



**'SIN FONG' OWNERS PROTEST AGAIN**

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**NEW FACILITIES AND LAW AMENDMENTS NEEDED**

The Legislative Assembly concluded its discussions on the government's policy objectives for 2015 in the area of security

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**HISTORIC OBAMA-CASTRO MEETING**

President Barack Obama and Cuba's Raul Castro sat down together Saturday in the first formal meeting of the two country's leaders in a half-century

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**TIBET** A nun set herself on fire while crying out for the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet in the latest in dozens of self-immolations in recent years by Tibetans protesting Beijing's controls over the region, overseas rights groups said. Yeshe Khando, 47, of Ngangang Nunnery circled Kardze Monastery in Sichuan province and then self-immolated on Wednesday near the police station while shouting slogans including "Tibet needs freedom," London-based Free Tibet said in a statement Friday.

**PHILIPPINES** Two Chinese men were stabbed to death and another was injured in violence among crew members of a cargo ship that radioed Filipino authorities for medical help, Philippine police said yesterday. Philippine authorities boarded MV Qing May after it docked and brought an injured Chinese crewman to a hospital in southern Zamboanga city early yesterday with the permission of the ship's skipper, Zamboanga police director Angelito Casimiro said. The bodies of two other Chinese crewmen, which had stab wounds, were kept on board the ship.

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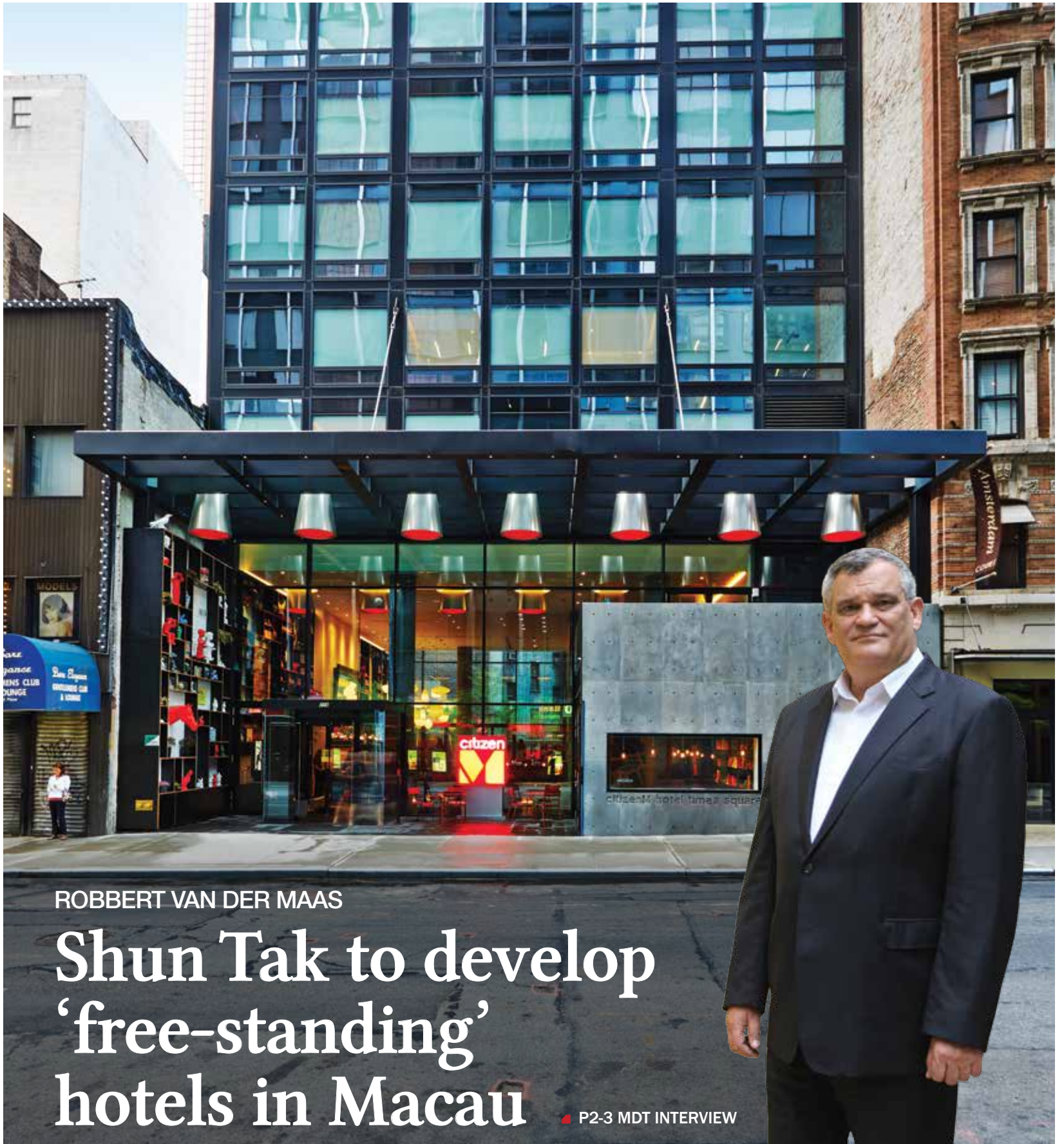
**FINANCIAL TIMES**

**China will struggle to keep its momentum**

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# China to restrict visits by Shenzhen residents to HK . P11

MDT PHOTOMONTAGE



ROBBERT VAN DER MAAS

## Shun Tak to develop 'free-standing' hotels in Macau

P2-3 MDT INTERVIEW



INTERVIEW WITH ROBBERT VAN DER MAAS, ARTYZEN

# “citizenM hotels are perfect for Macau”

Paulo Coutinho

**A**RTYZEN, the hotel management arm of Shun Tak Holdings, has partnered with Dutch hotels citizenM, to develop an innovative concept of luxury but affordable hotels in first tier Chinese cities, gateway cities like Macau and key capital cities in Asia.

“We are looking at opportunities in the peninsula as we speak,” Robbert van der Maas, 57, President of Artyzen Hospitality Group, told the Times last week when his company announced its latest hotel project in Shanghai, a RMB700 million deal which is under planning in a new complex strategically located in the Chinese mega-metropolis. Location, centrality, tradition and arts is the name of the game. Currently, Shun Tak’s subsidiary is developing hotels in Taipei (citizenM), Beijing (Artyzen) and in nearby Hengqin, on the border crossing with Macau (citizenM).

Mr van der Maas is also overseeing the two hotels Shun Tak operates in the region: Grand Lapa and Grand Coloane, the latter undergoing a much-needed renovation.

“We are going to bring back those properties to their glory days,” the veteran hospitality executive told MDT, adding they want to create “a flash back sensation” in the hotels they have and plan to develop.

The philosophy behind the brands is to bring “art, culture and emotional wisdom to life in a unique and contemporary way to provide culturally rewarding guest experiences.”

A Dutch national, born in Suriname with Portuguese ancestry on his mother’s side, Robbert van der Maas has over 30 years experience in upscale hotel management, mostly in Asia - from the Maldives to India, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan. He first came to Macau in 2007 to work at MGM as Vice President of Hotel Operations. In 2012, Ms Pansy Ho put him in charge of New Hotel Developments, a division of Shun Tak that later, in 2013, evolved into the Artyzen Hospitality Group.

Zitan, Artyzen Hotels & Resorts, citizenM and a fourth brand for extended stays (to be announced soon) integrate the group’s portfolio which caters to the more mature, informed and culturally-thirsty tourist of the new millennium.

**MDT - How do you differentiate the three main brands of Artyzen Hospitality Group?**

**Robbert van der Maas** - Firstly, Artyzen’s vision is to build successful hospitality brands that bridge cultures between East and West, engendering pride among the local communities, and which are admired by travellers the world over. In conceptualizing our brands a lot of research has been done to establish our philosophies. We believe that the industry has a great opportunity to reinvent itself and become less of a commodity provider and more of a life-style industry. Being an Asian Hotel Management company, we envisaged creating brands for different market segments based on Asian values which would be enriching and aspirational, which provide culturally rewarding experiences and which result in lasting memories and subsequently create loyalty.

We concluded that we would characterize our brands with heritage, history, art, culture, etc., all seamlessly connected by intuitive service models.

Our Zitan brand is our luxury brand modeled on the contemporary evolution of the art of Chinese fine living and refined by our

“GuanJia” service delivery. Zitan hotels focus on Chinese culture and traditions, history and art and will be found in ambassadorial locations not only in key cities in Asia, but also in Europe and the US and would be mainly city hotels with some very select resorts.

The Artyzen brand has a different positioning. It’s a five star hotel reflecting the spirit of its host location through culture and history but also the region’s crafts which may be contemporized or even reinvented.



RENATO MARQUES

**Robbert van der Maas, President Artyzen Hospitality Group**

Artyzen hotels should be the venue of choice for local celebrations and events and be recommended by local communities as the venue of choice as it reflects their city or region. Artyzen hotels can also be city center hotels, a resort or even an airport hotel, or convention hotel.

And then citizenM. Artyzen has a JV agreement with citizenM from the Netherlands. Positioning is very important for this brand too as it caters to “mobile citizens”, frequent travelers who aspire to affordable luxury and great service in a creative and stimulating setting. citizenM hotels will be found in primary cities and within that, in the main commercial or entertainment areas. That’s where this brand flourishes. If we go suburban or to secondary cities, the brand will not flourish.

We are working on our fourth brand, which is an extended stay concept. And we will soon make an announcement on this exciting addition to our brands. With these

**Zitan (the top brand) is inspired by a Chinese hospitality philosophy, the Guanjia, which takes “a holistic and all-inclusive approach to ensure the overall well-being of the guest”**

**“We are ready to discuss [with landlords] the profit delivery [model] rather than the fixed fees, or a percentage of revenue fees**

four brands we are able to cover the main markets in our industry.

**MDT - In Macau, you are managing two hotels (Grand Lapa and Grand Coloane). Are you also looking for opportunities to develop citizenM hotels?**

**RVDM** - Absolutely, we believe citizenM is a perfect brand for a city like Macau. As I’ve shared with you some of the attributes of the brand, it’s a very efficient brand. It’s a brand that brings with it a commitment to the local culture, to cater to the mobile customer, often the shorter stay customer. Macau, as you know, has a very short average stay. It’s a lifestyle brand where our customers feel cared for. There is nothing like that in Macau today. We believe that with our commitment to culture, our commitment to the service delivery, and especially the [human resource] efficiencies given the labor situation in Macau, it is a perfect hotel to operate in Macau.

**MDT - What are you looking for exactly in Macau in terms of location; where would you consider ideal to develop citizenM?**

**RVDM** - Our prime focus will be from the NAPE district towards Senado Square.

**MDT - And old buildings in downtown Macau, will that be of interest?**

**RVDM** - Old buildings may be a challenge for this brand purely because of the specific attributes and site requirements of the brand. You would have to do conversion, and often the column grids or the window grids may be a challenge. So we’re looking more at a new build type of opportunity. But we certainly will look at conversions if we come across the right opportunity.

**MDT - As you know, Macau lacks land, space. So that will be a challenge...**

**RVDM** - That’s exactly our opportunity, because for this brand we only need a very small footprint. We’re looking at somewhere between 5,000 to 7,000 square meters [GFA] as a minimum, which should be achievable in a city like Macau.

**MDT - Another interesting concept is that you make deals with landowners, property owners. How does it work?**

**RVDM** - We are predominantly a management company. Occasionally we look at strategic investments. But we look at a management proposition in the citizenM model where we share part of the risk with the owners. In the hotel environment, you often have fee structures that are based on a percentage of revenue and a percentage of profit. We are fairly ready to discuss other structures which are more towards the profit delivery side rather than the fixed fees, or a percentage of revenue fees.

**MDT - You have a model of high profitability from investments on a medium-scale basis with mid-scale hotel costs, and have profitability margins of top-scale operations. How do you achieve that?**

**RVDM** - Site selection is obviously the key to success. As a result, in order to be able to achieve this, we are extremely selective as to the cities we go into and the sites and locations within these cities. citizenM is a model that is very much focused on a particular customer base. And if the ingredients are right, if the size of the plot is right, if the critical mass in terms of the number of rooms that we can build is correct, then we can achieve a very high efficiency with this model. As a result, we say to the owners, “If you let us manage your property, our focus is to achieve these types of returns and we’d be happy to take some of the risk in the business.”

**MDT - Here in Macau, would you also partner with the gaming operators? Anything going on?**

**RVDM** - We will certainly look at it. But there are no current negotiations.

**MDT - You’ve been in the business around 30 years, all over the world, mostly Asia. As a keen observer, for you what has been the fundamental**

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**change in the hotel business over the years?**

**RVDM** - In the 60s and 70s the hotel industry had a philosophy that wherever the travellers would travel, they would be "home away from home". So the restaurant concepts (such as the typical coffee shop), menus, the interiors, from even the "soap dishes 'till the shower curtains", they were all recognizable through the brand. So if you as a traveller would go overseas, you would have the comfort of being in a familiar environment going back to your hotel.

**MDT - Does that have to do with the kind of tourist that we had at that time?**

**RVDM** - That is correct. The first who started to travel internationally on a large scale was the American market. They were very advanced with their airline programs and reservation systems. They developed hotel chains and franchises in the 1960s and 70s and they spread their brands internationally fairly quickly. It was really the beginning of this international personal travel - not just business or governmental, but personal travel - they created that comfort level into the product.

In the 80s and 90s that changed. Travellers became more aware, more interested in culture. Europeans were always much more interested in the more exotic locations through their history and they would travel more into Asia and Africa, whereby the Americans would concentrate on the "Old World" - Europe. There was an increasing interest in the culture, the heritage in the host countries where they would travel to. That trend started very strongly in 80s and a number of [hotel] companies changed their model and added local interior designs, local materials, local cuisines, local uniforms and costumes, and tried to model the Western efficiencies and the Western concept with the local flare and style. And that trend was very encouraging and professionally very stimulating

**MDT - That's when you entered...**

**RVDM** - That was about when I got into the industry. As a European, obviously, I love to travel. I selected the industry as a profession knowing that travel would be a continuing growth industry and I was very excited to see the industry focus, expand and started to adapt their philosophies to the host countries, cities and regions where they were operating.

This process continued but plateaued mainly due to the very rapid expansion of the big brands. Simul-



**citizenM brand, founded in Holland, has hotels in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Glasgow, London, Paris and New York**

taneously, there were other very significant changes, the growth of information technology and the rise of small regional brands and independent hotels. This has greatly affected the way people travel. Today when you make your plans for your vacation, you check out your destination, the location, product offering and features of your hotel restaurants in the area, shopping, sightseeing and tours, and anything you are personally interested in. Our customers

**citizenM is a brand that brings with it a commitment to the local culture, to cater to the mobile customer, often the shorter stay customer**

today are very informed and know what they look for and make choices of products that match their lifestyle and interests.

**MDT - That's Artyzen's vision, to cater for the new millennium tourists?**

**RVDM** - Not just the new millennials, but even people my age, the baby boom generation. When we travel today, we want to learn, see, we want to feel and taste what is special. We have described it in our philosophy as



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"emotional wisdom." It's a very important part of our product development. We look at art and history, we look at culture, and for our Artyzen brand look at the crafts that our host destinations are known for and see how we can reinvent these - so that we also give something back to the local communities. Many societies here in Asia have grown so fast that some of their history, heritage and their culture have been forgotten or have disappeared. So it's great if you're able to bring that back in

different ways and form and with that gain the support of the local community.

**MDT - Your citizenM hotels also partner with high quality local food providers. How does that work?**

**RVDM** - We're looking in our citizenM hotels at ways to support local products, local bakeries and restaurants that we engage to provide us with their local specialties. So it's, again, a very efficient model. Our guests have the opportunity to try some of the best local specialties and at the same time we support the local trade. Our CanteenM concept is a very interactive concept. Guests help themselves, but we want to make sure that for their breakfast have the best croissants or Danish pastries in town. For example, here in Macau or China, there's a great congee and noodle tradition. Rather than building our own delivery for this, we partner with a company that is specialized and could create the right quality consistently for us.

**MDT - The fastest growing, huge outbound tourist market is the Chinese. I'm sure you are aware of the ongoing debate about the impacts of these great flows of visitors to Macau. How you can help that with your concept?**

**RVDM** - I am not so concerned about the fact that the consensus today is that the market in Macau is getting too full and over-crowded and that there are too many visitors. I think you will see a big shift in the profile of visitors coming to Macau, and you're going to see less package tours and see more and more independent travelers - FITs or GITs (who travel as a group, but can do their own programs). And I think that's the next wave that will benefit

the free-standing (non casino) hotels.

I was just in Europe and when visiting some of the cultural capitals there, I was really amazed to see in some of the key cities how many mainland Chinese travelers were there traveling in small groups, and there are also an incredible amount of individual travelers. This trend is growing very rapidly and will benefit Macau in the future.

**The next wave of tourists [to Macau] will benefit from the free-standing (non casino) hotels**

**MDT - One of the catch phrases of your brand, especially citizenM, is for the guest to have luxury at budget cost. How do you achieve that?**

**RVDM** - The philosophy with all our brands is that there's always a value for money approach. Then there's the definition of luxury, what is luxury today? It is something different for everyone. citizenM has a fairly small footprint in terms of the guest rooms but has added lots of space in the public spaces, in the form a "living room", a very interactive area in the hotel that brings the customers together, helps them network, helps them to feel at home rather than sitting up in a room and do their work there, for example. At citizenM, everything the guest touches has a sense of luxury, from the bespoke Vitra furniture, great service, fine linen and real hi-speed internet but you don't pay an "arm and a leg" for it. Now, is citizenM a low cost brand? No, it's not. It's a lifestyle brand offering quality and luxury at a great rate.

**MDT - In the mid-term, five years, how many properties do you plan to have for the three brands here, in China and Asia?**

**RVDM** - I don't like to give specific numbers unlike some of my colleagues in the industry who have recently announced very aggressive growth numbers. We are well on the way to a very good pipeline for our brands. We are discussing some significant opportunities that we hope to announce in the next few months.

**MDT - We are not talking big numbers? You don't want to rush...**

**RVDM** - We are not a company that will trumpet our ambitions. We are very selective in terms of our locations, our products and partners. We feel that with the operation philosophies that we have, we need to focus and ensure that the brands deliver the brand promise and they're not cookie cutter replicas being rolled out. It's not about distribution. It is about getting our signature properties in the key cities and build a high quality, highly respected "house of brands".



London



Amsterdam



London



New York



## Organizer cancels watch and jewelry show

A luxury watch and jewelry show scheduled to take place at the Emperor Hotel on May 2 and May 3 was canceled by its Hong Kong organizer, as VIP customers will likely be deterred by China's anti-graft campaign. Organizers of the "Europe Asian Watch Jewelry & Antique Coins Show" published a notice on the event's website indicating that the cancellation was made "due to the recent political crisis in China of 'fighting corruption'." "We have no other alternative but to cancel this upcoming show in May," the statement said, adding that the organizers shall reschedule future show dates.

## Many give opinions on Fisherman's Wharf plan

The authorities' email inbox dedicated to opinions on the intended relaxation of planning conditions for the Fisherman's Wharf was recently overloaded, breaking down during the recent public notice and consultation period. The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) confirmed that the two-week public notice has drawn such a dramatic response from the public that their opinions overloaded the email box. The malfunction caused the failure in delivery for approximately one hundred emails. The bureau said its computer system had recorded the email addresses of senders and has notified them to re-send their opinions.

## Man assaulted with a stone, robbed

The Judiciary Police (PJ) last week successfully apprehended a mainland Chinese man, who assaulted another mainland male with a stone at the Comendador Ho Yin Garden before grabbing his bag which contained money and valuable items worth more than 600 thousand (the currency was not disclosed by the police). The arrested, a driver aged 39, was intercepted by the police authorities at the checkpoint when he revisited the city. Last December, the 39-year-old, who gambled away all his money at a local casino, reportedly injured the victim in the garden, having stalked him from the pawn shop he visited. However, according to the suspect, half of the 200 thousand he stole has already been spent paying off his debts and on gambling.

## More local students apply for mainland universities

The annual joint entrance exam for mainland universities received a total of 720 candidates from Macau this year, representing a ten percent year-on-year increase in the number of Macau applicants. According to the Tertiary Education Services Office, the entrance exam is coordinated by the country's Ministry of Education, open to overseas Chinese students as well as those from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. The 2015 exam registration for the Macau area ended on March 31. Classified by category, 47.6 percent of the applicants applied for literary and history majors, whereas 52.4 percent of them applied for majors in science and engineering, agriculture and medicine.

# 'Sin Fong' owners protest again calling for gov't intervention

**M**ORE than a hundred residents at the troubled "Sin Fong Garden" residential building congregated once again on the pavement outside the block on Saturday night, holding lit candles and banners and demanding that the government intervene in the structurally vulnerable high-rise building's reconstruction work.

At around 8 p.m., some of those who evacuated "Sin Fong" back in October 2012, at risk of an imminent collapse, returned to the entrance of the residential structure, where they previously staged a overnight sit-in to protest the termination of a government-sponsored investigative report last March.

The "Sin Fong" owners urge the authorities to proactively initiate the cracked building's rebuilding project. Among them was the chairman of a management committee for the property, Vong Kuok Fai, who told media during last Thursday's meeting with the government's task force that the city's Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, has pledged to formally announce his decision within a month; yet no explanation was forthcoming.

According to Vong's personal understanding, the secretary's deci-



sion was still between a "forceful renovation" or total reconstruction.

A white banner hanging across the building's façade, located near its parking lot entrance, reads: "Kindly request the government to actively engage in launching the reconstruction work, return 'Sin Fong' residents a livable home" in Chinese characters. The committee chairman believes only the building's reconstruction could fulfill the owners' hopes, without remedial technologies to recover the entire block from continual structural damage.

Aside from the authorities' active intervention, Vong also noted that the intricate legal and technical issues involved in the case could not be feasibly resolved by the victims

and instead required assistance from the government for them to better cope with the predicament. According to the committee head, there is only one street store owner that disagrees with the rebuilding proposal. He hopes to see a favorable decision to be made soon, taking into account the fact that more than 700 residents' livelihoods are at stake.

Policymaker Ho Ion Sang was also present at the night's assembly, supporting the "Sin Fong" apartment owners. The crowd dispersed at around 9.30 p.m. without clashing with the authorities, unlike previous protests.

Later at around midnight, the spokesman office for the government issued a statement in response to the protest. It said that authorities are still highly concerned with the "Sin Fong Garden" incident and ongoing follow-up work. "The government fully understands the rational and lawful appeals made by the apartment owners at the assembly tonight, and will continue to maintain close communication with apartment owners through cross-department follow-up teams in order to seek a scheme to properly address the incident together," the statement reads. **Staff reporter**

## Hengqin sets up think-tank with UM and mainland institutes

**T**HE Hengqin administration signed an agreement last Friday to establish an institute of innovation for its Pilot Free Trade Zone, alongside the University of Macau (UM) and mainland institutes.

The vice president of the International Trade and Economic Cooperation Research Institute under the Ministry of Commerce, Li Guanghui, stated at the signing ceremony that, "the Hengqin Pilot Free Trade Zone has the important missions of facilitating Macau economy's diversification and [creating new innovations in] the institutional reform. There will inevitably be a lot of theoretical and practice problems getting in the way, which this think-tank needs to explore together."

Including Li's institute, the Hengqin New District Administrative Committee signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement with four other research centers, namely the Free Trade Zone Institute of the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, UM's Center for Macau Studies, as well as Sun Yat-Sen University's Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland Cooperation and Development Collaborative Innovation Center.

According to the agreement, the five bodies will cooperate on policy-making consultation, research, talent cultivation and training, so as to provide theoretical instruction and application research for the district's development.

AD



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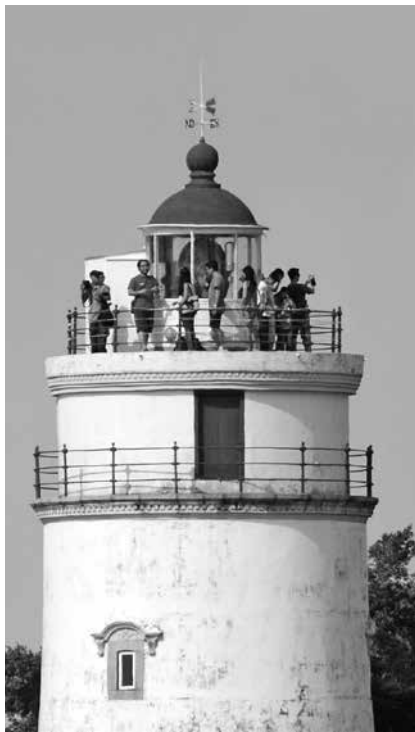
TRANSPORTATION

# Guia Hill pedestrian tunnel well received by authorities

**S**IX representatives from two local associations met the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, last week to discuss plans to excavate a tunnel through the Guia Hill in order to accommodate pedestrians.

Following an online survey launched in February which intended to collect public opinions on the passage construction, the two groups submitted 852 online responses to the secretary, of which 94.2 percent were in favour of the proposal.

After the two-hour meeting – which discussed issues including the light railway transit infrastructure, the potential optimisation of the walking environment for pedestrians and the monitoring of automobile numbers – Ron Lam, Vice President of the Choi In Tong Sam Association, told the media that Raimundo do Rosário responded positively to the Guia Hill pedestrian tunnel proposal. However, do Rosário conceded that the detailed framework for such a project would not be on the horizon soon, as it would require a lot of technical planning. The 59-year-old also



acknowledged that there were imminent traffic issues plaguing the city, which must be addressed first. “The secretary agreed to implement the project, yet he admitted that since he took office, there are still lots of issues in the field of pu-

blic works [that must] be addressed,” said Lam. “He also has not yet communicated with the public works bureau as to when to put the project into practice.”

The vice head of the association disclosed that the secretary might reveal more specific information on the project in the policy address for the sector of public works and transport, which will be held later this week.

Ron Lam contended that the pedestrian tunnel would serve as “one more option” for the general public, saying that limiting the number of local vehicles on the streets would be insufficient. “I think it’s a good start to optimize the walking environment, including the Guia Hill tunnel. Local residents would consider walking more [...] if the passage proves successful,” said the vice president, adding that it would free up “more space for the society to reconsider the entire traffic policy.”

Incidentally, Lam said that the government had to set a clear goal in addressing the various traffic problems, lest they develop into more severe issues.

HEALTH

## Local senior confirmed to have tetanus infection

A local senior aged 82 years of age is on respiratory support for medical treatment in the intensive care unit of a local hospital, after being confirmed to have contracted tetanus from mainland China. On March 26, the elderly man was wounded when he alighted from a bus in the mainland. The wound on his palm deteriorated despite receiving multiple treatments at a Chinese health station and local major hospitals. Having shown signs of respiratory arrest on 9th of this month, the patient was sent to the hospital for further treatment, but remains in a stable condition. The health bureau has launched an inquiry into the matter.

EDUCATION

## Rotaract Club organizes Goodwill Ambassador Program



The Rotaract Club of Macau has organized the 13th Goodwill Ambassador Program. According to a press release

issued by the organizers, 28 candidates were divided into 7 groups to go on a series of competitions over the past three months, and were judged by a jury on April 11. The group “H2O” won this year, with its members crowned “Goodwill Ambassadors.” Led by Rotaract Club members, the group will embark on a nine-day cultural exchange trip in Australia. “The Goodwill Ambassador Program” aims to help young people develop and explore their personal goals and leadership skills, to pique the interest of youngsters to participate in community service, take part in inter-cultural exchanges and to enlighten them about “the spirit of Rotary” said the club in a statement.

AD

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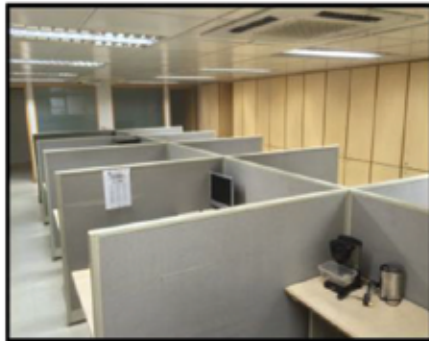
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Stylish updated bathrooms (1 x shower & 1 x bath). Modern fitted kitchen inc dishwasher  
Stunning mountain views. Car park included



#### The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa

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2,488sq. ft. HKD 33,000

Fully Furnished 4 bedroom, mid floor apartment, luxury residence in central Taipa.

Concierge services, spacious living areas and bedrooms.

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#### Ocean Garden Fragrant Court Taipa

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Unfurnished apartment with 5 bedrooms/3 bathrooms. 2 large balconies, private maid's quarters with separate access. Stunning views of Macau waterfront and bridges from the apartment. Located in the hillside of the original Ocean Gardens block. Car park space available.



#### Manhattan Taipa

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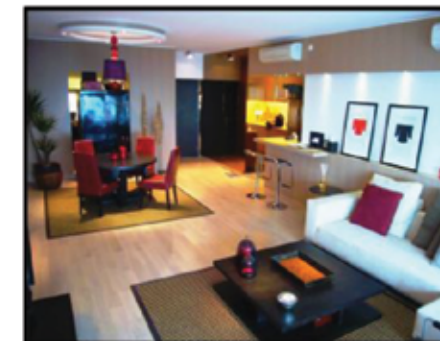
Close to supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance to Cotai Strip this is the perfect family or executive home.



#### Macau Nape Area Macau

(Ref: 15030482)  
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#### Designer Penthouse Nova City Taipa

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### For Sale



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Rate: HKD 7,351sq ft

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## POLICY ADDRESS | SECURITY

# New facilities and law amendments needed to tackle safety risks

Brook Yang

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) concluded its plenary meeting discussions on the government's policy objectives for 2015 in the area of security last Friday. Taking into account the growth in new urban spaces and communities in the city's recent and current constructions, lawmakers focused on the growing demand for public security and fire services facilities.

Meanwhile, the need to amend outdated laws and to strengthen cooperation with communities were also highlighted in the debate, as well as further crackdowns on crime. The prevention of more traffic accidents and irregularities was also addressed.

Responding to the concerns and suggestions presented at the plenary meeting, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, promised lawmakers that there would be enough deployments to cope with rising security demands while new facilities are due to commence construction. The official also acknowledged that comprehensive studies are needed when exploring legal examinations of grey areas, and thus pledged to "seek to improve the legal system and formulate better guidelines for law enforcement."

"As long as there are laws lagging behind, there will be helplessness in law enforcement. It's not that our laws are that bad, but legal lag will always be a fact [of reality]. The law enforcement departments need to face that. As long as we conduct law enforcement attentively, and enhance our law enforcement abilities, we've fulfilled our purpose," he stated.

Regarding the attitudes among legal practitioners that "[despite] seeing no effect, enforcement must continue," lawmaker Song Pek Kei indicated that "it is not a long-term [solution], and thus [we] must push for legislation and law amendment." The secretary noted the constraints of combating fake marriages, the solicitation of prostitution, and the dissemination of pornographic leaflets. He suggested that listing these illegalities as crimes in the Penal Code should be the focus of further discussion.

Regarding the recent spate of fatal traffic accidents, several lawmakers called for measures to monitor heavy vehicles such as trucks and casino shuttle buses on the road more closely.



Wong Sio Chak (center)

Some lawmakers also urged for tighter controls on tourists' jaywalking and dangerous driving habits, while some suggested stricter penalties to deter driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

In response, Wong Sio Chak said that the Traffic Law will be amended, and the Judiciary Police is studying penalties with the Transport Bureau (DSAT). Moreover, he said accident prevention is primarily promoted via public outreach and education. "Over twenty four hours and all 365 days, we are publicizing and educating the public

**Over twenty four hours and all 365 days, we will educate the public on driving safety**

WONG SIO CHAK

to raise awareness of driving safety," he stressed.

According to the director of the Public Security Police (PSP), Leong Man Cheong, last year recorded over 8,400 cases of heavy vehicle traffic violations, especially of overweight and overloaded vehicles. In addition, traffic accidents caused by drunk-driving increased by 15 percent year-on-year in the first two months of 2015. "When we heard of the fatal traffic accidents, we also hoped to formulate measures to deal with this. We will do everything possible to jointly straighten out Macau's traffic [problems] with the DSAT," vowed the director.

Plans to add facilities and manpower to meet security demands in new urban spaces were another focus of the lawmakers' inquiries. Concerned over the new premises and infrastructure under construction in Cotai, lawmaker Lau Veng Seng recognized that the concept of "preventing crimes from the design of environment" should be extended in

order to avoid security incidents such as fire hazards.

Lawmaker Chui Sai Cheong indicated that "over the past decade, Cotai has developed significantly; the number of residents continued to grow, [as have] the number of hotel rooms, which has already exceeded that in Macau [peninsula]. However, no more fire stations have been built there."

The director of the Fire Services Bureau, Ma Io Weng, acknowledged that the three fire stations in Taipai, Coloane and Hengqin are "able to cope with the rescue work in a short term by assisting each other; but in

order to meet demands in the long-term, a large station is still needed."

Ma said the bureau had suggested building a large fire station back in 2002 when the Cotai Strip was first taking shape. Last year, the plan's pre-approved site had to be relocated due to natural gas. In addition, Leong Man Cheong revealed the PSP's plan to establish a police sub-station at the Sai Pai Van public housing area. As for popular spots for illegal racing, the authorities intend to install speed humps and a radar speed-detection system to monitor traffic around the clock.

## PLAN TO BUILD INTERNET SAFETY CENTER SHELVED

**WONG SIO** Chak said Macau is currently in the process of creating a system which can protect it from Internet network intrusions. However, the authorities' plan to establish an Internet safety center within the police force has been set aside

due to a lack of resources. Wong said the center needs to take charge of maintenance and risk evaluation of the city's Internet security; however, it is "not easy to build, as it needs talent, equipment, and the institutional system."

## Police forces urged to upgrade personnel system

**S**EVERAL lawmakers have drawn attention to the police forces' personnel system, including differences in salaries and educational backgrounds as well as leaders' self-discipline, and frontline officers' attitude towards citizens.

Lawmakers Song Pek Kei and Angela Leong noted the salary differences for different types of police officers, urging for a fairer system to help retain manpower.

Song also indicated that many police officers join the forces with a primary or

secondary school degree, but hope for further training. In addition, lawmaker Leonel Alves suggested that the police force needs to admit people with higher qualifications, especially those with legal knowledge.

On the other hand, lawmaker Fong Chi Keong questioned whether the new Secretary for Security would call for the police force itself to discipline violators amongst the 9,000 officers. Moreover, lawmaker Chan Chak Mo indicated that the work ethic of frontline officers still

requires improvement.

In response, Wong Sio Chak stressed the police forces' commitment to abiding by their ethical codes and added that the team will be managed with a police-oriented approach. He also acknowledged that most of the unpleasant cases between police and citizens were caused by police officers' lack of self-awareness or responsive skills. "The so-called skill is in fact very simple: most importantly, [being aware] of serving the people," he stressed.



Brandon Bailey,  
Technology Writer, Palo Alto

# Online excitement but no long lines for Apple Watch debut

**A**N online rush replaced the traditional overnight queues outside Apple stores Friday as the iconic tech company began taking orders and letting shoppers get their hands on its much-vaunted smartwatch for the first time.

Eager customers placed online orders for the Apple Watch as soon as Apple's website began accepting them, shortly after midnight Pacific Time. Within half an hour, the company appeared to sell out the initial batch of watches that were available for the first official day of shipping on April 24. By mid-morning, Apple's website was showing the earliest shipping date for many watch models would be in June or later.

Demand was difficult to gauge, since Apple hasn't said how many watches were available for shipping in the first wave on April 24. And in contrast with earlier releases of new Apple products, there were no big lines of shoppers waiting all night outside the company's retail stores.

That's because Apple encouraged customers to make appointments for a 15-minute opportunity to try on different models — which are priced starting at USD349 and go up to \$17,000 for a luxury edition — while specially trained employees explained their features. Apple is only accepting orders online, for now.

But the debut still came with some of the anticipation and marketing sizzle for which Apple Inc. is famous.

Apple retail staffers in New York, Atlanta and other cities clapped and cheered as the first customers streamed through their stores' signature glass doors just before 10 a.m. Eager shoppers also examined the watch at shops in London, Shanghai and Tokyo.

Student Victor Leung was

AP PHOTO



A customer tries on Apple's new watch at a store in San Francisco

grinning from ear to ear after finishing his watch appointment and placing his order for a lower-priced sport model at the Apple store on New York's 5th Avenue. He said he'd been waiting eagerly for the opportunity to buy one.

"It's awesome," Leung said. "You get texts on your watch, make phone calls." While he has tried other smartwatches, he thinks "Apple is different."

Despite Leung's enthusiasm, analysts said Apple may have good reasons to sell the watch through pre-orders and

appointments. Online ordering should help Apple manage its inventory and manufacturing. The try-on visits should help ensure that early buyers know what to expect and how to use the watch, said Carolina Milanesi, a tech analyst at Kantar Worldpanel. She said that could build positive "word of mouth" recommendations.

And some analysts said the lag time in shipping may help build anticipation while the company works to convince other customers — those who aren't early tech adopters — why they

should want this new category of gadget.

"Our view is it's going to take time for the consumer to adopt wearable technology," said Angelo Zino, analyst at S&P Capital IQ.

"We're very positive on the long-term trends for wearables and we think Apple is going to be a clear leader in the category," Zino said this week. But he added, "We think initial sales are going to be below expectations."

Apple, which is based in Cupertino, California, hasn't offered any estimates, but some

Apple has started taking orders for the watch on its website and the Apple Store app, with shipments scheduled to start April 24

analysts have predicted the company could sell 10 million to 20 million watches this year. By comparison, it sold more than 10 million of its new iPhone 6 and 6 Plus smartphones in the first weekend they were available last September, and a record total of 74.5 million iPhones in the fourth quarter last year.

Some shoppers needed no convincing on Friday. Jack Weber, a retired University of Virginia professor, said he woke up at 3 a.m. to order a \$1,000 stainless steel Apple Watch online. He and his wife, Carol, were first in line for a 9 a.m. appointment to see the watches at a New York Apple store.

Carol Weber tried on a \$15,000, 18-karat gold model that Jack thought would be nice to buy for their upcoming 50th anniversary. Carol also liked the steel, though, since it would go with her white gold wedding ring. She said she hasn't decided which to get yet, but is leaning toward both. **AP**

## corporate bits

### KOREAN DANCE SHOW "DANCING 9" FILMED AT THE VENETIAN FOR THE FIRST TIME



Oh Sang-jin, host of the South Korean hit dance reality show "Dancing 9," along with Lee Yong-woo and Kim Su-ro, two dance masters were in town March 8-10 to film the first elimination round for Season 3 of the show. They arrived at

the Main Lobby of The Venetian Macao and were greeted by Venetian dancers who gave their Blue Eye and Red Wings teams a dance challenge. The winning team was rewarded with refreshments in a suite. The group also enjoyed dining

on the terrace and at Spirito Bar at Italian restaurant Portofino. Finally, they gave their bodies a rest at Conrad Macao's Bodhi Spa with body and foot massages.

The challenge was to perform a dance sequence at destinations across The Venetian Macao, including the Grand Canal, St. Mark's Square, on a gondola ride and at the Grado Golf course. The guest judges watched on a big screen at Bellini Lounge and made their decision. Oh Sang-jin announced the winning team at The Venetian Macao's outdoor Lagoon. The episode featuring The Venetian Macao was scheduled to air last Friday, April 10.

V Air, an original Taiwanese-style budget carrier, launched a new route Friday between Macau and Taipei. To celebrate the inauguration, V Air's mascot V Bear showed up at the departure lounge and interacted with passengers. The celebration also extends to in-flight services with a new menu released; passengers can also win V Bear merchandise from duty-free shopping onboard.

V Air's CEO, Ms Eleni Lung, arrived in Macau to host the inauguration ceremony. She commented: "V Air has served over 50,000 passengers since it took to the skies in December 2014. The carrier has been receiving compliments on its cordial Taiwanese service style. Macau is V Air's 3rd regular flight; we are thrilled that V Air now can deliver such service

### V AIR LAUNCHES MACAU-TAIPEI ROUTE



to the Macau market."

The Director of Marketing at Macau International Airport Co. Ltd., Mr. Fong, welcomed V Air's first touchdown at the gate. "Congratulations to V Air's successful inauguration,

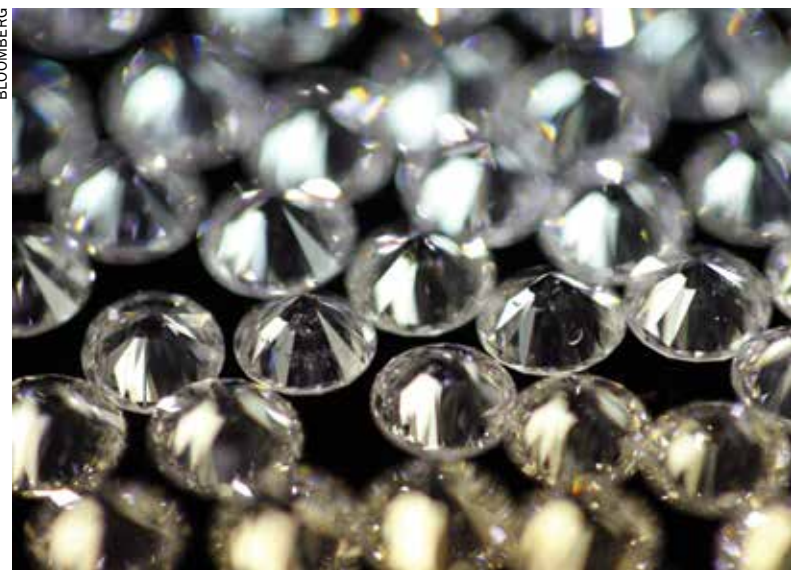
the new service will certainly offer much more choice in visiting Taiwan", Mr. Fong said.

The initial schedule for the Taipei-Macau route offers round-trip services every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.



ANGOLA

# Australian company extracts 1,317 diamonds in concession



**T**HE exploitation of alluvial diamonds in Lulo, in the Angolan province of Lunda Norte, allowed the mining of 1317 diamonds since January, the Australian company Luca-pa Diamond said in a statement last week.

The diamonds extracted as a result of processing 12,912 cubic meters of rock, had a total mass of 1,335 carats, with an average of 1.01 carats, with the largest standing at 26.7 carats.

Block 29 is the first area of alluvial diamonds mined in Lulo since the Australian diamond company and its partners last November signed a 35-year concession contract.

The company, whose Angolan

partners in this project are state company Endiama and private group Rosas & Pétalas, has given assurances that with these results it will achieve positive cash flow from mining in Lulo next June.

During the prospecting phase, which lasted for six years, the company extracted 876.5 carats in the Lulo area, including a stone of 131.4 carats, the largest of all, which yielded USD6 million.

The Lulo concession lies 150 kilometers from the Catoca diamond mine, which is the biggest in Angola and the fourth-largest of its kind in the world, and both are located in the same geological area. **MDT/Macauhub**

## Chinese groups well positioned to buy Portuguese bank

**T**HE highest non-binding bid for the purchase of Portuguese bank Novo Banco was presented by a Chinese group and is for over 4 billion euros, the Expresso Diário newspaper reported without identifying the bidder.

The Diário Económico newspaper reported in Friday's edition that Anbang Insurance Group Co., which operates in the banking and insurance sectors, and Fosun International Ltd group, which purchased the Fidelidade insurance company and healthcare group ES Saúde, presented proposals of around 4 billion euros for the bank, which kept the healthy assets of the bankrupt Banco Espírito Santo (BES).

Expresso Diário said the highest bid was still less than the US\$4.9 billion cash injection into Novo Banco, and will therefore always represent a loss to the resolution fund that will be borne by the banking system.

The daily newspaper stressed that the non-binding bids have several conditions and designs, and were therefore not directly comparable with some competitors, for example, calling for a capital increase by the bank.

By the end of next week, ten days after delivery of the non-binding offers, candidates for the second phase will be selected and will be asked to present a binding bid for Novo Banco.

**MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

# MGM MACAU



Helping to Create a Better Tomorrow Today

Welcome to the first edition of our MGM MACAU Sustainability Update. In this monthly column, we will be sharing news from our sustainability program, including our social and environmental initiatives. For our first edition however, we would like to set the scene for how we approach sustainability and share some of the initiatives we are proud of to date.

### Our Approach to Sustainability

Through our Sustainability Vision, Creating a Better Tomorrow Today, we are aware that the decisions we make, or choose not to make today, will affect the society and the environment of tomorrow. We therefore seek to balance our short-term and long-term results by conducting our business in a way that protects the environment and creates lasting value, not only for our business, but also for our communities and the broader society. It is therefore crucial that sustainability is not a tick-the-box, but a part of our DNA and central to everything we do.

### Our Commitment to our Community and Employees

Our Company's success is thanks to the support of our employees and the communities in which we operate. We are committed to supporting the long-term development and prosperity of Macau alongside the needs and aspirations of our community, many of whom are part of our MGM team.



Our MGM Volunteer Team at our annual Elderly Spring Cleaning event

Nurturing and developing local talent is one of our core business objectives. For example, we introduced the **MGM Management Associate Program**, a pioneering graduate development program which allows Macau graduates to gain valuable leadership and hands-on experience by spending 12 months at MGM Resorts International's properties in Las Vegas before returning to management roles within MGM MACAU.

Giving back to the community is something we strongly believe in. Wherever possible we favor a hands-on approach, preferring to work side-by-side with members of our community. In 2014, we held 37 different community activities giving over 5,100 hours to supporting the community.



Students working side-by-side with our chefs at A Day with MGM

Developing and inspiring the youth of Macau is one of our community aims. Every year we invite local students, aged 13-17 years, to spend **A Day at MGM** so that they can experience a professional environment and help broaden their horizons. In 2014, we welcomed 78 students from different local schools to our property to see what goes on behind the scenes at our large property in Macau.

In 2014, for the third year running, we appointed Hong Kong's Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) to organize the 3-day **Golden Lion Summer Camp** for 80 local students. In the spirit of fun and comradery, the camp aims to help develop self-confidence, communications skills, creative thinking and problem solving skills through a range of outdoor activities. For both these initiatives we also invite our employees' family members to take part.

### Our Commitment to the Environment

We are aware of our impacts on the environment through our consumption of natural resources and generation of waste. We look to integrate environmental considerations into all operational practices from our supply chain, to our facilities management, to our guest rooms. In short, we believe an environmentally-responsible business is a better business. Through resource efficiency initiatives we have reduced energy consumption by 24% since 2008, water consumption by 8% since 2012 and in 2014 alone, we reduced the waste being sent to the incinerator by 6%.

Over the coming months, we look forward to sharing our stories of how we're working together to create a better Macau.



Jack Chang, Beijing

**L**I Xiaohe has set herself up for the long haul in a cramped but sunny room in western Beijing, about a block from China's most renowned cancer hospital. Her laundry dries on hangers and her husband cooks in a communal kitchen as she embarks on an 84-day program of chemotherapy, following the removal of part of her right breast.

The youthful, soft-spoken 43-year-old, who works as a neighborhood watch leader back home in Henan province, is living in one of the many so-called cancer hotels that dot the neighborhood around the hospital, giving patients an affordable, cozy place to wait for appointments and undergo outpatient treatment.

With lung, bowel and breast cancer rates surging in China, such hotels have sprouted up in big cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, part of an ad hoc response to what medical experts say is a growing health crisis challenging an unprepared medical system.

"The treatment back home is different from here, so we came here," Li says in her bedroom, which is filled almost completely by her mattress. "At home, my insurance covers 85 percent of the cost. It'll be good if I can even get half of it covered here. But I'm doing this for my health. I'm looking for the right treatment."

These patients venture far for treatment believing they can't find adequate care in hometowns, instead preferring to camp out near reputable, big-city hospitals to await their turn for care. They do that even though government health insurance often covers less of the cost of care in Beijing and other big cities than it does back home.

The hotels, which mostly operate informally, don't provide nursing but put patients closer to medical services and experts, and give them a place to cook their own food and share tips with fellow patients.

Despite their name, they are not traditional hotels, but furnished units in apartment blocks near medical facilities, charging as little as \$7 a night per room. And while they occupy a legal gray zone, doctors often refer patients to them, and state-run media have published glowing articles about the need they are fulfilling.

They reflect a health emergency that has seen the number of lung cancer diagnoses nationwide jump by 16 percent in two years, and the lung cancer rate in Beijing soar by 60 percent over a decade, according to Chinese government figures. Lung cancer mortality rates grew from around 50 per 100,000 men in 2000 to nearly 60 per 100,000 a dozen years



Chen Shuhong is interviewed in front of the residential compound where she rents out apartments as housing for cancer patients in Beijing

## Cancer surge prompts rise of special patient hotels

later, World Health Organization data show. Breast cancer rates have also grown among women, killing almost as many of them yearly as lung cancer.

By comparison, male lung cancer mortality rates in the United States have dropped from 55 per 100,000 people in 2000 to 40 in 2012, and from almost 25 per 100,000 Brazilian men in 2000 to 20 in 2012, according to WHO.

Persistently high rates of smoking as well as toxic air pollution help explain much of the rise, said Angela Pratt, who leads WHO's work in China on tobacco control and non-communicable diseases such as cancer and heart disease.

"The rates of cancer, both the number of cases and the rates at which people are dying of cancer, are increasing in China, and that's obviously a cause for very significant concern," Pratt said. "That's a huge increase in a relatively short amount of time. I would say it's a critical situation."

Visible evidence of that surge fills the Beijing Cancer Hospital, where hundreds of patients, some still wheeling suitcases from their long journeys, fill the corridors waiting for hours to be called. The hospi-

tal declined a request to speak to doctors or administrators there. China's National Health and Family Planning Commission also didn't respond to an interview request.

Cui Xiaobo, a newly retired social medicine professor at the Capital Medical University in Beijing, said sweeping heal-

**■ Many so-called cancer hotels give patients an affordable, cozy place to wait for appointments and undergo outpatient treatment**

th reforms that are still in the works would bring equal levels of care to people in cities and rural areas alike. Cui said rural doctors often aren't adequately paid, which requires that they squeeze in extra patients or suggest unnecessary treatments to bring in more

revenue.

In his view, pollution couldn't yet be linked to rising cancer rates; instead, he said, much of the trend stemmed from higher life expectancy in China with the result that more elderly were being diagnosed with the disease.

"With cancer, there's no single cause," Cui said. "If there were a single cause, then it'd be easy to cure."

What's clear is the cancer surge in China is remaking the country. Experts have documented hundreds of cases of "cancer villages," or communities hit by higher-than-average cancer rates due to polluting nearby industries. In 2013, Chinese were shocked to learn of an 8-year-old girl billed as the country's youngest lung cancer patient, the result, her doctors said, of eastern China's choking air pollution.

Pratt said air pollution was clearly playing a role, as were smoking, unhealthy diets and obesity.

"Air pollution is now a recognized carcinogen, so there's no question that the hazardous levels of air pollution we're seeing in many parts of China are contributing to the increasing rates in particular of

lung cancer," Pratt said.

Guo Xinglan is staying in the same three-bedroom apartment as Li near the Beijing hospital. They share a communal kitchen that has a refrigerator packed with anti-cancer medication.

Guo says she had never smoked before she was diagnosed with lung cancer several years ago. The woman from eastern Shandong province says her cancer has gone into remission but she still comes to Beijing yearly for a checkup. "The doctor didn't say how I got this cancer," Guo says. "No one in my family has had it either. I know so many people in my area who are getting it."

The owner of the cancer hotel, retired merchant Chen Shuhong, said she's seen the need for her rooms near the hospital expand over the past decade. She started her business with an apartment left to her by an uncle who died at age 59 of lung cancer. She said she now rents 10 apartments that she offers as housing for cancer patients.

"People sought me out, so I opened this," Chen said. "If the government says, 'Don't do it,' then I won't do it. But so many people are getting this disease, and there's a need." AP



HONG KONG

# Gov't said to seek limit to visits from Shenzhen residents

Michelle Yun

**H**ONG Kong proposed to China that visits from Shenzhen residents be cut to once a week as an increase in day-trippers and traders buying goods in the city led to protests, a government official said.

The change in policy, which currently allows Shenzhen visitors to travel across the border freely with a permit, would reduce the number of such arrivals by 30 percent, or 4.6 million visits, according to the Hong Kong official, who asked not to be identified as the Chinese government hasn't made an announcement.

The impact on tourism in the city would be limited since more than 90 percent of multiple-entry permit holders are day-trippers, the official said.

A surge in parallel traders who buy daily necessities in Hong Kong to resell in the mainland spurred weeks of street protests this year as they drive up prices and hoard goods. Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying has to balance the public discontent with concerns that a drop in visitors will further depress retail sales and hurt the economy.

The proposal takes into account the city's "receiving capacity of mainland visitors," the government said in a statement on Saturday, which didn't specify what the measures are. The government's media depart-



A local villager, center, gestures at protesters demonstrating against mainland Chinese shoppers at a suburban district of Yuen Long in Hong Kong

ment referred to the statement when asked for confirmation of the details.

The South China Morning Post reported specifics of the plan yesterday, citing unidentified people from the government and Shenzhen police.

Scuffles have broken out between protesters and the tra-

ders at neighborhoods near the border, spurring arrests and demands from lawmakers to curb visitors. The incidents further stoke tension with China, months after Hong Kong students led unprecedented street protests demanding more autonomy in elections.

Protests against parallel tra-

ding have hurt the city's image as a tourist destination, according to Hong Kong Financial Secretary John Tsang. The drop in visitor arrivals over the three-day Qingming Festival holiday earlier this month is of "concern," he said in a post on his government blog yesterday.

Tourists from mainland China

jumped 16 percent to 47 million in 2014 from a year earlier, according to the Hong Kong Tourism Board. Day trips accounted for a record 60 percent of these, compared with 38 percent in 2006.

Instead of rich Chinese flying in to purchase luxury items, Hong Kong is seeing an increasing number of visitors buy up shampoos, milk powder and other necessities. Concerns in China about the safety of local products have led to demand for those sold in the city.

While expenditure on luxury items plunged 14 percent last year, the sales of medicine, cosmetics and at supermarkets saw as much as a 9.3 percent gain, government data shows.

Two-thirds of the 743 people surveyed in February by the Chinese University of Hong Kong wanted the government to reduce the number of individual Chinese visitors. More than three-fifths of those polled said the tourists have brought inconvenience to their lives, the university said.

With Chinese tourists making up 78 percent of Hong Kong's visitors last year, their changing composition ripples through the economy and drags down the sales of luxury good companies including Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. and Prada. **Bloomberg**

4.6m

The change in policy would reduce arrivals by 30 percent, or 4.6m visits

# TV host says sorry for comments about Mao Zedong

Didi Tang, Beijing

**A** popular Chinese television celebrity has apologized for insulting the founder of Communist China, after his remarks at a private dinner caused a stir in China and rekindled debate on the complicated legacy of the revolutionary figure.

Bi Fujian, the host of the talent show "Avenue of Stars" at the state broadcaster China Central Television, issued the apology late Thursday on his personal microblog that has 1.3 million followers.

"I feel extremely guilty, and my heart aches," Bi



Chinese paramilitary policemen stand watch over visitors near a portrait of Mao Zedong in Tiananmen Square, Beijing

wrote. "I sincerely expressed my deep apology to the public." Bi said, as a public figure, he would draw a lesson and better discipline himself.

In a home video that circulated widely online before censors removed it this week, Bi apparently was amusing his audience at a private dinner by singing a revolutionary song about Communist Party-led soldiers battling bandits in northeastern China in the 1940s.

To the laughter of guests, Bi adds his own commentary in a speaking voice between lines.

After the lyrics mention Mao, Bi refers to

him using a vulgar Chinese insult that includes a reference to female genitals, 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 1966 when Mao appealed directly to the masses to root out reactionaries.

Though some of Mao's policies have been officially critiqued, 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.

Bi's remarks have caused a stir in China, drawing stern criticisms from state media and staunch and vocal supporters of Mao. But others argue he should not be persecuted for the private comments.

CCTV announced Wednesday that it launched an investigation into the incident. **AP**



BANGLADESH

# Authorities on alert after Islamist's execution

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

**T**HOUSANDS of Bangladeshis poured onto the streets to applaud the execution of an Islamist party official on charges of crimes against humanity during the country's 1971 independence war, while security forces were on alert yesterday for a possible backlash from his supporters.

Mohammad Qamaruzzaman was hanged Saturday night in the central jail in the capital, Dhaka, a senior prison official, Forman Ali, told reporters. He was buried early yesterday under tight security, according to his brother, Kafil Uddin.

Prosecutors said that Qamaruzzaman, an assistant secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, headed a militia group that collaborated with the Pakistani army in central Bangladesh in 1971 and was

behind the killings of at least 120 unarmed farmers.

Bangladesh blames Pakistani soldiers and local collaborators for the deaths of 3 million people during the nine-month war of independence from Pakistan. An estimated 200,000 women were raped and about 10 million people fled to refugee camps in neighboring India.

Jamaat-e-Islami denounced the execution and called for a nationwide general strike today. At the same time, thousands of people applauded the execution on the streets of Dhaka and other cities, a sign of popular approval of the war crime trials launched by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. More rallies supporting the execution were planned yesterday.

"We are happy that justice has been delivered finally," said Mohammad Al Masum, a student at Dhaka University, who joined a procession in Shabagh

Square. "I did not see the war but I am sure the families that lost their dear ones will be happy today."

Hasina has vowed to continue the trials despite pressure from abroad and the opposition at home. Jamaat-e-Islami party, which garners about 2 percent to 3 percent of popular vote, has been weakened significantly as most of its senior leaders have already been convicted. Another assistant secretary, Abdul Quader Mollah, was executed in 2013 for similar crimes.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ravina Shamdasani, earlier this week urged Bangladesh not to carry out the execution, saying that Qamaruzzaman's trial did not meet international standards.

The United States was more guarded in its assessment of the trial, but still urged the government not to proceed with the execution.



Bangladeshi activists, campaigning for capital punishment for war criminals, celebrate the execution of Mohammad Qamaruzzaman in Dhaka

"We have seen progress, but still believe that further improvements ... could ensure these proceedings meet domestic and international obligations," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement shortly before the execution.

The Bangladeshi government said the trial met the proper standards with the defendant receiving the opportunity to challenge the prosecution's case in open court and appeal the verdict all the way up to

the Supreme Court. Qamaruzzaman, however, refused to seek presidential clemency.

The initial trials that followed Bangladesh's independence four decades ago were halted after the assassination of then-president and independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — Hasina's father —

and most of his family members in a 1975 military coup. Hasina revived the process, making good on a pledge she made before 2008 elections. AP

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Ishtiaq Mahsud, Dera Ismail Khan

PAKISTAN

**U**.S. drone strikes in Pakistan killed two leaders of al-Qaida's Indian branch earlier this year, a spokesman for the militants said yesterday, a major blow to the affiliate only months after its creation.

In an audio message, spokesman Usama Mahmood identified the dead as deputy chief Ahmed Farooq and Qari Imran, in charge of the group's Afghan affairs. Mahmood said a Jan. 5 drone strike in North Waziristan killed Imran, while a later drone strike killed Farooq. His claim corresponds with dates that previously reported suspected U.S. drone attacks were carried out in Pakistan's tribal region near the Afghan border.

Mahmood said that Farooq's real name was Raja Suleman and that he graduated from Islamabad's International Islamic University. Mahmood said Imran's real name was Hidayatullah and that he was from Pakistan's central city of Multan in Punjab province.

Mahmood also lashed out against Pakistan's army over its operation in North Waziristan.

"This operation is being carried out under direct supervision of American forces, its leadership and with their direct help through drones and jets," Mahmood said. "Pakistan's army is in fact just providing

intelligence against the targets America wants to hit."

Mahmood said U.S. drone strikes had killed some 50 members of his group. Pakistani officials had no immediate comment on the claims.

The CIA's drone strike program has killed al-Qaida leaders, Pakistani Taliban fighters and other militants hiding in its tribal regions even as it has evoked anger across Pakistan over allegations of widespread civilian casualties. Since 2004, the U.S. has carried out some 400 suspected drone strikes in the country, according to the New America Foundation's International Security Program, which tracks the American campaign.

Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri announced creation of al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent in September. The terror group increasingly finds itself overshadowed internationally by the Islamic State group, which holds a third of Iraq and Syria in its self-declared caliphate. **AP**

# Al-Qaida Indian branch: US drones kill 2 leaders



In this Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011 file photo, Pakistani tribal elder Karim Khan shows the remains of a missile reportedly fired by a U.S. drone on a village in north Waziristan

THAILAND

## Car bomb injures 7 at shopping mall on Samui

Supunnabul Suwannakij

**A** car bomb injured seven people Friday night at a shopping mall on Thailand's resort island of Samui, security officials said.

The bomb, hidden in a stolen Mazda pickup truck, also destroyed more than 10 vehicles parked at the Central Festival mall, said Banpot Poonpien, a spokesman for the Internal Security Operations Command. Officials will tighten security to maintain peace and order as an investigation proceeds, he said.

The blast in Samui, part of the southern province of Surat Thani, was the first such incident since April 1, when the military government lifted martial law imposed 10 months ago. It's unclear if the attack was politically motivated, related to business



conflicts, or due to unrest in the nation's three southernmost provinces, National News Bureau of Thailand reported Saturday citing police chief Somyot Poompanmuang. "We'd like to condemn the group who caused this incident as it threatens the country's security, affects people's peaceful-

ness, and hurts the image of the country's main tourist destination," Banpot said in a text message.

Thailand has experienced a series of violent incidents since the army took power in a coup. A grenade was thrown at Bangkok's criminal court in March, while two small bombs exploded outside a

luxury mall in the capital's main shopping district in February. Thirteen people were wounded in February when a car bomb exploded in the southern province of Narathiwat, The Nation reported.

The perpetrators of Friday's bombing may be involved with the unrest in southern provinces, Banpot said. For the past decade, insurgents in the Muslim-majority area have staged regular bombings and shootings, resulting in thousands of deaths as they seek independence.

Separately, a fire broke out Friday night at a cooperative on the Surat Thani mainland. There were no injuries and an electrical short may have caused the blaze, Banpot said.

The junta, known as the National Council for Peace and Order, lifted martial law on April 1 and issued new regulations under Article 44 of the interim constitution to combat threats to peace and order. Martial law remains in place, as it was before the coup, in southern provinces near the border with Malaysia. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

## 3 dolphins rescued after large group beaches on coast

**A**BOUT 150 dolphins beached themselves and became stranded on Japan's northeastern coast, but frantic rescue efforts Friday saved just a few of them.

Mostly melon-headed whales or blackfish, the dolphins were found alive but were extremely weak and later died.

Television footage showed dozens of people carrying buckets and pouring sea water over the dolphins, or even covering them with bath towels, to keep them from drying up. The dolphins were wobbling and moving their fins as rescuers gently rubbed them.

The dolphins between 2 to 3 meters long were scratched badly, possibly from moving in the shallow coastal waters and on dry land.

The stranding occurred along about 10 kilometers of beach in Hokota, northeast of Tokyo.

The coast guard and police patrol boats transported three of the dolphins in good health offshore and released them in the water. Nearly all of the others were thought to be hopeless. Those that die were to be buried.

Tadasu Yamada, a cetacean expert at the National Museum of Nature and Science, told Japan's NHK public television that the dolphins may have had a physiological or psychological problem and faced an unknown threat and panicked, before becoming stranded.

Smaller beachings have occurred around Japanese coasts, including some 50 dolphins on a nearby beach in 2011. **AP**



Josh Lederman and Jim Kuhnhenn,  
Panama City

CUBA-USA THAW

# In historic face to face, Obama, Castro vow to turn the page

**P**RESIDENT Barack Obama and Cuba's Raul Castro sat down together Saturday in the first formal meeting of the two country's leaders in a half-century, pledging to reach for the kind of peaceful relationship that has eluded their nations for generations.

In a small conference room in a Panama City convention center, the two sat side by side in a bid to inject fresh momentum into their months-old effort to restore diplomatic ties. Reflecting on the historic nature of the meeting, Obama said he felt it was time to try something new and to engage with both Cuba's government and its people.

"What we have both concluded is that we can disagree with a spirit of respect and civility," Obama said. "And over time, it is possible for us to turn the page and develop a new relationship between our two countries."

Castro, for his part, said he agreed with everything Obama had said — a stunning statement in and of itself for the Cuban leader. But he added the caveat that they had "agreed to disagree" at times. Castro said he had told the Americans that Cuba was willing to discuss issues such as human rights and freedom of the press, maintaining that "everything can be on the table."

"We are disposed to talk about everything — with patience," Castro said in Spanish. "Some things we will agree with, and others we won't."

The historic gathering played out on the sidelines of the Summit of the Americas, which this year included Cuba for the first



US President Barack Obama, right, leans over towards Cuban President Raul Castro during their meeting at the Summit of the Americas in Panama City

time. Although the meeting wasn't publicly announced in advance, White House aides had suggested the two leaders were looking for an opportunity to meet while in Panama and to discuss the ongoing efforts to open embassies in Havana and Washington, among other issues.

At the start of their hour-long

meeting, Obama acknowledged that Cuba, too, would continue raising concerns about U.S. policies — earning a friendly smirk from Castro. Obama described the sit-down later as "candid and fruitful" and said he and Castro were able to speak about their differences in a productive way.

Even still, raw passions were on vivid display earlier in the

day when Castro, in a meandering, nearly hour-long speech to the summit, ran through an exhaustive history of perceived Cuban grievances against the U.S. dating back more than a century.

Then, in an abrupt about face, he apologized for letting his emotions get the best of him. He said many U.S. presidents

were at fault for that troubled history — but that Obama isn't one of them.

"I have told President Obama that I got very emotional talking about the revolution," Castro said through a translator, noting that Obama wasn't even born when the U.S. began sanctioning the island nation. "I apologize to him because President Obama had no responsibility for this."

Obama agreed.

"The Cold War has been over for a long time," he said. "And I'm not interested in having battles frankly that started before I was born."

The flurry of diplomacy kicked off Wednesday when Obama and Castro spoke by phone — only the second known call between U.S. and Cuban presidents in decades. It continued Friday evening when Obama and Castro traded handshakes and small talk at the summit's opening ceremonies, setting social media abuzz with photos and cellphone video.

Obama and Castro sent shockwaves throughout the hemisphere in December when they announced the plan for rapprochement, and their envoys have spent the ensuing months working through thorny issues such as sanctions, the re-opening of embassies and the island nation's place on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism. **AP**

USA

## Clinton campaign to focus on economic security, opportunity

Julie Pace, White House  
Correspondent

**H**ILLARY Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign will center on boosting economic security for the middle class and expanding opportunities for working families, while casting the former senator and secretary of state as a "tenacious fighter" able to get results, two senior advisers said ahead of her planned campaign launch yesterday.

They provided the first preview of the message that Clinton planned to convey when she laun-

ches her long-anticipated campaign with an online video. Until now, the former first lady has offered only hints of what would drive her if she were to make a second bid to become the first female president.

Clinton, who lost the 2008 nomination to President Barack Obama, will skip a flashy kickoff rally in favor of conversations with voters about the economic needs of middle class families and the next generation.

Clinton appears unlikely to face a formidable primary opponent, though a handful of lower-profile

Democrats such as former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have said they are considering campaigns.

Should she win the nomination, Clinton would face the winner of a crowded Republican primary field that could feature as many as two dozen candidates. Conservative Sens. Rand Paul and Ted Cruz have already entered the race. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida is expected to announce his candidacy in Miami today, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the brother and son of former presidents, is also likely to run.

The strategy described by Clinton's advisers has echoes of Obama's successful 2012 re-election campaign. He framed the choice for voters as between Democrats focused on the middle class and Republicans wanting to protect the wealthy and return to policies that led to the 2008 economic collapse.

The advisers said Clinton will argue that voters have a similar choice in 2016. Clinton also intends to sell herself as being able to work with Congress, businesses and world leaders.

That approach could be



Hillary Rodham Clinton

perceived as a critique of Obama. He has largely been unable to fulfill his pledge to end Washington's intense partisanship and found much of his presidency stymied by gridlock within Congress.

The Clinton advisers spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss her plans ahead of yesterday's announce-

ment. People familiar with the plans say Clinton will travel to Iowa and other key states to hold small events with residents in the days after the video's release.

Obama, speaking at a news conference Saturday in Panama City, said he thinks Clinton "would be an excellent president." **AP**



VATICAN CITY

# Pope calls Armenian slaughter '1st genocide of 20th century'

Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

**P**OPE Francis yesterday honored the 100th anniversary of the slaughter of Armenians by calling it "the first genocide of the 20th century" and urging the international community to recognize it as such, a politically explosive declaration that will certainly anger Turkey.

Francis, who has close ties to the Armenian community from his days in Argentina, defended his pronouncement by saying it was his duty to honor the memory of the innocent men, women, children, priests and bishops who were "senselessly" murdered by Ottoman Turks.

"Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it," he said at the start of a Mass yesterday in the Armenian Catholic rite in St.

Peter's Basilica honoring the centenary.

In a subsequent message directed to all Armenians, Francis called on all heads of state and international organizations to recognize the truth of what transpired and oppose such crimes "without ceding to ambiguity or compromise."

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of World War I, an event widely viewed by scholars as the first genocide of the 20th century.

Turkey, however, refuses to call it a genocide and has insisted that the toll has been inflated, and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest. It has fiercely lobbied to prevent countries, including the Holy See, from officially recognizing the Armenian massacre as genocide.

Turkey's embassy to the

Holy See canceled a planned news conference for yesterday, presumably after learning that the pope would utter the word "genocide" over its objections. Requests for comment went unanswered and there was no official word yesterday from the government in Ankara.

Francis' words had immediate effect in St. Peter's, bolstering the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Aram I, to thank Francis for his clear condemnation and recall that "genocide" is a crime against humanity that requires reparation.

"International law spells out clearly that condemnation, recognition and reparation of a genocide are closely interconnected," Aram said in English at the end of the Mass to applause from the pews.

Several European countries recognize the massacres as genocide, though Italy and

the United States, for example, have avoided using the term officially given the importance they place on Turkey as an ally.

The Holy See, too, places great importance in its relationship with the moderate Muslim nation, especially as it demands Muslim leaders condemn the slaughter of Christians by Muslim extremists in neighboring Iraq and Syria.

But Francis' willingness to rile Ankara with his words showed once again that he has few qualms about taking diplomatic risks for issues close to his heart. He took a similar risk by inviting the Israeli and Palestinian presidents to pray together for peace at the Vatican — a summit that was followed by the outbreak of fighting in the Gaza Strip.

Francis is not the first pope to call the massacre a genocide. In his remarks, Francis



Pope Francis arrives to celebrate an Armenian-Rite Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican

cited a 2001 declaration signed by St. John Paul II and the Armenian church leader, Karenin II, which said the deaths were considered "the first genocide of the 20th century." AP

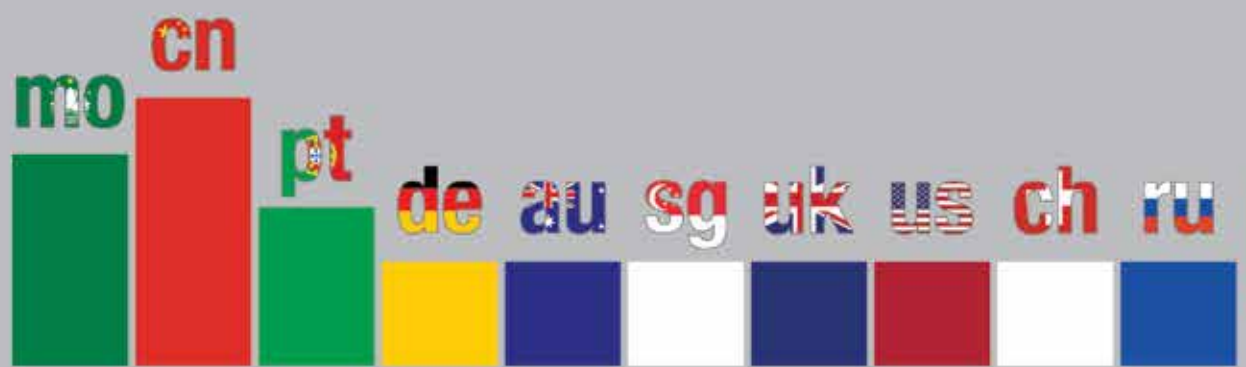
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## what's ON



## TRADITIONAL AND CREATIVE RABBIT LANTERN

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)  
3pm-8pm (Monday)

UNTIL: April 12, 2015

VENUE: Albergue SCM/ No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

## INSIDE OUT – CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: April 30, 2015

VENUE: Flugent Art Gallery, Rua S. Paulo 54-58B, Mei Tai Grand Garden, R/C A, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 3429

ORGANIZER: Flugent Art Gallery

## LUB DUB: AN EXHIBITION BY PAKEONG x 'EXPERIENCE – FORTES'

TIME: 10am to 7pm (Mondays to Fridays)

3pm to 7pm (Saturdays ; Closed on Sundays and public holidays )

UNTIL: May 2, 2015

VENUE: Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery, Avenida da Praia Grande, n° 749, r/c

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2892 3288

## HOMAGE TO MASTERS WHO INSPIRED US – WORKS BY 10 HONG KONG AND MACAU ARTISTS

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

UNTIL: May 10, 2015

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, corner of Avenida Do coronel Mesquita and Avenida Do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

## Offbeat

## GODZILLA WELCOMED IN TOKYO – TO LURE VISITORS, NOT TO SCARE



Fire-breathing, building-stomping Godzilla was welcomed in part of Tokyo last week as a sign of prosperity, not destruction.

The irradiated monster was appointed special resident and tourism ambassador for Shinjuku ward, known for its down-home bars and noodle restaurants.

A Godzilla-size head towering 52 meters above ground level was unveiled at an office of Toho, the Japanese studio behind the 1954 original. Toho is shooting a comeback film this year after a decade-long hiatus.

Godzilla's standing as an icon has had its ups and downs, but its stature has been reinstated after the Hollywood "Godzilla," directed by Gareth Edwards, became a global hit last year.

Japan is hoping the biggest star in this nation's movie history will help lure tourists during a market-opening strategy launched by the prime minister.

At an awards ceremony next to the giant Godzilla head, an actor in a rubber suit waddled to Shinjuku Mayor Kenichi Yoshizumi. However, Toho executive Minami Ichikawa had to accept the residency certificate in Godzilla's place, since the suit's claws aren't designed to grab anything.

The longtime belief is that any place Godzilla destructs in the movies is sure to prosper in real life, Yoshizumi said.

"Godzilla is a character that is the pride of Japan," he said. AP

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Miscellaneous
15:00	Debate on Social Affairs and Culture Policy Report for 2015 (Live)
20:00	News
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:30	RTPi Live

## 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

## MACAU TOWER

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



## 1964 POITIER BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH OSCAR WIN

The acting profession's top award has gone to a black actor for the first time. Sidney Poitier won the best actor Oscar for his role in Lilies of the Field.

In the film, released last year, he played construction worker Homer Smith whom a group of nuns believe was sent to them by God to build their church.

The only other black person to win an Oscar was the best supporting actress award given to Hattie McDaniel in 1939 for her role in Gone with the Wind.

Alongside 'Rat Pack' actor Sammy Davis Jr and, earlier, Paul Robeson, Poitier is one of only a handful of black men to gain recognition in Hollywood for roles not involving singing or dancing.

It was the second time he had been in the running for an Oscar after losing out in 1959 when he was nominated for his part in The Defiant Ones. "It has been a long journey to this moment," the actor said after he was presented with the prized statuette by actress Ann Bancroft.

Sidney Poitier's early life seemed unlikely to spawn a Hollywood star. He grew up in poverty in the Bahamas in the Caribbean where his father was a tomato farmer. In his first months in New York he was so poor he slept in the toilets of a bus station.

He was hampered in his efforts to break into acting by his strong Bahamian accent and was initially rejected by the American Negro Theatre. His first film was No Way Out alongside Richard Widmark in 1950 in which he played a doctor. But his big breakthrough came five years later in The Blackboard Jungle.

His roles have been a big move away from the stereotypical dim-witted Negro characters made famous in the 1930s and 1940s by Stepin Fetchit.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Much of America was scandalized by the chaste congratulatory peck on the cheek Ann Bancroft gave Sidney Poitier when presenting his award.

Three years later the actor took part in the first on-screen interracial kiss in the film Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

The film was among a string of hit movies Sidney Poitier starred in during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

They included In the Heat of the Night and the role for which Poitier is probably most famous, Detective Virgil Tibbs.

In 2002 Denzel Washington and Halle Berry won the best actor and best actress Oscars - the first black actors to win since Poitier.

At the same ceremony Sidney Poitier was given a lifetime achievement award.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your emotional side is causing some friction today, but it's nothing too dramatic. You may just have to cope with some stray baggage that you thought you had checked long ago.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your feelings run really deep today, so make sure that you're paying close attention to them. You may find that you're being pointed subtly in a new direction. Go for it - now is the time!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Explore your health today - unless you're having a specific problem, in which case get on top of it as directly as you can! Your mind is well equipped to handle such matters for the time being.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You are feeling a sense of urgency today as your emotions wreak havoc with your sense of security and safety. That's a good thing! You should find that you can motor through this patch in no time.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Take a second look today - you've got to make sure that you're not taking the world at face value. Your energy is such that skepticism is more natural than your usual trusting nature.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You may have some trouble with those who disagree with you today - but not so much that you burn bridges. It's a good time for you to check in with close colleagues to avoid any fights.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's time to strive for new depth - to a relationship, to a job search or to a spiritual undertaking. You can make the most of this emotional energy if you believe in yourself and exercise some discipline.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your magnetic attraction is stronger today, and you should have a much easier time getting a date or a job interview - or anything else that requires people to take a strong interest in you.

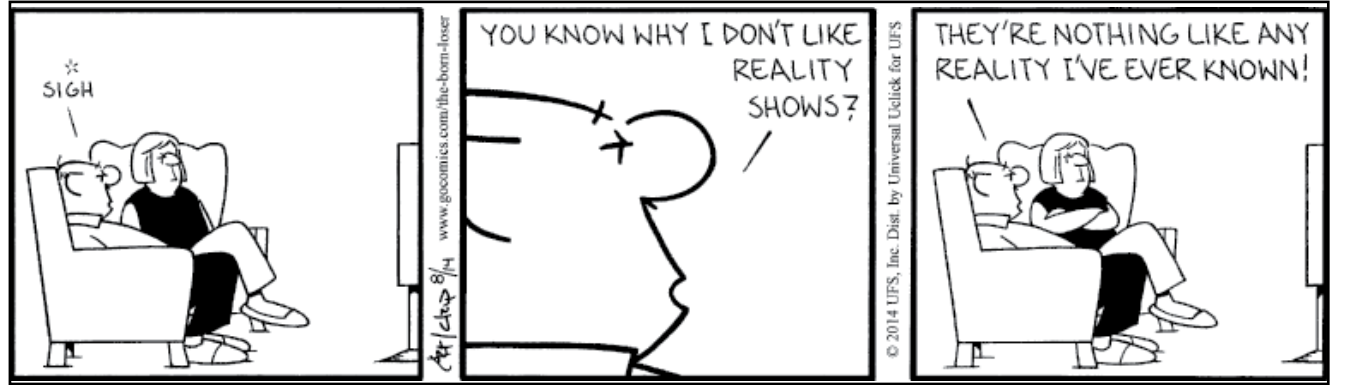
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your moody side is out in force now, so make sure that you're not pushing your people too hard. It may be a good time to withdraw for a bit and focus on your interior situation.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your ability to separate yourself from difficult situations so you can analyze them sometimes makes you come across as aloof or detached. That's okay! It adds to the mystery as you power through life.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your deepest emotions are rising to the surface today - which could be surprising or embarrassing if you don't pay careful attention. It's a good time for you to check in with family members.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You feel somewhat unsure of yourself - but that's not such a terrible problem. You basically feel good, so as long as you are working with comfortable situations, you should do just fine.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

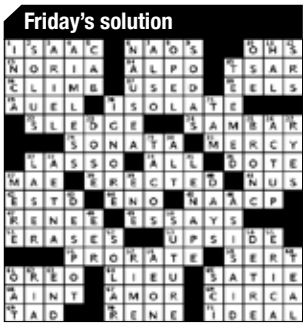
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Perjurer; 5- Cong. meeting; 9- Indonesian resort island; 13- Wight, for one; 14- God of Islam; 16- Some Ivy Leaguers; 17- Not of the cloth; 18- Coniferous evergreen forest; 19- Singer Home; 20- Spoil; 22- Adhesive; 24- Shock with wonder; 27- Bassoon relative; 28- Fortified wine; 29- Weaken; 33- Nairobi's nation; 34- Writer Wiesel; 35- Switch ending; 36- Craze; 37- Betelgeuse's constellation; 38- Hesitant sounds; 39- Cooking appliance; 41- Light gas; 42- Raccoon relative; 44- Change the course of; 46- Reduce; 47- Crooked; 48- Codger; 49- Mob; 52- Skater Babilonia; 53- Some DVD players; 57- Opaque gemstone; 58- Now you \_\_\_\_; 60- Very small quantity; 61- A \_\_\_\_ formality; 62- \_\_\_\_ bleu!; 63- Guitarist Atkins; 64- Places of refuge; 65- God of thunder; 66- Household;

DOWN: 1- Like Abner; 2- This \_\_\_\_ stickup!; 3- Clay, today; 4- Parsonage; 5- Glossy; 6- Gnu cousin; 7- Split; 8- Droop, sink; 9- Hold as an opinion; 10- A Baldwin brother; 11- Chain piece; 12- Brit's exclamation; 15- Person that is no longer popular; 21- Ambience; 23- Craggy hill; 24- Request; 25- Gather into a bundle; 26- Cared for; 27- Pungent bulb; 29- "Silas Marner" author; 30- Bailiwicks; 31- Rich cake; 32- Red fluorescent dye; 34- Set up; 37- Unity; 40- Bites gently; 42- Corp. bigwig; 43- Flightless bird; 45- Seminary subj.; 46- Linger aimlessly; 48- Capital of Egypt; 49- Actress Downey; 50- Impersonator; 51- Dog cry; 52- Kind of support; 54- Small salmon; 55- Up and \_\_\_\_; 56- Fill completely; 59- Devour;



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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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## Russia's World Cup organizers face budget headaches

**S**ARANSK'S stadium for the 2018 World Cup is supposed to raise the profile of this little-known Russian city, but for now Alexei Merkushkin is just trying to keep costs down.

As Minister of Special Programs for the region that includes this city of 300,000 people south-east of Moscow, Merkushkin's job is to make sure the smallest of Russia's 11 host cities is ready to welcome fans not just to its new 45,000-seat stadium, but also the hotels and transport links that are supposed to transform Saransk in time for 2018.

Constructing the arena is set to cost 15.66 billion rubles (USD300 million), fully funded by the federal budget, with a further \$10.5 million earlier spent on design costs.

Turning a provincial city into an international destination is not easy. Saransk normally sees only one flight from Moscow per day and the airport needs expansion to cope with World Cup crowds.

The city was a surprise

choice as a World Cup host. Many Russians would have trouble finding it on a map and it's hardly an eye-catching location, 460 km away from Moscow.

Following a year of international sanctions against Russia, the ruble is worth more than a third less against the dollar than it was in January 2014, while the low oil price is squeezing the federal and regional budgets that fund the World Cup.

The federal government has slashed spending by 10 percent across the board. While most World Cup-related expenditure is protected, government belt-tightening means a renewed crackdown on any cost increases.

"There's a tough position that more cost increases won't be allowed. So the cost that's been laid out, that's final," Merkushkin told AP. Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised the economic turbulence will not affect the World Cup, FIFA head Sepp Blatter said in January. **AP**

## Lewis Hamilton wins 4th Chinese Grand Prix

**L**EWIS Hamilton put Mercedes back on top in Formula One, leading for most of the race yesterday to capture his fourth Chinese Grand Prix victory.

Hamilton made sure there would be no repeat of Ferrari's surprising win two weeks ago at the Malaysian Grand Prix, conserving his tires to withstand a challenge by the Italian team's Sebastian Vettel and easily capture the 35th win of his career.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg finished second and Vettel was third. "We knew that the Ferraris were very, very good with their long-run pace and also looking after their tires so today the real goal was to manage the tires and my goal was to look after my car," Hamilton said.

Hamilton's tire-conservation strategy ensured he could open up a sizeable lead over Vettel after the second pit stop, but a clearly angry Rosberg voiced frustration after the race that Hamilton had held him back as a result.

"It's just now interesting to hear from you, Lewis, that you



Hamilton (44) of Britain leads the field at the start of the Chinese F1 GP at Shanghai International Circuit

were just thinking about yourself with the pace in front and unnecessarily that was compromising my race," he said.

Hamilton responded afterward by saying he didn't intentionally try to impede his teammate.

"It's not my job to look after Nico's race. My job's to manage the car and bring the car home as fast as possible," he said. "If Nico wanted to get by, he could have tried."

The race came to an anticlimactic conclusion after Max Verstappen's Toro Rosso car stopped on the track toward the end of the race and the drivers completed the remaining two laps behind the safety car. Ha-

milton had a comfortable five-second lead over Rosberg when the safety car came out, with Vettel another 10 seconds back.

The safety car may have come out just in time for Vettel, who was barely ahead of Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen at the end of the race. Raikkonen had to settle for fourth, just missing his first podium finish since the Singapore Grand Prix in 2013.

The Williams cars of Felipe Massa and Valtteri Bottas were fifth and sixth, respectively, followed by Lotus' Romain Grosjean, Sauber's Felipe Nasr, Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo and Sauber's other driver, Marcus Ericsson. **AP**

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opinion

**Rear Window**  
 Severo Portela



**IDLE CASH**

Conventional wisdom tells us that Macau people are eager to brag about the standard of the services provided by its utilities, or at least admit a better than average level of customer satisfaction. Blackouts, shortages and jams rarely run proportionately big enough to go beyond a transient inconvenience to the general public. On other hand, the big utilities have responded in a timely fashion to the pace of development the Macau Special Administrative Region went through these last years since the opening up of the gaming business. As a disclaimer we have to say that pricing is not exactly the most strongly weighted factor in the consumer satisfaction index. Actually, the Macau Government's social policies soften the burden of the utilities bills for the pockets of the...general public.

However, we do have to recognize that recently there were some small incidents involving water and electricity, but nothing that cannot be fully rectified by the concessionaries. Although there is not sufficient data readily available, we should take the opportunity to reflect on the development path the MSAR is blindly following like there is no tomorrow.

Macau has to face the problems and consider development issues to avoid a bursting-at-the-seams situation. And if we are talking utilities, transportation, housing, we are far beyond that dispute about Macau having reached or not its capacity to receive tourists. Indeed the discussion's a mere nuisance. We just have to recall the research study commissioned by the government that indicates, although acknowledging capacity constraints, Macau could handle more visitors. In 2014, the number of visitors amounted to an astonishing 31.5 million; the same study predicts that arrivals in 2015 will increase by 5%.

Perhaps it is the right time to order another study to attune tourism to the restructuring of the gambling sector - lingo for downsizing (gross gambling revenue is stabilizing at minus 40%) and with mainland policies - lingo for the nationwide corruption crackdown - that are keeping at bay both the so-called VIPs and retail gamblers. But such a study is not enough.

Probably, what is lacking to set the SAR on the right course is a comprehensive study combining diversification and integration, since Macau seems to exaggerate the importance of either diversification or integration, and one cannot understand one without the other. A good example of the reading of diversification and integration as a binomial came from Secretary Leong Vai Tak's idea to transfer a slice of the MSAR's financial reserves (10/20 billion) to the China Development Bank Fund and to investment opportunities with the Guangdong Provincial Government.

We believe that the funneling of funds to Guangdong answers to a very complex problem arising from the solution some people maintain as the best idea to manage Macau's financial reserves, that is to say a sovereign wealth fund. This option could raise constitutional issues albeit there is an obvious quantitative rationale, since the overall profit coming from the financial reserves in 2014 was a modest 2%, while the Guangdong financial investments offer around 4-5%. Again, this is a reading of diversification and integration in the Pearl River Delta. Lawmaker and front democrat Au Kam San already stated his unease with this kind of financial exercise.

Post Scriptum:

Finally, the Transportation Infrastructure Office or GIT is ready to address the delays in the construction of the LRT depot in Cotai. The bad habit of pointing fingers at the 'invisible hands' seems to be coming to an end.

Perhaps we are stating the obvious, but as to hands, we give a hand to the dead-pan French comedian-cum-presidential candidate, Coluche: some look honest, but when they shake your hand you'd better count your fingers.

**THE BUZZ** EDUCATION CONSULTANT CONVICTED OF CHEATING HK COUPLE

An educational consultant who accepted more than USD2 million from a Hong Kong couple then failed to deliver on his promise to get their sons into Ivy League universities has been convicted of federal fraud charges.

Mark Zimny was convicted in U.S. District Court in Boston of 13 counts, including multiple counts of wire fraud, unlawful money transactions and false tax returns.

Prosecutors say Zimny told Gerald and Lily Chow the money would help get their sons into elite American universities, but he kept the money for himself.

Zimny was freed on USD100,000 bail and GPS monitoring pending sentencing July 9. He faces up to nine years in prison. His lawyer tells The Boston Globe he plans an appeal. The Chows have sued Zimny to get their money back.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**S KOREA-LIBYA** Gunmen opened fire early yesterday at the local guards of the South Korean Embassy in the Libyan capital, killing one of them as well as a civilian who was in the area, a Libyan security official said. The South Korean Foreign Ministry said in a statement that no embassy officials were killed or wounded in the attack. It said the gunmen fired nearly 40 rounds with a machine gun.



**IRAQ** Islamic State militants hammered, bulldozed and ultimately blew up parts of the ancient Iraqi Assyrian city of Nimrud, destroying a site dating back to the 13th century B.C., an online militant video purportedly shows.

**EGYPTIAN** security officials say a large explosion has struck a main police station in the capital of the northern Sinai province. The officials say they suspect a car bomb caused yesterday's blast. They say 15 civilians from the surrounding area have been hospitalized. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. There was no immediate word on police casualties.

**YEMEN's** Houthi rebels have killed three Saudi border guards in a mortar attack, the Saudi Defense Ministry said Saturday, as a plane loaded with medical aid arrived in the rebel-held Yemeni capital. An unnamed military official quoted in the Defense Ministry statement said the incident took place Friday in the Saudi border province of Najran.

**KENYA** One Kenyan student was killed and 141 injured in a stampede yesterday on the campus of the University of Nairobi when students mistook several accidental explosions for an extremist attack, according to an official. One male third-year student was killed in the crush of students, Peter Mbithi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, told The Associated Press. The injured students have been taken to hospitals for treatment, he said.

**USA** Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign will center on boosting economic security while casting her as a "tenacious fighter" able to get results, two advisers said ahead of her planned campaign launch yesterday. More on p14

**A toddler disc jockey fascinates South African fans**

Lynsey Chutel, Johannesburg

At first it seems like a fluke — a 2-year-old playing with the knobs and buttons of a sophisticated music system. Yet, the tiny boy is in control of the big beat of the bass-heavy house music. He is South Africa's youngest disc jockey, DJ AJ.

At a shopping mall appearance, a crowd gathers around the young boy as he bops his head to the beat, his large headphones slipping off. Adults whip out their cellphones to capture the moment while children just stare.

Oratilwe Hlongwane is still learning to put together words but the toddler



Two-year-old Oratilwe Hlongwane, also known as DJ AJ to his fans

is already able to select and play music from a laptop and has become a viral phenomenon on South Africa's social media.

His mother, Refiloe Marumo, credits his father's decision to buy an iPad for his then unborn son. Glen Hlongwane planned to download educational apps to speed up his child's education. Hlongwane, a gymnastics coach and aspiring DJ, also downloaded a disc jockeying app for himself.

At about a year old, DJ AJ learned how to manipulate the gadget. Not satisfied with number recognition

games, he began to fiddle with his father's DJ app.

The parents were blown away when their son, still in diapers, repeated what he had learned on the app on actual DJ equipment, playing with sound effects and bouncing between songs. A cellphone video of him playing went viral and now DJ AJ has nearly 25,000 Facebook fans.

His newfound fame has brought special appearances and sponsorship deals many older DJs dream of.

But celebrity has also brought some criticism as some accused his parents of abuse and profiting from their child's precocious ability.

"I'm not going to exploit my kid," said his father. DJ AJ's parents will not allow him to play in clubs or at parties.

Hlongwane and Marumo are adamant that they will not force their son to be a DJ when he grows up, but say they believe his affinity for electronic equipment will probably decide his future.

Hlongwane said: "I can see a future Bill Gates here." AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Bullit Marquez



In this photo by Bullit Marquez, Aileen Tatalia hugs her only child, Prinz Leenbert, 5, whom she has not seen since he was 10 months old, shortly after she arrived home in the Philippines from Yemen. She was among 90 Filipinos in the first group of overseas workers repatriated from Yemen, hit by Saudi-led airstrikes the past two weeks. Millions of Filipinos work abroad, many in the Middle East, and the Philippine government often hails the workers as "new heroes." Hundreds more Filipinos are awaiting repatriation from Yemen.