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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

**USA-CHINA** A judge has dismissed charges against the wife of a Chinese billionaire accused of taking part in a scheme to steal trade secrets from U.S. corn companies. The order signed Tuesday instructs the government to return Mo Yun's passport, meaning she can return to China. Investigators allege that Mo, her brother and five other Chinese nationals were working for a seed subsidiary of China-based DBN Group when they stole seeds from Iowa cornfields and shipped them out of the country in 2011 and 2012.

**AUSTRALIA** An Australian man was accused yesterday of allowing seven men to sexually abuse his 13-year-old daughter over the past two years, with police charging all eight men with more than 500 child sex offenses. Western Australia police arrested the men after receiving a tip-off from the public. Police say the father knew all of the men, and arranged for them to meet his daughter and subsequently assault her when she was between the ages of 11 and 13. The father is also accused of assaulting the girl.



**INDIA** Few countries sentence more people to death than India. Though well over a thousand people have been sent to death row this century, just three have been executed. Yakub Abdul Razak Memon will soon be the fourth. Jailed for his supporting role in the 1993 Mumbai bombings that killed 257 people, he has made many appeals and is scheduled to be hanged today.

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# Slumping Macau calls in superheroes as graft fight hits casinos

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## Taiwan entrepreneur visas include local residents

A special resident visa for foreign national entrepreneurs who wish to start a business in Taiwan will soon be accepting applications. According to an announcement yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the measure will facilitate the opening of businesses and placement of investments in Taiwan by foreign nationals, including those from Hong Kong and Macau. Applications for the Resident Visa for Entrepreneurs will start on July 31 as part of Taipei's efforts to attract foreign professionals.

## Teens' shooting spoof concerns authorities

The Judiciary Police launched an investigation following a prank video circulating online in which two "foreign teenagers" staged a deadly gun killing to gauge unexpected responses from passersby. According to the relevant authorities, the pair could have breached the criminal code's article 294, which prohibits activities that simulate scenes which might trigger public panic. Set in multiple locales in Taipa, the video featured the pair bickering over debts before one of them suddenly collapsed with a "bang" sound. The other teen then emerged from the corner with a pistol, then jumping into a car. Their prank successfully scared all their targets into evacuating, as shown in the video.

## Short story competition launched

The Macau Literary Festival will accept texts in Chinese, Portuguese and English until Nov 30 for The Script Road Short Story Competition. The winners (one for each language – Chinese, Portuguese and English) will be chosen by writers who visited previous editions of the event. A MOP10,000 prize will be awarded to each winner. Additionally, winning texts are going to be published in an anthology.

# American views on local human trafficking refuted

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE government has said it disagrees with the views expressed by the U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons report, which was released on Tuesday.

The Secretary of Security's Office issued a statement yesterday stressing that, "[the] considerations and conclusions included in the report do not reflect Macau's reality."

Furthermore, the government argued that the United States' views on human trafficking in Macau are based on assumptions and unsubstantiated facts.

"The Macau government has paid great attention to the human trafficking matter, having set up the Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee. The committee has been following up on international policies to actively prevent and combat all criminal activity related to human trafficking," it said.

The office added that through the committee, different interdepartmental groups have



Illegal prostitution suspects being detained in Macau

been created to protect victims and ensure a close relationship with non-governmental organizations. They stated that this has had a positive impact in combating "the human trafficking phenomenon."

"The security authorities reiterate their zero-tolerance approach to human trafficking. A set of measures has been implemented to prevent such crimes, while we maintain a close collaboration with countries or neighboring regions in terms of law enforcement."

On Tuesday, the U.S. State

Department released its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which evaluates 188 countries on their efforts to combat modern-day slavery.

The report stated that Macau remains a source territory for sex trafficking and forced labor, despite governmental efforts to combat related activity.

According to the report, Macau authorities convicted six traffickers in 2014 but failed to identify any trafficking victims.

Furthermore, the report fou-

nd that authorities prosecuted cases under "procuring of prostitution" instead of human trafficking. Procuring of prostitution is easier to prove in court but carries lighter sentences than the anti-trafficking law.

"Authorities reported pursuing three investigations regarding fraudulent employment offers, but the trafficking nexus was not made clear. For the 10th consecutive year, authorities did not report any prosecutions or convictions for labor trafficking," the report said.

Macau was ranked a Tier 2 country, the second lowest in the department's annual report on trafficking in persons.

The U.S. State Department ranks countries that strive to fight human trafficking. Countries with stringent anti-trafficking practices and low trafficking rates are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 includes a Watch List for countries in danger of plunging into Tier 3, which consists of countries with the highest human trafficking rates.

This year's report also ranked China on the Tier 2 Watch List, asserting that the country remains "a source, destination and point of transit for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking."

## Hepatitis C patients continue with struggle for new treatments

Catarina Pinto

**M**ACAU'S Health Bureau (SSM) has assured the public that the new, revolutionary – yet costly – Hepatitis C drug, "Sofosbuvir" is under assessment to evaluate results and possible side effects. But several Hepatitis C patients claim that they have been waiting for an extended period of time to be treated with the new drug, which has been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) due to its few side effects.

SSM issued a statement yesterday following a TDM report to mark World Hepatitis Day, which was commemorated on Tuesday, stressing that it provides patients with adequate and

internationally-recognized treatments.

The Times also reported on the issue last May, and interviewed one Hepatitis C patient who has been waiting for treatment. The Macau resident interviewed by the Times, along with many other patients, are unable to receive the former treatment as they have since developed other health conditions, including cirrhosis.

"There's no development regarding my case," she told us yesterday, adding that, "Macau's government has the means to help us [get the new treatment] but they don't do it."

The Macau resident, who wished to remain anonymous, explained, "I have been waiting for over one year to get

treatment."

She questions why SSM is still evaluating the new drug and its side effects when the WHO has already recommended its use.

Reuters reported that the new drug can cost up to USD84,000 for a single course of treatment in the United States.

According to WHO, treatment with Sofosbuvir – made available in 2013 – is recommended in genotypes 1,2,3 and 4 HCV infection, given in a combination with other drugs. The drug is particularly recommended to those who cannot access other treatments available in the market after developing cirrhosis, one of Hepatitis C's most commonly related diseases, alongside liver cancer.

Sofosbuvir has been listed in Macau but has not yet been used to treat any patient here.

Hepatitis C is often dubbed "the silent killer." It can cause chronic liver disease that progresses insidiously, and can remain unnoticed for decades.

The WHO states that Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis C virus, which can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis infections, ranging from a mild infection to a serious, lifelong disease.

"The Macau government does not regard Hepatitis C as a serious disease. But it's an endemic disease in this part of the world. And people haven't been screened and tested for Hepatitis C. People might not know they have

the disease. Now they say there are probably thousands of people with different [types of] Hepatitis here. This is worrying," the Macau resident recalled.

Doctor Filomena Barros, an infectious disease specialist at the public hospital, told TDM that screening and testing for Hepatitis is being undertaken through annual check-ups.

The WHO estimates that 130 to 150 million people worldwide have contracted a chronic hepatitis C infection.

The most common methods of infection of this bloodborne virus are through unsafe injection practices, inadequate sterilization of medical equipment, and unscreened blood and blood products.

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**F**OLLOWING the discovery of excessive lead in Hong Kong tap water, the government's inspection concluded that the drinking water in local public housing estates is not contaminated.

The 49 samples of tap water collected from the 50 housing estates in the districts of Ilha Verde, Fai Chi Kei, Seac Pai Van and Mong Ha maintained a lead level which was much lower than the standard established by the World Health Organization (WHO), said the authorities.

It was discovered that the tap water in the secondary water suppliers within the above blocks so far contained only a small amount of the chemical - which is detrimental to human bodies if consumed excessively - ranging from less than one to 3.5 micrograms. According to the WHO guidelines, every 100 milliliters of blood containing 10 micrograms in adult human bodies were regarded as severe, while 5 micrograms were regarded as severe for minors.

"The government targeted the newly built public housing in its first step," said Alex Vong, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau president. "But we'd like to stress that it's more of a comprehensive inspection than the discovery of any contamination in the water. This inspection was conducted after some incidents happened in the neighboring region. It's a precautionary measure that we

# Water quality in public housing OK'd by government

**This inspection was conducted after some incidents happened in the neighboring region**

ALEX VONG

have taken." He dismissed the necessity of conducting further tests for consumers similar to those done in Hong Kong.

The government's cross-departmental efforts include another phase, which extracts another 50 samples from one unoccupied residence in every targeted block. According to the officials, the results will come out before the weekend, as the inspectors have completed 70 percent of the investigation.

In addition, the officials stressed that their approach to water sampling was in line with the international ISO 5667-5:2006 standard, which requires water to be drained from the faucet for at



least two minutes prior to taking the water sample for analysis. Lei Chin Ion, head of the Health Bureau believed that this practice was also strongly advisable for daily water consumption.

Chau Vai Man, coordinator of the Infrastructure Development Office, also reassured the public by disclosing that the material of the pipelines instal-

led in the public housing was chiefly copper, with silver and lead-free solder also used for welding.

"All the sources respectively come from Australia, Europe, the United States and England. There's this message I want to emphasize: all the pipeline materials are strictly regulated by international standards when it

comes to safety," he said.

The Marine and Water Bureau presented a set of guidelines last year on proper maintenance of water management systems, targeting local public housing estates as part of a trial run. However, such instructions, as the bureau's head Wong Soi Man said, were merely educational. **Staff reporter**

# Roosevelt Macau drops casino idea, focuses on fine dining

Brook Yang

**T**HE Macau Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel - one more property to add to Macau's casino resort and hotel cluster - will not feature a gambling area on the premises, as owners have decided to play to their strengths of providing star-rating hospitality and gourmet restaurants, revealed hotel representative, Mr Aaron Iu, yesterday.

On the sidelines of the hotel's exterior design competition awards ceremony, Mr Iu told the Times that "[there are no plans to have] a casino within the hotel and we haven't considered applying for gambling tables in the future either."

"There are already big casinos nearby such as the Venetian Macao... we can't compete with that by running a casino... the scale of our hotel cannot



compare with them, but we are a five-star hotel with exquisite fine-dining facilities, so we will take a different direction and hope to keep our guests satisfied with delicacies," he explained.

In a construction area of over 28,000 square meters, the 12-storey Roosevelt Macau will offer 373 guest rooms with balconies overlooking the sea and the neighboring Macau Jockey Club's racing

court. According to a previous design plan, it had also reserved a gaming area of over 5,000 square meters for the ground floor.

Mr Iu told media that construction is underway and the hotel is scheduled to open in the second quarter of next year. The hotel aims to resemble the iconic Roosevelt's Hollywood heritage, but with a modern touch. Moreover, the hotel re-

presentative said Macau's local features and cultural motifs would also be incorporated into the project.

"The first Roosevelt Hotel is filled with its local traditions of Hollywood, that's why when we plan the Roosevelt Macau, we will also fill it with the local artifacts of Macau, as a combination of the West and the East to show to the world," he said.

To complement the hotel's original overall exterior design, the operator has organized a competition inviting talented locals to create solutions that define certain exterior areas of the future hotel. Amongst 35 entries submitted in the past three months, the competition selected a winning solution titled "The Era" to be created and awarded five other creative designs.

Decorating the hotel ex-

terior with LED fins and 3D printed foam depicting legendary Hollywood stars, the winning design was, according to the winner, Kenny Leong, an attempt "to transform the hotel into an entertainment destination by revitalizing the glamour of the Golden Age of Hollywood through extraordinary performances and exciting interactive media."

The young designer explained that he based the solution on three re-

search points: the Roosevelt's history and events; the target demographic for the Macau project; as well as budget or design problems that might be encountered during a design competition like this.

"We chose a local designer as we believe that it is Macau people who really know about Macau's characteristics. Roosevelt Macau as a local hotel will be a place that blends Chinese and Western cultures, like the city itself," explained Aaron Iu.

## MGTO STRIVES TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS

**MGTO PREDICTS** that the month of July will record a "much more positive result" than June in terms of visitor volumes. Amid the noticeable decline of Chinese tourists this year, the government has been trying to attract international visitors, especially those from Southeast Asian markets. The bureau director, Helena de Senna Fernandes, told media yesterday that the city is pushing out new campaigns with

local ferry operators and regional airlines in order to bring in more visitors, including those that cannot fly directly but can transfer flights through Hong Kong or other regional hubs. Besides consolidating sources of tourists from Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, Ms Fernandes said the MGTO would aggressively explore the Indian and Indonesian markets, which currently lack direct flights to Macau.

## Lam Sze Chun's 'Colorful Life' wins photo contest

A total of 220 contestants submitted their works to the "Precious Moments in Macau" 2015 Photography Competition, which is being co-organized by the Government Information Bureau together with eight photographic organizations and five media associations. Out of a total of 952 entries, 53 winning entries have been selected after five rounds of professional evaluation. The 14-member judging panel awarded the first prize to Lam Sze Chun, for a picture titled "Colorful Life." Winners of the first, second and third prizes will get cash prizes of MOP8,000, MOP5,000 and MOP3,000 respectively in addition to a trophy, while winners of the merit prizes will each receive a cash prize of MOP500 and a certificate.

## URBAN PLANNING

# Apollo Cinema's façade to be preserved

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE façade of the old Apollo Cinema, a light green building located in Macau's main street San Ma Lo, will be preserved, a representative of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) told Urban Planning Committee members at a meeting held yesterday.

Several members expressed concerns over the protection of the façades and architectural features of old buildings, as government representatives and the committee discussed a total of 18 building projects.



The former Apollo Cinema façade

Architect and committee member Rui Leão recalled that the building is located in a culturally relevant

area of Macau, and although not listed as a protected building, "it is important to preserve its façade."

An IC representative assured the public that the bureau is indeed suggesting the preservation of the building's façade. "We would like [the owner] to keep the building's exterior features and we have issued a deliberation suggesting that the owner preserve the façade and respect the building's original elements," he stated.

While discussing another project, the committee called on the government to resolve traffic woes and pedestrian mobility issues wi-

thin the Inner Harbor area.

Committee member and lawmaker, Mak Soi Kun, noted a lack of space for pedestrians, who often have to walk on the main road as the sidewalks are occupied by street vendors.

A representative of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) said that they are already working on a restructuring plan to reserve part of the street for pedestrians. He stated that they need to take into account plumbing issues, as the Inner Harbor's district is often affected by floods during storms and heavy rain.

## Negotiations on LRT depot to end soon

**T**HE Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, has assured the public that negotiations to resolve delays to the construction of Taipa's LRT section depot structure will end soon. Speaking on the sidelines of an Urban Planning Committee meeting yesterday, Mr Rosário acknowledged that no deadline has yet been set to resolve the dispute between the government and contractor, but he hopes that negotiations will soon be completed.



The depot structure is one of five projects comprising the LRT Taipa section. It features a 130,000 square meter area, which will serve as an operation control center, a factory and maintenance building, as well as a parking and cleaning area for trains. The Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) has slammed the contractor responsible for building the depot over its inactivity and inability to finish the project.

The secretary has previously stated that if both the government and the contractor fail to reach a consensus, the case will be taken to court.

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# MGTO backs National Geography documentary

**T**HE Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) has confirmed its support for the National Geographic program featuring Macau's heritage.

MGTO stated that it supports the program, which "[echoes] the success" of the inclusion of Macau's historic center listing on the UNESCO World Heritage list 10 years ago.

MGTO added that the program would celebrate the city's tangible and intangible heritage.

The Times reported on Tuesday that a documentary on Macau's architectural, urban, and cultural heritage is due to be aired on National Geographic in December.

The documentary crew, including host Julian Davison, travelled to the territory this month to interview experts and local personalities.

These included the president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) Ung Vai Meng, heritage conservator Ip Kin Hong, and the archeologists Irene Lou and Mariana Pinto Leitão Pereira. Other interviewees included architect Carlos Marreiros, as reported by the Times, as



well as Miguel Senna Fernandes and Filomeno Jorge.

MGTO said it recommended that the team investigate the idea of intangible cultural heritage through Macau hallmarks such as Chinese herbal tea, woodcrafts, Cantonese opera, Portuguese folk music, and the Lion Dance.

Architect Carlos Marreiros told the Times, "regarding heritage, I said there's a need to strike a balance, by implementing daring policies so heritage could be vitally preserved."

He added that there are other heritage sites beyond Macau's historic center that are worthy of being listed.

The documentary's host, Julian Davison, is a freelance writer and editor who grew up in both Singapore and Malaysia. He has also written about Singaporean architecture.

The Macau government organized a series of activities over the past months to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Macau's historic center being listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. "The historic center of Macau provides a unique testimony to the meeting of aesthetic, cultural, architectural and technological influences from East and West," the United Nations body states on its website. **CP**

## LITURGICAL MUSIC

# Local choir tours Italy in August

**L**OCAL group Coro Perosi will start their 'Musical Tour in Italy' on August 1. The two-week tour will take the choir to the Vatican, Rome, Assisi, Florence, Siena, Pisa and Venice. In addition to holding concerts throughout the tour, the choir will sing at the Santa Udienna at San Pietro, as well as at Masses in various Catholic cities.

"The main purpose of this event is to take Macau's local sacred music compositions abroad and so the preparation work for this trip began over a year ago. Under historical and traditional influence, Catholic music has undergone systematic development in Macau for 400 years. St. Paul's College, the first higher education academy of the Far East, started developing the writing and teaching of liturgical music in the 16th century. Unfortunately however, a fire destroyed most of these historical documents. In the 18th century, St. Joseph's Seminary was built, and it shouldered the responsibility of musical training in Macau," stated a press release issued by the choir.

The choir added that Western musicians were hired by successive local bishops, including the Italian F. Ferdinando Maberini (1886-1956) and the Austrian F. Guilherme Schmid (1910-2000). Those musicians contributed a significant amount of liturgical works and produced successful students such as F. Aureo da Costa Nunes e Castro (1917-1993) and Doming Lam (1926- ). Catholic liturgical music thus became a "unique and precious cultural treasure" in Macau.

The group's Italian tour is sponsored by several entities and individuals, amongst them the Macau Foundation, the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Macau Government Tourist Office and the Bishop of Macau, D. José Lai.

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## GAMING

## Slumping Macau calls in superheroes as

William Mellor and Stephanie Wong

**B**ARELY 10 years ago, Francis Lui and his family were building a relatively modest fortune largely from quarrying rock in Hong Kong and processing slag from blast furnaces on mainland China. Today, they preside over two palatial casinos in Macau that alone generate vastly more gaming revenue than the entire Las Vegas Strip. They're also acquiring a stake in the Monaco royal family-controlled company that operates the Casino de Monte-Carlo.

And yet standing beneath the 24-karat gilded cupolas atop the white-and-gold towers of his flagship, 3,800-room Galaxy Macau resort, Lui insists his journey from grit to glitz hasn't changed his low-key lifestyle. "Personally, I'm not a gambling man," he says.

In one sense, that may be true. Lui, 59, prefers walking the family dog to playing high-stakes baccarat or poker. He even hesitates before picking up a deck of cards for a photo shoot. But in reality, the soft-spoken, U.S.-educated billionaire is in the process of placing a far bigger bet than any of the high rollers who wager as much as USD250,000 a hand in the Galaxy's most exclusive VIP rooms. Having just spent \$3.1 billion doubling the size of the Galaxy, he's now pressing ahead with another \$7.4 billion worth of investments. And that's just a part of the \$27 billion that global casino companies such as Las Vegas Sands, Wynn Resorts, and MGM Resorts International plan to spend over the next few years in the world's largest but most-troubled gaming market.

Macau is bigger than any other gaming center because the government in Beijing allows it a casino-gambling monopoly in the world's second-largest economy. It's now in big trouble because it's on the front line of seismic political, economic, and social developments taking place across the border.

A massive corruption crackdown by Chinese President Xi Jinping has scared off Macau's best customers—big spenders who fear they'll be accused of using the territory's 35 casinos and numerous luxury shopping malls to spend or launder ill-gotten gains. Last year, these so-called VIPs accounted for 70 percent of all Macau casino takings. Now, the junket operators who used to bring them to Macau are luring at least some of their clients to other Asia-Pacific gaming destinations, including the Philippines, South Ko-



Francis Lui

rea, Singapore, Australia, and Cambodia.

Macau's casino owners are also battling a range of increasingly stringent government regulations, ranging from a restriction on the number of gaming tables they can add at new properties to a smoking ban that will force customers as addicted to nicotine as they are to baccarat to spend less time gambling.

It all adds up to a massive slump—just as Lui and his rivals are embarking on a major expansion. Macau's gaming revenue plummeted 37 percent to \$15.2 billion in the first half of the year. During the 18 months ended in June, the decline wiped more than \$100 billion from the value of six of the world's biggest casino companies. From its January 2014 peak, the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau gaming index had plunged 57 percent as of July 28. In a March 18 report on Macau's implosion, Hong Kong-based investment bank CLSA described it as a "death spiral."

Before the collapse, Lui's father, Galaxy Entertainment Group Chairman Lui Che-woo, 85, was Asia's second-richest individual, with a fortune of \$22.5 billion, largely a result of the family's 45 percent stake in the company. By July 27, the elder Lui was almost \$12 billion poorer, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Undeterred, Francis Lui, who as Galaxy deputy chairman runs the world's second-biggest listed casino empire on behalf of his father, says he can restore investor confidence. He's wagering that the consumer revolution in China will ultimately trump the impact of the corruption crackdown. Since 1978, 500 million Chinese citizens have emerged from poverty, according to the World Bank.

Although the government is determined to stanch the flood of illicit money leaving the country, it also wants to boost growth and is encouraging legitimate spending by a newly enriched middle class in tourist destinations such as Macau. "We are living here in Macau in one of the biggest economic consumer experiments in the world," says Grant Bowie, CEO of MGM China Holdings, which next year will open its second Macau casino.

Macau's fate may be tied to developments on Hengqin, an island triple its size that's located across a narrow strait. Ga-

“**Personally, I'm not a gambling man**

FRANCIS LUI

laxy is the first of Macau's six casino licensees to acquire land on Hengqin, which is part of Guangdong province and which Beijing wants to develop into a nongaming leisure destination full of golf courses, Disney-esque theme parks, and other family-focused attractions. In planning a \$1.6 billion, 2.7-square-kilometer resort, Lui is betting that Macau—which is linked to Hengqin by a six-lane bridge—can transform itself from a destination whose resorts are more than 90 percent dependent on gambling revenues to a global entertainment hub combining the allure of two of America's most popular destinations. "It will be like having Las Vegas and Orlando, Florida, right next to each other instead of 2,000 miles apart," Lui says.

While even a struggling Macau may well generate at least five times the gaming revenues of Las Vegas this year, it won't be easy for the territory to surpass the desert metropolis as an entertainment center. Macau is far less diversified than Vegas, which last year earned most of its resort revenue, 64 percent, from shows, hotel rooms, restaurants, and other nongaming sources.

A clutch of the world's most colorful tycoons are betting big on Macau. They include American billionaires Steve Wynn and Sheldon Adelson. Wynn Resorts and Adelson's Las Vegas Sands earn more than twice as much casino revenue from Macau as they do from their home market. Then there are the heirs to the estate of the late Kirk Kerkorian; in June, they inherited a 16 percent stake in MGM Resorts International, which derives about one-third of its revenue from the territory. Australian billionaire James Packer's Melbourne-based Crown Resorts gets almost half its income from Macau.

The city also remains the main business base of three members of the billionaire Ho dynasty, whose patriarch, Stanley Ho, ran gaming in the territory for 40 years before losing his monopoly in 2001. Stanley Ho, now 93 and the father of 17 children, is chairman of SJM Holdings, which owns 20 Macau casinos, including the flagship Grand Lisboa. A daughter, Pansy Ho, 53, is a partner with MGM and co-chairman of its China unit. And a son, Lawrence Ho, 38, is co-chairman and CEO of and a partner with Packer in Nasdaq-listed Melco Crown Entertainment, which operates a casino and hotel complex named City of Dreams.

These multinational magnates

are investing heavily to provide nongaming entertainment, extra hotel rooms, and more shopping for the new mass-market clients they hope to attract. In Lui's case, that meant doubling the size of a casino that's been open for only four years. Designed like a high-rise Southeast Asian potentate's palace, the Galaxy now sprawls over a square kilometer or so of what's becoming Macau's main gaming precinct, Cotai. Lui has increased the number of hotels inside the Galaxy complex from three to six, including the world's first all-suite Ritz-Carlton. Now, he plans to double down again by developing an adjoining chunk of prime land in Macau before starting work across the water on Hengqin.

Lawrence Ho and Packer's Melco Crown plan to open their \$3.2 billion Studio City resort later this year, accompanied by a Martin Scorsese-directed promotional film starring Brad Pitt, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Robert De Niro. The still-incomplete Hollywood-themed, Gotham City-like art deco building features what the company says is the world's first Batman flight simulator. Out back is what Ho and Packer say is Asia's tallest Ferris wheel, in the shape of a figure eight.

In March, Steve Wynn is due to open a second Macau casino, the \$4 billion Wynn Palace. Later in 2016, MGM China, which has had the MGM in downtown Macau since 2007, plans to open a \$3 billion, 1,500-room casino built in rectangular blocks to resemble a stack of Chinese jewelry boxes. Also next year, Adelson, whose flagship, eight-year-old Venetian features an indoor Grand Canal plied by singing gondoliers, will open the \$2.7 billion Parisian with the requisite Eiffel Tower replica out front. Stanley Ho's SJM has also turned to France for inspiration. Scheduled to open in late 2017, its \$4 billion, 2,000-room Lisboa Palace is partly modeled on Versailles.

It all sounds like a pharaonic exercise in overbuilding. And yet tiny Macau, with only 27,000 hotel rooms, compared with Las Vegas's 150,000, attracted 31.5 million visitors last year, two-thirds of them from the mainland and many of them day-trippers. The new construction aims to add 19,000 more rooms by 2018.

Macau needs to expand capacity if it is to attract enough mass-market gamblers to offset the dwindling number of high rollers. Even some of the most experienced and successful casino tycoons are "sailing in un-



# graft fight hits casinos



The Galaxy Macau casino and hotel

charted territory,” as Adelson, 82, acknowledged on a conference call in April. Adelson’s Las Vegas Sands is the world’s biggest gaming company, and his behemoth Venetian casinos in Las Vegas and Macau have made him the world’s 29th-richest individual. Wynn picked up Adelson’s theme a few days later in his own teleconference. “Uncertainty,” he said, “is the plaguing word of the day in Macau.” Then Packer chimed in. Speaking about the corruption crackdown, he said in May, “When and how that ends, no one knows.”

Amid this uncertainty, some investors glimpse opportunity. Mark Mobius, executive chairman of Templeton Emerging Markets Group, says the graft purge has benefited Macau. “Once they scrap the image of being a center for money laundering and other illicit activities, Macau will be transformed into an entertainment center like Las Vegas,” says Mobius, who oversees \$45 billion and declines to say whether he has been buying Macau-related shares. “The casinos have to move in that direction. They don’t have a choice.”

A U.S. investor, David Winters, says his money is on Lui. “Our sense is that Galaxy will be the big winner when the clouds clear and the rain stops and the fear subsides,” says Winters, who manages \$1.5 billion, including Galaxy shares, at Wintergreen Advisers. “They have built a beautiful facility, have a lot of land bank, don’t have any debt, and are ahead of the curve in providing what the government wants.”

In June, Galaxy’s share of the Macau gaming market jumped

3.8 percentage points from a month earlier to 22.2 percent, narrowing the gap with market leader Sands China, which fell 3.8 percentage points to 22.7 percent. SJM had a market share of 22 percent; Melco Crown, 14.1 percent; MGM, 10.2 percent; and Wynn, 8.8 percent.

Francis Lui isn’t bragging yet. He says the big test of his new property will come in October, when China has a weeklong National Day holiday and tourist arrivals traditionally reach their height.

Having made one winning bet on Galaxy, Stephen Monticelli, founder and president of Mosaic Investments, a former hedge fund that now manages Monticelli’s own money, is betting the stock’s price has fallen enough for him to have another wager. “I first bought the stock when it was trading at HK\$2 and sold at between 8 and 14 dollars,” Monticelli says. Since then, Monticelli has watched Galaxy shares soar to HK\$83.20 in January 2014 and then plunge. When they hit HK\$38, Monticelli bought back in again. “The Luis are either brilliant or fortunate,” he says. “The rules in Macau are that Beijing makes the rules, and Galaxy fits exactly in with what Beijing wants Macau to become.”

Not that Monticelli is ever entirely sure what Beijing’s rules are. “Trying to understand Beijing is like trying to read tea leaves through frosted glass.”

That’s the biggest conundrum facing the casino companies: the Chinese government’s attitude to Macau and the foreign companies that operate there. Grant Govertsen, a Macau-based analyst at Union Gaming

Group, a Las Vegas investment bank, doesn’t believe the anti-corruption crackdown was aimed specifically at Macau. “Macau was just collateral damage—but pretty significant collateral damage,” he says.

The region’s former business model didn’t impress Xi. In December, China’s leader paid an official, two-day visit to Macau to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the territory’s return to Chinese rule. On part of his trip, Xi stopped in at a People’s Liberation Army firing range for some target practice. But more important, he also took aim at Macau’s slavish dependence on Chinese gamblers, saying the city should diversify to position itself as a global tourism and leisure hub. “Certain deep-seated problems formed over the years have surfaced,” Xi said, without mentioning the gaming industry directly.

He didn’t need to. The local government promptly announced what it described as a “midterm review” of the six companies with gaming licenses whose 20-year concessions expire from 2020 to 2022.

While many analysts believe all the gaming licenses will be renewed, Hong Kong-based political and corporate risk consultant Steve Vickers isn’t so sure. “It cannot be assumed as a given that all of the existing six concessionaires—especially the foreign ones—will retain their concessions, at least as currently structured,” says Vickers, who’s CEO of Steve Vickers & Associates. One possible outcome, he says, is that the government will award another concession to a Chinese company—making the competition even more cutthroat.

Barely a year ago, the casino companies’ big bets on Macau would not have seemed very risky. Once a crumbling, crime-ridden colonial outpost where the only attempts at refinement were “no spitting” signs in the casinos, Macau transformed itself following its return to China in 1999. In 2001, Stanley Ho’s monopoly ended, and the five other casino companies entered the fray.

All the newcomers had experience running casinos except the Luis, who had made their money through quarrying, construction, and slag before branching into hotels. Despite their lack of experience, Lui Che-woo had good connections in China. He had served on the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, a government advisory body, and had even had an asteroid named after him by Chinese scientists.

As new casinos opened, Macau embarked on a decade of explosive growth. In 2006, it overtook the Las Vegas Strip to become the world casino leader, with \$7.1 billion in revenue. By 2013, that figure had increased to \$45 billion—seven times that of the strip. Last year, Lui’s two most important casinos, Galaxy and the smaller StarWorld, alone took in \$9 billion, compared with combined revenue of just \$6.4 billion for the 41 casinos on the Vegas strip. For at least part of its winning run, Macau was also the world’s best-performing economy, surging 26.2 percent in 2010.

Then, late last year, Macau’s fortunes equally spectacularly reversed direction. In addition to the corruption crackdown, the sharply slowing Chinese

**“We are living here in Macau in one of the biggest economic consumer experiments in the world”**

GRANT BOWIE

economy—down to 7 percent growth in the second quarter of 2015 from an average of 9.8 percent since 1978—deterred some visitors. And a Chinese stock market bubble provided unwelcome competition for punters who discovered they could get as many thrills from betting on roller-coastering Shanghai- and Shenzhen-listed equities as they could from traveling to Macau to play baccarat, blackjack, roulette, and the Chinese dice game sic bo. Gross domestic product in Macau shrank by 25 percent

in the first three months of this year, making the world’s biggest gaming hub the world’s worst-performing economy.

Amid this slump, the Luis aren’t just expanding in and around Macau. On July 25, they announced that Galaxy is acquiring 5 percent of Société des Bains de Mer et du Cercle des Étrangers à Monaco, or SBM, the 152-year-old company that owns the Monte Carlo casino indelibly linked in popular culture with the suave fictional secret agent James Bond. “It helps us build our profile in a global sense,” Galaxy’s vice president for investor relations, Peter Caveny, says of the deal. SBM, which is listed on Euronext but is majority owned by the principality of Monaco, also disclosed that LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton is separately taking a similar stake.

Has Macau bottomed out? The territory does have some things going for it. Sometime within the next five years, a 36-kilometer-long bridge will span the Pearl River Delta to link Macau with Hong Kong. So instead of having to take an hour-long boat trip, Hong Kong visitors will be able to drive there. Most important, Hong Kong’s airport, which handles 63 million passengers a year to Macau’s 5.5 million, will essentially become Macau’s local airport, a mere 30-minute drive away. “It’s going to be a game changer for Macau,” says Union Gaming’s Govertsen.

Another factor in Macau’s favor: Mass market gamblers, although they bet less than the disappearing high rollers, actually provide the gaming companies with a higher profit margin because the casinos don’t have to pay commission to the VIP junket operators. Evidence of this came on July 22 when Sands China, which has the biggest share of the mass market, reported a second quarter profit that, although down 30 percent, beat analysts’ estimates.

Macau’s history shows the gaming industry and the economy can change with lightning speed. Such was the case during the global financial crisis, when Galaxy’s share price plunged 94 percent and Las Vegas Sands teetered on the brink of bankruptcy before swiftly rebounding. Govertsen says he’s advising clients that the current descent may be bottoming and they should stay in the market. “When the recovery comes, it will be pretty sharp,” he says. “And the risk of continuing to be negative on Macau is that you could miss a lot of it.”

Back at the Galaxy casino, Francis Lui has no doubt—suggesting he’s more of a gambling man than he lets on. Asked to pose for a photograph holding a king of spades, he discards the card instantly in favor of one of the four in the deck that has a higher value. “We’re going to ace it,” he says. **Bloomberg**





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**Organizers**  
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Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province

**Venue** Macau Fisherman's Wharf Convention and Exhibition Centre

**Opening Hours**  
30/7/2015 12:00-20:00  
31/7-2/8/2015 11:00-20:00

**Seminar & Meeting**  
"Shenzhen-Macao Economic & Trade Seminar 2015"  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (Thursday) 19:30 - 17:30  
Venue: Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Rocks Hotel, Vic's Cafe  
"Seminar on the Three Centres of Trade and Economic Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries"  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 (Friday) 09:30 - 11:00  
Venue: Macau Fisherman's Wharf Convention and Exhibition Centre Grand Hall

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## Suez profit drops after asset sale boosted previous results



Tara Patel

**SUEZ** Environnement, the water and waste company shortening its name to Suez, said first-half profit fell 45 percent as asset-sale proceeds from 2014 weren't repeated and the waste-treatment business remained sluggish in Europe.

Net income slumped to 141 million euros (USD156 million) from 255 million euros a year earlier, when the utility benefited from selling an asset in Macau. Stripped of that gain, profit rose 11 percent, Suez said yesterday in a statement.

The Paris-based company has expanded to Spain and Italy as well as Africa and the Middle East to boost profitability amid pricing pressures at home and a slower European industrial-waste business. Chief Executive Officer Jean-Louis Chaussade says Suez has "financial flexibility" to make acquisitions and has made China a priority.

"I am not predicting a slowdown" in China, Chaussade said on a conference call. The utility has a waste and water partnership with Chongqing Water Group and is counting on the government's continued focus on environmental improvements.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization were 1.29 billion euros in the first half, in line with the 1.28 billion-euro average estimate of seven analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. Ebitda in the European waste division dropped 3.1 percent.

"The second quarter was better than the first and European volumes rose slightly," Chaussade said. "We hope the third quarter will follow this trend."

Net financial debt advanced to 8.02 billion euros from 7.7 billion euros at the end of March. Cost savings were 70 million euros in the first half, while free cash flow totaled 322 million euros. The utility confirmed 2015 financial targets.

Suez expects "positive" organic Ebitda growth this year, at least 4 percent organic Ebit growth and at least 3 percent growth in like-for-like revenue. **Bloomberg**

# LVMH rises after biggest profit boost since 2012 on fashion gain

Andrew Roberts

**L**VMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE rose in Paris trading after the world's largest luxury-goods maker reported its strongest earnings increase in three years.

First-half profit from recurring operations rose 15 percent to 2.96 billion euros (USD3.3 billion) as sales of fashion and leather goods accelerated and the drinks unit returned to growth, the Paris-based company said late Tuesday. Analysts predicted 2.93 billion euros, according to the average of estimates compiled by Bloomberg. The shares rose as much as 3.7 percent.

LVMH recorded strong sales in Europe and the U.S., while the unit that includes handbag maker Louis Vuitton overcame declines from the brand in China, Macau and Hong Kong to post 10 percent growth in the second quarter, Chief Financial Officer Jean-Jacques Guiony said on a conference call. The earnings increase was the most since a 20 percent gain in the first half of 2012.

Improving trends at Vuitton confirm "the success of the brand's repositioning strategy and prospects of a return to double-digit earnings growth in 2015," said Thomas Chauvet, an analyst at Citigroup in London. He reiterated his buy rating.

The shares rose 2.9 percent to 170.60 euros as of 9:02 a.m. yesterday in the French capital.

Fashion and leather-goods sales increased at twice the pace analysts had predicted and accelerated from a 1 percent gain in the first three months. Vuitton's sales in Japan and Europe are benefiting



LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA is introducing more expensive products at handbag maker Louis Vuitton

from a shift of business from China, Macau and Hong Kong, where they fell about 10 percent, Guiony said.

The CFO also said it's too early to confirm that rents will fall in Hong Kong even as LVMH holds talks with landlords there. Gucci owner Kering SA and other luxury companies are demanding lower store charges there to reflect the island city's waning appeal with wealthy Chinese shoppers.

Guiony's comments on China and the growing calls for lower rents in Hong Kong weighed on shares of rival Prada SpA, which fell as much as 7.2 percent in Hong Kong to the lowest since January 2012. A block trade of about 0.8 percent of Prada's shares exchanged hands.

LVMH's second-quarter wine and

## Louis Vuitton's sales in Japan and Europe are benefiting from a shift of business from China, Macau and Hong Kong, where they fell about 10 pct

spirits sales rose 5 percent, rebounding from a 1 percent drop, as U.S. demand for Hennessy cognac compensated for weakness in China. **Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### MINT SET OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS THEMED "WATER & LIFE" TO BE OFFICIALLY ISSUED



Macao Post is going to issue a mint set of commemorative stamps and a souvenir sheet themed "Water and Life" on Friday. With the full support of Macao Water during the design process, the stamps record the changes over the past 80 years since the modernization of the local water supply.

The stamps show pictures of the city from the olden days and today. In the past, queuing up for water was a part of everyday life; nowadays, a safe and reliable water supply is available with the presence of advanced water treatment techniques, improved customer service standards and rigorous water testing methods.

Through a set of four commemorative stamps, souvenir sheet and first day cover, the issue of "Water and Life" aims to raise awareness among the public on water conservation. From July 31, interested persons can make purchases at the Philatelic Shop at Macao Post or via other sales networks. For details, please visit [www.macaupost.gov.mo/Philately](http://www.macaupost.gov.mo/Philately).

#### SIAM PIWAT BAGS 4 GLOBAL AWARDS FOR ITS FLAGSHIP MALLS SIAM CENTER AND SIAM PARAGON, BANGKOK

Siam Piwat is bringing its Bangkok's flagship shopping centers - Siam Center and Siam Paragon to the next level in 2015. Its retail concept and products and services have received international recognition, leading Siam Center to be the only Thai shopping mall to win the Vision-Innovation-Value-Achievement (VIVA) Awards Competition by International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC). Siam Center and Siam Paragon also scooped up 2015's Top 10 Best Shopping Mall in "The Best of Thailand Awards Voted by Chinese Tourists" held by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, while Siam Center was crowned number one as "2015 Best Shopping Mall."

Siam Center is one of the only three shopping malls in Southeast Asia to win The VIVA Competition held by ICSC, a global awards program which honors the most outstanding examples of shopping center in the subject of design and development, sustainability, marketing and community service worldwide.



Siam Center

In "The Best of Thailand Awards Voted by Chinese Tourists", an award by the Tourism Authority of Thailand is dedicated to boosting Thai tourism's capacity to better accommodate the need of growing China market and was voted by Chinese tourists via Weibo. Siam Center won the "2015 Best Shopping Mall", rising above all other competitors in "2015 Top 10 Best Shopping Mall."





## ANALYSIS

# Mainland's currency policy sinks into disarray amid rout in stocks

Fion Li

**C**HINA is in a currency quandary: How to promote the yuan in global trade while at the same time using it to stabilize market volatility?

The People's Bank of China is holding the onshore version of the yuan at about 6.2 to the dollar, even as it pledges a bigger role for market forces. In a single statement last week, the cabinet said both that it would allow the currency to move in a wider range and that the exchange rate should be stable.

A freely usable yuan is a key requirement of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights status that China is seeking. Yet loosening controls while stocks are plunging risks the kind of swings that may spur capital outflows and disrupt the world's second-biggest economy.

"This is a time of policy confusion," said Cliff Tan, East Asian head of global markets research at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ in Hong Kong. "The Chinese government is panicking a little bit as they take the equity market selloff as a threat to its credi-

bility. Different departments are coming up with what can be done, but they're mutually contradictory."

This tension is being borne out in markets, where the gap between the onshore yuan and the currency's value in Hong

■ **It's critical for China to adopt a flexible, market-based exchange rate to help correct the imbalances that are limiting domestic consumption**

Kong widened last week to 0.29 percent, the most since March. While the onshore rate has remained fixed, the offshore yuan tumbled the most in three months on July 24 as the cabinet's statement sowed confusion among traders.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Commonwealth Bank of Australia took the State Council's statement as a sign China will relax the limit of 2 percent moves either side of a daily fixing.

Achieving SDR status would be the crowning achievement of the nation's efforts to boost global use of its currency and challenge the dominance of the dollar. The yuan failed to make the cut in 2010 because it wasn't deemed to be freely usable. The next five-yearly review is scheduled for November.

It's critical for China to adopt a flexible, market-based exchange rate to help correct the imbalances that are limiting domestic consumption, the IMF said in a report Tuesday.

"Let the exchange rate trade more freely within the band first and then we can talk about widening the band," said Ken Peng, a strategist at Citigroup Inc. in Hong Kong. "The intervention has been very aggressive in the foreign-exchange market during this equity rout. That's an easy target for those who are opposed to China joining the SDR."

Widening the trading band

will add unwanted uncertainty at a time when financial markets are already volatile, said Koon How Heng, a Singapore-based strategist at Credit Suisse Private Bank and Wealth Management.

"There's just no strong or clear valid objective at this stage to widen the daily trading band," Heng said, adding that he's waiting for clearer direction from China's authorities.

A measure of anticipated yuan volatility in three months' time was at 1.6 percent yesterday, above the 1.4 percent average of the past two months.

The Shanghai Composite tumbled 29 percent from its June 12 peak through Tuesday, the biggest loss among global benchmark indexes tracked by Bloomberg, after a 12-month rally that saw it surge 150 percent.

Some of the signs for China's currency are more positive. Yuan trading in London bucked the global trend of declines in April, climbing to a record USD43 billion a day, up 25 percent from October, data from the Bank of England showed this week.

And the PBOC issued new rules this month making it easier for big international investors to access its bond market.

There are dissenting voices, though, spurred by the rout that's wiped \$4 trillion from Chinese equities.

The goals of opening up the capital account, which tracks investment flows, and making the yuan fully convertible should be reassessed given the stock collapse, Qing Wu, a researcher at the State Council's development research center, said in a July 20 interview.

"There's still a big gap between the Chinese government's communication skills and their counterparts in developed nations," said Le Xia, an economist at Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA in Hong Kong. Authorities don't want the yuan to become "an additional problem to worry about when the equities market fluctuates."

Dariusz Kowalczyk, a strategist at Credit Agricole CIB, said the government wants to avoid depreciation that may prompt Chinese companies to pay down "quite large" external debts.

"They say they want a more flexible currency, but their actions disprove it," said Kowalczyk. "There could be a temptation to slow the progress of capital market opening out of fear allowing more foreign money will expose other mainland asset classes to the same volatility we've seen in equities." **Bloomberg**



**T**URKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with top Chinese officials yesterday amid tensions over China's treatment of its Uighur minority and sensitive negotiations surrounding the possible purchase of a Chinese missile system.

While the sides enjoy outwardly friendly relations, Turkish public sentiment has been inflamed by reports that members of the Uighur minority native to China's northwest have been restricted in practicing their Islamic faith, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan, which ended in mid-July.

Turks and Uighurs share close linguistic, cultural and religious ties.

Hundreds of people marched in Istanbul earlier this month, burning Chinese flags outside the consulate, waving flags representing the Uighurs' putative homeland and calling for a boycott of Chinese goods. The demonstration was peaceful, but a group of nationalists tried to attack a group of Korean tourists who they mistook for Chinese. Police rescued the tourists.

Prior to the protests, the Turkish Foreign Ministry had called in the Chinese ambassador and issued a statement saying the Turkish public was "saddened" by reports of the Ramadan restrictions.

China responded by denying any curbs on religious expression and demanding that Ankara clarify the matter. Des-

# Turkish President Erdogan in Beijing amid Uighur tensions



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

pite Beijing's statements, China has exercised long-standing bans on Uighur Communist Party members, government

workers and students joining in religious observances.

Erdogan met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at Bei-

jing's Great Hall of the People, and was scheduled to meet President Xi Jinping later in the day.

"China holds China-Turkey relations in very high regard," Li told Erdogan in brief comments before reporters were escorted from the room. "On the basis of mutual respect, mutual benefit, political trust and practical cooperation, I believe that your visit will help to advance the development of China-Turkey relations."

Relations are further complicated by Turkey's closeness with the United States and the ongoing civil war in Syria.

Turkey, a NATO member, agreed in principle in 2013 to buy China's HQ-9 air defense missile system. China reportedly offered the best price and to furnish the technology behind the system.

However, the deal has run into controversy over its incompatibility with NATO weapons systems and the possible leak of military secrets to Beijing.

China has also opposed any international intervention in Syria, while Erdogan has been among the toughest critics of Bashar Assad's regime.

The differences come despite growing tourism and surging Chinese exports to Turkey, which has contracted with a Chinese company to build a high-speed rail line. **AP**

## HONG KONG

# Students warn of erosion in academic freedom

**S**TUDENTS at Hong Kong's most prestigious university say its academic freedom is under attack in what they maintain is the politically motivated stalling of the appointment of an administrator who supported last year's pro-democracy protests.

In their most confrontational demonstration on campus, about 100 students of the University of Hong Kong stormed a conference room where school leaders were deliberating late Tuesday on the status of former law school dean Johannes Chan, whose appointment to pro-vice chancellor has been stalled for months.

University President Peter Mathieson put forth Chan's name for the post last December, but the university's governing body, which includes

**■ About 100 students stormed a conference room where school leaders were deliberating the status of former law school dean Johannes Chan**

several loyalists to China's central government, has so far blocked his appointment. In recent months the law school's research record under Chan also came under at-



Student leaders Joshua Wong, right, and Nathan Law shout slogans outside a court in Hong Kong, Friday, July 17

tack from a Communist Party-controlled newspaper.

Chan, who has since been replaced as law school dean, was sympathetic to students and other activists who launched last year's "Occupy Central" protests to demand open nominations

in elections for Hong Kong's top executive, which China's central leadership rejected.

When HKU's governing body voted late Tuesday to again delay Chan's appointment, students stormed the room. "Despicable! Despicable!" the student protesters

shouted as they formed a human barricade and demanded accountability. More than 100 alumni gathered on campus until nearly midnight to show support. Some held signs that read: "Preserve academic freedom. Defend institutional autonomy."

Billy Fung, HKU Student Union president who led the protest, said yesterday that his group would block any decision that goes against the wishes of students and alumni.

The century-old university counts many of the territory's political and intellectual leaders among its graduates, and was the alma mater of revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen, who got the germ of idea to overthrow China's last dynasty here.

Since returning to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, this semi-autonomous

region has been governed by the Basic Law, a mini-constitution that guarantees that educational institutions "retain their autonomy and enjoy academic freedom."

"In Hong Kong, academics in a number of fields have always played an important role in social reforms. There's frequently a link between research and social reforms," said Carole J. Petersen, a law professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa who taught at HKU for nearly two decades until 2006.

Meanwhile, on the mainland over the past year, China's education minister has issued directives on strict ruling Communist Party control over higher education to guard against the infiltration of what are deemed to be Western values such as the fostering of democracy. **AP**



AFGHANISTAN

# Gov't examining claim Taliban leader Mullah Omar is dead

Lynne O'Donnell, Kabul

**A**N Afghan official said yesterday his government is examining claims that reclusive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar is dead. The Taliban could not be immediately reached on the government's comments about Omar, who has been declared dead many times before.

Omar, the one-eyed, secretive head of the Taliban and an al-Qaida ally, led a bloody insurgency against U.S.-led forces after they toppled him from his rule in Afghanistan in 2001.

Zafar Hashemi, a deputy spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, made the announcement at a hastily called news conference yesterday in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

"We are aware of the reports of the passing away of Mullah Omar, the Taliban leader," Hashemi said. "We are still in the process of checking those



In this undated image released by the FBI, Mullah Omar is seen in a wanted poster

reports, and as soon as we get confirmation or verification, we will inform the Afghan people and the media."

A Pakistani security official, speaking on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to brief journalists, called

the circling rumors "speculation" designed to disrupt peace talks.

The rumors come two days before the next round of talks between the Afghan government and Taliban representatives is due to be held in Pakistan. A senior government official confirmed the meeting will take place in the resort town of Murree, where the first round was held on July 7.

He said one woman, Sediqa Balhki, would be included in the Afghan delegation. Balkhi is a member of the High Peace Council, the body charged with forging peace with the insurgents. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn't authorized to speak to journalists.

If Omar died, it could complicate the peace process as it removes a figurehead for the insurgents, who until now have appeared to act collectively but are believed to be split on

whether to continue the war or negotiate with Ghani's government. Ending the war has been a main priority for Ghani since he took office last year.



"Whether he is dead or alive is important because he is the collective figure for the Taliban," said a Western diplomat with connections to the Taliban leadership. "If he is dead, it would be much more difficult to get negotiations with the Taliban because there would be no collective figure to rally around and take collective responsibility for entering peace talks."

The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to journalists about the situation.

Taliban insurgents have spread their war from the traditional southern and eastern heartlands bordering Pakistan to northern Afghanistan this year. In recent weeks, the insurgents have taken control of remote districts in Badakhshan province, and continue to launch mass attacks on districts in Kunduz province, a strategically located region bordering Tajikistan.

The strategy has spread Afghan military resources very thin as U.S. and NATO forces ended their combat mission in the country at the end of last year. **AP**

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Asim Tanveer and Munir Ahmed,  
Muzaffargarh

## PAKISTAN

# Police kill feared Sunni militant leader, 13 others in police shootout

**P**AKISTANI police gunned down one of the country's most-feared Sunni militant leaders and 13 followers in a mysterious pre-dawn shootout yesterday, killing a man believed to be behind the slaughter of hundreds of the nation's minority Shiites.

Malik Ishaq, who directed the operations of the Taliban- and al-Qaida-linked Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group, was so feared in Pakistan that frightened judges hid their faces from him and even offered the unrepentant killer tea and cookies in court.

Yet Ishaq, believed to be either 55 or 56, operated freely for years in Pakistan as the country's intelligence services helped nurture Sunni militant groups in the 1980s and 1990s to counter a perceived threat from neighboring Shiite power Iran.

Details of Ishaq's killing remain cloudy in Pakistan, where extrajudicial slayings by police remain common — especially in pre-staged ambushes. Ishaq already had been detained by police, arrested two days earlier on suspicion of being involved in the slaying of two Shiites, police officer Bakhtiar Ahmed said.

Early yesterday, as officers tried to transfer Ishaq from a prison in the city of Multan, gunmen ambushed the police convoy transporting him in an attempt to free the militant, Ahmed said. The ensuing gunbattle killed Ishaq and at least 13 of his associates, including two of his sons and his deputy, Ghulam Rasool, Ahmed said.

In a later statement, police said "14 or 15 unidentified armed terrorists" attacked police vehicles to free Ishaq when officers were returning from an area in Muzaffargarh after seizing weapons, explosives and detonators on information provided by Ishaq and some of his associates.

**As officers tried to transfer Ishaq from a prison in the city of Multan, gunmen ambushed the police convoy in an attempt to free him**

It also said Ishaq and his associates were killed by those who ambushed the convoy, without elaborating.

Shuja Khanzada, the provincial home minister in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, where the alleged ambush took place, said the shooting wounded six police officers who "demonstrated extreme bravery."

No other witnesses to the shooting could be immediately located, nor could Ishaq's family members.

"Malik Ishaq was behind many acts of terrorism and he was freed by courts in the past due to lack of evidence," Khanzada told The Associated Press. "Finally, this symbol of terror met his final fate."

Fearing violence in Punjab, long the home of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, police mounted a heavy security presence around the province and the morgue in Muzaffargarh that took

AP PHOTO



In this July 15, 2011, file photo, Malik Ishaq, a leader of the banned Sunni Muslim group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, is greeted by supporters with rose-petals upon his arrival at his hometown in Rahim Yar Khan

Ishaq's body and those of his associates.

Ishaq helped found Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which allies itself with al-Qaida and the Taliban. His group is blamed for scores of attacks on Shiites, regarded as infidels, and on Pakistani and U.S. interests. They've also been accused of carrying out

attacks in neighboring Afghanistan. The U.S. State Department designated Ishaq as a terrorist in February 2014, ordering any U.S. assets he held frozen.

Ishaq was arrested in 1997 and accused in more than 200 criminal cases, including the killings of 70 Shiites. But the state could

never make the charges stick — in large part because witnesses, judges and prosecutors were too scared to convict.

Frightened judges treated him honorably in court and gave him tea and cookies, said Anis Haider Naqvi, a prosecution witness in two cases against Ishaq who spoke to The Associated Press in 2011. One judge attempted to hide his face with his hands, but Ishaq made clear he knew his identity in a chilling way: He read out the names of his children, and the judge abandoned the trial, Naqvi said at the time.

Despite the lack of convictions, Ishaq remained in prison for 14 years as prosecutors slowly moved from one case to the next. Ishaq proved his usefulness to the army in 2009, when he was flown from jail to negotiate with militants who had stormed part of the military headquarters in Rawalpindi and were holding hostages.

A behind-the-scenes effort by the government to co-opt the leaders of militant outfits and bring them into mainstream political life, or at least draw them away from attacking the state, helped Ishaq secure his release in 2011. He had been in and out of police custody since.

Pakistan is a majority Sunni Muslim state, with around 15 percent of the population Shiite. Most Sunnis and Shiites live together peacefully in Pakistan, though tensions have existed for decades and extremists on both sides target each other's leaders. **AP**

## MYANMAR

# Suu Kyi running in Nov. 8 polls to keep seat

**M**YANMAR'S democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday registered for November elections to keep her seat in parliament and challenge the ruling military-backed party.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy will contest almost all the 498 parliamentary seats in the Nov. 8 polls, and expects heavy gains, according to party spokesman Nyan



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, right, submits her documents for the upcoming general election at an election commission office on the outskirts of Yangon

Win. He said the party would announce the first batch of candidates yesterday.

Suu Kyi submitted her papers amid flag-waving, cheering supporters who shouted "Long live Mother Su," at Thanlyin township for the Kawhmu constituency, a poor district south of Yangon, which she also represented during the 2012 by-election.

In the by-election, she

and 42 other party members won all but one of the seats, which nonetheless represented a small bloc in a parliament dominated by a pro-government party.

"We have to support Aunty Suu as she is the only leader who can change our country," said Daw Yee, one of more than 100 supporters who had waited for hours to catch a glimpse of the democracy icon.

Parties have until Aug. 8 to submit their candidates.

The 70-year-old Nobel Peace laureate is still unable to run for the presidency after lawmakers recently turned down efforts to amend the constitution, which grants the military a quarter of the parliamentary seats, ensuring it has veto power over amendments.

The upcoming polls will be the second since Myanmar ended a half-century of brutal military rule and handed power to a nominally civilian government in 2011. **AP**





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Elaine Ganley, Calais

FRANCE

# Calais migrants: 2nd night of mass attempts to reach England

**M**IGRANTS rushed the tunnel linking France and England repeatedly for a second night yesterday and one man was crushed by a truck in the chaos, deepening tensions surrounding the thousands of people camped in this northern French port city.

Eurotunnel said it had blocked more than 37,000 such attempts by migrants to reach Britain since January.

There were conflicting numbers of people involved yesterday, ranging from 150 to as many as 1,200. But French authorities and the company agreed there had been about 2,000 attempts on each of two successive nights.

The numbers have been growing exponentially as has sense of crisis in recent weeks, spurred by new barriers around the Eurotunnel site, labor strife that turned the rails into protest sites for striking workers, and an influx of migrants desperate for a better life.

Many British officials have expressed growing alarm at what they see as a potential influx of foreigners, although it's not clear how many people have successfully made the passage.

A group of about 25 migrants was seen getting off a public bus in Calais yesterday with a police officer who left them by the side of the road. Several said they were returning from a night of trying to cross the Channel.

AP PHOTO



A car from Eurotunnel security follows a group of migrants, in Calais

"(We) come from train here and tomorrow, inshallah, try again in the train," said an Eritrean who would not give his name as he planned further attempts to reach England.

Natacha Bouchart, mayor of Calais, said about 150-250 migrants tried repeatedly overnight to reach the Eurotunnel. French officials said it was the second night of mass attempts

on the tunnel. Gilles Debove, a police union official, counted about 2,000 attempts for a second night running. Debove said officers pushing back the migrants counted between 750

and 1,200 people.

Bouchart told France Info radio migrants are trying to reach England from France "at all costs" — first crossing a busy highway and then trying to stow away on trucks waiting to board trains. She says Britain, France and the Eurotunnel need to work together on the issue.

The man killed overnight, believed to be a Sudanese man in his mid-20s, was crushed by a truck as he tried to stow away, Debove told The Associated Press.

Cargo trucks were lined up overnight for several kilometers leading to the Eurotunnel freight loading zone, some of them stuck on a highway overpass above one of the many makeshift migrant camps. In a tweet, Eurotunnel said passenger trains were delayed an hour because of the overnight activity.

The company called for help from both the French and British governments.

"It's become a phenomenon which is beyond our means," said spokesman John Keefe. "We're just a small transport company operating in a little corner of Europe." AP

ZIMBABWE

## Men linked to illegal hunt of Cecil the lion appear in court

Farai Mutsaka, Harare

**T**WO men arrested for illegally hunting a protected lion were in court yesterday in Zimbabwe to face poaching charges.

The Zimbabwean men — a professional hunter and a farm owner — are accused of helping an American tourist hunt the lion named Cecil.

The two appeared at the Hwange magistrate's court, about 435 miles west of the capital Harare. Defense lawyer Givemore Muvhiringi says the proceedings have been delayed by several hours because prosecutors are "making their assessments."

Zimbabwean police said they are looking for the American tourist, identified as Walter James Palmer, who allegedly paid USD50,000 to track and kill the animal.



The well-known, protected lion known as Cecil strolls around in Hwange National Park in November 2012

Palmer, a dentist living in the Minneapolis suburb of Eden Prairie, said in a statement that he was unaware the lion was protected, relying on local guides to ensure a legal hunt.

Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Authority and the Safari Operators Association said in a joint statement that the farm owner did not have

a hunting permit. The lion was skinned and beheaded.

The professional hunter's license has been suspended and the trophy from the lion hunt has been confiscated, the joint statement said.

Cecil, recognizable by his black mane, was being studied by an Oxford University research program. AP

ISRAEL

## PM OKs settlement building amid standoff with settlers

Daniel Estrin, Jerusalem

**T**HE Israeli Prime Minister's office said yesterday it has approved the "immediate construction" of 300 housing units in the West Bank settlement of Beit El and has advanced plans for 504 new housing units in Israeli settlement areas in east Jerusalem.

The announcement came amid a standoff in Beit El, where Israeli settlers clashed with Israeli forces as authorities began to demolish a contested West Bank settlement housing complex there. Israel's Supreme Court ruled yesterday that it must be demolished.

The Israeli government had fought the ruling and made efforts to legalize the complex, under construction without prior Israeli authorization. The Supreme Court rejected a petition to overturn the court's initial ruling to demolish the complex, and ordered the demolition be completed by today.

The military has declared the complex a closed military zone and removed protesters holed up there.



An Israeli settler sleeps in the Jewish settlement of Beit El after a night standoff with police

Tempers are high among some in the settler community as it marks a decade since Israel's "disengagement" from the Gaza Strip, when Israel in the summer of 2005 withdrew all its civilians and soldiers from all of the settlements there and in a number of West Bank settlements.

Israel initially promised to build the 300 housing units in Beit El three years ago, when Israel ordered the removal of other buildings constructed on private Palestinian land. AP



## what's ON

CREATION FOR MIND PERFECTION'  
- CERAMIC ART BY DAI YU XIANG  
TIME: 12pm-7pm (Mondays to Saturdays, Closed on Sunday and Public Holiday)  
UNTIL: August 8, 2015  
VENUE: AFA Macau, Estrada da Areia Preta No. 52, Edificio da Fabrica de Baterias N.E. National, 3rd Floor, Macau  
Admission Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS  
DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)  
UNTIL: December 31, 2015  
VENUE: Multi-function Hall, Handover Gifts Museum of Macao  
ADMISSION: MOP5  
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MACAU OLD SHOPS  
TIME: 10am-7pm  
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)  
UNTIL: December 31, 2015  
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE  
ADMISSION: MOP5  
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

FASHION POP-UP SHOP  
TIME: 10am-8pm  
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holiday)  
UNTIL: August 30, 2015  
ADMISSION: Free  
ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47, Rua de S. Roque, Macau  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

THE CALLING OF SPIRITUALITY  
- XIAO YAWEN ARTWORK EXHIBITION  
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)  
UNTIL: August 31, 2015  
VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, Macau  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## Offbeat

## US: FUGITIVE'S ROLE IN HORROR FILM LEADS TO HIS ARREST



Actors actors Katie Hemming and Jason Stange discuss a scene during filming for the movie "Marla Mae"

A fugitive has been arrested after federal agents saw his photo in a Washington state newspaper that ran a story about a low-budget horror movie.

The News Tribune reports ([bit.ly/1JqhmOs](http://bit.ly/1JqhmOs)) that 44-year-old Jason Stange, a convicted bank robber, plays a leading role in the movie "Marla Mae." The Olympian newspaper ran a feature story on the film Friday with photos that showed Stange on the film set in Olympia.

Federal agents tracked down Stange and arrested him Friday at a restaurant near the set. Stange pleaded guilty to an armed bank robbery in 2006 and was given a prison sentence of more than nine years. A federal probation violation warrant was issued last year after Stange left a halfway house.

The film's producer says Stange will remain in the film, scheduled for release next year.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:50	The Illusionist (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Serie
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:35	RTPi Live

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

30 Jul - 5 Aug



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION\_  
ROOM 1  
2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm  
Director: Christopher McQuarrie  
Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 131min

ANT-MAN\_  
ROOM 2  
(2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm  
Director: Peyton Reed  
Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 117min

(1-2 AUG) TO THE FORE\_  
ROOM 2  
4.45 pm  
Director: Dante Lam  
Starring: Eddie Peng, Siwon Choi  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 117min

INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 3\_  
ROOM 2  
4.45, 9.30 pm  
Director: Leigh Whannell  
Starring: Dermot Mulroney, Stefanie Scott, Angus Sampson  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 97min

INSIDE OUT\_  
ROOM 3  
(2D) 2.15, 5.45, 7.30 pm  
Director: Pete Docter  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)  
Duration: 94min

MINIONS\_  
ROOM 3  
4.00, 9.30 pm  
Director: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda  
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)  
Duration: 91min

## MACAU TOWER

30 JUL - 19 AUG

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION\_  
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm  
Director: Christopher McQuarrie  
Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 131min

## this day in history



## 1974 PEACE DEAL FOR CYPRUS

The prime ministers of Greece and Turkey and the British Foreign Secretary have signed a peace agreement to settle the Cyprus crisis.

After five days of talks in Geneva, Constantine Karamanlis of Greece, Bulent Ecevit of Turkey and James Callaghan of the UK have agreed a deal to end weeks of fighting on the Mediterranean island.

Mr Callaghan said: "It creates conditions under which Greece and Turkey can draw back honourably from making war on each other."

He has described it as a "common sense agreement", but Greek diplomats say it leaves Turkey - which invaded the republic of Cyprus on 20 July - in a stronger position.

Under the ceasefire, Turkish troops are prevented from making further advances and a UN-patrolled buffer zone will be established to keep warring Greek and Turkish factions apart.

Representatives from Greece, Turkey, the UK and the UN will determine the precise location and size of the buffer zone tomorrow morning, according to the positions of the opposing forces at 2000 GMT this evening.

The agreement is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 353 demanding withdrawal of all unauthorised troops and seeks to restore the terms of the peace agreed in Nicosia in 1960, which established independence and power-sharing.

Greece breached the 1960 treaty ten days ago by instigating a coup against elected Cypriot president Archbishop Makarios.

Turkey responded by sending in troops, since the Greek puppet regime threatens its minority on the island.

Turkish soldiers were still arriving on the island last night, swelling their force - permitted under the 1960 treaty - to 35,000 men and 300 tanks and other armour.

Speaking in London, the exiled president said he was pleased with the peace as long as all parties kept to it.

Greek, Turkish and British ministers will meet again in Geneva on 8 August to discuss further details of the settlement.

Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot delegates will be invited to the conference on 10 August.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The United Nations continued to demand the withdrawal of unauthorised troops. But as further talks in Geneva collapsed, the Turkish army advanced eastward and by August 16 they had taken over 40% of the island.

Thousands were forced from their homes as Greeks in the Turkish zone and Turks in the Greek zone fled to opposite sides. Glafkos Clerides acted as Greek-Cypriot president in the south, until Archbishop Makarios returned in December 1974. Makarios remained as president until his death in 1977, when Spyros Kyprianou succeeded him.

Former vice-president of pre-partition Cyprus, Rauf Denktash, became president of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, proclaimed by Turkey in February 1975.

Northern Cyprus remains unrecognised by the international community, and the UN continues to protect the buffer zone - or Green line - separating the Greek and Turkish populations. A UN plan put to a referendum on 24 April 2004 to reunite the island was rejected decisively by the Greek Cypriots but accepted by the Turkish Cypriots. EU membership only applies in the Greek sector.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Your creative energy is fully engaged with some new person or project, so make sure that you're pushing it as far as it can go. Things may start to look really good for you by day's end.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
It's too easy for you to fill up with hot air today, so do what you can to just chill out and let others take the lead. You're sure to find that your people are willing to cut you some slack for the down time.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You've got an opinion for any given topic — and your mental energy keeps you from making people feel funny about their own ideas. It's a good time to discuss big plans and rethink old ideas.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You are feeling impulsive today — and why not? It's one of those great days when you can get away with almost anything, as long as you keep a smile on your face. Others forgive and forget.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You need to make the most of your newfound celebrity — it may not last forever! At least one person is star-struck in your presence, and you can get them to do almost anything for you.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Can you pare back your schedule somewhat today? If not, things may get a bit ridiculous, and you may feel rushed until long into the night. If you can defer some meetings or projects, you should feel much better.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
You need to be explicit about your hopes and dreams — otherwise, how will anyone know how to help you? It's a good time for you to make special requests and call in favors.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Your boss — or someone filling that role — may cause problems today, but you should try to just let their ill manners slide off your back. You can easily comply with their weirdness!

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You need to figure out a way to deal with a situation that is in dire need of an upgrade. The good news is that your amazing energy can help you find sneaky ways to get what you need.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You've got more problems than usual at work — or in your job search. One way or another, you can overcome these obstacles, but you may have to get really creative late in the day!

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You need to mix it up today, as much as you would rather push forward or even retreat. Sometimes a struggle is your best solution, and today's opportunity is perfect for your needs.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
You need to pull back a bit — it's too easy for you to be somewhat overbearing today, and most of your people respond poorly to that. Just offer enough input to make sure your voice is heard.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

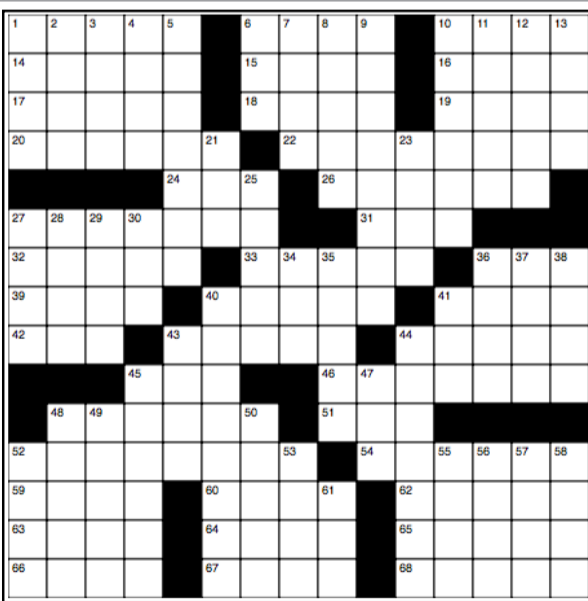
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	23	29	moderate rain
Harbin	18	28	cloudy
Tianjin	25	29	moderate rain
Urumqi	18	28	drizzle/cloudy
Xi'an	25	38	cloudy
Lhasa	13	26	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	22	34	thundershower/cloudy
Chongqing	26	36	cloudy
Kunming	15	23	moderate rain
Nanjing	27	35	clear/cloudy
Shanghai	30	37	clear/cloudy
Wuhan	26	34	clear
Hangzhou	27	37	clear/cloudy
Taipei	25	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	31	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	27	32	shower
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	13	25	drizzle/cloudy
Frankfurt	10	22	clear
Paris	11	21	cloudy/drizzle
London	10	17	drizzle/cloudy
New York	26	32	cloudy/clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- More peculiar; 6- Spanish river; 10- \_\_\_ moss; 14- \_\_\_ Haute; 15- "Stay" singer Lisa; 16- \_\_\_ Nui (Easter Island); 17- Chaplin persona; 18- Charged particles; 19- LAX guessimates; 20- Forth; 22- Knapack; 24- Debtor's letters; 26- Crescent-shaped; 27- Medieval steel helmet; 31- Actor Fernando; 32- Happening; 33- Host; 36- \_\_\_Locka, FL; 39- Russian airline, \_\_\_flot; 40- Wept; 41- Bartlett's abbr.; 42- Dr. of rap; 43- Next after the second; 44- \_\_\_ we all?; 45- Period of history; 46- State of decline; 48- Slender cord; 51- Large body of water; 52- Drew up shoulders; 54- Snare; 59- Jump; 60- Supermodel Sastre; 62- Meat stew braised in red wine; 63- Passing notice; 64- Egypt's river; 65- Body of salt water; 66- Makes lace; 67- Equipment; 68- Compass point;

**DOWN:** 1- Conductor Klemperer; 2- "Jurassic Park" actress; 3- Sketch; 4- Humorist Bombeck; 5- Later edition; 6- Yale student; 7- Simpleton; 8- Pertaining to the kidneys; 9- Hidden; 10- Play beforehand; 11- Really bother; 12- Quickly; 13- Assignment; 21- Her partner would be a buck; 23- Leg joint; 25- Wombs; 27- Glass ornament; 28- Affirm; 29- Shrivelled, without moisture; 30- Daughter of Cadmus; 34- Fallen space station; 35- Gives up; 36- That's \_\_\_ haven't heard; 37- Fishing hole; 38- Start the pot; 40- Altering; 41- Illustrative craft; 43- Math branch; 44- Forsake; 45- Blows one's top; 47- Fuzzy buzzer; 48- Come Back, Little \_\_\_; 49- Distinguishing characteristic; 50- Bottled spirit; 52- One-armed bandit; 53- Boxer Oscar \_\_\_ Hoya; 55- Snack in a shell; 56- Sorry sort; 57- Blind as \_\_\_; 58- Phnom \_\_\_; 61- Sun. delivery;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- 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
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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HKD 5,292sq ft  
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Ref: 15055437

**Old Taipa Village Taipa**  
Taipa  
1,000 sq ft / HKD 6.5M  
HKD 6,500sq ft  
**Near Lady of Carmel Church**  
Ref: 15035434

**Vila Bela**  
Macau  
1,978sq ft / HKD 16M  
HKD 8,088sq ft  
**Stunning Views**  
Ref: 15055442

**One Grantai, Unit Y**  
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HKD 22,000 / 2,158 sq ft  
Ref: 1505508

**CHUN LEONG**  
Taipa  
**Car Park Space**  
**Car Park for Rent**  
HKD 1,700 / 00 sq ft  
Ref: 1505051

**Va Fu, Old Taipa Village**  
Taipa  
**1 Bedroom Apartment**  
**Very Centrally Located**  
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Ref: 15050511

**YEE HOI Garden**  
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Photo shown here may be different from Macau specifications



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## BASEBALL

Yankees  
post 11-run  
inning in  
comeback  
win over  
Rangers

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez

**A**FTER giving up five runs in the first inning, the New York Yankees made up for it real fast.

They scored 11 runs on 10 hits in the second inning, as they overcame the Texas Rangers 21-5.

New York sent 15 batters to the plate in the second, its highest-scoring inning since a 12-run first in a 17-3 win against Baltimore on July 30, 2011. The franchise record is 14 runs in the fifth inning of a 17-0 win against Washington on July 6, 1920.

Texas last allowed 11 runs in an inning on April 23, 2008, against Detroit. The Tigers' 13 runs in an inning on Aug. 8, 2001, are the most allowed by the Rangers. Both of those were 19-6 wins for Detroit.

Brendan Ryan doubled twice with three RBIs and Didi Gregorius had a bases-loaded triple in the 11-run second. A day after his 40th birthday, Alex Rodriguez had an RBI double off the top of the 14-foot wall in left field that made it 6-5 and chased starter Martin Perez (0-2).

"I've seen a snowman (8) but I've never seen 11 (runs). Everybody was swinging the bats well, but it's still big-league pitching," Ryan said. "When you're down five, if you can scratch one across that's good, but more is even better. It speaks to the character of this team to come back and answer that quickly." **AP**

SPORTAL.COM.AU



Adam Goodes

Booing has Australian footballer  
Goodes considering quittingJohn Pye  
Sports Writer

**F**EW athletes have the credentials to challenge Adam Goodes for the mantle of being THE Australian sportsman, which is why a racism debate is raging Down Under.

He may not have an international profile due to playing in the home-grown game of Australian rules football, but the Aboriginal star was twice voted the most valuable player in an Australian Football League season, and his achievements saw the Australian of the Year civic honor bestowed on him.

Australians tend to laud their champions, so the fact that crowds continue to loudly boo him when he plays for the Sydney Swans in the nation-wide competition has both concerned and confounded Goodes to the point where he's considering retirement.

Condemnation of the booing intensified after constant heckling when the Swans played the West Coast Eagles in Perth, Western Australia, last weekend. The Swans play at home this weekend, so there will be no booing, but there's no certainty Goodes will be available, even if he has decided not to retire immediately.

Swans club management has labelled the booing as racist. Other indigenous footballers and Aboriginal spokespeople have decried the abuse, saying it's a reflection of how their people are treated in society.

AFL chief executive Gillon McLachlan stopped short of saying it was racially motivated, but said it was inexcusable regardless.

"Racism has no place in our

game, and while I respect that people may have different views about what is happening to Adam, it is impossible to separate this issue from the issue of race," McLachlan said in a statement. "The booing of Adam Goodes is being felt as racism by him and by many in our football community."

"As such, I urge our supporters to understand the toll this is having, the message it is sending, and that it does not reflect well on our game."

The 35-year-old Goodes, who has an Aboriginal mother, was an uncontroversial and respected figure for much of his long career.

Adam has  
been vilified  
for calling out  
racism, for  
expressing  
his views on  
Aboriginal  
issues

PAUL MARSH

Tensions began to emerge in 2013 when he singled out a 13-year-old girl in the crowd who had called him an "ape", and she was taken from the ground by security in the full glare of a live telecast. While the league and all football officials supported Goodes in his actions, some fans and commentators questioned how the issue was handled, as the girl and her family became a target for abuse and threats in the following weeks.

Goodes was named Australian of the Year in 2014, which some critics questioned given the 2013 incident. Not retreating from the race issue, Goodes used the public platform to extend his consistent advocacy for Aboriginal causes, and make some comments over the vexed issue of race relations and European settlement of the nation; comments which some critics believed went too far.

Still, the constant booing of Goodes did not begin until this year, in a match against Hawthorn when he was booed every time he got involved in play. Hawthorn fans said it was motivated was anger at some past on-field clashes he had with Hawks players and his late-career habit of simulating fouls to draw free kicks.

Whatever the true motivation, fans in other games followed the example. Frustrated by the abuse, Goodes celebrated a goal against Carlton in a match in Sydney by running toward the pocket of opposing fans and performing an Aboriginal 'war dance' which ended with the mock throwing of a spear. It was another divisive moment — some enjoyed his celebration of Aboriginal heritage, others worried that provocation of opposition fans could produce ugly reactions. The booing temporarily abated until last weekend when it was revived in the match in Perth. This time it was his indigenous teammate Lewis Jetta who acted on Goodes' behalf, performing his own war dance toward the fans and later saying he did it out of anger at the disrespect of a great player.

The issue has prompted a fierce debate about what is behind the abuse. Some, including his club chairman and several other Aboriginal players, have said it is

pure racism. Others argue that no other Aboriginal player is subject to the same treatment, so that charge is disproven. To others, it is no more than a copycat action; they boo him because others do and are encouraged by evidence that it puts him, and his teammates, off their game. Some have pointed to his singling out of the young Collingwood fan, simulation for free kicks, and past on-field acts. Others have taken issue with his comments on racism.

AFL Players Association chief executive Paul Marsh was quoted as saying the union believed "Adam has been vilified for calling out racism, for expressing his views on Aboriginal issues, and for celebrating and promoting his proud cultural background."

"This is not something for which Adam should be vilified — it is something for which he should be celebrated."

Aborigines are a minority of 600,000 in Australia's population of 23 million. They are the poorest ethnic group in Australia, suffer poor health and lag behind in education. They are also incarcerated far more often than other Australians.

Despite that, indigenous Australians are proportionally well represented in sports, particularly in Australian rules football and in rugby league.

Nova Peris, an Aboriginal woman who won an Olympic gold medal as a field hockey player before switching to represent Australia in track and field and who is now a federal politician, said the taunting of Goodes was "disgusting" and "embarrassing."

"He's become a target," Peris told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio. "He's spoken out and it's made people uncomfortable." **AP**



opinion

**World Views**

Mark Buchanan, Bloomberg

**GREECE ISN'T A MORALITY TALE**

One of the more troubling elements of the recent drama over Greece's debt was the urge by many to see a deficiency of national character, rather than euro-zone economics, as the problem. Right-leaning opinion, not only in Germany but around the world, put the trouble down to Greek corruption and, worse, laziness: The bad people of Greece retire too early and produce less per capita than the European average, despite working longer hours.

We shouldn't conclude much of anything from such comparisons. It's a complete myth that economic productivity somehow reflects the average ability of people to work hard. It has far more to do with the nature of industries in different nations, and how technology has changed their productivity over time.

Nearly 20 percent of Greek economic output comes from tourism, which is natural enough, given the nation's surpassing beauty. Aside from the Internet making it easier to book and advertise trips, however, tourism remains a labor-intensive activity not that different from 30 years ago. People take planes and taxis, stay in hotels, eat meals, listen to music and take excursions on boats. All of that requires a large number of people to cook and serve, entertain, clean rooms and drive taxis for long hours. The amount of these things that can be produced per hour and per person hasn't changed a lot with time.

Compare that with, say, the German automobile industry. According to Eurostat data, the total output of the European motor-vehicle industry -- German companies account for about half of it -- grew in the decade before the financial crisis by about 4.4 percent a year. That corresponds to a doubling of output in 15 years. Much of this increase came from gains in manufacturing productivity -- value created per hour of work -- which in Germany, according to OECD numbers, grew by 40 percent over the same period.

In other words, rapid economic growth in Germany and other fast-growing, developed nations has come mostly from improvements in industrial efficiency, not from some morally superior character of the workers in those nations.

All this links up with a notion that economists call Baumol's cost disease, originally proposed by William Baumol and William Bowen in the 1960s. Why, they wondered, do some things like education, medical care and live musical performances get more expensive with time, while so many other things, like manufactured goods, get cheaper?

The answer is simply that productivity improves faster in some industries than in others. As auto manufacturers make ever more and better cars -- faster and with fewer workers -- they can sell them more cheaply and still afford to raise wages. In contrast, a live orchestral performance today takes as long and demands as much skilled labor as it did two centuries ago. Getting good musicians requires wages that rise as fast as elsewhere in the economy, and so prices in "stagnant" sectors of this sort go up relative to others.

This dynamic is a significant contributor to relentlessly rising medical costs around the world. Medical technology certainly drives productivity improvements, but time-consuming individual interactions between doctors and patients remain necessary. Doctors can't give high-quality health care to more patients in one hour today than they could a few decades ago. Prices rise, but not because doctors are getting lazy.

Getting back to Greece: It's no surprise that the productivity per capita of its tourism-heavy economy hasn't kept up with Germany's industrial juggernaut. These are different economies supplying different kinds of goods. Before 2010, Greek productivity per capita was stable at a level of about 93 percent of the European average. Productivity in Greece only plummeted after 2010, following the imposition of severe austerity.

Here's the simple, amoral story of Greece and Germany: One economy thrives on rapidly advancing industrial technology, the other on valuable economic services that get created and delivered in ways that just don't change a lot with time. The Greeks aren't lazy, and the euro zone's problems have nothing to do with anyone's moral shortcomings.

**THE BUZZ JAPAN-BASED ADVERTISING FIRM WINS OLYMPIC TV RIGHTS IN ASIA**

The International Olympic Committee has awarded exclusive Olympic broadcast rights in 22 Asia-Pacific countries to Japan-based advertising agency Dentsu Inc.

The IOC yesterday said the deal covers the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo and yet-to-be awarded games in 2022 and 2024.

The value of the deal was not disclosed.

The agreement covers Olympic broadcast rights in Afghanistan, Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Dentsu is also the Olympic broadcast partner in the Asian region for next year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**BELGIUM** The European Union is looking into complaints that Disneyland Paris is unfairly charging different prices for consumers depending on what nation the request comes from. Even if charging different prices in different member states for the same product is not necessarily illegal, the reasons for doing so must be clear and transparent, said EU spokeswoman Lucia Caudet yesterday. She said the EU Commission has "received complaints about Disneyland Paris that we are now checking." Complaints addressed to the EU have come from consumers from Britain, Germany and Croatia, among others.

AP PHOTO



**TURKISH** jets hit Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq overnight and the government said strikes would continue until the rebels lay down their arms, despite calls yesterday by the pro-Kurdish opposition for an immediate end to the violence and the resumption of peace efforts. Turkey's air raids against the Kurdish rebels, which came at the same time as a crackdown on ISIS, are reigniting a 30-year conflict with the insurgents and leave a two-year-old, fragile peace process in pieces.

**IRAQ** Back-to-back suicide attacks targeting Iraqi security forces near the Islamic State-held city of Ramadi yesterday killed at least 12 troops, officials said, as the government pressed on with efforts to reclaim territory under the extremists' control. The suicide bombers rammed explosives-laden Humvees into forces deployed outside of the University of Ramadi complex, two Iraqi officials told The Associated Press.

AP PHOTO



**FRANCE-IRAN** France sought yesterday to re-launch diplomatic ties with Iran in the hope of boosting business in the country, following a key nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers reached earlier this month. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius called his one-day visit to Iran "an important trip" and tried to soften tensions created by France's hard line on the nuclear issue.

**SJM worker found dead in North Korea under suspicious circumstances**

AP PHOTO



A traffic policewoman dressed in a raincoat directs traffic in Pyongyang

A 29-year old SJM casino worker was found dead under suspicious circumstances in North Korea, where he worked at a casino in which tycoon Stanley Ho has an interest. Local resident Lei Weng Fu's death has been labelled a suicide, although his family refuses to believe this assumption.

Lei Weng Fu applied to work in Casino Pyongyang in order to save money to buy a noodle restaurant in Macau. According to his family, he was happy working in the North Korean capital prior to the incident.

The mother of the deceased told newspaper Hoje Macau that the family received a strange WeChat message from Lei Weng Fu on May 31, stating that he was being threatened due to financial problems, and that one of the shareholders

of the North Korean casino threatened to block his bank accounts in Macau.

The following day, Lei Weng Fu contacted the family again, informing them that he had been fired and had been accused of stealing casino chips, something that the family believes "he would never do."

Five days of silence followed, during which time Lei Weng Fu did not reply to the messages sent by his parents. On June 5, his parents allegedly received a call from their son's manager in Macau informing them that Lei Weng Fu would soon arrive at the local airport. Hours later, they received news from SJM that he had committed suicide in North Korea. According to a Pyongyang hospital death certificate, he died on June 5 after being found with multiple bone fractures.

According to the family's description, SJM said that Lei Weng Fu had suffered from a mental illness diagnosed by a doctor in North Korea, and stole casino chips. He allegedly committed suicide upon discovery.

Initially, the family was reportedly contacted by a lawyer representing SJM, who wanted them to sign a paper allowing the cremation of Lei Weng Fu's body in North Korea. However, the family wanted to visit North Korea in order to investigate what had happened and to repatriate the body to Macau.

Lei Weng Fu's mother and sister travelled to the secluded country, where they stayed for 17 days. "We got there and our mobiles and passports were retained. We couldn't go where we wanted and we couldn't talk with his [Lei Weng Fu's] colleagues or retrieve his possessions, that disappeared," the mother told Hoje Macau.

Faced with expenses of MOP60,000 to repatriate the body, the family requested the assistance of lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, who brought the case to Angela Leong, the managing director of SJM. The bills were soon paid, although Pereira Coutinho does not know by whom. "It is a case of human dignity, involving a local resident who was working for SJM. The operator should assume the costs. The body is in Macau now and the family can bury the young man," he said. **PB**

**CRIME**

**Man knifed in casino over debt dispute**

A man from mainland China received knife wounds to his neck and hands inside the Kam Pek Paradise Casino in NAPE at about 7 p.m. on Tuesday. According to the Public Security Police (PSP), the perpetrator, also from the mainland, attacked him with a butcher's knife due to a dispute over money. The 49-year old perpetrator claimed he was attempting to recover debt from the man who then ignored his request. Driven by anger, he purchased a butcher's knife in a nearby supermarket

and returned to the casino to attack the alleged debtor. Moreover, he claimed he did not undergo a security check when entering the casino with the knife. Two PSP officers standing guard outside the casino discovered the perpetrator running outside with the knife and seized him.

One of the police officers drew a gun on the suspect when he attempted to flee. The 36-year old victim received three wounds but was taken to the hospital and is now in a stable condition.