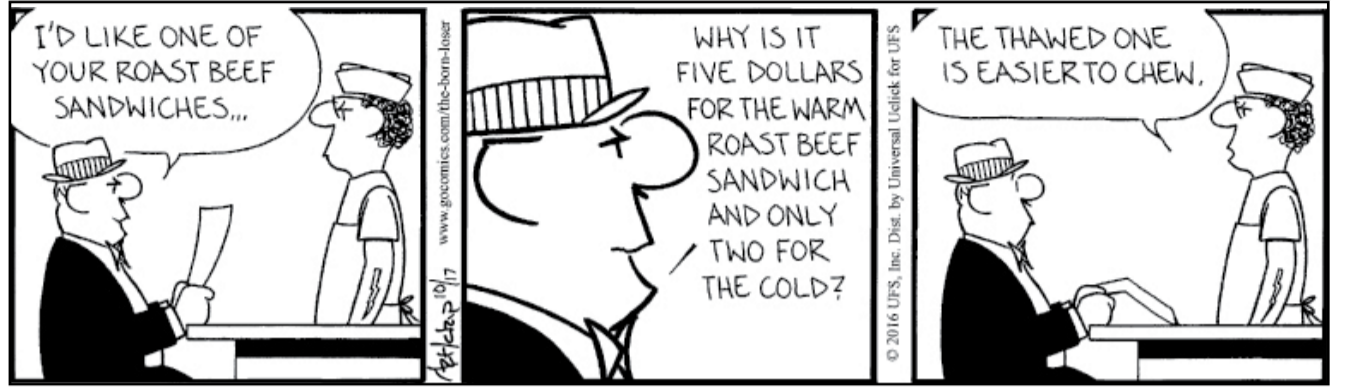
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You don't need to worry about that hangnail - or any other trivial issue that's been on your mind - any more. Whatever was bothering you will quite quickly be over and done with soon.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Secrets, whispers and intrigue are the specials the cosmic menu is offering up today and that will suit you just fine for once. Ordinarily, you're a big fan of doing things in the most direct manner possible.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Everyone you usually hang with will urge you to go out tonight and tip back a few green ales. If you're not in the mood, though, don't force yourself. It won't hurt you to miss one gathering with the usual suspects.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Secrets are usually the easiest thing in the world for you to manage. You just decide you won't talk about them, and that's it. They disappear from your memory.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

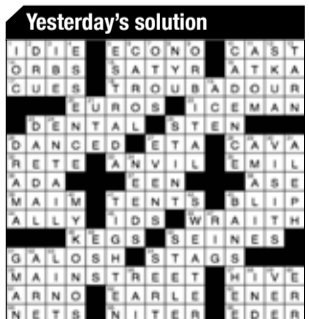
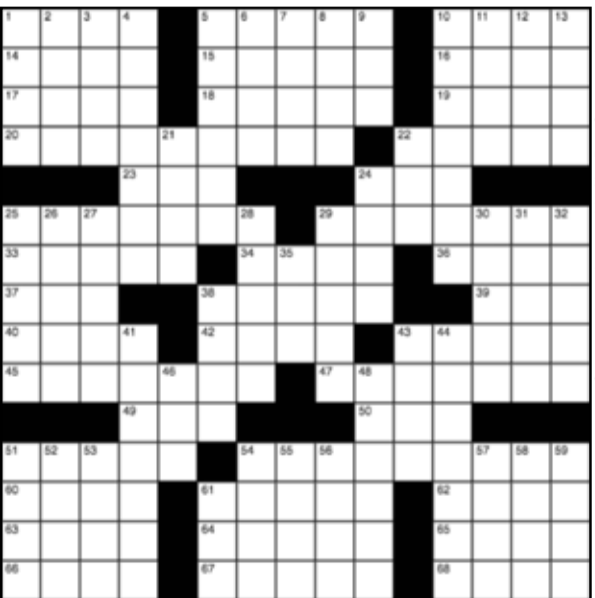
Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Prayer ender; 5- Patriot Allen; 10- Flying stinger; 14- Strike out; 15- Currency unit in Nigeria; 16- Space; 17- Dedicated to the ___ Love; 18- Go off-script; 19- Horse of mixed color; 20- Republic in N Central America; 22- Tiny particles; 23- Get a move on; 24- Certain Ivy Leaguer; 25- Regal; 29- Creatures; 33- Previn or Watts; 34- Othello villain; 36- Fencing sword; 37- Draw; 38- Gumbo pods; 39- Adam's madam; 40- ___ time (never); 42- Cried; 43- Dog-___ (like some used books); 45- Dwells; 47- Goes by; 49- ___ Cruces; 50- Discount rack abbr.; 51- Adult; 54- Self-control; 60- Without full use of a leg; 61- Polynesian porch; 62- Mexican money; 63- And others, briefly; 64- Anticipate; 65- Swear words; 66- ___ Grey, tea type; 67- Bring forth from the egg; 68- ___-Ball (arcade game);



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Real estate listings for various units in Macau, including Old Taipa, Chun Hung Garden, Lok Pou Macau, and Pou Long Fa Un T5. Each listing includes details like size, price, and features.

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Spanish league: Neymar lawyer tries to pay release clause

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

NEYMAR has made his first getaway attempt. The Spanish league said yesterday that representatives of Neymar tried unsuccessfully to pay the 222 million euro (USD262 million) buyout clause that would release the Brazil star from his contract with Barcelona and clear his signing for Paris Saint-Germain.

But the league refused to accept the payment and won't act as an intermediary for the player, an official told The Associated Press. League president Javier Tebas said on Wednesday that the league wouldn't help the forward leave for PSG because it considers that the money funding the move breaks UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules.

The league's refusal does not stop Neymar's exit from Barcelona as the money can be paid directly to the club.

The payment of the clause would shatter the previous world record transfer of 105 million euros (then \$116 million) that Manchester United paid for France midfielder Paul Pogba last year.

Barcelona declined to comment on the league's refusal to accept the payment when contacted by the AP.

The Spanish league offi-

cial said that Juan de Dios Crespo, a Spanish lawyer representing Neymar, arrived at the league offices accompanied by three Brazilians with the intention of depositing the buyout clause. The official spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity in line with league policy.

■ The payment of the clause would shatter the previous world record transfer of 105 million euros

Television images showed Neymar's representatives remaining tightlipped as they worked their way through a crowd of journalists upon entering and leaving the league offices in Madrid.

Neymar ended weeks of silence by telling Barcelona's executives, players and coach on Wednesday that his intention was to leave the club after four seasons. His representative, Wagner Ribeiro, then confirmed the widespread speculation that had been building all summer that PSG was willing to pay the

record sum to trigger the release clause.

Barcelona spokesman Josep Vives said that the club would not negotiate and would demand the full payment of the clause. Last year, Neymar signed a new contract with Barcelona that tied him to the Catalan club through 2021.

Tebas told Spanish sports daily AS on Wednesday that he believes PSG breaks UEFA's FFP rules because its Qatari owners are closely linked to the energy-rich ruling family.

"We won't accept the money from a club like PSG which doesn't belong to la Liga ... and especially when it is breaking laws and rules," Tebas told AS, claiming "the case of PSG is a clear example of financial doping by a state-supported club."

PSG president Nasser Al-Khalaifi declined to comment on the Spanish league's decision to refuse payment when asked about the issue at a charity event where he met with French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday.

Macron took the opportunity to tell PSG's boss "congratulations, I understand there's been some good news" regarding Neymar's imminent arrival. France's budget minister also had reason to celebrate. Gerald Darmanin told France-Inter radio "It's better that this football player pays his

taxes in France than elsewhere."

Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas launched a barb at his big-spending rival in his message posted on Twitter: "Congrats to Nasser for the realization of this worldwide unique operation: I'm impatient to know about the real costs of the operation."

At 25 years old, Neymar is already one of football's top talents.

Neymar scored 105 goals playing alongside Lionel Messi and was a key playmaker for Barcelona as it won a Champions League, two Spanish leagues, three Copa del Reys, one Club World Cup, a UEFA Super Cup and two Spanish Super Cups. **AP**

BASKETBALL | MACAU

Asia League makes debut this September



THE beginning of the new Asian professional basketball tournament will be celebrated in Macau at Studio City Event Center from September 20 to 24, where eight of Asia's top teams will come together for an invitational tournament.

The federation includes eight clubs from five countries, all of which were champion contenders in their domestic leagues, according to a statement issued by Asia league.

In addition to full domestic player rosters, each team will be permitted to import two players.

Supported by the Sports Bureau (ID) and the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Asia League stated that it intends to use the inaugural 2017 tournament to position itself as Asia Pacific's premier club-to-club competition platform. The winner of this tournament will be crowned as the region's champion.

After the first tournament, the scale of competitions in 2018 will be expanded to include more

top-level teams.

Asia League's founders and management team have designed a first-of-its-kind commercial model for Asian cross-border basketball competition, the statement noted.

Participating teams in Asia League's inaugural tournament include: China's Shenzhen Leopard and Zhejiang Guangsha Lions; Japan's Chiba Jets and Ryukyu Golden Kings; Goyang Orions and Samsung Thunders of South Korea; Philippines' Gilas Pilipinas and Taiwan's Fubon Braves.

The teams will be divided into two groups of four, each playing three round-robin games.

With 16 games to be played in total, the best two teams from each group will advance to the top four, which will played the following day in a winner-takes-all style semi-finals and finals.

Asia League's live streaming broadcast will be available on primetime TV and digital platforms in all Asia League markets and across the globe.

AD

Join the fight against Dengue Fever



Do not litter to prevent accumulation of water



Pots and vases for evergreen, lucky bamboo and other aquatic plants should be scrubbed, cleaned and have water changed at least once a week



Pot plant saucers should be scrubbed, cleaned and have water removed weekly



Drains should be kept free of blockages

opinion

Kapok
 Eric Sautedé



THE BICKERERS

The contrast is quite shocking really: on the one hand, legislators who are either appointed or not even elected, but rather endorsed by corporations and traditional associations according to a method of selection in which one name corresponds to one seat — highly competitive indeed — and on the other hand truly elected members of that very same assembly, who have fought very hard to win their seat, and who will take every opportunity and use any mean to make the best out of this unique and very circumscribed forum of democratic debate to oversee, somehow control and to a certain degree make the whole system slightly accountable to the people of Macao.

And yet, the former are giving the latter lessons in solemnity! Complaining that posters and piles of paper cups with challenging messages directed towards the government are being detrimental to the dignity of this otherwise perfectly independent and reason-inspired body of “small circle” representatives who know only one thing: to vote in favor of whatever the government wants as long as their interests are preserved, even when they don't actually understand and measure the ultimate consequences of the new laws.

The Land Law is but one example, but what an enlightening one it is! Conservative loyalists and self-serving legislators just realized a few months back that the law they had passed — “solemnly” one should add — in 2013 was actually making land grantees accountable for land they had failed to develop — usually after more than 25 years — and thus was somehow hurting either their own interests or the ones of their clients. They wanted (and still want) the law to be changed, or at least amended, or at the very least interpreted... in their favor of course!

The government they usually follow so blindly is now being deemed responsible for not explaining the ins-and-outs of article 48 — the non-renewal of concessions in case of failure to develop and operate, for being too slow in drafting an urban plan, for not providing the necessary authorizations in due course... in short, for fooling them! How can that be when they are supposedly one and the same? What a sense of betrayal they must have felt when the Chief Executive announced that he “strongly rejected” any amendment of the law! Mutiny was in the air. Article 75 of the Basic Law was being brandished: after all, a bill can be introduced by a legislator or a group of them if it does not relate to “public expenditure, political structure or the operation of the government”! Truly, a matter of rule of law and separation of powers! Montesquieu-inspired for sure. How solemn! How noble!

Luckily for us, the government learnt a lesson in May 2014, when it ended up being challenged by the street over the so-called Perks' bill. Back then the proposal of law was favoring government officials themselves, and especially a soon-to-be-replaced highly unpopular governmental team widely perceived as both indecisive and incompetent. The mistake had been to trust the very same legislators who are now asking for the land law to be amended: for these people, anything goes and public opinion is of little consequence. Not being returned by universal suffrage, they are convinced that their own ceremonial hold over society through their positions in richly endowed associations can subvert any resistance, no matter how legitimate and prevalent it is.

Let it linger then; let it rot and wait for the right opportunity to change the rules of the game. Greed is acceptable only as long as it does not find echoes in unfairness. Apart for Zheng Anting who appears to be completely out of touch with public sentiment, nobody toys with mutiny claims anymore. The Chief Executive visits the Assembly and boasts about the generosity of the central authorities and his own accomplishments, and all the loyal legislators can do is ask for better-trained civil servants, more facilities for the elderly or free education for all in universities. Why and how? Only the frivolous poster and cardboard holders seem to care.

THE BUZZ **ROBERT HARDY, CORNELIUS FUDGE IN 'HARRY POTTER', DIES**

Robert Hardy, a veteran British stage and screen actor who played Minister for Magic Cornelius Fudge in the “Harry Potter” movies, has died. He was 91.

His family said Hardy died Thursday after “a tremendous life: a giant career in theater, television and film spanning more than 70 years.”

Born in 1925, Hardy began his career in Shakespearean roles onstage in Stratford-upon-Avon in the years after World War II.

Between 1978 and 1990 he played eccentric veterinarian Siegfried Farnon in “All Creatures Great and Small,” a popular TV series based on James Herriot's books about rural life in the Yorkshire Dales.

Hardy played British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in half a dozen films and TV series, including the miniseries “Winston Churchill: The Wilderness Years” and “War and Remembrance.” He played U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Churchill's wartime ally, in both British and French TV series.

In a statement, Hardy's family said he was also “a meticulous linguist, a fine artist, a lover of music and a champion of literature, as well a highly respected historian, and a leading specialist on the longbow.” They said he was also part of the team that raised Tudor warship the Mary Rose, which sank off England's south coast in 1545.

COSTA DA CAPARICA

Small plane crash-lands on packed Portuguese beach, kills two



People walk past a small plane resting by the sea after an emergency landing at Sao Joao beach in Costa da Caparica, outside Lisbon

A light plane made an emergency landing on a packed beach near Lisbon yesterday [Macau time], killing a 56-year-old man and an 8-year-old girl who were sunbathing, authorities said.

Hundreds of sunbathers were on the popular beach at Caparica, 30 kilometers south of Lisbon, and witnesses said some sunbathers ran into the sea to avoid the plane.

The National Maritime Authority said the man and

girl died on the beach. Officials said they were not aware of any injured.

The small aircraft, reportedly a Cessna, carrying two people appeared to be in difficulty and wobbled as it skimmed low over the sunbathers, scattering them and spreading panic on the beach, witnesses said.

The plane appeared to have a partly broken left wing, which hung lower than the right wing, Portuguese television pictures showed. Officials said the

accident occurred at 4:50 p.m. Wednesday.

The dead girl was with her parents, who were unhurt, witnesses told local television channels. The plane passed over the dead man's legs as he sunbathed on a towel, they said. No others were reportedly hurt.

The bodies lay covered on the sand as police cordoned off the area.

The two occupants of the plane were unhurt and were being questioned by police. AP

times square by rodrigo



Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

CAMBODIA A court sentenced an Australian woman and two Cambodian associates to 1 ½ year in prison for providing commercial surrogacy services in the country.

NEW ZEALAND's auditor-general resigns amid questions over how he handled a fraud case while he was head of the nation's transport agency.



SYRIA Russia's Defense Ministry announced a cease-fire for a third safe zone in war-torn Syria yesterday, paving the way for the delivery of sorely needed humanitarian relief to rebel-held areas north of the city of Homs.



UK Producers of a new documentary about Princess Diana say it offers insight. Critics say it's nothing but exploitation. But a former bodyguard says Diana would have been pleased that candid recordings of her are being broadcast in Britain for the first time.



BRAZIL With his job on the line, President Michel Temer eked out a victory in a congressional vote over a bribery charge against him that has fueled angst and anger across Latin America's largest nation.

More on p15