



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TOPS MAY 1 CONCERNS

Casino workers stated in a joint press conference that the emphasis of their demands would shift to employment security this year

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NEW PAIR OF PANDAS ARRIVES IN MACAU

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NEPAL CAPITAL REMAINS ON EDGE AFTER QUAKE

Many Kathmandu residents remained on edge over aftershocks that have rattled the city since Saturday's mammoth quake

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Authorities ordered one of China's most prominent business news websites to close after its managers were accused of extorting money from companies with threats of negative coverage. [More on p10](#)

HONG KONG tourist arrivals fell almost 9 percent in March, the first monthly drop since June 2009, as fewer visitors from mainland China crossed the border. The number of people entering the former British colony slipped 8.7 percent year on year to 4.4 million, according to data released Thursday by the Hong Kong Tourism Board. Visitors from the mainland fell 10 percent to 3.24 million.

CHINA-RUSSIA The navies of China and Russia plan to hold joint drills in the Mediterranean Sea for the first time in mid-May, China's Defense Ministry announces, in the latest expansion of the growing informal partnership between the two militaries.



PAKISTAN A public prosecutor says a Pakistani court has sentenced 10 militants to life in prison for their involvement in the 2012 attack on teenage activist Malala Yousafzai. Malala was shot in the head by the Pakistani Taliban in valley of Swat for advocating education for women.

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HK journalists barred from entering on eve of May 1

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PACQUIAO VS MAYWEATHER

Closing in 'the fight of the century'

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Organizers pledge to diversify 'Le French May' line-up

Catarina Pinto

BRINGING cultural events to Macau and Hong Kong between today and June 30, 'Le French May' returns this year with organizers pledging to further diversify the Macau program within the next three years. The line-up features a classical musical performance by counter-tenor Sebastien Fournier & Sprezzatura Ensemble, as well as a video exhibition organized in cooperation with the Macau Museum of Art.

The Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, Arnaud Barthelemy, alongside Andrew Yuen, chairman of the board of Le French May, presented the program for this year's events here.

Le French May, which was first held in Hong Kong back in 1993, features about 120 events, with most performances and activities taking place in Hong Kong, where a large French community is established.

Andrew Yuen said that Le French May's program extension to Macau has been progressively diversified. But organizers are hoping to further extend the offerings here within three years, by bringing more prominent artists and performances.

This year, the event aims to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the reign of King Fran-



Arnaud Barthelemy

cis the first, a time which was recognized for promoting "a very French style in architecture and art called 'the French Renaissance.'" Organizers said that under the title "1515-2015 - Essentially French," the 23rd Le French May will promote the innovative spirit of French painters, choreographers,

sculptors, dancers, singers and filmmakers.

In Macau, counter-tenor Sebastien Fournier will perform on May 15 at the University of Macau's Student Activity Center Theatre. Admission to the concert is free of charge.

The contemporary dance performance "Lied Ballet" takes

the stage at the Macau Cultural Center this Friday and Saturday (May 1 and 2). Directed by Thomas Lebrun, the performance includes lied and ballet, two of the most important artistic expressions during the first half of the 18th century.

A video installation by Robert Cahen, one of France's most renowned video artists, will be on display at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM) between June 27 and September 20. The exhibition showcases 17 works by the French artist, and intends on "taking viewers on a journey of 'time' and exploring a brand new unknown space through slow-motion illusion," MAM said in a press release.

Le French May will also travel to City of Dreams (Soho) as seven artists will showcase a bit of the French culture by offering the audience music and street performances on May 14. Gypsy-jazz-style musicians known as "Gadjo Station" will also perform at Soho on May 8 and 22. The group is known for its Romanian roots, blended while in Paris with American blues and jazz influences.

A French Film Festival will also be held at UA Galaxy Cinemas between May 29 and June 4. It includes Jean-Jacques Annaud's latest film, "Wolf Totem", "Renoir" directed by Gilles Bourdos, "Saint Laurent"

by Bertrand Bonello, "Serial (Bad) Weddings" by Philippe de Chauveron and the "Finishers" by Nils Tavernier, among other French films. Prices range from MOP90 to MOP120.

An exhibition focusing on heritage will be on display at the Macau Museum between May 30 and August 30 to demonstrate how Chinese style influenced French design. Titled "From Lorient to the Orient," it features diverse items such as textiles, costumes, oil paintings, prints and porcelain, which belong to famous French museums.

This year, Le French May is collaborating with the Macau Arts Festival to bring five French performances, including the contemporary dance "Lied Ballet," theatre performances and another exhibition ("At the Risk of Color" by Claude Viallat and Franck Chalendar).

Furthermore, Le French May arts festival also features gastronomy-related events, with cuisine and wine from the Midi-Pyrenees region being presented in various Macau restaurants.

The Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, Arnaud Barthelemy, explained that the festival's program has been designed taking into account not only France's cultural scene, but also reflects upon what local institutions would prefer.

"We have a cultural department inside the consulate, and they know the French cultural scene so they are in a position to identify [what artists and performances] we should bring here. But we also want to cooperate with local associations and meet the needs of local institutions," he stressed.



Valery Gergiev joins thirtieth music festival

Some details of the thirtieth edition of the music festival were disclosed yesterday by the government. Russian conductor Valery Gergiev will make a rare appearance on stage, alongside his team from the Marinsky Theatre. Other well-known big names include Portuguese Fado singer Carminho.

STATISTICS | TOURISM

Hotel occupancy down 16 percent y-o-y

A total of 797,000 guests checked into hotels and guesthouses in March, down by 16.1 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses also dropped by 10.9 percentage points year-on-year to 77.3 percent.

According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), tourists from mainland China (505,000), Hong Kong (100,000) and Taiwan (26,000) decreased by 18.6 pct, 13.1 pct and 15.9 pct respectively, while those from the Republic of Korea (18,000)

increased by 5.9 pct. The average length of stay was 1.4 nights, similar to that of March 2014.

There were 99 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of March 2015, providing 28,000 guest rooms, up by 1.8 pct year-on-year; 5-star hotels accounted for 64.8 pct of the total supply, with 18,000 rooms.

Visitors on package tours totaled 887,000 in March, up by 8.3 pct year-on-year. The 730,000 tourists arriving on package tours accounted for 82.2 pct of the total, up by 7.1 pct year-on-year.

Those joining local tours increased by 14.1pct to 158,000 (17.8 pct of total). Package tour visitors from mainland China increased by 14.5 pct year-on-year to 724,000, with 311,000 coming from Guangdong Province. Visitors from the Republic of Korea (35,000) and Japan (17,000) also increased by 1.4 pct and 6.3 pct respectively, whereas those from Taiwan (50,000) and Hong Kong (23,000) decreased. In the first quarter of 2015, visitors on package tours reached 2,710,000, up by 9.2 pct year-on-year.

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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

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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
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PRESS FREEDOM

Two HK journalists barred



TWO Hong Kong journalists have been denied entry into the city on the eve of May 1, just as major protests are about to take place. Local authorities cited security concerns as the main reasons behind their denial.

The two reporters, both assigned by the pro-democracy media outlet Apple

Daily in Hong Kong for today's citywide rally, which has drawn 13 different organizations' participation, were forced to return to the neighboring special administrative region. The police alleged that the city's security would come under threat upon their arrival.

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, told media he was not even awa-

re of the reporters' forced departure on the sidelines of an event celebrating Labor Day yesterday afternoon. Backed by the related security department's decision, he said this view was based on the authorities' professional judgment and was within the law.

"The PSP clearance department officers have made their professional judgment according to legal regulations as well as professional skills and techniques," said the secretary. "It was utterly legitimate."

The former director of the Judiciary Police also excluded the link of the entry denial to their profession, saying: "It has nothing to do with them as journalists."

Two days ago, a Hong Kong social commentator, who has been publicly slammed by the neighboring government for his "misinterpretation of Beijing's white paper" in his commentary published in a Taiwanese newspaper last year, was also asked by the local security forces to sign a note of entry denial, reported the same media outlet, Apple Daily.

Wong told the press that he welcomed any complaints from anyone who is unsatisfied with being rejected permission to enter. **Staff reporter**

MAY 1

Employment security tops concerns

Brook Yang

CASINO workers will again take their appeals to the street to mark Labor Day today. The Forefront of Macau Gaming (FMG) and the Confederation of Trade Unions (CTU) stated in a joint press conference that the emphasis of their demands would shift to employment security this year, drawing on the downfalls of the gaming industry.

The union had previously stressed casino workers' demands of a full smoking ban in order to promote a healthier working environment, as well as a pay rise and better welfare. This year, the march organizers will continue to appeal for a salary increase to cope with inflation, and push for a full smoking ban to be eventually put into place. Furthermore, they will urge for an exit mechanism for migrant workers in the city.

The CTU chairman, Ms Cloee Chao, told the media that the industry downturn has caused local workers to lose their jobs in gambling rooms, whereas the migrant workers tended to avoid this job loss.

The groups also said that they have constantly received complaints from workers that they were issued warning letters from the employer despite not having done anything wrong. Accordingly, the protest would urge the Labor Bureau to intervene as workers worry that casinos might be using such move to downsize.

Ms Chao stressed that the protest today would focus on urging the government to keep a strong stance facing casino operators during the revenue plunge, and continuing its oppositional stance of hiring non-local workers for the position of croupiers.

The FMG also stated that the ratio of migrant workers in Macau's casinos has exceeded the "alarming line" of 20 percent to reach over 35 percent. "We urge that the government must suppress the overflow of migrant workers and establish an exit mechanism for them in order to protect the locals' employment," stated the group's representative, Mr Well Ung.

Ung said they believe that "the casino operators are still earning enough," thus they shouldn't shirk the responsibilities of providing employees with subsidies, commuting transport, pay rise system and retirement security.

Apart from casino workers, there will be frontline public servants, taxi drivers and other types of workers in the transportation industry, joining the Labor Day march. According to the Public Security Police, a total of thirteen groups and one individual will be organizing demonstrations today, and the total number of protesters is estimated to be at about 2,000.

The march is scheduled to proceed from 10:15am to 5pm, where 13 processions will assemble and depart from six different locations, including Iao Hon Park, Tap Seac Square, the Border Gate Square, Triangular Garden, Amizade Square, and the Macau Tower Square. The protesters will conclude the march by delivering their petition letters to the Government Headquarters and the Chinese Liaison Office respectively.

DURING the first plenary meeting of the Cultural Consultative Committee this year, more details have been disclosed on how the currently decrepit Estoril Hotel interior will look following at least three or four years of reconstruction.

During the approximately three-hour conference, the cultural authorities also unveiled an array of entertaining activities for the 10th anniversary marking the city's entry into the UNESCO World Heritage List and also the 30th anniversary of the Macao International Music Festival.

Earlier this month, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam disclosed that the authorities were determined to transform the Tap Seac Square Estoril Hotel into a culture and sports complex for the city's youth, with part of its space reserved for students from local performing schools and institutes. Besides this, the authorities expected to create a small auditorium, a parking lot and

CULTURAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Estoril Hotel basic facelift details revealed

venues for art or culture-related work.

If possible, some areas will be partitioned for indoor ice-skating and exhibitions. The multi-activity center might also run a café, a souvenir kiosk, tourist consultation center as well as an outdoor stage.

All these facilities will come to completion, hopefully in four or five years, said Tam. "I want, as most of you also do, to build those projects, the quicker the better, yet it's our subjective hope," hinted the secretary.

The adjacent Estoril swimming pool will become an indoor hot water aquatics venue open all year long. The façade of the hotel is expected to remain intact with its former exterior characteristics



preserved. During the media briefing, Alexis Tam reassured the press that the new height of the complex after its revamp would be similar to the current one, still allowing a clear view across the side of Guia Hill with the city's signature lighthouse in sight.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) head, Ung Vai Meng, told the committee members it was almost impossible to retain the interior style of the

past inside the building as multiple rounds of internal refurbishment have disfigured its previous appearance.

Separately, different symposiums and new publications will soon be on the horizon as the IC celebrates the decade-long anniversary of the successful application of Macau as a world heritage destination with a series of activities, shows and exhibitions. **Staff reporter**

FIVE CULTURAL FACILITIES TO OPEN

UP TO five new cultural facilities will gradually go operational this year, including the Arts Cinema, whose official inauguration has been postponed several times. The venue will be open to the public in September

this year in a pilot scheme. Additionally, according to Ung, the Sun Yat-sen pharmacy, situated downtown, continuously saw new discoveries of valuable relics and artifacts and thus faces a revamp delay.

UM ranks among Times Higher Education top 100 young universities

THE University of Macau (UM) ranked number 39 in the Times Higher Education list of top 100 universities under 50 years old ranking released yesterday. This is the first time the university has been listed among the world's top 100 young universities.

The ranking intends to provide a glimpse into the future by showcasing the rising stars among young universities across the world.

The 100 universities under 50 ranking has been re-calibrated to reflect the special characteristics of younger universities, thus giving less weight to subjective indicators of academic reputation. According to a statement issued by UM, the listing criteria took into account 13 performance indicators in five main areas, namely teaching, research, quotations, citations, industry income and international outlook.

"Founded in 1981, UM has made impressive progress in



teaching, research and community service over the past 34 years. In recent years, the university entered a phase of rapid development," UM said in a press release. "It has stepped up its efforts in internationally recruiting outstanding scholars. It has also established world-class state key laboratories, with research outcomes gaining increa-

sing recognition at an international level," it added.

The university said its placing in the ranking is a great encouragement. UM pledged to "work harder in the future to improve its teaching and research and pursue excellence in both areas."

UM, ranked among the world's top 300 universities last year, placing 276th in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2014-2015.

The Times Higher Education 100 Under 50 Rankings 2015 were released yesterday. The Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, in Switzerland, came first. Asian universities making it to the top 100 include Pohang University of Science and Technology (South Korea), the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, which ranked fourth, the Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), and the City University of Hong Kong, which ranked 14th, among others. **CP**

CORRUPTION

CCAC dismisses rise in graft cases within public services

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) Commissioner, Cheong Weng Chon, has denied the rise of corruption cases within public departments, instead professing that graft issues do exist in a society with a rapid-developing economy.

A CCAC annual report released yesterday showed that graft cases investigated last year were mostly related to offenses committed by civil servants. Nonetheless, Cheong regarded the number of cases as similar to previous years' and representing only a minority of "black sheep" in the government departments.

"To discover more corruption cases that relate to civil servants is not equal to a worsening situation," said Cheong. "The authorities' anti-graft effort has probably been strengthened and citizens have become less patient [with corruption]."

Besides, the CCAC official once again stressed that his office bore "zero tolerance" to corruption, whether committed by "big tigers" or "small tigers" – commonly known as "high" or



Cheong Weng Chon

"low-ranking" officials in Chinese communities.

Cases sent to the city's prosecution department after official investigation would mostly be closed with successful prosecution, Cheong revealed.

However, to further reduce possible catalysts for corruption, the CCAC commissioner conceded that there was still scope to optimize the city's overall anti-graft mechanism and legal system, which required cross-department collaboration.

"We need optimal supervision systems: one is internal; while the other one is about checks and balances among official departments," said the official after telling media that it was up to the high-level authorities' consciences to decide how they wielded legal power in executing their official duties.

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Festival features 30 shows and exhibitions



Aerodynamics

The 26th Macao Arts Festival is kicking off tonight with a grand opening ceremony held in the lobby of the Macau Cultural Center (CCM). Headlining the festival's grand opening is "Lied Ballet." This year's festival line-up features 30 shows and exhibitions, as well as 100 activities included in its outreach program. Organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the festival brings a variety of shows to Macau, including the musical "Dream of Journey to the West," combining traditional Chinese music and theater while incorporating elements from Chinese opera as well. Intangible arts performances such as Kun Opera, Cantonese Opera and Patuá Theatre are also part of the program. Taking the CCM stage on May 9, the commissioned work Aerodynamics, choreographed by Taiwan's "super dancer" Lin Wen-Chung, aims to give the audience unlimited room for imagination. Another show premiering in Asia, titled "Trust," will be performed by German company Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz on May 29 and 30 at the Macau Cultural Center, and will bring the festival to a close.

Contemporary view on classical ballet opens Arts Festival

Catarina Pinto

LIED Ballet," the show headlining the Macao Arts Festival's grand opening tonight, is a contemporary piece inspired by 19th-century-style ballet.

Divided into three acts, the piece is more emotional rather than intellectual and leaves some freedom for the performers, allowing audiences to leave with their own interpretation.

Presented by French group Centre Chorégraphique National de Tours, "Lied Ballet" is a physical interpretation show choreographed by Thomas Lebrun.

Pianist Thomas Besnard and dancer Raphael Cottin provided a glimpse into the show yesterday, stressing that, "it is not a neo-classical piece, but really a contemporary view based on two different structures from the Romantic period."

"The first part is really dramatic, with dark costumes. The second part is more lyri-



Thomas Besnard and Raphael Cottin

cal with live music, with piano and singer, with solo and duets. And the last part is built on contemporary music creation," said Raphael Cottin.

Cottin added that the show's first part "is more of an expressive narrative," with dancers being asked to physically interpret lyrics. The last part, however, entails a more abstract approach, bringing all the dancers together on stage.

"If you are looking at the piece, it may seem like the three

acts don't have very much in common, but if you look closely, Thomas [Lebrun] was very careful in using little bits and pieces that really bind the acts together," said Thomas Besnard.

Introducing live music and blending it with the choreography is also part of the show's uniqueness. However, Besnard highlighted that "for us musicians, it means a great responsibility, because we can't just go out there on stage and play slower one day. We need to be fairly con-

sistent (...) otherwise it will have repercussions on the dancers and the whole choreography."

He added that, "we are all really connected and it comes across in the second act that we are very intensively listening to each other and trusting one another."

Asked upon whether the audience might feel tempted to look for a story behind their performance, they assured that, indeed, the show's up for interpretation. "Every time we have a Q&A after the show, people ask Thomas [the choreographer] what [a certain piece] means, but he never answers. He says: 'What does it mean to you?'" Besnard recalled.

"He likes to leave that little area of freedom: what do you think? What do you make of it?" he stressed.

For its premiere in Asia, "Lied Ballet" takes the Macau Cultural Center (CCM) grand auditorium stage tonight at 8 p.m., returning on Saturday at the same time.

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New pair of pandas arrives in town

A new pair of giant pandas, given by China's central government as gifts to the MSAR, arrived yesterday.

"Pandas are rare wild animals, also our national treasure, which are beloved and welcomed by the people around the world as a symbol of peace and harmony. Macau people are eager for their co-

ming," Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan said at the airport, where she received the pandas together with about one hundred pupils.

According to Xinhua, a male panda, No. 726, and a female, No. 667, were chosen from 55 candidates following a three-month selection process. Like their predecessors



The new pair of giant pandas arrives at a local farm for quarantine

in Macau, the animals, both 110 kilograms in weight, are also named Kaikai and Xinxin, the latter of whom died of kidney failure in June last year.

The local government said Kaikai will return to Chengdu's Giant Panda Breeding Research Base for a breeding plan. Kaikai and the former Xinxin came to Macau as gif-

ts for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Macau's return to China. The luxury pavilion built for them at the Seac Pai Van garden cost around MOP90 million.

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that the central government would present a pair of giant pandas to the region and, when he visited the MSAR in December 2014, wished that "they would grow up healthily and bring happiness to the Macau people."

MDT/Xinhua

GAMING | EDUCATION

Melco announces new local management development program

MELCO Crown yesterday announced a new Local Management Development - Foundation Acceleration Program ("Foundation Acceleration Program") for its local employees. According to a press release, the program "aims to enhance preparedness for management responsibilities through a structured program, including executive education, expo-



sure to various business areas, leadership development and insight, and international exposure. "The new Foundation

Acceleration Program is planned and structured to develop our current local management employees' understanding of business operations, as well as their business perspective beyond the functional view. I believe these are essential qualities for future management and executives to possess in order to lead the Company through growth and challenges, and to be ready for the

development of Macau into being the world center for tourism and leisure," said Lawrence Ho, co-chairman and CEO of Melco Crown Entertainment Limited.

The gaming operator stressed that it has been investing in the promotion of the local workforce. "In 2008, the Company had 34 percent local management staff. Mr Lawrence Ho initiated the '50/2010 Action',

a goal to have 50 percent local management staff by the year 2010. Today, that figure is at 71 percent," it stated.

Melco Crown also stated that its in-house Learning Academy, established in 2009, offers "over 200 courses every year to its employees" and that a total of 47,907 local participants attended those courses.

The gaming operator also launched the in-

house high school diploma program "Back to School." The first graduation ceremony for students of the program was held in July 2014, when three Melco Crown Entertainment employees - Cheang Ka Wa, age 30, Chong Sok I, age 47, So Chun Kit, age 51 - were awarded their high school diplomas after attending three-hour classes five days a week for four years.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

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

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

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

Renting out a property can be both stressful and risky, especially if you are unfortunate enough to encounter a bad tenant. The trouble is, even though you own the property you are also very busy during the day and want to minimize the issues with this and any other apartment.

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

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

What tax should I pay?

There are 2 types of tax to pay in Macau. Land tax is the standard yearly tax on the land upon which the property is built. This tax is shared by all owners of the properties that stand on that land, and tends to be relatively inexpensive.

Property tax is the other type of tax, and this itself takes on 2 forms; It is charged when you are a resident of the property, and is calculated by the government according to the size and type of the property.

However, if the property is rented, the

property tax reverts to a straightforward 10% tax on the rental income.

Who will liaise with the tenant?

This depends on whether you have a property administration or property management company to look after your property for you.

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

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

Who will look after the apartment?

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

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

The landlord's task is to look take responsibility for the infrastructure such as plumbing, walls, electrical systems and so forth.

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

Who will check the tenant's background?

Tenants backgrounds should always be checked.

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

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

Can the tenant provide references?

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

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

Next Week: Is your tenant legal? and more...

PokerStarsMacau
Home to Asia's best live poker tournaments

PROJECT POKER

BY KATERINA 'KATERINA289' MALASIDOU

Food and poker

Food and poker are two things that at first glance have nothing to do with each other. Unless of course we're talking about a night in with friends, where you're all munching on pizza slices, drinking beer and playing poker at the same time. Fun times, but that's not where I'm getting at.

Poker is all about maximizing your expected value in a given situation. And even though studying the game and finding ways to improve your poker skills are obviously the top priorities of any player, there are other ways that can bring you one step closer to success. Let's assume that you go out at night and have a couple drinks with your friends. If you wake up hangover the next day, then you're more likely to take the day off rather than hit the poker tables which could potentially have disastrous results on your bankroll.

The effects of alcohol are easily detectable. But when it comes to food we rarely think about how it's going to affect our performance. You know that drowsiness that you get sometimes after eating? People tend to underestimate it, but apart from being unpleasant it can also have a negative impact on your game. You are very likely to try to fight that drowsiness with a coffee. That's going to work great! Until the effects of the coffee start wearing off, that is. Then you'll come crushing down from your caffeine high and feel tired and worn out, probably worse than before when you had the sleepiness that made you drink that coffee

in the first place.

The best way I found to make sure I'm feeling fine when it's time to work is to be careful with what I'm eating. I see going to the nutritionist as a way to get educated on food. There are plenty of things most people don't know such as which combinations of food are bad, what causes sleepiness, what gives more energy etc.

The first thing I discuss with my nutritionist is my daily schedule. Meals have to be carefully planned depending on what time I wake up, work, take a break. We also discuss what times of the day I feel tired or lacking energy and try to improve it by having the appropriate snack. Apart from feeling a lot better overall, I don't need a nap after my lunch anymore. I can go straight back to playing poker and I'm able to maintain my sharpness for longer periods of time.

I bet you've heard a lot of poker players talking about a healthy nutrition lately. It's not just a trend. I agree that the benefits of it are hard to measure and they're also not going to appear from one day to the other. Like most things, it takes time. But if you start eating healthy and stick to it, I guarantee that you'll see an improvement. Inevitably your poker game will benefit since you'll be focused while your opponents are almost falling asleep on their keyboards. And don't worry, you can still succumb to the temptation of a nice burger or an ice-cream when it's your day off!

AD

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From Shanxi to Hainan, China's provincial growth rates are splintering



Emissions rise from a coal-fired power plant in Taiyuan, Shanxi province, China.

CHINA'S provincial growth rates are splintering as the world's second-largest economy slows.

The continent-sized economy saw its weakest areas grow at less than a fifth the pace of the fastest, as the national rate slowed to 7

percent from a year earlier in the first quarter.

Plagued by overcapacity and a property slowdown, the industrial northeastern Liaoning province expanded just 1.9 percent from a year earlier, according to a report by 21st Century Business Herald. Nearby Heilongjiang and Jilin are the fourth and fifth slowest growing regions as China's rust belt gets rustier.

Northern Shanxi's dependence on coal weighted its growth to 2.5 percent, the second slowest. It's also one of the hardest hit by President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign, with multiple government officials investigated.

The southern island of Hainan - China's equivalent of Hawaii - slowed to 4.7 percent growth in the first quarter from over 8 percent last year. Its pristine air and tropical climate failed to attract more homebuyers, with property sales slumping.

It's not all glum: Chongqing, Guizhou and Tibet are the three regions still growing at a double-digit pace. Lower labor costs, cheaper land and central government support have drawn more manufacturers, helping these mid-west provinces continue their catch up to coastal counterparts.

As college students and pensioners queue for hours to open share-trading accounts, the country's financial capital of Shanghai benefited from the stock market's boom. Financial services contributed 16.6 percent to the city's economy in the first quarter - higher than the most recent numbers in New York City, Hong Kong and Singapore. **Bloomberg**

Record pollution fine for Beijing McDonald's supplier



Chinese people buy sundae cones at a McDonald's restaurant in Beijing

A french fry supplier to the McDonald's restaurant chain in China has been issued Beijing's biggest-ever pollution fine for releasing dirty wastewater, state media reported. The official Xinhua

News Agency said late Wednesday that Beijing environmental officials levied a record fine of 3.8 million yuan, or more than USD650,000, against Beijing Simplot Food Processing Co. Ltd. The company is a joint venture between McDonald's, the U.S.-owned J.R. Simplot Co. and the Beijing Agricultural, Industrial and Commerce General Co. Xinhua reported that last November inspectors found waste water discharged by the company contained organic compound levels higher than that allowed. The report said Beijing Simplot was upgrading its sewage treatment facilities at the time of the discharge. Beijing officials didn't answer phone calls yesterday. Chinese officials have announced a crackdown on polluters across the country that has included tougher regulations as well as new rules clarifying who can file lawsuits against polluters.

Mainland stocks in HK fall to pare best month since 2011

Chinese stocks trading in Hong Kong fell for a third day, with raw-material companies sliding before today's manufacturing data and Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. slumping after reporting weak profit growth. Jiangxi Copper Co. plunged 2.3 percent. ICBC, the biggest lender, declined 1.9 percent after posting the lowest first-quarter earnings growth since listing in 2006. Official manufacturing data will probably show a reading of 50 in April, down from the previous month's 50.1, according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg. The Shanghai property index surged to a record high after the nation's leading economic planner said it saw positive signs in the property market. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index in Hong Kong slid for a third day, losing 1.2 percent to 14,431.11 at the close. The H-shares gauge climbed 17 percent this month, capping the best month since October 2011. The Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.8 percent, dragged down by energy and metal shares and paring gains in April to 19 percent. "The A-share bull run will likely weaken going forward," Morgan Stanley strategist Jonathan Garner wrote in a report. "Valuations are climbing higher, while earnings are drifting lower."

LEADERS VOW TO STEP UP TARGETED CONTROLS TO BOOST ECONOMY

CHINA'S COMMUNIST Party leaders vowed to step up targeted controls to counter downward pressure on the economy, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday. China's economic growth in the first quarter "was conforming to expectations," Xinhua reported, citing a meeting of the Politburo's Central Committee earlier in the day, chaired by President Xi Jinping. China will fine tune its policies and maintain continuity and stability, according to Xinhua. Economic growth

slowed to 7 percent in the first quarter amid a sluggish property market and excess capacity. Premier Li Keqiang's government is encouraging long-term investment and cutting government intervention amid reforms to increase the role of markets. The People's Bank of China has cut benchmark interest rates twice in the last six months. This month, it cut banks' required reserve ratios by 100 basis points, the deepest since 2008 when China was hit by the global financial crisis.

corporate bits

GALAXY CHEF AND SOMMELIERS WIN AWARDS



(From Left to Right) Eugene Tan, Simon Tho, Kelvin So

Simon Tho, the chef and assistant VP of Asian Culinary, recently won the Star Chef of the Year 2014 award at the International Exchange As-

sociation of Renowned Chinese Cuisine in Shanghai. Meanwhile, chief sommelier Kelvin So and sommelier Eugene Tan were champion and 1st runner-up at the Ruinat Sommeliers Challenge Hong Kong 2015, respectively.

The International Exchange Association of Renowned Chinese Cuisine counts as its members chefs of Chinese cuisine, scholars and F&B operators - totaling more than 1,000 - from some 30 countries and regions. Each year, the association recognizes and awards members who have made exceptional contribution to the industry. On the back of winning the Best Dish award at Malaysia World Golden Chef Competition and

the Group Excellence award at Yangzhou International Chinese Cooking Contest in 2013 and 2014, respectively, Simon Tho was awarded the Star Chef of the Year 2014 by the association for his accomplishments. Also invited to the podium were Martin Yan, chef and host of his award-winning cooking show Yan Can Cook, and Hugo Leung, celebrity chef and food critic.

In the meantime, facing off competition from some 20 contestants, chief sommelier Kelvin So and sommelier Eugene Tan were champion and 1st runner-up at the Ruinat Sommeliers Challenge Hong Kong 2015, respectively. Kelvin So will soon visit Champagne, where he will have the opportunity to meet with other master sommeliers.

WYNN MACAU LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL GAMING EMPLOYEES



Wynn Macau yesterday announced a new 'Hospitality Management Program', designed to provide gaming employees with new career opportunities anticipated to arrive with the imminent opening of Wynn Palace. The Wynn Macau Learning & Advancement team will soon launch this new module of its progres-

sive Leadership Acceleration Program.

Gaming professionals wishing to explore a management career in Hospitality may apply for the program which will support 40 successful applicants on a 12-month training and immersion program. After a rotational period of six months including skills

training and leadership education, candidates will hone their skills with specialized training in their selected department. Upon successful completion of the program, candidates will become Assistant Managers in non-gaming departments, for instance in Hotel, Food & Beverage Operations.

"We are proud that through our highly targeted and effective learning programs developed over the years, the number of local employees in management positions has almost tripled since 2006. Meanwhile the management team now comprises 82% local talents as opposed to 58% previously," stated Zuleika Mok, Senior Vice President - Human Resources.

Authorities suspend climbing on north side of Everest



In this Sunday April 26, 2015, photo provided by 6summitschallenge.com, a helicopter prepares to rescue people at Everest Base Camp, Nepal

Martha Bellisle, Seattle

HUNDREDS of climbers and Sherpas who were attempting to climb Mount Everest from the north side when a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the region are packing their gear and heading out after

expedition leaders said Chinese authorities closed all climbing in Tibet for the spring.

Meanwhile, some climbers in Nepal have announced plans to try to return to the mountain, a move that was criticized by others in the climbing community.

In Tibet, climbing guide Adrian Ballinger with California-based Alpenglow Expeditions said in email Wednesday that they were working to leave the country soon.

“We are focusing our efforts on how we can help in Nepal, how we can get our members

home, and how we can get our Sherpa team back to the Khumbu,” said Ballinger, who was leading a team of 10 climbers and 12 Sherpas.

No one climbing on the north side was injured following Saturday’s deadly quake, but Ballinger said the China Tibet

Mountaineering Association called the 25 teams made up of about 300 climbers on the mountain back to base camp to discuss whether to allow them to continue.

On Wednesday, Chinese officials held their final meeting and announced their decision to end the climbing season. Ballinger said two reasons were cited: Safety concerns over possible additional earthquakes and solidarity with Nepal and the Sherpas.

“China believes Sherpas should be able to go home and begin rebuilding,” he said.

Though there were no injuries on Everest’s north side, Ballinger said the quake was very powerful.

“We were eating lunch during the first. It started slowly and then became violent, triggering big rock falls and icefalls of the surrounding peaks. Intellectually we felt safe in the middle of a big broad valley away from the mountains that were avalanching. But emotionally it was still scary,” he said. “And of course our thoughts immediately went to the South Side where the camps and route are far more exposed to avalanches.”

Nineteen people were killed in the base camp on the Nepal side of the mountain when a quake-triggered avalanche swept through. **AP**

Gov’t closes major business news website in extortion case

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Beijing

AUTHORITIES ordered one of China’s most prominent business news websites to close yesterday after its managers were accused of extorting money from companies with threats of negative coverage.

The penalties follow the September detention of the publisher and general manager of the website’s parent newspaper, the 21st Century Business Herald. That was one of the highest-profile scandals in a Chinese news industry that has been wracked by repeated allegations of misconduct. Companies were coerced into paying the 21st Century Business Herald a total of about 300 million yuan (USD50 million) for advertising over several years and were threatened with negative news coverage if they refused, according to earlier reports.

The national press regulator said the website, 21cbh.com, would be suspended and a magazine owned by the company, Money Weekly, stripped of its publishing license. The newspaper was ordered to

undergo a management overhaul.

Also yesterday, the official Xinhua News Agency said prosecutors approved the formal arrest of 21 people. It gave no details of their identities or the charges.

The newspaper is part of the Nanfang Media Group, one of China’s biggest publishing companies.

All newspapers, television and radio stations and other news media in China are owned by the state or by the ruling Communist Party. But most are required to support themselves financially and are allowed to make editorial decisions within the party’s censorship guidelines.

Journalists routinely accept money from companies to report on events and sometimes seek payments to suppress negative information.

In a separate case, the director of the financial news channel of state television is accused of extracting money from companies, according to news reports. Companies paid to avoid negative news coverage or bought advertising or gave stock options for favorable exposure. **AP**

Festivals, large gatherings canceled in Beijing

Jack Chang, Beijing

SPRINGTIME in Beijing usually brings out bustling crowds for rock concerts, food festivals and other outdoor revelry amid the smog and catkins. But this year, police in the Chinese capital have been canceling everything from an Earth Day event to a heavy metal concert, stoking worries that the authorities are cracking down on any large gathering deemed politically risky.

The cancellations have hit the city’s music scene, with annual summer mainstays such as the Strawberry Music Festival going dark. Police also recently shut down the Gaymazing Poker Race, a mix of pub crawl and poker tournament that was set to raise funds last week for the Beijing LGBT Center, a gay and lesbian service and cultural group. The race’s co-sponsor, the Great Leap Brewing pub, responded by pre-emptively cancel-

ling its own massive June craft beer festival for fear of a last-minute police shutdown.

Lucia Wang, of Great Leap, said city authorities cited concerns about excessive crowds, while John Shen, a program manager at the LGBT center, said he was given no explanation at all. Beijing police did not respond to a faxed request for an interview yesterday.

“This year it seems impossible to do large events like this,” Wang said. “We have a high chance of being canceled in the last minute.”

As for the reasons behind the cancellations, Wang said, “That’s the question for all big event organizers now.”

The cancellations in Beijing hit as the government tightens its grip nationwide on independent civic groups and activity, with non-governmental organizations and university professors saying they’ve been working under tighter scrutiny. Chi-

nese officials also have been promising tighter crowd controls after a New Year’s Eve stampede killed 36 people along Shanghai’s famed Bund riverfront due to inadequate policing.

Archie Hamilton, who promotes music festivals and other events in China, said he believes the clampdown in Beijing reflects the overall political atmosphere, with Communist Party authorities trying to rein in what they see as a society too accepting of liberal and Western influences.

“My pocket view is that as far as the powers that be are concerned, society is a little out of control, with too much expression and frivolity and general chaos,” Hamilton said. “And I feel that (President) Xi Jinping and the new administration have come in and gone, ‘We need to focus on this a lot. We need to get this right and make sure this doesn’t get too out of control.’” **AP**

3 killed along border with North Korea

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A Chinese city has reported the killings of three villagers in an area where North Korean border guards have been accused of crossing over to commit thefts and slayings.

The Helong city government said a 55-year-old man surnamed Zhao, his 26-year-old daughter and another man aged 67 were killed Saturday. It said in a statement yesterday that police from the provincial level down were investigating.

The killings took place in Longcheng township along the North Korean border, not far from where at least seven villagers were reported killed last year by border guards who had crossed the Tumen River, which separates the countries, in search of money and food.

The guards in the earlier incidents are believed to have fled back into North Korea and no arrests have been reported.

Calls to Helong city and Yanbian prefecture government spokesmen rang unanswered yesterday.

China is North Korea's chief source of trade, diplomatic support and food and fuel assistance, but the North's desperate economic situation is testing the traditionally close relationship. Underpaid and underfed border guards have reportedly been terrorizing Chinese villagers in recent years, especially in winter when the frozen river makes crossing over easily.

More than 1 million North Koreans are believed to have

AP PHOTO



North Korean and Chinese flags at a border crossing between the two countries.

died in a famine in the 1990s and the country remains heavily dependent on food aid, although the political elite and military receive preferential rations.

Border attacks are believed to have grown over the past two years after a crackdown on crossings by ordinary North Koreans deprived guards of income from bribes. Chinese fishermen have also been held for ransom after being seized by North Korean boats in the Yellow Sea dividing the countries.

The growing frequency of cross-border violence has sparked fears among Chinese residents and increased vigilance from local governments, said Lu Chao, an expert on North Korea at the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences in northeast China.

"Some degree of panic is inevitable because attacks by North Korean guards are not simply ordinary thefts or robberies," Lu said. In most cases, Chinese and North Korean officials consult over how to

deal with such crimes, including paying compensation to the families of the Chinese victims, he said.

Beyond the fear they inspire, such attacks underscore a substantial cooling of ties since Kim Jong Un took over as supreme leader of North Korea in 2012.

China has been repeatedly rebuffed in its attempts to convince the North to rejoin multinational talks on its nuclear programs, exposing it to criticism for supporting the hardli-

ne communist regime in Pyongyang. Beijing also was shocked by the 2013 execution of Kim's uncle Jang Song Thaek, who had been a key proponent of North Korea-China relations.

The 1,400-kilometer border between the sides runs through mountainous terrain from the Yellow Sea to the Sea of Japan. Sections near the key Chinese city of Dandong are fortified with fences and guard posts, but more remote areas boast few barriers other than rivers and cliffs. AP

AP PHOTO



In this March 19, 2015 photo, a puddle reflects the Mini Sky City building in Changsha in central China's Hunan Province

Builder puts up 57-story skyscraper in 19 days

Peng Peng and Didi Tang, Changsha

A Chinese construction company is claiming to be the world's fastest builder after erecting a 57-story skyscraper in 19 working days in central China.

The Broad Sustainable Building Co. put up the rectangular, glass-and-steel Mini Sky City in the Hunan provincial capital of Changsha using a modular method, assembling three floors per day, company vice president Xiao Chang-geng said.

The company, which has ambitions to assem-

ble the world's tallest skyscraper at 220 floors in only three months, worked on Mini Sky City in two spurts separated by winter weather. Its time-lapse video of the rapid assembly has become popular on Chinese video-sharing sites since it was first uploaded on YouTube.

"With the traditional method, they have to build a skyscraper brick by brick, but with our method, we just need to assemble the blocks," company engineer Chen Xiangqian said.

Such modular approaches have been used for high-rise apartment

blocks elsewhere, including in Britain and the U.S. Some critics say the method could lead to cityscapes with overly uniform architecture.

Liu Peng, associate director of the engineering consulting firm ARUP Beijing, said the method is worth developing because it could become a safe and reliable way to build skyscrapers rapidly.

"But it is not perfect, and it does not meet all kinds of personalized demands," Liu said. "People nowadays want more personalized architecture."

Mini Sky City, whi-

ch has 19 atriums, 800 apartments and office space for 4,000 people, goes on sale in May. The structure is safe and can withstand earthquakes, Xiao said.

The Changsha-based company spent 4½ months fabricating the building's 2,736 modules before construction began. The first 20 floors were completed last year, and the remaining 37 were built from Jan. 31 to Feb. 17 this year, Xiao said. The company has honed its technology to accelerate its construction speed from two floors to three floors a day, he said.

"This is definitely the fastest speed in our industry," Xiao said.

The company is awaiting approval for its 220-floor Sky City in Changsha. AP

NEPAL

Rescuers pull out teenage survivor

Todd Pitman and Foster Klug,
Kathmandu

A long-absent noise — cheers — rang out in Nepal's capital yesterday as rescuers pulled a teenager alive from the earthquake rubble he had been trapped in for five days. The joy interrupted a dreary and still fearful day in which thousands worried about aftershocks lined up to board free buses to their rural hometowns.

Hundreds cheered as the 18-year-old, identified by police as Pemba Tamang, was pulled out of the wreckage, dazed and dusty, and carried away on a stretcher. He had been trapped under the collapsed debris of a seven-story building in Kathmandu since Saturday, when the magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck.

Nepalese rescuers, supported by an American disaster response team, had been working for hours to free him. L.B. Basnet, the police officer who crawled into a gap to reach Tamang, said he was surprisingly responsive.

"He thanked me when I first approached him," said Basnet. "He told me his name, his address, and I gave him some water. I assured him we were near to him."

When Tamang was lifted out,



Pemba Tamang is carried on a stretcher after being rescued by Nepalese policemen and U.S. rescue workers from a building that collapsed five days ago in Kathmandu

his face was covered in dust, and medics had put an IV drop into his arm. A blue brace had been placed around his neck. He appeared stunned, and his eyes blinked in the sunlight as workers hurriedly carried him away.

The jubilant scene was welcome on a drizzly, chilly day in Kathmandu where many residents remained on edge over

aftershocks that have rattled the city since Saturday's mammoth quake killed more than 5,500 people and destroyed thousands of houses and other buildings.

More than 70 aftershocks stronger than magnitude 3.2 have been recorded in the Himalayan region by Indian scientists over the past five days, according to J.L. Gautam,

the director of seismology at the Indian Meteorological Department in New Delhi. The strongest, registering magnitude 6.9, came last Sunday, he said.

Rattled by the shaking and anxious to check on family members in outlying areas, tens of thousands of people have left the capital on buses this week. The government has been providing free bus service

to many destinations.

"I have to get home. It has already been so many days," said Shanti Kumari, with her 7-year-old daughter, who was desperate to see family in her home village in eastern Nepal. "I want to get at least a night of peace."

Five days after the quake, tent cities in Kathmandu had thinned out, as overnight rainfall persuaded many people to return to their homes, even if they were damaged by the quake. The streets of the capital were slick with rain yesterday morning, the potholes were filled with water.

Still, life in the capital was slowly returning to the way it had been before the quake. Small snack shops were open. At a leather goods shop, a merchant brushed dust from a jacket on display. A man laid out carpets and rugs beneath an awning at a handicrafts store. Foreigners stood in line at a cellphone store.

"It's getting back to normal, but we're still feeling aftershocks. It still doesn't feel safe," said Prabhu Dutta, a 27-year-old banker from Kathmandu.

"Things have to return to normal, but it will take time," he said. "No one is ready to do the work needed to recover because of the closeness of the deaths. There is still shock." AP

VIETNAM

War 40 years on, enemies now friends but still pain

Margie Mason
Ho Chi Minh City

THIS city once known as Saigon was blanketed in red banners yesterday that read "Long Live the Glorious Communist Party of Vietnam," 40 years after northern forces seized control of the country and America walked away from a divisive and bloody war that remains a painful sore.

Thousands of Vietnamese, including war veterans in uniforms heavy with medals, lined up to watch goose-stepping soldiers and traditional performers parade through the streets of what is now Ho Chi Minh City.

On April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese tanks rolled into Saigon, then the capital of South Viet-



Vietnamese veterans gather for a parade celebrating the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War which is also remembered as the fall of Saigon, in Ho Chi Minh City

nam. They crashed through the gates of the presidential palace and hoisted the communist flag. It was an incredible victory for the revolutionary forces that had waged guerrilla warfare for more than a decade

against the better equipped U.S., and before that against the French colonialists.

"The tank crashing the gates ... was a symbol of victory for the Vietnamese nation and the Vietnamese Peo-

ple's Army, marking the end of the 30 years of national resistance against the French and then the Americans," said Nguyen Van Tap, 64, who drove Tank 390 through the iron bars and reunited with members of his company Wednesday.

And even after four decades, he said, the winners who fought for the north should be given priority and privileges over those who were branded traitors for siding with the south.

"For the Vietnamese," he said, "April 30 is a day of festivities and national reunification."

For the U.S. and its South Vietnamese allies, the day was one of panic, chaos and defeat known simply as the fall of Saigon.

After the government's


parade and celebratory speeches were over yesterday, a group of former U.S. Marines who helped Americans evacuate Saigon as it fell gathered at the site of the old U.S. Embassy, now the U.S. Consulate, for a somber ceremony. They dedicated a plaque to two fallen comrades who were the last U.S. servicemen killed in the war: Cpl. Charles McMahon and Lance Cpl. Darwin Judge died April 29, 1975, when their post near the airport was hit by a rocket. Each of the former Marines placed roses in front of the monument before saluting it as taps played.

Some 58,000 Americans were killed in the war along with up to 250,000 South Vietnamese allies and an estimated 3 million com-

munist fighters and civilians.

Today, Ho Chi Minh City is alive with capitalism, and many of the scars from the war are no longer visible on the surface. It is the economic muscle of the country, and recent and ongoing construction projects have transformed its skyline into glassy high-rises bathed in neon lights.

The relationship between the former enemies also has warmed and grown over the years. The U.S. normalized relations with Vietnam in 1995. More than 16,000 Vietnamese students now study in America, and the U.S. has become one of Vietnam's biggest foreign investors and bilateral trade exceeded USD36 billion last year. AP



2015

Healthcare Subsidy Scheme

Aims of Healthcare Subsidy Scheme

- 1 Popularize family medicine system
- 2 Encourage residents to attach importance to personal healthcare
- 3 Support private healthcare institutions

Details

Beneficiaries : Holders of valid or renewable Macao Special Administrative Region Permanent Resident Identity Card as of 31st July 2016.

Amount : MOP600.00 for each beneficiary (12 vouchers of MOP50.00 each).

Period for printing and using vouchers : From 1st May 2015 to 31st August 2016.

Distribution : Bring your smart ID card and print the 12 vouchers at one time from a self-service kiosk.

Transfer of vouchers : Vouchers can only be transferred to beneficiary's spouse, father, mother, son and daughter, who also hold a MSAR Permanent Resident Identity Card. In case a voucher is transferred to individual with relationship other than those defined above, the beneficiary should repay the voucher value and bear relevant responsibilities arise therefrom.


Healthcare Subsidy Scheme Support Centre

Address : 2nd floor, China Plaza Building, No. 804, Avenida da Praia Grande, Macau

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Notes on using vouchers

- The healthcare vouchers are applicable to services provided by western medicine practitioners, traditional Chinese medicine practitioners/herbalists and dentists/deontologists, therapeutic treatments/rehabilitation services and auxiliary diagnostic tests, valid Permanent Resident Identity Card should be presented during consultation.
- Vouchers will not be accepted as payment for drugs, medicinal materials, ginseng, antler or dried seafood, purchase of medical products (such as medical equipment and prosthesis), or medical services for cosmetic purpose.




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馮梓然 Fong Chi In
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
羅桃 Luo Tao, Elina

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

曹樂萌 Cao Lemeng, Rui
楊越華 leong Ut Wa
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
王洋玲 Ema Wong
陳祖恩 Joana Chan

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Amanda Lee Myers and David Dishneau, Baltimore

USA

Baltimore officials: No immediate decision in Gray case

HAVING weathered two all-night curfews with no major disturbances, Baltimore officials are now trying to manage growing expectations they will immediately decide whether to prosecute six police officers involved in the arrest of a black man who later died of injuries he apparently received while in custody.

In an effort to be transparent, authorities have told the community they plan to turn over the findings of a police investigation into Freddie Gray's death to a state's attorney by today. Gray's death from a spinal injury a week after his April 12 arrest is what sparked riots Monday — the worst the city has seen since 1968.

Prosecutors will review the information and eventually decide how to move forward, authorities have said.

But protesters on the streets



Protestors demonstrate outside the State Attorney's office calling for the continued investigation into the death of Freddie Gray

and high school students who met with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time) have said there are rumors circulating that some kind of "verdict" will be rendered as soon as today.

"It became very clear ... that people misunderstood," Rawlings-Blake said.

Both Rawlings-Blake and Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts spent

much of the day Wednesday trying to explain that no final resolution to the case would come today.

Hassan Murphy, a lawyer for Gray's family, underscored their comments, saying, "This family wants justice and they want justice that comes at the right time and not too soon."

Said Rawlings-Blake: "Whatever time the state's attorney's office needs to make

that determination, the family wants to get it right."

Gray, 25, was pinned to a sidewalk, handcuffed and hoisted into a police van where he was put in leg irons after Baltimore officers said he made eye contact with them and ran. Somewhere along the way, he suffered a fatal spinal injury, and the six officers involved were suspended with pay amid the criminal investigation. **AP**

PROTESTS IN NEW YORK, BOSTON

HUNDREDS OF people rallied and marched in New York and Boston to protest as Philadelphia activists prepared for their own demonstration. More than 100 people were arrested in New York on Wednesday (yesterday) night after police on a loudspeaker warned them they would be taken into custody if they marched in the street. While the demonstrations were mostly peaceful, police made numerous arrests, including 16 in Baltimore and at least 100 in New York.

RUSSIA

Kremlin: North Korean leader not coming to Moscow on May 9

Lynn Berry, Moscow

THE reclusive leader of North Korea will not be coming to Moscow next month for the Victory Day celebration, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman announced yesterday.

The highly anticipated visit would have been Kim Jong Un's first foreign trip since taking power more than three years ago.

The Russian foreign minister had said in March that Kim was among 26 world leaders who had accepted invitations to take part in the May 9 celebration of the 70th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

North Korea, however, had never confirmed that Kim planned to come.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told The Associated Press "internal matters" were preventing Kim from leaving North Korea. He did not elaborate.

On Wednesday, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers that Kim had ordered the execution of 15 senior officials this year who were accused of challenging his authority.

Since taking over the leadership of North Korea after the 2011 death of his father, Kim Jong Il, Kim has removed members of the old guard through purges — including the 2013 execution of his uncle, Jang Song Thaek, for alleged treason. Jang was once considered the second most powerful man in North Korea.

Peskov also announced that U.N. Se-

cretary-General Ban Ki-moon would be among those coming to Moscow.

The highlight of Victory Day will be a military parade on Red Square overseen by Putin where Russia will show off its military hardware, including mobile missile launchers, and unveil a much-anticipated new tank.

Many Western leaders have snubbed the invitation because of Russia's role in the Ukraine conflict. Others have decided to visit Moscow to pay their respects to Russia for its role in World War II but will not attend the military parade.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will travel to Moscow on May 10, when she and Putin will lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier just outside the Kremlin. **AP**

FRANCE

Hollande vows punishment for any child rapes in Africa



French President Francois Hollande is promising tough punishment for any soldier found guilty of sexually assaulting children in Central African Republic. Hollande, speaking to reporters yesterday in western France, said any sanctions should correspond to the gravity of the crime and "set an example." French prosecutors and military authorities are investigating accusations of sexual abuse of children in 2013-14 by French soldiers sent to protect civilians amid sectarian violence in Central African Republic. The investigation has been underway since last year but was only made public Wednesday. French military officials distanced themselves from the accusations yesterday, saying they had no knowledge of any sexual abuse. France sent troops to the former colony in December 2013 and the U.N. set up a 12,000-strong peacekeeping force in September last year.

DEATH PENALTY

EU promises 'fight' if Hungary brings executions back



European Union leaders are warning Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban that he is in for "a fight" if he considers restoring the death penalty, which is now banned throughout the 28-nation bloc. EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Orban "should immediately make clear that this is not his intention. Would it be his intention, it would be a fight." The head of the EU parliament echoed those comments, saying the legislature's civil liberties committee would be convened urgently and noting that the EU's charter of fundamental rights prohibits the death penalty. The issue was raised by Orban after last week's murder of a 22-year-old tobacco shop attendant in a southern Hungarian city.

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	In Macau
15:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News
15:50	Documentary
16:45	Theatre
18:10	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:40	Revenge S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Music
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:20	Boonie Bears
11:15	Documentary Serie
12:00	Documentary Serie
12:15	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
19:00	Contest
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:10	Comedy
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
16:10	Miscellaneous
17:00	Miscellaneous
17:45	Documentary Series
18:45	Miscellaneous
19:40	Cómedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:30	News
23:45	Documentary Series
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

offbeat

GREEK JUSTICE PURSUES JOBLESS FATHER-OF-3 BEYOND THE GRAVE

A Greek court has convicted a dead man of stealing electricity from a power utility, giving him a six-month suspended jail sentence.

Defense lawyer Christos Bakelas told the Thessaloniki court that his client was deceased, and asked to have the trial deferred until he could deliver a death certificate. But the court refused, and this week convicted his client in absentia.

Thessaloniki police records show the 46-year-old unemployed father of three died on April 8, but Bakelas wasn't informed until the eve of the trial.

The man was charged last year after activists reconnected his power supply that had been cut by the electricity company for unpaid bills.

Bakelas said he was astonished by the court's decision and hadn't experienced anything like it in his 25 years as a lawyer.

cinema



CINETEATRO

01 MAY - 06 MAY

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



HELIOS_

ROOM 2
7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk

Starring: Jacky Cheung, Nick Cheung, Shawn Yue, Ji Jin-hee

Language: Chinese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 118min



MURMUR OF THE HEARTS_

ROOM 3
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Sylvia Chang

Starring: Isabella Leong, Joseph Chang, Lawrence Ko, Lee Sinje

Language: Mandarin (Chinese/English)

Duration: 119min

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



Jack Jones

1973 THOUSANDS STRIKE OVER PAY AND PRICES

About 1.6 million workers joined the Trades Union Congress' call for a one-day strike today in protest at the government's pay restraint policy and price rises.

The worst affected industries were the railways, car manufacturing, newspaper production, mining and docks.

Despite the large turn-out many of the big unions voted against industrial action and thousands of workers carried on working when they could. Many were sent home as factories closed because essential staff were on strike and many more simply could not get to work due to transport problems.

Almost all rail services were disrupted or halted after the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) stopped work.

The much larger National Union of Railwaymen had voted against strike action but its members were unable to operate services with their Aslef co-workers.

The rail strike affected the Post Office and has resulted in a huge backlog of mail - even though members of the two largest Post Office unions did not join the day of action.

British Leyland car plants were severely hit by the strike by engineering workers in the Midlands, North-West and Scotland.

Vauxhall, Ford and Chrysler plants were also at a standstill losing the companies millions of pounds.

Other major engineering factories affected were Rolls-Royce at Bristol, GEC at Trafford Park, Manchester, Hawker Siddeley and British Aircraft Corporation in the North-West and Dunlop tyres at Birmingham and Speke.

British Steel Corporation saw 30,000 of its 230,000 workers walk out and 113 of the National Coal Board's 281 pits were on strike with further support for the action in South Wales and Scotland.

Strikes were accompanied by huge protest rallies in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow.

In Liverpool, the leader of the Transport and General Workers Union, Jack Jones, told supporters: "The government would be foolish to ignore the very sincere feelings not only of those protesting today but those millions of others who are fed up with the way prices are continuing to rise."

A new round of talks is due to take place later this month between the government and the TUC over counter-inflation measures.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The then Conservative government under Edward Heath had a policy of limiting wage increases to control rising inflation.

This policy was legally enforced but under Harold Wilson's Labour government which won the election of 1974, pay increases were limited by voluntary agreement with the unions.

That year, the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) was set up to help settle industrial disputes.

But food and house prices still managed to outstrip wage rises and labour unrest continued on into 1979 and the infamous "winter of discontent" when strikes crippled the country.

Prolonged industrial action discredited not only the unions but also the Labour Party with which they were associated. They had much to do with Labour losing the 1979 election leading to a prolonged period of Conservative rule under Margaret Thatcher.

Her government imposed major restrictions on the unions in the 1980s and made secret ballots before a strike compulsory. "New" Labour has loosened its traditional links with the unions in the mid-1990s.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Some people start a fitness routine once a health problem rears its head, but exercise should be a part of daily life. The same can be said of money. Healthy fiscal habits are your responsibility, and it's never too late to start.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Easy cash and good times -- it couldn't go on forever. Even if all you bought was a large screen TV, you were a partner in the romance. And you're in for the heartache now that the affair is over.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Don't let chit chat distract you from something vitally important. Bills are piling up, Gemini, while the idle busybodies are as good as destroying your credit. Block them out and attend to the boring details.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You won't clean up, exactly, but you will accomplish something important. Even if you don't turn a profit, focusing on smaller issues makes this a good day.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Everyone is reassessing their strategies and plans but you already know what the bottom line will be: everyone has to be more thrifty and conservative than usual. By just how much is the second shoe you're waiting to drop.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
This is actually long overdue. You have to admit that things do make sense, even if they're painful. Take this opportunity to tidy up all areas of your life, not just your credit or bank accounts.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You're finally have reason to be thankful for a blessing in disguise. Plenty of people are becoming too overwhelmed to go on. That nagging voice in your head won't let you join their ranks.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Friends need a bail out but you can't help. You don't even have any secrets or tips to offer them. But you can do them a favor by simply doing some financial planning.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Just last year the details were irrelevant. Every day was like the Thursday day before a long weekend. But now every last fact has to be checked, and there's no rushing past them into the waiting arms of your loan.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
No amount of research could have prepared you for today's situation, but that doesn't get you off the hook. You're still obligated to find facts for tomorrow, so dig into the details.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Be careful in business. It's hard to be ready for all possibilities, but you do have to have a contingency plan up your sleeve. Prepare one now, because once you're dealing with others, it will be too late.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
The words Just Do It may still be ringing in your ears, but the days of acting on them are over. You need to know all the facts before hand, and so do your creditors. Go in prepared.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	16	25	smoggy/moderate rain
Harbin	12	27	cloudy
Tianjin	19	29	clear/overcast
Urumqi	9	21	clear
Xi'an	19	22	moderate rain
Lhasa	4	15	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	18	26	moderate rain/overcast
Chongqing	20	27	heavy rain/overcast
Kunming	12	25	clear
Nanjing	14	27	clear/cloudy
Shanghai	16	25	cloudy
Wuhan	19	26	cloudy/moderate rain
Hangzhou	15	30	clear/cloudy
Taipei	20	28	drizzle/overcast
Guangzhou	23	31	overcast/cloudy
Hong Kong	25	30	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	7	14	drizzle
Frankfurt	6	14	moderate rain/drizzle
Paris	7	13	moderate rain/drizzle
London	0	12	cloudy/overcast
New York	8	15	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Resting places; 5- A single time; 9- Sudden outpouring; 14- Work without ___; 15- In a jiffy; 16- Golfer with an army; 17- Twiddling one's thumbs; 18- Feel sorry for; 19- East Indian pepper plant; 20- Tarries; 22- Now; 24- I'm outta here!; 26- Cartesian conclusion; 27- Piquant; 30- Reservoir for sewage; 35- Rice-___; 36- Effervesce; 37- Scarlett's home; 38- Encountered; 39- Learned; 42- Cry out loud; 43- Draft status; 45- Medley; 46- "Lovergirl" singer ___ Marie; 48- Striped, hyenalike mammal; 50- Rector; 51- Lout; 52- Seaport in the Crimea; 54- Scorn; 58- Corridor; 62- Singer Bonnie; 63- ___ Crunch; 65- River to the Caspian; 66- Up ___ (trapped); 67- Tree frog; 68- Workout count; 69- Stun gun; 70- Lulu; 71- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto);

DOWN: 1- Remove water from a boat; 2- Prefix with skeleton; 3- Where heroes are made; 4- Felt hat; 5- Diving fisher; 6- Raucous; 7- Barracks bed; 8- "Only Time" singer; 9- Native Israeli; 10- Arrogate; 11- Architectural pier; 12- Bound; 13- Hard to grasp; 21- Uncanny; 23- Hungarian composer; 25- Become sour; 27- Navigators Islands, today; 28- Concert venue; 29- Elector; 31- Pinza of "South Pacific"; 32- Desert havens; 33- Maine college town; 34- Father of Leah and Rachel; 36- Completely filled; 40- Summits of buildings; 41- Les ___-Unis; 44- Person with new parents; 47- Wipeout?; 49- Table attendant; 50- Flat; 53- Tell's target; 54- Darn!; 55- I could ___ horse!; 56- Letter opener; 57- Parrot; 59- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 60- Openings; 61- Anything ___?; 64- Writer Rand

Yesterday's solution

S	T	E	M	E	D	E	N	E	R	T	E	S
A	U	R	A	V	A	S	E	R	A	H	A	L
B	R	A	G	E	L	S	E	S	T	A	V	E
E	N	S	N	A	R	L	T	R	A	I	N	E
T	E	A	S	Y	A	T	T	E	S	T		
B	E	T	R	O	B	A	I	Z	E			
M	E	T	O	A	R	E	S	M	E	T		
O	R	A	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	T	E	P
C	E	N	R	E	M	O	N	I	C			
M	E	L	E	F	I	N	D	U	C	T		
L	E	O	N	I	N	E	A	D	O	R	I	N
C	A	S	T	S	R	E	M	I	A	N	I	L
O	R	I	E	L	T	I	N	E	Z	N	E	N
A	N	T	R	E	C	A	D	E	T	E	E	N

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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- 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
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
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<p>Ocean Garden Fragrant Court Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Stunning Views of Macau HKD 33,000 / 3,053 sq ft Ref: 15030485</p>	<p>The Manhattan, Unit D Taipa 4 Bedrooms Apartment Luxury Residence HKD 29,800 / 2,488 sq ft Ref: 15015429</p>	<p>Tai Nin Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment Fantastic Location HKD 11,800 / 480 sq ft Ref: 15040496</p>	<p>Va Nam unit M Taipa 2 Bedroom Apartment Near Old Taipa Village HKD 12,500 / 830 sq ft Ref: 14030404</p>

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Photo shown here may be different from Macau-specifications.



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Mayweather-Pacquiao tops unbelievable Saturday sports lineup

Tim Reynolds
Sports Writer

THE most-anticipated fight of all time. The best-known horse race. The premier baseball rivalry. The NFL draft.

And those are just the highlights.

Super Saturday (Sunday in Macau) — perhaps a day unlike any other in the history of sport — awaits.

Stock the refrigerator, replace the remote batteries, get the weekend errands done early, invite your friends, fire up that grill and if you're very fortunate, confirm those flights. For the sports consumer, an amazing number of options will be available.

From the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight that could generate USD400 million and topple every known record in boxing history, to the 141st edition of the Kentucky Derby, to the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox colliding for the 2,142nd time to the NFL draft's finishing rounds and so much more, it's a sports enthusiast's dream.

The fight in Las Vegas is overshadowing all, with good reason.

"I don't plan on being there," said Masters champion Jordan Spieth, "but I may be."

Here's the translation. Spieth is playing in the Match Play Championship at San Francisco — another really big event that won't generate much of a blip this weekend because of everything else happening in the sports world. If he's ousted before Saturday, his consolation prize is a trip to Vegas.

"There are tickets," Spieth said.

Tickets, yes — ones he doesn't want to use, but at least he has them. Most people didn't have a chance at getting into the MGM Grand this weekend, and some deep-pocketed folks have spent more than \$250,000 for a pair of prime seats.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer.

He meant the spectacle surrounding the fight.

He could have just as easily been talking about the worldwide hubbub of what awaits on Super Saturday.

"It's time to fight now ... the biggest fight in boxing history," Mayweather said.

THE FIGHT. The pay-per-view in the U.S. for Maywea-



Boxers Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and Manny Pacquiao pose for photographers during a press conference in Las Vegas

ther-Pacquiao will cost around \$100 to watch in your home, although at least one company is offering to comp the purchase for new subscribers to their service.

There are plenty of other options.

Pacquiao fans will be paying \$34 apiece for a seat at Skinny Mike's Sports Bar in Manila — on Sunday morning there, remember.

Front-row seats to watch from a casino are online for about \$200, though that casino is actually in Hammond, Indiana, and not Las Vegas.

And in New York, you and 10 of your friends can watch at a club for \$3,000, a steep price but one that includes six bottles of champagne, three bottles of liquor and platters of nachos, sliders, chicken fingers and pizza.

THE DERBY. A field of 20 will run for the roses at Churchill Downs, and while the Kentucky Derby might not be the best race of the year, it is certainly the most anticipated, unless a Triple Crown hopeful emerges.

About \$125 million was bet on the Derby last year, more than 160,000 fans are expected at Churchill and it's not implausible to think — based on recent years — that 15 million or so will watch on television in the U.S. alone.

"It has become such an event," Eclipse Award-winning trainer Todd Pletcher said.

And to think, it's just part of the show on Saturday.

MORE CHOICES. NASCAR has qualifying at Talladega on Saturday, no small

event on its schedule either. There's an LPGA tournament, plus Detroit and Kansas City are squaring off in a matchup of two of baseball's best teams early this season.

Yes, those will appeal to auto racing, golf and baseball fans.

But to those who love the magnitude of over-the-top events, they won't compare to the big show in Vegas.

"They may not follow sports much but they like the big events," said Stephen Espinoza, executive vice president and general manager for Showtime Sports. "And this is a big event."

AROUND THE WORLD. The Mayweather-Pacquiao fight will be broadcast in at least 52 countries, and who knows how many will be able to access it online globally.

But there's some other big events around the globe Saturday as well, although again, they'll all likely pale in comparison.

The European Rugby Champions Cup Final between a pair of French clubs will be going on, Real Madrid will face Sevilla in a potentially very big Spanish soccer match, and the women's singles and men's doubles world champions in table tennis will be crowned in China.

THE PLAYOFFS. LeBron James will have Saturday off — he and the Cleveland Cavaliers won't be playing again until Monday, so you know he'll likely be watching this fight someplace.

The NHL playoffs will be going on, with Washington and the New York Rangers playing Game 2 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series. Depending on what happens in other games, the NBA might have nothing scheduled that day, which would only give fans and players more time to enjoy everything else.

There's also a chance the NBA could see one or two Game 7s to end the first round.

THE NFL DRAFT. Finally, there's the big event of the NFL offseason — the draft, with the final four rounds coming on Saturday. It starts Thursday night, then resumes with rounds two and three on Friday.

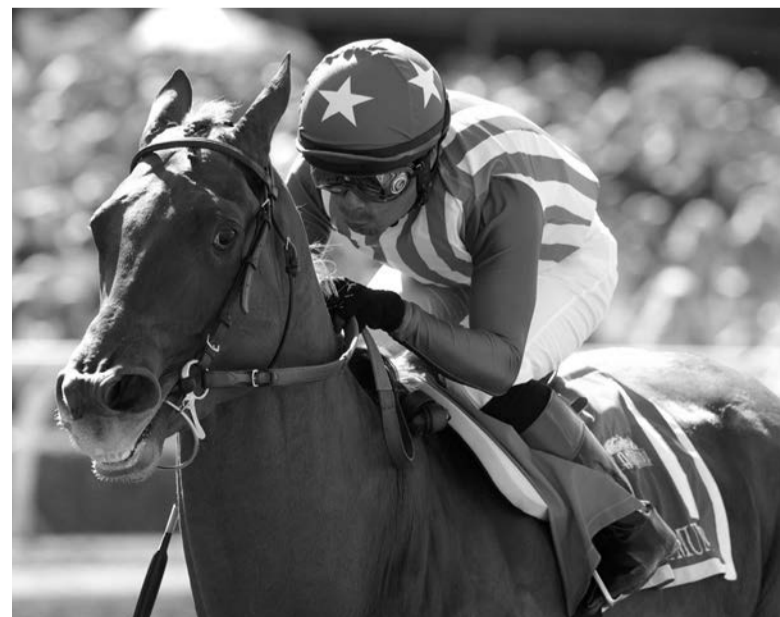
This weekend the mighty NFL feels like an appetizer.

The last pick in the draft gets the title of "Mr. Irrelevant."

Given all going on in the sports world on Saturday, that may never be more appropriate. **AP**



Jordan Spieth hits out of a bunker to the second green of TPC Harding Park during round-robin play against Mikko Ilonen, of Finland, at the Match Play Championship golf tournament in San Francisco



Dortmund, ridden by jockey Martin Garcia, wins the Grade I \$1,000,000 Santa Anita Derby horse race, at Santa Anita Park, in Arcadia, Calif.

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautedé



GROUNDHOG DAY

In the 1993 comedy "Groundhog Day", Bill Murray plays a weatherman who falls victim of some form of never ending time loop while reluctantly covering a seemingly dull and repetitive story about a rodent able to forecast the weather: each and every morning, the very same day starts all over again, and the weatherman is stuck on February 2nd. What appears as an opportunity at first, providing endless occasions to influence the same situations for both worst and best, soon turns into a nightmare, as the now much wiser character discovers the limits of his newly-found omnipotence. Ultimately, only the discovery of his true benevolent self will allow him to break free from this doom—this is after all a Hollywood movie.

Beyond the growing annoyance, this feeling of everlasting repetition made pointless by the powerlessness of the protagonists is obviously what resonates most in the hearts and minds of many people in Macao when it comes to "traffic issues". The problem is: Macao is no Hollywood!

While on the trail to win an election for which he was running unopposed last August, Mr Chui went the extra step of gathering people's "opinions and suggestions"—let's say grievances. Quite unexpectedly it seems—we had been told time and time again that "housing" was the No. 1 problem—it was reported in November that the most pressing concern for Macao residents was actually the one concerning traffic. At the time, a very inspired Lao Pun Lap, the head of the government think-tank, revealed that even though he did not have the "exact figure" for the breakdown of these 87,425 "opinions" (out of a total of 111,246) exclusively troubled by "traffic issues", a majority of citizens expected the government to give high-priority to public transportation, and that the number of vehicles on the road should be limited, the number of parking spots increased, the LRT construction work sped up and the overall management of traffic flow improved.

This is pretty much in line with observations and suggestions—clearly I cannot use the word "commitments"—that were developed back in 2009 in the "General Policy on Traffic and Land Transportation in Macao (2010-2020)" issued by the Transport Bureau (DSAT): the future in terms of "mobility" was bleak if projections from 2010 were to be trusted (too many private cars, too slow a traffic, lengthened commuting time and too much pollution) and thus a duly identified impending disaster required swift actions and long term planning. According to that document, by 2012, the priority was to be the reorganization of "public transports" and "the safeguarding of commuting", and by 2015, the "metro" would have started operating and "tangible results in every area supporting the 'primacy of public transports'" would have been achieved. Let's face it: every aspect of the four step action plan of that 2009 blueprint—improving public transport, reasonably managing private vehicles, creating a sense of flawless mobility and pursuing the construction of infrastructures and a better education regarding road safety—are utter failures.

The new Secretary for transport and public works, Raimundo do Rosário, is absolutely right when he hints at the fact that the issue of traffic congestion and the ways to solve it are a matter of collective responsibility. When newspapers are filled with full-page ads of cars whose speed and size are simply insane for a 30 sq. kilometer territory, they bear a responsibility. When people pressure the government to keep the price of petrol and the tax on vehicles low, they share part of the blame—and the same goes for legislators who speak on behalf of the said people. When the government fails to organize sensible tenders for big infrastructure projects, or when it proves unable to supervise the realization of these projects, or when it makes a mistake in the type of contract it issues for the concessionary exploitation of the city's bus lanes, it does indeed bear another significant part of the responsibility.

The failure to address the challenges of fast deteriorating mobility in Macao has already had a great impact on our mind—peace of mind—, lungs and purse, and clearly breaking free from that apparently inevitable trap will require far more than good intentions and benevolence.

THE BUZZ DOZENS OF AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHTS DELAYED BY MAP GLITCH

More than 50 American Airlines flights have been delayed in the past two days by a glitch in navigation-map software loaded on pilots' iPads.

A spokeswoman for the airline, Andrea Huguely, said that pilots were deleting and reinstalling the map app to fix the problem.

Huguely said that 24 flights were delayed Tues-

day night and about 30 on Wednesday. She said no flights were canceled. However, some passengers said on social media that they left planes after pilots announced delays.

The duplicate map will be removed when the software is updated next week, Pound said. The app containing the map error is used only by American.

TOP ENTERTAINMENT AT THE VENETIAN THIS WEEKEND

Katy Perry concerts, Pacquiao vs Mayweather live feeds heat up Cotai



This weekend Sands China is once again bringing top entertainment to town. Katy Perry takes the stage at the Cotai Arena for two back-to-back concert nights Friday and Saturday. Sunday morning the "fight of the century" will be broadcast to sports fans via exclusive live feeds at the Bellini Lounge and Venetian Ballroom

Two concert nights from global superstar Katy Perry plus exclusive live feeds of boxing's "fight of the century" – Mayweather vs. Pacquiao – will take place from today until Sunday at the Venetian Macao.

First up is pop music phenomenon Katy Perry, who takes the Cotai Arena stage tonight and Saturday night, bringing her highly acclaimed "The Prismatic World Tour" to Macao. Then on Sunday, sports fans can watch the Floyd Mayweather vs Manny Pacquiao bout at the Bellini Lounge and Venetian Ballroom – the only venues in Macao with access to the live closed circuit feed of one of the most anticipated bo-

xing showdowns in the history of the sport.

"This weekend, Sands China is once again doing one of the things it does best – and that's bringing the absolute brightest stars in the world of entertainment to Macao for the enjoyment of both locals and visitors," said Dave Horton, senior vice president and global chief marketing officer of Las Vegas Sands and Sands China. "Diversification of the tourism industry continues to be a focal point of the company, and our multi-tiered entertainment strategy is a key part of that focus. Macao has another action packed weekend of entertainment ahead as it steadily streng-

thens its position as a world center of tourism and leisure, and as Asia's destination for business and leisure travellers."

Katy Perry tickets start at MOP380 while tickets for the Mayweather vs. Pacquiao live feed start at MOP200.

According to the company, "more entertainment is still on the way though." Sands China is reporting "a very positive response to ticket sales" for the musical Beauty and the Beast, which makes a limited run at The Venetian Theatre June 13-July 26, "building on the success of CATS," which played to enthusiastic audiences March 6-15.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA's political opposition accuses the government of winding back the country's rejection of the death penalty during a heated debate following Indonesia's execution of two Australian drug traffickers.

THAILAND Five years after a Reuters video journalist was shot dead during a protest in Thailand, a court says its inquest was unable to determine if the shot was fired by Thai soldiers or protesters.

RUSSIA The reclusive leader of North Korea will not be coming to Moscow next month for the Victory Day celebration, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman announces. The highly anticipated visit would have been Kim Jong Un's first foreign trip since taking power more than three years ago. *More on p12*



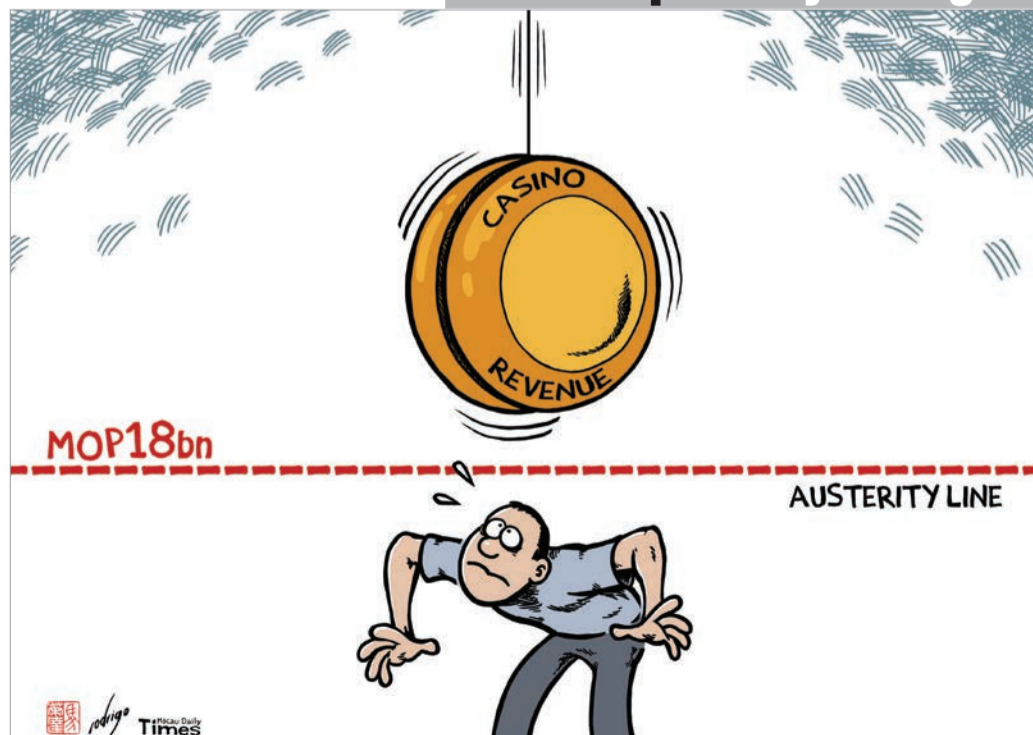
JAPAN is proposing to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by up to 26 percent by 2030 amid international efforts to set a new framework for addressing climate change.



UK Rupert Murdoch's tabloid Sun has spoken, urging voters to back David Cameron's Conservative Party in Britain's election – unless they're in Scotland. There, it says, they should vote for the Scottish National Party.

NIGERIA A day after the Nigerian army celebrated the rescue of 200 girls and 93 women in the forest stronghold of Boko Haram, the army's spokesman said more women and children believed to have been abducted by the Islamic extremists were rescued as firefights broke out there.

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