



GT WORLD CUP IS MAJOR ADDITION TO GRAND PRIX

P3



RESIDENTS' SHOW LACK OF GREEN AWARENESS

The Environmental Protection Bureau released its latest survey results on public environmental awareness

P6



DRONE FOUND ON ROOF OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

A small drone reportedly containing traces of radiation was found yesterday on the roof of Shinzo Abe's office

P13

THU.23
Apr 2015

T. 22°/ 27° C
H. 70/ 80%

Blackberry email service powered by CTM

N.º 2297
MOP 5.00
HKD 7.50



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

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



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Beijing authorities say a key measure of air pollutants showed a 19 percent drop in the first three months of the year. The municipal government said yesterday that the density of PM2.5 — harmful particles that are smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter — was 92.7 micrograms per cubic meter for the quarter, an improvement from 114 last year. The World Health Organization safety level is 25 micrograms.

CHINA Search teams have recovered the bodies of 19 Chinese coal miners who died when the shaft where they were working filled with water, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday.

INDONESIA's Supreme Court has turned down the final appeals by two death row prisoners who are among 10 drug convicts awaiting execution by firing squad, a court spokesman said yesterday. The appeals for judicial review by Serge Areski Atlaoui of France and Martin Anderson of Ghana were rejected by Indonesia's highest court in closed-door hearings Tuesday, said Suhadi, the court spokesman and a member of the three-judge panel.



KOREAS South Korea says it is considering supporting a proposed walk across the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas by prominent women including Gloria Steinem in what is planned as a call for the reunification of the two countries.

More on backpage

Passenger scare aboard Air Macau flight

P2



Forecast: Casino revenue to drop over 30 pct in April.

P3

Gaming operators rethink business model

P4,5 FT EXCLUSIVE

Pansy Ho part of TV consortium

A company led by the son of Deacon Chiu, the late former ATV chairman, has applied for a free-to-air TV license, in a bid to form a completely new broadcaster. Forever Top has major shareholders that include David Chiu and Pansy Ho, the daughter of Macau gambling tycoon Stanley Ho. The company has said in a statement that it filed documents to the Communications Authority last week, and plans to invest HKD3.2 billion in the next six years to form a television station that the company hopes will become a global broadcaster. The authority responded by saying that it had received the application and will process it accordingly.

Fung Ping Kuen replaces Rosário

Fung Ping Kuen, who was previously serving as sub-coordinator of the Macau Polytechnic Institute's Centre of Sino-Western Cultural Studies, has been appointed to be the new head of Macau's Economic and Trade Delegation to the World Trade Organization in Geneva. He replaces Raimundo do Rosário, who is now serving as Secretary for Transport and Public Works. Mr Fung earned a bachelor in social sciences from the University of East Asia (now University of Macau) and holds a masters in Economic and Business Science. He served as president of the Social Security Fund's board of directors between 1999 and 2010. He was also part of the Macau Pension Fund's board of directors from 2003 to 2010.

Gov't recovers idle land

The government has recovered an idle land plot for residential use for the first time. The plot, in an area of over 7,300 square meters located in the Estrada Lou Lim Leok in Taipa, was leased to a developer for the purpose of building standalone villas. According to the Official Gazette, the developer failed to make use of the land within the contractual period, thus the grant of land was declared invalid. Furthermore, the government announced a recovery of a 930 square meter industrial land plot, located in the Ilha Verde.

Building in Patane to be rebuilt

A building in the Rua da Ribeira do Patane will be rebuilt into a two-star guesthouse. The new guesthouse is planned to be seven stories high with a two-story basement, in a building area of 1,111 square meters. DSSOPT approved the change of use of the 112-square-meter land plot, and declared that the recovery of 8 square meters from the site would constitute part of the public street, according to the new street alignment.

STUDY

Portuguese exert little political influence but lead in the legal sector

CONTRARY to the situation prior to Macau's handover, the Portuguese community now exerts little political influence in the city, yet it still leads in the legal field, a study conducted by University of Macau sociologist Hao Zhidong shows.

The study examines the social, political and ethnic stratification of Macau's social classes, and provides a comparison between the roles played by the Portuguese, Macanese and Chinese communities before and after 1999. Its findings were published this month.

Hao Zhidong stressed that, contrary to the social structure before the handover, today the Chinese community politically dominates Macau, with the Portuguese and Macanese populations being pushed aside. Exceptions to this are prominent Macanese personalities serving as lawmakers (José Pereira Coutinho and Leonel Alves), and government department heads such as the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau director Manuel Joaquim das Neves and the Macau Government Tourist Office head Helena de Senna Fernandes.

Looking back, Hao Zhidong noted that between 1997 and 2011, the number of Portuguese and Macanese people living in Macau dropped by 56 percent and 60 percent respectively. Likewise, the



The Portuguese Consulate in Macau

percentage of Portuguese and Macanese residents serving as government secretaries dropped from 83 to 11 percent. The figures show "a shift in political power from the Portuguese to the Chinese," he explained.

Such a change has prompted an unbalanced situation: even though, in 1997, 96 percent of Macau residents were Chinese, the government and public servants' positions were mainly filled by Portuguese and Macanese citizens. "They not only had higher wages but also the power to treat the Chinese as inferior people," the sociologist argued.

Hao Zhidong spoke of "a discrimination scenario," between the Portuguese and Macanese communities, and between the Macanese and the Chinese populations in

diverse areas, the results of which included pay gaps and police violence.

The law, however, is still dominated by Portuguese and Macanese influences. As Macau's entire legislation was originally drafted in Portuguese, and "the Chinese translated version is difficult to understand due to the poor quality of the translation," Portuguese remains a dominant language "and Portuguese and Macanese people remain the key players in the legal field."

Out of 49 judges serving in Macau, 24 percent are Portuguese and 11 are Macanese. Among the 272 registered lawyers, 76.4 percent are of Portuguese or Macanese descent.

The sociologist recalled that, according to Macau's law,

all legal documents must be provided in both Chinese and Portuguese, even when a process refers mainly to Chinese stakeholders. "Besides protecting the legal job market, the Portuguese and Macanese communities are also protecting their cultural background by effectively prompting more people to study Portuguese and use the Portuguese language, even though there are Chinese speakers involved in the process," he said.

In spite of the finding that Macau's democratization inevitable, the sociologist believes that in the long run, the current position of Portuguese and Macanese residents in civil society "meets the government's interests," which are mainly against a political change toward democracy. **MDT/Lusa**

Passenger scare, Air Macau flight aborts in Bangkok

AN Air Macau flight with 175 Thai and Chinese passengers aboard was forced to abort its flight to Macau on Tuesday after the passengers felt unsafe before a second take-off from Bangkok.

The NX885 flight took off from Suvarnabhumi airport but returned to the airport an hour later after encountering trouble. No explanation was given to the passengers after the plane touched down at the airport an hour after taking off.

The 175 passengers, 36 of whom were Thais from two tour groups, were left waiting inside the plane for two hours.

According to the national broadcaster Thai PBS, when a Thai passenger named Budit Emanukul asked for an explana-

tion, a hostess allegedly said that poor weather conditions had forced the plane to return. However, others were also told that the plane returned to the airport to refuel.

After two hours in the plane, the pilot then told passengers that the plane would take off in two minutes. Upon hearing that the plane would take off again in two minutes, all of the Thai passengers reacted with uncertainty, fearing for their safety. They rose to their feet and refused to fly again. Chaotic scenes ensued and all passengers reportedly decided to walk out. One of them said that he felt something unusual when the plane was airborne for almost an hour but

still flying at low altitude.

Another passenger also thought that the plane might have been having trouble when he felt it tossing, shaking and flying unusually low, so that rooftops could be seen, he said.

Contacted by Channel 3, Air Macau Bangkok supervisor Ekkachai Veerawat admitted that the plane had encountered engine trouble, and a spare part has been sent to replace the defective component. He said that it had been arranged for all passengers to stay at hotels while the plane was being repaired. An Air Macau source told Lusa that the flight had returned to Bangkok due to "technical motives" and was repaired yesterday.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

MDT's Website has logged over **88 million** page views since January 1st, 2012 up to today.

Thank You!

Like us? [facebook.com/mdtimes](https://www.facebook.com/mdtimes)

MacauDaily 澳門每日新聞
Times

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

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

THE 62nd edition of the Macau Grand Prix, to be held from November 19 to 22, will feature a FIA GT World Cup race for the first time, as revealed by João Manuel Costa Antunes, Coordinator of the city's Grand Prix Committee, at a media briefing yesterday. As announced previously, the other novelty event is the "Celebrity Cup Race," exclusively for celebrities, and in this race the drivers will be using Lotus cars.

The new race differs from the "Macau GT Cup," which has been held over the past seven years. Christian Schacht, president of the FIA GT Commission, said that the GT World Cup intends to be as successful as the local F3 race.

"The idea of an FIA GT World Cup was born four or five years ago, and it always takes time to get it through all the FIA structures. I've been visiting Macau for many years. (...) So I know Macau very well. And when we put up this project, and I know the success of the Macau GT races, that was completely in parallel to what happened with WTCC. Macau is a very attractive place for GT racing. I think it's the start of a very unique event," said Schacht.

"Like [the following] we have here with the F3, we hope to build GTs to be as successful as F3s are here in the future," continued the commission president, also adding that some principal agreements have been concluded over the past two days, with corresponding ar-

GT World Cup is a major addition to Grand Prix

rangements having been made already.

Last month, FIA announced its partnership with Macau's motor-racing organizer in a meeting held in Geneva, where the topic of conversation was making Macau the destination for their end-of-season GT World Cup race, which is open to GT3-homologated sport cars.

Macau is a very attractive place for GT racing. I think it's the start of a very unique event

CHRISTIAN SCHACHT



Christian Schacht

Mr Costa Antunes said that the new GT race should not be seen as a replacement for the WTCC race; that was dropped

from the GP calendar this year. Asked if the WTCC race would return to the Guia circuit, the coordinator said it was hard to

comment on the future.

The schedule of this year's GP comprises seven races, categorized in three groups. The first one includes the FIA Formula 3 Intercontinental Cup and Motorcycle Grand Prix, while the second group features the Guia Race of Macau and the GT World Cup. The last category is composed of supporting races, such as the Macau Touring Car Cup, the Road Sport Challenge and the Celebrity Cup Race.

Regarding the celebrity race, Costa Antunes said that the participants will be required to qualify for a racing license and gain experience before taking part in the event. **Staff reporter**

MOP200m

The 62nd edition of the Macau Grand Prix budget

Thumbs up for MGP

RESIDENTS are generally satisfied with the Macau Grand Prix (MGP), or at least they have been for the past few years, according to a survey conducted by the University of Macau's Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming.

Around 2,000 respondents surveyed in May and November last year were not acquainted with the annual car-racing event details, with not even half of them able to tell the surveyor – in the first period of phone interviews before the event

took place – between which dates the event would be held, and how many times it has been held.

Yet, a total of 75 percent surveyed either "agree" or "strongly agree" that the Macau Grand Prix elevates the city's international profile and reputation. The motor-racing event also made it more difficult to find parking spaces, as expressed by over 60 percent of the respondents.

GAMING

Lionel Leong meets gaming operators to discuss policies



THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, met yesterday with representatives of Macau's six gaming operators to discuss the industry's policies. They focused mainly on gaming companies' commitment to recruiting and promoting the career advancement of local citizens, his cabinet revealed in a statement.

The secretary pledged to improve communication with unions to make sure that workers' rights

and interests have been adequately enforced. He also recalled during the meeting that gaming operators' commitment to hiring Macau residents and providing them with career progress opportunities will be taken into consideration when the government assesses current gaming operators' concession contracts, which will expire between 2020 and 2022.

The authorities will be looking into the percentage of locals who are hi-

red by casino companies; into whether locals are being afforded career advancement opportunities; and also into gaming operators' recent efforts to develop their non-gaming offerings.

Mr Leong told lawmakers last month, when presenting his cabinet's action plan for this year, that the gaming industry is in need of "a check-up" in order to allow for the assessment of casino operators' performance over the past

ten years.

The interim review of gaming concessionaires' contracts will start this year, he also announced.

The secretary hinted yesterday that the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) will be "more proactive" in seeking information on labor relations between the gaming companies and their employees.

The six gaming operators told the Secretary that employees have shown greater interest in furthering their knowledge, as they have recorded an increase in the number of workers enrolling in training programs. Operators added that they've also recorded a 25- to 40-percent decrease (year-on-year) in the number of written warnings issued to employees.

With the next wave of Cotai resorts underway, casino operators pledged to provide further job opportunities to Macau residents. **CP**

GAMING

Revenue to drop over 30 pct in April

MACAU'S gross gaming revenue may drop by over 30 percent year-on-year with some gaming operators even forecasting a 40-percent decrease, data compiled by Lusa news agency shows. According to these forecasts, casino revenue in April might not even reach MOP19 billion, which would be the worst result of 2015.

Macau's casino revenue fell for the tenth consecutive month in March 2015, representing its second-worst year-on-year decline. Last month, gross gaming revenue plunged 39.4 percent to MOP21.49 billion.

In April 2014, the city's gross gaming revenue reached MOP31.3 billion, representing a 13.1-percent increase from the previous year. However, Macau's casino takings started recording a decline in June 2014.

Local casino revenue fell 2.6 percent to MOP351.5 billion in 2014. This was the first decline since Macau liberalized its gaming industry in 2001.

Data compiled by Lusa news agency with gaming operators such as Sands China and SJM shows that gaming revenue in April may drop by 30 percent year-on-year to MOP22 billion. MGM China forecasted a "less optimistic" result, estimating a 40-percent decrease in gaming revenue.

The decline in gaming revenue has prompted the Macau government to amend its 2015 budget, reviewing its estimates over how much casino tax revenue it will collect down from MOP115 billion to MOP84 billion. **MDT/Lusa**

Josh Noble and Julie Zhu

AS China's anti-corruption campaign dents gambling revenues, officials and casino operators are having to rethink a business model that has turned the city into the world's biggest gaming center.

Any visitor to Macau's casino strip will struggle to avoid David Beckham's smoldering gaze. The former England football captain is the front man of a campaign for The Venetian, the city's biggest hotel and casino resort. Images of him, clad in a James Bond-style dinner jacket, hang all over the city. "Never settle", reads the slogan.

In a two-minute promotional video for the resort, Mr Beckham arrives at his suite, goes shopping, eats noodles, watches a boxing match, rides a gondola and attends a masquerade ball. He ends by kicking a football at a statue in the hotel lobby, before raising a glass of whisky to a group of adoring bystanders. Just one thing is missing from his itinerary: gambling.

A-listers such as Mr Beckham are the latest recruits for Macau's casinos, which are struggling to adjust to a slowdown caused by China's anti-corruption campaign. High-rolling punters have fled Macau in droves, sending sector revenue and casino share prices tumbling in the world's gambling capital.

The industry response is to learn from Las Vegas, where gaming typically accounts for less than half casino operator revenue. In Macau, that figure currently ranges from 88 to 99 per cent. Whether time or money, casinos want their patrons to spend it like Beckham.

"When visitors come to Macau they are not only seeking to participate in gaming," says Lui Che-woo, the billionaire chairman of Galaxy Entertainment, owner of the city's largest casino by revenue. "This is a major sea-change in the ecosystem of Macau."

Weaning Macau off its gambling addiction will not be easy. Casinos have been the main driver of an economic boom that has made the Chinese territory one of the richest places on earth, according to the World Bank.

Macau returned to Beijing's control in 1999 after 442 years of Portuguese rule, and remains the only place in China where casinos are legal. It sits an hour's ferry ride from Hong Kong, and a short hop from the wealthy mainland megacities of Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

The city's transformation

from sleepy backwater to card game mecca began in 2004, when Las Vegas Sands opened the first international gaming property on the fringes of Macau's historic old town, soon after Hong Kong tycoon Stanley Ho lost exclusive rights to run casinos. Since then, the sector has generated revenue in excess of USD240bn in a territory with fewer than 600,000 residents.

The gaming boom stepped up a gear in 2007 following the opening of The Venetian on a patch of reclaimed land now known as the Cotai strip. It has since been joined by a number of other projects from Cotai's five other casino licensees. More are under construction.

Despite the slump, Macau's government appears unfazed

Revenue from "games of fortune" rose from just over \$5bn in 2004 to a peak of more than \$45bn in 2013, seven times that of Las Vegas. Visitor numbers have also ballooned, last year hitting 31.5m - two-thirds from mainland China - almost double the number in 2005.

But the sector is under fire. Its pivotal role in enabling wealthy Chinese to take vast sums of money out of the country has made it a focal point in Beijing's sweeping anti-graft campaign that has ensnared thousands of officials and business people since 2013. Concerns about capital flight from China have also played a part as inbound investment has slowed along

GAMING

The hard transition to a

BLOOMBERG



Visitors take photographs of a gondolier inside the Venetian Macao resort

with the economy.

President Xi Jinping intervened late last year, warning of "certain deep-seated problems" in Macau. He urged the local authorities to tighten oversight of the gaming industry.

Some measures have been practical: visa rules have been changed and card payments restricted. But rhetoric, like Mr Xi's, has also played a role. "As China has intensified the anti-corruption cam-

paign, some corrupt officials, including executives of state-owned enterprises, no longer dare come to Macau to gamble," Li Gang, China's representative in Macau, recently told the Beijing News. "If these officials gamble in Macau, they will be discovered."

The gaming sector's decade-long boom is unraveling fast. Last year the industry saw its first annual decline in revenue since records began, which the Wynn Macau lu-

xury resort attributed in part to the "chilling effect" of the anti-graft campaign. Macau's economy, as a result, shrank by 0.4 per cent, having almost doubled in size since 2010.

The downturn is yet to run its course. First-quarter gaming revenue dropped 36.6 per cent, while analyst expectations and company rhetoric are getting gloomier by the day.

Other factors are contributing to the reversal. The eco-

CONSTRUCTION

Operators bet on new resorts to beat downturn

IN the shadow of the current crop of casinos and hotels, Macau's building boom remains undisturbed by anti-graft campaigns or a downturn in revenues. Billions of dollars are being invested in new resorts, resulting in a skyline punctured by cranes, and streets ringing with the thunder of heavy machinery. The scale of construction is staggering.

The first in the new generation of projects is close to completion. Galaxy's phase two - a major expansion of its existing property designed to attract families - is due to open next month, adding 1,350 hotel rooms and doubling the number of shops and restaurants. It will also feature a 10-screen cinema, a 3,000-seater theatre and a rooftop aquatic adventure ride.

Melco Crown's Studio City - a vast, Hollywood-themed complex - is scheduled to open later this year. Melco chief executive Lawrence Ho, son of SJM Holdings chairman Stanley Ho, promised it would "diversify Macau's evolving leisure experiences", when he announced a tie-up with DC Comics and Warner Bros films for the project earlier this year.

Sands China - owner of The Venetian - will add The Parisian to its Macau portfolio some time next year. The reproduction Eiffel Tower that will serve as The Parisian's centrepiece is taking shape, while the 3,000 rooms included in the development will give the company control of almost half the hotel space in town. Other new resort projects, such as MGM Cotai and SJM's

Lisboa Palace, are also well under way, bringing the total investment in the Cotai strip at the moment to USD19.3b, according to rating agency Fitch. The new resorts are expected to put a floor under the downturn in the sector by adding thousands of hotel rooms - bringing Macau's total to 46,000 by 2018 - hundreds of restaurants, shops, and other revenue-generating facilities.

While these new projects will not prove as profitable as the current properties, analysts still expect them to be successful. CLSA estimates that the building costs from the typical second-generation resort will be earned back in around five years, compared with just two years for the first round of projects, like The Venetian.

new business model

conomic slowdown and housing market correction in China have dented the fortunes of some would-be gamblers. Meanwhile junket operators - who bring wealthy people to Macau and bankroll their betting - have found it harder to access financing.

Despite the slump, Macau's government appears unfazed. It has long called on the gaming industry to diversify, to help make the territory a "world center for leisure and tourism". It wants people from across Asia to come to Macau to shop, see the sights and use it as a base for exploring southern China. "It's unrealistic to believe you can rely on one sector and be safe for the rest of your life," says Helena Fernandes, head of Macau's tourism office.

The calm is not just bluster. Though some jobs have been lost in VIP betting rooms, the local labor market remains extremely tight. Macau has had an unemployment rate of just 1.7 per cent since the start of 2014. Average incomes rose more than 8 per cent last year, while a lack of workers has been blamed for delays to some new resort projects.

Government revenue rose to 175.9bn patacas (US\$22bn) in 2013, according to the Department of Financial Services, up 21 per cent from a year earlier. That cash has helped fund investment in big-ticket projects, including an upgraded ferry port serving the casino district, a monorail and improved border crossings with China. A multibillion dollar bridge linking Macau and Hong Kong is set to open in the next couple of years.

"Now the pie is very large. It's big enough for the government to take care of the development of Macau," says Ricardo Siu, professor of business economics at the University of Macau.

Macau does not feel like a city in trouble. On a recent weekday lunchtime, the main gaming floors at a number of large casinos were bustling, as punters flitted between games of blackjack, baccarat and sic bo, a Chinese dice game. Similarly, the main mall in The Venetian - a gaudy homage to Venice with warbling gondoliers and canals - was packed. At the restaurant in "St Mark's Square", there was even a queue for a table under the painted concrete sky. Ordinary tourists are still

flocking to Macau. "Growth of 30-40 per cent a year - that's not coming back," says Prof Siu. "But the slowdown will be very good for Macau's sustainable growth."

If Mr Beckham is the face hardest to avoid, pop star Katy Perry runs him a close second. Her video message, beamed across Macau, invites patrons to join her at a live show at The Venetian's 14,000-seater arena.

The Venetian is not the only casino to enlist western stars. Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro feature in a short

film directed by Martin Scorsese to promote Studio City, Melco Crown's Hollywood-themed resort, due to open later this year. All six major operators are investing billions of dollars in projects, which will roughly double the number of hotel rooms on the Cotai Strip, the hub of Macau's gaming industry.

The shift towards leisure and entertainment will be familiar to the likes of Wynn, Sands and MGM, all of whom did something similar in Las Vegas during the 1990s. Casino operations now account for around a third of total revenue in the Nevada city for Sands, and 40 per cent for the US operations of MGM Resorts International.

Chinese mass-market gamers - the kind operators hope to attract with bumper cars and aquariums - come with margins four times higher than VIPs. There is no need to provide a free room, a free meal or any other service that high-rollers might require, while no agent demands a cut of the winnings.

The potential customer base is also enormous. China, already the world's number one source of international tourists, is expected to continue

growing rapidly. CLSA predicts that Chinese outbound tourism visits will hit 200m by 2020, double the figure from 2013.

However, Macau's transition is likely to be a difficult one. Most non-gaming businesses struggle to make a profit - MGM China gave away hotel, food and retail services worth \$108m last year, compared with the \$41m it earned.

Hotel rates have been reduced across the city in an effort to bring in enough visitors to make up for the loss of VIP punters. Much of the recent increase in visitor numbers has come from day-trippers and tour groups, who spend mealtimes and nights across the border at cheaper hotels and restaurants. Many never make it on to the casino floor.

"I really want to gamble a bit in these luxurious casinos," says Liu Guangwen, a retiree from the northeast Chinese port of Qingdao, in the atrium of the Galaxy. "But the itinerary here is too busy. I didn't even get a chance to try my luck. Maybe next time," he adds, while being dragged towards a tour bus by his wife.

The cost of blockbuster shows, such as Ms Perry's, is rarely matched by ticket sales, while many retailers, especially at the luxury end, are suffering. Macau's retail sales dropped 7.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2014.

For all the talk of theme park rides and art exhibitions, the city's casino operators still

rely on gambling revenue, most of it from high-rollers. Mr Ho's SJM Holdings gets just over 1 per cent of its income from non-gaming, while Sands China, the most diversified player, gets 12 per cent. VIP gaming still accounts for around two-thirds of revenue at Galaxy. "Macau will never be like Las Vegas in terms of the importance of non-gaming revenues", says Aaron Fischer of CLSA. "The investment that these companies are making in non-gaming is a requirement. This is the cost of staying in business in Macau."

The high rollers are also looking further afield. Revenue growth at casinos in Australia, Cambodia and the Philippines has been soaring as Macau's has been sinking, as Chinese punters look to gamble beyond Beijing's watchful eye.

Imperial Pacific, a Hong Kong-listed frozen food producer turned junket shareholder, on Monday announced a power supply deal with Chinese solar-panel maker Hanergy for its casino on the Pacific island of Saipan. Plans for the \$7bn project include 4,000 rooms, more than any current hotel in Macau.

"This project has a bright future," says Eddie Lam, executive director of Hanergy. "So long as there are Chinese people, there will be gambling."

Growth of 30-40 per cent a year - that's not coming back. But the slowdown will be very good for Macau's sustainable growth

RICARDO SIU



Dancers perform for visitors at the Galaxy Macau casino resort

Copyright The Financial Times Limited 2015

SURVEY

Residents' show lack of green awareness

Brook Yang

THE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) released its latest survey results on public environmental awareness to mark Earth Day (Apr 22). The result shows that Macau residents still lack a sense of responsibility and determination to adopt green practices.

The bureau has conducted the annual survey since 2010 in order to track residents' awareness and practice of environmental protection. The survey results are also said to be an important basis for the bureau to lay down every year's work policy.

According to the survey, over recent years, local residents' environmental awareness has continued growing slightly, and has remained at a middle to upper level of above 3.5 points out of a scale of 5. However, over the past two years, a continued decline has been recorded in the public's sense of environmental responsibility, while their practice of environmental protection has similarly started to decline.



DSPA acting director Vai Hoi leong

As residents tend to think that taking environmental action would consume more of their time and money, the index of their environmental practices dropped from 5.04 to 4.67 last year, which indicates a mid to low level on the

ten-point scale.

In addition, the survey suggests that people's satisfaction with the current environment also remains at a mid to low level, whereas air quality has been the most worrying and least satisfying aspect. Light

pollution and ecological conservation were also the lowest-scoring aspects, while the city's noise level and ecological conservation have improved.

The 2014 survey collected 1,003 valid responses from local residents above the age of 15. Reflecting on the result, the DSPA acting director Vai Hoi leong stressed that controlled air pollution has always been the bureau's top priority, and that this priority is being addressed in a series of policies tackling polluting emissions.

As for residents' inadequate sense of environmental responsibility and practices, Vai maintained that the bureau will

“continue strengthening promotional and educational activities, to coordinate with the multi-pronged environmental measures covering legislation, planning, monitoring, guidelines and subsidies.”

This year's Earth Day is themed “It's Our Turn to Lead.” Vai stated to local students attending the event that the theme is meant to emphasize that “every individual is an important actor of green initiatives, whereas the earth's future is in the hands of everybody's daily life.” In response, the DSPA also launched a public campaign calling for a reduction in the use of plastics.

LEVY ON PLASTIC BAGS AND CONSTRUCTION WASTE

THE ACTING director of the DSPA revealed yesterday that the government would roll out public consultations on levying plastic bags and construction waste in the third and fourth quarters respectively this year. On the sidelines of the bureau's Earth Day campaign, the acting director told media that the

construction waste landfill located near the airport has been filled up, and that 80 percent of the waste might be recyclable. The authorities will set up a landfill selection zone this year to recycle the waste that can be used in land reclamations, and will transport the rest to Guangdong province for treatment.

Caved-in road poses no risk



The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has notified the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) in order to follow-up on the repair and maintenance of a caved-in new road section in Cotai. A forgery in the project's quality certification was

recently revealed, which involved civil servants taking bribes. The IACM also stressed its close attention to the matter yesterday, stating that it has sent staff to check the road section and hasn't discovered any immediate risks to road safety. The IACM explained that, as there is still ongoing construction on the thoroughfare, traffic is limited in the road section; when the construction is completed, the constructor will need to reinstate the road, and it is then that the IACM will conduct its inspection and acceptance procedure.

Public services reshuffle concluded by year-end

THE Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, has made assurances that the restructuring and reshuffling of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is already in its final stage, according to a Radio Macau report. The secretary added that the main restructuring works will be completed by the year's end.

Some of IACM's duties will

be reassigned to the Sports Development Board and the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). Last month, Sonia Chan told lawmakers at the Legislative Assembly (AL), while discussing her cabinet's action plan for this year, that restructuring public services' “is a complex task, comprising of many functions, services and facilities, as well as [a comprehensive

amount of] legislation.”

Ms Chan told Radio Macau that “the restructuring of IACM is almost complete. From our side, it's in the final stage. We've already drafted proposals for administrative regulations.”

The secretary revealed that they're also hoping to submit a preliminary proposal for the restructuring of the Legal Affairs Bureau and the Law Reform and International Law Bureau in June.

Ms Chan hopes that the main projects contributing to the restructuring of public services under her office's supervision will be completed by the end of the year.

AD



優悅牙科護理中心
ICQ Oral Health Center

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

- Oral examination and radiology investigation
- Restorative and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Children Dentistry
- Orthodontic Treatment
- Oral and Dental implant Surgery
- Endodontic Treatment
- Periodontal Treatment
- Emergency Treatment

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

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

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

Rm1907, 19/F, AIA Tower, Nos. 251A-301, AVENIDA COMMERCIAL DE MACAU, MACAU SAR
TEL: (853)28373266 FAX: (853)28356483 EMAIL: info@icqoral.com www.icqoral.com

New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.



Residence Cleaning
Glass Cleaning
Carpet Cleaning
Pest Control



Call : 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry



High-rise properties in Hong Kong

NY skyscraper rents surge as HK leads world

Neil Callanan

OFFICE rents on the highest floors of skyscrapers in New York climbed 20 percent in the second half of last year, while Hong Kong comfortably kept its place as the most expensive place in the world to lease.

New York rents rose 20 percent to USD150 in the period, the second-biggest increase after Kuala Lumpur, according to an 18-city index compiled by London-based Knight Frank LLP. Offices near the top of Hong Kong skyscrapers cost \$251 a square foot, 66 percent more than in New York.

The number of skyscrapers worldwide that are more than 1,000 feet high has jumped to 79 from 19 since 2009, with 40 percent of them in China, according to Knight Frank. Companies are willing to pay a premium to lease workspace in towers because it helps them retain staff,

while investors such as sovereign wealth funds want to buy the properties because it allows them to spend \$1 billion or more on a single asset, said James Roberts, the firm's head of commercial research.

"Hong Kong had pretty punchy rental growth in the second half," said Roberts. "It's a very successful, fast-growing city that happens to be in a geographically constrained area. You hit the barriers and then prices can only be driven up."

New York rental costs have soared along with skyscraper development, with digital and creative firms opting to rent space. Occupiers in the city are willing to pay about double the normal rental rate for upper floors of towers, according to Knight Frank. That compares with 20 percent or less in the City of London financial district and in Hong Kong.

Tokyo has the third highest skyscraper rents, London is fourth and San Francisco ranks fifth, the re-

port says.

Chinese financial firms are underpinning Hong Kong's office rents as the city connected its stock exchange with Shanghai in November and is expected to link its bourse with Shenzhen's later this year.

Prime office space leased by financial companies based in China was 148,000 square feet last year, a 51 percent jump from 2013, according to data from realtor CBRE Group Inc.

Though Hong Kong is commanding the highest rents, other international cities such as New York and London are eroding that lead, Roberts said.

"Economic growth prospects for this year favor locations like New York and London," he said. "Many people like to say that the balance in the global economy is shifting from west to east, but certainly skyscraper rents provide another indicator that shows this is not entirely the case." **Bloomberg**

Japan logs 1st trade surplus in nearly 3 years on cheap oil

Elaine Kurtenbach, Business Writer, Tokyo

JAPAN posted its first monthly trade surplus in nearly three years in March thanks to falling import costs from cheaper oil prices, along with a modest recovery in exports.

But the stronger-than-expected surplus is unlikely to persist, analysts said.

Japan relies on imports for virtually all of its oil, gas and coal. Oil prices already have begun to recover from the trough of below USD50 they hit earlier this year and have yet to be reflected in Japan's imports.

"What's more, we expect the yen to weaken further in coming months, which should lift the cost of imports by more than the yen-value of exports. The upshot is that the trade balance is unlikely to remain in surplus for long," Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

The Finance Ministry said yesterday that preliminary data showed a 14.5 percent drop in imports in March from a year earlier, to 6.7 trillion yen (\$55.6 billion). Exports climbed 8.5 percent from a year earlier to 6.9 trillion yen (\$57.9 billion), leaving a surplus of 229.3 billion yen (\$1.9 billion).

Based on preliminary data for October to March, Japan logged a trade deficit of 9.1 trillion yen (\$76 billion) in the fiscal year from April 2014 to March 2015, it said. Exports rose 5.4 percent from the year before, while imports fell 1 percent. **AP**



People look at an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo

corporate bits

MGM MACAU CO-ORGANIZES ART WORKSHOP FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES



On Tuesday, MGM Macau joined hands with Special Olympics Macau and the Charity Association of Macau Business Readers to organize the "Art Workshop at MGM Macau - Creating Something Out of Nothing, Fighting Isolation With a Paintbrush" at the MGM Art Space, joined by more than 100 Special Olympics athletes and coaches from different parts of the world as well as MGM Volunteer team mem-

bers. This community event is supported by the Macao Sport Development Board, Macao Government Tourist Office and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao S.A.R. Government.

A total of 60 Special Olympics athletes came together from all over the world: Zimbabwe, Israel, Lichtenstein, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, Austria, Great Britain, India, South Korea, Malaysia, Taipei, Hong Kong and Macau, and were led by a team of coaches to attend the event. During the workshop, they were divided into six groups and guided by four artists from Israel, Thailand, Zhuhai and Macau, as well as 12 MGM volunteer team members to finish six 1m x 1m canvas paintings.

SAFETY - MACAU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S FIRST PRIORITY

To ensure safe flight operation, MIA has been allocating resources to update or upgrade different airport facilities and equipment. From 2009, MIA launched the Communications, Navigation, Surveillance System (CNS), with a total investment of MOP170 million. The project included updating 10 CNS sub-systems to improve the accuracy of airport equipment and safety performance. The CNS project was assisted by the Civil Aviation of China (CAAC)'s North China Regional Air Traffic Management Bureau (ATMB). After the project was completed in 2012, which went through a Flight Check conducted by the Civil Aviation of China, all systems achieved a high level

of quality test results with the related equipment to provide high-precision navigation capability. After the upgrade, MIA's equipment achieved Automated Air Traffic Control standards; Runway 34 has a high-precision CAT II Instrument Landing System (ILS) and accurate DVOR/DME navigation services to ensure safe flight operation.



EXTRA TICKETS AND FERRY PACKAGES FOR KATY PERRY CONCERT RELEASED



International super star Katy Perry is bringing The Prismatic World Tour to Macau. Presented by The Venetian Macao and AEG Live and sponsored by Citi, the concert will be held on May 1 and 2 at the Cotai Arena with The Dolls as special guests. Tickets have been selling so quickly that

additional general admission standing tickets and ferry packages have now been released for the two shows. Concertgoers will not only see the pop music queen in action, but they will also get to see DJ duo The Dolls (DJ Mia Moretti and Margot) as they join Perry as her special guests.

Energy Education
Campus energy saving, let's do it! 2015

March to May

能源效益，人人要識！
節約使用，你我得益！
O que é eficiência energética?
Por que se deve poupar energia?

Organization: <http://www.gdse.gov.mo>

For more information, please visit www.soundandimagechallenge.com

SOUND & IMAGE CHALLENGE FESTIVAL 2015 CALL FOR ENTRIES

SIC15 SHORTS SHORT FILM CONTEST

CATEGORIES:
DOCUMENTARY
FICTION
ANIMATION
ADVERTISEMENT

Cash Prize UP TO **MOP 83,000.00**

SIC15 VOLUME MUSIC VIDEO CONTEST

ONE PRIZE ONLY **MOP 10,000.00**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 16 JUNE 2015

ORGANISER: CREATIVE MACAU CENTER FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

CO-ORGANISER: UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

SPONSORS:

PARTNERS:

SUPPORTERS:

MEDIA PARTNERS:

www.rcr-macau.com

RCR Electronics (Macau) Ltd.

中葡電子(澳門)有限公司

<p>ELV Systems Specialists 專業的弱電系統</p> <p>Design & Budgets 設計和預算</p> <p>Project Management 項目管理</p> <p>Maintenance & Service 維修和服務</p> <p>Risk Assessment & Management 風險評估和管理</p> <p>Survey & Troubleshooting Services 檢驗和故障診斷與維修服務</p>		<p>Surveillance Systems 監控系統</p> <p>Intrusion Alarm Systems 入侵警報系統</p> <p>Access Control Systems 門禁系統</p> <p>AV/TV, Telephone & Display Systems AV/TV, 電話和顯示系統</p> <p>Fire Detection & Supression Systems 火焰偵測和滅火系統</p> <p>Network & Structure Cable 網絡和綜合佈線</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

澳門馬場東大馬路25-69號福泰工業大廈12樓B座

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69, Edif. Industrial Fok Tai, 12 Floor "B", Macau

TEL: + (853) 2822 1341

FAX: + (853) 2822 0824

www.rcr-macau.com

email: contact@rcr-macau.com

Bank of China sets up team in Macau for Lusophone business

THE Bank of China branch in Macau has set up a team to promote economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, according to yesterday's edition of local Portuguese-language newspaper Tribuna de Macau.

The newspaper said the initiative aims to take advantage of "the great opportunities" of the central government's policies and maintain "active" coordination with the Macau government to build a service platform for business cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries in the territory.

In addition to offering all types of banking services, the Bank of China in Macau also intends to provide "more appropriate and customised financial services" according to the "commercial characteristics" of relations between China and Lusophone



countries.

The bank also serves to "strengthen cooperation with banks of Portuguese-speaking countries" and to likewise promote the use of the yuan in trade.

The creation of a "cross-border yuan clearing platform" can similarly be "spread" to Portuguese-speaking countries, the bank told the newspaper.

The Bank of China (Macau) noted the potential of trade and economic links between China

and Lusophone countries stating that since the creation of the Macau Forum the value of bilateral trade has exceeded USD100 billion.

Since its inception, the team has contacted the Macau Forum, with Macau government bodies, with the Portuguese banks in the territory and with trade associations of China, Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries, "establishing a regular communication mechanism." **MDT/Macauhub**

Summit between Brazil and Portugal in June

THE Luso-Brazilian summit will take place next June, on a date to be announced, said Tuesday in Lisbon the Vice President of Brazil, Michel Temer, during a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Portugal, Paulo Portas.

The two politicians stressed "the stability and intensity" of bilateral relations, and signed four cooperation agreements.

Paulo Portas noted Portugal's openness and interest in attracting Brazilian investment alongside the internationalisation of Portuguese companies in Brazil, which is reflected in the Memorandum of Unders-

tanding between the Export Promotion Agency of Brazil (Apex-Brazil) and the Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade of Portugal (AICEP).

The Deputy Prime Minister also mentioned the opening up of more markets in the agricultural sector "to Portuguese products, companies and brands," saying that some pending certification processes had been unlocked by the Brazilian Vice President.

Two years ago Portugal made a request to export citrus fruits and table grapes, which has now been approved by the Brazilian Agriculture Ministry. **MDT/Macauhub**



Paulo Portas (l) and Michel Temer (r) during the press conference in Lisbon, Portugal, 21 April

AD

KTRANZ TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE
TRANSLATIONS

Languages

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

Services

TRANSLATIONS, PROOFREADING,
COPYWRITING, DATA INPUT,
NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms Juliana Cheang
Email: juliana@ktranz.com.mo

Tel: +853 2871 6081 / 2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Address: Av. Infante D. Henrique, 62 2/F, Macau

Executive Development Programme

Facilities Management

「設施管理」高級管理課程

26 - 27 May 2015



Cornell University
School of Hotel Administration



旅遊學院
INSTITUTO DE FORMAÇÃO TURÍSTICA
Institute for Tourism Studies



Topics include:

- Understanding the fundamentals of building systems (plumbing, electric, HVAC, other)
- The basics of property operations maintenance (roles, tools and techniques)
- Capital expenditures, renovations, and project management
- Introduction to the principles of sustainability

Course leader:

Ms. Jeanne Varney, Lecturer
School of Hotel Administration, Cornell University

Ms. Varney has more than 20 years of real estate, operations, and sustainable hospitality experience. At Cornell's School of Hotel Administration, she resides in the facilities and property management, planning, and design department, where she is responsible for the curriculum in Hospitality Facilities Management and Sustainable Global Enterprise in Hospitality.

Programme fee:

Macao ID-holders: MOP8,650
Non-Macao ID-holders: MOP14,840

Language:

English

The programme will lead to a certificate of attendance for
Cornell-IFT Executive Development Programme.

Details about the programme & registration form:

<http://www.ift.edu.mo/EN/ExecutiveProgrammes/Home/Index/284>

Enquiry: Tel: (853) 8598 1250, Fax: (853) 8598 1283, Email: edp@ift.edu.mo

Deadline for Registration - 6 May 2015

(on first-come-first-served basis)



Jimmy Lai won't back down

William Mellor

AT 3:30 a.m. on a chill January morning, Hong Kong media magnate Jimmy Lai was awakened by a housemaid. Police were at the door of his British-colonial-era mansion. "I thought they had come in the middle of the night to arrest me," Lai, a former child sweatshop worker, says matter-of-factly later that day, sipping tea in a sitting room decorated with brilliantly colored paintings by Chinese-American artist Walasse Ting.

Lai's assumption was hardly far-fetched, given his front-line role when pro-democracy protesters seized control of much of Hong Kong's central business district for almost three months late last year. On this predawn visit, however, the cops had other matters in mind. Unbeknownst to the slumbering Lai, arsonists had attacked his home, hurling a Molotov cocktail that exploded spectacularly against the steel-barred front gate. Unfazed, Lai delegated the task of meeting police to an assistant, rolled over, and went back to sleep.

Such are the life and times of Hong Kong's most combative tycoon and owner of its feistiest media outlets, Bloomberg Markets reports in its May 2015 issue. And such is the fearless disdain he shows for his foes, be they China's all-powerful Communist leaders, bomb-throwing triad gangsters currying favor with Beijing, or the authors of a fake obituary published last year in a rival newspaper (to which Lai, now 66, riposted in a video, "Sorry to disappoint you").

Beginning in September, tens of thousands of protesters occupied downtown streets for 79 days. It was the biggest threat to the Chinese Politburo's control since it regained sovereignty of the former British colony in 1997. The shock troops were mainly students, but Lai's role was pivotal.

His donations have long funded pro-democracy groups. During the occupation, his tall, burly frame was an imposing presence almost every day, braving tear gas, pepper spray, and, on one occasion, pigs' entrails hurled by unidentified men. And his raucous tabloid Apple Daily is the loudest media voice of anti-Beijing protest. "When it comes to media influence, Rupert Murdoch is a toddler compared to Jimmy," says Robert Chow, co-founder of the pro-Beijing Silent Majority for Hong Kong. "While Murdoch tries to control things from the shadows, Jimmy is right out there. He's the brains behind it all." Martin Lee, a



Jimmy Lai, photographed in his Hong Kong home.

co-founder of the main opposition Democratic Party, says, "Jimmy Lai is indispensable to the democracy movement in Hong Kong."

Lai sees things differently. "It's a movement initiated by the people," he says. "Seeing these kids gives you great hope," he says of the student protesters. "There's no leadership, and that makes it very powerful. It is spontaneous, God-sent."

Lai and the pro-democracy movement could do with some divine intervention. Their central demand is the right to freely elect Hong Kong's leader, known as the chief executive, in 2017. Chinese President Xi Jinping is insisting on having the candidates vetted first to ensure they are pro-Beijing. The Chinese plan will have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the city's quasi-democratic legislature in a vote likely to be held by the end of July, and minority groups financially backed by Lai may well be able to muster enough votes to block it. Should that happen, Xi's government has said the next chief executive will be selected just as the previous three were—by a Beijing-anointed committee of just 1,200 people. Announcing final details of the Chinese plan yesterday, the Hong Kong government confirmed that the Occupy Central protesters failed to win any significant con-

cessions. "They have lost in the short term, and that's unfortunate," says Douglas Paal, a vice president of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a former adviser on Asia to U.S. President George H.W. Bush.

However, shock waves from the occupation continue to reverberate around Zhongnanhai, the walled compound abutting Beijing's Forbidden City where Xi is establishing himself as China's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong. By crushing democratic aspirations, Xi could endanger Hong Kong's role as China's international financial center—a position it holds in large part because of its existing freedoms, says Kerry Brown, head of the University of Sydney's China Studies Center. "Hong Kong is still incredibly important as the primary portal for capital flows in and out of China," Brown, a former senior British diplomat, says. "Beijing may have won in the short term, but in the long term it cannot win if it wants to preserve Hong Kong as the distinctive place it is." In a city that can seem all-business and money obsessed, Lai has helped to politicize an emerging generation of Hong Kong's brightest and push them to challenge Beijing's idea of democracy. "The young people in Hong Kong have a very different value system,

and they are prepared to fight for it," he says. "Democracy, freedom of information is like air to them. If they can't have it, they can't breathe."

Many in the business community agree. "Hong Kong's core values are absolutely critical to its success," says Peter Levesque, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. "This is a defining moment. Is Hong Kong committed to maintaining the characteristics that have made it so successful? Or is it destined to become just any other city in China?"

In 1994, Lai called China's then premier, Li Peng, a "turt-

If Lai were somehow sidelined, that would be a sign that the status HK enjoys under 'one country, two systems' is doomed

VICTOR SHIH
CHINA SCHOLAR AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

le's egg," Chinese slang for "bastard."

The struggle for Hong Kong's future is being closely watched by foreign investors whose enthusiasm for Hong Kong shares has made the USD5.03 trillion stock exchange the world's third largest by market value. While the stock market lost only 1.6 percent during the protest compared with a 3.4 percent decline in the MSCI World Index, the broader economy took a hit. Growth slowed to 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter from 1.4 percent in the previous three months.

The protests aren't going away, says David Webb, a Hong Kong-based investor and shareholder activist who supported them. "The government will have to expect, so long as it lacks legitimacy, to face more challenges to its authority and possibly more-organized ones," he says.

While Hong Kong was never a democracy under Britain, it did enjoy free speech and an independent legal system. Under an agreement known as "one country, two systems," China guaranteed those freedoms would be retained for 50 years from 1997, when the colony returned to Chinese sovereignty. Eighteen years later, some appear under threat—in part because of efforts to muzzle Lai. While successive Chinese governments have left the former's legal system intact, Hong Kong plunged from 12th place in 2002 to 61st in 2014 on the World Press Freedom Index of 180 countries compiled by Paris-based Reporters Without Borders.

Lai and his allies are riding a wave of protest that isn't only about freedom. Hong Kong is one of the world's most unequal societies. Ten of the world's 200 wealthiest individuals live within the 1,104-square-kilometer enclave, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. In a city that has more Rolls-Royces per capita than any other, multibillionaires live practically cheek by jowl with old people who live in cages—bunks stacked on top of one another in tenement rooms, separated only by metal bars. Government figures show that more than one in seven Hong Kongers lives in poverty and half earn less than \$1,700 a month in a city with the world's highest property prices.

So far, Lai has survived China's attempts to silence him. "It comforts me that Jimmy is there," says Victor Shih, a Hong Kong-born Harvard Ph.D. and China scholar at the University of California at San Diego. If Lai were somehow sidelined, that would be a sign that the status Hong Kong enjoys under "one country, two systems" is doomed, Shih says: "He's the canary in the coal mine." **Bloomberg**

Fion Li and Natasha Khan

HONG KONG

Leung asks lawmakers to agree to Beijing's election plan

HONG Kong lawmakers should agree to China's terms for the city's first leadership election, or risk delaying giving citizens the right to vote, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said.

Candidates for the 2017 election must be screened by a committee, and there would be a maximum of three people who can stand, the Hong Kong government said yesterday in its final electoral reform proposal. As many as 10 people could be put forth for the committee to consider, it said, in its only concession to pro-democracy lawmakers.

A vote on the proposal would cap Hong Kong's most turbulent year since its return to Chinese rule in 1997, with police last October clashing with tens of thousands of protesters who wanted China to give up its demand to vet candidates. Leung would need to win over four pro-democracy lawmakers to pass the bill, set to be voted on before the end of July.

"If unfortunately the proposal this time is voted down by minority lawmakers, it's uncertain when the next time will be and how it will be done," Leung told reporters. China has "made it clear that there's no compromise on their baseline."

Should lawmakers fail to agree to the plan, Leung's successor would be picked by a committee of tycoons, lawmakers and industry representatives, as it has been since the last British governor left.

Candidates must first get support from at least 120 people on the election committee, which would be formed at the end of next year, Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's No. 2 official, said yesterday. In the second round of

AP PHOTO



Pro-democracy lawmakers talk to reporters following a walkout from the legislative chamber after Chief Secretary Carrie Lam unveiled the Beijing-backed election reform package's details in Hong Kong

Pro-democracy lawmakers walked out, with some carrying yellow umbrellas

nomination, only those who managed to get support from more than half of the committee would be able to stand in the election, she said.

Pro-democracy lawmakers walked out after Lam's speech,

with some carrying yellow umbrellas, the symbol of the October protests. Most of the 27 legislators have pledged to veto the proposal.

"The government has ignored public opinion," said Alan Leung, leader of the Civic Party and a spokesman for the pro-democracy lawmakers. "The proposal allows a nomination process to be manipulated by a small circle."

Pro-democracy groups have argued that the election committee would be stacked with pro-China loyalists. The four main sectors of the committee -- industrial, commercial and financial services; professions; labor, social, and religious

groups; and city and local politicians - reflect Hong Kong society, the government said.

Having a two-step nomination process is the government's way of "responding to concerns that the framework was too restrictive," said Tim Summers, a senior consulting fellow on the Asia program at think-tank Chatham House. "But given the strong opposition from pan-democrat legislators," the government may struggle to get the proposal through, he said.

The government will run a campaign, called "Make it happen," to win support, with key secretaries meeting the public to discuss the proposal, Leung said.

Yesterday's proposal shows the 79-day Occupy Central protests last year failed to win any major concessions. While initially successful in garnering public support, the toll on businesses and traffic sapped the city's patience before the police swept exhausted protesters from the street before Christmas.

"How the government handles itself going forward could have an impact on whether pan-democratic leaders are able to mobilize public support," said Michael Davis, a law professor at the University of Hong Kong.

Lam said yesterday the government doesn't expect a repeat of last year's mass protests.

"It may be not an impossible task" to get the votes, said Ho-Fung Hung, an associate professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who focuses on the political economy in China and Hong Kong. "Many individual democratic legislators may not run next time so they don't need to worry about voters' reaction," Hung said.

Closer ties with China have spurred rising discontent in Hong Kong as a flood of Chinese residents buy property and daily necessities, driving up prices and causing crowding. Increased economic links have also benefited the city with a trading link with the Shanghai stock exchange driving its benchmark index to its highest level in more than seven years this month. **Bloomberg**

TIBET

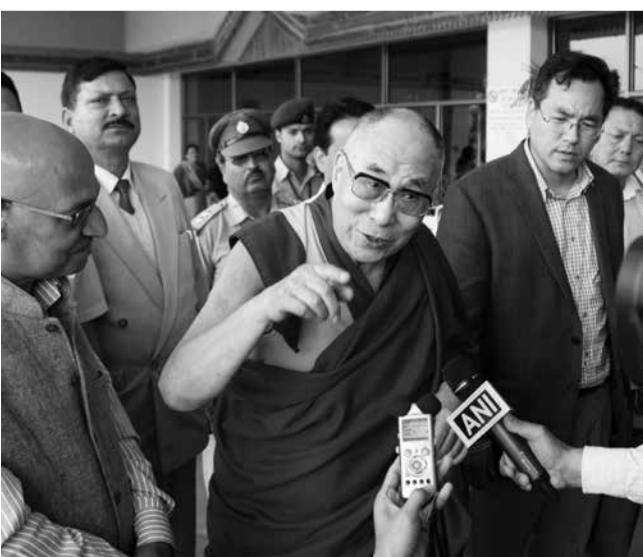
Exiled gov't presses mainland authorities on missing Buddhist leader

Ashwini Bhatia, Dharmasala

THE Tibetan government-in-exile wants supporters to help pressure China to release the 11th Panchen Lama, a Buddhist leader who is believed to have been in Chinese custody since his disappearance as a child 20 years ago, the government's spokesman said Tuesday.

Exiles say Chinese authorities abducted Gedhun Choekyi Nyima on May 17, 1995, when he was 6 years old. He had been

AP PHOTO



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama speaks to the media

recognized three days earlier by the Dalai Lama as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama.

Soon after the boy went missing, China appointed another boy, Gyaincain Norbu, as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama. Tibetans believe the abduction was an effort by China to control the choice of the next Dalai Lama, as the Panchen Lama plays a key role in recognizing the Dalai Lama's reincarnation.

The spokesman of the Tibetan government-in-

exile said it would ramp up efforts to get information on the Panchen Lama's whereabouts. "It's not a political issue, but a religious one, and it concerns the fundamental way of Tibetan life," Tashi Phuntsok said.

He said the government-in-exile would name May 17 as the "International Solidarity Day with Tibet," and ask supporters to write to their governments and ask that pressure be put on China for answers.

The government-in-exi-

le is based in the north Indian hill town of Dharmasala, where the Dalai Lama has lived since fleeing Tibet in 1959 when Chinese troops marched in. China has since maintained that Tibet is an integral part of its territory.

The Dalai Lama is the 14th person to be Tibetan Buddhism's spiritual leader, a tradition stretching back 500 years, with each Dalai Lama chosen as a child by senior monks through a series of mystical signs. Each is believed to be the reincarnation of his predecessor.

Many observers believe his death will lead to rival Dalai Lamas -- one appointed by Beijing, which rules Tibet, and one by senior monks loyal to the current Dalai Lama. **AP**

JAPAN

Abe doesn't offer customary apology for WWII



Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during their bilateral meeting on the sideline of the Asian African Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia

SOUTH Korea expressed deep regret yesterday that Japan's leader did not repeat his predecessors' apologies for the country's aggression during World War II.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Asian and African leaders in Indonesia yesterday that Japan has "feelings of deep remorse" over the war. But he did not express a "heart-felt apology" for Japan's past "colonial rule and aggression"

— key phrases that previous prime ministers have used in official statements about the war.

Abe's remarks are fueling speculation that he also will not apologize in a key statement in August marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

Abe met with Chinese President Xi Jinping for nearly half an hour yesterday on the sidelines of the Asia-African

Summit in Jakarta. Chinese state media said Xi urged Abe to better handle Japan's relationships with its Asian neighbors and give more positive signals about his country's attitude toward history.

Abe expressed his desire to improve Sino-Japan relations and told Xi that Japan would take the path of peace and development, they said.

Ties between Japan and its closest neighbors China and

South Korea, both victims of Japanese militarism before and during World War II, have worsened in recent years largely over history and territorial issues. Critics say Abe's administration has stepped up efforts to whitewash the country's wartime atrocities.

On Monday, Abe said he does not plan to repeat a landmark apology made in 1995 by then-Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama that included the three key phrases.

Former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made a similar apology in 2005 on the 60th anniversary of the end of the war, and at the Asian-African meeting the same year.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry expressed "deep regret because Prime Minister Abe omitted the key expressions of apology and repentance."

Asked about Abe's comments, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a regular ministry briefing in Beijing yesterday that the global community is "looking forward to seeing that Japan can squarely face and reflect upon the history of aggression, so as to improve the reconciliation with neighboring countries in Asia and gain trust from the global community."

"We hope the Japanese side can take heed of this call for justice from the international community," he said. **AP**

THAILAND

Bangkok rushes to fix illegal fishing after EU ban threat

THAI officials said they were rushing to crack down on illegal and unregulated fishing in a bid to avoid the European Union's threat to ban seafood import from the country.

The EU on Tuesday gave Thailand, the third-largest seafood exporter, six months to drastically combat illegal and unregulated fishing or face a seafood import ban.

Thailand is a major exporter of seafood, with yearly revenues of almost 5 billion euros (USD5.4 billion), and an EU ban — a "red card" — would seriously affect the industry. Annual exports to the EU are estimated to be worth between 575 million and 730 million euros.

The EU lifted the threat of similar action against South Korea and the Philippines.

Thailand's Agriculture Minister Petipong Pungbun Na Ayudhya said the ministry was seeking a shortcut to speed up the enforcement of the recently passed law regulating the country's fishing. The law has been passed by the junta-appointed legislature but has not taken effect.

"We are considering either to issue a decree, or to exercise the power under Article 44 to speed up the enforcement of the (new) law because we only have 180 days to work on this," Petipong told reporters at a news conference.

Article 44 in the military-imposed interim constitution gives the junta sweeping powers to override any branch of government to promote public order and unity. The military took power from a civilian government in last May's coup and has invoked the controversial article a few times to bypass the normal law.

Apart from law enforcement, the Thai authorities will implement other measures such as a vessel monitoring system that can trace the fishing boats.

"The most important thing is to make the fishermen — our brothers and sisters — and the businesses understand," Petipong said. "Overall, I am quite confident that we can solve the problems."

Petipong said the "yellow card" warning will not have an immediate effect on the Thai fishing industry but said the country could lose at least 30 billion baht (\$924 million) of revenues if the EU issues a ban. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Gov't approves plan to salvage sunken ferry

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH Korea formally approved a plan yesterday to salvage a ferry that sank last year, killing 304 people in one of the country's deadliest disasters in decades.

Raising the Sewol is one of the demands of bereaved families, who hope to discover more details about the cause of the sinking and find the bodies of nine passengers still missing. Some critics have opposed using taxpayers' money to raise the civilian ship and are skeptical that it would provide new information or locate the missing.

The bodies of 295 people have been recovered. Most of the victims were high school students on a trip to a southern resort island.

Public Safety and Security Minister Park In-yong told a news conference that the government has endorsed a request by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to

hoist the ship off the country's southwest coast.

The endorsement was widely expected since President Park Geun-hye promised last week at a ceremony marking the disaster's anniversary to try to salvage the ship and retrieve the missing bodies.

A year after the sinking, there is lingering public anger over the government's handling of the disaster, with the start of an investigation by a special committee still stalled over its membership. Violence erupted Saturday at a rally in Seoul led by bereaved families and their supporters, leaving dozens of people injured.

Relatives of the victims say government officials have been reluctant to start work on lifting the ship because of the high cost, estimated at USD91 million to \$137 million.

Oceans ministry officials said the government will select a company to lift the Sewol within two months and then formulate a detailed salvaging plan. Oceans Mi-



South Korean Public Safety and Security Minister Park In-yong, right, speaks during a press conference as Oceans and Fisheries Minister Yoo Ki-june listens at the government complex in Seoul

nister Yoo Ki-june said some work, such as removing oil from the sunken ship and deploying barges near the site, is expected to start as early as September. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Prime minister apologizes for ponytail pulling

NEW Zealand's Prime Minister John Key has apologized to a cafe worker for repeatedly pulling her ponytail when he visited the cafe over several months, even after she'd told him to stop. The worker wrote an anonymous post yesterday on The Daily Blog website, saying Key began pulling her hair last year during his successful re-election campaign and continued the behavior through late March. At first, she wrote, she didn't say anything as she thought Key was probably trying to be "playful and jolly." Eventually, she wrote, she told Key's security detail she didn't like it and later told Key "No" repeatedly and wagged her finger at him. When he pulled her hair again on a subsequent visit, she said, she told him to stop "or I will actually hit you soon." "I really didn't like it," the worker wrote. "I felt powerless and tormented and I stepped out the back and I cried frustrated tears." Key's office issued a statement yesterday saying, "His actions were intended to be lighthearted". "It was never his intention to make her feel uncomfortable and he has apologized to her." **AP**

Drone found on roof of Japanese prime minister's office

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE authorities were investigating after a small drone reportedly containing traces of radiation was found yesterday on the roof of the prime minister's office, sparking concerns about drones and their possible use for terrorist attacks.

No injuries or damage were reported from the incident, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was in Indonesia to attend an Asian-African conference.

Police said it was not immediately known who was responsible for the drone. They were investigating the possibility it had crashed during a flight.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said a drone landing at the prime minister's office was a wakeup call to problems caused by the unmanned aerial devices, including possible terrorist



Investigators gather around a small drone covered with blue sheets, on the roof of Prime Minister Shizo Abe's official residence in Tokyo

attacks when Japan hosts the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

"There is a possibility that drones might be used for terrorist attacks," Suga told a regular news conference. "Taking into consideration the latest incident, we will review drone use and measures

for possible terrorist attacks using drones. We'll do our utmost to prevent terrorist attacks."

It was not clear when the drone landed. News reports said it was found by an official who was taking new employees on a tour of the prime minister's office in

central Tokyo.

What was initially considered only a mishap turned eerie when investigators detected small traces of radiation from the drone, presumably not levels harmful to humans, reports said. TV video showed several uniformed policemen without hazmat suits carrying a blue plastic box containing the drone for further examination.

Video from public television broadcaster NHK earlier showed dozens of police officers and officials around the drone, which was covered by a blue tarp.

The drone was about 50 centimeters in diameter and had four propellers, carrying a small camera and a plastic bottle with unidentified content inside, according to Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department. The drone was also decorated with a symbol that warns of radioactive material, according to NHK. **AP**

AD



Do you know what you are eating?

With Thermomix you always know what you and your family are eating, Macau is a gaming city but do not to gamble with health.

HEALTHY

Nutritious and additive-free meals are now available at your fingertips.

In today's fast paced lifestyle, we cook much less than we used to. It's time to get back to basics and cook with real ingredients just like our grandmothers did. Thermomix makes it quick and easy to make those traditional homemade dishes at a fraction of the time, bringing fresh, wholesome, nutrient-dense food

back into to your diet.

Thermomix gives you back control over what goes into your food, making it easier to eliminate artificial colors and flavors and better manage allergies and intolerances.

The multi-layered steaming function locks in flavor and nutrients by cooking food gently and without the need for added fats.

With Thermomix you won't only taste the difference, you'll feel it too.

Please contact us for a free demo:

Tong Jia de Ramirez
Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.

MAGNUS SECURITY SERVICES

馬格納斯 保安 (澳門) 有限公司

License No. 5/2010

MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69

Edif. Ind. Fok Tai, 12 floor "B", Macau SAR

Tel.: (853) 2822 1341

Fax.: (853) 2822 0824

MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD



SECURITY SERVICES
全面保安服務

EVENTS SECURITY
活動場地保安

SPECIAL OPERATIONS
特別行動

SECURITY SYSTEMS
保安及安全系統

RISK ASSESSMENT & RISK MITIGATION
風險評估及應對措施

SECURITY FORCE TRAINING & EVALUATION
保安部隊訓練及評核

MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD

www.magnus-security.net

"MAGNIFYING YOUR SECURITY"

contact@magnus-security.net



PLATINUM SERIES

ACOP PLATINUM SERIES VIII.
HKD \$500,000 GUARANTEE
PLUS A CHANCE TO WIN
A SEAT AT THE ASIA
CHAMPIONSHIP OF POKER

From 21-26 April, 'PokerStars LIVE at the City of Dreams' will host the ACOP Platinum Series VIII which will have six Official Asia Player of the Year events and features the HKD \$500,000 Main Event.

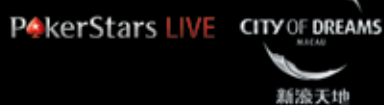
The Top 10 players from the Main Event will be entered into the ACOP: Platinum Series Playoffs for a chance at HKD \$100,000 ACOP Main Event Seat!

Qualify online for free to the ACOP Platinum Series VIII only at PokerStars.net.

We are poker.

City of Dreams
Casino Floor Level 2
Estrada do Istmo, Cotai
Macau SAR

All tournaments are subject to regulatory approval.



FMBA champions Breakfast Meetings
In town with key speakers sharing their views on current business affairs. Our monthly events take place every last Wednesday of the month at Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16. **Open to all!**



Wednesday, 29/04/2015

BRANDING

Building Experiences & Manipulating Perceptions

Speaker: **Mr Frederico Conde**
CEO of Conde Group

FMBA Breakfast Meeting

Speech: Learn with **Mr Frederico Conde** how branding and related strategies can add tangible value to a company's services and products.

RSVP before 2 pm on April 27th
info@francemacau.com or Tel: 8798 9699

Date: Wednesday, 29th April 2015
Time: 9:00-10:30 am (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16
Promenade Meeting Room (6th floor)

- 2015 FMBA members join free-of-charge*
- Guests & non-members @ MOP 160*
- Pass France holders @ MOP 128 (20% discount)*

www.francemacau.com

*Breakfast Included



Elias Meseret, Addis Ababa

ETHIOPIA

MORE than 100,000 Ethiopians yesterday protested the killing of Ethiopian Christians in Libya and their own government's failure to raise living standards of the poor, with poverty fueling the flow of migrants through dangerous areas.

The government-supported march at Addis Ababa's Meskel Square turned violent as stone-throwing protesters clashed with the police, who arrested at least 100 people.

The protesters said "We want revenge for our sons blood," referring to Ethiopians seen being beheaded or shot in a video released on Sunday by the extremist group Islamic State. The Ethiopian victims are widely believed to have been captured in Libya while trying to reach Europe.

Ahaza Kassaye, the mother of one of the victims identified as Eyasu Yikunoamlak, told The Associated Press during the protest yesterday that she was overwhelmed by the massive turnout.

"I'm happy now. I'm very happy. I was just mourning the

Thousands march against Islamic extremism



Priests from Ethiopian Orthodox Church and protesters attend a government-supported gathering to protest the recent killing of many Ethiopian Christians in Libya by the Islamic State extremist group

death of my son with family members and my neighbors. I never expected this to happen,"

she said. Ahaza, who had to seek shelter in a cafe when the protest tur-

ned violent, said she hoped the government would react to the killings by closing all illegal bor-

der crossings and arresting suspected human traffickers.

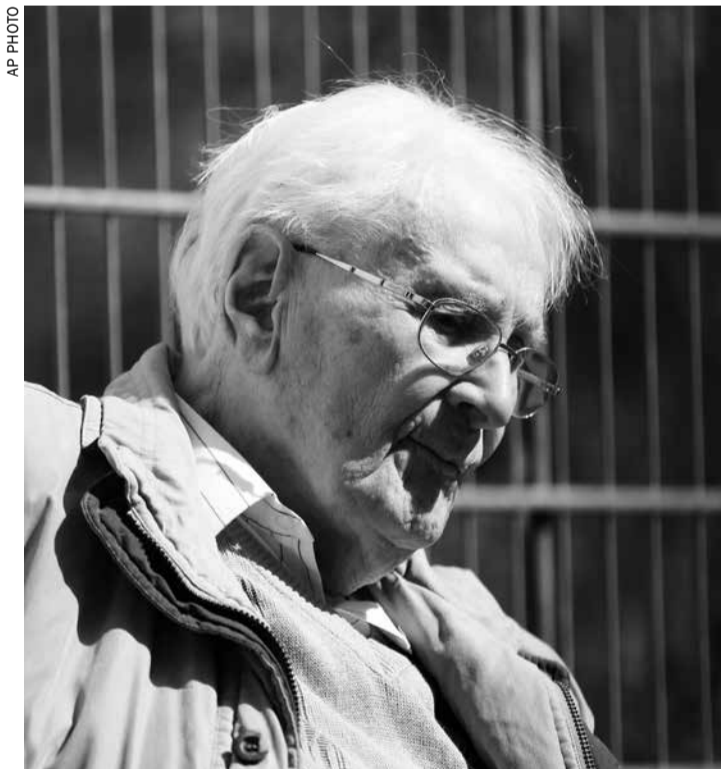
Even as the Islamic State killings have roiled many here, some young people in Addis Ababa said they they would still attempt the perilous journey to Europe, often via Sudan and then Libya, if they had enough money to cover the smugglers' fees.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said that, while poverty was the root cause of the migrations, smugglers were to blame for encouraging poor people to pursue what he called "the death journey."

Ethiopian lawmakers on Tuesday were debating a possible response to the Islamic State killings, but it remains unclear if military action is an option. The government has announced three days of nation-wide mourning over the killings. **AP**

GERMANY

Auschwitz guard's trial enters 2nd day



Former SS guard Oskar Groening sits in the sun during the noon break of the trial against him in Lueneburg, northern Germany

A former Auschwitz guard was taking the stand for a second day yesterday to answer judges' questions about his role at the death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

SS Sgt. Oskar Groening told the court in Lueneburg on Tuesday that he helped keep watch as thousands

of Jews were led from cattle cars directly to the gas chambers, and that he shared "moral guilt" for what happened to them.

"It's very clear that I am morally guilty for the murders and I acknowledge that guilt here today with remorse," said Groening, who vividly described his time at the

camp more than 70 years ago. "As to the question of guilt under criminal law, this is for the court to decide."

The 93-year-old, who is charged with 300,000 counts of accessory to murder, said he witnessed individual atrocities but did not acknowledge participating in any crimes.

He told judges that he unsuccessfully tried to be relocated to another post or to the front. The first time was when he saw an SS guard kill a baby by smashing it against a truck. The second was when he saw an SS soldier pour gas through a slot into a farmhouse where Jews were held. He heard the victims' screams, which eventually faded away, Groening said.

Groening's case is the first after the 2011 conviction of former Sobibor camp guard John Demjanjuk. German prosecutors are trying to show that lower-ranking staff at concentration camps can be held responsible because they knew about the killings and supported the system, if only in administrative roles.

Eva Kor, a survivor of the death camp, is scheduled to testify after Groening. Some 60 survivors and relatives from the U.S., Canada, Israel and elsewhere have joined the trial as co-plaintiffs, as allowed under German law. **AP/Bloomberg**

RUSSIA

Medvedev sees USD27b bill for Crimea as GDP slumps

Andrey Biryukov and Anna Andrianova

RUSSIA acknowledged the surging cost for its takeover of Crimea from Ukraine, with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev blaming the standoff and sanctions that followed for helping push the economy into its first recession since 2009.

The land grab, which prompted the U.S. and the European Union to levy penalties against Russia, exacted a price estimated at 1.5 percent of gross domestic product, or 25 billion euros (USD27 billion) in 2014, and the toll is set to grow multifold this year, Medvedev told lawmakers at the lower house of parliament in Moscow. The economy contracted about 2 percent last quarter from a year earlier, he said.

"The unprecedented political and economic external pressure is the price for our position," he said on Tuesday. "But everyone - authorities and our society - understood that we had no other way, whatever threats we may face."

The economy of the world's largest energy exporter is entering a recession after an almost 50 percent crash in oil prices and the ruble's worst crisis since 1998. The sanctions curbed access to international financial markets and stoked capital outflows. Even with a tenuous cease-fire in Ukraine and stabilizing oil prices, the cen-



Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev

tral bank predicts the economy will shrink as much as 4 percent this year.

"The losses from the restrictions that have been imposed are significant, let's not hide that," Medvedev said. "There's practically not a single sector of the economy that hasn't been affected by some of the political measures, ranging from the financial sphere and limits on access to foreign credit to the import of technologies."

The absorption of the Black Sea peninsula in March 2014, which followed a disputed secessionist referendum facilitated by Russian troops, was the "only possible" choice, according to Medvedev. While conceding the damage done to the economy, Medvedev hailed the "restoration of historical justice," comparing its significance for Russia with the fall of the Berlin Wall and Germany's reunification and the handover of control over Hong Kong and Macau to China. **Bloomberg**

what's ON



'CLASSIC RECURRENCE
— CENTENNIAL EVOLUTION'
— EXHIBITION OF WOMEN'S FASHION
TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: May 10, 2015
ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47,
Rua de S. Roque, Macau|
Free Admission
ENQUIRIES: (853)2835 3341

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM
TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)
VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431,
basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL
PAINTINGS — MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

INSTALLATION 'VALKYRIE OCTOPUS'
BY JOANA VASCONCELOS
TIME: 24 hours
UNTIL: October 31, 2015
VENUE: MGM MACAU, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

LIVING LIFE OF LEI I FAN CERAMIC ART
EXHIBITION
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: April 30, 2015
VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries
Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro,
Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE
TING
TIME: 10am-6pm daily
(Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

Offbeat

US SUPREME COURT REJECTS
APPEAL OVER FISH PEDICURE BAN

The U.S. Supreme Court won't hear an appeal from a salon owner challenging a decision by local regulators to stop her from offering pedicures using fish that nibble dead skin off people's feet.

The justices earlier this week left in place a lower court ruling that said the Arizona state Board of Cosmetology didn't violate Cindy Vong's constitutional rights.

Vong had opened a fish spa at her nail salon, but was later forced to close it after regulators said they were not safe for skin exfoliation. State officials said the fish couldn't be sanitized between uses.

A state appeals court rejected Vong's claim that the board violated her constitutional due process and equal protection rights. The justices decided not to review that decision.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Criminal Minds S8 - Last Episode
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

23 APR - 29 APR



THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

ROOM 1
(3D) 2:15, 7.15 pm
(2D) 4:45, 9.45 pm
Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 141min



FAST AND FURIOUS 7

ROOM 2
(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

CHILD 44

ROOM 3
2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm
Director: Daniel Espinosa
Starring: Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min

MACAU TOWER

23 APR - 20 MAY

THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm
Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 141min

this day in history

2001 ROYAL AIDE ON TRIAL
FOR MURDER

A former personal assistant to the Duchess of York has gone on trial accused of murdering her boyfriend.

Jane Andrews, 34, denies murdering businessman Thomas Cressman, 39, at their home in Fulham, West London, in September last year.

But Bruce Houlder QC, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey jury she hit him on the head with a cricket bat and then stabbed him with a kitchen knife after he refused to marry her.

Miss Andrews worked for the Duchess of York for nine years. She had such a refined air about her that her employer dubbed her "Lady Jane".

But in 1997, the Duchess was forced to make drastic cuts to her spending to pay off an overdraft running to several million pounds, and Andrews lost her job.

The prosecution described this as a devastating and upsetting blow.

She met Mr Cressman some time afterwards and the pair began a relationship. But the prosecution depicted Miss Andrews as an insecure woman, desperate to marry Mr Cressman.

Mr Houlder said he did not want to get married - he was a millionaire and enjoying his bachelor life.

In fact, added Mr Houlder, he had compared Jane Andrews to an old pair of slippers he couldn't get rid of.

Miss Andrews claims she acted in self-defence and that Mr Cressman attacked her first.

But Mr Houlder told the jury, "There was plenty of time here for reason to enter the situation.

"It was long enough for her to put a brake on her emotions, even in the time it took her to go downstairs and take a knife upstairs into the bedroom."

Shortly afterwards, Miss Andrews disappeared. She was discovered by police in the West Country, near Plymouth, slumped in her car after taking an overdose of painkillers.

Mr Houlder said that though the jury "could be sure" she was depressed at the time, she contacted friends and acquaintances on her mobile phone, pretending not to know Mr Cressman had been attacked and died.

He said after three days in hospital, Miss Andrews had been released to police and had then "changed her story again", saying she had acted in self-defence.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Jane Andrews was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment on 16 May 2001.

She appealed against the verdict, on the grounds that she had a possible borderline personality disorder after being sexually abused as a child. The appeal was turned down in September 2003.

A documentary about the case screened on ITV1 at the same time was also said to have left her "in a terrible state", according to her supporters, Justice for Women.

A month later, she was found unconscious in her prison cell, having taken a possible drugs overdose.

It later emerged that the Duchess of York had been involved in the hunt for Jane Andrews in the days immediately after the murder.

Sarah Ferguson is said to have left two voicemail messages on Andrews' mobile phone, urging her to give herself up.

Andrews sent a text back saying she did not know why people were trying to contact her as "everything was fine" when she left the house.

The Duchess also gave a witness statement to police, although it was not used during the trial.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your sense of permanence needs reinforcement. Recommit yourself to your sweetie, your job, your family or whatever else has the deepest roots. You are sure to feel better once you've done it!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Let yourself slide a bit today — why not? Your energy is terrific, and you should be able to make up for any lapses that arise as a result. Indulge your need for a little down time!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Someone comes your way with an important issue — and your first impulse is to get out of the way! This is one problem you can't avoid so trick yourself into facing it head-on. You should settle it quickly.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 People are really listening to you today — so speak up! Your energy is best spent on discussion and brainstorming, as your planning is top-notch. Save action for another day (soon though).

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Try to finish up as much work as you can today — it's all about endings. You can make more room for new stuff, but now is not the time to take on new projects. Things need time to settle.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your energy is strong today, and you can face almost anything — so look in the mirror and be ruthless with yourself! You should learn a lot and end up feeling ten times better about your life.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your friends are a little nuts today — but there's no sense in trying to figure them out. It's all deep under the surface, and you likely won't learn any more until a few days or weeks have passed.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Try to let go today — of anything or anyone that might be holding you back. That can be harder than it sounds, but you've got the right kind of energy to step back from entanglements.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's all about the little details today — which may bring you down a bit, but try to relax. Once you pass through this short phase, you may feel as if your eyes are crossing, but it's also a relief!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Drill down to the most elemental level today — you've got to scrap any complexity for the time being if you want to learn anything. It's a good time to get more information about current events.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Something really peculiar gets your attention midday and keeps you riveted. You're not at your best, so don't try to do anything about it just yet. Just watch and wait and see what happens next.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Creative energy is yours for the taking — so get out there and do something wild! Make some art, ask out that hottie on the bus or find a new way to tell the boss they're going in the wrong direction.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

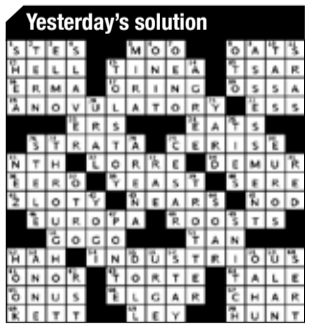
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Charge made for hauling; 8- Clergyman's gown; 15- Polygon having eight sides; 16- Pain and fever tablet; 17- Abounding; 18- Shaped like a rod; 19- RR stop; 20- Kid; 22- Cave; 23- Terminal abbr.; 24- Debating; 26- Proverb ending?; 27- Voice of America org.; 29- ___ uncertain terms; 30- Lug; 31- Narrating; 34- Lathe operator; 36- Pealed; 37- One of the Simpsons; 38- Nimble; 41- Forepart of the skull; 45- "Pure Guava" band; 46- Mouth part; 48- Hot stuff; 49- Euro forerunner; 50- Deluge; 53- Writer Deighton; 54- Pertaining to the moon; 56- Broad valleys; 57- Russian fighter; 58- Shave; 60- Office of a Muslim cleric; 62- Toy racer; 63- Insoluble protein; 64- Governing bodies; 65- Least difficult;

DOWN: 1- Hothead; 2- Vinegary; 3- Kitchen vessel; 4- Escape; 5- Heartburn; 6- Dead duck; 7- Pleasing; 8- Collapse; 9- Faulkner's "___ Lay Dying"; 10- Mine prop; 11- Indication; 12- Speech; 13- Sildenafil; 14- One bent in reverence; 21- Had the mic, say; 25- Out; 28- Homerun king Hank; 30- Bring up the rear; 32- ___ chi; 33- Emcee's job; 35- Trojans' sch.; 37- Simulating real life; 38- Unimpressed; 39- Increase tenfold; 40- The act of uniting again; 41- Marsh bird; 42- Web-footed; 43- Eye issue; 44- Line that touches a curve; 47- Commands; 50- Area of land; 51- Where Hercules slew the lion; 52- Autocratic Russian rulers; 55- Neighbor of Sask.; 59- ___ kwon do; 61- ___ tai;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



FOR SALE
www.JMLProperty.com
FOR RENT
More info, please contact us
Info@JMLproperty.com
(853) 2835 2699 Office

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Bauhinia Court, Excellent Investment Property, Pou Kei Unit A, Old Taipa Village, Ocean Garden, The Manhattan, Macau Nape Area, and One Central.

JML property logo and text: 卓雅物業 since 1994



ELGRAND

360° Perfect parking View, without blind angle

AROUND VIEW MONITOR

The World's First 360° AROUND VIEW MONITOR offers the driver a comprehensive bird's eye view of the vehicle and its surroundings in real-time on the front display, generated from the surrounding four 180° ultra wide-angle high-resolution cameras mounted on the ELGRAND's front, both side mirrors and rear of the vehicle.



Luxury & Intellectual Equipment:

- ◆ Boomerang-shape iconic LED headlamp
- ◆ One touch power sliding door
- ◆ Luggage area under-floor box
- ◆ Superior independent 2nd row captain seats with adjustable shoulder support & ottoman.

Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications



新康恆集團有限公司屬下日產澳門總代理
新康誠汽車有限公司
 XIN KANG CHENG MOTORS LTD

澳門勞動節大馬路御景灣第 4 座地下 D 舖
 Avenida 1 de Maio, R/C D, Bloco 4, The Bayview, Macau

Nissan Macau
Tel: 2871 9838

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Bayern routs Porto 6-1 to reach semifinals, Barcelona advances too

Nesha Starcevic
Sports Writer, Munich

BAYERN Munich outclassed Porto 6-1 yesterday to reach its fourth consecutive Champions League semifinal and give coach Pep Guardiola an emphatic victory in his 100th match in charge of the German powerhouse.

Robert Lewandowski scored two goals as the five-time champions roared back from a 3-1 defeat in the first leg last week to advance 7-4 on aggregate.

Thiago Alcantara, Jerome Boateng, Thomas Mueller and Xabi Alonso were also on the score sheet for the home side. Jackson Martinez scored for Porto, which finished the match with 10 men after Ivano Marcano was sent off in the 87th.

Despite missing some of its biggest stars such as Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery, Bayern applied pressure from the opening whistle and had wiped out Porto's first-leg advantage by the 27th minute.

"It's easy to love my players now," said Guardiola, whose position would have come under scrutiny in the German media if his side had made an exit at the quarterfinal stage. "I am the coach of extraordinary players. I didn't expect such a first half."

"We can still play better. We lost the ball here and there and we can improve on that. We had a few problems in the second half. They had only a few chances in the second half but you should never relax in the Champions League."

Guardiola's team toyed with the dispirited visitors, who began the match by defending



Bayern's Robert Lewandowski, center, scores his side's 3rd goal during the soccer Champions League quarterfinal second leg match between Bayern Munich and FC Porto

with all men in their own half and failed to take a shot at Manuel Neuer's goal in the opening 45 minutes.

"There are worse situations in life," said Mueller, who set up two goals and is now Germany's all-time top scorer in the Champions League with 27 goals. "It was wonderful. It couldn't have gone better. We never thought we could play such a first half."

Bayern has now won all five home matches in this season's competition, scoring 19 goals and conceding one.

In the second match of the night, Barcelona also advanced by beating Paris Saint-Germain 2-0 for a 5-1 win on aggregate.

Porto, which upset Bayern to win the 1987 European Cup tit-

le, went into the match undefeated in the competition this season but came away with humiliating loss.

"We didn't play well in the second half and we conceded an early goal," Porto coach Julen Lopetegui said. "Bayern is one of the best teams in the world and the favorite to win the title... We knew they would come down the sides and we tried to prevent their attacks but we failed."

"We have to accept it and we can be proud of what we showed in the Champions League."

Bayern threatened early, with Mueller's shot after a break was parried by Fabiano. Lewandowski pounced but struck the post in the 10th.

Four minutes later, Bayern

took the lead. Juan Bernat beat Ricardo Quaresma on the left wing, got behind Porto's defense and crossed for Thiago to connect with an unchallenged header.

Porto's defense was caught short again after a corner in the 22nd minute. Holger Badstuber headed toward the far post and Boateng nodded home as the two big Bayern defenders easily rose above their rivals.

Five minutes later, Bayern took the lead on the aggregate. Philipp Lahm crossed from the right, Mueller put Lewandowski through and the striker headed on target.

Sorely missing suspended fullbacks Danilo and Alex Sandro, two-time winner Porto offered little resistance and Bayern went up 4-0 in the 36th

after Mueller picked up a ball outside the penalty area and fired a low shot that deflected of Bruno Martins and caught Fabiano on the wrong foot.

However, the first-half demolition of Porto wasn't over yet. Mueller tormented the visitors' defense and won a difficult ball on the right before swinging in a cross for Lewandowski, who took a couple of steps before drilling the ball low into the corner in the 40th minute for 5-0.

Although his team was easily controlling the match, Guardiola was his usual agitated self in the coaching zone and had opened a large rip in the seam of the left leg of his trousers in his 100th match in charge for Bayern. He has 79 wins, 10 draw and 11 defeats.

"I'll have to buy new ones for the next match," Guardiola later joked.

Those worries appeared understandable when Porto pulled one back in the 73rd, with Martinez heading home from close range from a cross by substitute Evandro — Porto's first shot on target.

Shortly afterward, Martinez broke free to shoot low and narrowly miss the net.

In the 88th, Alonso drove in a free kick after Porto had defender Marcano sent off with a second booking for a foul on Thiago.

Bayern can now hope to reach the June 6 final in Berlin, after losing the 2012 final at home to Chelsea.

In Barcelona, Neymar scored two goals as his team beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-0 to seal its return to the Champions League semifinals, joining Europe's elite four teams for the seventh time in eight seasons. **AP**



Netherlands' Captain Giovanni Van Bronckhorst

UEFA confirms new Champions League seeding system

UEF A has published Champions League regulations for next season confirming a seeding change to reward national league winners.

Top-seeded teams in eight groups will be the defending Champions League winner plus titleholders in the seven highest-ranked countries.

If the Champions

League winner also wins its national title, then the eighth top-seeded team is the Netherlands champion.

That is PSV Eindhoven, which is only 30th-ranked in UEFA's club standings.

Currently, top-seeded teams are the eight highest-ranked in a five-year results cycle in UEFA competitions.

The new system

should elevate league-leading Juventus and Zenit St. Petersburg, plus France's champion.

On current standings, Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and Porto will drop in status in the Aug. 27 draw.

Real Madrid would also drop down if Barcelona wins the Champions League and Spanish league. **AP**

UEFA club rankings

Association club coefficients			
	Country	Clubs	Pts
1	Spain	4/7	96.142
2	England	0/7	80.391
3	Germany	2/7	78.558
4	Italy	3/6	67.676
5	Portugal	1/6	61.049
6	France	2/6	52.250
7	Russia	1/6	50.332
8	Ukraine	2/6	43.666
9	Netherlands	0/6	40.979
10	Belgium	1/5	37.000

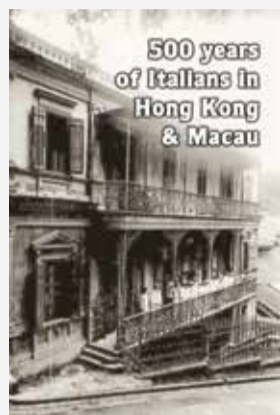
opinion

Vox Parva

Benedict Keith Ip



VALUES BEYOND BORDERS AND NATIONS



It was a year ago when I received an English copy of the book "500 years of Italians in Hong Kong and Macau" from one of its authors, Gianni Criveller. However, I am a slow and lazy reader, and so the book remained on my desk and I could only finish a quarter.

Then I had the chance to meet another of the book's authors, Angelo Paratico, who had accompanied fellow Italians Ciriaco Offeddu and Fr Fedrigotti in filming a documentary on Fr Nicosia. I joined the journey to experience the life and stories of this great missionary, and while I was reading the book, learnt of and bore witness to the places where Fr. Nicosia had stayed. Then I realized that between September and October 2014, a Chinese version of the book had also been published. And thanks to the copy offered by Wo Kee Hong Group, the Chinese version has saved me a lot of reading time.

By reading this book, you will be able to see how history is narrated – not with a contemporary and political sentiment, but with respect to time and space in the context of history. Angelo has made some wonderful presentations to reveal how Italians were involved in Far East affairs. Yes, imperialism is always an important matter, but this book has done great work in presenting how Italian merchants, diplomats, adventurers and missionaries survived, how they made contact with the local communities, and how they contributed to society. Materials such as reports, letters, movies, posters and more give a comprehensive overview of the Italian legacy in Hong Kong and Macau.

Gianni Criveller's article focuses on the missionary events happening over the course of five centuries, from the 1500s. To be honest, it is not an easy task, given the scope of time covered. Yet his article gives some great insights, supported by many genuine resources. There are many fascinating parts and stories. Jasper Tsang Yok-sing, for instance, refers to the stories of friendships made by Matteo Ricci, S.J., who was one of the greatest missionaries in the world, especially to the land and people of China. To citizens of Macau, the stories of the Canossian Sisters and Salesian Brothers and Sisters are of great historical importance, are essential reading, and should be included in the history of Macau in general. You will notice that many more missionaries and great figures helped to establish the Italian legacy together with the very famous Fr. Nicosia. Allow me to mention just a few Salesians; the sad story of Bishop Luigi Versiglia 雷鳴道主教 and Fr. Calisto Caravario 高惠黎神父, as well as the hard work done by Fr. Carlo Braga 畢少懷神父, and Fr. Mario Acquistapace 陳基慈神父, will surely surprise you on how they practice the "Pastoral Charity".

The English version includes some testimony of the Italians. Their stories are unique and interesting, and these are not all available in the Chinese version. The black-and-white photography gives another dimension allowing us to meet the people face-to-face. I personally like the eye contact evident in the photos that Margot Errante presents. Last but not the least, the Consul General of Italy, Alessandra Schiavo, has offered a very good platform to let the people speak from the heart. This book is not only for the Italians, but also for Macau and Hong Kong. They are connected by a very profound history.

THE CHINESE MAN JAILED FOR SPLASHING INK ON MAO ZEDONG PORTRAIT

A Chinese man was sentenced to 14 months in jail for splashing ink on the giant portrait of Communist revolutionary leader Mao Zedong in the heart of Beijing, state media reported yesterday.

The Legal Evening News said a Beijing court convicted Sun Bing, 42, for disrupting public order by throwing ink at the portrait overlooking sprawling Tiananmen Square on March 6 last year, when the country's legislature was meeting in its annual session.

It said Sun was caught at the scene and admitted the crime in court. The newspaper did not say what motivated Sun. People with grievances sometimes attempt to attract attention on or near the square when the legislature meets in the Great Hall of People on the square's east side. It said Sun was once convicted of credit card fraud and freed in 2013 after serving 17 months in prison.

Evidence of the ink attack was quickly cleaned up.

China releases wanted list for worldwide fugitive hunt



Xi Jinping, China's president, leaves after the closing session of the third session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on March 15, 2015. Xi's crackdown on graft started weeks after he became party boss in November 2012

INTERPOL'S National Central Bureau of China has released a wanted list of 100 fugitives as the country intensifies its hunt worldwide for economic runaways.

On the list are officials and state organ functionaries allegedly involved in key corruption crimes based on ample evidence and on Interpol's Red Notice for international arrest, said a statement released yesterday

by the Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

The list, publicized on the CCDI website (www.ccdi.gov.cn), is complete with the suspects' photos, ID and visa numbers, possible flight destinations and the crimes they allegedly committed.

"Via Interpol and other channels, China has requested law enforcement organs

in related countries strengthen cooperation and help bring these suspects back to justice," it said.

The move was part of the "Sky Net" anti-corruption campaign that aims to repatriate Chinese suspected of official or economic corruption.

Sky Net combines government, Communist Party, central bank and diplomatic services.

According to the CCDI, those on yesterday's list were only a fraction of the country's targets, and future suspects escaping overseas will receive the same treatment on a case-by-case, person-by-person basis.

"With intensified effort, a 'sky net' is being weaved. We will strengthen law enforcement cooperation with other countries and mobilize various resources to make these fugitives unwelcome guests and finally bring them back to justice," the statement said. Xinhua

New Orleans going smoke-free in bars, other public places

Cain Burdeau, New Orleans

SMOKING in bars and casinos is coming to an end even in this notoriously freewheeling and fun-loving city where drinking on the street and watching a bawdy burlesque are the norm.

Since yesterday (Macau time), smoking is no longer permitted in bars, gambling halls and many other public places such as hotels, workplaces, private clubs and stores.

For many locals, a ban on smoking seemed unthinkable in this city that loves to tout itself as the capital of the laissez-faire attitude. The prohibition includes smoking electronic cigarettes indoors in public places.

"As other cities changed and we made no groans and moans, I thought we'd leave it alone," said Glenn O'Berry, a 66-year-old bartender at Kajun's Pub in Faubourg Marigny neighborhood. He sat smoking cigarettes at the bar's long, curved counter on a recent quiet afternoon.

O'Berry came to New Orleans in 1976 from Virginia and like so many other visitors was thrilled by the city's tolerant attitude. Back then, he remembers being told he could drink alcohol on the street.

"That's what made me fall in love with the city," he said. "That freedom."

He said the smoking ban would leave New Orleans "with a little bit less of that whimsical, devil-may-care attitude."



The ban was passed over the objections of bar owners and Harrah's New Orleans, the city's major downtown casino. Last Friday, owners of the casino and dozens of other businesses filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the ordinance from taking effect. A state judge declined to stop the city from enforcing the ban but set a May 21 hearing on the matter.

"All we've been trying to do with this lawsuit is slow the process down," said Alex Fein of the Court of Two Sisters restaurant and bar. "We don't feel like they vetted the process enough."

Business owners warn that the ban may cut into revenues by as much as 20 percent in the first year.

The City Council passed the smoking ordinance in late January and Mayor Mitch Landrieu quickly signed it into law. The city's leaders are supporting the ban primarily as a health measure and say bans in other cities have not hurt business profits in the long run. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

NORTH KOREA-USA North Korea should learn from the emerging nuclear deal with Iran that Washington is willing to engage its adversaries if it has a "credible" partner to negotiate with, a senior U.S. official says.

JAPAN A court rejected an injunction requested by local residents opposed to resuming operations of two nuclear reactors in southern Japan, giving the go-ahead yesterday for their restart as planned this summer. The Kagoshima District Court decision regarding the Sendai No. 1 and No. 2 reactors was a major relief for the power industry and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's pro-business government.

VATICAN Pope Francis accepts the resignation of a U.S. bishop who pleaded guilty to failing to report a suspected child abuser.



FRANCE An Islamic extremist with an arsenal of loaded guns was only prevented from opening fire on Sunday morning churchgoers because he accidentally shot himself, French officials said. The 24-year-old computer science student, who was also suspected in the death of a young woman whose body was found on Sunday just ahead of his arrest, had been flagged as a risk last year and earlier this year but there was no specific reason to open a judicial investigation, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said yesterday.



YEMEN security officials say a suspected U.S. drone strike has killed seven al-Qaida fighters in the country's east. They say the militants were travelling in a car in Mukalla, the capital of Hadramawt province, where al-Qaida has recently made advances and struck deals with local tribesmen, when the drone hit yesterday.