



COLOANE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE PROTECTED

The IC is carrying out works to protect the Coloane archaeological site from possible weather damage

P4



TAIPA LIBRARY OPERATIONAL ON TRIAL NEXT WEEK

P5



SHUN TAK BUYS HOTEL PROPERTY IN SHANGHAI

Shun Tak Holdings Ltd announced yesterday an agreement to acquire a hotel property in Shanghai for RMB700 million

P20



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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA A city government in Guangdong has revoked approval of a planned waste incinerator in response to protests, in the latest case of local authorities bowing to a public outcry over health concerns. [More on p10](#)

YEMEN Iran dispatches a destroyer and another naval ship to waters off Yemen, raising the stakes amid Saudi-led airstrikes targeting rebels in the country while the Islamic Republic's diplomats call for a political solution to the crisis.

NORTH KOREA has deported an American woman who frequently visited the country over the past 20 years, accusing her of engaging in “plot-breeding and propaganda.” [More on p12](#)

CAMBODIA Lawmakers overwhelmingly approve a vote to remake the country's electoral body, part of a political deal to help ensure fairness in the next national vote in 2018. Opposition leader Sam Rainsy calls it a “historic milestone for Cambodia.” [More on p12](#)

AP PHOTO



ITALY A gunman opened fire in a Milan courtroom, killing a judge and as many as two other people before being captured as he tried to flee on a motorbike, news reports and Italy's interior minister said. [More on p15](#)

BANGLADESH A police officer says an overnight bus packed with passengers veered off the road, hit trees and plunged into a ditch, killing at least 24 people and injuring 22 others

[More on backpage](#)

Stock gamble spreads to Hong Kong

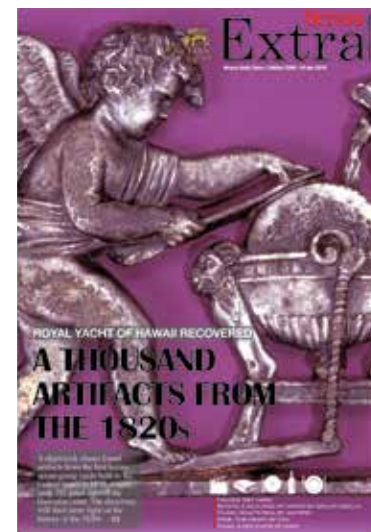
Casino shares up 2 digits in 2 days



BLOOMBERG

Wong Sio Chak: region's security affected by 'unstable factors'

P3 POLICY ADDRESS



Extra

times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

Scooter driver crushed to death by shuttle bus

A motorcyclist has been crushed to death after being run over by a casino shuttle bus yesterday morning. The incident occurred at a roundabout near the Rotunda da Amizade. The victim, a 40-year-old Hong Kong identity card holder, allegedly fell from his motorbike after a slight collision with a scooter traveling in front of him. The shuttle bus, loaded with passengers and with a dual license plate, came from behind and crashed into him. The 50-year-old bus driver has passed the breathalyzer test. The fatal incident, which happened at around 9.30 a.m., caused extensive traffic congestion in the area.

Meal and learning material subsidies up

Subsidies for both meal and learning materials granted to students studying at local secondary schools, elementary schools and kindergartens have increased for their upcoming semester. Students studying at the abovementioned levels will enjoy a meal subsidy of up to MOP3,200, a MOP200 increase from this term. In addition, the learning material subsidy for secondary students will go up from the current MOP2,500 to MOP2,700, while the amount for kindergarten and primary school students will see an increase of MOP100 from their current MOP2,000. The authorities also relaxed application requirements for eligible families, with a 6.4-percent adjustment to the upper limit of the families' average incomes.

Woman loses thousands in phone scam

A local woman approached the Judiciary Police last Saturday after being swindled out of a total of HKD130,000 and RMB80,000 from her bank account last month. She received a call allegedly from a post office in the mainland, during which the victim was told that she had faked documents using another's identity, and was subsequently offered a contact number of the public security department in Shanghai. She then dialed the number in the hope of getting rid of any trouble. However, the man who answered the call asked her to give him her bank account information and the account's password in Macau, claiming that these actions were necessary in order to investigate the incident, and telling her not to check the balance on the account. The victim, who finally became suspicious of these events this month, called police after seeing that HKD130,000 and RMB80,000 was missing from her account.

Minimum wage effective in May

The government has granted a salary enhancement to the outsourced cleaning personnel and security guards who work for public departments. This increase will come into effect next month, according to an announcement published in the Official Gazette. The Executive Council spokesperson Leong Heng Teng, announced earlier that the MSAR will extend the minimum wage scheme for the two types of labors to the private sector, eight years after it was introduced into the public departments. However, such a proposal has ignited strong opposition from some private companies, which reportedly hope to adjust management fees in response to the rise in cost.

ANALYSIS

Singapore's casinos made a mistake: cutting out the junkets

SINGAPORE wanted nothing to do with the often questionable gaming middlemen who proliferate in Macau. The gambling houses in Macau get around China's currency controls by relying on so-called junket operators to extend credit to mainland high rollers, a business model that has been linked to organized crime groups known as triads, says Steve Vickers, chief executive officer at risk consultant Steve Vickers & Associates.

But lately, Singapore's two casinos appear to be paying the price of their government restricting that setup. Chinese VIP gamblers patronize both cities—and account for about half of all Singapore gaming revenue, says Grant Govertsen, an analyst at Union Gaming Advisors. And bad debts are mounting in both cities as gamblers have a hard time adjusting to China's corruption crackdown and slowing economic growth.

There's a big difference in how casinos feel the pain, however. In Macau about 180 licensed go-betweens provide credit to their customers and collect the money they owe. Singapore has just three licensed junket operators, who mainly help with foreign travel arrangements. So gaming losses there fall squarely on the casinos' shoulders.

The burden is growing. Casino operator Genting Singapore and billionaire Sheldon Adelson's Las Vegas Sands, parent of Singapore's Marina Bay Sands casino, already have reported hundreds of millions of dollars in receivables, or outstanding debts, on their balance sheets. Genting has established a record reserve to cover debts that are uncertain to be repaid. More will probably have to be set aside, according to Union Gaming. Receivables and notes that Genting Singapore is owed but hasn't collected totaled \$787.5 million in 2014, more than doubling from \$369 million in 2010, ac-



A couple takes a stroll on a promenade fronting the Marina Bay Sands casino resort complex in Singapore

ording to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's about four times the average at Macau's six biggest casino operators.

The junket setup in Macau gives gaming houses some protection from such charges. In good times, junket operators take a slice of profits that would otherwise go to the casino in exchange for bringing in groups of high-stakes gamblers with whom they have relationships. In bad times, they shield the gaming company from some of the losses by handling their own collections—with some using everything from public shaming of indebted clients in their hometowns in China to physical intimidation.

"Singapore casinos are dealing directly with the VIP players," says Govertsen. "That makes it a lot tougher to collect receivables because they don't have the typical resources that junket operators would have to collect such gambling debts."

Singapore officials didn't want its two casinos to rely on such outsiders. "The business model of junkets is inherently designed to usurp laws and regulations

related to lending, money flows, and other elements," says Jonathan Galaviz, a partner at Global Market Advisors, a tourism consultant. "Singapore didn't want to risk its reputation as an ethical global financial center."

Singapore is trying to use judicial means to compel dozens of Chinese gamblers to pay up. Last year its two casinos filed 49 lawsuits against individuals in Singapore's High Court for gaming-related debts, up from just two a year earlier. The resorts brought 12 more cases in the first quarter of 2015. Val Chua, spokeswoman at Marina Bay Sands, and Lee Sin Yee, spokeswoman at Genting's Resorts World Sentosa resort in Singapore, declined to comment. Singapore's Casino Regulatory Authority didn't immediately respond to questions.

Last month, China's government set its lowest annual growth target in more than 15 years, a bad omen for real estate prices. "A lot of these Chinese VIPs have money stuck in property investments, and they're probably having trouble liquidating those assets to pay off those debts," says Samuel Yin, an analyst at Maybank Kim Eng in Kuala Lumpur.

While junket operators might be helpful in such times, says Vickers, "a major problem ... is that a need for extra-legal services means that many junkets have close links to triad societies." Those extra-legal services include debt collection and running prostitution rings inside casinos, he says.

A mainland gang in 2005 beat a man to death while seeking repayment of 1.8 million yuan (\$291,000) he lost at a Macau casino. Chinese police handle more than 200 cases annually of illegal imprisonment of gamblers for unpaid Macau debts, according to a 2012 report by the government-controlled newspaper Xinxin Shihao. **MDT/Bloomberg**

GAMING

US group and Macau firm propose two casinos in the Philippines

A US investment group and a Macau-based gaming firm are currently in talks with the authorities as they try to attain permission to open two new casino resorts in the Philippines.

According to Reuters, Sino-American Gaming Investment Group, which is

controlled by Denver-based consultant RiskWise Group, and Macau Resources Group intend to spend USD1 billion on two casino resorts: one of them in the island province of Cebu; and the other in Napayawan, which is close to a proposed airport.

Francis Hernando, vice pre-

sident of gaming licensing and development at regulator PAGCOR, confirmed to the news agency that the letters of intention from the groups had been received. However, he said that the Filipino regulator currently has no categorical position on the proposals. "For areas outside

of metro Manila, especially in underserved areas, the chances of looking into a casino license would be higher than in Manila," Hernando said.

Michael Foxman, managing director of Sino-American Gaming, indicated to Reuters that the hotel chain Banyan Tree would take part in the development. The proponents are also negotiating with the Marriott group. Sino-American Gaming have further stated that they have signed on with a Las Vegas partner for entertainment.

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Brook Yang

POLICY ADDRESS | SECURITY

Wong: security situation affected by 'unstable factors'

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) started discussing the government's 2015 policy objectives for the security area yesterday. The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, responded to lawmakers' inquiries at the plenary meeting, explaining plans and difficulties to be improved in the policing of technologies, discussing how law enforcement could be improved to cope with the security risks brought by the region's large visitor and migrant flows, as well as increasingly diversified and subtle criminal methods.

"Macau's public security, its citizens' safety, and the country's security situation are now affected by more unstable factors, due to the increasingly complex social contradictions in a more pluralistic society. Police are facing more difficulties and challenges as security incidents within or beyond expectations are continually emerging," said the secretary.

Wong stressed that the police's specific law enforcement and deployment needs to be "more comprehensive, more specific, and more proactive," whereas the decision-making on the system must see beyond this and be backed up by science.

Drawing on the numerous visitor entries into Macau every day and especially during public holidays, Wong acknowledged that it is hard to balance the demands of both border-crossing convenience and the city's public security. "However, [we] must have balance, [we] must take action," he pledged.

"This is a very profound and high-level issue. (...) Macau's convenient border clearance is [implemented] under the hope that it will welcome more visitors, and security is a sensitive, critical and urgent problem all over the world. We have been training personnel to identify risks, and we've developed the border clearance equipment, adding in facial recognition procedures. We're to implement this plan this year, so that we can identify those who are reported as dangerous or raise a criminal risk in the first place," he said.

Lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang pointed out that a large portion of the population is made up of migrant workers, highlighting—as she has been doing for a long time at the AL—that some foreign visitors enter the city with a tourist visa but intend to seek out jobs, and these people represent a large group that the authorities do not have information on. Regarding the issue, Wong noted that all migrants need to submit their criminal records before getting a work visa.

Lawmaker Lei Cheng I echoed thoughts on the issue, urging the administrative and legisla-



Wong Sio Chak (center)

tive bodies "to take it seriously." "The Secretariat for Security always takes the stance that it's a problem in the economic area; I don't think it's simply that," she said. "Many people think it's easy to come to Macau seeking jobs and the government is unable to deal with that, which also leads to illegal employment and over-staying."

Wong acknowledged that the police have "put in a lot of manpower and recourse but it doesn't see much effect." "There are many migrants, especially from Africa, who would tear up their travel documents so that they could stay in Macau for five months. But they don't have a job or a means to survive, and if we let them

wander the streets, it will put public security at risk; but if we put them into asylum, that will be a huge burden to the SAR government," he said, suggesting that the government should pay to deport them as soon as possible.

Several lawmakers also questioned the issue of illegal immigration. Wong Sio Chak echoed their concerns and said the crime is a serious problem at the University of Macau's campus in Hengqin, but is very difficult to tackle due to a lack of an efficient fence.

"It's because of problems in the campus's design. It didn't include high walls and electric grids, as the students and faculties didn't want to feel like they were in prison. The campus

There are many migrants, especially from Africa, who would tear up their travel documents so that they could stay in Macau for five months

WONG SIO CHAK

wall is relatively short; a person with good physical strength can climb over it in a dozen seconds," he explained, adding that the authorities have been discussing the measure with the university.

Lawmaker SI Ka Lon further indicated that the city will have more and more black spots for illegal entry, following land reclamation constructions, and the realization of Macau's own customary waters.

The secretary pledged in response that the authorities would then strengthen watershed management to better tackle the crime, but warned that there could also appear "a vacuum in law" if the authorities are not prepared.

"After the scope of Macau's customary waters is defined, the mainland authorities may no longer engage in managing those waters, and a vacuum in law may also appear," he said, adding that it is crucial to see whether Macau authorities will ensure that the law enforcement's abilities are up to the task.

400 POLICE OFFICERS TO BE RECRUITED

THE SECRETARIAT for Security plans to recruit 400 police officers this year, but there are also 300 officers set to retire. Wong Sio Chak told lawmakers that "the police team lacks manpower, but the recruitment process is very diffi-

cult." To help maintain order at the border checkpoints, the authorities have hired security guards during the holiday periods this year. Wong said that next year they will have the budget to fully implement the new recruitment plan.

Online scams cause concerns

LAWMAKERS have shown concern over the authorities' policing of technologies, as the numbers of Internet crimes and telephone scams are increasing to higher levels year by year. Several lawmakers questioned the Secretary for Security on countermeasures, as well as the effectiveness of the Computer Crime Act, which has been enforced now for five years.

Chan Meng Chan stressed that the authorities have tried to elevate the issue of the policing of technologies, but the result so far has been "barely satisfactory." He believes that this will remain a key task for the next several years, and inquired about how much advanced equi-

pment the sector will need to purchase.

As for the city's Computer Crime Act, lawmaker Chan Hong asked if the authorities would conduct a review of its law enforcement, and establish whether the Act needs to be amended. "The Judiciary Police (PJ) will assess if a review of the law is needed, and we don't see the need to amend the law for the time being, but we will keep paying attention," replied Wong.

Several lawmakers also urged the secretary to give a timetable for the long-planned construction of a surveillance network. Wong explained that although the legal issue concerning every citizen's right to privacy had been solved before,

answers the technical and supply problems haven't been assured.

Wong said the authorities are even more concerned over the construction than any citizen or civil group, as "regardless of traffic accidents or criminal investigations, a lot of the time, our work is restricted due to the lack of surveillance monitors." He adds, "For instance, whenever an arson case occurred, the PJ would send out 20 to 30 investigators to the site to search for where we had installed a monitor nearby. That resulted in a big reduction in our investigative efficiency," he said.

The authorities plan to install a total of 1620 monitors throughout the city, and the first 219 monitors will be put into use within one year.

HERITAGE

Coloane archeological site report to be released soon



WITH the rainy season around the corner, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is carrying out back-filling work onto the archaeological sites recently uncovered in Coloane village. The measure, presented yesterday, intends to prevent possible weather damage, according to IC president Ung Vai Meng. Meng also revealed that the second report into the evacuation project would be complete by June.

The second phase of the archaeological excavation, finished in February, saw roughly 500 articles, artifacts and relics discovered from four different ancient periods, namely the late Neolithic Age, the Bronze Age, the Tang and Song dynasties, as well as the late Qing dynasty. The remains are being stored at a football pitch near the village.

Ung Vai Meng told media on a side visit yesterday that the bureau would devote its utmost efforts

to safeguarding the archaeological legacy discovered, also adding that the owner of the two parcels of land currently being excavated was not thinking of recovering the land for property development anytime soon, as reported earlier. "As the first phase of our archaeological project, conducted last year, came to an end, according to its report, we requested of the landowner a little more time for us to continue," he said, adding that

the property owner was willing to allow the project to carry on.

The so-called back-filling work, as Ung said, was one of the protective measures to defend the vulnerable sites, which are at risk of being destroyed by the approaching stormy weather. Apart from that, the official was also confident that the second assessment report will be finished mid-year, which would reveal a more "appropriate scheme" to better place the relics under the bureau's protection.

Also present at the site visit, the head of the urban planning department, Lao Iong, noted that that particular region might face urban planning adjustments in the wake of the latest report.

The initial report resulting from the project indicates that the relics found at the parking lot may date back to Chinese Tong dynasty, around 1300 years ago. After the site's discovery, the authorities expanded the evacuation efforts to the nearby football pitch, where the archaeological work was initiated in November last year. **Staff reporter**

DSAT starts feasibility work on fourth cross-sea passage

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) responded to a written enquiry, filed by lawmaker Chan Meng Kam at the end of January, demanding for the authorities to disclose details of the next stage in the construction of the city's fourth cross-sea passage. The bureau stated that studies are being conducted in order to explore the feasibility of the project.

However, as such a construction project might involve comprehensive and large-scale works according to Wong Wan – who is still DSAT's director, despite having filed his resignation last month – information will be disclosed later, when the bureau has collected sufficient data on the project.

In 2006, the government proposed an infrastructure plan for the city, connecting two new reclamation areas – one of them located on the Macau peninsula, and the other in Taipa – with a passage across the sea. During the nine years since that plan was disclosed, the authorities have endeavored to collect suggestions from the public, but have not announced any further details.

Earlier this year, Chan Meng Kam slammed the government for dragging on the construction project. According to his estimation, the entire project cost will have likely soared past the initial price forecast of MOP1.8 billion to more than MOP5 billion by the time the project officially commences.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

TAIPA'S first library will be opened to the general public on a trial basis next Wednesday, offering a collection of around 150,000 books for the city's library-goers. The new space was presented to the press yesterday by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), whose representatives highlighted the library's spacious area (easily accessible to citizens) and considerate family-friendly facilities, as well as its significant collection of foreign-language books.

Occupying a total area of 2,200 square meters, the library is situated at the basement level of one of Taipa's recently opened central parks, where a large spiral staircase leading down to the library has been established. The library is considered by the IC to be the city's biggest public library in terms of facilities.

It is comprised of a general reading area, newspaper area and a multimedia room. Other highlights include what the IC's department head called a "library for children" – a section occupying one-third of the entire building's area that is exclusively tailor-made for kids, and which features a little theater. This particular section also contains such features and facilities as parent-child-friendly lavatories, a nursing room and

Taipa library operational on trial next week



Ung Vai Meng describes the new space



Aspect of the library

a parking area for strollers.

However, currently owing to understaffing, it is expected that the library will only become fully operational mid-year, when all positions there are filled. Several areas of the library will remain closed, alongside some of its services that are still not yet available, despite having staff allocated from other public libraries to maintain operation for its opening.

The head of Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ung Vai Meng, hoped that the library could meet Taipa's public demand for such a space. Meanwhile, he encouraged locals to make frequent visits to the library to broaden their knowledge. "I hope that this library in Taipa can serve its biggest function, as while we know that libraries [provide] leisure and comfy environments in

contemporary society, they are also crucial in nourishing local talents. Our children and citizens could acquire knowledge through reading and interaction [there]," said Ung, also describing the new establishment as a "parlor" for the citizens in Taipa. He added that libraries currently under the management of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau will come under the management

of the IC later this year.

Among all the public libraries, Taipa's is the first one in the city to adopt the advanced RFID system, used for archiving and controlling the flow of books and documents in libraries. Furthermore, other automatic equipment available inside the library

Libraries are crucial in nourishing local talents

UNG VAI MENG

includes sterilizers for books, book scanners and word magnifiers. During the trial period, its opening hours will be from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays.

Since Taipa is largely populated with English speakers, the library has enhanced its catalogue of English-language publications, as well as making 10 out of 54 computers available with English interfaces. Various themed workshops and exhibitions, talks and art education activities will be rolled out soon. We will also see various themed plays organized at the children's theater later this month. **Staff reporter**

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Greece repays IMF loan instalment despite cash crunch

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Yanis Varoufakis, Greece's finance minister

GREECE'S government has given the order to repay a roughly 450 million euro (USD485-million) loan instalment to the International Monetary Fund due today — a debt Athens had insisted it will honor despite being severely cash-strapped.

The debt stems from Greece's international bailout, under which the country was extended 240 billion euros in rescue loans from other eurozone countries and the IMF to prevent bankruptcy.

"The order (for the repayment) has been given," and the payment was being processed and carried out, a Finance Ministry official said on condition of anonymity, in line with ministry regulations.

Doubts about whether Athens could repay the loan had renewed fears the country might default and have to leave the eurozone.

Greece's new left-winged government has been locked in strained negotiations with creditors since winning elections in January on pledges to abolish the deeply resented budget austerity measures required by the rescue program.

The country has not received any funds from its rescue loans since last August, and is running short of cash. It hopes to persuade creditors to unfreeze the final 7.2 billion euro bailout installment, and is locked

in negotiations over reforms it is proposing in return for the funds.

Greece is unable to tap the international bond market for funds due to sky-high

■ Greece has not received any funds from its rescue loans since last August, and is running short of cash

borrowing rates that reflect a lack of confidence in the country being able to repay its debts. It has been surviving on its rescue loans since mid-2010, and the new government won a four-month extension to the main, European part of its bailout in February.

Under the extension agreement, Athens must present a series of fiscal measures to reform its economy that meet the approval of its creditors at the European Commission, European Central Bank and IMF. Authorities are hoping for a final agreement later this month, when finance ministers from eurozone countries meet on April 24 in Latvia. **AP**

SHOE HOTLIST

Step into spring in style with this season's must-haves from Sergio Rossi, Saint Laurent, Rene Caovilla, Stuart Weitzman, Etro and Kurt Geiger. From T-bar sandals to Mary Janes, strappy heels, wedges and block heels, this season's fabulous shoe collections will have you looking the part from top to toe.

Style Tip: Sergio Rossi's vertiginously high heels and slimming ankle straps make it the shoe of the season. Pair with smooth, bare legs and a pedi.



CINDERELLA COLLECTIONS

The season's collections are marking the release of the live action movie adaptation of classic fairy tale *Cinderella*. Jeweller Swarovski's capsule collection of fashion jewellery, accessories and figurines features motifs inspired by flowers and butterflies in shades from vintage rose to amethyst. Venilla Suite's Disney *Cinderella* Spring/Summer 2015 Collection has seven shoe styles with pumps, pointed flats and sandals in pastels coupled with black-and-white, rose-gold and metallics for a chic yet modern Cinderella style. A Cinderella necklace is free to customers who make two Cinderella collection purchases, while stock lasts.



Swarovski, Shop 1101/35, Shoppes at Four Seasons; Shop 715, Shoppes at Venetian; Shop 1007, Shoppes at Cotai Central
Venilla Suite, Shop 519, Shoppes at Venetian



LOVE PINK

Complete your pink look this season with the limited edition ZGHIT iPhone 6 Romance Pink Mother of Pearl from Image Digital. Inspired by cherry blossom, romance and love, the design features body plating in pink, 18-karat solid gold keys and a mother of pearl logo, with an exclusive engraving service provided free of charge — all wrapped in a pink leather case and packaged in a hardwood leather box.

Image Digital
Shop 206,
Shoppes at Venetian;
Shop STK 17,
Shoppes at Venetian.



GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI DESIGN

Italian shoe designer Giuseppe Zanotti worked for fashion maisons Valentino, Dior and Roberto Cavalli before launching his own line of luxurious contemporary shoes. His striking men's and women's collections are now available exclusively to Sands Shoppes.

Shop 2808, Shoppes at Four Seasons



澳門金沙購物城邦

Sands
SHOPPES
COTAI STRIP MACAO

SHOPPES AT FOUR SEASONS

SHOPPES AT VENETIAN

SHOPPES AT COTAI CENTRAL

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The 25 questions you must ask as a tenant renting a property - Part 5

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.

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JULIET RISDON

The Most Important Questions To Ask...

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

With the high costs and the potential happiness of your family at stake, it is natural to be concerned that you are both making a good decision and getting value for money. The trouble is you may find yourself renting a property whilst starting a new job, moving your family to a new country and enrolling the kids in a new school all at the same time. Of course it is important to do your homework about any potential property you are considering to rent, and with so many things going on you also have to remember to ask your agent the most important questions about the property you are considering.

The list below is in no particular order, and is intended as a starting point to help identify which questions to ask.

Can I sublet the apartment?

In the event that you need to move out before your lease is up subletting may be the only way to avoid breaking it.

However, many owners are staunchly against subletting, and it could be a serious breach of contract.

If you are given permission to sub-let the property, it must be specifically added into the Tenancy Agreement and of course in writing.

Can I make changes to the apartment and will there be costs involved?

Adding a personal touch to an apartment may end up being quite costly if you don't have permission to do so.

Many owners don't mind as long as you put things back the way they were when you moved in, but they are wary of tenants who claim to have 'improved' the apartment by leaving brightly colored walls and makeshift furniture.

Are there plans to make any updates to the apartment complex?

This is an important question for two reasons;

Firstly, if improvements are being made then you may have to deal with construction noise and disruption and secondly; Updates could add to the amenities, enjoyment and appeal of your apartment.

Under what circumstances would my security deposit not be refunded?

Returning the apartment without giving it a thorough clean could be enough for the property manager to withhold a portion of your security deposit.

A good rule of thumb is that with the exception of normal wear and tear, an apartment should be left the way it was when you moved in if you want to receive the full deposit back.

How long am I expected to wait before my security deposit refund is given back to me?

Getting back a two-month security deposit is a big factor for most tenants.

Bearing in mind that you will move to another apartment and will need to find two-months security deposit for that apartment, you will want to get the deposit back as quickly as possible.

In most instances it should be paid back within 7 working days, but whatever is agreed verbally should be clearly stated in the Tenancy Agreement.

Next Week: That concludes the 'most important questions that tenants MUST ask' series, and next week we look at Landlords.

PokerStarsMacau
Home to Asia's best live poker tournaments

PROJECT POKER
BY LEX VELDHUIS

After a break, the view changes

It's been a while since you heard from me, especially on the actual tables. I've been going through some family stuff and didn't have the time to play at all. I'm not one to half-ass things, so I figured a complete break would be better to get stuff done and be there for my family. Last year I didn't play cause I burned myself out in 2013 getting SNE and starting way too late. I told myself I would never make that mistake again. Unfortunately I barely played again start of this year, but like I said, it was out of my hands.

Now that stuff has settled down and I'm starting to get back at it again, I noticed some interesting stuff that happened to me after my break last year as well. You can't expect something to be the way it was after such a long period of time. If you normally played 8 hour sessions, 5-6 days a week, you can't expect that to just happen again after a 2-month break. This is something you just have to accept. If you tell yourself you are going to start playing again and play like you did before, you just set yourself up for failure and even worse disappointment. Disappointment is very demotivating. You feel rusty, feel like everyone got better and you got worse. Maybe you lost your touch. All of these things just show how essential routine is and why the guys that play very consistently simply get better than other people.

The mistake is to ignore it and try to pound out 8-hour sessions. The result is usually the same. You quit after 45 minutes, feeling tilted and annoyed. You convince yourself it's not the right moment to play again. You tell yourself you got worse. I made this mistake so many times. I would just open the same amount of tables and expect everything to still be there. If you do this you won't be able to play well for a long time. The trick is to set achievable goals. Goals that make sense. There is nothing wrong with planning a 45-60 minute session as your first session. You can do so much productive stuff around it. Read notes on regulars, evaluate the first short session, watch a training video or go over the hands you played with friends. This is all stuff that is not stressful. But don't make the mistake of telling yourself you're going to play a 50-hour week.

Goals should give you confidence. Once you have the confidence in your game back, you can start setting the bar higher to challenge yourself. Then it can actually be motivating again, even if you don't make a daily goal. It's just important not to jump straight back in after a long period of time away from the tables. I'm actually writing this blog to talk to myself because I made all of these mistakes today again.

FML. One day I'll learn.

AD



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All tournaments are subject to regulatory approval.

Jonathan Burgos, Adam Haigh
and Kyoungwha Kim

Stock mania spreads to HK as Chinese buyers hunt bargains

THE frenzy that made Chinese stocks the world's best performers is spilling over the border into Hong Kong. After propelling the Shanghai Composite Index to a 90 percent rally in the past 12 months, mainland investors are buying as many Hong Kong equities through the exchange link as regulators will allow.

Turnover in the former British colony jumped to an all-time high on Wednesday, volatility jumped and the city's benchmark stock gauge surged the most since 2011. Gains accelerated in early yesterday trading, with the Hang Seng Index soaring as much as 6.4 percent before paring its advance to 2.9 percent.

Hong Kong's USD4.7 trillion stock market is catching up with its Chinese counterpart after valuation discounts in the city reached the most extreme levels since 2011 and mainland authorities made it easier for domestic funds to use the cross-border bourse link. Columbia Threadneedle Investments and ABN Amro Private Banking say price gaps will keep shrinking as investors look for cheaper ways of betting on a recovery in the world's second-largest economy.

"We've got the domestic liquidity from China making a statement that the Chinese economy is doing fine and shares are undervalued in Hong Kong," said Ng Soo Nam, the Singapore-based head of Asian equities at Columbia Threadneedle, which manages about \$506 billion globally. "Liquidity

Some people are buying stocks like they are gambling in Macau. That's not right

JULIANA LUI
HK CIVIL SERVANT



The flag of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. (HKEx), center right, flies from a mast outside the Stock Exchange One and Two buildings in Hong Kong

can now move between the two markets as there are less restrictions."

On the mainland, stocks are surging as investors open new trading accounts at an unprecedented pace and take out record loans to buy shares.

The rally pushed prices for yuan-denominated A shares to the most expensive level in three years last month versus their dual-listed Hong Kong counterparts, known as H shares, according to the Hang Seng China AH Premium Index. The premium has slipped to 23 percent from its March 26 high of 36 percent.

While analysts have long predicted that the bourse link would help narrow valuation gaps, inflows into Hong Kong were tepid for the first four months of the program. Demand started to grow after China expanded the number of local fund-management

companies eligible to use the connect on March 27.

"Access will broaden from here and will help reduce the A-H premium," Laura Wang, a China strategist at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, said in a phone interview. "H shares are also trading at quite cheap levels."

The 10.5 billion-yuan quota for buying Hong Kong stocks

through the link ran out at 2:08 p.m. local time on Wednesday, and was used up at 1:45 p.m. yesterday. Total turnover on the Hong Kong exchange climbed to HK\$250 billion (\$32 billion) yesterday, while the HSI Volatility Index is heading for its biggest two-day gain on record.

While stocks are getting

more volatile, the rally should continue over the next few days. "This rally does have legs," Daphne Roth, the head of Asian equity research at ABN Amro Private Banking, which manages about \$218 billion, said in a phone interview. Roth said she's been recommending banks and insurers listed in Hong Kong in part because of their valuation discounts.

Momentum indicators signal gains in Hong Kong stocks may be rising too fast, too soon. The Hang Seng measure's 14-day relative strength index climbed to 86.3 yesterday, the highest since 1993. Levels above 70 indicate to some traders shares are poised to decline. Twenty members of the Hang Seng China Enterprises gauge were trading at new 52-week highs Wednesday, the most since October 2007.

Hong Kong civil servant Juliana Lui is considering selling some of her shares after making a HK\$30,000 profit yesterday.

"I'm trying not to buy too much because the market will likely go down a bit and some stocks are getting more expensive," Lui said. "Some people are buying stocks like they are gambling in Macau. That's not right."

Housewife cheers stocks as workers punt on lunch break

HONG Kong's stock market rally is drawing individual investors from all walks of life as the Hang Seng Index soars to a seven-year high.

With money from the mainland exchange link contributing to record turnover in the city's \$4.9 trillion stock market, a crowd of part-time traders hunched over computer screens at Bright Smart Securities & Commodities Group in Hong Kong's central business district to take advantage of the surge in Chinese demand.

"Things are getting quite exciting," said Chow

Man, a 68-year-old housewife who favors Chinese banks and infrastructure stocks and says she has as much as HK\$200,000 (\$25,000) in play. "It's becoming like a hobby for a lot of mainland investors to trade stocks now. That's why more of them are taking opportunities in Hong Kong."

Hong Kong locals are jostling with bargain-hunting Chinese investors after the Shanghai Composite Index's world-beating rally pushed the discount on shares in the former British colony to the widest since 2011.

Casinos start April soft, but stocks rally anyway

FOR the first week of April, usually a slow period, average daily gaming revenue in Macau came in at HKD643 million, a 34% decline from a year ago and 10% fall from a week ago.

"It includes the Ching Ming festival during which Chinese are expected to go sweep their ancestors' tombs instead of rolling dices. But when we have a bull market [Hong Kong], investors would

brush aside any negative news," observes Barron's blogger Shuli Ren. Macau stocks rallied yesterday for a second consecutive day. Galaxy Entertainment rose 16.5% this week (HK was closed on Monday

and Tuesday). Sands China, jumped 14.7%. MGM China advanced 12.9%. Wynn Macau gained 12.7%. SJM Holdings rose 11%, while the Hang Seng Index gained 7.8%. Overnight, Melco Crown gained 2.5%.

Most of Wall Street analysts now see gross gaming revenue in April to fall 37-39%. In March, gross gaming revenue fell 39.4%.



Stockbrokers and investors sit in front of monitors displaying share prices at a securities brokerage in Hong Kong

VERBAL WAR

China urges US not to take sides on territorial issues



U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter, right, hugs U.S. Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of the United Nations Command, South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, left, upon his arrival at Osan U.S. Air Base in Pyeongtaek, south of Seoul

CHINA yesterday urged the United States not to take sides on territorial issues, voicing anger against U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, who said Diaoyu Islands fall under the scope of the Japan-U.S. securi-

ty treaty.

"U.S.-Japan alliance arrangement originated in the Cold War. We strongly oppose using this arrangement to undermine the interests of third parties," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman

Hua Chunying said, quoted by Xinhua.

"The U.S. should be prudent in words and deeds, honoring its commitment to not taking sides on territorial issues," she said, adding that the U.S. should do

more to contribute to regional peace and stability, rather than the opposite.

Reiterating that Diaoyu Island and its affiliated islands are part of China's inherent territory, Hua said it is a fact that can ne-

ver be changed and China's determination to protect national sovereignty and territorial integrity cannot be shaken.

Carter also expressed concern about China in the South China Sea in a written interview with Japan's Yomiuri newspaper published on Wednesday.

According to Xinhua, Hua called on the U.S. to respect China's efforts to resolve problems with other claimants through dialogue and negotiation, stop words and actions that might complicate the situation and play a constructive role in regional peace and stability.

Yesterday, Ash Carter said that the latest test-firing of short-range missiles by North Korea is fresh evidence that the Korean Peninsula is a potential flashpoint for conflict.

"It's a reminder of how dangerous things are on the Korean peninsula and how a highly ready (U.S.) force in support of a very strong ally ... is necessary to keep the peace out there," he said, cited by Associated Press.

Carter made his comments to reporters while visiting Yokota air base, home to U.S. Forces Japan. Afterwards he flew to Osan air base in South Korea, his first visit to the country as defense secretary.

Carter was responding to reports that North Korea launched two missiles Tuesday into the sea off its western coast.

He joked, "If it's a welcoming message to me I'm flattered. I've been on the job six weeks and that's two missiles; that's pretty good." **MDT/Agencies**

Officials in Guangdong cancel incinerator after protests

A city government in southern China has revoked approval of a planned waste incinerator in response to protests, in the latest case of local authorities bowing to a public outcry over health concerns.

Luoding city government in Guangdong province said in a statement this week that the project fit a national policy to encourage solid waste processing in the cement industry, but that it was cancelled "in response to public demands."

Thousands of residents fearful of pollution rallied Monday and clashed with police the following day, the Communist Party-affiliated Global Times newspaper reported.

A resident surnamed Huang was quoted as saying that people also wanted the company that was to build the incinerator to reduce pollution at its local cement factory.

Calls to the company, identified

as the Luoding branch of cement and concrete producer China Resources Cement Holdings Ltd, were not answered yesterday.

Photos in other state media showed people overturning a police truck.

Similar cancellations or postponements in the construction of several waste incinerators and chemical plants have taken place in recent years, particularly in wealthier cities, where a burgeoning middle class is demanding a better quality of life.

Earlier this week, an explosion and hydrocarbon fire at a plant that produces the chemical paraxylene in Fujian province in southeast China renewed discussion on social media of the potential dangers of such plants.

The plant had originally been slated for a more densely populated city, but protests by residents in 2007 succeeded in getting it relocated. **AP**

TAIWAN

Sylvia Chang makes comeback with 'Murmur of the Hearts'

VETERAN Taiwanese filmmaker Sylvia Chang is making a comeback after a seven-year hiatus with "Murmur of the Hearts," which pairs seasoned actors with fresh faces to tell a story about three young people with a broken past struggling with finding compassion in their relationships.

"Everyone make mistakes. Some mistakes, people find them unforgivable but some are forgivable. So how do we find compassion to tolerate them?" Chang said last week, calling her movie a tribute to love.

Chang enlisted familiar faces from her previous projects with new ones — including Malaysian actress Lee Sinje and Taiwanese actor Lawrence Ko, playing a mother and son who become estranged. Isabella Leung from Ma-



Taiwanese director Sylvia Chang, left, and Macanese actress Isabella Leung

cau and Golden Horse nominee Joseph Chang play lovers whose relationship is rocked by an unwanted pregnancy.

Chang said she let the cast take the lead on set to project life into their characters. "So I'm always standing on the sideline to watch what they can give me," she said.

Lee Sinje, who was discovered by Chang as a young

aspiring actress in Malaysia, said her first experience working with Chang was nerve-wracking. But, they found a "comfortable" way of collaborating, Lee said.

"I was a new actor and it's my first time working with her. So I had a hard time finding my direction. Also because she gives us a lot of space, so rarely does she directs us to act," she said.

While Ko and Leung embraced Chang's effortless directorial style, Joseph Chang admitted that he felt lost at times.

"When you have this much space, you are scared. In the beginning, even a little helpless. However, in this process, you learn to believe in the character, believe in yourself," he said.

"Murmur of the Hearts" is being released in Taiwan on Friday, mainland China on April 17, and Hong Kong on April 30.

Didi Tang, Beijing

CCTV host's mocking of Mao Zedong draws fire, applause

CHINA'S state broadcaster is investigating one of its hosts after a video of him insulting Mao Zedong was leaked online, causing a stir and rekindling debate on the complicated legacy of the father of communist China.

China Central Television said talent show host Bi Fujian would face serious investigation because his jokes have had a "severe social impact."

In the home video that circulated widely online before censors removed it this week, Bi sings a song about Communist Party-led soldiers battling bandits in northeastern China in the 1940s. To the laughter of guests at a dinner, Bi adds his own commentary in a speaking voice between lines.

When the lyrics refer to Mao, Bi calls the revolutionary hero a vulgar phrase and says "he has ruined us all." Bi also mocks the soldiers, suggesting their battles were pointless and the song's claim of victory boastful.

The incident renewed debate both on free speech and about Mao, who many Chinese feel should be held responsible for disastrous periods such as the 1959-1961 famine and the chaos unleashed by the decade-long Cultural Revolution in



An old photo of Buddhist priests parade with a photo of late Chinese leader Mao Zedong in the far western region of Tibet

but no one dares to say it," said Zhang Lifan, a Beijing-based historian and independent commentator. "Yet in private settings, even those senior officials working for the system have no good word for him. This political system breeds duplicity and schizophrenia."

State-run newspapers have responded with harsh criticism of Bi, saying his comments — even if made privately — were improper for such a public figure.

"It's extremely unfitting of Bi's status that such lewd words to mock the people's leader and people's heroes should have come out of him — a Communist Party member and someone who has claimed to have served in the armed forces," wrote the state-run China Youth Daily in a Wednesday editorial.

The China Youth Daily chastised Bi for his lack of integrity. "You owe everyone in China an apology," the newspaper said in an editorial.

Bi also received some strong support online, with many people defending his right to speak his mind privately and condemning whoever leaked the video.

Zha Jianguo, a dissident who has recounted some of the violence under Mao's reign, said Bi has done nothing wrong.

"To say a despot has ruined us all, how can that be an insult? How could that be irreverent?" Zha said. **AP**

Everyone is a victim of Mao, but no one dares to say it

ZHANG LIFAN
HISTORIAN

1966 when Mao appealed directly to the masses to root out reactionaries.

Wang Cailiang, a Beijing lawyer, says the leaking of the private clip and its aftermath was worrisome. "When a dinner becomes a set-up, who can be free from fears?" Wang said.

Though some of Mao's poli-

cies have been officially criticized, the ruling Communist Party can hardly renounce him because it has built much of its legitimacy upon the imagery surrounding the revolutionary leader. A huge portrait of him still hangs in the heart of Beijing.

A small but vocal slice of the

population still worships Mao, while many Chinese pay lip service to him and his ideology. The cover from such pretense was blown off when Bi — a host for one of the key mouthpieces for the party's policies — made his apparently candid and irreverent remarks.

"Everyone is a victim of Mao,

Tibet chief demands monasteries display Chinese flags

TIBET'S Communist Party chief has demanded that Buddhist monasteries display the national flag as part of efforts to shore up Chinese control over the restive region.

In an editorial appearing in state newspapers, Chen Quanguo wrote that national flags should be among the key elements found in monasteries.

Demands to display Chinese flags have frequently sparked protests by Tibetans who complain of heavy-handed Chinese rule. Tibetan monks and nuns are among the most active opponents of Chinese rule in the region and face some of the harshest restrictions on their activities.

Chen also called for



Chen Quanguo

stepping-up legal and patriotic education in the monasteries — particularly on China's regulations and restrictions on religious life and institutions — along with

activities to select model temples, nuns and monks who display "advanced patriotism and obedience to law."

"Let the broad masses of monks and nuns be

even more conscious of patriotism, obedience to law, and the promotion of religious harmony," Chen wrote. "Guide them in the adaption of Tibetan Buddhism to socialist society."

The flag display demand violates Tibetan Buddhist tradition and underscores the extent of China's determination to control all aspects of the religion, said Bhuchung Tsering, vice president of the London-based advocacy group International Campaign for Tibet.

"While China continues to tell the world that Tibetans enjoy religious freedom and autonomy, its top official in Lhasa is engaged in an ideological campaign to turn Tibetan monasteries into 'patrio-

tic centers,'" he said in a statement.

Chen also said that newspapers, television, telephones and water and electrical connections should be made available in monasteries. He said measures would be taken to improve health care, stipends and pensions for monks and nuns to permit them to "personally feel the concern and warmth of the party and government."

Chen's demand was contained in a lengthy editorial that first appeared Wednesday in the party flagship People's Daily and was reprinted in other papers on Thursday.

China claims Tibet has been part of its territory for seven centuries, but

many Tibetans say they were effectively independent for most of that time. Communist forces occupied the region in 1951 following victory in the Chinese civil war.

Buddhist clergy objects particularly to demands to take part in patriotic education activities to enforce loyalty to the Communist Party, complaining that they waste time and resources from their religious studies.

Those activities and other restrictions were intensified after the 2008 riots in Tibet's capital Lhasa sparked widespread protests across Tibetan areas. Troops were stationed in monasteries and monks and nuns deemed politically suspect were forced out. **AP**

CAMBODIA

Lawmakers appoint new electoral body

CAMBODIAN lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a vote to remake the country's electoral body yesterday, part of a political deal to help ensure fairness in the next national vote in 2018.

Opposition leader Sam Rainsy praised the move, calling it a "historic milestone for Cambodia."

Rainsy's Cambodia National Rescue Party had criticized the previous electoral commission for being biased and disputed results of the 2013 ballot, triggering a political crisis and mass demonstrations that eased amid negotiations with the government last year.

The new commission will be comprised of four members from Rainsy's party, four from strongman Prime Minister Hun Sen's party, and one neutral slot that will go to the head of an independent electoral watchdog group.

Hun Sen's authoritarian government has been in power for al-



Sam Rainsy

most three decades and is known for intimidating opponents. The opposition's showing at the polls in 2013 had posed the biggest challenge to Hun Sen in years.

Thursday's vote passed Cambodia's lower house of parliament with 113 of 117 lawmakers in favor. The measure still needs to be adopted by the Senate, but that is

considered a formality.

Speaking to National Assembly members yesterday, Hun Sen urged the new leadership of National Election Committee "to perform their duty with full responsibility before the face of the nation and history, and to set a standard for democracy and pluralism." **AP**

A historic milestone for Cambodia

SAM RAINSY
OPPOSITION LEADER

NORTH KOREA

American woman deported for plotting, making videos



Sandra Suh, center

NORTH Korea has deported an American woman who frequently visited the country over the past 20 years, accusing her of engaging in "plot-breeding and propaganda."

North Korea's state media said Wednesday that Sandra Suh had traveled to North Korea "under the pretense of humanitarianism," but that she had secretly produced and directed anti-North Korean videos and photos because of her "inveterate repugnancy" toward Pyongyang.

Suh arrived on a flight to Beijing yesterday but made no comments to reporters there.

A U.S. Embassy official in Seoul didn't immediate-

ly have details about the report. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf in Washington said Wednesday she could not confirm any of the details that have been reported about the woman.

North Korea has occasionally detained Americans and other foreigners for what the cloistered country considered missionary work or "anti-state" activities that it sees as attempts to bring down its authoritarian government.

Analysts say past detentions have been attempts to wrest outside concessions out of Washington. Authorities in Pyongyang have also in the past staged news conferences, during which foreign detainees appeared before the media and made statements that they then recanted after their releases.

However, Wednesday's report appeared to be the first word about Suh.

Pyongyang said it decided to deport the American because of her "old age" and after she apologized and admitted that she'd "seriously insulted" its citizens' trust in leader Kim Jong Un.

Last year, the North released three Americans who had been detained — two who had entered the country on tourist visas and Kenneth Bae, a missionary convicted and sentenced for "anti-state" crimes. An Australian missionary detained for spreading Christianity was also deported last year after he apologized for anti-state religious acts. **AP**

JAPAN

Emperor prays at WWII battleground on Pacific island

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

THE emperor of Japan visited a remote Pacific island yesterday to pray for thousands of Japanese and American soldiers who died during the World War II battle of Peleliu.

Emperor Akihito and his wife Empress Michiko laid bouquets of white chrysanthemum flowers in front of a seaside memorial for Japanese victims after arriving by helicopter on Peleliu island in the western Pacific nation of Palau. The couple then turned to the sea and offered a moment of silence toward a nearby island where many others also died. They later prayed at a separate memorial for Americans.

"Our thoughts go out to all those who went to the battlefields to defend their countries, never to return home," Akihito said in a statement before his flight to Palau on Wednesday. "We must never forget that those beautiful islands in the Pacific Ocean have such a tragic history."

Akihito, who is 81, was 11 years old at the end of the war. His father, Hirohito, was emperor at the time.

Peleliu is one of several islands where Japanese soldiers fought to the death during the final year of the war. The three-month battle of Peleliu, which started in September 1944, left about 10,000 Japanese and 1,700 Americans dead.

One Japanese survivor, 95-year-old Kiyokazu Tsuchida, travelled to the island for the imperial visit.

"Of the 34 survivors, sadly I'm the only one who made it back here," he said Wednesday in an interview from the island with Japanese broadcaster NHK. After a moment of silence at a separate, private memorial, he added: "My perished fellow soldiers must be all delighted to see the emperor."

The visit by the emperor highlights the slow-moving search for the remains of missing Japanese soldiers.

Only half of the 2.4 million Japanese who died overseas have been recovered. Of those, about 300,000 are believed to be lost at sea and unrecoverable.

Officials cite a lack of documentation and geographical and political reasons for the delay. In recent years, veterans groups and relatives of the dead have pressured the government to do more, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has promised stepped-up efforts.

In Palau, half of the estimated 16,200 war-dead are still unaccounted for more than 60 years after the search began in 1953, according to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. Six sets of remains were excavated during the latest search last month.

Palau, which lies about 800 kilometers east of the Philippines, was ruled by Japan for about 30 years after World War I.

The emperor's visit in the 70th anniversary year of the war's end follows a visit to Saipan, another World War II battlefield in the Pacific, in 2005, the 60th anniversary year. He also prayed for Japanese and U.S. war-dead in Iwo Jima in 1994. **AP**



Japan's Emperor Akihito, third right, and Empress Michiko, second right, receive salutes from U.S. soldiers as they visit a memorial for American victims on Peleliu island in Palau

DIPLOMACY

Dollar may be next screw for US to tighten on North Korea

Eric Talmadge

THE last time the United States tried the military option on North Korea, more than a million died, a hostile and unexpectedly resilient adversary emerged and instead of regime change it got three generations of the Kim family. Understandably, there is little appetite in Washington to try that again. But if sending in the Marines is off the table, what's an administration to do?

A bill now making its way through the U.S. Congress — and being watched closely in Pyongyang — is designed to shut off the North, and anyone who deals with it, from the U.S. dollar.

Supporters say the tactic directly targets the wallets of North Korea's senior leaders. But opponents warn that over-politicizing the greenback might have more impact on its standing as the world's most in-



House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce

fluent reserve currency than on a country already largely excluded from international finance.

The House bill would block dollar-denominated trade or investment deals with North Korea as they pass through the U.S. controlled, dollar-based financial system.

The vast majority of all international financial transactions

are denominated in dollars and nearly all of them are cleared through U.S.-based banks, which are regulated by the U.S. Treasury Department. That gives Washington its leverage.

The bill would punish North Korea's enablers by limiting their access to the dollar-based financial market, even on business that doesn't involve North Korea.

"By shutting down North Korea's illicit activities, we deprive the Kim regime of the money it needs to pay the generals and to conduct nuclear weapons research," House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, R-California, said after the act was introduced in February. He said the act, updated after the massive cyberattack on Sony Entertainment, would "step up the targeting of those financial institutions in Asia and beyond that are supporting this brutal and dangerous regime."

President Barack Obama — and Senate Democrats, who have been lukewarm toward the bill — appear hesitant to take action that would make future negotiations with Pyongyang more difficult, or open up a new fight with China, which is where most of the potentially sanctionable banks would likely be.

Obama already has authority to take some action, and has used it. After pointing the finger at North Korea for the December cyberattack on Sony Pictures, he took executive action allowing the U.S. to sanction any entity, including a foreign bank, working with the North. Treasury officials say their problem isn't the lack of power, but the dearth of targets.

North Korea has proven to be highly resilient and creative in the face of conventional sanctions. It is also accustomed to being deeply isolated from the global financial market.

Even so, the congressional ac-

tion could be significant because it would provide even further incentive for foreign banks and multinational companies — which do need to remain in good standing within the international financial community — to avoid North Korea lest they face fines and litigation or are forced to freeze accounts and provide data to authorities about overseas operations and clients.

"The message is clear," Michelle Frasher, an expert on financial sanctions and a visiting scholar at the European Union Center of the University of Illinois, said in an email to The Associated Press. "If you want to do business here, you have obey U.S. laws and support U.S. interests, even abroad."

Pyongyang appears to be taking the threat seriously.

An editorial last week in the mouthpiece of the ruling Workers' Party slammed efforts in Washington to use the dollar as a weapon of coercive diplomacy. It referred to a statement by the U.S. Treasury secretary emphasizing the need for the U.S. to retain its leadership role in the International Monetary Fund as potential adversaries, and even some close U.S. allies, are beginning to back a potential rival organization being established in China. **AP**

AD



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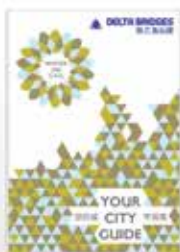
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Colleen Barry, Milan

ITALY

Man kills his lawyer, judge, co-defendant in Milan court

A man on trial for fraudulent bankruptcy opened fire in Milan's courthouse yesterday in a "cold, premeditated" spree, killing his lawyer, a co-defendant and a judge before being captured nearly 25 kilometers away as he fled on a motorbike, officials said.

Premier Matteo Renzi promised a robust investigation into how the gunman, Claudio Giardiello, managed to bring a pistol into the fortress-like tribunal, where metal detectors are used for visitors but not for employees, magistrates and accredited lawyers.

"Our commitment is that this never happens again, and that those responsible pay," Renzi said.

He praised the "heroism" of police who finally identified and disarmed Giardiello in a shopping center near his hometown, where prosecutors said he planned to kill others related to his failed real estate venture.

Prosecutors said Giardiello, who was in court for a hearing on the bankruptcy, fired a total of 13 shots during four minutes in the courthouse, moving from a courtroom, to the hallway and finally a judge's chambers downstairs.



Claudio Giardiello

He had two spare cartridges and the pistol was loaded when he was apprehended.

"He acted with cold premeditation," said prosecutor Tommaso

Buonanno of Brescia, who is leading the investigation.

As the shots rang out, court employees barricaded themselves inside their offices and took cover under their desks while police hunted for the gunman, who according to video surveillance cameras fled out the same entrance he used to enter the building.

"There was a lot of panic at the beginning when people came running toward us saying there was a person with a pistol who had been shooting," said lawyer Mirko Ricetti, who said he locked himself in a first-floor courtroom with 15 others after hearing a shot.

The shooting immediately raised questions about how Giardiello gained entrance to the Fascist-era building. Prosecutor Edmondo Bruti Liberati hypo-

thesized that he may have used a false ID. Security at the courthouse is provided by a private firm, Secure Police.

The deputy interior minister, Filippo Bubbico, said an investigation would determine who was to blame for any security lapse.

Giardiello was eventually caught about a half-hour after the spree by carabinieri police at a shopping center in Vimercate, near Monza, some 25 kilometers from the scene. He was taken in for questioning at the Vimercate police station, but was later taken to hospital for an undisclosed ailment, prosecutors said.

Bruti Liberati said the gunman first fired on his lawyer and co-defendant in a courtroom, killing both and then seriously injured a second co-defendant. He met a business consultant in the

hallway and shot him in the leg.

Afterwards, he "walked through the building, going down a floor, and killed the judge," Bruti Liberati told The Associated Press.

He said it wasn't clear if there was a relationship between Giardiello and the judge, Fernando Ciampi, who worked in the civil section of the bankruptcy court.

The gunman was on trial with two others for fraudulent bankruptcy concerning the collapse of their real estate venture. Prosecutors said, however, that the bankruptcy wasn't a particularly significant one.

Carabinieri Cmdr. Maurizio Stefanizzi said surveillance cameras registered Giardiello's motorbike license plate as he fled, enabling police to identify him, his family and address and pass the information to squads around the area.

The incident raised fears about Italy's ability to protect visitors at the Expo world's fair in Milan, which opens May 1.

Interior Minister Angelino Alfano was in Milan yesterday to preside over a public security coordination meeting for Expo when the shooting erupted. Officials insisted the courthouse shooting was an isolated event.

"This has nothing to do with Expo," Bruti Liberati said. "This was a personal crisis." AP

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FRIDAY

- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Documentary Series
- 15:00 Debate on Security Policy Report for 2015
- 20:00 News
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:30 Revenge S2
- 22:10 Brazil Avenue
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Portuguese Movie
- 01:10 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

- 10:40 Young Adult
- 11:30 Boonie Bears
- 12:20 Cooking
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Soap Opera
- 17:10 Eurovision Young Musicians
- 19:10 Contest
- 20:00 FFF - Fashion Film Factory
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:10 Drama
- 22:10 Comedy
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 Shorts
- 00:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

- 11:00 Sunday Mass
- 12:00 Miscellaneous
- 13:00 TDM News (Repeated)
- 13:30 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
- 14:30 Animation
- 16:05 Miscellaneous
- 17:45 Documentary Serie
- 18:50 Miscellaneous
- 19:40 Comedy
- 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report
- 21:00 Non-Daily Portuguese News
- 22:00 Drama
- 23:00 TDM News
- 23:30 News
- 23:45 Miscellaneous
- 00:45 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

offbeat

US WOMAN, 115, NOW LISTED AS WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON

AP PHOTO



A 115-year-old Detroit-area woman now listed as the world's oldest living person still makes plans for a fishing trip each year and credits God for her longevity.

Jeralean Talley tops a list maintained by the Los Angeles-based Gerontology Research Group, which tracks the world's longest-living people. Gertrude Weaver, a 116-year-old woman in Arkansas who was the oldest documented person for a few days, died on Monday.

Talley was born May 23, 1899. Asked for her key to longevity, the Detroit Free Press reports that she echoed previous answers on the topic.

"It's coming from above," she told the newspaper. "That's the best advice I can give you. It's not in my hands or your hands."

Michael Kinloch, 56, a longtime family friend of Talley's through their church, said Talley's mental state is "is very sharp."

"It's unfortunate that other people passed away, but this has certainly elevated her."

cinema

CINETEATRO

09 APR - 15 APR



FAST AND FURIOUS 7

ROOM 1
(2D) 2:15, 4.45, 9.45 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min

TWO THUMBS UP

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Lau Ho-leung
Starring: Francis Ng, Simon Yam, Leo Ku, Patrick Tam, Cheng Ho-nam
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 103min



SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER

ROOM 3
(2D) 4.00 pm
(3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Paul Tibbitt
Language: Chinese (English)
Duration: 92min



HOME

ROOM 3
2.15, 5.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Tim Johnson
Language: Chinese (English)
Duration: 94min

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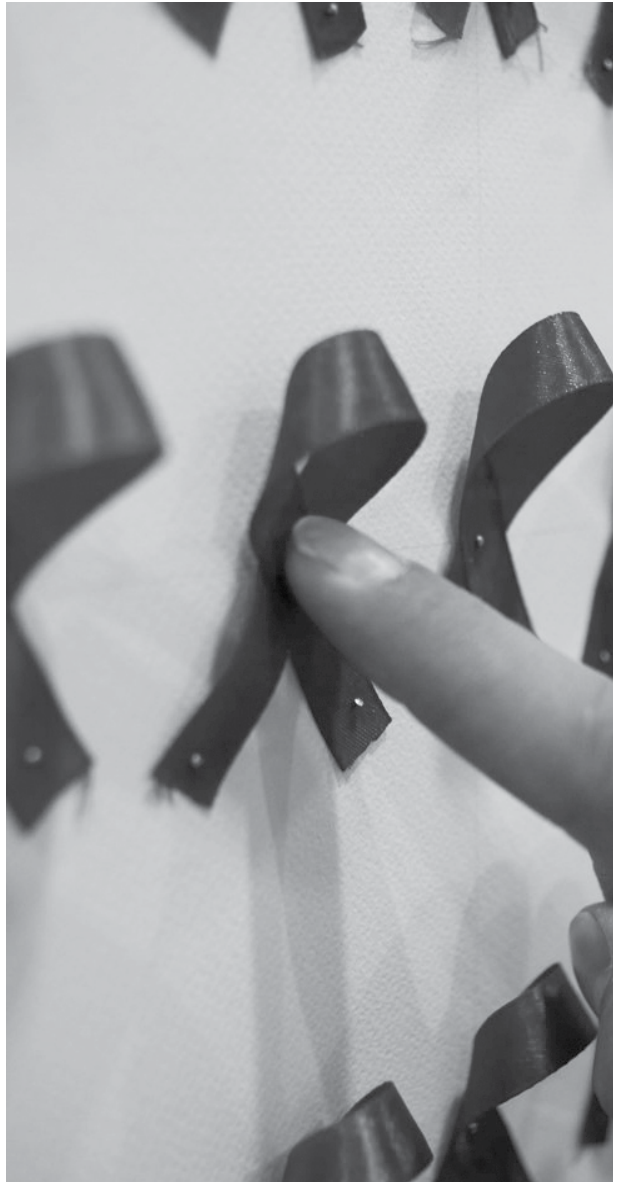
09 APR - 22 APR

FURIOUS 7

2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm

Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min

this day in history



2000 DAMAGES FOR SACKED HIV MANAGER

A shop manager who was sacked for being HIV positive is to receive thousands of pounds in compensation.

Mark Hedley, who ran an Aldi supermarket in County Durham, north east England, was asked to leave because bosses said other staff felt uncomfortable around him.

They also said that Mr Hedley's condition could raise concerns with customers and lead to a slump in sales at the store in Seaham.

Mr Hedley, of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, claimed he had been the victim of discrimination and sexual discrimination.

Mr Hedley, 34, was earning £34,000 before being forced to leave.

He reached an out-of-court settlement with the German-owned firm shortly before an employment tribunal hearing was due to get under way.

A statement released on behalf of both sides said details of the settlement were remaining confidential.

However, the damages are believed to be in the region of £300,000.

A spokeswoman for the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), which campaigns on behalf of people with HIV and Aids, said the settlement sent a clear message to employers.

Lisa Power said: "Many people living with HIV are working, and with improved treatments many more people will be able to go into employment."

"Independent research carried out for THT shows that one of the greatest barriers for those wanting to return to work was fear of discrimination."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mark Hedley's compensation was the biggest ever to result from a prosecution under the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act.

The previous highest award under the act was pounds £167,000 to a British Sugar worker with bad eyesight who was made redundant.

In April 2001 a HIV-positive man forced to wear a boiler suit and surgical gloves by his employer received a out-of-court payment of approximately £35,000.

Michael Scott from Newcastle-upon-Tyne received the settlement from the Barker & Stonehouse furniture chain.

YOUR STARS

♈ Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You can get what you want today — but you have to use your charm, rather than your boldness. If you smile sweetly, you can get quite a lot more out of people than if you snarl.

♉ Taurus
April 20-May 20
Enlist a friend in your new quest for health. You're not the only one who wants to eat better and get more exercise, and it's easier to stick to a plan if you have a buddy (who doubles as an enforcer)!

♊ Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Your energy is focused on someone close: a romantic partner, a colleague or maybe a dear friend. You can be pretty intense sometimes, but today's energy is all positive, so it should work out great.

♋ Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
This is not the best day to try to make serious progress at school or work — things are bumpier than ever, and you are better off pursuing interests that are zero-pressure. Is that possible?

♌ Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Today is all about other people, and you should find that you've got some serious clout when it comes to persuading folks to see things your way (that is, the right way). It may start to feel spooky!

♍ Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You have to deal with some little setbacks today — so make sure that you're ready for them! The first might come really early, but if you hurdle that one, the rest should be much, much easier to deal with.

♎ Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You are all about balance in all things, and today brings a wave of calming energy that helps you sort everything out perfectly. It's a good time to set a good example, especially for children.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
This is a much better time for thought than for action. You may feel pressured to move quickly, but slow down and consider every angle before you finally decide to move forward.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Communication is key today — things are going well, but you are sure to improve them even more with a few well-placed words. A quick email or an impromptu meeting can make a big difference!

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You shouldn't ask for special favors today — things are still pretty tricky around the office or at home, and you need to make sure that you're not rocking the boat. You should find a middle path.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Try to reach out today — though more than likely your inclination is to withdraw. Things aren't going your way yet, but if you get the right people on your side, then momentum carries you all the way!

♓ Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You could drive yourself crazy if you think too hard about what the various people in your life owe you. Try not to worry too much about it — in fact, forgiveness is the best possible course of action now.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9			8					
			2	1	3	4		
	8					2	3	
	5			1	3			
7	4						1	5
		9	3				7	
	2	1						4
			5	8	9	2		
							5	2

Easy+

7	1	5					6		
			3				5	7	
			4	7				1	
			9				1	8	
6	5							4	2
		9	2				6		
	2			1	4				
5		8				3			
		4					2	9	5

Medium

9								8
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		3					6	7
	5	6		2				4
			4		5			
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			2	7	1		9	
5								4

Hard

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6	8				3			
			1			2		
	5					7		
			4	7				5
1			6					
								8

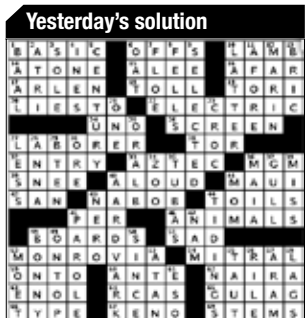
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	5	20	haze
Harbin	-1	9	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	8	21	clear/cloudy
Urumqi	7	19	clear
Xi'an	7	23	clear
Lhasa	2	16	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	10	17	drizzle
Chongqing	13	19	overcast
Kunming	11	22	cloudy/shower
Nanjing	6	18	cloudy
Shanghai	9	17	overcast/cloudy
Wuhan	7	20	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	17	overcast/cloudy
Taipei	18	23	drizzle
Guangzhou	14	17	drizzle
Hong Kong	18	21	shower
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	10	overcast/drizzle
Frankfurt	5	19	cloudy/clear
Paris	6	20	overcast/cloudy
London	6	14	cloudy/overcast
New York	6	13	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Sir ___ Newton was an English mathematician; 6- Greek temple; 10- Startled cries; 13- Water wheel; 14- Purina competitor; 15- Nicholas II, for one; 16- Scale; 17- Not new; 18- Slippery swimmers; 19- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author; 20- Quarantine; 22- Heavy hammer; 24- Asian deer; 28- Musical composition; 31- Compassion; 32- Cow catcher; 34- Nothing but; 36- Lavish affection (on); 37- Fannie ___; 38- Put up; 41- Frat letters; 42- Cornerstone abbr.; 44- Brian of Roxy Music; 45- Civil rights org.; 47- Actress Taylor; 49- Compositions; 51- Rubs out; 53- Upward trend; 56- Divide proportionately; 59- Spanish muralist; 61- Nabisco cookie; 64- In ___ of; 65- Composer Erik; 66- Isn't wrong?; 67- Latin love; 68- About; 69- Wee bit; 70- Actor Auberjonois; 71- Perfect;

DOWN: 1- Member of a great Peruvian people; 2- Alone, on stage; 3- Disney mermaid; 4- Purposeless; 5- Taxi; 6- Sickness at the stomach; 7- Too; 8- German auto; 9- Fountain treats; 10- Sugar suffix; 11- Actor Linden; 12- Grads-to-be; 15- Swarmed; 20- Refrain from noticing; 21- Skye cap; 23- Medicinal amount; 25- Rodeo horse; 26- Go on the friz; 27- Deli breads; 29- Folded food; 30- PC key; 32- Coherent light beam; 33- Big name in insurance; 35- Delaware tribe; 37- Trifling; 39- Compass dir.; 40- 24 hour periods; 43- Autocrat; 46- To reiterate...; 48- Away; 50- Seam where two bones are fused; 52- Word with panel or energy; 54- Raison ___; 55- Writer Jong; 57- Hoar; 58- Long time; 60- Blue hue; 61- Muesli bit; 62- Narrow inlet; 63- Terminus; 65- Biol. or chem.;



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F1 | CHINESE GRAND PRIX

Vettel: Ferrari still 'realistic' about Mercedes advantage

NEW Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel was still beaming two weeks after capturing his first Formula One race in 16 months, but said ahead of the Chinese Grand Prix that he doesn't expect his team to challenge Mercedes on a consistent basis just yet.

"I think we are realistic about where we are and what we want to achieve," Vettel said Thursday. "We want to confirm that we have a strong package, we have a strong car and we want to make sure that we stay ahead of the people we stayed of in the last couple of races, but knowing that obviously Mercedes is in a very, very strong position."

Mercedes had been expected to dominate the 2015 F1 season like it did last year, when the team won 16 of 19 races and Lewis Hamilton captured his second world championship.

But Vettel took advantage of Mercedes' tire degradation problems in the tropical heat at the Malaysian Grand Prix last month to surprise the rest of the field with his first race victory since leaving Red Bull to join Ferrari at the end of last season.

Vettel described how "emotional" it was to stand atop the podium in Malaysia — his first F1 victory since the Brazilian Grand Prix in November 2013 — and then visit Ferrari headquarters in Maranello and see



Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany smiles as he gets an interview at Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai

the red Ferrari flag at the gate signifying his race win.

"It had been a long time since there had been a flag (there). I think some 10 years ago, there were a lot of flags," said Vettel, a four-time world champion with

Red Bull. "This flag will stay there for the rest of the year and we will of course try to put another one sometime soon."

Hamilton will try to prevent that happening after the Chinese Grand Prix, a race he has

won three times.

While Mercedes boss Toto Wolff called Ferrari's win in Malaysia a "wake-up call," Hamilton said he believes the German team will be much stronger on the track in Shanghai, which favors the silver cars with its long straights and cool temperatures.

"We're not stressed or anything," he said. "I think you can't get every weekend right, you know. It wasn't even that much of a disaster of a weekend for us (in Malaysia)."

"People have definitely blown

it out of proportion. And hopefully we'll correct that this weekend."

Both he and Vettel, however, acknowledged that Ferrari showed increased pace compared to last year. Whether it's enough to close the gap with Mercedes, Lewis is not quite certain.

"I think it's all a big guess at the moment. I don't really know. They were very, very quick, they did a great job," he said.

Hamilton finished second behind Vettel at the Malaysian GP, with teammate Nico Rosberg in third.

Rosberg is also hoping for a boost in Shanghai after what he deems a slightly disappointing start to the season. He's been on the podium twice — second at the Australian Grand Prix and third in Malaysia — but after his breakthrough season in 2014, he was certainly hoping for more this year.

"Every race is important, but it's still a long way to go and consistency is still going to be very important," he said. "I'm not panicking in any way." **AP**

We want to make sure that we stay ahead of the people we stayed of in the last couple of races

SEBASTIAN VETTEL

FOOTBALL

UEFA orders match to be restarted after referee error

FOR the first time in its history, UEFA has ordered a soccer match to be restarted because of a referee's error. UEFA has ordered the final seconds of a women's Under-19 European Championship qualifier between England and

UEFA said yesterday that its disciplinary committee has never before issued such a ruling

Norway to be replayed today [Macau time], starting with a stoppage-time penalty and a new referee. The governing body of

European soccer said yesterday that its disciplinary committee has never before issued such a ruling.

With Norway leading 2-1 on Saturday in Belfast, England scored from the penalty spot in the sixth minute of injury time but it was

disallowed when an England player encroached. However, German referee Marija Kurtes then wrongly awarded a free kick to Norway instead of retaking the penalty.

The English Football Association protested. UEFA regulations

uphold protests in cases of "an obvious violation of a rule by the referee that had a decisive influence on the final result of the match."

Play will resume at 2045 GMT in Belfast, after Norway and England play other group matches earlier Thursday.

The retaken penalty could decide which team advances to the final tournament. **AP**

AD



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opinion

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PET ROCK OF YORE

The inventor of the Pet Rock died the other day. In 1975 a strangely uplifting novelty craze inspired by a conversation over a beer was created by Gary Dahl. The idea was complete whimsy; a minimal-effort pet that didn't need walking, feeding, or looking after. The New York Times reported that at US\$3.95 per 'pet' packaged in an aerated cardboard pet-carrier with nest and minding instructions, the fad swept the US and similar markets in a short lived burst of "ridiculously successful marketing". Soon Dahl was employing 300 people, sold 2 tonnes of the stuff at a cost of about a cent a piece and made himself a millionaire.

There are age-old toys that cycle in and out of fashion: knuckles or jacks, yoyos, skipping ropes, spinning tops... Dahl's product was different. It led a new age of marketed toy and novelty fads, some lasting longer than others, like Nerf balls, Slinkies, Silly Putty, Rubik's Cubes and the eventually banned Click-Clacks. Innovative success doesn't just happen at any time or in any place. There has to be a confluence of factors. Dahl put The Pet Rock craze down to timing; American society had had enough of bad news (Watergate and Vietnam) and was in need of a bit of levity. The 70s was also a time of self-indulgence and the pace of life was increasing. A pet without effort; that absurd piece of frippery with a giggle was snapped up by consumers and media alike.

Undoubtedly that spark of lubricated genius didn't come from nowhere. Dahl's expertise as an advertising man - he was the author of the book "Advertising for Dummies" - gave him the foundation to package and market the product, and operate his business. He saw a market need and he met it. Timing was also crucial for Dahl himself. As the freelance copywriter, he had an incentive at that particular time to move beyond his state of poverty (an eternal state for most freelance writers) to invest effort and other resources.

Dahl's story shows when it comes to innovation, excellence doesn't have to be dull, and fun doesn't have to lack rigour. Indeed, these attributes have become pre-requisites in our competitive economy since that time.

Macau needs more innovation. What is critical for Macau's search towards diversification is essentially innovation. Innovation, creativity, new businesses, they come from somewhere. Innovation needs to be nurtured and have the essential conditions for success as we saw in the Pet Rock story: resources, such as time, money and other sorts of capital; market need, access and opportunity; creator incentive, expertise, excellence; and some spark. With one difference to the Dahl story, value ideally needs to be captured for a longer period than found in such fads unless we find a way of creating a series of fads and fashions.

Macau has the resources, an abundance of resources. The incentive to innovate has now been made abundantly clear in its immediacy given the declining revenues in our dominant industry and the subsequent declines in GDP - we have now seriously heeded the call. We've been slow to act, for a threat is never as good as the in-your-face consequences that we are feeling now. What we struggle with is the market need and expertise. Expertise will be bought once Macau acknowledges the need, for it takes close to a generation to build internally - time which we don't have.

Understanding the market is our problem. We still talk of industries, products and services from MICE, Chinese medicine, retail to tourism and education. These meet needs but we haven't defined whose needs these industries and services are going to meet. We don't hear talk about the customers, what they look like or where they come from. If Macau's no longer the pet SAR able to pull the big gaming bucks from across the border, then whose bucks are going to replace them? Only then can we start to answer what is it from Macau that our innovators can entice these customers to buy.

THE US EMBASSY GUARD IN QATAR ASSAULTED, ATTACKER IN CUSTODY

The U.S. State Department says an embassy guard in Qatar has been lightly wounded in an assault.

In a statement it says that the guard received "superficial injuries" from the assault yesterday and that the attacker has been taken into custody by Qatari authorities.

The statement did not reveal the nationality of

the guard or provide further details about the identity of the attacker.

Violence against foreigners or foreign targets is a rare occurrence in the energy-rich Arab nation. Qatar hosts the al-Udeid Air Base, which is the main hub for coordinating warplanes from the U.S.-led coalition carrying out bombing raids against Islamic State group targets in Iraq and Syria.

Shun Tak buys hotel property in Shanghai for RMB700 million



Minhang district, Shanghai

SHUN Tak Holdings Ltd announced yesterday to the HKSE that Host Wise, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the company, entered an agreement to acquire a hotel property in Shanghai for RMB700 million (MOP900 million).

"The vendor and Host Wise entered into the Framework Agreement on 9 April 2015, pursuant to which the vendor agreed to sell, and Host Wise agreed to purchase, the property at a consideration of RMB700 million, subject to the adjustments," the note to the stock exchange reads.

The property in question is currently under planning and will be developed into an 8-storey hotel building at Shanghai MixC, an in-

tegrated commercial project being developed by the vendor (equally owned by CR Land and Shengtong Metro Assets), Shun Tak revealed in the announcement seen by MDT.

Shanghai MixC is strategically located in Minhang district at the southwest of Puxi spanning a total gross floor area of approximately 530,000 sqm. The complex will integrate a high-end shopping mall with a gross floor area of approximately 240,000 sqm, 11 office buildings and headquarters, a Metro Museum and a sky garden in addition to the hotels.

According to Shun Tak, the complex "enjoys seamless connection with the Ziteng Road Station

of Metro Line 10," and is a mere 10 minutes drive away from Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport.

The hotels will be operated by Shun Tak's hotel management subsidiary, Artyzen Hospitality Group (AHG) to extend two hotel product offerings totaling 478 rooms. AHG was created to capitalize on the explosive growth of travel and tourism in the Asia region in particular greater China.

Launched in 2013, the hotel management company's branded hotel concepts and services that promote "an East and West cultural understanding to create and generate profitable partnerships with developers and owners." The Group's portfolio comprises Zitan, Artyzen Hotels & Resorts and citizenM.

Artyzen Hospitality Group's president Robbert van der Mas said the company is currently developing hotel properties in Hengqin, Taipei and Beijing. "We are also looking at opportunities in Macau, namely for our citizenM brand," Mr van der Mas told the Times in an extended interview where he explains the strategy of Pansy Ho's hotel development arm, which will be published on Monday. **PC**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN A court ordered the release of the main suspect in the 2008 Mumbai attacks for the second time in less than a month, a defense lawyer said. A March 13 verdict also ordered the release of Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, but he remained in detention as Pakistan faces mounting pressure to more actively confront Islamic militants.



NETHERLANDS Scores of prostitutes have taken to the streets of Amsterdam to protest moves to rejuvenate the city's famed Red Light District by shuttering windows where scantily-clad sex workers pose to attract clients. The prostitutes say that the closures are depriving them of safe places to work.

UKRAINE Amnesty International said that it has evidence that Russian-backed separatists in east Ukraine have killed several captured government soldiers in gross violation of international humanitarian law.

RUSSIA A relative of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev says she remains convinced he had nothing to do with the Boston Marathon bombing, arguing that neither he nor his now-dead elder brother had any reason to carry out the terrorist attack. Tsarnaev was found guilty on Wednesday of all 30 counts against him, and now the same jury in Boston must decide whether he should be sentenced to death or to life in prison.



UK The heir to the British throne and his consort, Camilla, are celebrating 10 years of marriage - a decade in which Camilla's public image has gone from aristocratic home-wrecker to admired addition to the royal family. Prince Charles and Camilla are celebrating the anniversary privately at the royals' Balmoral estate in Scotland.

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