

IACM'S RESTRUCTURING BILL APPROVED



P5 AL PLENARY



SIZA DESIGNS HOTEL ESTORIL

It was confirmed yesterday that architect Siza Vieira has accepted an invitation to revamp the Hotel Estoril

P6



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATOMIC BOMBING MARKED

Tens of thousands of people stood for a minute of silence at 8:15 a.m. at a ceremony in Hiroshima's peace park

P12

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# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

# Times

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



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

**INDONESIAN** police have rescued 45 Burmese fishermen, believed to be trafficking victims, from a hotel in central Jakarta where they were taken after traveling on fake documents, officials and the men say.

**PAKISTANI** authorities say the nationwide death toll from monthlong flooding has risen to 169, as rescuers use helicopters and boats to move stranded residents to higher ground.



**MYANMAR** opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi expresses concern that massive flooding in much of the country might be used as a pretext to undermine November's general election.

**EGYPT** unveils a major extension of the Suez Canal that President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi bills as an historic achievement that will boost the economy following years of unrest, but the ceremony has been overshadowed by an Islamic State affiliate's threat to kill a Croatian hostage kidnapped on the outskirts of Cairo last month.

**SYRIA** The Islamic State group yesterday seizes a key town in central Syria following heavy clashes with President Bashar Assad's forces, in the militants' biggest advance since capturing the historic town of Palmyra in May, Syrian activists say.

More on [backpage](#)

# Secretary Tam admits smoking lounge leeway

P4



# Lawrence exclusive: Gaming industry 'needs help'

P2,3

MELCO CROWN'S REVENUE DROPS 24 PERCENT

# Privacy watchdog intends to fine referendum organizers

P6



Extra times weekend Guide INSIDE



Paulo Coutinho

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW | LAWRENCE HO

MELCO Crown Entertainment (MPEL) announced yesterday its Q2 results in New York and, as expected, they continue to be on the fall as is the whole gaming sector – although close to estimates. MPEL's CEO and Chairman Lawrence Ho, 39, may smile at the results, which lend support to his prediction that the gaming market may have hit the bottom of a steep decline. But his thoughts are to the future, not the past. "The question is," when does it start to recover?

The son of the old gambling tycoon Stanley Ho, Lawrence led with "hope" and enthusiasm this week's media tour to the newest Melco Crown 2.3 billion-dollar stellar property at the heart of the Cotai Strip.

Studio City is scheduled to open in style on October 27, over a month after the initial opening schedule – a delay which the gaming billionaire attributed to market conditions and designed as "the best auspicious date there was between early September and late October."

"We didn't want to rush like we did before," said Mr Ho in an exclusive interview with Macau Daily Times.

Although moderately confident about Macau's future as a gambling hub, Ho says little more can be done on his side to control things that only the government can improve, basically transportation and seamless connections with greater China. Once regarded a "bullet-proof" industry, the gaming sector has been in recession for over a year. Now, actually, "it needs help," says Mr Ho, adding that they are at the mercy of the government's goodwill.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – October 27, 2015. Is it an auspicious date; do you care about that?**

**Lawrence Ho (LH)** - Yes, absolutely. Although "feng shui" doesn't drive us, we do believe in it, so the date is definitely auspicious [...]. If we wanted to, we could have opened it probably a month earlier, a month and a half earlier, but unfortunately, in that [period] there was no better auspicious date.

**MDT - So the uncertainty regarding the smoking law didn't play any part in the delay?**

**LH** - No. Not so much related to [the] smoking [ban], but more to the gaming market,

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## Unless Macau wants to pick itself up and move to Las Vegas, it's never going to change

which is obviously, still in steep decline and so, our thinking was we'd much rather deliver a product in the best possible light and take a little bit more time to open it. Of course, if we wanted to, we can probably rush it and open it in a month's time, but we didn't really want to. We've rushed some of our previous openings and we've got a lot of flak for it and then it takes years to rebuild the credibility and so, we just didn't want to do it again, and given that we're not under any financial distress, we said, "Look,

let's spend a little bit more time and make sure."

**MDT - At the other end, the full ban on smoking won't be in effect probably before 2016.**

**LH** - Well, I hope not!

**MDT - Will that help the business?**

**LH** - Yes, of course. We hope that the [Legislative Assembly] commission will engage more parties and engage more studies to really look into it [because] the environment has changed quite a bit. If you asked most people a year and a half, two years ago, whether the gaming industry was a bullet-proof industry, they would say, "Yes," but as you can clearly see so far this year, the fall this year has effectively wiped out the gains in the last two or three years.

**MDT - Do you think the market has bottomed-out now?**

**LH** - I think we're close to the bottom. We're either at the bot-

tom or very, very, very close to the bottom. The question is: when does the recovery start? The truth of the matter is the recovery starts when there are more favourable [government] policies. The industry needs help, it's not as bullet proof as people once thought.

**MDT - You just said at that press conference and I quote by heart, "I hope that the Macau government will reward us in terms of number of tables." You expect 400 [new-to-market] tables. If they give you less than that, how can you manage?**

**LH** - To be honest at this stage, we don't even expect, we hope. There's no expecting anything, there's just hoping. It's like literally praying. It's almost like a lottery ticket now. So, we hope. We hope that our actions speak louder than words for the last ten years. We want to be looked upon differently from our competitors and I think our actions speak pretty loud. It's just like Macau wanting to be looked differently from

Hong Kong, which has been the most uncooperative and naughty, you know. We just want to be looked upon differently [too].

**MDT - You are a believer of a more non-gaming Macau, is that your vision?**

**LH** - Our vision has always been, more innovative, integrated resorts with these amazing non-gaming attractions, but at the same time, I don't want people to think, "These guys think non-gaming is going to make a whole lot of money." It's not. The cold hard truth is, non-gaming doesn't make any money and it will never make any money. For all the foolish people out there that think non-gaming is going to save the day, it's not. Non-gaming is there as an added attraction, to draw gaming business in Asia; it's not just Macau, you look at Singapore. The Singapore government doesn't like to say it, but 90% of the integrated resorts' revenue was coming from gaming, just like Malaysia. It's all the same in Asia, it's just the Asian way.

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# will never make any money'

Unless Macau wants to pick itself up and move to Las Vegas, it's never going to change.

**MDT - In the press conference, you were very, very clear about your market, the target market. It's China, preferably beyond Guangdong, is that feasible?**

**LH -** Yes. We want China and also Asia as well. I think Macau has good enough components to attract other visitors from Asia, but the truth is that it's a China market. I'm confident that with more hotel rooms [we can diversify the markets]. But again, we are really at the mercy of the government in terms of infrastructure. There's nothing we can do more. Light rail, Pak-On ferry terminal, airport expansion, more flights to China - rather than just Air Macau choking the market to death - Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge - there're a lot of factors that we cannot control. But do I think the investment thesis holds when all of these things come along? Of course, and Macau is going to be a great place. People can fly into Hong Kong, take a bus over, it's going to be convenient, but right now people are saying, "Oh my God, I need to take the ferry. Oh my God, I have to wait at immigration for two hours... You know, the government is not so welcoming."

**MDT - Do you feel you have the support of the central government for**

**this whole development of Macau, the so-called Cotai 2.0?**

**LH -** Well, again, I wouldn't go so far as the central government. Although I sit on the CPPCC [Chinese People's Political Consulta-

**Macau has good enough components to attract other visitors from Asia, but [...] it's a China market**

tive Conference] and I do have a voice; at the same time, this is stuff that is way above my pay grade [smiles]. So all we can do is - the strategy at Melco Crown has always been - we put our best foot forward every single time and we just hope that other people will recognise our efforts and we are collaborators. We like to work with the governments and we've been amazing corporate citizens.

**MDT - You are the only operator that has no properties on the peninsula, except for the Mocha parlours. Do you think that Cotai is the future for Macau?**

**LH -** I think for the last ten years, we were - beyond Sheldon Adelson - the biggest supporter of Cotai. After Venetian, the second resort to open on Cotai was City of Dreams (COD). So from the very beginning, we've supported the Macau government. When we built City of Dreams, people said, "Crazy!" Wynn, MGM, everybody, my dad - they're all on the peninsula - don't want any part of Cotai. "Why would you guys do it?" We supported the Macau government vision and we believed in it, we were sold on it and I think we've been rewarded for it that way. The peninsula is more like downtown Las Vegas and [Cotai] strip is the real Las Vegas.

**MDT - Do you think there will be a moment when all the casinos will move here [to Cotai], creating like an exclusive zone for gaming? That will solve a lot of problems on the Macau Peninsula...**

**LH -** I think naturally, the business is already coming over to Cotai now. But those casinos were built at a cost. I don't know if those operators would be willing to [move to Cotai]; I don't know what they can do in those properties - tear down the buildings or something? I don't know, what I can say is that we're not interested in the peninsula because we've always been trying to accommoda-

te guests further on down the road, rather than what is present right now.

**MDT - You are going to have the premiere of "The Audition" on October 27. Who's coming for the premiere?**

**LH -** [Laughs] That's a surprise!

**MDT - Is it Scorsese?**

**LH -** You know, when there are such big directors and stars involved, with their busy shooting schedules, it's not always very easy to conciliate everyone. So, we'll leave it as a surprise just in case there are any last minute changes.

**MDT - Studio City, being a Hollywood-themed resort, are there more projects in the pipeline? Movies?**

**LH -** Well "The Audition" was pretty [costly]... Again, it depends. How much we contribute to the market, really depends on how much support we get from it. If we don't get the type of support that we hope to get, it causes us to rethink whether we've done a bit too much.

**MDT - As you said, the money is not in non-gaming...**

**LH -** Yes. And if everybody is treated the same way, [it wouldn't be fair]. It's like at school, if everybody is going to get an A-grade, well, everyone would say, "Okay, I'll just be lazy."

## Q2 RESULTS

# Melco Crown's revenue drops 24 percent



**MELCO** Crown's net revenue for the second quarter of the year was USD916.8 million, representing a decrease of approximately 24 percent for the comparable period in 2014. Net income attributable to the company was USD24.3 million, the unaudited financial results for the second quarter released yesterday indicate.

According to a statement issued by Melco, the decline in net revenue "was primarily attributable to lower rolling chip revenues and mass market table games revenues in Macau, partially offset by the net revenue generated by City of Dreams Manila, which started operations in December 2014."

During the second quarter, adjusted property EBITDA was USD204.9 million, which represents a 35 percent year-over-year decline.

Melco's co-chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho, commented: "We delivered a solid operating and financial performance in the second quarter of 2015 in what continues to be a challenging environment for Macau. During the quarter, we maintained our company-wide cost control focus, including continuous strong discipline on marketing costs, player reinvestment and payroll costs. While we are focused on managing costs during this challenging demand environment, we remain fully committed to the long term development of our employees."

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**We are really at the mercy of the government in terms of infrastructure**





## Irate workers protest outside employer's firm

Eight irate workmen led by representatives of the Macau Workers Self-Help Association protested outside architectural firm Wit Engineering Company limited yesterday morning. They carried a coffin, and condemned the company for owing them salaries totaling MOP400,000. Cheong Weng Fat, the association's secretary, said that no reply from the firm has been received so far regarding their complaints, and he confirmed that the association would take further action at the Labor Affairs Bureau. Lee Kim Yun, the group's vice head who is dealing with three cases over related disputes, said that the continued gaming slump would lead to more unreasonable dismissals and hoped that the bureau might take those cases more seriously.

## Couto leads GT championship in Japan



Local driver André Couto will compete this weekend at the Fuji Circuit, Japan, where he will try to retain his lead at the Japanese GT300 Championship. The former Macau Grand Prix winner is leading the classification after three races, but is only one point

ahead of the team that consists of drivers Kazuki Hoshino and Mitsunori Takaboshi. Couto drives a Nissan for team Gainer Tanax. Although the GT300 Championship is contested by teams of two drivers, Couto stands alone at the top post, since his initial teammate Katsumasa Chiyo ceded his place to Ryuichiro Tomita in the last race. Couto hopes to perform well on the 300-kilometer-long Sunday race. "Our car will be overweight [with a 78-kilogram ballast] and we will try to avoid incidents, score points and stay ahead of the direct competitors," Couto said. The Japanese GT300 Championship consists of eight races and ends on Nov. 15 in the Motegi Circuit.

## Troublemaker at hospital under the effect of drugs

A large fork-wielding Filipino man who caused a commotion yesterday afternoon at the public hospital was undergoing psychiatric evaluation at the time after his urine sample tested positive for ice (methamphetamine). A powder-smeared cigarette case, together with two small packets of the recreational drug weighing 0.52 grams, along with other tools, were found on the 39-year-old's body after he was taken to the police station. Police authorities deployed shield-armed officers to the hospital after its security guard discovered that the man was threatening hospital staff with a "sharp object."

# Tam admits smoking lounge leeway

Brook Yang

**A**UTHORITIES have apparently relaxed their resolute tone in regard to the implementation of a full smoking ban in all indoor areas, in particular within casinos and the airport. With the draft bill having been passed by the Legislative Assembly (AL) on its first reading and now awaiting a vote on the final reading, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, told media yesterday that the authorities would keep an open mind about the final decision on whether casinos should be allowed to retain smoking lounges.

Tam explained after attending a meeting with the AL's Second Standing Committee, convened to discuss the finalization of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Law



Alexis Tam speaks during yesterday's meeting

amendment, that a public consultation on the matter is being undertaken as conducted by the AL. The government is willing to view the consultation result and consider it when deciding upon the next step in legislation.

"If the result really shows that the general public and the gaming practitioners all agree on setting up smoking rooms within casinos, and that the technical conditions can also ensure that second-hand smoke doesn't leak out, the MSAR government will invite the sector to give suggestions and discuss the standards for smoking room setups," he explained.

"But during the discussion, we also need to learn about the practitioners' acceptance level and whether they agree on the standard. If the practitioners also think it's no problem, the MSAR government will be open to considering the next step of work. But right now, it's still too early to say; we still need to see the public consultation result," stressed the secretary.

Tam further stated the government's liberalised stan-

ce wasn't a compromise, but merely a more open-minded attitude. He reiterated that the legislative proposal to fully prohibit smoking within casinos was aimed at "protecting citizens and tourists' health, and more importantly, protecting the health of gaming practitioners."

During the AL's committee meeting, some lawmakers also questioned the government representatives over the fate of smoking rooms that are currently set up in the airport and prison. In addition, some opposed the ban on electronic cigarettes.

"They pointed out that it is against the principle of fairness and the principle of free economy, and questioned why smoking lounges can be retained in the airport but not in other places," said the Committee's president, Chan Chak Mo.

In response, Alexis Tam said, "It's an international trend to abolish smoking rooms in airports, and it has been embraced by airports such as Beijing and Shenzhen. It is expected that more airports will shut down their smoking rooms in the future."

## Gov't allegedly in land debt for 30-hectare plots

**T**HE government is still carrying six land plot debts covering a total of 30 hectares, which equates to an area as large as 36 standard football pitches, according to All About Macau, a local Chinese monthly newspaper.

The report revealed that the government's land exchange deal in 2001 for the Iec Long Firecracker Factory heritage site in old Taipa had involved an area comprising 15.2 hectares. However, the land debt generated in the deal is to date still unresolved, with 133,710 square meters still owed to the landholders.

The newspaper cited an instruction (No. 87/2006) issued by the then Secretary for Transport and Public Works, which reveals that the government had signed a letter of commitment in Ja-

nuary 2001 with the landholder of the Iec Long Firecracker Factory. The landholder was a company headed by real estate mogul Sio Tak Hong, the founding chairman of the Macau Jiangmen Association. The deal saw the government agree to grant the company an equally sized land plot along the Baía de Nossa Senhora da Esperança near the Taipa Houses-Museum, in exchange for the firecracker factory area to build a theme park.

Creditors of the mentioned land debt are also believed to include Shun Tak Holdings Limited, led by Pansy Ho. It is reported that Ms Ho purchased the land title at a size of 99,000 square meters from Sio Tak Hong in 2002. However, the land exchange plan was then stranded due to the go-

vernment's commitment to wetland conservation in the Baía de Nossa Senhora da Esperança area.

The report further suggested that Shun Tak Holdings later successfully exchanged with the government for a land plot sized at 18,363 square meters in a prime location in downtown Macau, which was then used to build the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and the One Central Residences.

The report also revealed five other land debts, the sizes of which range from 16,463 square meters to 64,518 square meters. The exchanged land plots were used to build the Golden Lotus Square, the Ilha Verde public housing complex, the MGM Macau, Wynn Macau Hotel, and Galaxy Macau's Cotai project. **BY**

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## AL PLENARY

# IACM reshuffle and restructuring bill approved



IACM headquarters facing Senado Square

Catarina Pinto

**T**HE bill regulating the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) reshuffle and service restructuring passed its first reading at yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting. Some of IACM's duties and functions will be reassigned to the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Sports Development Board, while 270 employees will also be transferred.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, guaranteed that the rights, interests and benefits of the 270 employees will be ensured.

"We always follow the principle of ensuring employees' rights and interests. These IACM employees will be working under the Cultural Affairs Bureau and Sports Development Board, and we've already held meetings with them to provide them

**COMPENSATION CEILING VETOED**

**THE PUBLIC** Services Labor Contract Bill yesterday passed its second reading, but one particular section of the law was vetoed. Lawmakers did not approve of two articles of section 13, which regulate compensation upon contract termination. The articles introduced a salary ceiling to calculate compensation.

But lawmakers argued that it would be unfair to have a ceiling for sacked employees. Therefore, 12 lawmakers voted against setting a limit for compensation paid to civil servants who have been fired. The Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, said that very few employees have been dismissed without a reason.

with further information," said Ms Chan.

The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) director, Kou Peng Kuan, said that they met with the 270 employees in order to hear their opinions. He added that his department has assessed possible issues arising from IACM's reshuffle and indicated that they will adopt measures to protect employees.

Lawmakers have welcomed the government's efforts to

restructure IACM, but some have also expressed concerns regarding other possible overlapping services. Furthermore, they asked Ms Chan about when the government will begin working on the reshuffle and restructuring of other public services.

"This time the restructuring involves IACM's recreational, sports and cultural areas. But doubts arise regarding other IACM duties that may overlap with those of other public entities,"

lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho recalled. He urged the government to consider transferring additional IACM duties to other public services.

Ms Chan said that this year the government is focusing on restructuring IACM's duties that relate to sports, culture and recreational activities. The restructuring plans of other public services are still under assessment, she indicated.

Lawmakers were also eager to know further details of the government's plan, which was announced in this year's Policy Address and will enable the establishment of a municipal body that holds no political power.

However, Ms Chan did not share any news on the subject, stating that they haven't yet reached a decision. She said she would disclose further information when appropriate.

Other lawmakers questioned Sonia Chan about improvements to the licensing process for restaurants and bars. The Secretary stated that beverage establishments' licensing process runs quite smoothly, while the licensing process for food establishments requires further work.

Amendments to the Affordable Housing Bill and the bill regulating claims arising from labor relations also passed second readings in yesterday's AL plenary meeting. The Affordable Housing Bill amendments introduced changes to the drawing process for selecting applicants, altering the current process which involves first conducting a thorough review of all applicants' qualifications.

The Housing Bureau will be allowed to conduct a preliminary evaluation of all applicants before starting the drawing process.

Lawmakers welcomed the changes, but called on the government to improve housing policies. Lawmaker Lei Cheng I said that there needs to be a clear and comprehensive plan for public housing. Wong Kit Cheng also commented that citizens are hoping that amendments to the law will improve efficiency. However, there isn't "a long-term view" on the subject, and nor does the public know when a new application process will take place.

**ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA**

**ESCALATORS** Lawmakers have demanded that escalators be more effectively supervised after several incidents involving escalators and lifts were reported in China, including one that resulted in the death of a young mother. Leong Veng Chai recalled that there have been incidents involving escalators in Macau too, namely at the Border Gate. "There are over 6,000 escalators in Macau and most are quite crowded (...) With so many people using escalators, this type of equipment is subject to huge pressure, and the consequences would be unimaginable if there were a serious accident," he said. As more casino resorts come under development, equipment flaws could put citizens' safety at risk. Kwan Tsui Hang shared a similar opinion, but went even further to suggest that current legislation fails to ensure regular inspection into escalators and lifts.

**TOURIST CAP** A Policy Research Office report on Macau's demographic policies has captured the attention of lawmakers, who are concerned about how the region will cope with a predicted population of 750,000 inhabitants by 2025. The number of incoming tourists is another issue, according to Angela Leong, who yesterday urged the government to introduce a tourist cap as soon as possible. With the elderly expected to comprise 16.3 percent of the total population by 2025, the lawmaker claimed that there existed a considerable gap between the government's policies and the existing healthcare services provided to the elderly. Therefore, Ms Leong has called on the authorities to adopt effective measures to perfect Macau's compulsory pension scheme. On the other hand, she urged the government to introduce measures that would encourage families to have more babies, as pricey homes and a rising cost of living may force young couples to think twice.

**FOURTH LINK** Ho Ion Sang has urged the government to submit a proposal on the fourth Macau-Taipa link. He recalled that this discussion has dragged on for ten years; meanwhile traffic woes during peak hours on the bridges linking Macau with Taipa have continued to deepen. Therefore, building a fourth link between Macau and Taipa is critical, he stressed. According to Mr Ho, the government is still deciding on whether to build a bridge or a tunnel, despite the fact that the tunnel option has already garnered consensus in society. The legislator also advised the government to grant the responsibility for the construction works of the fourth Macau-Taipa link to a trustworthy and experienced company. This would be in order to avoid delays and other issues that have previously arisen in major public works such as the LRT system.

## Lawmakers call for measures to regulate car parking

**LAWMAKERS** have raised concerns over an increasing number of cars circulating on Macau's roads. Chan Meng Kam has called on the government to better regulate car-parking rules, including reviewing the monthly passes scheme that is employed across local car parks.

The government announced recently that it would be increasing car parking fees, while also deciding to stop issuing new monthly passes for public car parks.

However, lawmaker Chan believes these measures alone will not solve the problem. He urged the government to review public car park regulations to avoid social injustice. Those who currently hold a monthly car pass will be allowed to retain it.

Lawmaker Chan Hong also suggested that an increase in parking fees is far from a solution to Macau's traffic woes. She urged the government to improve law enforcement and to hire more staff to inspect and issue parking tickets when needed.



Brook Yang

# Gov't accused of seeking new way to 'punish' civil referendum

**A**UTHORITIES are "seeking another approach to 'punish' the civil referendum," which was organized by pro-democracy civil groups during the Chief Executive election last year, claimed political activist Jason Chao yesterday.

Chao disclosed details of a "confidential" official letter that was issued recently by the Office of Personal Data Protection (GPDP), and pointed out that the office has recognized the legitimacy of collecting personal data for the unofficial referendum. Instead, the letter indicates that the data was collected through a Cloud server that was located outside Macau. This could be seen as an administrative offense of "transfer of personal data to other countries" and could result in a fine of up to MOP80,000.

The referendum – conducted in the form of online public polling – was jointly organized by Macau Conscience, Macao Youth Dynamics and the Open Macau Society. More than 8,600 people cast their votes on whether the Macau SAR's Chief Executive (CE) should be elected through universal suffrage,



Jason Chao holding a referendum poster

or whether they approved of Chui Sai On's certain re-election as the sole candidate.

As the government quickly responded to the poll by denouncing its legality, the GPDP claimed that the referendum organizer's collection of personal data had violated the Personal Data Protection Law. This was due to the "invalidity" of voters' consent, a factor deter-

mined by the activity's "illegitimate purpose."

Jason Chao said that the GPDP has now backflipped in its interpretation of the issue, as the office now admits that the data was collected in compliance with the relevant legal clause. However, it went on to accuse the referendum organizer of "not using data servers in Macau and transferring the

voters' personal data to other territories."

The activist revealed to media yesterday the nature of GPDP's letter, which was stamped as "confidential." In the letter, the authorities point out that "the referendum website [that was] set up for online voting was based on a server located in the United States. The data security service was also provided by a foreign company called Cloud-Flare, whose data centers were scattered in several countries."

As informed by the letter, the referendum organizer is facing the accusation of committing the administrative offense of "transfer of personal data," and thereby faces a possible fine of MOP8,000 to MOP80,000.

Having submitted a response to the GPDP's written hearing on Wednesday's deadline, Jason Chao stated, "The processing of personal data in our case should not constitute 'transfer

of personal data' based on the referred definition."

He said that the implementation of security measures for online voting and data processing had ensured that "no one, not even the Cloud service provider, had access to the data, except the authorized representative of the referendum organizer."

Moreover, he highlighted the GPDP's stance that "it was with voters' explicit consent that the organizer collected their personal data, (...) whereas the consent given by voters aged 16 and above cannot be denied."

"In fact, the Court of Final Instance's ruling has also debunked the claim of the unofficial referendum's illegality, because it's an activity not regulated by law and citizens can carry out any acts that are not prohibited by law," Chao said, adding that the GPDP is "just seeking to 'punish' the civil referendum in another way."

## Siza Vieira to design Hotel Estoril revamp

**S**IZA Vieira has accepted an invitation to revamp the Hotel Estoril, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture confirmed yesterday. The Portuguese architect will be in Macau in October to discuss the renovation plan.

"I asked if the architect could help us to design a new center for arts and creativity targeting youth [located at the former Hotel Estoril]," Alexis Tam said on the sidelines



The lateral façade of Hotel Estoril

of a meeting at the Legislative Assembly. "He accepted the invitation."

Álvaro Siza Vieira is one of Portugal's most recognized architects. He

won the Pritzker Prize in 1992 for Portugal's pavilion at the Expo '98, and in 2012 he was awarded the Golden Lion for lifetime achievements at the

Venice Biennale. The architect is also set to work on a project in which the local Macau hotel "Sun Sun" would be renovated. This hotel is located in the Inner Harbor. An exhibition of his works was showcased in town last year, at which he was in attendance, and it was then that he announced that he would be working on the hotel.

Questioned on the options of either keeping the hotel's façade or crea-

ting a new building from scratch, Alexis Tam noted that Siza Vieira favors demolition, since the renowned architect doesn't think the building holds relevant architectural

**People will no doubt criticize**

ALEXIS TAM

value.

"However, the government is open to other options," Mr Tam said, adding that "educational associations, including teachers and school heads, don't want to keep the façade." This is an opinion not shared by all local architects.

Whatever option is taken will be controversial, Alexis Tam recognized. "People will no doubt criticize – I'm prepared for that. I must take into consideration the public interest. The project is for the benefit of Macau's youth," he said.

### corporate bits

#### CEM AND CSCTC TO JOINTLY HOLD 'HEALTHY EATING' INDUCTION COOKING CONTEST



The "Healthy Eating" Induction Cooking Contest organized by CEM, co-organized by the Catering Services & Cooking Training Centre of Macau Federation of Trade Unions and supported by the Macau Profes-

sional Nutritionist Association is now open for registration. Macau residents aged above 18 who are not professional chefs are welcome to participate in the contest.

By encouraging participants to design healthy and nutritious recipes, the contest aims to promote healthy eating. In addition, participants will be cooking dishes on site to experience the advantages of induction cooking, which boasts a heat conduction efficiency of 90%, much higher than the 40% of flame cooking, and one third shorter cooking time. Induction cooking can transmit the heat to the utensil directly and contribute to an energy reduction of 30% to 45%.

#### GEG MACAU CUP – YOUTH NATIONAL EDUCATION COMPETITION TRIP



The "GEG Macau Cup – 7th Youth National Education Competition" organized by the National Conditions Education (Macau) Association and titled sponsored by the Galaxy Entertainment Group ("GEG") was successfully completed. After the competition, winners joined the six-day trip to Shenyang and

Fushun in Liaoning province and visited the 9.18 Historical Museum, Ping Ding Shan Massacre Memorial Hall, Marshal Zhang's Mansion, Shenyang Palace Museum and more. The trip fostered the students' understanding of traditional Chinese culture and also to enhance their knowledge of the Sino-Japanese war.

#### MGM MACAU HOSTS 'A DAY WITH MGM' FOR LOCAL TEENAGERS

MGM is hosting the fifth "A Day with MGM" this month. One session took place on Wednesday and another is to be held on Aug. 20, to provide an opportunity for local teenagers to experience and learn about the real working environment at a luxury hotel.

The first "A Day with MGM" was introduced in 2011, and became a success, drawing many participants and great support from all sectors. This year, 27 participants aged 13 to 17, including children and siblings of MGM team members, winners from the "Macau Outstanding Teenagers 2014" and students who have shown significant improvement or outstanding performance nominated by local schools. All the participants had an opportunity



to experience the five-star hospitality culture by gaining hands-on experience at 14 different hotel departments including, Front Desk Reception, Fitness and Pool Facilities, Food and Beverage Operations, In-Room Dining, Banquet, Wardrobe & Linen, Human Resources and more. In addition to gaining real life working experience, the program also helps broaden the horizons of the participants, to spark interest in a potential future career goal.



# More employers dangling unusual benefits to hook workers

AP PHOTO



Netflix headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif.

**Michael Liedtke, Technology Writer, San Francisco**

**N**ETFLIX'S decision to give its workers up to a year of paid leave after the birth or adoption of a baby is the latest example of the unusual benefits that companies have been dangling as they try to attract and retain people with highly coveted skills.

Nothing appeals to workers quite like a lucrative paycheck. But benefits and perquisites become more important to people once they already are earning a lot of money and realize much of any additional raise will be devoured by taxes, says Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist for employer rating service Glassdoor.com.

Realizing this, more companies are coming up with unconventional perquisites to stand out from their rivals and pamper their workers. The phenomenon is especially prevalent in the technology industry, where the competition for computer programmers is so intense that employers are looking for every edge they can find.

Adding a little something extra to the standard benefits package is "a really inexpensive way to boost employee engagement and make employees feel better about where they are,"

Chamberlain says. Consider some of these benefits, most of which were compiled from employee reviews collected by Glassdoor.com:

— Online rental service Airbnb gives its workers up to USD2,000 annually to help cover their travel expenses while on vacation.

— Asana, a maker of business communication tools, pays for "life coaches" to help their employees cope away from the office.

— Online real estate service Zillow pays for overnight shipping of breast milk when a mother is traveling.

— Payment processor Square offers an employee "wellness" program that includes on-site massage, chiropractic care, acupuncture therapy and personal trainers.

— Website building service Weebly gives its workers \$50 per month to help pay for housecleaning and errands. The money shows up on a company credit card that all its workers receive.

— Online software service Salesforce.com gives its employees a paid week off for volunteer or charity work.

— Outdoor sports apparel maker Patagonia encourages its workers to get out of the office to play volleyball, do yoga or go surfing in the middle of the day. **AP**

AD

## GLOBAL FASHION

From the urban elegance of Hogan, to the inherent fun found at Moschino and sister brand Love Moschino, these are just a few of the fabulous labels that World First Holdings Group brings to Sands Shoppes. With boutiques and brands suited to men, women and children, there's something for everyone.



### WOMEN

Discover dresses in all shapes and styles, whether it's the edgy yet chic designs of Pinko, simple but stylish creations of Calvin Klein Collection, or the feminine elegance of Trussardi Jeans.

Pop with pumps from Hogan and pick up one of Love Moschino's fab handbags.

There's more female fashion at Liu Jo and Adolfo Dominguez too.



### KIDS

Shoppes at Cotai Central is home to a broad selection of brands dedicated to accessories and clothes for kids. Don't miss Moschino Baby Kid Teen and UM Junior, the latter a multi-brand childrenswear concept stocking kids collections from luxury brands including Young Versace, Dolce & Gabbana, Fendi, Tod's, Roberto Cavalli and more.

### UNDERWEAR

In search of something a little more intimate? Look no further than Calvin Klein Underwear and its range of lingerie that spans stylish to sexy. Men can stop in at UM where aside from loungewear, sportswear and beachwear, a carefully curated range of men's undergarments are on offer.



### MEN

Men will love the sophisticated style found at Spain's Adolfo Dominguez, as well as the more casual apparel available at UM. Contemporary timepieces from Swiss watchmaker Tendencia, Fratelli Rossetti's leather footwear, Italian style at Trussardi, Ed Hardy's tattoo-inspired fashion and CK Jeans' standout denim are also perfect for the boys.



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## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

## The rental process for tenants part 4

## - First week in your property

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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This is the fourth part of the five part article about the rental process for tenants.

Hopefully you will have read last weeks article about the process of 'Moving in'.

So what is special about the first week in the new apartment?

We find that during this period there are four specific phases that tenants go through:

1. Matching the reality with your expectations?
2. Becoming aware of things you wouldn't spot during a visit
3. Confirm the inventory
4. Snagging

#### 1. Match reality and your expectations

Is the vision that we hold in our mind's eye of the apartment when we last saw it consistent with the new home?

The excitement of moving in can sometimes have the shine taken off it the moment we open the door to our new place, because it does not look the same as when we were viewing it.

The previous tenants have moved out and removed their "homely and personal" touches which may have transformed the place

Another issue may be that you discover it is not as clean as you thought it would be. During the move out and vacancy period a lot of dust may have accumulated and not have been cleaned thoroughly as you would have liked. Also with out all the personal objects to draw your eye you might notice more marks and stains.

#### 2. Becoming aware of things you wouldn't spot during a visit

When you viewed your apartment did you inspect some of the hidden things? Or things that are not so obvious?

For example did you check the mattresses, look closely at the tiles in the shower to see if they are clean and free from mould or try to flush the toilet to see how well it worked?

Most people do not 'check' such items as they don't wish to be impolite.

You may also be come aware of noise from other apartments which you are not used to, or smells coming from the building, drains or other people's cooking.

#### 3. Finalise the inventory and

#### readings

During the first week you really get a chance to make sure the inventory you are signing is correct and report anything for correction.

This includes meter readings of course, and we suggest that you go through the inventory on a 'room by room' basis as soon as you can after moving in

#### 4. Snagging

If you notice marks and defects you should report them straight away to the managing agent or landlord.

This is important so that you do not get the blame for the damage. For example if the vacuum cleaner is not working, you may not know about the problem until you live there and try to use it. If there are items missing such as cutlery, this should also be reported as missing immediately.

We hope you will join us next week to read the final part of this five part series on the process of renting for tenants - "On-going living and termination".

(Based on a similar article originally published March 2014)

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MOZAMBIQUE

## Prices for sugar imports raised



**T**HE government of Mozambique has decided to increase benchmark prices for sugar imports in order to protect domestic industry from “unfettered entry of the product from neighboring countries,” said the Minister of Industry and Trade.

Minister Ernesto Tonela said the benchmark price for the import of brown sugar would increase to USD806 per ton, compared to the current US\$385, while the price of refined (white) sugar will rise from US\$450 to US\$932 per ton.

After the cabinet meeting held Tuesday in Maputo, the minister said that the previous benchmark prices for sugar imports had been approved in 2001 and were out of step with the current market reality.

“As a result of this mismatch the amount of Mozambican su-

gar sold on the national market has been falling continuously in the last three years, so this decision will be an incentive for industry to invest more and create more jobs,” said the minister.

Tonela said the sugar entering the Mozambican market comes from countries whose production is heavily subsidised, which means it is sold at very low prices, “which has a detrimental impact on the industry and on independent small and medium-sized sugarcane producers as well as on members who supply cane to the industry.”

Cited by daily newspaper Notícias, the minister said that in Mozambique there were 22 associations with over 3,000 members and 447 private producers, who are dedicated to sugarcane cultivation to supply the country’s four sugar companies.

The sugar sector in Mozambique suffered a major setback during the civil war, when almost all factories were destroyed and sugarcane fields abandoned, which meant the country depended almost entirely on imports from neighboring countries, especially South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. **MDT/Macauhub**

## Nyusi invites Indian entrepreneurs to invest in Mozambique

**T**HE President of Mozambique invited Indian businesspeople to invest in Mozambique, preferably through partnerships with local companies during the Mozambique/India Business Forum, Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias reported.

Nyusi gave the businesspeople assurances that his government would do everything to ensure stability and consolidate peace, through the effective exercise of democracy and respecting the values of reconciliation, dialogue, tolerance and respect for difference.

“In Mozambique we can invest both in public-private partnerships and entirely private businesses, either individually or through partnerships with local businesses,” he said.

The President said Mozambique was a vast country with more than 35 million hectares of arable land and a favorable climate for production of several food and cash crops, many of which, if not almost all, are



Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi

produced in India.

Later, at the end of a meeting between Nyusi and the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, it was stated that the two countries converge on the need to intensify mutual cooperation in various areas, particularly maritime safety and security, since Mozambique and India are linked by the Indian Ocean.

The President of Mozambique said that this visit to India made it possible to analyze the level of implementation of several memoranda previously signed by the two countries and streamli-

ning their implementation.

“We analyzed business opportunities and we were given the idea that India is interested in participating in the oil and gas industry in Mozambique,” Nyusi said, noting that there was increasing need to capitalize on marine resources.

During this meeting, the Indian Prime Minister reiterated the invitation to Mozambique to take part in the III India/Africa Summit to be held next October in New Delhi, which Mozambique accepted. **MDT/Macauhub**

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# Lawyer: Jailed journalist Gao Yu has heart problems

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**IMPRISONED** Chinese journalist Gao Yu has been diagnosed with heart problems and a request for parole on medical grounds is pending, her lawyer said yesterday.

Gao, 71, is serving a seven-year sentence on charges of leaking a document detailing the Communist Party leadership's resolve to aggressively target civil society groups that operate outside of party control, along with press freedoms seen as threats to the party's monopoly on power.

Lawyer Mo Shaoping said Gao was taken to Beijing's Anzhe Hospital last week and diagnosed with cardiovascular disease, heart problems and high blood pressure. He said Gao was given medication to control her condition and returned to prison.

The lawyer last week filed an application for medical parole on Gao's behalf, which if granted would allow her to



Anti-Beijing protesters, holding yellow umbrellas and a picture of jailed veteran Chinese journalist Gao Yu, protest to demand Gao's release, in Hong Kong, Thursday, July 23

serve the rest of her sentence at home.

"At this stage, it is hard to predict whether the application will be approved or not," Mo said. The Beijing police spokesman's office did not immediately respond to questions about Gao.

Medical complaints are common among imprisoned Chinese, often from the generally poor nutrition and health care available in the institutions. Prominent activist Cao Shunli died in March after five months of pre-trial detention, reportedly after medical treatment was denied.

The sentence against Gao for leaking state secrets to an overseas media group appeared to confirm the long-rumored authenticity of the leaked document, a strategy paper known as Document No. 9 that argued for aggressive curbs on the spread of Western democracy, universal values, civil society and press freedom.

Gao had denied the charges, which could have carried a life sentence.

Overseas human rights groups have called for Gao's release. Amnesty International said it considers her "a prisoner of conscience, solely imprisoned for challenging the views of the government." AP

## US demands halt to provocative South China Sea activities

Matthew Lee, Diplomatic Writer, Kuala Lumpur

**I**n a direct challenge to China, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called yesterday for all claimants to disputed territories in the South China Sea to immediately halt provocative activities that have ratcheted up tensions in some of the world's busiest shipping lanes. He also said the United States would not accept restrictions on navigation or overflights of the disputed territories.

In remarks to East Asian foreign ministers in Malaysia, Kerry proposed a joint commitment from all involved to halting land reclamation projects and construction, which he said would lower tensions and risks for miscalculation. He said the step would also create space to finalize a binding code of conduct. His comments were directed prima-



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrives for the 22nd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur

rily at China, which has been engaged in massive reclamation projects in areas contested by its smaller neighbors. China has rejected outside interference in the disputes.

"With great respect to my friend and colleague (Chinese) Foreign Minister Wang (Yi), the United States and others have expressed concern to China over the pace and scope of its land reclamation efforts," Kerry said. "And the construction of

facilities for military purposes only raises tensions and the destabilizing risk of militarization by other claimant states."

Kerry complained that China has not lived up to pledges to ease tensions and to not try to exert control over South China Sea navigation or flights. And, he said he could not confirm Chinese protestation that it has stopped land reclamation projects. "I hope it is true," he said. "I don't know yet."

But he added that the protests rang hollow because China is continuing construction projects, including military ones, on reclaimed land.

"It is not just an issue of reclamation," Kerry told reporters after his comments to the ministers. He added that he was not yet convinced that China had softened its stance. Wang, Kerry said, had "indicated a different readiness of China to try to resolve some of this, although I think it is still not as fulsome as some of us would like to see."

Kerry's comments came a day after he and Wang clashed over who is to blame for rising tensions over territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Wang sent a strong message that those without claims, such as the United States, should allow China and the other claimants to deal with them on their own. AP

## Gov't orders homemade sex videos removed from social media

**C**HINA'S top anti-pornography office yesterday announced its latest mission: a campaign to remove amateur sex videos from China's social media.

Long intolerant of obscenity online, Beijing authorities are now trying to keep China's cyberspace clean at a time when it has become easier for people to use mobile phone to make sex videos and use social media and cloud storage to share such content.

In July, a sex video taken with a mobile phone inside a fitting room of the clothing retailer Uniqlo in Beijing spread quickly in China's social media. Police have detained four people on suspicion of spreading the obscene content.

On Wednesday, sexual scenes were somehow aired on a giant display screen at a shopping mall in the eastern city of Lishui, and clips of the footage spread online, prompting police to investigate who was spreading the content, according to media reports.

Also on Wednesday, a homemade video clip of sexual acts in the southwestern city of Chengdu spread on China's Twitter-like Weibo, and police



An advertisement billboard reflects people walking past the Uniqlo flagship store in Beijing where a steamy video was purportedly taken inside one of its fitting rooms

have detained one suspect on suspicion of spreading the video, local authorities said.

Citing these three incidents, the Office Against Pornography and Illegal Publications said it is demanding that government authorities at all levels throughout China take immediate action whenever such cases arise, and to "resolutely" punish those who upload and host the content. The office also called on the public to report such content through a hotline.

The office said such obscene videos are derailing social decency, disrupting online order and trampling on both moral standards and the law. AP



# Mixed messages on 777 part frustrate mainland Flight 370 relatives

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

**T**HE confusion and frustration that punctuated the investigation into the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 erupted anew yesterday after officials offered conflicting levels of confidence on whether a piece of a wing found washed up on an Indian Ocean island last week came from the vanished plane.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's announcement in the pre-dawn hours yesterday that the part, known as a flaperon, did indeed come from the doomed aircraft was at odds with the message from authorities in France, the U.S. and Australia, who have stopped short of full confirmation.

The conflicting comments raised questions about why Malaysia had seemingly gone rogue with its announcement and infuriated many families of those on board the plane, who have waited more than 500 days for concrete clues into the fates of their loved ones.

About a dozen Chinese passenger relatives protested outside Malaysia Airlines' offices in Beijing over the way the Malaysian authorities handled the announcement linking the plane debris to MH370.

They held signs, including one saying "Malaysia hides the truth," and another expressing confidence that Chinese President Xi Jinping will help the relatives.

Dai Shuqin, the sister of one of the passengers, was among about a dozen Chinese relatives demonstrating outside the carrier's offices.

"France is being cautious about it, but Malaysia is desperate to put an end to this case and run away from all responsibilities," she said.

After several hours yesterday morning, the group was invited into a closed-door talk with airline officials.

Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai later reiterated Najib's comments and said differences with other countries amounted to "a choice of words."

"They want to continue with additional tests. We respect their decision," Liow said of the French. "From our first observation, the color tone and all maintenance records that we have, we know. Our records show that it's the same as MH370."

He said there are "many other technical details that I do not have to reveal" but that confirm



A family member of a passenger aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 demonstrates outside the company's offices in Beijing

the part is from Flight 370.

Liow also said more apparent plane debris that might be from Flight 370 has been found on Reunion Island and sent to French authorities for verification. He said a Malaysian team found the objects, including a window and some aluminum foil.

## Families vented deep frustration at conflicting signals from Malaysia and France over whether the finding of a plane part had been confirmed

"I can only ascertain that it's plane debris," Liow said. "I cannot confirm that it's from MH370."

The disappearance of the Boeing 777 jetliner while on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, has been one of the biggest mysteries in aviation history. Officials believe it crashed in the southern Indian Ocean, killing all 239 people on board, but the wreckage and the cause remain elusive.

"It is with a very heavy heart

that I must tell you that an international team of experts has conclusively confirmed that the aircraft debris found on Reunion Island is indeed MH370," Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters. The French territory is thousands of kilometers west of the area being searched for wreckage from the flight.

But at a news conference in Paris, Deputy Prosecutor Serge Mackowiak declined to confirm that the debris belonged to Flight 370, though he said there were strong indications that it did.

"The very strong conjectures are to be confirmed by complementary analysis that will begin tomorrow morning," Mackowiak said. "The experts are conducting their work as fast as they can in order to give complete and reliable information as quickly as possible."

The caution was typical of how France carries out air crash investigations. The French agency that usually handles such probes, known as the BEA, can take months if not years to lay out exhaustive conclusions in reports that last hundreds of pages. During the inquiries, they only rarely offer interim assessments and even more rarely comment.

The Australian government, which leads the seabed search for wreckage west of Australia, was also less certain than Malaysia, saying only that "based on high probability, it is MH370."

Publicly, Australian officials withheld criticism of Najib's

announcement, with Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss saying Australia respected Malaysia's right to make that call, given it is the government in charge of the investigation.

"Of course there is still some it's not dotted and t's not crossed. There is still a very small element of doubt," Truss said.

Privately, however, there were questions about why Najib had moved forward with the statement before all countries had agreed. An Australian government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to comment publicly, said Malaysia wasn't supposed to make the announcement, and had gone out on its own making a conclusive statement before getting the evidence to back it up.

Many families of those on board, who have waited nearly 17 months for tangible evidence, were fed up with the mixed messages.

"Why the hell do you have one confirm and one not?" said Sara Weeks, the sister of New

Zealander Paul Weeks, who was on board. "Why not wait and get everybody on the same page so the families don't need to go through this turmoil?"

Ross Tapsell, a Malaysia expert at the Australian National University, said he suspects Najib was trying to distract Malaysians from a corruption scandal. On Monday, Malaysia's anti-corruption agency said that \$700 million in Najib's personal bank accounts came from donations, not from a debt-ridden state investment fund.

"He's under so much political pressure at the moment," Tapsell said. "I presume if he can try to move the conversation back to the MH370 stuff, it's in his interests to do so."

A U.S. official familiar with the investigation said the flaperon clearly is from a Boeing 777. However, a team of experts in France examining the part hadn't yet been able to find anything linking it specifically to the missing plane, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because there was no authorization to talk publicly about the case.

With no other 777s or flaperons known to be missing, it makes sense that the part comes from Flight 370, but the U.S. and Boeing team members are merely trying "to be precise," the official said.

Australia, which sent an official to France to help examine the flaperon, has said the find will not affect its sonar search of a 120,000-square kilometer expanse of seabed more than 4,000 kilometers east of Reunion Island.

That search, which began in October, has covered almost half that area without finding any clues.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told Melbourne Radio 3AW that the apparent discovery of Flight 370 wreckage "does seem very consistent with the search pattern that we've been using for the last few months."

"Let's hope we can turn something up," he said. **AP**

### CHINA SAYS CONFIRMATION POINTS TO CRASH

**CHINA'S FOREIGN** Ministry has reacted to Malaysia's confirmation by saying that the result points to a conclusion that the flight crashed. The statement by spokeswoman Hua Chunying went on to express sorrow for the passengers and deep sympathy for their families, and to demand that Malaysia make good on commitments to

fully investigate the crash. In Kuala Lumpur, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that "we have to respect the feelings of the relatives and understand the inner torment they've suffered in the past days. Of course, the rescue work has to be continued. We agree with the Malaysia that we need to find out the truth of the accident."



## JAPAN

# Hiroshima marks 70th anniversary of atomic bombing

Kaori Hitomi and Mari Yamaguchi, Hiroshima

**J**APAN marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima yesterday, with Mayor Kazumi Matsui renewing calls for U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders to step up efforts toward making a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Tens of thousands of people stood for a minute of silence at 8:15 a.m. at a ceremony in Hiroshima's peace park near the epicenter of the 1945 attack, marking the moment of the blast. Then dozens of doves were released as a symbol of peace.

The U.S. bomb, "Little Boy," the first nuclear weapon used in war, killed 140,000 people. A second bomb, "Fat Man," dropped over Nagasaki three days later, killed another 70,000, prompting Japan's surrender in World War II.

The U.S. dropped the bombs to avoid what would have been a bloody ground assault



Children stage a die-in in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, western Japan at 8:15am, the time the bomb exploded over the city, on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing

on the Japanese mainland, following the fierce battle for Japan's southernmost

Okinawan islands, which took 12,520 American lives and an estimated 200,000 Japanese, about half civilians.

Matsui called nuclear weapons "the absolute evil and ultimate inhumanity" that must be abolished, and criticized nuclear powers for keeping them as threats to achieve their national interests. He said the world still bristles with more than 15,000 nuclear weapons.

He renewed an invitation to world leaders to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to see the scars themselves, during the G-7 summit in Japan next

year.

"President Obama and other policymakers, please come to the A-bombed cities, hear the hibakusha (surviving victims) with your own ears, and encounter the reality of the atomic bombings," he said. "Surely, you will be impelled to start discussing a legal framework, including a nuclear weapons convention."

The anniversary comes as Japan is divided over Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to pass unpopular legislation to expand the country's military role internationally, a year after his Cabinet's de-

cision to loosen Japan's war-renouncing constitution by adopting a new interpretation of it.

"We must establish a broad national security framework that does not rely on use of force but is based on trust," Matsui said. He urged the Japanese government to stick with "the pacifism of the Japanese Constitution" to lead the global effort of no proliferation.

Abe, also addressing the ceremony, said that as the sole country to face a nuclear attack, Japan had a duty to push for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He pledged to promote the cause through international conferences to be held in Hiroshima later this month.

With the average age of survivors now exceeding 80 for the first time this year, passing on their stories is considered an urgent task. There were 5,359 hibakusha who died over the past year, bringing the total death toll from the Hiroshima bombing to 297,684.

U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and representatives from more than 100 countries, including Britain, France and Russia, attended the ceremony.

"Little Boy," dropped from the Enola Gay B-29 bomber, destroyed 90 percent of the city. A "black rain" of radioactive particles followed the blinding blast and fireball, and has been linked to higher rates of cancer and other radiation-related diseases among the survivors. **AP**

## PANEL SUBMITS REPORT AHEAD OF ABE'S WWII STATEMENT

**A GOVERNMENT** panel commissioned by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to review the country's recent history has praised Japan's postwar economic growth and commitment to pacifism but also cites lack of reconciliation with China and South Korea. The report released yesterday did not specify what Abe should say in his

statement marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II later this month, or whether he should use the same language to convey the apology from 1995 by then-Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. However, the report urged sensitivity for the feelings of the victims of Japan's wartime actions.

## AFGHANISTAN

# Military helicopter crash kills 17

**A**N Afghan military helicopter crashed in a remote region of the southern Zabul province yesterday, killing a total of 17 soldiers, including five crew members, officials said.

Provincial police chief Mirwais Noorzai said the cause of the crash was not yet known and was under investigation. The Defense Ministry said the crash was believed to be caused by a technical problem, but provided no further

details.

Afzal Aman, the Defense Ministry's chief of operations, described it as "the worst calamity to hit the air force." He confirmed the casualty figure, and said the dead included a unit commander and 11 soldiers, as well as the crew.

The Afghan military has been fighting the Taliban-led insurgency alone since U.S. and NATO forces concluded their combat mission at the end of last

year, shifting to a support and training role instead.

Aman said the helicopter was a Russian-made M-17, and was flying between Zabul's capital Qalat and Shinkay, 20 kilometers away.

The Taliban issued a statement on their website taking responsibility. The insurgents regularly exaggerate their battlefield gains.

Meanwhile, in eastern Logar province, a suicide bomber driving an explo-

sives-laden truck detonated his payload outside provincial government offices, killing eight people and wounding another 12.

Din Mohammad Darwish, spokesman for the governor of Logar province, near Kabul, said the dead from Thursday's attack included three police officers and five civilians. Five police were among the wounded.

The massive blast, in provincial capital Puli Alam, blew out windows



Afghans look out of the window of a shop after a suicide truck bombing attack in Logar province, east of Kabul

in buildings 500 meters away, he said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement, saying the targets were military and paramilitary units.

The Taliban insurgency

is currently in turmoil, following confirmation of the death of its leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar. Afghan authorities say he died in a Pakistani hospital more than two years ago. **AP**





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Image is for reference only



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- Run-off Road Protection
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\*Optional Features



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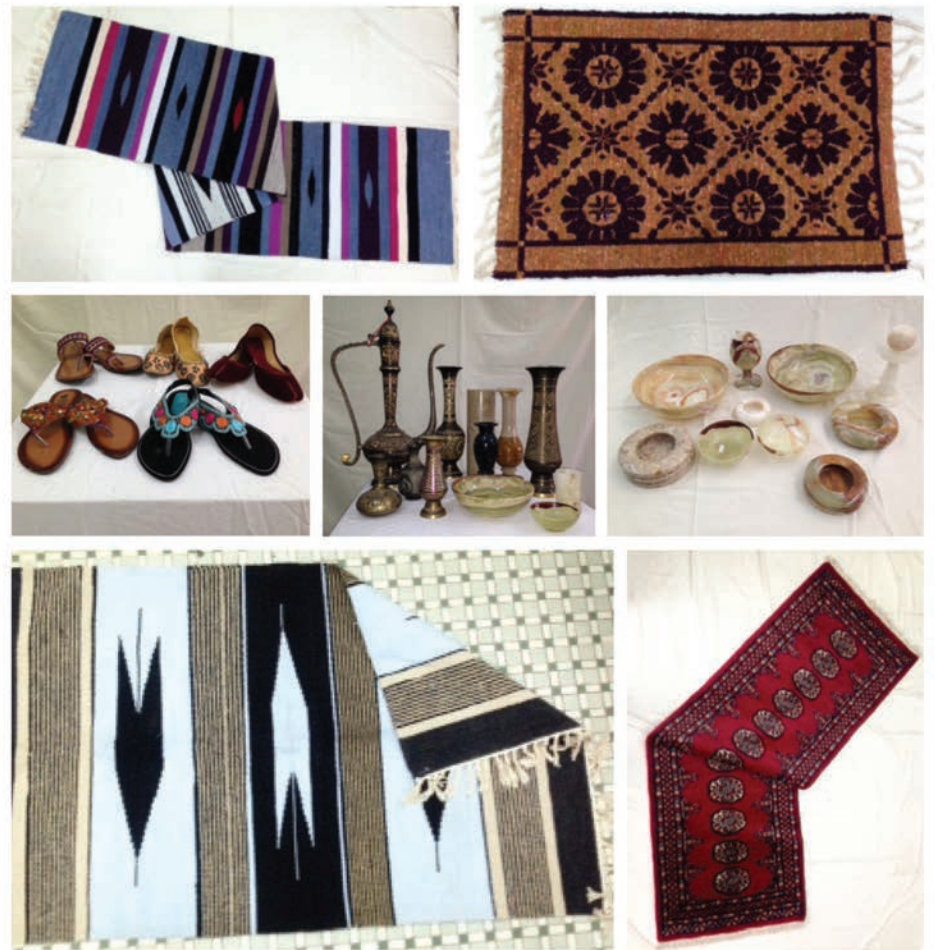
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ITALY

# Bank of China money-laundering trial to begin in March

Erika Kinetz, Florence

A USD5 billion money-laundering trial of the Bank of China and 297 other defendants in Italy is scheduled to begin in March, deputy public prosecutor Giulio Monferini said Wednesday.

At issue is more than 4.5 billion euros (\$5 billion) allegedly smuggled out of Italy to China through a money transfer service part-owned by Chinese immigrants.

Prosecutors in Florence said nearly half the money was funneled through the Bank of China's Milan branch, which earned over 758,000 euros in commissions on the transactions. When the hearings begin in March, a judge will decide whether to press ahead with charges of money-laundering and assisting a mafia-like organization against the bank's Milan branch and four of its employees.

The Bank of China has denied wrongdoing. In a June statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange, the bank said it had not received formal prosecution documents but would cooperate with Italian authorities. Lawyers for the money transfer network's owners have said their clients are not guilty.

China's central bank and other government agencies vowed to strengthen money-laundering controls after



A pedestrian walks past a Bank of China Ltd. branch in Beijing

news of the Italian investigation into the Bank of China broke, the state-run China Daily newspaper reported last week.

The Bank of China is not the only major Chinese bank with overseas branches facing scrutiny. In July, the U.S. Federal Reserve told China Construction Bank to strengthen its anti-money-laundering fra-

mework and improve customer due diligence and monitoring of suspicious transactions.

The Italian case showcases the large underground economy that has grown with the Chinese diaspora and flourished in the absence of effective legal and judicial cooperation between China and the West.

Italian prosecutors allege

that the money transfer network, Money2Money, operated like a mafia, using threats and coercion to maintain a near-monopoly on money transfers from Italy to China. Money2Money also had an exclusive contract with the Bank of China's Milan branch which stipulated that the bank would not work with any other firm to send money from Italy

to China, prosecutors said.

In court documents, prosecutors said the money, which was earned from counterfeiting, prostitution, labor exploitation and tax evasion, was fractioned into small sums to avoid detection and that the bank's management and audit staff failed to report suspicious transactions, helping conceal the source and destination of the funds.

Italian officials told The Associated Press that China did not cooperate with the money-laundering investigation, despite Beijing's efforts to win help from Western governments in repatriating corrupt Chinese officials who have fled overseas with their stolen fortunes.

Italian police were unable to continue their investigation in China, but the AP, in a story published in June, tracked some of the smuggled money to a large government-controlled import-export company that has been accused of repeatedly shipping counterfeit merchandise, some of it to the United States.

The Italian case covers transactions between 2006 and 2010. Legal proceedings had stalled as Italian prosecutors struggled to locate hundreds of hard-to-find defendants, most of them Chinese migrants living in Italy. Monferini said all but around 50 people had been successfully notified of the cases against them. AP

Aya Batrawy, Dubai

SAUDI ARABIA

# Mosque bombing targets police, 17 dead

A bomb ripped through a mosque in Saudi Arabia used by Interior Ministry special forces in the southwestern city of Abha yesterday, killing 17 people, according to the official Saudi Al-Ekhbariya news channel.

A Saudi Interior Ministry official told the Associated Press that the bomb targeted police trainees as they were in the middle of prayer.

The official, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters, could not immediately confirm if the mosque was inside an Interior Ministry compound or if the blast was cau-



In this May 30 file photo, Saudis carry religious flags and signs in English and Arabic, blaming the fundamentalist Wahhabi stream of Sunni Islam's ideology for recent suicide attacks on Shiite mosques in the kingdom

sed by a suicide bomber.

State media reported that the mosque belongs to an Interior Ministry emergency services' post in Abha.

Ekhbariya said at least 10 of the dead were members of the security forces.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But blame is likely to fall on the Islamic State group, whose local affiliate has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks in recent months.

A suicide bomber that struck a Shiite mosque in the eastern village of al-Qudeeh in May killed

22 people. That was the deadliest militant assault in the kingdom in more than a decade, and was followed a week later by another suicide bombing attack outside another eastern Shiite mosque that left four dead.

In November, a gunman opened fire at a mosque in the eastern Saudi village of al-Ahsa, killing eight. Several members of the security forces have also been targeted in shooting attacks.

Saudi authorities last month announced the arrest of more than 400 suspects in an anti-ter-

rorism sweep. They said at the time that they had thwarted other IS attacks being plotted in the oil-rich kingdom, including a suicide bomb plot targeting a large mosque in eastern Saudi Arabia that can hold 3,000 worshippers, and attempts to attack other mosques, diplomatic missions and security bodies.

Saudi Arabia is also leading a coalition targeting Iran-allied Shiite rebels in neighboring Yemen, not far from Abha. The rebels have carried out a number of cross-border attacks against military targets. AP



## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	The Illusionist (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	News
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Film
01:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:15	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

10:45	Boonie Bears
11:35	Documentary Serie
12:00	Cooking
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News
19:00	Contest
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:00	Drama
22:45	Documentary Series
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## SUNDAY

10:50	Young Children
11:20	Miscellaneous
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
16:15	Animation
16:35	Miscellaneous
17:25	Documentary Series
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:50	Miscellaneous
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Cougar Town S.3
21:45	The Legendary Tiger Man
22:00	The Secrets of South America - Cinderellas of The Favelas
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## offbeat

## US SHERIFF ASKS DRUG DEALERS TO TURN IN THEIR RIVALS ON FACEBOOK

A sheriff's office in the United States has posted a flyer on its Facebook page asking drug dealers to turn in their rivals. Media outlets report the Sheriff's Office in Franklin County, Kentucky, posted the flyer Monday. It features an image of a marijuana leaf and says, "Is your drug dealing competition costing you money? We offer a free service to help you eliminate your drug competition!"

Sheriff Pat Melton says the post is funny, but authorities are not joking around.

At the bottom of the letter, people are asked to fill out information about the drug dealer they are reporting, including the dealer's name and vehicle.

Melton says he got the idea from a sheriff's office in neighboring Georgia.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

6 Aug - 12 Aug



## FANTASTIC FOUR\_

ROOM 1

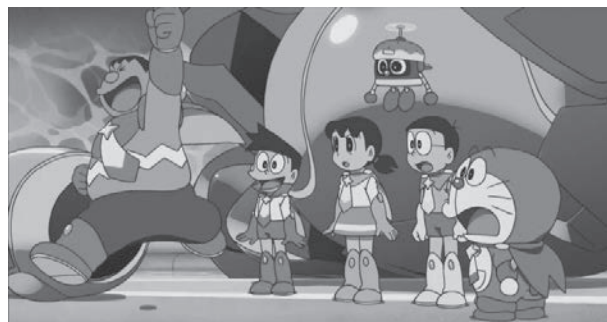
2.00, 5.50, 7.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Josh Trank

Starring: Miles Teller, Kate Mara, Michael B. Jordan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 100min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:  
NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES\_

ROOM 1

3.55 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION\_

ROOM 2

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

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:  
NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES\_

ROOM 3

2.30 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min

## ANT-MAN\_

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Peyton Reed

Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

## TO THE FORE\_

ROOM 3

4.30, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Dante Lam

Starring: Eddie Peng, Siwon Choi

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

## 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)



## this day in history

1972 ASIANS GIVEN 90 DAYS  
TO LEAVE UGANDA

The Ugandan leader, Idi Amin, has set a deadline for the expulsion of most of the country's Asians.

General Amin said all Asians who are not Ugandan citizens - around 60,000 - must leave Uganda within 90 days.

The military ruler's latest statement amended his original expulsion order two days ago when he said all the country's 80,000 Asians had to go.

Asians, who are the backbone of the Ugandan economy, have been living in the country for more than a century.

But resentment against them has been building up within Uganda's black majority.

General Amin has called the Asians "bloodsuckers" and accused them of milking the economy of its wealth.

Up to 50,000 Asians in the former UK colony are British passport holders.

In a broadcast, General Amin said he would be summoning the British High Commissioner in Kampala to ask him to arrange for their removal.

The expulsion order has taken Britain by surprise.

General Amin overthrew Uganda's elected leader in a military-backed coup last year but the British authorities had regarded him as a man they could work with.

Currently around 1,000 Asians from Uganda settle in the UK each year under an enlarged quota allocation introduced last year.

But a growing number have been attempting to circumvent the system and enter Britain illegally.

Right-wing MPs have warned that letting more Ugandan Asians into the UK could raise racial tensions.

They are urging the government not to take them in. Conservative MP Ronald Bell said Uganda's Asians had no real links to Britain.

Speaking on behalf of the Monday Club's Immigration Committee, Mr Bell said: "They were either born in India or have retained close connection with India. "They have no connection with Britain either by blood or residence."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**Britain** was unable to negotiate a compromise with Idi Amin and eventually about 50,000 Asians were forced to leave Uganda. Most of those with British passports - around 30,000 - came to the UK.

Many arrived virtually penniless having been expelled without compensation for businesses and property.

Some were also robbed by troops en route to the airport.

There were many objections to their arrival - Leicester Council even took out newspaper advertisements warning them not to come to the city.

Idi Amin's rule was one of Uganda's most brutal periods.

He was overthrown in 1979 and lived in exile in Saudi Arabia until his death in 2003.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Frustration may be uncomfortable but it's just the symptom, not the real problem. If you think your net worth should be higher simply because of your intrinsic value, think again. They are not even related.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Money is the kind of thing one keeps to oneself. If you think of yourself as 'one' then keep your bank statements private. But do know that you're not going solo. You're all just pretending together.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Just how to move forward is confusing, for you and everyone around you. Things will be too blurry to navigate for quite a while, with or without rose colored glasses. You might as well wear them.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You are in tune with something that others are not. Things look bleak, but you have a strong hunch there is money to be made. Trust your instinct, even if it means exploring the unknown.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Your financial world may look like twisted wreckage, but most of the old familiar ways of dealing with others still hold water. You already know what to do next. Do your research, and trust your instinct.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Not a lot will get done today. Whether it's balancing your bank account or juggling bills, the details are more confusing than you bargained for. For once it pays to let yourself off the hook. There's a first for everything.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
Enjoying the day takes a bit of flexibility. Current projects just won't progress, no matter how much you stick with them. Don't even bother keeping your head down and your eyes focused on the numbers.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Just like money set aside for a rainy day, your hidden talents are kept up your sleeve for a reason. You need them now, so pull them out with a flourish. The grander the gesture, the higher the dividend.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You were searching unto the horizon for something elusive, that you once held in your breast pocket. Was it really just a dream? Either way, you'll have a hard time getting revved up to start your day.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Don't let the circling vultures get the best of you. You know intuitively whom to avoid, so trust your instincts. Be wary of those who are only too glad to help.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You may think you have no choice but to use your credit card, but you are mistaken. It's time to re-assess your values. Your list of necessities could stand some editing before you choose to overspend.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
Money may have the ability to transform your exterior self but not your inner self. It's time to rediscover who you really are, by choice if not by force of circumstance. Invest in liking what you find.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
--	-----	-----	-----------

**CHINA**

Beijing	22	32	cloudy
Harbin	21	26	thundershower
Tianjin	24	33	cloudy/thundershower
Urumqi	23	37	clear
Xi'an	21	33	cloudy
Lhasa	10	20	thundershower/shower
Chengdu	24	29	shower
Chongqing	24	34	cloudy
Kunming	16	25	shower
Nanjing	27	34	cloudy
Shanghai	27	33	cloudy/shower
Wuhan	24	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	33	clear/moderate rain
Taipei	26	29	rainstorm/heavy rainstorm
Guangzhou	28	36	clear
Hong Kong	28	34	cloudy

**WORLD**

Moscow	13	28	cloudy
Frankfurt	19	35	cloudy/clear
Paris	18	29	clear/cloudy
London	12	20	cloudy
New York	22	28	cloudy/clear

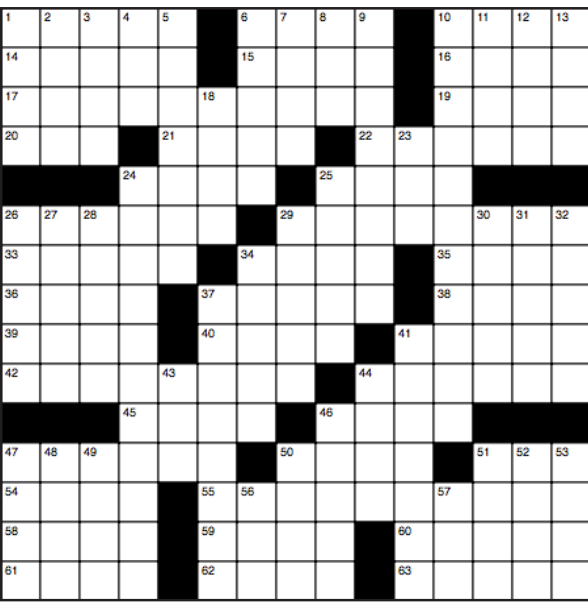
**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- A bit, colloquially; 6- Trading center; 10- Scott of "Charles in Charge"; 14- Bobbin; 15- Iams alternative; 16- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 17- Homebody; 19- Distinctive quality; 20- Georgia, once: Abbr.; 21- Defeat; 22- Soft subdued color; 24- Scottish Celt; 25- Clenched hand; 26- Clan emblems; 29- Tavern; 33- Actress Massey; 34- A Baldwin brother; 35- Worry; 36- Bits of thread; 37- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 38- Route; 39- First name in daredevilry; 40- I smell \_\_\_!; 41- Threepio's pal; 42- Reassign; 44- Lusters; 45- That was close!; 46- Chop \_\_\_; 47- Resembling salt; 50- Queens stadium; 51- China's Chou En-\_\_\_; 54- Composer Khachaturian; 55- Introspection; 58- New Rochelle college; 59- Slather plaster on the upper surface of a room; 60- Use a soapbox; 61- Bank offering; 62- London gallery; 63- N Atlantic archipelago;

**DOWN:** 1- Flat sound; 2- Chooses; 3- Crowd sound; 4- Plaything; 5- Montgomery's state; 6- Taj \_\_\_; 7- Bunches; 8- LP speed; 9- Footwear; 10- Predatory mammal; 11- Sometimes you feel like \_\_\_; 12- Able was \_\_\_; 13- Spoken; 18- Golf pegs, northern English river; 23- Volcano output; 24- Lady; 25- Armada; 26- Floor worker; 27- Antipasto morsel; 28- In shape; 29- Put to rest; 30- Component of organic fertilizer; 31- Attack; 32- Community spirit; 34- Shaft shot from a bow; 37- Accursed; 41- Leading; 43- \_\_\_ Beta Kappa; 44- Plaintiff; 46- Oil source; 47- Frozen rain; 48- Buck ender; 49- Actress Turner; 50- Loretta of "M\*A\*S\*H"; 51- Cordelia's father; 52- Regarding; 53- Words of comprehension; 56- PBS supporter; 57- Heston's org.

**Yesterday's solution**

M	E	L	S	W	A	S	A	T	S	A	I	D		
E	X	I	T	O	L	I	V	E	T	U	N	A		
H	E	M	I	C	R	A	N	I	A	T	I	D	O	L
T	R	I	P	O	D	G	A	S	O	L	I	N	E	
A	T	T	E	M	P	T	N	E	A	T	O			
S	F	P	D	A	R	O								
I	A	N	C	Y	P	R	I	A	N	G	E	T		
F	R	E	S	H	S	I	L	L	L	Y	R	A		
T	R	U	M	A	N	A	E	T	N	A				
A	P	O	S	T	A	S								
M	I	N	H	C	O	M	P	E	T	E	N	C	E	
O	K	I	E	I	N	C	O	G	R	E	O	S		
R	E	A	D											



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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

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

**Fountainside Studio Apartment**  
Macau  
**1 Bedroom Apartment**  
**New development**  
HKD 12,800 / 567 sq ft  
Ref: 15070517

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

**YEE HOI Garden**  
Macau  
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**Amazing Views**  
HKD 14,000 / 1,200 sq ft  
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# BON JOVI

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Rob Harris  
Sports Writer

Sunday, 0:30am  
Chelsea v Swansea  
H 1.36, D 5, A 11

FOOTBALL | EPL PREVIEW

# Few changes at Chelsea for title defense as rivals spend big

**A**FTER a summer of a sleaze at FIFA, it's time for an even richer force in world football to take center stage: The English Premier League.

For all the turmoil at FIFA since Chelsea lifted the Premier League trophy in May, it's been a relatively sedate off-season in England with little of the upheaval of recent years at the big clubs.

All but three clubs will go into another Premier League season with the same managers.

Brendan Rodgers' job security seemed precarious but the Liverpool manager survived a post-season inquest into the team's decline and then had to oversee the summer transfer window's most fraught move.

Raheem Sterling's switch from Liverpool to Manchester City left an unpleasant taste at Anfield but was resolved with relative haste. The 49 million pounds (USD76 million) forked out by City was the most ever paid for an English player, a gamble on Sterling's future development given that the winger has only been a topflight regular for a couple of years.

The move represented a return to the heavy spending that City's Abu Dhabi ownership was restricted from embarking on the previous year as a consequence of breaching UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules.

Across Manchester, the breathless pace with which United's squad is being reconstructed under Louis van Gaal continues. It's barely recognizable from the title-winning side that Alex Ferguson bequeathed to David Moyes two years ago, with more than \$350 million spent in the last year.

There has been a clear-out at Old Trafford, with forwards Robin van Persie, Radamel Falcao and Angel Di Maria going, and an attempt to rebalance the squad. Midfielders Bastian Schweinsteiger and Morgan Schneiderlin, defender Matteo Darmian, forward Memphis Depay and Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero have joined the 20-time English champions.

Last season was about Van Gaal repairing the rot of Moyes' brief, ill-fated reign, and returning United to the Champions League — albeit with a playoff still to negotiate later this month. Now the Glazer family that owns United will be expecting silverware again, rather than just a top-four finish.

But such was the ease Chelsea strolled to the title in May by eight points, the west London club is likely to be a formidable force again.

AP PHOTO



Arsenal's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, right, celebrates after he scores a goal during the English Community Shield soccer match between Arsenal and Chelsea at Wembley Stadium in London

Mourinho is entering the third season of his second spell at Chelsea, with Stamford Bridge far more harmonious than in 2007 when the Portuguese manager exited barely a month into his third campaign.

"In this moment I don't think I am the champion," Mourinho said ahead of this weekend's opener against Swansea. "Saturday starts that fight for the points."

While chiding rivals for their spending, Mourinho has been relatively parsimonious so far in this transfer window. The principal arrival has been Falcao on loan from Monaco — despite the forward being so ineffective at United — while goalkeeper Petr Cech was surprisingly allowed to join London rival Arsenal, which is chasing its first league title since 2004.

"Other teams are going to improve for sure because they invest a lot in their squads and their squads are obviously much better," Mourinho said. "We are the same. We have to be better."

Cech joins an Arsenal side that is growing in confidence after a third-place finish and a successful defense of its FA Cup trophy last season, helped by the inspired form of Chile striker Alexis Sanchez. However, it needs to avoid the kind of injuries that blighted last season for Theo Walcott, Jack Wilshere and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Arsenal's north London rival Tottenham will similarly be hoping that striker Harry Kane remains injury-free and as prolific after being the revelation of the Premier League last season and scoring 31 goals in all competitions.

May witnessed some high-profile Premier League farewells, with Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard leaving England to see out their careers across the Atlantic in Major League Soccer.

However, some faces from the past are returning to the world's most-watched domestic soccer competition.

Claudio Ranieri, the so-called

"tinkerman" ditched at the start of Roman Abramovich's Chelsea revolution for Mourinho in 2004, was the shock appointment at Leicester. Out of work since being fired by Greece, the Italian replaced Nigel Pearson, who was dismissed despite unexpectedly keeping Leicester in topflight.

At West Ham, Slaven Bilic replaced Sam Allardyce as manager 18 years after playing for the east London club, which is preparing for its last season at Upton Park before moving into a revamped Olympic Stadium. The Croatian takes his first job in English management just as Steve McClaren embarks on the latest step in his managerial rehabilitation since his dismal 18-month England reign ended in 2007 with a loss to Bilic's Croatia.

Almost a decade after leaving Middlesbrough, McClaren left Derby to return to the topflight by filling the void left by the firing of John Carver, who came close to relegating Newcastle.

The Premier League newco-

mers are Norwich, Watford and a first-ever appearance in the topflight by Bournemouth.

The trip to the southern seaside town will see teams playing in front of barely 11,000 fans — almost seven times smaller than United's Old Trafford.

"We have to use it as an advantage," Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe said. "It's a small stadium, hopefully the atmosphere will be very good, potentially clubs won't enjoy coming."

Just getting the opportunity to host Aston Villa in tomorrow's Premier League opener is remarkable. Bournemouth came close to going out of business and narrowly avoided dropping out of the fourth professional division six years ago before being rescued by Russian investor Maxim Demin.

Staying in the Premier League will be a colossal achievement, but another Russian-owned team — Chelsea — is likely to be the team to catch at the top once again. **AP / Median odds by Oddschecker.com**



opinion

**Kapok**  
Eric Sautedé



**HEAD COUNTS OR HEADACHES?**

**Censuses** have been in existence for millennia, the first known having been undertaken by the Babylonians and in Pharaonic Egypt in the Third Millennium BC. The oldest existing census was conducted in Han Dynasty China in 2 AD when Imperial China was believed to be home to the largest population in the world of 59.6 million inhabitants. Interestingly enough, references to these distant head counts usually indicate some level of "reliability". Censuses appear to be associated with advanced civilizations and sophistication of public administration. Today, the universal and periodic acquisition and recording of key population indicators determine the shape and scope of public policies.

In Macao, the first census dates back to 1867 when 81,525 individuals populated the Portuguese enclave. The latest census of 2011 recorded a total population of 552,503 and the latest estimate from the Statistics and Census Service puts this figure at 636,200 at the end of 2014.

On July 30th, the government's Policy Research Office released its Study Report on the Population Policies of Macao, and expectations were running pretty high. Unfortunately, some serious doubts can be raised on the intent and accuracy of the document.

Although it is true that Macao's population is today characterized by a low birth rate, one of the longest life expectancies in the world, a population growth fuelled by immigration, heterogeneity between local and non-resident workers, a need to "import" young workers to compensate for an ageing population, and the fact that a low rate of illiteracy is emulated by an equally low level of tertiary education, why do these conclusions need to be drawn from a study by the University of Peking? And then, why not phrase the main challenge of Macao as being the staffing of a (super-) fast hospitality and gaming industry with low-skilled as well as highly competent people who are mostly imported from the outside (today, 45% of the active population is made up of "non-resident workers", twice that of 2010, and less than 20% of the population have been to university) while at the same time maintaining acceptable conditions in one of the most densely populated territories on the planet? With further diversification ahead, what was true in the past decade will be even truer in the next.

Every single piece of information in this report seeks to tone down the issues at hand and is presented as a validation of insufficiently published indicators and reports to appraise the quality and relevance of past and upcoming public policies. It is more a justification exercise than an objective assessment from which to derive public policy recommendations.

Projections are on the conservative side: the population figures of 710,000 by 2020 and 750,000 by 2025 are based on lower growth to come. With a population increase of 25,500 people in 2012-2013 and close to 29,000 in 2013-2014, should not we at least consider a higher limit - despite the recent sharp GDP decline - according to which the threshold of 710,000 could be reached by the end of 2017? Unless, of course, there is a significant contraction of non-resident workers and thus a sudden change in immigration policy - unimaginable with 19,000 additional hotel rooms in the making and the drive for Macao to become a world-class tourism and entertainment center. Is it reasonable to argue that HR issues can be significantly addressed by an untapped reserve of women and a fast ageing population? What is the rationale behind an acceptable ("not saturated") carrying capacity of 22,000 people per sq. km by 2025? What are the envisioned measures to optimize transportation and tourism facilities for sustainable development? Why not include indicators like "waiting time" for health services instead of boasting that Macao is on par with countries from East Asia based on the number of doctors and hospital beds per 1000 residents? Should not the development of the "Grand Macao" as the solution to all challenges be discussed?

The 2006 predecessor of this Policy Research Office was supposed to emulate Hong Kong's Central Policy Unit: there is obviously still room for improvement!

**THE BUZZ** Packer sells Sydney mansion for Aussie record

Casino billionaire James Packer sold his Sydney harborside mansion for a reported A\$60 million (USD44 million), a new record in Australia's biggest city.

The six-level La Mer property in the suburb of Vaucluse owned by Packer and his former wife sold in the past week for a record price for any home in Australia, the Daily Telegraph

reported yesterday, without giving the source of the sale price. Fairfax Media reported it sold for A\$70 million to Australian-Chinese billionaire businessman Chau Chak Wing. Surging home prices in the nation's biggest cities following the central bank's two interest-rate cuts this year to a record-low 2 percent have sparked fears of a property bubble.

ART | MACAU

**Exhibition showcases Chinese masterpieces**



A watercolor exhibition featuring paintings from various celebrated mainland and local artists was unveiled yesterday. The exhibition serves as a window into the international art community, while bringing like-minded painters together for profound discussions on the nation's entry into the world of European fine art.

Masters in Painting - Contemporary Watercolors has returned to the region for the fourth consecutive year, with a total of 81 masterful watercolor paintings by 39 artists from across China. It will be free to visit until next Saturday at the Venetian Macao.

"I hope the exposition can increase cultural interaction and cooperation between the mainland and Macau, while building a

platform for [the development of] more artists," said Chang Hong, managing director at Beijing Hong Bao Bo Yi Cultural Development Company Limited, one of the co-organizers, at the media briefing.

Despite Macau being the very first destination in China to receive the concepts of western painting before it spread to other Chinese cities from 1715 onwards, Macau Artists' Society chairman Lai Ieng still believes that the rapidly flourishing watercolor scene across the border could greatly elevate the artistic sense of local painters.

"We look forward to presenting the specific style of watercolors [that is employed] in Macau through this exhibition, as well as learning from the visiting

watercolor artists from mainland China," he said, adding that both eastern and western features have been influencing local style.

Xu Qing Song, vice head of the China Artists Association, which is the event's major organizer and also the nation's premier developer of fine arts, said that the mainland has been striving to gain international exposure in tandem with ongoing domestic engagements.

Almost all of the artistic contributors to this exhibition are the nation's artist painters, according to the organizers, and each demonstrates their sophisticated mastery of watercolor painting in their work, which ranges from natural or urban landscapes, to individual portraits of people and animals.

More than 200 Chinese painters have already had their art pieces, around 400 in total, showcased in previous editions of the event.

According to Lai, local watercolor painting style has been a mixture of eastern and western elements. The western roots date back to the 19th century when British artist George Chinnery introduced the fine arts into the region, followed by other European painters who proceeded to share their concepts and techniques. **Staff reporter**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**UK** Commuters faced a day of disruption yesterday after a strike shut down the London Underground system for the second time this summer. Union members walked off the job amid a dispute about how to implement a new 24-hour service on weekends.

**USA** A man armed with a hatchet and gun unleashed a volley of pepper spray at audience members inside a movie theater Wednesday, exchanging fire with a responding officer. What initially appeared to be another mass shooting at a movie theater ended up being an attack by a disturbed homeless man who wasn't armed with a real gun and was eventually shot and killed by police.



**USA** Police in southwest Florida say vandals spray painted the words "lion killer" on the garage door of the vacation home owned by a Minnesota dentist who has been identified as the hunter who killed Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe.

**ITALY** Military vessels and aircraft from a multi-nation operation are searching waters off Libya for a second day for any more survivors from an overturned boat crowded with migrants. With seas warm and calm, rescuers have expressed hopes others might be alive a day after a 20-meter long fishing boat capsized as rescuers approached.

**times square by rodrigo**

