



PETITION CONDEMS FONG CHI KEONG'S SPEECH

The petition now launched states that Fong Chi Keong's speech on domestic violence is "inflammatory and discriminatory"

P2



SCHOLARS STUDY IMPACT OF LRT AND CASINO INDUSTRY

P4



MILITARY TARGETS 16 OFFICIALS FOR GRAFT AS XI WIDENS PROBE

China's military announced the names of 16 senior officials who were put under investigation for graft

P10



FRI. 16
Jan 2015

T. 11°/ 20° C
H. 40/ 80%

Blackberry email service powered by CTM

Nº 2230
MOP 5.00
HKD 7.50



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

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



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Thirty-two officials in far-western China have been punished over alleged bribetaking, nepotism or other wrongdoing in the choosing of people for over-subscribed Muslim pilgrimages to the holy city of Mecca, a Communist Party commission and a state newspaper say. [More on p10](#)

PAKISTANI lawmakers are protesting the publication of images of Islam's prophet in the satirical French magazine attacked by extremists last week. State-run TV reported that the lawmakers unanimously approved a resolution condemning the publication of the images. It did not say how many legislators were on hand for the vote.

INDONESIAN navy divers try to find bodies believed to be trapped inside a large chunk of the AirAsia jet's fuselage. [More on p12](#)

INDIA An Indian novelist goes into hiding and says he has quit writing after his latest book about a woman's efforts to get pregnant with a stranger sparked virulent protests by right-wing Hindu and caste groups.



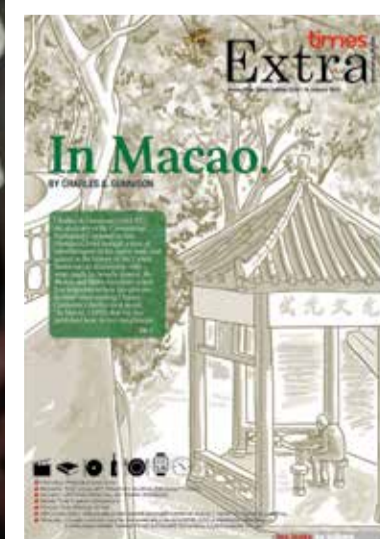
JAPAN If you are troubled, lost in life or just feel like discussing cats and Japanese baseball, visit "Mr. Murakami's Place" online. Author Haruki Murakami (pictured), notoriously publicity-shy, is taking questions and responding for the next two weeks via website.

More on backpage

Analysts predict full gaming recovery in 2016 . P3



Papal frenzy builds in Philippines as Francis arrives for visit . P12



TOURISM

Hospitality industry confident in CNY performance

João Pedro Lau

THE vice president of the Macau Hoteliers and Innkeepers Association, Kenny Cheung, predicted that hotels in Macau will be catering mainly to independent tourists over the upcoming Chinese New Year (CNY), which means that bookings will only arrive shortly before the holiday. He also expressed his confidence in the performance of hotels during the CNY golden week.

Dr Cheung said that the completion and opening of two resort projects will inject new elements into the Macau market, as well as enhance the attraction, popularity and influence of Macau. "With the new elements added, we hope the performance of the industry can remain stable, so that it can contribute



Kenny Cheung

positively to the tourism market in general," he said.

Although there has been a

slump in the number of VIP guests in casinos, Cheung said that he has yet to notice any sig-

nificant drop in hotel occupancy rates. He said that there has already been a diversification of guests in the Macau hotel industry. Even though part of the demand for hotel rooms are from the gaming industry, and the recent decrease in revenue has affected some hotels, he said that overall occupancy figures are still on a stable level.

Moreover, he pointed out that CNY is the largest festival in China, and that the market analysis indicates that independent guests will be the majority this year. "The character of independent guests is that they start their trip later and are more likely to make individual decisions on the travelling route. Therefore, like last year, the bookings [for hotel rooms] will come relatively late because group tourists are no longer do-

minating... We predicted that the peak period for people to make their booking would be the period shortly before the holiday," he said. "After analyzing the trend and looking at the experience last year, the CNY golden week will still be one of the better performing seasons in the year. Hence, we are confident in the [performance] during CNY."

Commenting on the industry's human resources issues, Cheung said that there will still be a growing demand for manpower. Although gaming revenue has been predicted to continue its decline over the first half of this year, he said that the diversification of the hospitality industry has already led to growth in non-gaming-related guest sources. As a result, he said that the industry will remain in good condition.

Furthermore, Dr Cheung suggested that the likelihood of fresh university graduates being attracted to joining the hospitality industry depends on whether the enterprises can help them with their future careers. "I think both the tourism industry and the hospitality industry are still developing, which should be attractive to fresh graduates," he said.

Petition condemning Fong Chi Keong's speech launched

A group of local associations has launched a petition condemning directly appointed lawmaker Fong Chi Keong for his comments on domestic violence, made at the Legislative Assembly earlier this week.

"I really disagree [with] the secretary's advocacy for zero-tolerance. You cannot clap with only one hand. It always takes two hands. [In cases where] the wife is chewing the husband's ear off, if the wife did not talk back when the husband reprimanded her, the husband would not have beaten her," he said during the domestic violence legislation debate.

Fong also said that he did not understand the concept of sexual assault between couples. "I do not understand what sexual assault is between husband and wife. There is no sexual assault in marriage. The purpose of marriage is to satisfy sexual needs. So, if a wife wants to have sex and her husband does not want it, is it domestic violence?"

The petition now launched - titled "We strongly condemn Fong Chi Keong's speech on domestic violence!" - states that Fong Chi Keong's speech is "inflammatory and discriminatory" and "not only offends women and men withholding the value of gender equa-



Fong Chi Keong

lity by reinforcing appalling gender stereotypes, it also aggravates violence and threatens the family and societal harmony."

"The Macao Gender Education and other supporting organizations strongly condemn Mr. Fong and request him to apologize publically for his improper speech. We also urge all members of the Macau society not to tolerate any language and behavior supporting or contributing to domestic violence," the petition reads.

Housing Bureau head says 'everyone should have a roof over their head'

THE new Housing Bureau (IH) director Ieong Kam Wa took office yesterday. He stated that the bureau now needs to focus on the follow-up of the three rounds of public housing applications in 2013, while simultaneously continuing the review and amendment of the public housing regime.

Ieong, who is the former IH deputy director, said that the assignment of the government-promised 19,000 public housing units was completed in 2013. Regarding the delays in individual projects due to technical restrictions and safety reasons, the authorities have requested the Public Works department to catch up with the schedule, so as to minimize the delay on residents' moving in.

"The goal of the MSAR government's housing policy is 'to enable everyone to have a roof over their

head and to live and work in peace and contentment," he said at the inauguration ceremony.

"The IH holds fast to supporting low-income households to solve their housing needs as its priority of work and performs its duty of assigning and administrating public housing resources in accordance with the law," he stressed.

According to Ieong, the bureau received over 42,000 applications for affordable housing units last year, and that over ten thousand of them needed to supplement required information.

He further stated that the affordable housing law is expected to be partially amended within this year, streamlining the procedure for residents to move into their assigned units.

"The IH has started internal analysis last year [on the review of the cur-

rent public housing policy]. We also discussed the direction for law amendment with the Public Housing Affairs Committee," he told the media, adding that the working arrangements will be revealed in March when the government's Policy Address is released.

The director further indicated that the IH will continue promoting the amendment of the laws and regulations on the management of buildings, as well as supervising the practice of real estate agencies.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário. He acknowledged that several leadership positions under the Secretariat are still vacant, which will affect the ongoing public works. The vacancies will be filled gradually. **BY**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo
 MDT's Website has logged over
85 million page views
 since January 1st, 2012 up to today.
 Thank You!
 Like us? facebook.com/mdtimes

MacauDaily Times
DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com
DESIGN EDITOR João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | **NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS** Albano Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, João Pedro Lau, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | **SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION
ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues:
 general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

GAMING

CLSA predicts 22 pct GGR boost in 2016

João Pedro Lau

CREDIT Lyonnais Securities Asia's (CLSA) regional head of consumer and gaming research Aaron Fischer says that 2015 will be another "tough year" for Macau, with the gross gaming revenue (GGR) of the city expected to head further south. However, Fischer predicts that recovery will start in the second half of 2015, following the completion and opening of several casino resort projects, and he believes the figures will turn around in 2016.

Speaking at the Global Gaming Expo 2015 press conference yesterday, held in the City of Dreams resort, Mr Fischer described last year as "the perfect storm" for Macau, with various issues putting pressure on gaming revenue. He believes that the biggest problem in 2014 was the lack of new hotel rooms and gaming tables, resulting in an inability to meet new demand. He also named the anti-corruption campaign in China, the changes in immigration policy, and the slowdown of the Chinese economy as other factors that contributed to last year's fall in revenue.

Fischer said that they forecasted a weak performance in the gaming section in the first half of this year, with a GGR year-on-year drop of 29 percent in the first quarter and



Aaron Fischer

20 percent in the second quarter. "Unfortunately, we've had some very weak revenue data come out over the last six to nine months. We think that's going to continue for the first six months of this year. In fact, the first quarter will be among the worst months on record...We think February will represent the trough of the bad news because in February 2014, that was the record [high] month and the growth rate was up 40 percent," he said.

He spoke to the media on the sidelines of the event and predicted that the GGR in 2015 will be down by 9 percent year-on-year. Nevertheless, he believes that this year will be "a tale of two halves," with the first half's GGR down by 20 to 30 percent and some recovery in the second half of the year. "One of the main drivers for the improvement in news flow is the opening of new projects. So we have Galaxy opening phase two in the third quarter of this year, and then we have Melco Crown opening the Studio City project. And after that we have the Parisian opened by the Sands, [as well as Wynn's and MGM's]... These new projects are going to start accelerating the growth rate in Macau. So the beginning of 2015 will be a bit difficult, second half [of the year] and year 2016 will be a fantastic year," he said, adding that there will likely be an overall 22 percent

■ GGR in 2015 will be down by 9 percent y-o-y, CLSA predicts

GGR growth next year.

Furthermore, the analyst suggested that the increase in hotel rooms is a crucial factor in driving up Macau's gaming revenue. He noted that the hotel room occupancy rate is very high, indicating a strong demand, with people who want to spend a night here unable to secure a room.

Nevertheless, he said that "the glory days are over" and people will not see another annual GGR growth rate of up to 40 to 50 percent like in 2010 and 2011, as the base is already very high. "Those days [with] very high growth [rates] are definitely behind us. We will start seeing more normalized growth rates going forward, which would probably average in the next few years somewhere in the teens, between 10 to 15 percent", he said.

Fischer also claimed that the revenue generated by VIP guests, which has been the major force pushing the city's gaming revenue upward, has already peaked, and the future of Macau lies in the mass market in casino and non-gaming sectors.

Even though he conceded that the investment return for the new projects in Macau is dropping, he said that it is still three times higher than the global average.

In terms of developing the non-gaming sector in the city, Fischer said that it is a good policy for the government to encourage casino operators to invest in non-gaming items by rewarding them with extra gaming tables if they meet the administration's demand. "The government doesn't have to spend money on the [developing the non-gaming sector] themselves. They can ask the casino operators to spend the money on the activities," he suggested, adding that this strategy works well in other markets such as Singapore. He also predicted that during the renewal of the gaming concession, the government will favor the gaming concessionaires who have put effort into developing non-gaming

projects. He thinks that all six licenses will be renewed, although he is not sure whether there will be a seventh. "Maybe there could be one license issued to one of the local companies here. There has been talk of Macau Legend getting one of the licenses, but it's [still just] rumors," he said. "For the most part, I think it is going to be the status quo, with these six licenses renewed. But there might be changes in terms. Our best guess is the gaming tax increases, from maybe 39 percent up to 43 percent."

In addition, the consultant said that while there is "no chance at all" for any Asian country to achieve a market size like Macau's, Fischer thinks that several markets have the potential to be huge, such as Japan. He described the country as "the holy grail of opportunity", with a possible market size similar to that of Macau.

DICJ REFUTES INTERNET RUMORS

THE GAMING Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) released a statement rejecting Internet rumors that claimed the government will bar local residents from entering casinos in 2016. The rumors, circulated on Facebook, suggested that Macau residents who want to work in gaming-related fields must first

be licensed by the authorities. Gaming industry workers are also prohibited from gambling. In a short statement released yesterday, DICJ denied the rumors and stated that according to a law that came into force in November 2012, people under 21 years of age are forbidden to enter casinos.

NEW FEATURES IN G2E 2015

THE G2E 2015 exhibition will take place between May 19 and 21 at the Venetian Macau. Josephine Lee, senior vice president of the event's organizer – Reed Exhibitions Greater China – revealed that this year's G2E will feature more exhibitors and highlights. Ms Lee said that the number of exhibitors will increase by 15 percent to around 150. The area of the exhibition will also increase by 30 percent. She expected that the number of participants will surge by 20 percent as well, and that more non-local participants will join the exhibition. "For example, we are going to have more participants from Philippines, Vietnam, Russia, Cambodia and India. We estimate that there will be around 10,000 participants," she said. As for the highlights, Lee said that there will be more non-gaming entertainment equipment and business solution products on display.

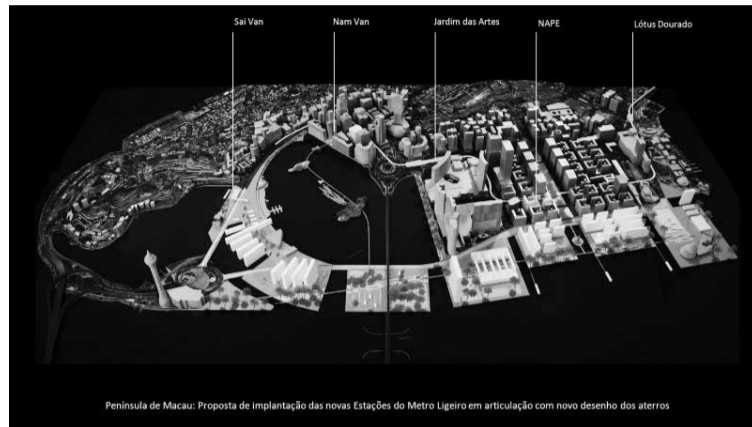
Portuguese scholars study impact of LRT and casino industry

A delegation of researchers from the University of Coimbra (UC) is expected to visit Macau between Jan 19 and 26 in order to assess the impact of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) project and, in a separate investigation, the effects of the casino industry's expansion.

Both projects are being undertaken by UC's Department of Architecture under the coordination of scholars Jorge Figueira and Nuno Grande.

According to a press release issued by the UC (the oldest Portuguese university), the research "constitutes a contribution made by the UC to the ongoing debate in Macau about urban and architectural transformation. That debate was generated by the building of new infrastructures, namely the LRT, the reclaimed parcels of land on the waterfront, and the policy of casino and gaming industry expansion."

Jorge Figueira and Nuno Grande stress that recent statements made by Beijing authorities "point out that the



The LRT's impact on the city's waterfront is under analysis

[region's] development from now on should be made in a more sustainable way in order to counter the disproportional weight of the gaming industry in the local economy and the excessive construction on the

new reclaimed land."

During their stay in Macau, the UC delegation will participate in a workshop organized in cooperation with the University of Saint Joseph and will share their architectural concepts with local institutions such as the Architects Association of Macau, the Center for Architecture and Urbanism, the Transportation Infrastructure Office, the Institute for European Studies, and the non-profit organization Docomomo Macau.

Regarding the LRT's impact on the city's waterfront, the UC

researchers will reveal the results of an investigation analyzing the historical relationship between Macau and the water that surrounds it. The researchers will use models and computerized images to present solutions linking the water and the LRT. The researchers stress that their proposals follow the work done in Macau's southern front by prominent Portuguese architects like Álvaro Siza Vieira and Manuel Vicente.

The study about the impact of the growing gaming industry in Macau aims at "analyzing the

impact of casinos in the territory, particularly their architectural features, without stylistic preconceptions," Jorge Figueira comments. Some "case studies" of casinos in Macau's peninsula and also in Cotai will be presented.

Both research studies are being undertaken as part of the "Macau-Coimbra Project" promoted by UC's Department of Architecture. The project is part of a program of cooperation in the field of creative industries between Portugal and Macau, and is financed by the European Union. **PB**

New football season kicks off with fresh lineups

THE 2015 season of Macau's top-flight football championship, Elite League, is set to kick off today with a match between team Monte Carlo and the newly-promoted team Casa de Portugal. This year, a total of ten teams will compete for the Elite League title, with some teams presenting very different lineups.

Last year's champion club Benfica Macau presented its lineup for the new season yesterday, revealing that the team has been reinforced with more experienced players. The club's director Duarte Alves stated that the team aims to "score more goals" than last season.

"We can even build a platform to help local players to achieve their goals and help elevate the level of Macau football, through leveraging the Lusophone countries' football experiences and teams," added Alves.



The director suggested that the championship this year will be more competitive, as more experienced players from overseas will join the local championship. "We need to play hard in each match and respect our opponents, whether it's a strong team or not," added Benfica's coach Bruno Álvares.

With a turnover of some of its local you-

ng players, club Monte Carlo replaced all its five foreign players with professional players from Brazil and signed two players from the mainland. Despite the big change in team lineup, the club believes that its level of competitiveness is no less than before.

Monte Carlo's deputy coach Iong Cho Ieng explained that the team's

core players still remain, and the five new foreign players have good technique and other advantages. "As long as we are of one mind, we are still a competitive team for the champion title," he said.

The Elite League is expected to have more contenders, including last year's runner-up, Sporting Clube de Macau. **BY**

PSP warns taxi industry to behave

IN a meeting with seven representatives from the local taxi industry on Wednesday, the head of the Public Security Police's traffic department, Che Wai, has reiterated that the authorities are keeping a close eye on local taxi drivers, and will continue to tackle irregularities like excessive fare charging and the refusing of fares.

Mr Che said that he understands the concerns of the taxi industry regarding the recent crackdown on taxi drivers. However, he said that the authorities have received many complaints from residents and tourists, and that the police are only targeting a small group of taxi drivers rather than the whole industry. He also claimed that issues with taxis have been tackled regularly, not only in recent days.

Kuok Leong Son, the Macau Taxi Driver Mutual Association president, was also in attendance at the meeting. He pointed out that the police have recently been prosecuting drivers who pick up or drop off passengers on the side of the road with yellow lines, where it is prohibited to stop one's vehicle. He suggested that it is because Macau does not have many taxi stations that taxis are forced to stop on spots with yellow lines. Kuok hopes that the authorities can take this into consideration and allow taxi drivers to drop off passengers on some yellow line spots in a way that does not obstruct traffic.

Che responded that he would bring Kuok's suggestion to the relevant authorities. However, he said that the police still needs to enforce the Traffic Law and they would not ease up on the issue. He also said that everybody is equal in the eyes of the law.

In the first 10 days of 2015, the police prosecuted 93 cases of excessive fare charging and 43 cases of refusing fares.

AMNAT RUENROENG **ZOU SHIMING**

SHOWDOWN AT SANDS

WORLD FLYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

7 MARCH SATURDAY 5:30PM
COTAI ARENA, THE VENETIAN® MACAO

TICKET FROM MOP 180
+853 2882 8818
cotaiticketing.com

IK YANG **KK NG**

TR TOP RANK 盛力家 SECA 澳門金沙度假區 Sands RESORTS COTAI STRIP MACAO THE VENETIAN MACAO

#ShowdownAtSands
 ©2015 Top Rank, Inc. All Rights Reserved. ALL Bouts and Times Subject to Change.

DSRT to study triple play licensing scheme

The inauguration ceremony for the Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation's new director Hoi Chi Leong took place yesterday. He said that the bureau will study the licensing scheme for triple play, as well as the legislation required. As for whether the government-owned Macau Basic Television Channels Limited will continue to operate, Hoi said that it depends on the situation in future. The new director also suggested that his priority is to strive to release the bidding results for the 4G licenses in the first quarter of the year. He also aims to launch the service within the year. Following the increase in competition, Hoi predicted that telecommunication prices will decrease, while the quality of service will improve.

RETAIL

Disappointing sales for Cartier in Macau

Corinne Gretler

RICHEMONT, the maker of Cartier jewelry, reported that third-quarter revenue growth stagnated for the first time in six years as protests in Hong Kong disrupted sales in the biggest market for Swiss watches.

Revenue excluding currency shifts was unchanged in the three months through December, com-

■ **Sales in the Asia Pacific region declined amid a difficult trading environment in most markets, especially in HK and Macau**



Wristwatches sit in a window display of a Cartier luxury store

pared with the year-earlier period, the Geneva-based company said yesterday in a statement. Analysts expected 1.5 percent growth, according to the average estimate in a Bloomberg survey. The shares slid as much as 2.4 percent in Zurich trading.

Protests in Hong Kong, where rich Chinese purchase watches and jewelry at lower tax rates than on the mainland, caused shops to close in September and October. The pro-democracy demonstrations coincided with the China National Day holidays known as Golden Week, one of

the busiest times of the year, as well as a watch industry show in the city.

"Asia Pacific is clearly disappointing," Patrik Schwendimann, an analyst at Zuercher Kantonalbank AG in Zurich, said by phone. "Watch sales in Asia are still impacted by high inventories and cautious retailers. There are rays of hope elsewhere: Europe, with domestic demand and tourism, the Middle East and the U.S."

Sales in the Asia Pacific region declined 12 percent at constant exchange rates amid a difficult


trading environment in most markets, especially in Hong Kong and Macau, said the company, whose full name is Cie. Financiere Richemont SA. That compares with the 5.8 percent drop analysts had estimated in a Bloomberg survey.

Net cash rose 14 percent to a record 4.9 billion euros at the end of the period, said the company, led by Chairman Johann Rupert, a South African billionaire who returned to Richemont in September after taking one year off. The luxury-goods maker will probably "put to work" some of that pile making acquisitions, Mario Ortelli, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein, wrote in a note yesterday.

"The return of Mr. Rupert to the helm of the company after his sabbatical could be an accelerating factor for the M&A strategy of the group," he said. The analyst expects improvement in the second half due to a foreign-exchange reversal, retailers ordering more after having run down their inventories, and a possible new line of Cartier watches.

Richemont doesn't report profit for the fiscal third quarter. The company reported a 4 percent drop in first-half operating profit in November, when the company also said the decline in the Chinese market was moderating. **Bloomberg**

AD




ALBERGUE SCM
SANTA CASA DA MISERICÓRDIA DE MACAU
澳門仁慈堂婆仔屋

**CELEBRATION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MACAU HANDOVER TO CHINA**

SKETCHES BY
YU CHANG

EXHIBITION PERIOD
17/12/2014
20/01/2015







OPENING HOURS: Everyday from 12:00PM to 8:00PM,
Monday from 03:00PM to 08:00PM


EXHIBITION VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery

FREE ADMISSION

ALBERGUE SCM
ADDRESS: CALÇADA DA IGREJA DE SÃO LÁZARO Nº 8, MACAU
TEL: 853 - 28522550 / 853 - 28523205 FAX: 853 - 28522719
INFO: facebook.com/creativealbergue.scm
EMAIL: creativealbergue@gmail.com

Organizers : Co-organizer : Sponsor: Management :



Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region

MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE

NOTICE

The Macau Government Tourist Office hereby announces an invitation to tender for the "Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan Service Provision", in accordance with the approval of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture dated 5th of December of 2014.

From the date of publication of the present notice, interested bidders may visit the Macau Government Tourist Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d' Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor, Macau, to view the Tender Program and Terms and Conditions of the Tender within the working hours, and pay MOP 500.00 (five hundred patacas) to obtain the copies.

For any further enquiries, please visit the Macau Government Tourist Office website (<http://industry.macaotourism.gov.mo>) to submit your enquiries starting from the day of publication of the present notice until 10 days before the tender submission deadline. All replies will be posted on the same website.

The maximum price limit for the tender is MOP 20,000,000.00 (twenty million patacas).

Criteria for tender evaluation and their respective percentages are as follow:

- Appreciation of the planning task (35%);
- Planning methods and programme of work of the phases (20%);
- Price (15%);
- Experience (30%).

Bidders must submit the tender written in Chinese, Portuguese or English, within the working hours by 17:45 hours on 2nd of March of 2015, to the Macau Government Tourist Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d' Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor in Macau and shall submit the provisional guarantee fee of MOP 400,000.00 (four hundred thousand patacas). The provisional guarantee fee shall be paid by: 1) cash deposit to the account of "Tourism Fund" at Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau; 2) bank guarantee; 3) cash, cashier's order or mark good cheque deposit directly to the Macau Government Tourist Office, cashier's order or mark good cheque should be made payable to "Tourism Fund"; 4) wire transfer directly to the account of Tourism Fund, at Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau (account no. 8003911119).

The tender opening session will be held in the Auditorium of the Macau Government Tourist Office, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d' Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 14th floor in Macau, at 10:00 hours on 3rd of March of 2015.

In case of the services of the Macau Government Tourist Office are suspended owing to typhoon or force majeure, the scheduled closing date and time for submission of tender, as well as the date and time for opening the tender shall be extended to the next working day that follows immediately.

According to the article n.º 27 of Decree-Law n.º 63/85/M, of 6th July, the legal representatives of the Bidder should be present during the tender opening session for any complaints and/or to explain any doubts regarding their respective tender.

Macau Government Tourist Office, on 18th of December of 2014.

Director
Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes

World's newest airliner begins first commercial flight



The first Airbus A350 for Qatar Airways sits on the tarmac

Abdullah Rebhy and Scott Mayerowitz, Doha

THE world's newest jetliner, the Airbus A350, took to the skies yesterday carrying its first paying passengers from the Gulf Arab nation of Qatar.

The Qatar Airways flight departed the Qatari capital Doha bound for Frankfurt, Germany. It marks the debut of the relatively lightweight, twin-aisle, long-range plane, which promises to connect smaller cities with major aviation hubs nonstop at a cheaper cost for airlines.

For passengers, the new plane offers wider panoramic windows and larger overhead storage space plus the ability to limit connections.

The A350 is the third — and final — major new aircraft in a decade. First there was the double-decker Airbus A380, which debuted in October 2007. It's the world's largest passenger jet, designed to carry up to 525 passengers between some of the largest cities on the planet.

Then came the lightweight Boeing 787, which carried its first passengers in October 2011. Thanks to its lower operating costs, the jet, marketed by Boeing as the Dreamliner, has led to new nonstop flights between cities that previously didn't have enough passengers to merit such service.

As with the Dreamliner, the A350's lightweight design allows it to burn significantly less fuel than other jets of similar size. A little more than half of the structure is made of composite materials such as plastic reinforced by carbon fibers. Add in titanium and advanced aluminum alloys and more than 70 percent of the plane is made up of lightweight materials.

Airbus says the A350 will help open up nonstop routes like Shanghai to Boston, Massachusetts or Paris to Santiago, Chile.

The A350 can fly 276 to 369 passengers, depending on the variant and the airline's choice of seating configuration.

Qatar's version is fitted out with 36 business class seats that turn into fully flat beds and boast 17-inch TV screens, and an economy class section with 247 seats, with smaller TVs.

The state-backed airline has put considerable faith in the new model, with orders for 79 more planes. It received its first double-decker A380 from the European plane maker in September.

"The delivery of this new aircraft category into the Qatar Airways' fleet ... is a moment of absolute national pride for Qatar Airways and the state of Qatar," Qatar Airways CEO Akbar al-Baker said at an inauguration ceremony last week. **AP**

NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

Whether in search of a stunning cocktail dress for that special occasion or sparkling jewels to brighten the new year, statement shoes or a stylish new handbag, discover it all, and so much more, at the sensational Shoppes, Macao's leading duty-free luxury shopping experience.

SHOPPES AT FOUR SEASONS
Defined by style, Shoppes at Four Seasons exudes grandeur, offering chic shopping experiences from more than 160 luxury brands. A new makeover provides a contemporary setting in which to indulge at high-end fashion retailers, accessories stores and skincare and cosmetics counters.

SHOPPES AT VENETIAN
The style spotlight shines upon Shoppes at Venetian, the largest mall in the Shoppes featuring more than 330 boutiques set among the architecture and waterways of legendary Venice. Dazzling displays of jewellery, masterpieces of art and windows flaunting the finest fashions, shoes and accessories are all designed to entice the most discerning shoppers.

SHOPPES AT COTAI CENTRAL
With something for all the family and the recent addition of 34 new boutiques and galleries, Shoppes at Cotai Central features in everyone's little black book of shopping. Seek out designer looks for kids and babies, stylish menswear, fashion-forward womenswear and an array of home ware, watches, jewellery and beauty products, all under one roof.

CHINESE NEW YEAR
The Year of the Goat brings celebrations galore to Shoppes. Magnificent sculptures inspired by the Chinese zodiac, traditional lion dances, a special online challenge and the God of Fortune distributing Lai See are just some of the many excitements in store as Chinese New Year approaches. There are fabulous shopping offers too when spending at Shoppes between 21 January and 28 February. Spend MOP3,000 and receive a set of Lucky vouchers for MOP200. Spend MOP5,000 to enjoy MOP400 worth of vouchers. On spending MOP10,000, claim vouchers worth MOP800 and for a spend of MOP15,000, receive MOP1,400 in vouchers. All spends over MOP5,000 also receive a set of limited edition Lai See packets. For more details on our festive promotions visit SandsResortsMacao.com.

Over 600 Luxury Duty Free Shops
超过600家商店，尽享奢华免税购物乐趣

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Clarifying Costs For Buyers – Part 2

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company 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.

www.JMLProperty.com
info@JMLProperty.com



JULIET RISDON

Investing in a property involves not only the purchase price of the property itself, but also the associated costs of the purchase.

In this 3 part series, we break the cost of purchasing a property into 3 categories, and have outlined the details in each one.

The categories are:

Purchase Costs - the cost of the property itself
Legal & Administration Costs - taxes, notary, registration fees etc
Property Costs - renovation, improvements and furnishing

Last week we looked at Purchase costs, and this week we are going to look at Legal and Administration Costs.

Property prices in Macau are in HKD, so for the sake of consistency please assume that all prices here are in HKD. For the purpose of this article, we are going to look at a property that is purchased for HKD 6,000,000.

However, be warned that these costs do fluctuate, and whilst the figures themselves may change, you will at least know what you are looking for.

Legal & Administrative Costs - \$277,000

These costs are the ones directly associated with the purchase of the property, and include such things as Government Taxes and agency fees.

Stamp Duty - \$126,000

The government charges a stamp duty on all property transactions on a sliding scale payable within 30 days of the signing of the Promissory Sales & Purchase Agreement.

For the purpose of this example, we have kept the price in HKD. It should be noted that the government will convert the price in MOP to make the

calculation.

Stamp duty consists of 4 parts;

1% Up to \$2,000,000
2% over \$2,000,000 and up to \$4,000,000
3% over \$4,000,000

0.5% of the total amount

In our case, the breakdown is;

1% x \$2,000,000 = \$20,000
2% x \$2,000,000 = \$40,000
3% x \$2,000,000 = \$60,000
0.5% x \$120,000 total = \$6,000

Stamp Duty payable = \$126,000

The stamp duty example given here applies to everybody. There is also a special stamp duty of an additional 10% of the purchase price for non-residents of Macau or when the property is purchased under a company name.

Agency Fee - \$60,000

The property agency will usually charge a fee equal to 1% of the purchase price, normally payable as the deal executes. However, some agents request 50% of the fee upon signing the Provisional Agreement and 50% upon completion of the purchase.

Notary & Registration Fees - \$80,000

It is our experience that different law offices use different ways to break down the Notary and registration charges. We will list the various items individually, but don't be surprised if you get a blank stare if you ask for a breakdown of charges from a legal office.

The charge includes;

Notary Fees - Deed Transfer
Notary Fees - Mortgage Loan
Stamp Duty & Registration Fees - Deed Transfer
Stamp Duty & Registration Fees - Mortgage Loan
Land Registry / Registration Fees

Law offices will not be able to tell you the exact amount payable until the day of the transaction.

Why? Because the calculation of the fees depends on the interest rate on the day of the transaction, and can only be calculated once this is confirmed. Brilliant!

Lawyers / Law Office Fees - \$9,000

There are normally charges issued by the lawyers office for the work conducted.

Naturally, there are Lawyers Fees for drafting the various agreements, conducting background checks on the property etc. These fees usually vary between \$3,000 and \$10,000 dependent on the number of contracts and difficulty of the transaction, but essentially the fee is time based.

There are also witness fees as the bank usually require a lawyer to witness the signing of the document that gives the bank the power to re-posses a property should you fail to pay back the loan. Finally there are fees for certificates and document copies that can vary from \$800 to \$2,000.

Bank Fees - \$2,000

Many banks now charge a loan application fee regardless of whether the purchase goes ahead or not.

Another popular fee introduced by banks is the 'loan arrangement fee', which is typically \$2,000 - \$4,000.

For the purpose of this example, we have not included the interest on mortgage loans, which is of course payable over the term of the mortgage and will vary according to the interest rate being charged.

Next Week: Part 3 - Property Costs

PokerStarsMacau
Home to Asia's best live poker tournaments

PROJECT POKER

BY VIVIAN IM

Me starring in a cartoon?

First of all, I don't like cartoons, comics, etc. I dreamed of princes sweeping me off my feet after reading comics when I was around 13 years old, but that's pretty much it.

But one day, my friend called me up and told me that I was a main character in a comic book. An author had made a character based on me and the comic was becoming quite popular. I was fascinated and surprised at the same time.

The comic started around March 2012 and it is still being published. The story shows the problems, romance, games and my life itself as a poker player.

As the comic got more popular, I received a call from the author and was able to meet up with him. I was able to tell him a lot of my stories as a poker player, and about Hold'em as well.

We were able to talk about how the story will move on and how the story will be resolved. I'm really looking forward to reading the next episode.

Of course it still was a comic and most of the story was fiction. But the fact that so many people were reading about that part of my life and enjoying it, it felt kinda strange, in a good way of course.

A lot of people who didn't even know about hold'em were able to get interested in the game. And so many readers, including me, were just waiting for the

next episode to come out. There is even an application that tells you when a new episode is uploaded.

I think the reasons that it gets more and more popular as the story moves on is because of the author's story-telling ability. But it's also the fact that the reader can actually feel that this is something that could happen to them as well.

People like stories where characters are successful through totally unexpected or highly exaggerated story lines.

Like watching Spider-Man? Kind of? Maybe not? It's the story of a normal student one day becoming a superhero.

I never thought nor dreamt that I was going to become a professional poker player, but it happened. I just enjoyed poker and enjoying it helped me become good at it.

I first learned about poker and experienced it at PokerStars. You can say PokerStars is my first for everything poker.

I mean, who would have known that I would get this amazing opportunity to be a Team PokerStars Pro and be the main character in a comic? Life is just full of surprises.

This comic is a medium for people to get to know poker, and to help it be accepted as a mind sport. I'm just honored that I was able to be a part of that.

AD

SATURDAY NIGHT IS FOR POKER

This Saturday 6pm, the PokerStars LIVE Macau HK\$3,000 poker tournament has a guaranteed prize pool of HK\$50,000
Winners also receive a coveted Daily Tournament Medal

It's part of the exciting new schedule of poker tournaments we're running Tuesdays - Sundays

Cancel all other plans

Find out more at PokerStarsLIVEMacau.com

Level 2, Casino
Estrada do Istmo,
Cotai Macau SAR

All tournaments are subject to regulatory approval.

PokerStars LIVE



ANGOLA

Project built by Chinese company opens

CHINESE company Sinohydro built a new plant for collection, treatment and distribution of drinking water and the system to expand and improve the medium voltage grid and public lighting system in the city of Menongue in Angola's Kuando Kubango province, all of which were inaugurated by the Minister of Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges.



The new plant for collection, treatment and distribution of drinking water, which cost USD45 million, has a capacity to pump 11 billion cubic meters of water a day

and will benefit many of the inhabitants of the urban and suburban areas of the city of Menongue and the Missombo commune.

This project, which took 20

months to complete, has a reservoir of 6,000 cubic meters of water and a network extension of 59.9 kilometers, and also included building 100 water fountains

in the district.

The project for the expansion and improvement of the medium voltage grid and the public lighting system of the city of Menongue cost US\$53 million and will enable about 12,000 residential connections in the city of Menongue and Missombo commune.

The work, which was also carried out by Sinohydro in a period of 20 months, included installation of 59 630 and 250 KVA transformer stations, and 15 kilometers of street lighting in the main roads of the city of Menongue. **MDT/Macauhub**

Japanese cooperation agency in Angola

A delegation from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is in Luanda until today to assess the consolidation of investment projects and its support to Angola, according to an Angolan government source. The delegation from JICA, a Japanese government agency responsible for the implementation of programmes to support growth and socio-economic stability of developing countries, has been in Luanda since Monday. It is, according to the Angolan government, the second visit to Luanda by a technical mission of the Japanese agency since last October. Japan has provided support and donations for social intervention projects in the area of health and land-mine removal in Angola.

Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau sign bilateral agreement

THE governments of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau Wednesday in Praia signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen bilateral relations in the reform of public administration, especially in the area of e-governance.

The document, signed by the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Cape Verde, Démis Lobo Almeida, and his Guinean counterpart, Baciro Djá, is the

result of a three-day working visit by the minister from Guinea-Bissau to Cape Verde.


The Guinean minister said he was satisfied with the promises made by both parties and said he was open to learning more from Cape Verde's experience, and invited his Cape Verdean counterpart to visit to Guinea-Bissau in the future.

Démis Lobo Almeida confirmed the inten-

tion to visit Guinea-Bissau and announced a Cape Verde-Guinea-Bissau summit in Praia "in the coming weeks, between late January and early February."


During his stay in Praia, Baciro Djá and his delegation had separate meetings with the head of state, the president of the parliament and the prime minister, visited several Cape Verdean public institutions and had working meetings. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



CENTRO MÉDICO PEDDER

• 仁德醫療中心 •



We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Edward C.S. Lai, Dr. Peter W.K. Lau, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Richard K. Lo, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. C.K. Yeung

Paediatrics : Dr. Leung Ping, Dr. Melody Z.Q. Zhang

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Marina U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

Cardiology : Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Adam M.K. Leong, Dr. Edmundo Patricio Lopes Lao

Gastroentero-Hepatology : Dr. Zhan De Juan

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong

Anaesthesiology : Dr. Eric Siu Kei Ning, Dr. Ana Wai Han Chan

Dietitian : Joey Lai U Chan

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

KTRANZ

TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE
TRANSLATIONS

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

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

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms Juliana Cheang
Email: juliana@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081 / 2 Fax: +853 2871 6084
Address: Av. Infante D. Henrique, 62 2/F, Macau

CHINA'S military announced the names of 16 senior officials who were put under investigation for graft, including the deputy head of its nuclear forces, signaling President Xi Jinping is widening his probe of corruption in the armed forces.

All of the officials to be snared were generals of various ranks, with the People's Liberation Army taking the unusual step of releasing their names in a public statement on its official website.

"This is the first time in the PLA's history it has announced more than a dozen senior officer's corruption cases in a single public statement," said Yue Gang, a retired PLA colonel. "It shows military corruption is in such a critical condition that Xi has to make those cases public to seek the support of the people."

Xi has warned that corruption is a threat to the survival of the Communist Party, which has ruled the country for 65 years, and his anti-graft campaign has already snared 100,000 officials of various levels. Xi has warned that corruption also threatens combat readiness, and the anti-graft effort is increasingly focusing on the military.

"If you want a military that is up to the standards of the great

Military targets 16 officials for graft as Xi widens probe



power that China aspires to be, you need to have a credible, reliable, military force," said Jean

-Pierre Cabestan, director of government and international studies at Hong Kong Baptist

University. "If the top level is just interested in making money and trading promotions the

system is going to be completely rotten."

Among the names revealed for the first time yesterday were Yu Daqing, deputy political commissar of the Second Artillery Corps, China's nuclear forces and Liu Zheng, the deputy head of the PLA's Logistics Department.

Also targeted are Fan Changmi, deputy political commissar of Lanzhou Military Region; Fu Linguo, vice chief-of-staff of the logistics department; and Zhang Daixin, vice commander-in-chief of the Heilongjiang Provincial Military Command, according to a statement.

Yesterday's announcement comes after Xu Caihou, a former vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, the highest military body, was expelled from the party last June. That marked the highest-level military graft probe since 1949. His case has been handed over to military prosecutors. **Bloomberg**

XINJIANG

Authorities punish officials for abuses in arranging pilgrimages

Louise Watt, Beijing

THIRTY-TWO officials in far-western China have been punished over alleged bribe-taking, nepotism or other wrongdoing in the choosing of people for over-subscribed Muslim pilgrimages to the holy city of Mecca, a Communist Party commission and a state newspaper said.

China's Uighur Muslims, native to the region of Xinjiang where bloody ethnic violence rages despite a security crackdown, are allowed to make such pilgrimages only on government-authorized trips.

The party and government officials accused of taking advantage of their positions in selecting people for the trips included mayors and a local police chief, the Xinjiang Disciplinary Commission said in an online statement Wednesday.

It said the 32, mostly from Kizilsu prefecture near the border with Kyrgyzstan, had been punished for violating party discipline, misuse of power, negligence and seeking benefits. Six of them



were fired from their posts and expelled from the party and will be criminally investigated.

The state-run China Daily newspaper said on its website yesterday that the officials arranged pilgrimages for "unqualified people" and that some had taken bribes. Some officials changed lists to reduce waiting times for relatives, said the report, which cited unnamed authorities.

There are officially about 22 million Muslims in Chi-

na. Last year, about 14,000 Chinese pilgrims went to Mecca on a government-organized trip, and there was a long waiting list of others hoping to make the journey, the China Daily said.

"China strictly forbids Uighurs to make unauthorized pilgrimages," Dilxat Raxit, spokesman for the Munich-based advocacy group World Uyghur Congress, said in an emailed statement. "The strict quotas on the official organization of pilgrimage groups have brought about

the phenomenon of buying a place."

Beijing is concerned about Uighurs going abroad amid violence linked to Xinjiang that has killed about 400 people within the past two years, which it blames on radical separatists with foreign ties.

On Wednesday, a state newspaper reported that police detained nine Uighurs terror suspects for allegedly trying to leave China on altered Turkish passports, along with 10 Turks. **AP**

Heavy smog casts pall over Beijing as it bids for Olympics

AIR pollution hit hazardous levels in Beijing yesterday, presenting a new challenge to leaders who have tried to curb smog via higher taxes and casting a pall over the city's bid for the 2022 Olympic Games.

The concentration of PM2.5, the particulates that pose the greatest risk to human health, was 444 micrograms per cubic meter as of 5 p.m. at Tiananmen Square, according to the Beijing Municipal Environmental Monitoring Center. A U.S. Embassy monitor put PM2.5 levels above 450, about 20 times higher than World Health Organization-recommended levels.

Beijing has promised to curb air pollution as part of its bid for the 2022 Winter Olympics, with plans for lasting changes to go along with the sort of short-term control efforts it imposed when it hosted the 2008 summer games. The government raised the fuel consumption tax three times in the past two months.

Last year, the capital reported 93 days when the air quality index dropped below 50, up from 71 days in 2013, according to the city. Yesterday's pollution has become the norm for January, after concentrations of PM2.5 hit similar levels in 2014 and surged to a record level of 993 in 2013, an incident that came to be known as "airpocalypse." **Bloomberg**

Xiaomi unveils phone aimed at iPhone users

Joe McDonald, Business Writer, Beijing

RISING smartphone star Xiaomi is moving upmarket and taking aim at Apple's iPhone.

The Chinese manufacturer known for ultra-low-priced handsets yesterday unveiled a new model that chairman Jun Lei said is comparable to Apple's iPhone 6 but thinner and lighter. The phone starts at 2,299 yuan (USD375), less than half the 5,288 yuan (\$865) price of an iPhone 6 in China.

"We paid attention to every detail to make it as perfect as possible," said Lei, standing on stage before reporters at a convention center in Beijing.

Xiaomi, founded in 2010, passed South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. in the second quarter of last year as the best-selling smartphone brand in China by number of handsets sold. The company is expanding into India and other developing markets but has yet to announce plans to enter the United States or Europe.

The new Xiaomi could add to competition for Apple in China, a market CEO Tim Cook has said is expected to become its biggest. Other Chinese smartphone brands including Lenovo Group and Huawei Technologies Ltd. also have released models they say offer features similar to the iPhone but at lower prices.

Wearing jeans and a blue button-down shirt with the sleeves rolled up, Lei showed a side-by-side comparison of Xiaomi's newest model, the Mi Note, and the iPhone 6, which went on sale in China in October. He said the processor power, performance and memory size were comparable and the Mi Note includes an improved camera.

The Mi Note's price is a departure for Xiaomi, whose other models cost as little as 699 yuan (\$114).

Lei said the company will offer a professional version of the Mi Note with a more powerful processor and other features for 3,299 yuan (\$540).

Privately held Xiaomi says last year's sales tripled to 61.1 million handsets. It says revenue more than doubled to 74.3 billion yuan (\$12.2 billion).

The company, based in Beijing, recently completed a round of fundraising from investors that it said valued Xiaomi at \$45 billion, making it one of the world's most valuable technology brands.

Xiaomi ran into legal trouble in India in December after a court blocked sales while it hears a complaint by Sweden's LM Ericsson that the Chinese company violated its patents.

In a blog post earlier this month, Lei called the case a "rite of passage" for a young company. **AP**



Lei Jun, chairman of Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi, holds up the latest models of the Xiaomi Note at a press event in Beijing



Regulators promise taxi industry shakeup after strikes

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

CHINA'S government promised yesterday to overhaul the country's taxi industry following strikes by drivers in at least seven major cities over complaints about low pay, high charges imposed by taxi companies and competition from ride-hailing apps.

The Ministry of Transport said it will take unspecified steps to improve pricing and "rights protection" mechanisms and to integrate ride-hailing apps and other new technologies into the industry.

Strikes have been reported this week in cities including Nanjing in the east, Chengdu in the west and Shenyang in the northeast.

In a sign of shifting official attitudes, the government's China News Service yesterday cited experts who said taxi companies hurt drivers by charging up to 9,000 yuan (\$1,450) per month for use of a cab. The report appeared on websites of numerous Chinese news outlets.

Drivers cited by Chinese media also complained about competition from private drivers who use ride-hailing apps such as Uber. The Ministry of Transport announced a ban last week on use of

such apps by drivers without taxi licenses.

Taxi drivers have protested repeatedly in recent years over conditions in their industry. Most are treated as independent contractors without salary or other benefits. They have no bargaining power with taxi companies that decide their own charges for use of a cab.

"While cab drivers are undoubtedly unhappy about the use of taxi apps, their fundamental grievance

While cab drivers are unhappy about taxi apps, their fundamental grievance has always been with the cab companies and the contract system

GEOFFREY CROTHALL
CHINA LABOUR BULLETIN

is and always has been with the cab companies and the contract system," said Geoffrey Crothall of China Labour Bulletin, a Hong Kong-based research group, in a report this week.

After deducting charges to taxi companies, many drivers make less than a factory worker, according to Crothall.

"With earnings so low, drivers understandably get angry when their business is poached by unlicensed cabs that are not subject to the same burdensome regulations as they are," he said.

In other moves to put more money into drivers' pockets, the city government Beijing yesterday canceled a 1 yuan (16 cent) surcharge imposed each time a taxi is refueled. The Ministry of Transportation said the eastern city of Wuhu province raised taxi fares by 1 yuan (16 cents) to 7 yuan (\$1.15) for the first 2.5 kilometers (1.6 miles).

The Communist Party newspaper People's Daily warned on Jan. 6 that rising use of ride-hailing apps would force changes in the industry.

"The current monopoly has long been criticized," the newspaper said. "The large amount of money that must be handed to taxi companies will have to be gradually reduced." **AP**

Nicole Winfield
and Teresa Cerojano, Manila

PHILIPPINES

Pope arrives in Manila on first papal visit in 20 years

ECSTATIC crowds greeted Pope Francis as he arrived yesterday in the Philippines, Asia's most populous Catholic nation, for the first papal visit in 20 years.

Church bells tolled across the country and hundreds of children danced and waved small Philippine and Vatican flags as the pontiff emerged from the plane and was welcomed by well-wishers led by President Benigno Aquino III. A sudden gust of wind blew off his papal cap seconds after he appeared, and Francis grabbed futilely for it and then smiled and descended the stairs from the plane.

Young Filipinos in matching white T-shirts gave him a rousing, thumping hip-hop welcome that drew the flight attendants from the plane out onto the stairwell to watch.

On the tarmac, a boy and a girl from a house for street children handed flowers to the pope, who embraced them.

"I told him *bienvenido* (welcome in Spanish)," 9-year-old Lanie Ortillo said, adding the pontiff smiled and replied, "Yes, *bienvenido*."

Francis then boarded his white, open-topped popemobile and his motorcade began rolling along the 11-kilometer route to the Apostolic Nunciature in Manila, where he will stay.

Tens of thousands of people called his name and snapped pictures from behind concrete barriers topped by iron fencing and guarded by policemen along the entire stretch in a trip beamed live on TV nationwide. Francis constantly shifted from left to right, smiling and waving.

The government has declared national holidays during the pope's visit, which runs



The faithful wait behind barricades for the arrival of Pope Francis in Manila, Philippines

■ **The government has declared national holidays during the pope's visit, which runs through Monday**

through Monday. He will be in the capital of Manila and fly Saturday to eastern Leyte province, where he plans to meet survivors of Typhoon Haiyan that left thousands of people dead in 2013.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, archbishop of Manila, said he hoped the visit by Francis, the first Latin American head of the 1.2 billion-strong Roman Catholic Church, would be festive and spiritually uplifting and nurture compassion at a time when the country is still recove-

ring from recent deadly disasters, including Haiyan.

"It's like a big, big, big, big national fiesta," a beaming Tagle said in an interview on the eve of the pope's arrival. The visit, he said, "comes at that point when people would really be helped by a moral and spiritual boost coming from someone who really cares."

Francis will meet today with Aquino, who has waged a campaign against poverty, an issue close to the pope's heart, but has clashed with Catholic lea-

ders over a reproductive health bill that promoted use of artificial birth control. Congress, which is dominated by Aquino's allies, passed the bill in 2012.

Meetings with Filipino families, Catholic Church leaders and youth were also slated.

During his time in Sri Lanka, the pope traveled to the jungles of the war-torn north for a show of solidarity with the victims of the country's 25-year civil war, urging people to forgive one another "for all the evil which this land has known."

"It is very important to keep our country peaceful and our religious strength become more and more after this visit," said Sumith Periera, an engineer who came to see the pope off.

The pope's trip has given Philippine authorities daunting security challenges, including an outdoor Mass in a historic Manila park on Sunday that officials say could draw a record 6 million people.

About 50,000 policemen and troops have been deployed to secure the pope in a country where relatively small numbers of al-Qaida-inspired militants remain a threat in the south despite more than a decade of U.S.-backed military offensives.

Spanish colonialists introduced Christianity in the 16th century and today just over 80 percent of the Philippines' 100 million people are Catholics, with other Christians making up about 12 percent. Muslims account for 5.6 percent, most of them in the south. **AP**

FLIGHT 8501

Divers search AirAsia fuselage for bodies

Fadlan Syam,
Pangkalalan Bun

INDONESIAN navy divers were trying to find and retrieve bodies yesterday believed to be trapped inside a large chunk of the AirAsia jet's fuselage, an official said.

Indonesian Search and Rescue Agency chief Henry Bambang Soelistyo said the fuselage, which was spotted Wednesday by a Singaporean navy ship, would be lifted from the seabed after the search for bodies was no longer considered effective.

The 30-meter-long sec-

tion of the plane body with a wing attached was sighted on the bottom of the Java Sea. Rescuers believe that most of the bodies of the 162 people on board are inside.

So far, only 50 bodies have been recovered from the Dec. 28 crash less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya, Indonesia, to Singapore. Most of the victims are Indonesian.

At least 15 divers descended to the seabed at a depth of 28 meters to examine wreckage, calculate its weight and search for the bodies. When corpses are found, the divers will try



This undated underwater photo taken by a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and released by the Singapore Ministry of Defense (MINDEF) shows the wreckage of AirAsia Flight QZ 8501 lying on the sea floor in the Java Sea

to put them in individual body bags, which rescuers on ships will then hoist to the surface, said Suryadi Bambang Supriyadi, the operation director at the National Search and Rescue Agency.

He said it appeared that some parts of the fuselage have been covered with silt.

The plane's "black boxes" - the flight data and cockpit flight recorders - were retrieved on Monday and Tuesday. They will be key to learning what caused the plane to crash. Bad weather is a suspected factor.

Nine aircraft and 10 ships including one from China were involved the search operation yesterday. Two U.S. ships and one from Singapore have left the mission area, Soelistyo said. **AP**

Jeep®


GRAND CHEROKEE



Mature · Wild · Challenge

- The New Uconnect® System features an 8.4-inch touchscreen · the most luxury control panel ever ·
- Quadra-Lift® air suspension system the ultimate control of your suspension ·
- Selec-Terrain traction control system - five modes to tackle any condition ·
- New eight-speed automatic transmission - quicker and smoother ·

* about the picture may be different from Macau specifications

 Find us on
"Jeep Macau"

Xin Kang Tai Auto Parts & Motor Services Limited

Showroom: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado, No. 459, Edifício Industrial Nam Fung, R/C, C-D, Macau

tel : 2871 7762



Standup Comedy Show

18/1/2015, 9pm

Warning: TakeOut Comedy causes hysterical laughter at the Lion's Bar! This is Gina Yashere, who was awarded the "Best Female Comedian" at the recent Black Entertainment & Comedy Awards at UK. She will have her exciting debut in Macau to kick off the New Year. The funniest of comedians, fits of laughter, bursts of witty jokes, enjoy your most amusing night ever at MGM MACAU!

Entrance fee: MOP\$188 (include two standard drinks)

For enquiries and reservations, please call (853) 8802 2376



MGM MACAU Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau
Tel (853) 8802 8888 mgmmacau.com

WELCOME TO Playmate's Club
花心公子俱樂部

WILD NIGHT OUT

Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only
You can see a European Striptease Show

Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am
Attention No admission under 18

Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www-macauplaymatesclub.com



C&C LAWYERS
公正律師事務所



合伙人 PARTNERS:

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

聯營律師 ASSOCIATES:

馬傑安 João N. Marques	白穎怡 Iolia Berenguel	宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
高文軒 Adelino Correia	沈玲麗 Mariana A. Esteves	羅棋 Luo Tao, Elinia
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues	蘇明恩 Maria A. Giestas	實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:
馬德龍 Nuno L. Martins	飛嘉華 Carlos S. Ferreira	曹樂晴 Cao Lemeng, Rui
白秀嫻 Susana Batalha	黃保靚 Wong Pou Nga, Karen	楊越華 Jeong Lit Wa
杜慧盈 Rita Andorinho	安東尼 António Manuel Santos	羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
馬潔冰 Maria J. Marques	馮梓然 Fong Chi In	歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
陶義德 António I. Azeredo	杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo	

• 私人註冊員 Notary Public • 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer



WWW.CCADVOG.COM
TEL: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623



KNOW
MORE
LiVE
BETTER

MACAU
CLOSER
澳門特寫

WWW.MACAUCLOSER.COM

Christopher Torchia,

TERRORISM IN AFRICA

As world watches Paris, Nigeria suffers its own attacks

BOKO Haram, Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremist group, is increasing the ferocity and tempo of its attacks, destabilizing Africa's most populous nation as it prepares for elections.

Girls as young as 10 are being used as suicide bombers. There have been daring attacks on military barracks in Nigeria and Cameroon. The group, which wants to impose Shariah across the country and is increasing its territory under a self-proclaimed Islamic caliphate, recently massacred hundreds of civilians, with death toll estimates ranging up to 2,000.

President Goodluck Jonathan, the front-runner in the Feb. 14 presidential and legislative elections, launched his campaign last week with no reference to the seizure of a key military base at Baga, near the border of Cameroon and Chad. As soldiers fled the base on Jan. 3, Boko Haram went on a killing spree, reportedly drowning many in Lake Chad. Amnesty International called it the deadliest massacre in Boko Haram's 5-year insurgency.

Nigeria's president was among leaders who condemned last week's attack by Islamic extremists on the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, yet his response to the slaughter of civilians by militants in his own country has been muted.

Some commentators criticized Jonathan's reticence about the violence in Nigeria's Baga town, and the lack of a broader international outcry on par with the reaction to the attacks in France. The slogan "I am Baga" — a play on "I am Charlie," the expression of solidarity with the targeted French weekly — is



Children stand near the scene of an explosion in a mobile phone market in Potiskum, Nigeria

now circulating on social media.

The global sympathy and the defiant rally in Paris that drew foreign leaders after the assaults that killed 17 people overshadowed the killing of hundreds and perhaps as many as 2,000 people in Baga, a northeastern town near Chad.

Jonathan, who has been touting his domestic record ahead of a re-election bid next month, was quick to express solidarity with France.

"The President believes that the cowardly and ignoble attack by violent extremists is a monstrous assault on the right

to freedom of expression," said a statement by his office the day after the attacks in France.

It did not release a similarly forceful statement about Baga. The attack there started on Jan. 3 and was another bloody marker in a murky, grinding conflict in which information is often scarce, the insurgency is seen by many as a local problem and violence is routine.

The United Nations, the United States and other countries have condemned the violence by Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, and international aid groups are mobilizing to help survivors. **MDT/AP**

AMNESTY SAYS SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW NIGERIAN DESTRUCTION

SATELLITE IMAGES show widespread destruction in two Nigerian towns that were recently attacked by Islamic extremists, an international human rights group said Wednesday.

Amnesty International said it would release early yesterday detailed images of Baga and Doron Baga, taken before and after the attack earlier this month, that show more than 3,700 structures were damaged or completely destroyed.

The images were taken Jan. 2 and Jan. 7, Amnesty International said. Boko Haram fighters seized a military base in Baga on Jan. 3 and, according to witnesses, killed

hundreds of civilians in the ensuing days.

Amnesty International said interviews with witnesses as well as local government officials and human rights activists suggest hundreds of civilians were shot; last week, the human rights group noted reports of as many as 2,000 dead. The Nigerian military has cited a figure of 150 dead, including slain militants.

Nigeria's home-grown Boko Haram group drew international condemnation when its fighters kidnapped 276 schoolgirls from a boarding school in northeast Chibok town last year. Dozens escaped but 219 remain missing.

USA

FBI: Man planned to bomb Capitol, kill officials

Lisa Cornwell, Cincinnati

A 20-year-old man's Twitter posts sympathizing with Islamic terrorists led to an undercover FBI operation and the man's arrest on charges that he plotted to blow up the U.S. Capitol and kill government officials.

Christopher Lee Cornell, also known as Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah, told an FBI informant they should "wage jihad," and showed his plans for bombing the Capitol and shooting people, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal



Christopher Lee Cornell

court in Ohio Wednesday. The FBI said Cornell expressed his support for the Islamic State.

Cornell's arrest came only days after a grand jury indictment charged another Cincinnati-area resident with threaten-

ing to murder House Speaker John Boehner. Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said in a statement Wednesday: "Once again, the entire Congress owes a debt of gratitude to the FBI and all those who keep us safe."

The complaint against Cornell charges him with attempting to kill officers and employees of the United States.

Cornell was arrested Wednesday after buying two semi-automatic rifles and about 600 rounds of ammunition, authorities said.

The public was never in

danger, said John Barrios, acting special agent in charge of the FBI's Cincinnati division.

A phone message and an email were left Wednesday for attorney Karen Savir, a federal public defender listed in court records as Cornell's attorney. A working phone number could not be found for Cornell's family.

The complaint alleges that an FBI informant began supplying agents with information about Cornell last year. The informant and Cornell, who lives in Green Township, first began communicating through Twitter in

August 2014 and then through an instant messaging platform separate from Twitter, according to the complaint.

"I believe we should meet up and make our own group in alliance with the Islamic State here and plan operations ourselves," Cornell wrote in an instant message, according to the court document.

The two met in October in Cincinnati and again in November, the complaint states. Cornell told the informant at the November meeting that he considered the members of Congress as ene-

mies and that he intended to conduct an attack on the Capitol, according to the complaint. The document says Cornell discussed his plan for them to travel to Washington and conduct reconnaissance of the security of government buildings including the Capitol before executing "a plan of attack."

Cornell planned for the two to detonate pipe bombs at and near the Capitol and then shoot and kill employees and officials, and Cornell had saved money to fund the attack, according to the complaint. **AP**

TV canal macau

FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:35	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Revenge S1
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
00:00	Feature Film
02:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:35	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:50	Young Adult
11:40	Conch Bay
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
19:00	Contest
19:50	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:10	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
15:40	Documentary Series
16:25	Comedy
16:50	Miscellaneous
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:10	Lisbon Mummy Project
23:00	TDM News
23:30	News
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

offbeat

'BIRDMAN,' 'BUDAPEST' TOP OSCAR NOMINATIONS WITH 9 NODS EACH

Two extravagant comedies, "Birdman" and "The Grand Budapest Hotel," tied for the most Oscar nominations yesterday with nine nods each, including best picture. They were joined in best-picture nominations by "Boyhood," "Whiplash," "The Theory of Everything," "The Imitation Game," "American Sniper" and "Selma." "The Imitation Game" trailed close behind with eight nominations. Clint Eastwood's Navy SEAL drama "American Sniper" did especially well, landing six nods including best actor for Bradley Cooper. Also with six nominations was Richard Linklater's coming-of-age epic "Boyhood," which remains the best-picture favorite. Last year's Oscars, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres, drew 43 million viewers, making it the most-watched entertainment telecast in a decade. "12 Years a Slave" took best picture. This year's ceremony on Feb. 22 will be hosted by Neil Patrick Harris.

cinema

CINETEATRO

15 JAN - 21 JAN



INTO THE WOODS
ROOM 1
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Robert Marshall
Starring: James Corden, Emily Blunt, Meryl Dtreep
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 125min



CLOUDS OF SILS MARIA
ROOM 2
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Oliver Assayas
Starring: Juliette Binoche, Kristen Stewart, Chloe Grace Moretz
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 124min

WOMEN WHO FLIRT
ROOM 3
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Pang Ho-Cheung
Starring: Zhou Xun, Huang Xiao Ming
Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)
Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

01 JAN - 21 JAN



TAKEN 3
2.30, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm
Director: Olivier Megaton
Starring: Liam Neeson, Forest Whitaker, Franke Janssen
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 109min

this day in history



2001 DR CONGO PRESIDENT KABILA SHOT

The President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Laurent Kabila, is reported to be fighting for his life after being shot and seriously wounded by one of his own bodyguards. Eyewitnesses said they had heard gunfire for about an hour around the president's hilltop home in Kinshasa, known as the Marble Palace and usually heavily guarded by soldiers and a tank.

A source close to Mr Kabila said: "The president took two bullets, one in the back, another in the leg."

Later, a heavily guarded helicopter was seen landing at one of Kinshasa's main hospitals.

There are rumours that the president may already be dead, and further speculation that the shooting may be part of a coup attempt against the president.

Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel said Mr Kabila was apparently shot by a guard during a meeting with army generals whom he had dismissed.

"From three sources, I have [heard] that Kabila has most likely been shot to death," he said.

But Congo officials insisted the president was only wounded and survived the attack.

There has been growing discontent within the army for the last year. At least two factions - one led by Mr Kabila's son Joseph - are jostling for control, with no clear central authority in command.

DR Congo is also fighting a six-nation war in which the Kinshasa government, backed by Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia, is fighting a rebellion backed by Uganda and Rwanda.

The conflict has so far claimed more than a million lives.

The Chief of Staff, Eddy Kapend, has appeared on television to order troops to block the main airport serving Kinshasa and to close the river border with neighbouring Congo-Brazzaville.

He read out a message on state television urging citizens to be calm, but making no reference to the shooting.

"The Congolese people need your serenity and your discipline," he said.

Many Kinshasa residents hurried home after the broadcast, and the streets quickly emptied.

The United Nations spokesman in Kinshasa said Congolese television had broadcast patriotic music in place of the evening news bulletin.

DR Congo has been in turmoil since 1996 when Rwandan-backed rebels launched their war against the ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko.

That rebellion led to President Kabila's installation in 1997 - but since 1998 he has himself been facing a rebellion backed by Rwanda and Uganda.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

There was no government confirmation of Laurent Kabila's death until almost two days later. The president's son, Joseph Kabila, took over almost immediately. His appointment was initially unpopular, but within a year peace talks re-started and all sides agreed to a UN-monitored ceasefire. A transitional government took over in 2003, largely ending a civil war which had claimed 2.5 million lives. Eyewitness accounts of the shooting told how a bodyguard opened fire on the president during an argument. The bodyguard himself was reportedly shot dead. A government investigation concluded that the murder had been planned as part of an international plot to topple the president. A year after the shooting, 80 people were tried for plotting the murder. The trial was heavily criticised by human rights groups. It ended with the conviction of 26 of the defendants, including Army Chief of Staff Eddy Kapend. All were sentenced to death, with no right to appeal. In November 2005 the parliament approved an amnesty for crimes from 1996 to 2003 as part of the transition from civil war to democratic elections in 2006. The amnesty covered those convicted of assassinating the president.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Get things rolling today - your energy is just right for giving that gentle nudge that ensures events take place without your having to direct every little detail. It may get crazy!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Car trouble may pop up - so you're well advised to keep cars out of your life for the day. Ride the bus, take the train or work from home if need be. You're not in physical danger, you just don't need the hassle.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You may find it harder to cope with changes today - so see if you can just slow down and handle things one step at a time. It may not be the optimal solution, but it should work as well as can be hoped.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to branch out today - so it's a good thing your energy levels are practically doubled! It's the perfect time for you to step up and show the world how it's done. Show off a little!

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

All you want is for people to quit fighting - is that too much to ask? Apparently the answer is yes, as weird sniping breaks out over tiny issues all day long. Just do your best to keep people civil!

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Who needs help? You should keep an eye out for trouble, especially if your people don't see it coming. You may be able to do something about it before anyone even realizes trouble is afoot!

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Chill out a bit and show that you can respond with calm to the slings and arrows of fortune. You may find that you need to stretch yourself a little past your limits, but that's healthy.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Travel is highlighted today, so even if you're stuck at home for the foreseeable future, now is a good time to plan, or at least to dream about, your next big trip. Make it legendary!

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You aren't quite feeling the love you usually do at home or at work, but don't panic - it's temporary! Every now and then, you fall out of sync with those you love, but it doesn't last too long.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

People seem to be losing their minds over something that you think is kind of silly - but good luck explaining that to them! You may just have to bide your time and wait for them to calm down on their own.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Try to take one positive step toward greater health today - and remember that it's not all or nothing! Even that one piece of fruit or flight of stairs can help make a real difference in your life.

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Write out your feelings - and make them rhyme, if possible! You need a little whimsy to show your people what's really going on with you, and they are sure to be responsive if you commit.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc., with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

WORLD

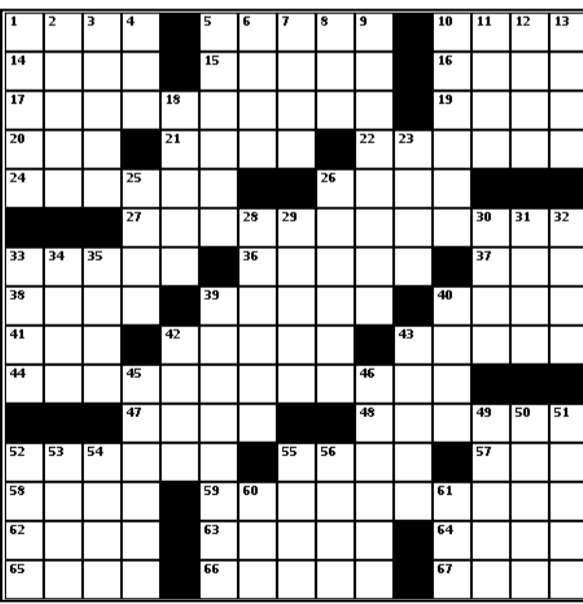
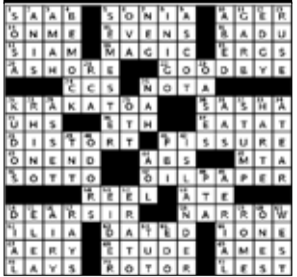
Table of weather conditions for various world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York, with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Thick slice; 5- Island in the East China Sea; 10- Young deer; 14- Beancurd; 15- Crazy as ___; 16- Sheltered, nautically; 17- Self-centered; 19- Fragments; 20- Elton's john; 21- Lots and lots; 22- Female beast; 24- Fancy home; 26- ___ me tangere; 27- Capital of Utah; 33- Bowling alley button; 36- Consumed; 37- Code-breaking org.; 38- "___ She Lovely?"; 39- Second king of Israel; 40- Entrance; 41- Long March leader; 42- Stroll; 43- Inward feeling; 44- Subordinate; 47- Female deer; 48- Replicator; 52- Spread out; 55- Tombstone lawman; 57- College sr.'s test; 58- Math course; 59- Absorbing; 62- Must've been something ___; 63- Examines closely; 64- Converse competitor; 65- Deli breads; 66- Loudness units; 67- Rind;

DOWN: 1- Stone marker; 2- Corporate symbols; 3- Under way; 4- Tampa Bay player, for short; 5- Construction framing a fireplace; 6- Choir member; 7- Ripped; 8- ___-disant (self-styled); 9- Raw; 10- Cloth; 11- That's ___!; 12- Dampens; 13- Capone's nemesis; 18- Really bother; 23- Secluded spot; 25- I'd hate to break up ___; 26- Country; 28- Tantalizes; 29- Tennis great Rod; 30- A party to; 31- General ___ chicken; 32- Dextrous, lively; 33- Lens holders; 34- Biblical birthright seller; 35- Highbrow; 39- Undated; 40- Abstruse; 42- Agricultural implement; 43- Halts; 45- Sayings; 46- Beyond; 49- Uncle!; 50- Bert's buddy; 51- Fit for a king; 52- Agitate; 53- Ask for divine guidance; 54- Religious practice; 55- Richard of "A Summer Place"; 56- "Judith" composer; 60- Cpl., e.g.; 61- Dupe;

Yesterday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BesCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
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



Real estate advertisement for JML Property. Includes sections for 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' with details on properties like 'Excellent Investment Property', 'Coloane Village', 'Hellen Garden, LOT 3', 'Designer Apartment', 'Warehouse, Keck Seng', 'One Oasis D and J Units', 'Vai Nam Taipa', and 'Pearl On The Lough, Unit E'. Includes the JML Property logo and contact information.



澳門特別行政區政府
Macao Special Administrative Region Government
體育發展局
Macao Sport Development Board

In accordance with "The Regulation of Awards for Highly Competitive Sports" and "The Regulation of Awards for Sports for the Disabled", the following athletes and coaches are awarded bonuses as encouragement and recognition of their achievements:

Cycling Team

Competition : 12th Asian Indoor Cycling Championships
Total : MOPS172,500
Coach : Lou Weng Meng
Athletes : Cheong Choi Peng, Ju Pou Kei, Lei Fai, Chan Hou Pong, Wan Chi Kit

Bodybuilding Team

Competitions : 48th Asian Bodybuilding Fitness and Physique Sports Championships,
6th WBPF World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships
Total : MOPS397,500
Coach : Lau Fong Peng
Athletes : Iao Chong Wa, Lam Keng Hou, Chong Ka Lap, Pang Chi Man, Iam Hoi Kun, Lee Marco Alfredo, Ieong Weng Kuan, Wong Chong Ieong

Karate-do Team

Competition : 17th Asian Games
Total : MOPS240,000
Coaches : Rashidnia Mohammad Reza, Ng Iat On
Athletes : Cheung Pui Si, Carion Paula Cristina Pereira

Disabled Sports Team

Competition : 2014 Asian Para Games
Total : MOPS28,000
Coach : Cheong Cheng I
Athletes : Lam Oi Man, U Choi Hong

Roller Hockey Team

Competition : 16th Asian Roller Skating Championships
Total : MOPS517,500
Coach : Maria Dulce de Senna Fernandes Atraca Lisboa
Athletes : Augusto da Cruz Ramos Fernandes, Alfredo Hernandez de Almeida, Dinisio Alberto da Luz, Hélder Albada Ricardo, Leong Chak In, Luis Miguel Virrey Brito da Rosa, Nuno Miguel Oliveira Freire Antunes, Ricardo Jorge de Senna Atraca Amorim Afonso, Alberto Mario Campante Vieira de Jesus Lisboa, Ma Soi Hang, Pedro Afonso Nunes de Mendonça Pablo, Martim Afonso de Azevedo Cruz, Jorge Netsuwan Lobato de Faria Pinheiro, Cláudio Castilho Lameiras, Bruno Miguel Silva Pereira, Duarte Delgado Lourenço Pinheiro Torres

In accordance with "The Regulation of Attribution of Certificates of Merits in Sports", the following athletes and coaches are awarded certificates of merits as encouragement and recognition of their achievements:

Athletics Team

Coaches : Dong Xuezhai, Au Chi Kun
Athletes : Iong Kim Fai, Iao Si Teng, Leong Ka Man, Io In Chi, Vu Nga Man, Pao Hin Fong, Yang Zixian, Leong Wang Kuong, Lam Kin Hang, Ieong Loi, Lam Cho Kei

Badminton Team

Coaches : Yu Libui, Lim Yin Siang
Athletes : Wang Rong, Zhang Zhibo

Bowling Team

Coach : Yiu Man Yau
Athletes : Hui Tong, Choi Kit Fan Filomena, Che Weng Si, Lee Tak Man

Boxing Team

Coaches : Sou Weng Chon, Sio Chi Hong, Cheong Wai, Cheong Long
Athletes : Tam Si Long, Cheong Lap Cheong

Muay Thai Team

Coach : Hoi Lap Man
Athletes : Chan Ka Man, Wong Kin Kuong

Cycling Team

Coach : Lou Weng Meng
Athletes : Cheong Choi Peng, Ju Pou Kei, Lei Fai, Chan Hou Pong, Wan Chi Kit

Bodybuilding Team

Coach : Lau Fong Peng
Athletes : Iao Chong Wa, Lam Keng Hou, Chong Ka Lap, Ieong Weng Kuan, Pang Chi Man, Iam Hoi Kun, Lee Marco Alfredo, Wong I Cheng, Leong Ka Chon, Kuong Tat Fong, Lou Ching Kit, Cheong Chak Nam, Wong Chong Ieong

Dance Sport Team

Coaches : Choi Lai Fong, Zhou Daxing, Kokkonen Anri Marika
Athletes : Tam Ka Pan, Yung Weng Lam, Fong Wai Kin, U Mei Kok, Chan Chon, Dos Santos Kaewmanee Celina, Chiu Choi António, Lao Hio I, Chan Chon Kit, Lei Ut U, Lam Chi Tong, Pun Wun, Wong Iat Hong, Jin Heng, Che Tin Long, Chan Ngok Wai, Lai Keng Pui, Leung Ka Hei, Lo Ka Weng, Lao U Tou, Ng Iok San, So Chin Hong, Cheng Kong Hung

Fencing Team

Coach : Li Weijie
Athletes : Ho Ka U, Ho Peng I, Huang Liya

Ice Sports Team

Coaches : Chen Zhipeng, Li Liping
Athletes : Che Hou Fai, Un Kin Fai, Shinoda Katsuyoshi, Mok Koi Tou, Pong Ka Kit, Chon Ka Mui, Tong Chun Wa, Chan Chi Kit, Kam Hou Kan, Ian Zhibang, U Chi Fong, Mok Kim Hei, Fong Keng Lam, Leong Chon Kong, Che Chin Hong, Tam Weng Leong, Ho Chon Nin, Kong Chong Man, Chu Te Lin, Lei Meng Chi, Mok Kim Kei, Ho Chi Hin, Kam Chi Chon, Ho Seng Chon, Lo Weng Kuan, Cheong Sin I, Ho Chi Cheng

Golf Team

Coach : João Manuel Gomes de Senna Fernandes
Athletes : Ao Ka Hou, Lam Chon Him

Chess Team

Athletes : Ieong Seak Hin, Ip Seng Tou

Taekwondo Team

Competitions : 21st Asian Taekwondo Championships, 17th Asian Games
Total : MOPS330,000
Coach : Kim Jun Woo
Athletes : Feng Xiao, Liu Qing, Wang Junnan

Wushu Team

Competitions : 5th World Junior Wushu Championships, 17th Asian Games,
3rd Asian Dragon and Lion Dance Championship, 1st World Taijiquan Championships
Total : MOPS4,135,000
Coaches : Zeng Tie Ming, Jia Rui, Iao Chon In, Leong Hong Man, Huang Yanhui, Pun Keng Man, Lai Iam Wa, Law Chan Kuong, Kou Kun Chi
Athletes : Chio Wai Keong, Jia Rui, Li Yi, Huang Junhua, Ho Pui Kei, Cheong Pui Seng, Kou Iong Chi, Chan Kin Keong, Chau Meng Chon, Wong Peng Keong, Mou Wai Hong, Wong Ka Kin, Lei Io Neng, Iu Ka Lok, Chou Ka Seng, Ho Chi Hou, Si Chi Kin, Lao Wai Chong, Leong Chon Kit, Kam Wai Kit, Leong Ka Weng, Chan Chi Hou, Ieong Kam In, Lei Kin Nam, Un Weng Hong, Wong Ka Weng, Chio Man Tou, Leong Wai In, Chan Leng Ha, Jin Thirawat, Lam Wai Man, Wong Chi Hin, Chan Man Fai, Cheung Hou Chun, Kong Kan Pio, Chao Chi Weng, Choi Iok Pan, Lou Lai Man

Xiangqi Team

Competition : 2014 Asian Xiangqi Championship
Total : MOPS115,000
Coach : Chen Bupeng
Athletes : Cao Yanlei, Lei Kam Fun, Che Keng Po, Tou Keng Vai

Judo Team

Coaches : Ishimine Asaaki, Lo Chi Wai, Chong Ka Lok, Leong Siu Pou, Chang Choi Chan, Kou Cheok San
Athletes : Leong Siu Pou, Un Si Man, Fu Chi Wa, Cheung Ka Mei, Tang Lai Man, Kuok Kuan Chi Joaquim, Yung Chi Ieng, Lao Ka Cheng, Kuok Lai Iong, Leong Kuok Cheng, Chan Ian Ian, Leong Lai Tong, Lio Chon Hou, Mac Wang Lok, Kuan Chi Seng, Lei Chi In, Lei Cheng I, Cheung Chi Lap, Chong Man Kit, Lai Wang Kit, U Long Iat, Tam Man Chon, Lei Pak Wing, Leung Chi Lou, Chek Tak Chong, Ho Chi Weng, Ng Lei Wai, Lo Ut Ian, Costa Ao Miguel, Wan Ka Lok, Wong Ka Lei, Tong Ka Io, Wong Ka Cheng, Chan Pui I, Ao Pui I, Ng I Kei, Che Ka Sin, Chong I Peng, Chao Hei Man, Kuan Chi Lok

Karate-do Team

Coaches : Rashidnia Mohammad Reza, Ng Iat On
Athletes : Cheung Pui Si, Carion Paula Cristina Pereira

Special Olympics Sports Team

Coaches : Siu Yu Ning, Tang Ieng Ieng
Athletes : Leong Ka Weng, Lam Kin Wai, Leung Siu In

Swimming Team

Coaches : Sam Choi Lin, Wang Ruihua, Ying Jingli, Zhang Zilin
Athletes : Fong Man Wai, Chan Yih Shiuan, Choi Sut Ian, Choi Sut Kuan, Lo I Teng, Au Ieong Sin Ieng, Wong I Teng, Chang Si Wai, Kou Chin, Lo Wai Lam, Lo Wai Si, Lok Ka Man, Cheong Ka Ieng, Gou Cheng I, Wong Cheng U, Lei On Kei, Yung Erica Man Wai, Chao Man Hou, Ngou Pok Man

Roller Hockey Team

Coach : Maria Dulce de Senna Fernandes Atraca Lisboa
Athletes : Augusto da Cruz Ramos Fernandes, Alfredo Hernandez de Almeida, Dinisio Alberto da Luz, Hélder Albada Ricardo, Leong Chak In, Luis Miguel Virrey Brito da Rosa, Nuno Miguel Oliveira Freire Antunes, Ricardo Jorge de Senna Atraca Amorim Afonso, Alberto Mario Campante Vieira de Jesus Lisboa, Ma Soi Hang, Pedro Afonso Nunes de Mendonça Pablo, Martim Afonso de Azevedo Cruz, Jorge Netsuwan Lobato de Faria Pinheiro, Cláudio Castilho Lameiras, Bruno Miguel Silva Pereira, Duarte Delgado Lourenço Pinheiro Torres

Disabled Sports Team

Coaches : Cheong Cheng I, Wong Ion Kao
Athletes : Lam Oi Man, U Choi Hong

Taekwondo Team

Coaches : Kim Jun Woo, Chao Iat Keong, Xu Liang
Athletes : Feng Xiao, Liu Qing, Wang Junnan

Table Tennis Team

Coach : Shi Zhenke
Athletes : Cheong Cheng I, Leong Kit Weng, Wong Choi Chi, Wong Siu Ieng, Kuok Cheng I

Triathlon Team

Coach : Ando Kenta
Athletes : Hoi Long, Che Ka Chon

Wushu Team

Coaches : Zeng Tie Ming, Iao Chon In, Jia Rui, Leong Hong Man, Huang Yanhui, Pun Keng Man, Law Chan Kuong, Lai Iam Wa, Kou Kun Chi
Athletes : Jia Rui, Li Yi, Huang Junhua, Chio Wai Keong, Wu Chi In, Sou Cho Man, Wong Kui Sin, He Weng I, Mui Weng I, Lei Cheok Ieong, Lin Pui Chan, Hung Si Fan, Ho Pui Kei, Cheong Pui Seng, Chong Ka Seng, Kou Iong Chi, Chan Kin Keong, Chau Meng Chon, Wong Peng Keong, Mou Wai Hong, Wong Ka Kin, Lei Io Neng, Iu Ka Lok, Chou Ka Seng, Ho Chi Hou, Si Chi Kin, Lao Wai Chong, Leong Chon Kit, Kam Wai Kit, Leong Ka Weng, Chan Chi Hou, Ieong Kam In, Lei Kin Nam, Un Weng Hong, Wong Ka Weng, Chio Man Tou, Leong Wai In, Chan Leng Ha, Jin Thirawat, Lam Wai Man, Wong Chi Hin, Chan Man Fai, Cheung Hou Chun, Kong Kan Pio, Chao Chi Weng, Choi Iok Pan, Lou Lai Man

Xiangqi Team

Coach : Chen Bupeng
Athletes : Cao Yanlei, Lei Kam Fun, Che Keng Po, Tou Keng Vai

FOOTBALL | ASIAN CUP

UAE, Iran through to knockout stage

Keiran Smith, Sydney

ALI Mabkhout eased the tension quickly for his team, scoring after just 14 seconds to set up a 2-1 win over Bahrain that secured a spot in the Asian Cup knockout stage for the United Arab Emirates.

Three-time champion Iran earned a place in the quarterfinals later yesterday with a 1-0 win over Qatar, and will meet the UAE on Monday in Brisbane to determine top spot in Group C.

Both teams are assured of joining Australia, South Korea and China in the knockout stage. Japan and Iraq are playing today in Group D, with the winner sure to join them.

Mabkhout was the toast of the Emirates, with his rapid-fire goal in the second game adding to his two goals in the opening 4-1 win over Qatar.

His goal was canceled out after 26 minutes, though, by a Jaycee John header. A quiet second half came to life in Canberra with an own goal, as Bahrain captain Mohamed Hasan headed an Amer Abdulrahman free-kick into his own net.

At Sydney, 20-year-old Sardar Azmoun scored in the second half to lift Iran over Qatar.

Iran, the top ranked team in the tournament, had to be patient against a well-organized Qatari defense, before Sardar broke the deadlock after turning his defender and poking the ball past keeper Qasem Burhan.

"It was a brilliant goal", said former Real Madrid and Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz.



Iran's goalkeeper Alireza Haghigh waves to the crowd following their win over Qatar in their AFC Asia Cup soccer match in Sydney, Australia

"It was a special moment, a great turn at the level of the best center forwards I have worked with in my life. For a young player he has a great future in front of him."

Iran has six points to sit second behind UAE on goal difference in the group. Qatar and Bahrain are out of contention with a game remaining.

This was only the second Asian Cup finals meeting between these two nations, since Iran's 2-0 win in 1988, and despite the closeness of the score Iran was never troubled by the 2014 Gulf Cup champions.

Quiroz opted to start with Sardar, ahead of the more experienced Reza Ghoochannejhad, as Iran's only change from the opening 2-0 win over Bahrain.

It was Sardar who had Iran's first chance when he rose highest to head a Mehrdad Poo-

ladi cross on target in the 3rd minute but was easily saved by Qasem.

That proved to be Iran's only shot on target until late in the first-half when captain Javad Nekounam's headed shot was cleared off the goal-line by Ahmed Mohamed with Qasem beaten to keep the Qataris level at half-time.

The breakthrough finally came in the 52nd minute after Dejagah played a low cross for Sardar, who turned past defender Almadhi before poking the ball past Qasem's outstretched leg and into the right corner of the goal, sparking wild celebrations among the Iranian supporters in the 22,672-strong crowd.

"I think we deserved to win the game," said Quiroz. "I'd like to dedicate this win to the fantastic Iranian fans that come here to support the team. The win is for them." **AP**

Arum: Pacquiao agrees to terms for Mayweather fight

Tim Dahlberg, AP Boxing Writer, Las Vegas

MANNY Pacquiao flew to Los Angeles yesterday, preparing for a meeting with contestants of the Miss Universe pageant. Whether he has an even bigger date on May 2 seems entirely up to Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Promoter Bob Arum said Pacquiao has agreed to all terms for what would be boxing's richest fight ever, a bout with Mayweather that fans have been demanding for five years.

The question now is whether the long-reluctant Mayweather will finally sign on the dotted line for what could be an astonishing USD120 million payday for the fighter who flaunts his money better than anyone.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Arum told The Associated Press. "I don't want to be antagonistic and say he's not on board and not going to sign. The representation is that he is on board with this."

Arum said negotiations with Mayweather's representatives over the past few weeks resulted in agreements on everything from the date and site of the fight (MGM Grand in Las Vegas) to purse split (reportedly 60-40 in Mayweather's favor) to the type of gloves the boxers will wear.

But Mayweather has yet to personally agree to the fight, and the possibility remained that Arum was publicly discussing Pacquiao agreeing to terms to try to up the pressure on the unbeaten boxer to sign.

"We're waiting for Mayweather to sign a document saying, 'Yeah,'" Arum said.

Just what Mayweather is thinking remains unclear. Though he declared on Showtime last month that he wanted the fight, he rarely speaks to the media between fights and his manager, Al Haymon, almost never speaks publicly.

Mayweather put out pictures of himself in front of a private jet and his new cars this week along with a picture of his Las Vegas mansion, but said nothing about the Pacquiao fight on social media.

Arum said the negotiations have been at the highest levels, and Pacquiao agreed to all the demands by the Mayweather team.

"We took our stands on certain issues, but essentially we acquiesced on most things," Arum said.

Arum said he planned to meet with Pacquiao today in Los Angeles to formally get his fighter's signature on the terms of the bout. Pacquiao flew from the Philippines on his way to judge the Miss Universe pageant on Jan. 25 in Florida.

Arum said the fight would be held at the MGM, where Mayweather has fought exclusively for years. The 15,000-seat arena would be scaled for a \$40 million live gate. He said with pay-per-view revenues, the bout could generate \$200 million.

With a 60-40 split, that would mean a potential \$120 million payday for Mayweather and his team and \$80 million for Pacquiao and his promoter. Both would be record purses for fighters. **AP**

AD



優悅 牙科護理中心
ICQ Oral Health Center

I Care for Quality

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.



Portable Chemical Toilet Hiring

- Regular Units, Flush Units
- Units with Sanitizers, Sinks
- Deluxe Units
- Daily, Weekly or Monthly
- Deliver, Pick-Up & Pump Out of Portable Toilets

FREE DELIVERY

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ

I must admit that I usually don't easily gulp overly nationalistic injunctions, and hence consider appeals to "national unity" and unquestionable flag-waving displays of national pride with great suspicion. In that respect, I follow a long, ironically partially French, tradition of anarchist thinking, still very much alive today, the one of Georges Brassens who derided in his songs "the race of chauvinists and cockade-bearers" and "the happy fools whose hometown means the world". Cabu, Wolinski, Charb and Tignious, the four (now for sure) world-renown caricaturists who were cold-bloodedly executed in the terrorist attack against Charlie Hebdo on January 7 belonged to this very same tradition: one of irreverence for self-confident powerful people as well as one of absolute rejection of every single form of intolerance—religious, but also political, social and economic. Core to that credo is the intimate conviction, one that can be traced back to Plato and the use of the Ring of Gyges described in the Republic, that power holders will always be tempted to abuse their power, and ultimately, as Lord Acton beautifully puts it that "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely".

Yet, after the dismay and awe triggered by the double terrorist slaughter that took place in the very heart of Paris and ultimately claimed the life of 17 people, including three policemen, whose job, as state representatives, was precisely to make sure that citizens' rights were protected, a new kind of emotion kicked in. All of a sudden, individuals and governments alike, French and from all around the world, felt that a symbol had been partly destroyed and purposefully threatened, something essential to what makes us human beings, decent and civilized people. Of course, compared to the horrendous massacres that took place almost concomitantly in Yemen and Nigeria, claiming the lives of possibly thousands, one has to feel humble: Islamic terrorism mostly kills Muslim victims and to be honest one could even say that in comparison Europe is more fearful than actually devastated by terrorism. But symbols, and hence representations are what make us distinctively human. Thus, "liberté, égalité, fraternité" (freedom, equality and fraternity), the motto of the French Republic suddenly made perfect sense, as something that should be embraced and cherished. Feeling patriotic was suddenly universal and unmistakably worth espousing. The freedom to express my opinion, the equality of all, whatever the gender, race and religion, and the much needed fraternity to surmount this upheaval and possibly prevent what made this self-devouring brutal act possible. The point was not anymore whether one would agree or not with the provocative drawings of Charlie Hebdo, but the realization that these "foot soldiers of liberty" were the guarantors of the outer fringe of our freedom of expression within the boundary of the law. Hence close to 4 million people in the streets of France on Sunday 11 to pay tribute to those departed. Hence the totality of the members of the French assembly chanting the national anthem to salute the Prime Minister's speech on Wednesday 14, a first since the armistice of 1918.

To my great consternation, that very same freedom of speech was invoked on January 13 to defend the unsavory comments made by legislator Feng Chi Keong during the plenary discussion related to the new Domestic Violence Law. Mr Fong, in his usual table-talk manners, clearly implied that it was okay to beat one's wife once in a while when she was arguing too much or being seemingly unresponsive to sexual arousing—going as far as saying that marriage was some form of bestial arrangement to satisfy sexual needs. What shields Mr Fong is not the protection of freedom of speech, it is his legislative immunity. What protects Mr Fong is the fact that the penal code does not clearly define the "apology" or "instigation" of violence and discrimination towards women despite the fact that Macao is a signatory of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. What protects Mr Fong is not the respect he commends in the community, it is the fact that he is not accountable to an electorate. The problem is: Mr Fong is designated by the Chief Executive, and is the president of the charitable association behind the Walk for a Million as well as the president of the Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association, among many other things. We trust that he could be made accountable in other ways...

THE BUZZ MARIAH CAREY IS HEADING TO SIN CITY

Caesars Palace announced yesterday that the 44-year-old pop icon would open a series of shows May 16 at The Colosseum in Las Vegas. Carey has announced 18 performances, so far. The show, dubbed "MARIAH CAREY #1s," will

feature the singer performing her 18 No. 1 singles, which include "We Belong Together," "Hero" and "Vision of Love." She is one of the all-time best-selling acts in music. Carey's announcement came after a so-so year for the multiplatinum,



Grammy-winning star. Her latest album, "Me. I Am Mariah... The Elusive Chanteuse," was a commercial flop and she was criticized for her vocal performance during her recent tour.

Caesars unit says it filed for bankruptcy to cut debt

Kimberly Pierceall, Las Vegas

A cash-strapped division of casino giant Caesars Entertainment Corp. said yesterday that it filed for bankruptcy protection in Chicago, hoping the court agrees to its plan to get out from under USD18.4 billion in debt.

The division, Caesars Entertainment Operating Co., owns and operates most of Caesars' 50 properties worldwide. Caesars CEO Gary Loveman said in a statement that its casino-hotels would remain open and continue to host meetings and events, assuring customers that their loyalty points would still accrue and the company's lineup of onstage entertainers would perform according to their schedules.

Company officials say they intend to continue paying its suppliers in full.

"I am very confident in the future prospects of our enterprise, which will combine an improved capital structure with a network of profitable properties," Loveman said in the statement.

The bankruptcy filing doesn't apply to parent company Caesars Entertainment Corp. and affiliated companies Caesars Growth Partners and Caesars Entertainment Resort Properties.

More than 30,000 people are employed at the debt-laden division's 38 casino-hotels, including Bally's and



A man takes pictures of Caesars Palace hotel and casino, in Las Vegas

Caesars in Atlantic City and the iconic Caesars Palace on the Las Vegas Strip.

In a video message posted online, Loveman said employees would continue to receive pay and benefits as usual.

The filing from Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. in a Chicago bankruptcy court came as no surprise.

The company has been weighed down by sizable debt ever since Apollo Global Management LLC and TPG Capital LP and other investors bought the casino giant in January 2008 for \$30.7 billion, using \$6.1 billion of their own cash and paying the rest with \$24.7 billion in debt.

Caesars has been negotiating with creditors and lenders for months on a reorganization plan that would turn the division into a real estate investment trust — one to own properties and the other

to lease properties — promising creditors cash or new debt.

Not everyone is on board, though, including three junior creditor hedge funds owed \$41 million that contend the plan isn't fair. In a bid to get more favorable terms, they filed a petition Monday in Delaware's federal court to force the division into involuntary bankruptcy.

Caesars Entertainment Operating Co.'s own filing yesterday could set off a "sideshow" of jurisdictional wrangling to decide where the case would be heard, Delaware or Illinois, said University of Michigan law professor John Pottow.

Caesars' lawyers have noted the division doesn't own or manage any casino-hotels in Delaware.

Cathy Reece, director of law firm Fennemore Craig's bankruptcy practice, pointed out that Enron filed for bankruptcy in New York, rather than in its home state of Texas, and the court agreed. It's up to the company as long as it can prove a connection to the area, she said.

Several casino-hotels owned and managed by Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. are in the Midwest including two in Illinois, Harrah's Joliet and Harrah's Metropolis, and the Horseshoe Hammond casino in Indiana near Chicago, the company explained in a filing with the judge in Delaware. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

SRI LANKA's new president replaces an ex-military official with a civilian governor in the Tamil-controlled north in a sign of improving ties with the ethnic minority following the end of the civil war.

THAILAND Human rights groups and labor organizations across Asia urge Thailand's military government to scrap a proposal to send prisoners onto Thai fishing boats to fill labor shortages.



FRANCE President Francois Hollande says France's millions of Muslims should be protected and respected and in turn they should also respect the nation's strict secular policies. Hollande spoke yesterday after three radical Muslim gunmen killed 17 people last week in France's worst attacks in decades. Two of the attackers claimed allegiances to al-Qaida in Yemen and another to the Islamic State group.

USA-CUBA The Obama administration is putting a large dent in the U.S. embargo against Cuba as of today, significantly loosening restrictions on American trade and investment. The new rules also open up the communist island to greater American travel and allow U.S. citizens to start bringing home small amounts of Cuban cigars after more than a half-century ban.



SWITZERLAND's central bank has scrapped a policy that limited how much the euro could fall against the Swiss franc, an unexpected decision that sent the euro plummeting a stunning 30 percent against the Swiss currency before it recovered somewhat.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Chiang Ying-ying



Hong Kong actress Tang Wei poses for a photo with fans during an event to promote her latest movie "Blackhat" in Taipei yesterday.