



CHOW TAI FOOK'S WEAK MACAU SALES

The world's largest listed jewelry store dropped due to weak sales in Hong Kong and Macau

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3D HERITAGE MODELS UNVEILED

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GREECE RUSHING TO FINALIZE REFORMS

Donald Tusk, who chairs the EU summits, said that the plan would have to be matched by creditors' suggestions

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WORLD BRIEFS

HONG KONG issued its third-highest storm signal for the first time this year as Severe Tropical Storm Linfa approached the financial center. The Hong Kong Observatory hoisted the No. 8 Storm Signal at 4:40 p.m. yesterday, according to its website.



CHINA A Chinese journalist will be freed without charge following nine months in detention after she helped cover the Hong Kong democracy protests for a German publication, her lawyer said yesterday. Beijing prosecutors decided not to bring any charge against Zhang Miao, who was a news assistant for Die Zeit, said lawyer Zhou Shifeng, who was notified of the decision yesterday.



CHINA's consumer inflation edged up to a still-low 1.4 percent in June, leaving room for Beijing to cut interest rates or take other steps to stimulate slowing economic growth. Inflation rose from the previous month's 1.2 percent, driven by a 1.9 percent rise in food costs, government data showed yesterday.

MYANMAR has ratified the chemical weapons convention, bringing the treaty a step closer to its goal of acceptance by every country in the world.

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Half of Chinese firms halt stock trading to avoid turmoil

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Lawmakers divided over casino full smoking ban

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Natasha Khan

RETAIL

THE world's largest listed jewelry chain by revenue doesn't think the market meltdown in China will hurt demand for engagement or wedding rings: Some people might just buy smaller diamonds.

The stock market has been volatile lately and that will of course impact consumption," Kent Wong, managing director of Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd., said yesterday. "But there are some products that still need to be bought, like wedding jewelry and engagement rings."

The Hong Kong-based jeweler said its retail sales fell 6 percent by value in the April-to-June quarter on weak buying in Hong Kong and Macau. The company has been hurt by China's slowing economic growth and a government-led austerity campaign, which has prompted shoppers to cut back on luxury purchases.

Chow Tai Fook may see "a bit of impact" due to the recent stock market rout, Wong said. The slump in the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index has helped wipe

out more than USD3 trillion of market value since June 12, causing panic among investors and prompting regulators to introduce support measures.

Chow Tai Fook cut prices for some of its diamond-set products by as much as 30pct in June

Shares of Chow Tai Fook closed down 0.6 percent at HKD7.85 yesterday in Hong Kong, compared with a 3.7 percent gain in the Hang Seng Index. The company's shares have fallen 25 percent this year, against the ben-



An employee prepares gold bracelets for sale inside a Chow Tai Fook store in the Central district of Hong Kong

chmark index's 3.3 percent gain.

Same-store sales at Chow

Tai Fook outlets open a year or more fell 7 percent in mainland China during the quarter ended in June, and were down 24 percent in Hong Kong and Macau, the jeweler said in a statement Thursday. The slowdown in those two cities is likely to get worse as Chinese tourists explore new destinations, Wong said.

Still, the company remains confident about China's long-term economic growth and in Chinese shoppers' spending power, which Wong said should revive by the year's end. "People will still need to buy Christmas presents," he said. "If they've earned more happy money that year

they might spend more, but if they haven't then they might be more sparing."

The value of general retail sales in Hong Kong fell 0.1 percent in May, easing from April's revised 2.1 percent slump, the government said last month. Sales volume rose 4.6 percent in May amid a series of discounts and promotional campaigns by the city's tourism department and businesses.

Chow Tai Fook cut prices for some of its diamond-set products by as much as 30 percent in June, seeking to reduce bloated inventories, Bloomberg Intelligence retail analyst Catherine Lim said. **Bloomberg**

Chow Tai Fook quarterly retail sales fall 6pct on Macau, Hong Kong

CHOW Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd., the world's largest listed jewelry chain by sales, saw the value of its retail sales fell 6 percent in April to June due to weak sales in Hong Kong and Macau.

Same-store sales fell by 7 percent in mainland China, and were down 24 percent in Hong Kong and Macau in the fiscal first quarter ending June, the jeweler said in a statement yesterday.

Hong Kong-based Chow Tai Fook has been hurt by China's slowing economic and a go-

vernment-led austerity campaign, which prompted shoppers to cut back on luxury purchases. The jeweler saw net income plunge 25 percent for its fiscal year ending March as stores in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau suffered.

The jeweler had cut prices for some of its diamond-set products by as much as 30 percent in June, in a bid to reduce inventories bloated by weaker-than-expected sales in the city, said Bloomberg Intelligence retail analyst Catherine Lim.

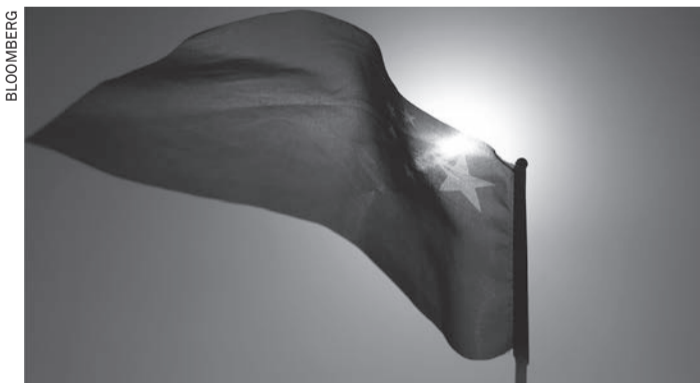
Public holiday to mark victory against Japan

THIS year, September 3 will be listed as a mandatory holiday to mark the 70th anniversary of China's victory in the Anti-Japanese War. The Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary unanimously adopted

the Office of the Chief Executive's proposal yesterday, which suggests declaring the day a holiday "so that all citizens would be able to participate in the commemoration event." The Secretary for Ad-

ministration and Justice, Sonia Chan, explained to lawmakers that there will be a series of activities arranged for September 3 to "commemorate the martyrs and patriots sacrificed in the Chinese people's re-

sistance against Japanese aggression, as well as the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War, demonstrating the Chinese people's firm determination to resist aggression and maintain peace." **BY**



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AL PLENARY

Heated debate over casino full smoking ban

Brook Yang

MACAUS tobacco taxes will be raised significantly to at least 70 percent of the products' retail prices, as the Legislative Assembly (AL)'s plenary session passed an amendment to the consumption tax regulations yesterday. The AL also debated a draft bill to further control smoking in the city, while there was heated discussion on the proposal to implement a full smoking ban in casinos.

Although the first reading of the smoking ban wasn't yet voted on during yesterday's session, due to lack of time, many lawmakers stated their approval of the amendments in general but also stressed doubts over certain clauses and concerns over the bill's impact.

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong called the proposal "a belated decision that came in an inopportune time," as "pushing for a full smoking ban in casinos during the industry downturn would cause resistance and anxieties."

He suggested that the government "could have settled the matter in one go" in 2012 when the Regime for Smoking Prevention and Control was promulgated. "That was the most appropriate timing to fully ban smoking in casinos as the industry was on an upward streak," he said.

The authorities have gradually implemented smoking control in casinos since 2013 with the exception of VIP gam-

bling rooms and smoking lounges that were set up by the gaming operators to adapt to the regulations.

By contrast, Lawmaker Lei Cheng I showed support to the government's proposal to implement a full smoking ban with no further delays.

"The casino workers have already waited and bared the hazard of smoking for three years in exchange for economic

An economic recession won't lead to unemployment, as there is an exit mechanism for Macau's 170,000 migrant workers

ALEXIS TAM

growth. With all workers' right to a healthy working environment being backed by existing laws, the smoking ban's exception is very unfair and harmful to them," she criticized.

More lawmakers, such as Ho Ion Sang, Chui Sai Cheong and Si Ka Lon, also stated they would vote in favor of the bill's first reading but called for caution and detailed analysis on its

potential impact on the gaming industry in the second reading. "Smoking control should be gradually extended with a balance to the economic situation and dispelling citizens' doubts," suggested Chui.

Responding to lawmakers' concerns over the bill's impact on the local economy and employment, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, stated "it's precisely the time" to implement a full smoking ban as Macau needs to transform into a world tourism and leisure center.

"That emphasizes green tourism; a big selling point of green tourism is a smoking-free environment," he said, adding that most tourists being surveyed don't mind the implementation of a full smoking ban, whereas the government can also maintain visitor volume by exploring overseas markets and loosening the visa restrictions to more mainland cities.

The Secretary further suggested "an economic recession won't lead to unemployment, as there is an exit mechanism for Macau's 170,000 migrant workers. If the VIP gambling rooms really need to lay off more employees, the migrant workers would exit the market."

Nevertheless, some lawmakers were still strongly opposed to tightening smoking control and levying higher tobacco taxes. Worrying the smoking ban in VIP rooms would drive away even more high-rollers, Zheng Anting stressed "this is a time to tide

over the difficulties, not a time to pile on the pressure."

Kou Hoi In, who voted against the tax increases, argued that those measures would squeeze tobacco retailers and create an incentive of huge profits for cigarette smuggling due to the double price difference with neighboring Zhuhai.

"It's sending a message that Macau's tobacconists should change profession. Even smoking in tobacco retail shops will be prohibited, it's exterminating the sector," he disputed. "It's rather better to ban the importing of tobacco than going through all these troubles," added lawmaker Cheung Lup Kwan.

Defending smokers' "freedom of choosing their lifestyle," lawmaker Fong Chi Keong declaimed "the government's decision-making is based on what it thinks is not good but it shouldn't force it onto citizens' free choice."

"You don't smoke, so you don't know the benefits of smoking. If there's no benefits from smoking, no one would've done it," argued the lawmaker, comparing smoking with drinking, gambling and clubbing. "Why are you so tolerant of drinking or clubbing late night but discriminating against smokers?" he questioned.

Fong called the secretary "too confident," advising him that, "a principal official shouldn't push for a policy decisively without giving room for negotiation. Without balancing different demands, your subjective opinion will backfire and draw laughter in society."

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

NATURAL GAS Lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang has lashed out at the government for not following up on the concession agreement signed with the power supplier Sinosky Energy (Holdings), which has failed to provide the region with a stable supply of natural gas at a reasonable price. Earlier, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, noted that the authorities could repeal the partnership if no consensus was eventually reached. Kwan believes that there should be a specific deadline for the bilateral negotiations, and that the government may have to take a decisive stance. As the region's sole natural gas provider, Sinosky Energy not only supplies CEM with power, but also provides natural gas to Nam Kwong Petroleum and Chemicals Co. Limited to distribute across the region through its grids.

TRAFFIC TROUBLES Amid growing public resentment against ongoing roadworks, lawmaker Zheng Anting has suggested that the government refer to other cities' practices and adopt underground mutual pipelines at main traffic avenues across the city so as to avoid projects being continually conducted on the same roads. He also suggested that projects be carried out at nighttime in order to minimize impact on traffic users, and advocated for flexible working hours within local companies to account for inconvenient traffic circumstances.

SWIMMING POOLS Following a recent suspension of operations at two local swimming pools, triggering public concerns over water quality, Lei Cheong I has said that the government should draw up specific regulations for private swimming pools. The lawmaker bemoaned the fact that some private housing or resorts lacked personnel to maintain their pools, consequently posing a threat to swimmers there. Conducive to this, the region currently has no laws regulating hardware or hygiene at private swimming pools, which puts their users at risk. The lawmaker urged the administration to set up a licensing regime, through which the authorities could oversee the operation of public and private swimming pools as a whole.

US documentary on local gaming industry shelved

A US documentary on Macau's gaming industry was shelved by the American public service broadcaster PBS. According to the documentary's creator, the decision to axe the production from broadcasting schedules was due to fears of litigation from US casino tycoons operating in Macau.

Initially titled "God of Gamblings," the documentary "Bigger Than Vegas" was slated to air on PBS last year, but was postponed several times. The documentary resulted from several years of investigation led by the veteran and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Lowell Bergman, who is currently a scholar at the University of California in Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, and director of UC Berkeley's Investigative Reporting Program.

Bergman investigated the activities of organized crime figures from China and their alleged ties to American-ow-



ned casinos in Macau. The USD700,000 feature was finally scrapped from PBS's investigative documentary series Frontline earlier this year. Frontline is an award-winning public television series which has aired for thirty-two years.

An article posted by "The Daily Beast" indicates that there were many disagreements between Frontline and the team led by Bergman over various edits of the

film. It was initially delayed, then rescheduled, and finally cancelled permanently on January 22 of this year.

"I don't think that that's unusual in journalism," Frontline's executive producer, Aronson-Rath, commented. "Journalists and editors have editorial disagreements. You've been in the field long enough to know that that's the case."

However, Lowell Bergman has a different version of

the facts. "We at the Investigative Reporting Program believe that the story was killed for two reasons: their editorial concerns; and their concerns about the legal consequences," Bergman told an audience of fellow journalists in April.

Aronson-Rath responded to this statement by issuing a press release essentially accusing Bergman's team of sloppy journalism.

"To be clear, our reasons for canceling the film were editorial...We tried over many iterations to reach an acceptable final edit. We postponed the broadcast twice because we didn't believe it was ready, including finding out about serious factual issues less than two weeks before air last fall. (...) Despite more time, Lowell and his team were not able to provide strong enough sourcing and reporting to support key elements of the film," the press release read.

GAMING

Local casino operators stocks may rise 30pct

THE beaten-down shares of Macau's casino operators are worth a gamble, according to Credit Suisse. Some shares could rise more than 30 percent by the end of 2016.

According to Barron's Online, "Prospects in Macau are looking less gloomy." One of the factors that could improve business for the gaming operators is the announcement by mainland authorities of a less stringent visa policy. This will again increase the number of days that visitors are permitted to stay in the region when in transit to another destination.

Another factor is seasonal, since China is entering its summer high season for gaming, and this could bring a return to sequential, if not year-on-year, revenue growth.

Credit Suisse on Tuesday upgraded MGM China, Sands China and Wynn Macau to "outperform," predicting increases of 38 percent, 31 percent and 18 percent, respectively, by the end of 2016. In its view, the challenges are well understood by investors, and government support for the casino sector, both in Macau and Beijing, is improving.

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MGTO promotional event in Malaysia, Singapore

THE Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) went on a joint sales mission to Malaysia and Singapore together with five other regional tourism offices. The offices collaborated to expand overseas markets and to promote international visitation. During the mission, they branded their cities as one regional destination by promoting their multi-destination tour routes.

The joint promotional event kicked off in Kuala Lumpur. The activities included a one-on-one media session for tourism officials from Guangdong and Macau to meet with and provide updates to local media about their destinations' tourism trends. According to a statement issued by MGTO, the mission also served as a platform for Guangdong and Macau's trade delegates to discuss business opportunities with over 100 industry partners from Malaysia.

The "Macau Travel Fies-

ta" was one of the mission's highlights in Singapore. During the event, the Guangdong tourism authorities took the opportunity to showcase tourism information and photos of Guangdong Province. Over 70 members of Singaporean travel trade participated in the Destination Product Presentation and business session. MGTO also held a meeting with the Singapore Tourism Board to discuss opportunities for regional cooperation in tourism.

The joint delegation comprises of nearly 60 members, which is the biggest in recent years. Apart from MGTO, the participating entities included the Tourism Administration of Guangdong Province, the Tourism Administration of Guangzhou Municipality, the Zhongshan Municipal Tourism Bureau, the Zhuhai Culture Sports and Tourism Bureau, as well as the Tourism Administration of Shaoguan Municipality.

Tourism cooperation boosted by HK-Zhuhai-Macau bridge

GIVEN the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge's opening looming on the horizon next year, the local government yesterday inked a framework agreement with authorities from Zhuhai and Hong Kong, ramping up regional collaboration on tourism development.

The trilateral partnership was reached at a conference held yesterday in Hengqin where both tourism departments' major officials came together to discuss participation in the Chinese central government's strategic "one belt one road" initiative.

Helena de Senna Fernandes, head of the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) mentioned in her address: "As we are striving towards the goal of diversified products and market while continuing to consolidate and expand our international travel market, we also work with the SAR government to build Macau into a world travel and leisure center with a diversified tourist source."

"In the past since 1993, the cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau has been there, yet now we hope it could particularly extend the cooperation between



Cranes operate on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge currently under construction

Zhuhai, Hong Kong and Macau."

The local government also seeks to make two-day stays possible for inbound visitors via the agreement as the city constantly records single-day visitation more than others. Ms Senna Fernandes told media that she was confident that attractive packages of products would come up in the travel sector within the year to fulfill the goal. "I believe that with more hotel rooms in the future, on the other hand, and our increasingly abundant tourist products, it's absolutely possible to make [the visitors] stay for two nights," she said.

Rather than a competition, the MGTO head reckoned that the distinctive features from the three regions might complement with each other to achieve much more, espe-

cially with the help of the cross-city infrastructure.

The cooperative agreement requires the authorities to organize joint meetings regularly on promotions, the co-organizing of international activities and talent nurturing.

Scholars and experts from the three regions were also present in a forum, part of yesterday's meeting, to paint a picture of the whole industry prospects as well as resources and facilities involved in the government-level cooperation.

Afterwards, the officials and other practitioners in the travel sector went on a tour of Zhuhai's tourist attractions for more specific information. The delegation will be in town today to learn more about the local landscape.

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Young artists come together for global expo

UP to 100 artists from around the globe will gather at the 2015 New Art Wave Expo this summer to showcase their latest works, while vying for the exhibition's 2015 New Art Wave International Artist Award.

Organized by two Hong Kong public relations and exhibition firms – Mention PR Consultants and I-Expo – the first-ever staging of the art event, which will be held from August 28 to 30 at the Venetian Macao, attracted a total of 328 entrants from 80 art academies or universities in around 20 countries or regions.

Only 100 art pieces, appearing in various forms ranging from paintings to sculptures, made it through the first screening to the exposition. There, the final judging panel will consist of six cross-strait experts in the artistic sector who will select the best three candidates for the title.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Macau, Tang Hoi Chiu, adjunct professor in visual arts at the Hong Kong Baptist University and a member of the jury that selected the artworks, described the orga-

nizers' preparatory efforts over the past two months as "pains-taking." He praised the event for bringing together such a vast breadth of talent in a place where arts curators and collectors worldwide are expected to come and appreciate their efforts, thus creating opportuni-

■ **The event attracted a total of 328 entrants from 80 art academies**

ties for them to flourish in the global industry.

Each entrant is expected to attend, and will be allocated a booth with a maximum area of nine square meters in which to present their work. "Tertiary education institutes are a cradle to nurture future artists with their own distinctive artistic features. Those schools have their unique objectives, educational directions, philosophies and goals," Tang said.

Chan Kam Shing, one of the four jury members, also revealed his dilemma in culling the entries to find the best art pieces from the wide range of works created after 2010, which the authorities guaranteed were "the latest."

"I could appraise the artworks only through an electronic medium, like a screen or print-out, which might affect my assessment," said the judge, adding that he had to refer to entry statements to ensure an accurate evaluation.

Highlights of the three-day exposition will also include five talks exploring the prospects of the artistic industry and the market, where seasoned artists and scholars will discuss how schools could further contribute to the art scene.

Mianco Wong, one of the exhibition organizers, told media in her address: "The event has been well received since its call for entrants, reflecting a certain degree of desire for such a platform. We expect to create genuine art exchanges with international horizons." **Staff reporter**

ART

Venice collective exhibition at Albergue SCM

A new exhibition at the Albergue SCM titled "Travel Notes • Venice - Collective Exhibition on the Subject of Macau's Participation in the Venice Art Biennale 2015" is set to open on July 15.

The exhibition is the result of a sponsorship program launched by Albergue SCM, which has allowed 11 local young artists to visit the Venice Biennale and to attend the opening of the local exhibition. Surrounded by Venice's appealing scenery, they produced several impromptu artworks with paintbrushes and lenses, and these will now be showcased.

Members of the Macau Museum of Art and the Committee of Cultural Industries who attended the opening of the local exhibition "Path and Adventure - Works by Mio Pang



Fei" were also invited to display the artworks they created in Venice. The show will display various types of works, including installations, watercolors and photography.

The exhibition will be held between July 15 and 31 in the A2 Gallery of the Albergue SCM, and admission is free.

IC unveils three-dimensional heritage models



IN order to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Macau being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has unveiled four three-dimensional models representing listed sites, namely St Joseph's Church, the Mandarin's House, the A-Ma Temple and

the D. Pedro V Theater.

According to a statement issued by IC, "by building the World Heritage models, the citizens will be able to deepen their knowledge of the buildings and to experience their beauty and Macau characteristics, where Eastern and Western cultures mix." **PB**

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LIMITED EDITION PENFOLDS
AMPOULE AT CITY OF DREAMS



The world's last remaining limited edition Penfolds Ampoule has been secured by City of Dreams as an addition to its luxury and exclusive wine collection. This reflection of Penfolds' winemaking heritage, innovation and artistic collaboration was globally released in 2012, with only eleven units available to collectors. To celebrate its unveiling at the Michelin-starred restaurant, The Tasting Room at City of Dreams, Penfolds Chief Winemaker Peter Gago hosted a special dinner and master class tasting Wednesday. The tasting class featured rare wines handpicked from the Penfolds museum's cellars to mark the occasion at the restaurant.

Honda adds 4.5m cars to recalls for faulty Takata air bags

Craig Trudell and Yuki Hagiwara

HONDA Motor Co. called back 4.5 million vehicles globally in connection with Takata Corp. air bags, expanding the industry's largest recall ever, amid a mounting toll of injuries or deaths related to the safety devices.

About 36 percent of the total, or 1.63 million, involve vehicles in Japan ranging from the Fit small car to the CR-V crossover, Teruhiko Tatebe, a Honda spokesman, said by phone yesterday. The automaker is still compiling details on models affected in other markets, he said.

It's Honda's third-biggest recall this year and its first since Takahiro Hachigo



took over as president this month from a predecessor who was plagued by quality missteps. While Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co. have also been hit, no carmaker has been more affected by the Takata air-bag crisis than Honda, which has now called back more than 24 million vehicles.

Hachigo told reporters yesterday that he believes the inflators that Takata currently makes are safe, though he declined to say whether the automaker will continue to use the components. The priority remains to find the root cause of the inflator ruptures, he said.

The cost related to the la-

test recall may be covered by existing provisions set aside by Honda and the company doesn't expect an additional impact to earnings for now, spokesman Atsushi Ohara said.

The latest Honda recall involved vehicles manufactured from 2007 to 2011. While the same type of inflator is used in vehicles produced after 2012, those were not recalled as investigations didn't find evidence of danger, Honda said. No injuries or deaths related to the air bags were reported for the batch being called back.

The stock fell 0.1 percent to close at 3,832 yen in Tokyo and Takata dropped 4.5 percent to 1,245 yen, while the Nikkei 225 Stock Average climbed 0.6 percent. **Bloomberg**

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Macau is grinding to a halt. We are only a short step away from being instructed to bring food with us if we are travelling between the islands and the peninsula.

It was not so long ago, prior to the opening of the second bridge which I believe was in 1995, that drivers had to queue for anywhere from 1 hour to 6 hours (yes, that's right... 6 hours) to cross the original bridge. To catch a 7pm jetfoil with confidence, a person would leave Coloane at 12:00

Traffic and the volume of cars in Macau is a subject that tends to raise the blood pressure of anyone with a pulse. We look at some of its effects and possible solutions in this article.

Parking:

A single parking space now costs as much as a family home in many places outside Macau.

With taxis rarer than a cheap rent, buses more overcrowded than a lifeboat from the Titanic and a rail system approaching at the speed of dark, there's not much choice getting from A to B.

But where do you park? It's almost impossible to park nowadays, and that's a massive issue for Macau.

Possible solutions (in no particular order):
1. Increase the number of taxi licenses by at least double. The taxi license holders will complain, but increasing the amount of taxis will also increase the amount of people who use them because they can actually rely on getting one.

2. Dedicated taxi pick up points where taxis can pull in and pick up passengers. Stopping on pedestrian crossings, roundabouts and single lane roads causes havoc for drivers, and there is no reliable queuing system for passengers hoping to catch a taxi or win the lottery, whichever comes first.

3. Improve the driving license learning and test center. The quality of driving and knowledge is disgraceful. The speed limit of just over 37mph (60kmh) on most roads and the traffic jams are the only reasons more people aren't injured.

Amongst other things, drivers simply do not know the correct way to drive around a roundabout, and as soon as a bus stops in mid roundabout to let another bus out, it causes a chain reaction that evolves into a traffic jam every time.

I recently heard the roundabouts re-named 'Traffic Roulette' which seems like a far more appropriate name. Either teach people how to drive around roundabouts or go back to traffic lights.

4. Throw every possible resource at the light rail, and plan NOW for line extensions into populated areas to carry people to work and discourage them from using cars.

5. Like most other advanced cities and countries, issue parking permits for local residents. There are not enough car parks, parking permits allow residents the ability to park within walking distance of their home.

6. Add another level to the bus system. The current bus system caters for people on a budget, and that's important. The trouble is there are only two choices right now, pay MOP 5.00 for a bus ride or MOP300,000+ for a car! There are many people who would pay much higher transport and mini-bus rates so they can get from A to B without using a car.

7. Add a rail link to the Hong Kong/Macau/Guangzhou bridge. Do it now, even if it means delaying the current project. In today's age of the environment, not having a rail link and only having an exhaust spewing car option is simply, well, irresponsible.

8. Allow Uber or a similar system to operate in Macau. If you are not familiar with Uber, it is an extremely successful and popular application that allows people to share rides in private cars for pre-agreed fees that paid automatically by credit card. You get into a car knowing how others have rated the car and the driver, and you also know the name and have the full details of the driver. Feel unsafe? When was the last time you had a full report in hand about the taxi driver you are riding with?

Its difficult to see which way parking space prices will go.

On one hand, unless the issue is addressed and tackled efficiently, the demand for parking will just continue to increase. On the other hand, HKD 1,500,000 - HKD 3,500,000 is today's reality. Are we facing a future where owning a parking space will make you a USD millionaire?

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Security agency to investigate 'malicious' short sales

AP PHOTO



CHINA'S domestic security agency is teaming up with the securities regulator to probe short selling, as the government works to stem a stock plunge that has erased USD3.9 trillion in market value, the state news agency said.

The Public Security Ministry will help the China Securities Regulatory Commission investigate evidence of "malicious" short selling of stocks and indexes, the official Xinhua News Agency said on its microblog. Vice Public Security Minister Meng Qingfeng visited the regulator's offices in Beijing yesterday.

The move comes after the securities regulator pledged to "strictly" punish market manipulation and China's state-run media blamed short selling, rumor-mongering and foreign meddling for fueling the stock slide. The ruling Communist Party has announced an unprecedented series of measures to boost shares to little effect, including banning major shareholders, executives and directors from selling stakes.

"If you sell huge amounts of stock on the spot market and sell lots of futures contracts, then you'll probably be a 'malicious short seller,'" said Jiang Lin, an analyst at Xinhua Futures Co. in Shanghai. "They will probably investigate a few accounts with big amounts of money and catch some as typical examples."

Short selling, in which

people sell borrowed stock at lower prices to bet on its decline, represent a relatively small portion of China's trades. Short positions on the Shanghai Stock Exchange totaled just 1.62 billion yuan (\$261 million) on Wednesday, or less than 0.01 percent of the country's market capitalization, as bears closed out more than half their bets since June 12.

Investors can also bet on market declines by trading equity-index futures. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index rose as much as 2.6 percent to 3,598.96 yesterday, its highest level since Monday. The gauge was up 1.3 percent as of 11:49 a.m.

The security ministry's move to investigate short-selling demonstrates the authorities' determination to treat illegal market activities in a "heavy-handed manner," Xinhua said.

"The government feels compelled to send a clear message that on the one hand they are supporting the market and, on the other hand, they're cracking down on any activities that could destabilize the market," said Zhao Xijun, deputy dean at Renmin University's school of finance and a former consultant to the securities regulator. "The regulators can catch some suspects, but for those behaviors that amount to financial crimes and go beyond the scope of regulators, the public security agency needs to step in."

Bloomberg

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Kelvin Chan
Business Writer, Hong Kong

Wave of firms halt stock trading to avoid turmoil

FACED with a stomach-turning slide in share prices, many Chinese companies are taking matters into their own hands with a tactic that experts say is bound to backfire: they're pressing the pause button.

About half of the 2,800 stocks on mainland Chinese markets have been suspended from trading as companies attempt to stem further losses by sitting out the market upheaval.

The trading halts appear to be separate from the flurry of measures rolled out by Beijing over the past week, as the country's communist leaders made increasingly desperate attempts to stabilize tumbling markets.

The Shanghai Composite Index has dived about 30 percent from its June 12 peak. The steep decline comes after a spectacular rally that sent the Shanghai index up 150 percent in the previous 12 months despite slowing growth in the world's second biggest economy.

The government fanned the rally by sending encouraging signals through state media that enticed the Chinese public to pile in to the market. But the ensuing downturn and Beijing's frantic response, which includes banning major shareholders from selling stakes for six months, highlights the limits of its control over the market.

Experts said the wave of trading suspensions could have the opposite of the intended effect. Instead of stabilizing the market, they could add to the selling pressure by transferring it to other shares that remain active.

It's a naive strategy that shows "how immature the China market is," said Jackson Wong, an associate director at United Simsen Securities.

Ordinary Chinese investors have mixed feelings about the



A Chinese stock investor uses a magnifying glass to look at his mobile phone screen as he monitors stock prices at a brokerage in Beijing

trading halts.

"I'm worried and happy at the same time," said Shanghai resident Ella Hong, who plowed 300,000 yuan (USD31,400) into six companies starting in May, just before the market turned.

Trading in half of those stocks is now frozen, including two companies whose share prices have dropped by more than half.

"What I'm happy about is that they would not lose more in these next few days," said Hong. "But what I'm worried about is that I heard once the stock comes back to the market, it would drop anyway."

Her shares of seafood processor Shandong Oriental Ocean Sci-Tech Co. are stuck at 14.01 yuan after she bought them for 35 yuan. And her

Analysts say the trading halts will make the Chinese markets more volatile in coming days

shares of hydraulic machinery maker Fujian Haiyuan Automatic Equipments Co., which she bought for 32 yuan a share, are stopped at 12.28 yuan. Both said this week they temporarily suspending trading pending the release of "relevant information," which they have not yet disclosed.

Hong said she turned to the rest of her portfolio and dumped half of those shares at a big loss. She started playing the market after seeing many other people making quick money and chose stocks based on recommendations from a master in feng shui fortune telling and a friend with investing experience.

Her experience illustrates how China's novice investors

tend to be the biggest losers in the event of a market meltdown.

That was the case in the 2007-08 market boom and bust, in which China's stock market plunged 70 percent. The boom was a windfall for Chinese companies and big investors who sold before the peak. Small investors who had piled in late suffered huge losses.

Most of the companies that have suspended trading are smaller businesses listed on the Shenzhen stock exchange. These firms have been hit harder than the big state firms listed in Shanghai because they don't benefit as much from recent government support measures, such as a plan for brokerages to buy stocks.

The Shanghai Composite Index rebounded 5.8 percent yesterday, continuing a pattern of roller-coaster trading. The market turmoil is rattling neighboring markets. Hong Kong's benchmark tumbled as much as 8.5 percent on Wednesday. However it's unlikely to seriously affect U.S. investors because they have limited involvement in China's largely hermetic markets.

Analysts say the trading halts will make the Chinese markets more volatile in coming days.

"If you hold other shares, you think: quick, sell them now before those are frozen," said Michael Every, head of Asia-Pacific financial market research at Rabobank. "Anything you hold could be frozen at an unrealistic level and you can't get out."

"There's no easy solution to this but China still seems to think there's a command-economy way to control something as chaotic as an equity market. And there really isn't," he said.

China is also revealing to global investors that its markets aren't fully developed, analysts said. For example, index compiler MSCI's recent decision to delay China's inclusion in its global benchmarks, which would have spurred more capital into the country's markets, now seems justified.

Anyone who was upset about the decision last month is now "probably thinking what a bullet they dodged," said Every.

With so many shares suspended from trading, many market watchers have suggested, partly in jest, that China completely shut its exchanges to let everyone cool off.

History suggests that won't be a cure either.

Hong Kong's stock exchange closed for four days after the Black Friday global market crash in October 1987. When it reopened, the benchmark Hang Seng index plunged 43 percent, an event that spurred fundamental changes aimed at better protecting investors. **AP**



Chinese investors monitor stock prices at a brokerage firm in Beijing

Thanyarat Dokson, Bangkok

THAILAND

THAILAND deported more than 100 Uighurs back to China yesterday, ignoring concerns that the ethnic minority faces persecution by the Chinese government, while protesters in Turkey, which had accepted an earlier batch of refugees, ransacked the Thai Consulate.

Deputy government spokesman Maj. Gen. Verachon Sukhonthapitapak said that Thailand had assurances from Chinese authorities about the safety of 109 Uighurs.

However, in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that China would take action against those suspected of breaking law.

The group had been in Thailand for over a year, along with others who had fled China and claimed to be Turkish, Verachon said. Thai authorities sought to verify their nationalities before relocating them, he said.

"We found that about 170 of them were Turkish, so they were recently sent to Turkey," he said. "And about 100 were Chinese, so they were sent to China as of this morning, under the agreement that their safety is guaranteed according to humanitarian principles."

The Uighurs are a Turkic-speaking Muslim minority in China's far west Xinjiang region. The group has complained of cultural and religious suppression as well as economic marginalization under Chinese rule.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said it was "shocked" and considered Thailand's action "a flagrant violation of international law."

"I strongly urge the Thai authorities to investigate this matter and appeal to Thailand to honor its fundamental international obligations," Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for

Activists slam repatriation of Uighurs to China



A man comforts an Uighur living in Turkey, as he is overcome by emotion on seeing a coffin representing Uighurs who have died in China's far-western Xinjiang Uighur region, during a protest in Istanbul

Protection, said in a statement.

He said such deportations violate the right to protection against return to a country where a person has reason to fear persecution, and has been described by UNHCR as "the cornerstone of asylum and of international refugee law."

The U.N. agency said it had repeatedly brought up the matter of the Uighur refugees with the Thai government, and "in response, the agency was given assurances that the matter would be handled in accordance with international legal standards, and that the group would conti-

due to receive protection."

China's position is that the Uighurs left the country illegally.

"China's relevant departments will bring those who are suspected of committing serious crimes to justice according to law," Hua Chunying told reporters. "As for those who are not suspected of committing crimes or who commit lesser offences, we will find proper ways to deal with them."

In Turkey, which has cultural ties to the Uighurs and agreed to take in the other 170 refugees despite China's objections, mostly Uighur protesters stormed and vandalized the Thai

Consulate in Istanbul. The office was closed yesterday.

The protesters waved Uighur flags and brought down the Thai flag, smashed windows and demolished pictures and furniture inside the consulate. Police allowed about 100 protesters to pray outside the consulate before taking nine of them away for questioning.

The Thai Embassy issued a statement urging its nationals in Turkey to be on alert for "an expression of dissatisfaction over Thailand's handling of the Uighurs who entered the country illegally."

Uighur protesters stormed and vandalized the Thai Consulate in Istanbul

It also advised tour guides against using the Thai flag while traveling in Turkey and urged the Thais to avoid any protest areas.

China has accused Uighur separatists of terrorism in Xinjiang, where ethnic violence has left hundreds of people dead over the past two years. Last year, Chinese authorities blamed a group of eight Uighurs for a knife attack that killed 31 people at a train station in the southwestern city of Kunming, after the suspects failed to flee the country. Three men caught before the attack were sentenced to death.

"For reasons of realpolitik, Bangkok callously treated these Uighurs as expendable pawns to be sacrificed to big brother China in clear violation of international rights standards," said Phil Robertson, Asia Division deputy director for Human Rights Watch.

The World Uyghur Congress, a German-based advocacy group, said that those repatriated could face criminal charges and harsh punishment, possibly execution, under China's opaque legal system — the reasons they fled China in the first place. **AP**

VIETNAM

Human rights should not obstruct deeper US ties

Matthew Pennington, Washington

THE head of Vietnam's ruling Communist Party said Wednesday (yesterday, Macau time) that differences with the United States on human rights should not be allowed to obstruct the deepening of relations between the former enemies.

Nguyen Phu Trong, the one-party state's de facto leader, spoke at a Washington think tank after an unprecedented meeting Tuesday with President Barack Obama



President Barack Obama, right, meets with Vietnamese Communist party secretary general Nguyen Phu Trong in the Oval Office of the White House

at the White House. Trong's visit comes 40 years after the Vietnam War and 20 years after Washington and Hanoi restored di-

plomatic relations. On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, lawmakers honored American veterans at a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the arrival of U.S. ground troops in Vietnam.

Trong called for the two nations to take relations "to the next level" after declaring a comprehensive partnership in 2013. He said they have a common interest in peaceful resolution of disputes and freedom of navigation in the disputed South China Sea.

U.S. officials see stron-

ger ties with Vietnam as a linchpin in Obama's Asia policy. Last fall, the U.S. eased restrictions on sales of lethal weaponry to Vietnam for maritime security as concern grows over Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea, an important conduit for international trade.

Human rights have remained a sore point, although the U.S. says Vietnam's prosecution of dissidents has decreased. According to the State Department, Vietnam was holding about 125 political

prisoners at the end of 2014.

On the eve of Trong's visit, a bipartisan group of nine U.S. lawmakers urged Obama to call on the party leader to release a number of detainees, saying the U.S. must send "a clear message to the Hanoi authorities that respect for human rights is essential for a closer economic and security relationship."

"We should not let this human rights issue be an obstacle to our relationship," Trong told the Center for Strategic and International Studies. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

AC/DC's Rudd given home detention for threatening to kill

A New Zealand judge sentenced AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd to eight months of home detention yesterday after the musician pleaded guilty to threatening to kill a man who used to work for him, along with possession of methamphetamine and marijuana.

The 61-year-old Australian-born drummer had faced up to seven years in prison on the threatening to kill charge, but his lawyer had argued for the conviction to be set aside.

During the hearing, Tauranga District Court Judge Thomas Ingram said Rudd had a limited criminal history and posed a low risk of reoffending, Radio New Zealand reported. But Ingram said Rudd had been found with a substantial amount of drugs. And the judge rejected an argument from Rudd's lawyer that the death threat boiled down to one angry phone call.

Rudd has been out on bail since



Former AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd arrives for sentencing at the Tauranga District Court

pleading guilty to the charges in April, when he acknowledged in a court summary of facts that he'd offered large amounts of cash, vehicles and a house to an associate after asking him to have the victim "taken out." He also acknowledged that he'd di-

rectly said to the victim he was going to kill him.

Prosecutors had also originally charged Rudd with murder-for-hire, but later dropped it, citing lack of evidence.

Rudd did not comment on the sentence as he left the cour-

thouse, simply telling reporters to "get a (expletive) job" and batting away a microphone as he got into a waiting car.

Rudd's lawyer, Craig Tuck, later said in an email that an appeal had been filed.

According to the court summary, the dispute began in August when Rudd threw a party at his marina restaurant, Phil's Place, to celebrate the launch of his solo album, "Head Job." But Rudd grew angry that security wasn't tight enough, and felt the launch hadn't gone well. He subsequently fired several employees, including the victim, whose name has been suppressed by the court.

About four weeks later, Rudd called an associate and told him he wanted the victim "taken out," according to the court summary. When asked to clarify, Rudd said he wanted the victim "taken care of."

In another call, according to the court summary,

Rudd offered the associate "NZ\$200,000, a motorbike, one of his cars or a house," which the associate took to mean as payment "for carrying out his earlier request." Two hundred thousand New Zealand dollars is equivalent to about USD133,000. The morning after calling his associate, Rudd called the victim directly, saying "I'm going to come over and kill you."

Police found marijuana and methamphetamine in several parts of Rudd's home during a search of the house, the court summary said. They also found methamphetamine in his pocket.

Rudd's lawyer had asked for a discharge without conviction in the case. New Zealand law gives a judge the discretion not to enter a conviction even after a defendant has pleaded guilty. Judges can do this if they think the consequences of a conviction outweigh the seriousness of the crime, a move which can allow a defendant to keep a clean record.

It's unclear whether Rudd has a future with the Australian rock band he's been part of on-and-off for almost four decades. The band is currently using Welsh drummer Chris Slade for its "Rock or Bust" album tour, but hasn't said if that's a long-term arrangement. **AP**

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Elena Becatoros, Athens

GREECE

Gov't rushing to finalize reforms and remain in euro

GREECE'S government was racing yesterday to finalize a plan of reforms for its third bailout, hoping this time the proposal will meet with approval from its European partners and stave off a potentially catastrophic exit from Europe's joint currency, the euro, within days.

Details of Greece's reforms were to be submitted yesterday, giving time for creditors to review them ahead of a summit of the European Union's 28 members set for Sunday.

Hopes for a deal rose after Donald Tusk, who chairs the EU summits, said that Greece's plan would have to be matched by creditors' suggestions on how to make the country's debt manageable in the longer term.

"The realistic proposal from Greece will have to be matched by an equally realistic proposal on debt sustainability from the creditors. Only then will we have a win-win situation," Tusk said.

Easing the terms of Greece's existing bailout loans has been a key dividing issue in the bailout talks for months — with Greece and the International Monetary Fund pressing in favor and key European states like Germany resisting the idea.

Tusk's comments boosted confidence that the sides will be able to find a compromise. The Stoxx 50 index of top European shares jumped 2.6 percent.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was meeting yesterday with finance ministry officials to finalize his country's plan, a day after his government requested a new three-year aid program from Europe's bailout fund and promised to immediately enact reforms, including to taxes and pensions, in return.



Pensioners line up outside the main gate of the national bank of Greece

The last-minute negotiations come amid bank closures to staunch a bank run in Greece, where capital controls have been imposed that restrict Greeks to cash withdrawals of 60 euros (USD67) per day.

The closures have been extended through Monday.

Pensioners without bank cards have been particularly hard hit as they have struggled to access their accounts. Some branches have been opened so the elderly and unemployed without bank cards can withdraw a maximum weekly sum of 120 euros each.

Hundreds lined up outside banks yesterday morning, many facing hours-long waits

in the heat. Separately, many ATMs had a shortage of 20 euro notes, effectively reducing the daily withdrawal limit to 50 euros.

If Tsipras does not get a deal, Greece faces an almost inevitable collapse of the banking system, which would be the first step for the country to fall out of the euro.

"I believe he will have to get an agreement. We will pay dearly for it, but at least we'll get an agreement," said mechanic Pantelis Niarchos, walking down the street in central Athens.

After months of fruitless negotiations with Tsipras' government, elected in January on

promises to repeal bailout austerity, the skeptical eurozone creditor states have said they want to see a detailed, cost-accounted plan of the reforms.

Greece's financial institutions have been kept afloat so far by emergency liquidity assistance from the European Central Bank. But the ECB has not increased the amount in days, leaving the lenders in a stranglehold despite capital controls.

German ECB governing council member Jens Weidmann argued yesterday that Greek banks should not get more emergency credit from the central bank unless a bailout deal is struck.

He said in a speech it was up

to eurozone governments and Greek leaders themselves to rescue Greece.

The central bank "has no mandate to safeguard the solvency of banks and governments," he said.

The ECB capped emergency credit to Greek banks amid doubt whether the country will win further rescue loans from other countries. The banks closed and limited ATM withdrawals because they had no other way to replace deposit flight.

Weidmann said he welcomed the fact that central bank credit "is no longer being used to finance capital flight caused by the Greek government." AP

ISRAEL

Authorities: 2 citizens held in Gaza

Daniel Estrin, Jerusalem

TWO Israeli citizens are being held in the Gaza Strip, at least one of them by the Hamas militant group, Israeli authorities said yesterday.

The announcement, made after months of secrecy, raised memories of the case of Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier captured by Hamas in a cross-border raid and released five years later in a prisoner swap, or the deadly kidnappings of three Israeli teens by Hamas militants in the West Bank last summer.

But yesterday's news



Israeli journalists report outside the apartment building of Ethiopian-Israeli Avraham Mengisto, 28, in the coastal city of Ashkelon

was not accompanied by the nationwide panic that occurred with the previous two cases — perhaps because the two missing Israelis were not

violently captured but also a reflection of a tense but quiet working relationship that has emerged between Israel and Hamas since a devasta-

ting war a year ago.

Avraham Mangisto, an Israeli of Ethiopian descent in his late 20s, "independently" crossed the border fence into the Gaza Strip on Sept. 7 last year, nearly two weeks after the end of the Israel-Gaza war, said the Israeli defense body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs. It gave no further details of why he crossed into the Palestinian territory.

The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories said the second Israeli citizen being held in Gaza is a Bedouin Arab man from Israel's Negev de-

sert. Officials refused to say how long he has been held in Gaza or how he got there. They also would not say which group had him in custody.

Bedouin make up a small group within Israel's Arab minority, numbering about 180,000.

COGAT said that "according to credible intelligence," Mangisto is being held "against his will" by Hamas. It said "Israel has appealed (to) international and regional interlocutors to demand his immediate release and verify his well-being."

"This is a humanitarian matter and I expect those holding him to treat him properly and to return him in full health," Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in a statement.

A spokesman for Ha-

mas, Salah Bardawil, declined comment. "We don't have any information about it. Even if is true, we don't have instructions to talk about it," he said.

It was not clear why Israel decided to come forward with the news yesterday. But Khaled Mashaal, the head of Hamas' political bureau, may have forced its hand by telling the London-based Al-Araby Al-Jadeed newspaper late Tuesday that Israel had asked Hamas through a European mediator to release "two soldiers and two bodies."

Israeli media report that the bodies of Israeli soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin, killed during combat in Gaza last summer, are thought to be held by Hamas. AP

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	The Illusionist (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:20	Revenge S2
22:00	Publicity
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Film
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:45	Boonie Bears
11:35	Documentary Serie
12:00	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News
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
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:50	Young Children
11:10	Miscellaneous
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
16:20	Miscellaneous
17:15	Documentary Series
17:45	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:10	Miscellaneous
18:45	Miscellaneous
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Operation Cloud Lab - Secrets of the Skies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

offbeat

US: BROADWAY THEATERGOER TRIES TO RECHARGE PHONE IN ONSTAGE PLUG

There's loud talking, snoring and, of course, phones ringing. But theater etiquette might have taken a turn for the bizarre on Broadway last week with a dead cellphone.

A patron at the Tony Award-nominated play "Hand to God" on July 2 climbed onstage just before the show began to try to recharge his phone in what looked like an outlet. Ushers at the Booth Theatre quickly converged, and the young man was pulled off the stage.

A public announcement was made warning patrons to avoid any similar acts, and ushers were stationed near the offender in case anything else untoward occurred. He apparently got the message.

Actress Sarah Stiles tweeted: "#fullmoon or #idiot?"

The attempt to recharge was, in the end, pointless: The onstage outlet was just a prop, created by Tony Award winner Beowulf Boritt, whose set is a realistic depiction of a basement of a church in Texas.

A production spokesman confirmed the incident.

cinema



CINETEATRO

09 JUL - 15 JUL



MINIONS_

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.45 pmDirector: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 91min

TED 2_

ROOM 1
7.30 pmDirector: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried, Morgan Freeman
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 115min

POLTERGEIST_

ROOM 2
(2D) 2.15, 6.00, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.45 pmDirector: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried, Morgan Freeman
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 115min

TED 2_

ROOM 2
4.00 pmDirector: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried, Morgan Freeman
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 115min

INSIDE OUT_

ROOM 2
(11-12 JUL) 4.00 pmDirector: Pete Docter, Ronaldo Del Carmen
Language: Chinese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 94min

TERMINATOR: GENISYS_

ROOM 3
(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30pm
(3D) 7.15Director: Alan Taylor
Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 120min

MACAU TOWER

02 JUL - 15 JUL

TERMINATOR: GENISYS_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Alan Taylor
Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 125min

this day in history



1940 LUFTWAFFE LAUNCHES BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The German Air Force, the Luftwaffe, has mounted a series of attacks on shipping convoys off the south-east coast of England.

It is the first major assault by the Luftwaffe and is being seen as what the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, dubbed in a speech three weeks ago as the beginning of the "Battle of Britain".

Although heavily outnumbered, the British fighter pilots put up a fierce fight and succeeded in driving off the attackers.

The Air Ministry says they inflicted "the greatest damage on the German air force since bombing raids on this country began".

In total the Air Ministry says 14 enemy aircraft were shot down and 23 more were severely damaged.

Two British fighters were lost, but the pilot of one survived and is safe.

The bombing raids began at dawn hitting airfields along the south and east coasts of England.

But the main attacks took place offshore later in the day, when two shipping convoys were targeted. The first was at 1100 hours off Manston and at 1325 hours a large force of about 120 enemy aircraft approached a convoy between Dover and Dungeness.

Spitfire pilots went into the attack shooting down a number of German Messerschmitts, Me110s and Me109s. Exact numbers are difficult to verify but it seems at least nine planes were shot down.

On landing the Spitfire pilots said when they made their last attack and came round again to carry on the fight the sky was clear of German aircraft.

Towards evening Hurricane pilots sighted nine Heinkel bombers protected by more than 50 fighters attempting to attack shipping off the east coast. The bombers were surrounded by two rings of Messerschmitts - but the Hurricanes broke through and attacked the bombers shooting down at least two.

People watching from the south-east coast say the first sign of the attack was when a wave of about 20 German bombers with a similar number of support fighters dived out of the clouds.

They rained bombs down on a convoy of ships, but did not hit. A second wave of bombers and fighters followed but before a second load of bombs could be released, the ships opened fire with their anti-aircraft guns.

At this moment, a flight of Spitfires appeared and flew straight into the middle of the German formation - hitting one bomber which crashed into the sea.

It appears the intensity of the attack took the Germans by surprise and completely destroyed their formation.

One eye-witness told The Times newspaper: "I saw 10 machines crash into the sea, they included bombers and fighters. The range of operations was too extensive to see everything, for it was over land and sea.

"The British fighters were fewer than the Messerschmitts sent to protect the bombers, but the superiority of our airmen and machines was most convincing."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from Dunkirk, Adolf Hitler had Britain in his sights.

On 16 July 1940 he ordered preparations for the invasion of Britain code-named Operation Sealion.

Britain retained naval superiority and Hitler knew that an amphibious invasion would be made easier if Germany could establish control of the air in the battle zone.

The battle for control of the skies became known as the Battle of Britain. The Luftwaffe had the clear advantage - 750 long-range and 250 dive bombers, 600 single-engined and 150 twin-engined fighters - significantly more than RAF Fighter Command's 600 planes.

But the Luftwaffe was hampered by an inconsistent plan of action whereas the British forces were well prepared. Radar technology - being used for the first time in battle - gave plenty of notice of the German bombing raids. The air attacks were initially focussed on British shipping, ports and airfields along the English Channel but gradually the battle moved inland. The Germans stepped up their bombing raids in August and targeted London. Britain retaliated by bombing Berlin.

The German forces were losing bombers quicker than they could replace them and so they switched to night-time raids which continued until March 1941.

Britain had won the Battle of Britain - and Operation Sealion was postponed until further notice.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You may be good with figures, but karma has something to do with it, too. Keep focusing your energy on others if you want the best strategy for riding out the financial storm.

Taurus April 20-May 20

Be careful who you tell your problems to. Your friends may be compassionate, but they won't necessarily front you any money. For that you'll need to win over someone in a different kind of relationship.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21

You went from having too many things going on to not enough. At least it's clear what needs doing each day. Keeping things simple is a blessing in disguise, so count it when you run out of other things to tally.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Daydreaming could get you in a funk, or it could lift your spirits, depending on where your mind wanders. You can only control it so much, but guide yourself toward a vision of a secure future.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Don't let the phrase 'beggars can't be choosers' scare you. When there's just no money to be had, you have to settle for whatever you can get. All that glitter is not gold, but today glittering will have to do.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Don't let knee-jerk reactions control the agenda. You'll be tempted to reach for your wallet, but don't. Relationship issues could kill your day but throwing money at them won't help matters.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22

Doing what's valuable takes no money at all. You're already used to spending the weekends appreciating the smaller things in life, and you need that time now more than ever. Enjoy.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's not a day of rest, but don't have anything to do with making money today. Go to a play, take in some art or simply use your imagination -- anything but going over the numbers.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Others are bit further down the road than you are. That means they've either taken bigger hits or are coming out the other side of the storm. Either way, listening to their stories can only teach you a thing or two.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Others are trying to connect with you, but for all the wrong reasons. If you want to keep your money in your own account, then avoid their calls. Try to advance on a project around the home instead.

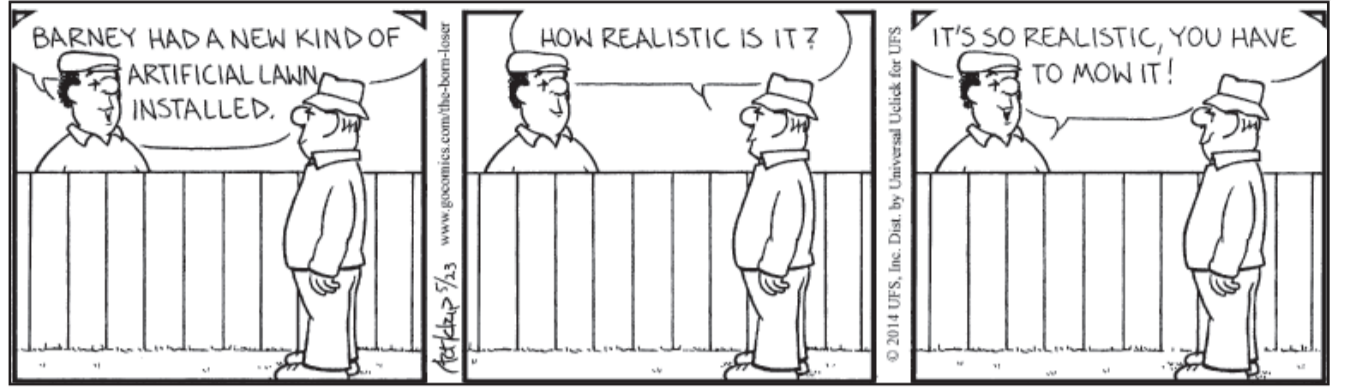
Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your credit card may already be at its limit, but you can still put yourself first today. The currency could be time, attention, compassion -- anything but real money.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20

Staying healthy doesn't have to be expensive. Burning off steam is the best thing you can do for yourself today. So treat yourself to a jog, a swim, a bike ride or a heated conversation with friends.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

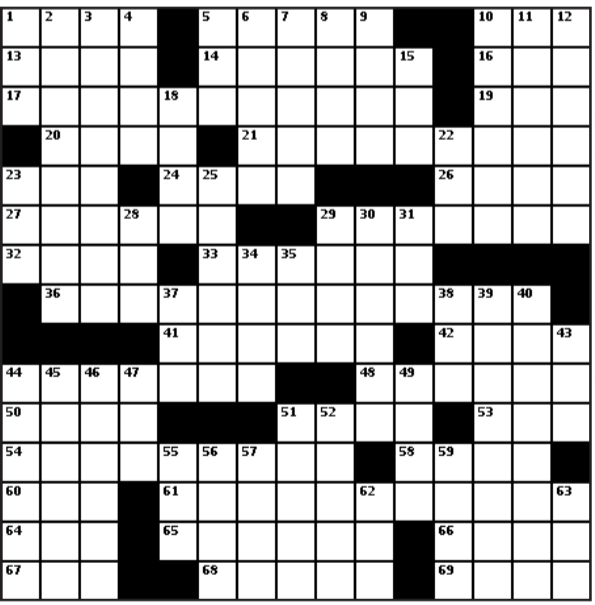
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Horse of mixed color; 5- Syrup source; 10- Give ___ break; 13- As far as; 14- Ring of color; 16- Human limb; 17- Operational headquarters; 19- This ___ stickup!; 20- Back; 21- Prior to birth; 23- Scot's cap; 24- Greek peak; 26- French actor Jacques; 27- Optimally; 29- Disintegrate; 32- Congers; 33- More strange; 36- Serving to determine; 41- Bad blood; 42- French film; 44- Natural environment; 48- Spewed matter; 50- Islamic call to prayer; 51- Name on a razor; 53- Slip up; 54- Key with an arrow; 58- ___ Lisa; 60- Variety; 61- Silly person; 64- Driver's aid; 65- Skillful; 66- First name in mysteries; 67- Long-faced; 68- Because; 69- Dissolve, as cells;

DOWN: 1- Flee; 2- Performed surgery; 3- In a trembling state; 4- Bright star; 5- Brit's raincoat; 6- They may be gray; 7- Contour feather; 8- Mississippi senator Trent; 9- Waiting for the Robert ___; 10- Rum cocktail; 11- Fake; 12- Charlotte ___; 13- Virgin Islands; 15- Prince Valiant's son; 18- Greek love god; 22- 24-hr. bank feature; 23- ___-Bo; 25- Breastbones; 28- Guinness Book suffix; 29- Hokkaido native; 30- One making fun; 31- Scrap; 34- Give out; 35- Backboard attachment; 37- Put away; 38- Rocks; 39- Consisting of twenty; 40- Intestines; 43- Auditory apparatus; 44- Characteristic actions; 45- Rhododendron kin; 46- Financed; 47- Cuttlefish excretion; 49- Door frame part; 51- Follow, as advice; 52- Tending to a definite end; 55- Madrid Mrs.; 56- Cushions; 57- Longfellow's bell town; 59- Russian city on the Oka; 62- Summer on the Seine; 63- Bridal bio word



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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Stunning Views
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CHUN LEONG
Car Park Space
Ref: 1505051

Designer Apartment
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Overlooking St Pauls
Ref: 14105421
One Grantai, Unit Y
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Ref: 1505508

Hellene Gardens
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Car Park Included
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Iau Lei Garden
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Ref: 1505503

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Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications.

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Honda Macau



Jerome Pugmire, Amiens

CYCLING

Tour contenders kept safe on crash-marred stage 5

WITH crashes taking down riders on rain-drenched roads, keeping team leaders safe was the order of the day on the fifth stage of the Tour de France.

By the time Andre Greipel attacked in the last 100 meters to win his second stage of the Tour, and a third in five days for German riders, the last of the day's seven crashes had taken down 30 riders.

There had been a big spill in stage three, too, involving some 20 riders. But once again, Chris Froome and the other Tour contenders avoided them.

"There was absolutely everything out there today. It rained, which made the roads slippery, and it was also windy," said Ian Stannard, Froome's Team Sky teammate. "That made for a stressful day."

Peter Sagan, a Slovak rider seeking to win the green jersey as the Tour's best sprinter for a fourth straight year, had even more reason to feel tired.

He spent most of the day protecting his Tinkoff-Saxo teammate Alberto Contador, and then contested the stage sprint, zooming ahead of British rider Mark Cavendish to take second place behind Greipel.

"It was also very crazy today with rain, wind and a lot of crashes and I'm happy with how we finished," Sagan said.



Germany's Andre Greipel starts to celebrate as he crosses the finish line ahead of Britain's sprinter Mark Cavendish, left, and Peter Sagan of Slovakia, right, to win the fifth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 189.5 kilometers with the start in Arras and finish in Amiens

Three of his teammates were involved in crashes, but not Contador.

"Everybody wants to be at the front on a day like this to protect the team leaders and that creates tension," Sagan said. "I want to help and protect Alberto."

The yellow jersey group rolled over the line with no change to

the leading positions.

German rider Tony Martin, the winner on stage 4, still leads Froome by 12 seconds and Tejay Van Garderen, a promising American rider with strong climbing skills, by 25.

"Everyone thought today was going to be the relaxed day of the tour. But the wind and the

rain made it anything but," Van Garderen said. "Luckily, I have one of the strongest teams here."

Among the main contenders, Froome leads two-time Tour champion Contador by 36 seconds; defending champion Vincenzo Nibali by 1:38 and Colombian rider Nairo Quintana, the 2013 runner-up, by 1:56. The stage took the weary peloton over 189.5 kilometers from Arras to Amiens in northern France, passing some of the battlefields of World War One.

The rain, which largely stayed away the day before, thundered down and turned the roads into something of an ice rink.

Clinching the eighth stage win of his Tour career on damp tarmac, Greipel punched the air in delight.

German public broadcaster ARD restarted its live coverage of the race this year following a 3-year hiatus due to the doping scandals in recent years, which included Lance Armstrong being stripped of his seven Tour titles (1999-2005).

"I'm happy that we can bring the Tour de France back to Ger-

many," said Greipel, adding that it's because of "mother nature" that German riders seem so strong in sprints.

"I have to thank my mother as I have some fast-twitching muscles," he said.

Crash No. 7 happened at the back of the peloton with 25 kilometers to go. Three riders went off the road to the right, tumbling into crash barriers. Behind, others fell in a domino effect. Frenchman Thibaut Pinot, third on last year's Tour, had his second crash of the day.

Because speeds were not high, most riders were more groggy than hurt as they looked to see where exactly their bike was amid a myriad of spinning pedals and jutting-out handlebars. Wednesday's first crash had taken down Frenchman Nacer Bouhanni, who injured his hips, ribs and a wrist but did not break any bones.

With only 80 kilometers raced, it was already crash No. 5 — with Bryan Coquard falling for a second time. American Tyler Farrar, Pinot and Portuguese rider Tiago Machado also fell. **AP**

FIFA SCANDAL

Ethics committee expels Chuck Blazer for life for bribery, corruption

Graham Dunbar, Geneva

CHUCK Blazer was banned for life by FIFA's ethics committee yesterday for widespread corruption, finally ending the career of the longtime most senior American in world football.

The expulsion from football duty was a formality after Blazer's guilty plea to racketeering and tax evasion charges was unsealed in May by United States federal agencies.

FIFA's ethics panel made its ruling using evidence from the American federal case which has plunged FIFA and international football into crisis.

"(Blazer) was a key player in schemes involving the offer, acceptance, payment and receipt of undisclosed and illegal payments, bribes and kickbacks as well as other money-making schemes," the FIFA ethics committee said in a statement.

Blazer pleaded guilty to 10 counts including racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies and income tax evasion.

He admitted receiving payments in a USD10 million bri-



Chuck Blazer

be scheme to support South Africa's successful 2010 World Cup hosting bid. The plot linked Blazer and two other then-FIFA executive committee members in getting cash which South African officials asked FIFA to transfer through the governing body's accounts in 2008.

Blazer also admitted involvement in World Cup ticket sale scams and abusing his position as CONCACAF general secretary to take millions of dollars in kickbacks from commercial deals he negotiated for the Gold Cup tournament.

He was a cooperating witness with United States federal agencies since 2011 after his tax affairs were investigated.

Blazer served on FIFA's policy-making executive committee for 16 years until 2013.

He had risen to power at CONCACAF, the regional foot-

ball body governing North and Central America and the Caribbean, alongside its disgraced former president Jack Warner.

FIFA opened an ethics investigation against Blazer after the corrupt financial management of CONCACAF was exposed in 2012.

"Mr. Blazer committed many and various acts of misconduct continuously and repeatedly during his time as an official in different high-ranking and influential positions at FIFA and CONCACAF," the ethics panel said Thursday.

The FIFA proceedings were suspended in 2013 due to Blazer's ill-health and while the U.S. federal case developed.

Blazer, now 70, told a Brooklyn court in November 2013 that he had been treated for rectal cancer.

He forfeited more than \$1.9 million at the time of his plea and has agreed to pay more when he is sentenced.

Blazer's life story could be made into a Hollywood film. The rights to an upcoming book of his football administration career were bought last month. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Big Euro teams to avoid small World Cup qualifying groups

COMMERCIAL interests are set to be a factor in the European qualifying groups draw for the 2018 World Cup.

Teams from Europe's biggest television markets are likely to be guaranteed the most possible matches in six-nation groups, FIFA said yesterday in detailing procedure for the July 25 draw in Russia.

FIFA said that a UEFA proposal asks for England, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain to avoid being drawn into groups containing five teams.

It would allow popular teams to play the most matches, and increase the value of broadcasting rights which UEFA sells on behalf of member associations.

Four years ago, defending champion Spain and 2006 World Cup winner France were both drawn in a five-team group and played only eight matches. France then played two more in the playoff round.

With 52 European teams chasing 13 qualifying places in this World Cup draw, those in the seven six-nation groups will play 10 qualifying matches.

Teams in the two five-nation groups will play only eight qualifiers.

Nine group winners qualify direct and the eight best runners-up advance to a playoff round.

UEFA said that it applied the same draw proposal to 2016 European Championship qualifying. Then, the single five-nation group got Portugal as its main attraction. The other eight groups were made up of six teams.

FIFA's World Cup organizing committee must approve the proposal one day before the draw in St. Petersburg.

The panel should also agree that European seeding will be judged by FIFA ranking alone.

That would send France and Italy into the second-seeded pot, setting up potential blockbuster groups with top-seeded Germany and Spain.

Romania and Wales entered the top 10 on FIFA's rankings yesterday after going unbeaten to lead their Euro 2016 qualifying groups. Both are likely to be seeded by FIFA despite neither playing at the World Cup since 1998 and 1958, respectively. **AP**

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



THE FONGCHIKEONGISATION OF THE MINDS

Honestly speaking, I never expected some of my friends - many of them educated - to fall victim to arguments that only the most cynical and unrefined individuals would dare to use. But here we are, the amended version of the law on the control and prevention of smoking that is paving the way for a long-overdue full ban in public places appears to be able to bring the worst out of even the best, and the very little confidence one might have in people's rationality can easily go up in smoke!

The most obvious arguments as to why, as a community, we should embrace a full ban on smoking in public have been stated by many, including myself (MDT, May 15th) and these are grounded in independent scientific arguments, both regarding healthcare and the impact on the most exposed business operations, and take into account global trends, including the ones that have affected China in the recent past. The key words here are "independent" and "global".

When directly elected legislator Zheng Anting, who is a prominent figure in the Macao Jiangmen Communal Society, the one and only association that organized a counter-demonstration in May 2014 to support the Perks' Bill, openly accompanies gaming promoters to meet with the secretaries in order to question the soundness of the full ban, he is acting as a lobbyist. When the same Mr Zheng quotes the survey done by one of the associations of junkets as well as a study commissioned by gaming operators in order to contest, supposedly scientifically, the arguments of the government in favor of the bill during a plenary meeting of the Legislative Assembly, he at best looks cynical, and for some, like a fool. Even if his intention is noble - I am giving him a lot of credit - in considering the adverse effect the bill could hypothetically have on employment in Macao, how can he sensibly expect to win the argument with such a lack of independence?

In a business environment, it seems perfectly legitimate for gaming operators to lobby the government, at every level and using whatever legal means, against a measure they perceive to be contrary to their interests, but Mr Zheng is not on their payroll; he is a directly elected member of the Assembly embodying the sovereignty of the people. And youth and limited experience are no excuse, as Mr Fong Chi Keong aptly reminds us.

Mr Fong has been a well-known and colorful figure in the Assembly for almost a quarter of a century. On the one hand, he is a true man of the people with a capacity to empathize with the many - I remember seeing him doing his own grocery shopping and talking to everybody in the Red Market, and that was not for show. On the other hand, his many outbursts and unfortunate, often gross, comments regarding many issues, including domestic violence and, most recently, healthcare have made the roster of Chief Executive-appointed legislators look really bad, if not completely irrelevant. By bringing in the arguments of "discrimination" against the poor, the infringement of human rights regarding a preposterous "right to smoke" and the colloquial portrait of Chinese people who "speak, smoke and drink," Mr Fong appears to be calling for his own demise. The real discrimination is when people cannot afford to pay for expensive healthcare services for treatment for lung cancer or strokes. The real infringement is the government not considering the protection of the citizens - including the victims of second-hand smoking, meaning the vast majority - as its priority. And being Chinese today obviously goes way beyond a very outdated conception of culture that negates the capacity, if not the necessity, to change and adapt. Becoming "a world center for tourism and leisure" implies a few requirements!

Ultimately the question is not really whether there are better measures to prevent people from inhaling nefarious puffs today but rather removing, at long last, an exception in the law that should have never been inserted back in 2011 and strengthening measures that will imbue the government's public policies with greater consistency.

THE BUZZ ITALY SEIZES WEALTH OF SICILIAN BUILDERS LINKED TO MAFIA

Italian authorities have seized 1.6 billion euros (USD1.76 billion) in wealth from Sicilian construction company officials with alleged ties to Mafia crime families in Corleone, a longtime Cosa Nostra stronghold.

Carabinieri police Col. Riccardo Sciuto said this week the builders had made deals with the Cosa Nostra, enabling them to win public contracts "at the expense of honest businessmen."

Investigators say the infiltration of construction

contracts, thanks to mobsters working inside local governments or the connivance of corrupt politicians, provides a lucrative income to the Mafia.

Aided by turncoats, prosecutors have put many of the Corleone clan's top bosses, including long-time fugitives, in prison. Mainland-based crime syndicates have eclipsed the weakened Sicilian Mafia in influence in international drug trafficking, but corruption and extortion still enrich the Sicilian Mafia.

MASS TRANSIT CHAOS

London's commuters make do as strike shuts subway system



Commuters queue for buses as tube drivers are on strike in London

Ashley Chan, London

THE choices yesterday in London: take a hike, ride a bike, try to find a bus you like.

Millions of commuters jammed buses, rented bicycles or simply walked for miles as a 24-hour strike shut down the British capital's well-known subway system and threw public transport into chaos.

Train drivers on the London Underground (the Tube) solidly supported the strike in a dispute over pay and schedules that take effect when 24-hour service is introduced on some lines later this year. That unanimity has made this strike more severe than previous ones in which management was able to keep a few Tube lines operating.

Business groups say the strike will cost London tens of millions of pounds in lost productivity.

"I have to file a statement for today [yesterday] - I don't know how I am going to do it. I am utterly fed up," said distraught attorney Susan Miller, 48. "I just don't think (strikers) have seen the big picture here."

London's subway system, with 4 million journeys a day, normally shuts down between midnight and 1 a.m., with the overnight shift reserved for track maintenance. While it has operated all night on New Year's Eve, the move to have some lines running 24 hours on weekends marks a huge shift for a 152-year-old system.

London Underground's managing director Mike Brown apologized for the disruption but insisted it was a "remarkably fair" pay offer.

"This strike is unnecessary," he said.

Transport officials say the offer included a 2 percent

salary increase, a 500 pound (USD770) night Tube launch bonus and an additional 2,000 pound (\$3,080) bonus for night Tube train drivers.

Unions say management is trying to bulldoze new work patterns that will cause stress and wreck the work/life balance of people in critical safety jobs.

"We've wasted three months in negotiations that failed to address staff concerns," said the RMT union's general secretary Mick Cash.

The one thing everyone agreed on is that the city's commuters took it on the chin.

Lida Fallah-ardakani, 53, tried to attend a medical appointment she had scheduled five months ago. The journey normally takes an hour, but three hours into her trip yesterday she was still trying to get to St. Mary's Hospital.

"I came out of the house at 6 in the morning. But I am still in the bus to the hospital and I am not sure if I can be seen," she said.

Some commuters supported the strikers.

"You have to take action sometimes when you are up against the ... forces of capitalism," said Tricha Passes, a 58-year-old university lecturer. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA More than 4 million Syrians have fled abroad since the 2011 outbreak of civil war, the largest number from any crisis in almost 25 years, the United Nations said yesterday. A recent wave of people leaving Syria and an update of Turkish statistics confirmed the tragic milestone, according to the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR. The agency said 7.6 million additional people have been displaced from their homes within Syria by the fighting.



UGANDA Police yesterday detained a former prime minister who last month announced he would seek the presidency amid a political dispute with the country's long-serving leader. Amama Mbabazi (pictured) was arrested as he traveled from the Ugandan capital, Kampala, to a town in eastern Uganda where he planned to consult with his supporters.

BOSNIA Twenty years ago Saturday, Bosnian Serb troops led by Gen. Ratko Mladic carried out Europe's worst carnage since the end of World War II, a massacre of 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica that a United Nations court calls a genocide.

USA The South Carolina House opens debate over the Confederate flag, deliberating a proposal that could remove the banner from the Capitol grounds, possibly before the end of the week.

BOLIVIA Pope Francis has begun celebrating an open-air Mass in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz. Hundreds of thousands have packed into Christ the Redeemer square and the streets beyond. Overnight, several thousand slept in square to get a spot close to the front. Francis arrived in the Andean nation yesterday after three days in Ecuador.

times square by rodrigo

